

Proposed Local Government
Measure Committee



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

17 October 2008

Dear Colleague

Consultation - Proposed Local Government Measure Committee

The National Assembly for Wales Proposed Local Government Measure Committee ('the Committee') was established on 1 October 2008 to consider and report on the general principles of the proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure ('the proposed Measure'). You can find details of the proposed Measure and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum via the attached link:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/business-legislation-measures-lg.htm>

The Committee would like to invite you to submit written evidence to assist in its scrutiny of the Government's proposals. In particular, the Committee would welcome responses to the questions set out at Annex 1 to this letter.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to legislationoffice@wales.gsi.gov.uk and entitle the e-mail *Consultation LG Committee*. If you would prefer to send your submission in hard copy, please send it to Ruth Hatton, Deputy Committee Clerk, Legislation Office, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by Friday 28 November 2008. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

Further information on the legislative process can be found at:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislation-guidance/bus-legislation-guidance-measures.htm>

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When preparing your submission, please keep the following in mind:

- your response should be as succinct as possible. Please reference your response using the title applied above;
- the National Assembly normally makes responses to public consultation available for public scrutiny and they may also be seen and discussed by Assembly Members at Committee meetings. **If you do not want your response or name published, it is important that you clearly specify this in your submission;**
- please indicate whether you are responding on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual;
- please indicate whether or not you would be prepared to give oral evidence to the Committee.

The Committee welcomes contributions in English and Welsh and will consider responses to the written consultation during the autumn term.

If you have any queries, please contact Gareth Williams, Committee Clerk on 029 2089 8008 or Ruth Hatton Deputy Clerk on 029 2089 8019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Gregory AM
Committee Chair

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Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure - consultation questions

1. Is there a need for legislation to reform:
 - the statutory basis for service improvement by local authorities; and
 - community planning and strategies?
2. How will the proposed Measure change what organisations do currently and what impact will any such changes have in terms of service improvement and community planning?
3. Are the sections of the proposed Measure appropriate in terms of reforming the statutory basis for service improvement by local authorities and reforming community planning and strategies? If not, how does the proposed Measure need to change?

In considering this question, consultees *may* wish to consider, in particular, the nature of the provisions in the proposed Measure that:

- a) place duties on Welsh improvement authorities to:
 - make arrangements to secure continuous improvement (section 2);
 - set themselves improvement objectives (section 3);
 - make arrangements to exercise their functions so that any performance standards are met (section 8)
- b) provide Welsh improvement authorities with powers of collaboration (sections 9-12)
- c) require Welsh improvement authorities to collect, use and publish information related to performance, and also to publish an improvement plan (sections 13-15)
- d) set out the functions of relevant regulators (section 16) and the duty placed on them to have regard to the need for co-ordination in the exercise of their regulatory functions (section 24)
- e) place duties on the Auditor General for Wales (sections 17-20, 22-28)
- f) provide powers to Welsh Ministers (sections 29-33)
- g) relate to community planning and strategies (sections 37-46).

4. What are the potential barriers to implementing the provisions of the proposed Measure (if any) and does the proposed Measure take account of them?
5. What are the financial implications of the proposed Measure for organisations, if any? In answering this question you may wish to consider whether you agree with section 6 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the proposed Measure and, in particular, the statement that "The provisions of the proposed Measure do not give rise to any administrative, compliance or other costs".
6. Are there any other comments you wish to make about specific sections of the proposed Measure?

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