



**Local Government and Housing Committee inquiry into diversity in local government**  
**Response from ERS Cymru**  
**June 2023**

We welcome the Local Government and Housing Committee's inquiry into diversity in local government. This is an ongoing area of concern for ERS Cymru. We note that this has been an area considered by the previous Senedd via the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's report into Diversity in Local Government in 2019. We believe that there has been limited progress in terms of diversity in local government since then and look forward to this committee's further consideration of how local government can be much more reflective of the people it represents.

***Where we are: Assessing progress and the current data available***

There has only been one local government election in Wales since the passing of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act in 2021. It is therefore still early to be making an assessment on the success of this legislation. Nevertheless, we can comment on the diversity of representation after the 2022 local elections and contrast it with figures from the local elections in 2017 to see what progress has been made. This is largely limited to analysis of gender representation, where ERS Cymru worked with others to gather this data using anecdotal methods and assumptions, which are unlikely to be 100% accurate and highlights the need for proper mechanisms to be in place for the collation and publication of data. The gender balance of candidates increased from 29.7% female candidates in 2017 to 33.6% female candidates in 2022. While this shows progress, our estimates indicated that, at this rate, gender parity for council candidates won't be reached until the middle of the century. Of those candidates then elected, we estimated that 36% were female councillors, up from 28% in 2017. Again, while this increase is progress towards gender parity in elected councillors, at current rates it would still take another decade to reach parity.

Arguably, the biggest measurable representation successes seen in 2022 were two councils in Wales, Monmouthshire and the Vale of Glamorgan, reaching gender parity for the first time with a 50:50 gender split in elected councillors. However, while progress is clearly being made in some geographic areas, others still fall far behind. For example, Ceredigion has the lowest gender representation in Wales with approximately 18% female councillors and across Wales 10 of the 22 councils have  $\frac{1}{3}$  or fewer female councillors. Only four of the 22 Welsh councils (18%) have a female leader, indicating a lack of diversity and representation in these leadership posts. Full breakdowns of candidate and councillor gender

representation by council area and political party can be found in Tables 1- 4 at the end of this submission.

The progress seen in both Monmouthshire and the Vale of Glamorgan can be attributed to positive action, on a whole council level and party level respectively. Prior to the election, Monmouthshire set a target to reach gender parity, with the then leader working with all other parties to ensure a cross party commitment.<sup>1</sup> This meant all parties sought to ensure much greater numbers of female candidates in the run up to the election and the success of this target demonstrates that this kind of positive action can be really effective. The first by-election in Monmouthshire has now seen the number of women councillors increase again to be the first local authority in Wales with a majority of female councillors.<sup>2</sup>

One other factor that led to gender parity in these two local authorities was the success of the Labour party in both areas, however this is more pertinent for the Vale of Glamorgan where no formal motion to agree a cross party target had occurred. Overall in Wales, the Labour party had the highest number of female candidates (41%) of all of the larger parties (parties fielding over 250 candidates). In Monmouthshire, following the election there are 21 Welsh Labour councillors within the council's 46 seats and approximately 11 of these Labour seats are held by women (52%). In the Vale of Glamorgan Welsh Labour hold 25 of the 54 seats and approximately 18 of these Labour seats are held by women (72%).

There is a positive correlation between the number of female councillors in a local authority and the number of female cabinet members, meaning that increased representation does tend to go hand in hand with increased ability to influence decision making. One of the driving forces behind diversifying local government, and ensuring that the councillors elected broadly represent the demographics of the populations they serve, is to have better policy outcomes for everyone in those populations. So this link between representation at a council and cabinet level is crucial in realising those policy outcomes.

As we stated in our report Time For Change - The Welsh Local Elections and the Case for STV,<sup>3</sup> the number of elected councillors with other protected characteristics such as race, disability and representation from the LGBTQ+ community is likely to be low, although we lack the data to be able to accurately highlight any disparities. In the 2022 report of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform a recommendation was made to place a legislative requirement on a "devolved Welsh Authority to collect and prominently publish anonymised candidate diversity data".<sup>4</sup> This recommendation is now being taken forward by Welsh Government,<sup>5</sup> and we advocate for this requirement to apply to local election candidates as well as Senedd election candidates, as we discuss later in this response.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/06/monmouthshire-first-council-in-wales-to-commit-to-gender-parity/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23066889.welsh-conservative-rachel-buckler-wins-devauden-by-election/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/the-2022-welsh-local-elections-and-the-case-for-stv/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://senedd.wales/media/5mta1oyk/cr-ld15130-e.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-update-senedd-reform-0>

## ***Reflecting on the progress since the 2019 report on diversity in local government***

In terms of the progress being made in implementing the recommendations of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's report on diversity in local government we have considered some of these below.

### ***Job sharing (recommendations 3 and 4)***

There are examples of job-sharing for cabinet members in local authorities beyond Swansea after the last local elections in 2022. Monmouthshire County Council had its first ever job share between two individuals for the cabinet post of Equalities and Engagement with Cllr Catherine Fookes and Cllr Angela Sandles sharing the role.<sup>6</sup> This has recently returned to a single cabinet post when Cllr Fookes stepped down to focus on their general election candidacy,<sup>7</sup> but nevertheless is an example of job-sharing beyond Swansea Council for the past year. Powys County Council also hosts a job-share for the Cabinet Member for Future Generations post between Cllr Susan McNicholas and Cllr Sandra Davies.<sup>8</sup> These two councils join Swansea Council who first implemented job-sharing in executive positions in 2017 with one job-shared role, increasing to two job-shares in 2018.<sup>9</sup> After the 2022 local elections Swansea continues to have a job-share in its cabinet with the Community Cabinet post being shared between Cllr Hayley Gwilliam and Cllr Cyril Anderson.<sup>10</sup>

### ***A positive campaign to increase diversity (recommendation 6)***

We welcome the Democracy in Diversity programme from the WLGA and work undertaken by the working group co-chaired by Mary Sherwood and Cllr Susan Ellsmore in the years between the 2017 and 2022 local elections. The WLGA reported that the diversity of councillors prior to the 2022 local elections indicated that 'councillors are generally male, white and older than the average man or woman on the street', with just 28% of councillors in Wales being women, 11% having a disability and 1.8% being from black or minority ethnic backgrounds.<sup>11</sup> Our data suggests that the representation of women in local government has increased eight percentage points after the 2022 local elections to 36%, however we lack the data to measure any changes in representation of people with disabilities or those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

More needs to be done to continue increasing the diversity among candidates standing for local government elections to ensure that by 2027 our elected councillors are truly representative of their communities. Despite positive progress being made, especially with regards to representation of women, we know that this representation is far from being reflective of the wider Welsh community, where according to 2021 census data for Wales

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.abergavennychronicle.com/news/mcc-sees-first-job-sharing-cabinet-members-570304>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.monmouthshirebeacon.co.uk/news/its-been-an-honour-says-outgoing-cabinet-member-615723>

<sup>8</sup> <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/12751/New-Cabinet-announced>

<sup>9</sup>

<https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s90308/Additional%20information%20from%20Councillor%20Mary%20Sherwood%20and%20Councillor%20June%20Burtonshaw%20on%20job-sharing.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/16367/Councils-new-Cabinet-announced>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.wlga.wales/promoting-diversity-among-councillors>

women make up 51.1% of the population, people with disabilities make up 21.6% of the population, and people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds make up 4.7% of the population.<sup>12</sup> Therefore it is easy to see that there is still a considerable gap between the demographics of our councillors and the communities they represent.

#### *Abuse and harassment (recommendation 10)*

Sadly, the harassment and abuse of both candidates and councillors continues to be a big issue in Wales. The Electoral Commission found that 40% of candidates in the 2022 Welsh local elections experienced intimidation, with most abuse being verbal or experienced online and from members of the public or anonymous sources.<sup>13</sup> Despite the WLGA and all 22 council leaders' efforts to call on all councillors and candidates to commit to a fair and respectful election campaign,<sup>14</sup> the level of harassment and abuse experienced by candidates remains alarmingly high.

#### *Mentoring programmes (recommendation 15)*

We're pleased to see organisations working together and collaborating on programmes like Equal Power Equal Voice.<sup>15</sup> Mentoring programmes can provide a key route to increasing awareness of positions in public office and build confidence in individuals to stand as candidates.

#### *Citizenship education (recommendation 17)*

The new school curriculum for Wales failed to include specific objectives around political education, although democracy and political education arguably play a part in ensuring pupils are 'ethical, informed citizens who understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights' under the four purposes.<sup>16</sup> However this ambiguity means that pupils at different schools are likely to have different learning outcomes with regards to democracy and political education.

Research by the Electoral Commission found that 'while 77% of parents think it's important that children learn the basics about politics, voting and democracy at school, just 22% think the current information their children get on these topics is sufficient'.<sup>17</sup> In England, just 1% of teachers 'feel prepared to teach politics' according to a report by Shout Out UK,<sup>18</sup> with the situation likely to be very similar in Wales. Teacher training to increase confidence in this area is key if we are to have an informed electorate in the next generation.

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<sup>12</sup> [https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census\\_2021/report?compare=W92000004](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021/report?compare=W92000004)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media-centre/urgent-action-needed-prevent-abuse-and-intimidation-candidates-elections>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.wlga.wales/joint-statement-by-the-22-council-leaders-in-wales-fair-and-respectful-election-campaign>

<sup>15</sup> <https://wenwales.org.uk/connect/mentoring/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/designing-your-curriculum/developing-a-vision-for-curriculum-design/#curriculum-design-and-the-four-purposes>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.iwa.wales/agenda/2022/09/help-young-people-to-understand-the-impact-of-their-vote-and-they-will-use-it/>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.shoutoutuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/REPORT\\_souk2021\\_view\\_v8-1.pdf](https://www.shoutoutuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/REPORT_souk2021_view_v8-1.pdf)

The Welsh Government's Democratic Engagement Grant is supporting projects to increase political understanding (some of them pan-Wales).<sup>19</sup> While we are hugely supportive of this, it is not guaranteed that every young person will benefit from the scheme and it should be seen as complementary to good standard citizenship education for every young person rather than a replacement.

#### *National Mock elections (recommendation 18)*

We were very pleased to see the Children's Commissioner's Office take this recommendation forward with Project Vote.<sup>20</sup> This was run alongside both the 2021 Senedd election and the 2022 local elections in Wales, providing 14 and 15 year olds with the chance to vote in their own mock election.

#### *Access to Elected Office fund (recommendation 19)*

We were pleased to see the establishment of an Access to Elected Office fund in Wales to assist individuals with disabilities to run for the Senedd elections in 2021 and the local elections in 2022. This fund intended to level the playing field and provide support for additional impairment related costs that can be a barrier to participation in politics. We also welcome the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution's statement in May that he is planning to 'legislate to ensure that a fund is available for future elections'.<sup>21</sup>

#### *Diversity data (recommendation 21)*

To measure progress on diversity we need accurate and reliable data on diversity. Wales, and the wider UK, are severely lacking in proper mechanisms for the collation and publication of diversity data. As we discuss in the final section of our response as part of Senedd Reform, the collection of data for Senedd elections is currently being discussed in relation to legislation, this should also include local elections in Wales.<sup>22</sup>

### ***Where improvements can be made***

Our response so far has focussed on the limited progress to date in improving diversity in local government and reflecting on both the 2019 report of the previous Senedd and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. This section of our response will look at where improvements can be made.

#### *Job share*

The increase in uptake of job-sharing in executive positions to more councils across Wales is welcomed, however, there are still many councils with no job-sharing positions in their cabinets. After the 2022 local elections job-sharing accounted for just 1.6% of the 190 cabinet positions (3 job-shares) across the 22 Local Authorities; this has now decreased to

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/funding-for-projects-to-open-up-democracy-to-underrepresented-groups>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/project-vote-resources-2021-2022/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/13344#A79708>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-update-senedd-reform-0>

1.1% (2 job-shares) after the changes to the Monmouthshire County Council cabinet in May of this year. Clearly there is a long way to go before job-sharing in executive positions across councils in Wales is commonplace and the Welsh Government should look at what support it can provide to further promote job-sharing in these roles.

Recommendation 15 in ERS Cymru's New Voices report advocates for job-sharing to be made a possibility for all politicians across the different levels of government, including local government.<sup>23</sup>

#### *Quotas and wider measures to increase diversity*

Legislative quotas to improve representation are being actively discussed due to the Welsh Government's plans to legislate on them as part of the Senedd Reform package.<sup>24</sup> We very much welcome these developments. However, there has been little discussion of quotas in terms of local government in Wales, where diversity and gender parity are lagging further behind than in the Senedd.

We would like to see the Committee consider whether quotas could be introduced in Welsh local elections to increase the speed at which we reach gender parity. There was discussion on improving the representation of people with protected characteristics within the Senedd's Special Purpose Committee report.<sup>25</sup> While the Special Purpose Committee did not extend its recommendation on quotas to protected characteristics other than gender, they did recommend the following:

*"There is need for further work to be undertaken within the Senedd, to look in detail at both legislative and non-legislative ways in which greater diversity in the Senedd can be achieved across a wider range of protected characteristics. We anticipate that a relevant committee will determine how this can best be given further consideration".<sup>26</sup>*

We would echo this recommendation and would suggest that it should extend to increasing representation in local government in Wales as well as in the Senedd. We would hope that as part of this inquiry the Local Government and Housing Committee can look in detail at ways in which greater diversity in local government can be achieved across a wider range of protected characteristics.

The Committee should also consider how plans around the publication by political parties of diversity and inclusion strategies, as announced by the First Minister in a written statement in relation to Senedd reform, can be extended to local government too.<sup>27</sup> Parties have a key role to play in increasing representation in our local councils and they should face up to their responsibilities on this.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/new-voices-how-welsh-politics-can-begin-to-reflect-wales/#sub-section-2>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-update-senedd-reform-0>

<sup>25</sup> <https://senedd.wales/media/5mta1oyk/cr-ld15130-e.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <https://senedd.wales/media/5mta1oyk/cr-ld15130-e.pdf>, page 51.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-update-senedd-reform-0>



### *Diversity data*

As we have mentioned in this response, the lack of data on diversity is a serious issue in terms of being able to measure progress made and identify specific areas where interventions are needed. While we have gathered some data on candidates and elected representatives, as we have explained, that data is limited to analysis of gender representation, where ERS Cymru worked with others to gather this data using anecdotal methods and assumptions, which are unlikely to be 100% accurate. This highlights the need for proper mechanisms to be in place for the collation and publication of data.

Given the Welsh Government are currently considering legislating on the collection and publication of data on candidates seeking to be elected to the Senedd as part of plans to reform the Senedd,<sup>28</sup> we strongly believe that this should be extended to candidates for local elections in Wales.

### *Access to Elected Office Fund*

We know that some groups face particular barriers to standing for elected office and some have extra costs associated with standing. We were pleased to see the Access to Elected Office Fund in place for the 2021 and 2022 elections for disabled candidates and welcome the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution's statement in May that he is planning to 'legislate to ensure that a fund is available for future elections'.<sup>29</sup> We would also call for the fund to be widened to include other under-represented groups and assist with costs towards the specific barriers that they face, this could include, but is not limited to, people from the LGBTQ+ community, people from Black, Asian or ethnic minority backgrounds (the global majority), people with caring responsibilities, such as childcare, and people on low incomes.

### *National Mock Elections*

We believe that the Children's' Commissioner's Office should continue to run Project Vote,<sup>30</sup> and the Committee should seek to assess whether the Commissioner's Office requires support from the Welsh Government in the delivery of further national mock elections. Consideration should be given to the number of schools taking part. As many schools as possible should be supported to do this, to ensure that there is no postcode lottery on who gets a chance to participate.

### *Moving to the Single Transferable Vote (STV)*

While ERS Cymru welcomes the opportunity provided by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for councils to choose to move to the fairer and more representative Single Transferable Vote electoral system, we maintain our position that the change in electoral system should have been applied across the board and not on a voluntary basis, as was done in Scotland.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-update-senedd-reform-0>

<sup>29</sup> <https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/13344#A79708>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/project-vote-resources-2021-2022/>

Data from the 2022 local elections in Wales highlighted how the current First Past The Post voting system perpetuates a lack of diversity in local government through the dominance of single member wards and continued high levels of uncontested seats. There were 246 wards (32.3%) where only a single gender was standing (i.e., only all male or all female candidates) at the 2022 local elections. Of these 246 wards 83% were in single member wards, and there was a significant gender bias with over 200 wards in Wales estimated as only having male candidates standing contrasted with just 30 estimated as only having female candidates standing.

Of the 74 uncontested seats in the 2022 local elections, over 97% of them were in single member wards. Additionally, these uncontested seats were also gender biased with 77% having a male candidate standing compared with 23% having a female candidate standing.

A move to STV would reduce the number of wards with only a single gender of candidates standing through the introduction of multi-member wards across Wales. Multi-member wards are much more likely to provide a diversity of candidates for voters to pick from. At the last local elections in Wales there were no uncontested seats in wards with member sizes of 3 or above, and only 1% of 2-member wards were uncontested, compared with over 16% of single-member wards. Similarly, the proportion of wards with only a single gender of candidates reduced dramatically as ward size increased, in single-member wards over 47% had a single-gender candidate list, this decreased to just under 16% for two-member wards, and reduced again to 7% for 3 and 4-member wards, and 0% for the two 5-member wards in Wales.

Full details of uncontested seats and single gender wards can be seen in Tables 5 & 6 respectively.



**Table 1: Breakdown of estimated male and female candidates by local authority for 2022 Welsh local elections**

| <b>Council</b>    | <b>Estimated male candidates</b> | <b>Estimated female candidates</b> | <b>Unknown</b> | <b>Total number of candidates</b> | <b>Estimated % of female candidates</b> | <b>Estimated number of all male wards</b> | <b>Estimated number of all female wards</b> |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Blaenau Gwent     | 48                               | 21                                 | 0              | 69                                | 30.43                                   | 3   | 0   |
| Bridgend          | 103                              | 56                                 | 0              | 159                               | 35.22                                   | 4   | 1   |
| Caerphilly        | 98                               | 51                                 | 0              | 149                               | 34.23                                   | 10  | 3   |
| Cardiff           | 236                              | 120                                | 2              | 358                               | 33.52                                   | 0   | 0   |
| Carmarthenshire   | 124                              | 60                                 | 0              | 184                               | 32.61                                   | 15  | 4   |
| Ceredigion        | 68                               | 19                                 | 0              | 87                                | 21.84                                   | 18  | 0   |
| Conwy             | 95                               | 56                                 | 0              | 151                               | 37.09                                   | 6   | 0   |
| Denbighshire      | 80                               | 40                                 | 0              | 120                               | 33.33                                   | 9   | 1   |
| Flintshire        | 108                              | 55                                 | 1              | 164                               | 33.54                                   | 14  | 1   |
| Gwynedd           | 84                               | 41                                 | 0              | 125                               | 32.80                                   | 34  | 10  |
| Merthyr Tydfil    | 50                               | 22                                 | 0              | 72                                | 30.56                                   | 2   | 0   |
| Monmouthshire     | 85                               | 70                                 | 0              | 155                               | 45.16                                   | 3   | 1   |
| Neath Port Talbot | 87                               | 47                                 | 0              | 134                               | 35.07                                   | 4   | 1   |
| Newport           | 98                               | 48                                 | 0              | 146                               | 32.88                                   | 0   | 0   |
| Pembrokeshire     | 96                               | 29                                 | 1              | 126                               | 23.02                                   | 36  | 4   |
| Powys             | 125                              | 53                                 | 1              | 179                               | 29.61                                   | 24  | 3   |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 124                              | 81                                 | 0              | 205                               | 39.51                                   | 5   | 1   |

|                   |             |             |          |             |              |            |           |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Swansea           | 132         | 77          | 2        | 211         | 36.49        | 2          | 0         |
| Torfaen           | 62          | 26          | 0        | 88          | 29.55        | 4          | 0         |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 109         | 59          | 0        | 168         | 35.12        | 1          | 0         |
| Wrexham           | 103         | 43          | 0        | 146         | 29.45        | 18         | 2         |
| Ynys Mon          | 68          | 31          | 1        | 100         | 31.00        | 4          | 0         |
| <i>Total</i>      | <i>2183</i> | <i>1105</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>3296</i> | <i>33.53</i> | <i>216</i> | <i>32</i> |

**Table 2: Breakdown of estimated male and female candidates by political party for 2022 Welsh local elections**

| <b>Party</b>                     | <b>Estimated male candidates</b> | <b>Estimated female candidates</b> | <b>Unknown</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>% M</b> | <b>% F</b> | <b>% Ukn</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Abolish the Welsh Assembly Party | 1                                | 0                                  | 0              | 1            | 100.00%    | 0.00%      | 0.00%        |
| Breakthrough Party               | 1                                | 0                                  | 0              | 1            | 100.00%    | 0.00%      | 0.00%        |
| Britain First                    | 1                                | 0                                  | 0              | 1            | 100.00%    | 0.00%      | 0.00%        |
| Common Ground                    | 43                               | 25                                 | 1              | 69           | 62.32%     | 36.23%     | 1.45%        |
| Communist Party                  | 1                                | 0                                  | 0              | 1            | 100.00%    | 0.00%      | 0.00%        |
| Conservatives                    | 469                              | 197                                | 4              | 670          | 70.00%     | 29.40%     | 0.60%        |
| Freedom Alliance                 | 2                                | 8                                  | 0              | 10           | 20.00%     | 80.00%     | 0.00%        |
| Green Party                      | 61                               | 53                                 | 1              | 115          | 53.04%     | 46.09%     | 0.87%        |
| Gwlad                            | 7                                | 2                                  | 0              | 9            | 77.78%     | 22.22%     | 0.00%        |
| Heritage Party                   | 1                                | 0                                  | 0              | 1            | 100.00%    | 0.00%      | 0.00%        |

|                                     |     |     |   |     |         |         |        |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|-----|---------|---------|--------|
| Independents                        | 531 | 182 | 0 | 713 | 74.47%  | 25.53%  | 0.00%  |
| Labour                              | 507 | 353 | 0 | 860 | 58.95%  | 41.05%  | 0.00%  |
| Llantwit First Independents         | 2   | 2   | 0 | 4   | 50.00%  | 50.00%  | 0.00%  |
| Liberal Democrats                   | 193 | 90  | 1 | 284 | 67.96%  | 31.69%  | 0.35%  |
| Newport Independents                | 5   | 5   | 0 | 10  | 50.00%  | 50.00%  | 0.00%  |
| Plaid Cymru                         | 297 | 158 | 0 | 455 | 65.27%  | 34.73%  | 0.00%  |
| Propel                              | 31  | 18  | 0 | 49  | 63.27%  | 36.73%  | 0.00%  |
| Reform UK                           | 3   | 0   | 1 | 4   | 75.00%  | 0.00%   | 25.00% |
| Social Democratic Party             | 1   | 0   | 0 | 1   | 100.00% | 0.00%   | 0.00%  |
| The Official Independents           | 1   | 2   | 0 | 3   | 33.33%  | 66.67%  | 0.00%  |
| The Sovereign Party                 | 4   | 0   | 0 | 4   | 100.00% | 0.00%   | 0.00%  |
| Trade Union and Socialist Coalition | 17  | 8   | 0 | 25  | 68.00%  | 32.00%  | 0.00%  |
| Uplands Party                       | 3   | 1   | 0 | 4   | 75.00%  | 25.00%  | 0.00%  |
| Volt UK                             | 1   | 0   | 0 | 1   | 100.00% | 0.00%   | 0.00%  |
| Womens' Equality Party              | 0   | 1   | 0 | 1   | 0.00%   | 100.00% | 0.00%  |

**Table 3: Breakdown of estimated male and female councillors by local authority for 2022 Welsh local elections**

| <b>Council</b>     | <b>Estimated male councillors</b> | <b>Estimated female councillors</b> | <b>Total number of councillors</b> | <b>Estimated % of male councillors</b> | <b>Estimated % of female councillors</b> | <b>Estimated % of female councillors in 2017</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Blaenau Gwent      | 23                                | 10                                  | 33                                 | 69.7%                                  | 30.3%                                    | 11.9%  |
| Bridgend           | 37                                | 14                                  | 51                                 | 72.5%                                  | 27.5%                                    | 31.5%  |
| Caerphilly         | 44                                | 25                                  | 69                                 | 63.8%                                  | 36.2%                                    | 26.0%  |
| Cardiff            | 45                                | 34                                  | 79                                 | 57.0%                                  | 43.0%                                    | 32.0%  |
| Carmarthenshire    | 50                                | 25                                  | 75                                 | 66.7%                                  | 33.3%                                    | 31.1%  |
| Ceredigion         | 31                                | 7                                   | 38                                 | 81.6%                                  | 18.4%                                    | 11.9%  |
| Conwy              | 32                                | 23                                  | 55                                 | 58.2%                                  | 41.8%                                    | 25.4%  |
| Denbighshire       | 28                                | 20                                  | 48                                 | 58.3%                                  | 41.7%                                    | 23.4%  |
| Flintshire         | 43                                | 24                                  | 67                                 | 64.2%                                  | 35.8%                                    | 25.7%  |
| Gwynedd            | 45                                | 24                                  | 69                                 | 65.2%                                  | 34.8%                                    | 23.0%  |
| Merthyr Tydfil     | 22                                | 8                                   | 30                                 | 73.3%                                  | 26.7%                                    | 12.1%  |
| Monmouthshire      | 23                                | 23                                  | 46                                 | 50.0%                                  | 50.0%                                    | 34.9%  |
| Neath Port Talbot* | 36                                | 22                                  | 58                                 | 62.1%                                  | 37.9%                                    | 31.3%  |
| Newport            | 35                                | 16                                  | 51                                 | 68.6%                                  | 31.4%                                    | 32.0%  |
| Pembrokeshire      | 47                                | 13                                  | 60                                 | 78.3%                                  | 21.7%                                    | 13.3%  |
| Powys              | 46                                | 22                                  | 68                                 | 67.6%                                  | 32.4%                                    | 31.5%  |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf  | 41                                | 34                                  | 75                                 | 54.7%                                  | 45.3%                                    | 41.3%  |
| Swansea            | 43                                | 32                                  | 75                                 | 57.3%                                  | 42.7%                                    | 41.7%  |
| Torfaen            | 23                                | 17                                  | 40                                 | 57.5%                                  | 42.5%                                    | 36.4%  |

|                   |            |            |             |              |              |              |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Vale of Glamorgan | 27         | 27         | 54          | 50.0%        | 50.0%        | 36.2%        |
| Wrexham           | 41         | 15         | 56          | 73.2%        | 26.8%        | 19.2%        |
| Ynys Mon          | 27         | 8          | 35          | 77.1%        | 22.9%        | 10%          |
| <i>Total</i>      | <i>789</i> | <i>443</i> | <i>1232</i> | <i>64.0%</i> | <i>36.0%</i> | <i>28.0%</i> |

\* The election in the Port Talbot 2-member ward in Neath Port Talbot was delayed due to the death of a candidate leaving 2 post-election vacancies and 1232 councillors elected rather than 1234. These have since been filled with two Labour councillors elected, one female and one male. This brings Neath Port Talbot's totals to 61.6% male councillors and 38.3% female councillors. The overall gender balance across Wales remains unchanged at 64.0% male councillors and 36.0% female councillors.

**Table 4: Breakdown of estimated male and female councillors by political party for 2022 Welsh local elections**

| <b>Party</b>                 | <b>Estimated male councillors</b> | <b>Estimated female councillors</b> | <b>Total councillors</b> | <b>% male councillors</b> | <b>% female councillors</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Common Ground                | 1                                 | 1                                   | 2                        | 50.0%                     | 50.0%                       |
| Conservatives                | 79                                | 32                                  | 111                      | 71.2%                     | 28.8%                       |
| Green Party                  | 7                                 | 3                                   | 10                       | 70.0%                     | 30.0%                       |
| Independent (inc ind groups) | 228                               | 81                                  | 309                      | 73.8%                     | 26.2%                       |
| Labour                       | 293                               | 234                                 | 527                      | 55.6%                     | 44.4%                       |
| Liberal Democrats            | 45                                | 24                                  | 69                       | 65.2%                     | 34.8%                       |
| Plaid Cymru                  | 132                               | 68                                  | 200                      | 66.0%                     | 34.0%                       |
| Uplands                      | 3                                 | 1                                   | 4                        | 75.0%                     | 25.0%                       |

|              |     |     |      |       |       |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|
| <i>Total</i> | 789 | 443 | 1232 | 64.0% | 36.0% |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|

**Table 5: Breakdown of uncontested wards by ward size for 2022 Welsh local elections**

| <b>Seats Per Ward</b>          | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| <b>Total Wards</b>             | 430      | 210      | 106      | 14       | 2        | 762          |
| <b>Total uncontested wards</b> | 70       | 2        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 72           |
| <b>% uncontested wards</b>     | 16.3%    | 1.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 9.4%         |
| <b>Total Seats</b>             | 430      | 420      | 318      | 56       | 10       | 1234         |
| <b>Total uncontested seats</b> | 70       | 4        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 74           |
| <b>% uncontested seats</b>     | 16.3%    | 1.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 0.0%     | 6.0%         |

**Table 6: Breakdown of single gender wards by ward size for 2022 Welsh local elections**

| <b>Seats Per Ward</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|

|                              |       |       |      |      |      |       |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| <b>Total wards</b>           | 430   | 210   | 106  | 14   | 2    | 762   |
| <b>Single gender wards</b>   | 205   | 33    | 7    | 1    | 0    | 246   |
| <b>% Single gender wards</b> | 47.7% | 15.7% | 6.6% | 7.1% | 0.0% | 32.3% |
| <b>Total Seats</b>           | 430   | 420   | 318  | 56   | 10   | 1234  |
| <b>Single gender seats</b>   | 205   | 66    | 21   | 4    | 0    | 296   |
| <b>% single gender seats</b> | 47.7% | 15.7% | 6.6% | 7.1% | 0.0% | 24.0% |