

LGD 35 Henllanfallteg Community Council

Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill Consultation Response Form

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:

Leanne Hatcher

Legislation Office

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Your name: Dave King (chair)

Organisation (if applicable): Henllanfallteg Community Council

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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

Please expand on your answer - no comment

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

Please expand on your answer – no comment

Question 3: Do you think the changes being made to the Commission are appropriate? (Part 2 of the Bill)

Yes

Local Government arrangements

Question 4: Do you think the provisions relating to procedures for local government reviews are appropriate? (Chapter 4 and 5)

Yes

Please expand on your answer.

Must be as there is no constraint on meeting an election timetable, the reviews will just “role along”

Question 5: Do you think the arrangements for local government in relation to:

- Duties of the Commission
 - Duties of a principal council
- are appropriate? (Chapter 1)

Yes

Please expand on your answer – no comment

Question 6: Do you think the arrangements for local government in relation to:

- Democratic Services Committees (Section 56)
 - Audit Committees (Section 57)
 - Standards Committees (Section 63)
- are appropriate?

Yes

Please expand on your answer – no comment

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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

Please expand on your answer

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?

Not fully

Please expand on your answer

The roles of small Community Councils are very varied and very different to those of Town Councils, in terms of responsibility, numbers of electors, staff numbers and finance turnover. The small councils have part time officer(s) compared with Town councils that may have full time officer and support staff. There is a danger of information overload and excessive expectation for these small councils. This needs careful consideration in recognising the roles of the clerk, and the members, and their remuneration and time availability

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

Please expand on your answer - none

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.

Is there a will to undertake the changes at all levels, in the manner intended, or will there be a “fudged” response????

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.

Please expand on your answer

No comment

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)?

Please expand on your answer

The Welsh situation is evolving, be it slowly and this seems to be an inevitable requirement to keep abreast of the ever changing situation.

Question 13: Are there any other comments you wish to make about specific sections of the Bill?