



Senedd Election 2021

May 2021

After a weekend of counting, the Senedd election results are in and the Labour Party has won the largest number of seats with 30 Members of the Senedd (MSs), just one shy of an overall majority.

The full results are as follows:

Labour Party – 30 (+1 from 2016)

Conservatives – 16 (+5)

Plaid Cymru – 13 (+1)

Liberal Democrats - 1 (0)

Three constituency seats changed colour - the Conservatives have taken Vale of Clwyd from Labour, and Brecon and Radnorshire from the Liberal Democrats while Labour has reclaimed Rhondda from Plaid Cymru. See [here](#) for a full list of all Wales' 60 Members of the Senedd.

It is expected that Mark Drakeford will remain in post as First Minister, who is expected to choose his next cabinet over the coming days. Labour has enough seats to hold power by itself without support from the other parties, however they may look to the Liberal Democrats or Plaid Cymru to support its government on a case-by-case basis. The Conservatives will form the official opposition.



What does this mean for housing associations in Wales?

There is no doubt that the coronavirus pandemic and the recovery is a priority for the next Welsh Government. Promises on health and social care are front and centre of the Welsh Labour manifesto and it includes a pledge to pay all care workers the Real Living Wage.

Homes are also a priority in the Welsh Labour manifesto, which makes a commitment to build 20,000 new, low carbon social homes. Support will also be given to cooperative housing, community-led initiatives and community land trusts. The need to improve existing homes is recognised which will tackle fuel poverty and create jobs, training opportunities and supply chains.

The next Welsh Labour Government will also improve building safety by developing a fire safety fund for existing buildings, look to create more community green space in town centres, and take forward a new digital strategy for Wales.

What are we calling for?

In our *Home* manifesto we're calling on the next Welsh Government to put 'home' at the centre of plans, to support the people of Wales to live healthy, prosperous, and connected lives.

We want to see investments made for future generations. We called for this to include:

- £1.5bn of investment in 20,000 new social homes
- A £4bn stimulus package to increase the energy efficiency of social housing over the next 10 years.

We also need shared action for shared challenges, which should include change to systems, partnerships and processes to make it easier to work together on issues that determine chances of living well. Everyone in Wales should have a right to adequate housing and we want to see an end to homelessness in Wales.



The next Welsh Government must establish places that people want to live by putting homes at the heart of plans to reinvigorate town centres, and end to digital exclusion, and reform and invest in the social care system.

What have we done?

Action Plan for Government

Since launching our manifesto, we developed an Action Plan for Government which sets out our ideas for change and what actions the next Welsh Government can take over the first 100 days and over the first 12 months of governing. This has been shared with election candidates, party officials, and key senior civil servants, and we will work with the next Welsh Government on including the measures from the Action Plan in a future Programme for Government over the coming weeks.

Hustings

We held a hustings event which brought together candidates from the three main parties in Wales - Julie James of Labour, Delyth Jewell of Plaid Cymru and David Melding of the Conservatives. Topics of discussion included the role of good quality housing, a green recovery, and levels of investment. You can read our blog on the hustings [here](#).

Blogs

As well as our husting blog, we also produced a [series of blogs](#) updating you on the development of party manifestos, the progress of the campaigns and the state of the polls.

Package of support

We produced a [resource package](#) which includes candidate information, a template letter for you to contact local candidates, Prezi slides containing national data, PDF's containing regional data, infographics, a social media pack, campaign videos, and a press release template.

Influencing with Impact

Our Influencing with Impact training was developed to support you with understanding the Senedd election, how it will affect your organisation and what you can do to make sure you're heard locally.

Over recent months, we have run a number of paid training sessions for Communications teams and officers from across your organisations, alongside free sessions for Chief Executives.

To round off this series of work we will be running the final two sessions of this series for Chief Executives on 28th May and 11th June.

On 28th May, Valerie Livingston from Newsdirect will be joined by colleagues from across the political spectrum to understand the fallout for the election. Following this, on 11th June, Valerie will be joined by Lisa Turnbull from the Royal College of



Nursing to examine the impact of the election on campaigning and policy development, and set out her experience of working with members to deliver lasting change.

You can sign up to these sessions here:

Friday 28 May, 12.00-13.30pm - [Register here](#)

Friday 11 June, 12.00-13.30pm - [Register here](#)

Keeping you updated

Once the next Welsh Government Cabinet has been decided, we will produce another briefing setting out portfolio holders.

We will be updating Chief Executives at the Chief Executive monthly information call on **Wednesday 12th May** with the election results, including the key changes and what this might mean for our positioning and activity.

Our work going forwards

We will be writing to every elected Member of the Senedd (MS) over the coming weeks to congratulate them on their election and to provide them with information about the housing associations that operate in their constituency / region. This will include a list and contact details of those housing associations and a summary of the role that you play.

We will also be developing a briefing programme for MSs which will include introductory briefing sessions on a range of key themes from the Home manifesto and briefings on key issues.

Any questions?

If you need any further information, please contact CHC's Policy & External Affairs Manager, Bethan Proctor, at bethan-proctor@chcymru.org.uk