

Annexe 1

Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill

Consultation Response Form

Cynulliad
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Wales



As part of its Stage 1 consideration, the National Assembly for Wales' **Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee** is calling for evidence on the general principles of the **Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill**.

Please return this form to the National Assembly for Wales, by 31 January 2013. Should you have any queries please contact Bethan Davies, Clerk 02920 89 8120 or Leanne Hatcher, Deputy Clerk 029 2089 8147.

Responses should be sent to:

CELG.committee@wales.gov.uk

Or by post:
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The Local Government Boundary Commission

Question 1: Is there a need for a Bill to make changes to the constitution and functions of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (“the Commission”) and to make various provisions relating to local government?

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer

The Community Council supports the Welsh government’s commitment to reform and modernise the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales. Legislation is required to enable the enhancement of the capacity, powers and resources of the Commission.

Question 2: Do you think the Bill will improve the delivery of the statutory roles and functions of the Commission? (paragraph 3.1 of the explanatory memorandum)

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer

No further comment.

Question 3: Do you think the changes being made to the Commission are appropriate? (Part 2 of the Bill)			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Bill sets out clear processes for the improvement of the functions of the Commission and is appropriate and welcomed.			
Local Government arrangements			
Question 4: Do you think the provisions relating to procedures for local government reviews are appropriate? (Chapter 4 and 5)			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please expand on your answer			
Full and proper consultation will be required with Community and Town Councils as well as with One Voice Wales.			
Question 5: Do you think the arrangements for local government in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duties of the Commission • Duties of a principal council are appropriate? (Chapter 1)			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please expand on your answer			
No further comments.			
Question 6: Do you think the arrangements for local government in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Services Committees (Section 56) • Audit Committees (Section 57) • Standards Committees (Section 63) are appropriate?			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please expand on your answer			
The Community Council supports the arrangements relating to Democratic Services Committees and Audit Committees. However, in relation to Standards Committees, it is considered vitally important that representation by Community and Town Councils is not diluted through the establishment of Joint Committees.			

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Question 7: Do you think the provisions relating to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales are appropriate? (Chapter 5, Sections 58-62)			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please expand on your answer			
No further comments to add.			

Access to information (Town and Community Councils)

Question 8: Do you think the provisions relating to improving access to information (Town and Community Councils) are appropriate?

Yes

✓

No

Please expand on your answer

The Community Council fully supports the proposal but considers that the Welsh Government should make available grants for the smaller councils to enable them to cover the initial set-up costs.

Chairing of Principal Councils (Chairs and Mayors of Principal Councils)

Question 9: Do you think the provisions relating to the Chairing of Principal Councils (Chairs and Mayors of Principal Councils) are appropriate?

Yes

✓

No

Please expand on your answer

No further comments.

General Provisions of the Bill

Question 10: What are the potential barriers to implementing the provisions of the Bill (if any) and does the Bill take account of them?

Please expand on your answer

Overall the Bill introduces many new processes that are welcomed and which will improve current arrangements.

However, the proposals involving access to information from Community and Town Councils do include potential barriers in terms of capacity, expertise, training and/or sufficient finance on the part of smaller authorities. The Bill in its current format does not adequately address these barriers. The response to question 8 sets out the sectors view on how the current resource deficit should be addressed.

<p>Question 11: What are the financial implications of the Bill, if any? In answering this question you may wish to consider Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum (the Impact Assessment), which estimates the costs and benefits of implementation of the Bill.</p>
<p>Please expand on your answer</p> <p>The costs of developing and maintaining a website would stretch the capacity of those councils with low level precepts.</p>
<p>Question 12: What are your views on powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (i.e statutory instruments including regulations and orders) (section 5 of the Explanatory Memorandum)?</p>
<p>Please expand on your answer</p> <p>No specific comments.</p>
<p>Question 13: Are there any other comments you wish to make about specific sections of the Bill?</p>
<p>No specific comments.</p>