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Devolution, Democracy and Delivery

Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People

Consultation Survey (Full)

Date of issue: 3 February 2015

Action required by: 23:59 on 28 April 2015

Overview

The White Paper 'Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People' is the Welsh Government's statement of intent about the future of Local Government in Wales.

The White Paper sets out the Welsh Government's proposals for reform in the following fields: local democracy, the roles and remuneration of Elected Members and senior officers, community governance and Community Councils, community rights, corporate improvement, service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation, and finance.

How to respond or for further information

This consultation covers a large number of matters. Many are of interest to the general public but some are technical in nature and may only to be of interest to Local Authorities. We have designed a web-based questionnaire in order to make both collecting and analysing responses easier.

You may choose to address all the issues raised by this White Paper or to complete a shorter version of the questionnaire which focuses on the main matters of public interest. You will be able to choose your preferred option when you start the questionnaire. A word version is also available but we strongly encourage respondents to use the online questionnaire.

To respond to the consultation please either complete the online form or request the accompanying questionnaire and return it

either by email to or by post to

RLGProgramme@Wales.gsi.gov.uk Reforming Local Government

Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Further information and related documents

This document is also available in a shorter, plain English version and a youth friendly version on the Welsh Government website.

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used:

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

This is the consultation survey linked to the document *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People.* It asks some initial questions to establish if you are an individual, a representative body or another type of organisation. It then goes on to ask questions related to themes within the White Paper. Some questions are yes/no, some ask you to express your agreement with a proposition along a 5-point scale, and some ask for your views and give a box in which to provide your thoughts.

Initial Questions

I ar	I am replying on behalf of:									
			Please tick which age bracket you fall into:							
]	I am a member of the public,	□ Under 18 □ 26-35 □ 46-55 □ 65+							
1.1		these are my individual views	□ 18-25 □ 36-45 □ 56-65 □ Prefer not to sa	зy						
			Please tell us which Local Authority Area you reside in:							
1.2		A Local Authority	Please state which Local Authority you represent							
1.3		A Community Council	Please state which Community Council you represent							
1.4		Political Group / Party	Please state the name of the party you represent							
1.5		Representative body, Professional Body or Association	Please state the name of the body							
1.6		Elected Member	Please state which Local Authority or Community Council you sit on							
1.7		Third Sector	Please state the name of the organisation you represent							
1.8		Trades Union	Please state the name of the Trades Union you represent							
1.9		Government Agency/ Other Public Sector Body	Please state the name of the organisation you represent							
1.10		Other	Please provide additional information							
		ponding on behalf of an								
	-	isation or representative group, did you gather the views of your								
		pers or members of the public in								
		inding to this consultation?								
1.12	Pleas	se tell us which document you read:	Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People (Full White Paper)							
			Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People (Summary Version)							
			☐ Changing Local Government (Young people version of White Pape	er)						
Coi	ntact	Details								
	Nam									
1.14	Posta	al address								
1.15	Telep	phone number								
		il address								
Dec	clara	tion								
	7 Consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:									

Chapter 2: Balancing the Responsibilities of National and Local Government

Chapter 2 discusses the relationship between the different spheres of government in Wales and how this has developed since devolution in 1999. It clarifies the role of the Welsh Government as providing leadership, setting standards and defining a limited number of national expectations. It also examines the role of Local Government as an agent of change in their local areas, in their relationships with other public services and at the regional level, particularly city regions.

Sta	tus of Reformed Authorities										
					Yes	No	Don't Know				
2.1	Do you think all Local Authorities in Wales shou	ld be know	n as Count	ies?							
2.2	If no, what is your reasoning to allow other titles	for reforme	ed Authoriti	es?			•				
2.3	Do you think Local Authorities should be able to	nominate t	the chair of	the	Yes	No	Don't Know				
2.0	Council as a Mayor?	Tiorimate	ino onan o	uio							
Ger	General Power of Competence										
	·				Yes	No	Don't Know				
2.4	Should Local Authorities in Wales be granted a	petence?									
2.5											
	egulation and Contracting Out Act										
2.6	Should the provisions of the Deregulation and C they apply to Local Authorities, be reviewed?	Contracting	Out Act 19	94, as	Yes	No	Don't Know				
2.7	Do you have any issues you wish to raise with r	egards to D	Peregulatio	n and Cont	tracting	Out?)				
	al Authority Constitutions										
2.8	Can you identify any specific areas of official pathe operation of Local Authorities more agile, op			t be chanç	ged in c	order	to make				
	what extent do you agree or disagree with the owing statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag		Strongly Disagree				
2.9	Local Authorities should set out in plain language their values and the principles they will use to operate in their constitution										
2.10	Local Authorities should set out how they intend to build a relationship with their communities										

		1.41			
Legislative burdens and review of Local Government	nent Legisi	iation			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2.11 There is merit in reviewing the body of legislation relating to Local Government administration with a view to longer term consolidation and simplification					
2.12 Do you have any other proposals for extending should be considered?	the powers	s or function	ons of Loca	al Governm	ent which

Chapter 3: Renewing Democracy

Chapter 3 sets out the need for greater clarity in the roles and responsibilities for the leader, Cabinet members, elected members and the chief executive officer. It also sets out the benefits of improving diversity of Councillors. We also discuss the need to reduce the cost of politics and management in Local Government and to bring more consistency to the appointment and remuneration of senior officers.

Local Government Elections								
					4	5		Don't
					years	yea	rs	Know
3.1 What should be the cycle of ele	ctions to Local A	Authorities i	n Wales?					
					Yes No			Don't
3.2 Should Local Authorities elect N	nembers on a ro	lling basis,	for examp	le by				Know
thirds?								
3.3 If yes, how would this best oper	ate in practice?							
Defining the Roles and Responsik			Δ	NI = itle = =	D:		01	
To what extent do you agree or disa following statements:	gree with the	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	•			ongly agree
3.4 Where a candidate is seeking to Leader of a Council they should written manifesto setting out what to achieve	l produce a							
3.5 Where a candidate is seeking to Leader of a Council they should manifesto orally to the Council I election takes place	d present this before the							
3.6 The Leader of a Council should annual report setting out the ac delivered against the manifesto	hievements							
					Yes	No	0	Don't Know
3.7 Should the roles, responsibilition defined in legislation?	es and duties of	Leaders/ E	lected May	yors be			l	
3.8 Should the Leader be required	I to set objective	s for Cabin	et Member	s?			l	
3.9 Should the Leader be required	I to set objective	s for the Ch	nief Execut	ive?			ı	
3.10 Should these objectives be ma	ade public?							
3.11 Should the Leader be required achievement of these objective		port to full (Council on	the			l	
3.12 Are there any other generic du		be included	d in the role	e of the Lea	ader?			
Defining the Roles and Responsik	oilities of Cabin	et Member	'S					
0.40 Observed the assessment and a second		l.:('(la i a a d. N. Alas a a a	h b -	Yes	No)	Don't Know
3.13 Should the generic roles, responsible defined in legislation?								
3.14 What generic duties should be	included in the	role of a Ca	abinet Men	nber?				

follov	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ee		ongly agree				
3.15	There should be greater consistency in the number of Cabinet posts in the reformed Local Authorities											
					Yes	N		Don't Know				
3.16	Should the maximum number of Cabinet Meml Authority (currently 10) be reduced?	bers serving	g on a Loc	al								
3.17	What should be the maximum number of Cabir	net Membe	rs?									
	3.18 What is the reason for your suggestion?											
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ee	Strongly Disagree					
	Some Cabinet posts should be considered as 'Deputy' or 'Junior' 'positions as an opportunity to develop a wider cadre of future political leaders											
3.20	'Deputy' or 'Junior' posts should be considered as part time positions to reflect a lower level of responsibility											
0.04	Observed the modell's services Associated by services and		Yes	N		Don't Know						
3.21	Should the public service Academi be asked to programme to support future political leaders?) 100K at a C	aevelopmei	nt]					
3.22	What do you think the Public Service Academi	developme	ent progran	nme look lil	ke?							
Defir	ning the Roles and Responsibilities of Electe	d Member	S									
	Should the generic roles, responsibilities and d			hore ho	Yes	N		Don't Know				
3.23	defined in legislation?	iulies of Ele	cted Mem	beis be]					
What	do you think should be included in the role of the	ne Elected	Member?		Yes	N		Don't Know				
3.24	Regularly communicating with constituents]					
3.25	Regular surgeries]					
3.26	Participation in Community Governance]					
3.27	Participation in committees]					
3.28	Attending core training skills sessions	- Se els els els	:- (l l-	at the Flag								
3.29	Are there any other aspects you think should b	e included	in the role	of the Elec	ted Mer	nbe	r?:					
			Yes	N		Don't Know						
3.30	Should all Elected Members be required to pro	ort?]							

Stan	dards Committees														
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree									
3.31	The powers of Standards Committees should	\boxtimes													
	be enhanced to enable them to consider cases where there is a allegation of a Councillor failing to fulfil their duties satisfactorily														
3.32	If you agree, how should their powers be enha	nced?													
3.33	What sanctions might there be for Councillors	failing to fu	lfil their dut	ies satisfac	ctorily?										
3 34	Where internal processes have failed to operate	te satisfact	orily should	l there he	Yes N	lo Don't Know									
3.34	a role for an independent body?		orny sriouic	Tillere be											
3.35	If yes, in what circumstances should they be in	volved?													
3.36	Who do you think would be best placed to und	ertake this	role?												
Reca	ill														
To w	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly									
follov	ving statements:	Agree	-	Agree or Disagree	-	Disagree									
3.37	There should be a system by which the public could recall a councillor during their term of office and trigger a by election														
3.38	How might this work in practice?														
Equa	ality and Diversity														
To w	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree									
3.39	Leaders should be placed under a duty to have regard to diversity when appointing their Cabinet														
3.40	Where it is not possible to put forward a diverse Cabinet, Leaders should consider co-opting members to provide advice and support decision making														
3.41	If you are supportive of co-opting on Cabinets	how would	this best w	ork in prac	tice?										
3.42	How should Group Leaders be required to con-	sider divers	sity?												
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree									
3.43	Local Authorities should be placed under a duty to promote engagement with democracy														
3.44	Local Authorities should be required to establish Youth Councils														
3.45	Devolved public service organisations should be required to release staff to serve as Local Authority Councillors														

3.46	Devolved public service organisations should be required to release staff to serve as Community Councillors										
3.47	All organisations (public, private and third sector) should be encouraged to release staff to serve as Councillors										
Rem	uneration of Elected Members										
3.48	What issues should be taken into account when	n reviewin	g Counc	illors rem	uner	ation?					
Num	ber of Elected Members										
						Yes	N	0	Don't Know		
3.49	Do you agree the number of Elected Members	in Wales s	should b	e reduced	1?]			
3.50	What issues should be taken into account when					cted Me	embe	ers?)		
	Limits for Elected Members										
Do y	ou agree with the following proposals for term ::	Ye	es	No		ternativ limit	/e		on't now		
3.51	Elected Members (5 consecutive terms)				;	Please specify					
3.52	Cabinet Members (2 consecutive terms)				;	Please specify	pecify				
	Leaders/ Elected Mayors (2 consecutive terms)) [Please specify					
	toral Qualifications	Ctura in oils c	Λ συπο	Ala:41		Diago		Ct	na sa asla s		
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agre	e Neitl Agred Disag	e or	Disag	ree		rongly sagree		
3.54	Serving members of Local Authorities should not be able to serve as Assembly Members and continue their position in the Local Authority.										
3.55	Local Government employees other than those in politically restricted posts should be able to stand for election to their own Authority and only resign if elected										
Role	and Responsibilities of Chief Executive										
						Yes	No)	Don't Know		
3.56	Should the role of Chief Executive Officer for a legislation?	Local Auth	nority be	defined i	n						
Shou	Ild the role of Chief Executive Officer include:										
3.57	Responsibility as Head of Paid Service?										
3.58	Responsibility as Electoral Registration Officer	and Retur	nina Off	icer?							
3.59	Responsibility for performance and improveme		illing On	1001 .							
	ald the role of Chief Executive Officer include a re		t to:								
3.60	Make arrangements to prepare a corporate pla	•									
3.61	Make arrangements to prepare annual self-ass service performance?		of corpo	orate and							
3.62	Make arrangements for the promotion of demo- Area?	cracy withi	n a Loc	al Authori	ty						

3.63	Commission a peer review every two years an Council on actions to be taken following the re review?	•	•						
	Put in place a performance management sy Local Authority?	stem for a	ll employe	es of the					
Term	Limits of Chief Executive								
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disa	gree		ongly agree	
3.65	Arrangements should be put in place to limit the length of time a Chief Executive can serve]			
3.66	Arrangements should be put in place to set a term period which would lead to review before re-appointment of a Local Authority Chief Executive could be considered								
Shou	Ild the Public Service Staff Commission be aske	ed to explor	e:		Yes	N		Don't Know	
3.67	Arrangements for appointing Chief Executive C	Officers?							
3.68	The appropriateness of limiting the length of a Executive Officer?		ent of a Ch	nief					
3.69	The appropriateness of setting a term period w before re-appointment could be considered?	hich would	l lead to re	view					
Rem	uneration of Senior Managers								
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disa	gree	Strongly Disagree		
3.70	There should be greater consistency in the number of senior officer posts in the reformed Local Authorities]			
3.71	There should be greater consistency in the salaries of senior officer posts (including Chief Executive Officer posts) in the reformed Local Authorities]			
3.72	There should be a national framework to guide salary scales for all chief officer posts]			
3.73	Local Authorities should be required to consult an independent advisory body on the salaries of all chief officers								
3.74	What would be an appropriate mechanism for Authorities to consult an independent advisory						n for	Local	
Seni	or Officer Appointments								
To w	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disa	gree		ongly agree	
	There should be greater consistency in the appointment process of senior officer posts (including Chief Executive posts) in the reformed Local Authorities								
mech	der of preference, which of the following do you nanism to support senior officer appointments:		•		1st	2nd	3rd	l 4th	
3.76	A Public Sector Appointments Commission wo had the right leadership skills and competencie		all senior	officers					

	Senior officers would be employed on a common basis and posted to an organisation, individuals would be moved across the public service as demand required (similar to the New Zealand case study).				
3.77	A Public Sector Appointments Commission would ensure all senior officers had the right leadership skills and competencies.				
	Local Authorities would then make appointments from the pool of approved candidates.				
3.78	A Common Assessment Framework and process to establish a consistent approach to the appointment of senior officers.				
	Local Authorities would have responsibility for making appointments of senior staff.				
3.79	Other				
0.00	NA/In at a the arrange arrange also you think also he utable a read to a report a prior officer and				
3.80	What other mechanism do you think should be used to support senior officer ap	opoint	ment	?	

Chapter 4: Connecting with Communities

Chapter 4 sets out our vision for a new relationship between local communities and Local Government in Wales, where larger Authorities are closer to their communities than is the case at present. This includes discussion of the role of Elected Members in leading this. We also discuss the need to raise the ambition of Community Councils so they are better placed to deliver important community services in the future. This means building their capacity and capability, as well as strengthening their governance and engagement with other services and the third sector.

Mem	Member Led Community Governance								
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the ving statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree			
4.1	Local Authorities should develop, adopt and implement a neighbourhood management or similar approach to engaging with citizens to identify, prioritise and address particular local issues								
4.2	An inclusive and participative neighbourhood or area approach, led by Elected Members, is a model of community governance which should be adopted by all Local Authorities in Wales								
4.3	Community bodies, the third sector or other public services should have an equal place in neighbourhood area approaches								
4.4	Local Authorities should have responsibility for how community governance is designed in their area								
4.5	Member-led community governance is an essential part of local democracy								
4.6	Communities which will be identified under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill should form the basis for Local Authorities' Member-led Area Boards in the future								
4.7	Neighbourhood area approaches should be able to facilitate place based budgets								
4.8	Local Authorities should seek to rationalise the number of partnership arrangements that it works with								
4.9	A national framework which requires Local Authorities to put in place a community governance system meeting certain guidelines should be established								
4.10	What should be included within a national fram	nework?							
4.11	How best can Elected Members support their of	communitie	s to do mo	re?					

Review of Community Councils						
Review of Community Councils				Yes	N	o Don't Know
4.12 Should Local Authorities review the role, struct Community Councils within their areas?	ture, scope	and gover	nance of			
4.13 Should this review be completed by 2022?						
4.14 If no, what do you think the timescale shoul community level reform?	d be for th	e impleme	ntation of			I
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree
4.15 Community Council areas should be merged or enlarged						
Competent Community Councils						
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree
4.16 Community Councils should be subject to competency tests in return for greater rights and responsibilities						
4.17 Only 'competent' Community Councils in Wales should be granted a general power of competence						
4.18 If Community Councils in Wales are granted constraints on it?	a general p	power of co	ompetence	, what	shou	ıld be the
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagi	ree	Strongly
following statements:	Agree		Agree or			Disagree
Community Councils should be subject to a			Disagree			
4.19 Democracy test: at least two-thirds of the Councillors on a Community Council have been declared elected at either an ordinary election or a by-election						
4.20 Capability test: the Community Council must employ a clerk with relevant professional qualifications						
4.21 Capacity test: the Community Council has a						
minimum annual budget of at least £200,000 4.22 Governance test: the Community Council has						
implemented a sound system of financial management and internal control in line with statutory requirements, and meets certain other criteria such as having a website on which it publishes agendas, minutes and accounts and being contactable by email.						
4.23 Are there any other 'competency' tests that yo	u believe w	ould be rel	evant?			

					Yes	Ż	0	Don't Know
4.24	effect and notify their Local Authority?]	
4.25	Should competent Community Councils be requestionated continue to demonstrate 'competence' to their)			ם [
4.26	Should Local Authorities be able to revoke a c status if they are not satisfied?			Councils]	
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ee		rongly sagree
4.27	Governance and transparency arrangements should apply to Community Councils							
4.28	The public should have a right to attend, speak at and record meetings of their Community Council							
4.29	The Chair of the Community Council should be required to publish an annual report, which could also incorporate the reporting requirement proposed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill							
4.30	The Chair of the Community Council should be required to set performance objectives for the clerk of the Community Council							
4.31	The legislative framework governing community polls should be reviewed							
Elec	toral Qualifications							
	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ee		rongly sagree
4.32	Serving members of Local Authorities should be able to become a member on a Community Council <u>and</u> continue their position in the Local Authority							
4.33	Serving members of a Community Council should only be able to be a member of one Community Council							

Chapter 5: Power to Local Communities

Chapter 5 sets out the way in which communities can engage Local Authorities in joint endeavour and how people can protect land and property of community value for the future. We intend to achieve this by giving community bodies a number of rights which they can exercise in relation to services and assets.

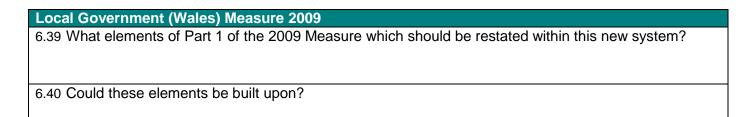
Community Bodies								
5.1 Do you agree Community Bodies should be sub				Yes	N	0	Don't Know	
before they could take a more active role in delivassets?	vering servi	ces or pur	cnasing					
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: Community bodies would need to demonstrate:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ree		rongly sagree	
5.2 Appropriate standards of governance								
5.3 Appropriate standards of financial management								
5.4 Appropriate standards of openness and transparency								
5.5 Representative local membership								
5.6 Are there any other 'competency' tests that you believe would be relevant?								
Community Participation								
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ree		rongly sagree	
5.7 Community bodies should be able to request involvement in the development and delivery of local services								
5.8 Local Authority should be required to respond to these requests								
5.9 What is the role of Elected Members in facilitating	ng requests	for commu	unity partici	ipation?	•			
Asset Transfer								
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	ree		rongly sagree	
5.10 Community bodies should be able to initiate the transfer of assets from a Local Authority								
5.11 Community bodies should have the right of 'first refusal' of community assets that are on the private market								
5.12 What is the role of Elected Members in facilitating	ng requests	for commu	unity asset	transfe	r?			
5 12 Local Authorities should be required to establish	and maint	ain a ragio	tor of	Yes No		0	Don't Know	
5.13 Local Authorities should be required to establish and maintain a register of community interests?]		

Chapter 6: Corporate Governance and Improvement

Chapter 6 discusses how Local Authorities might be best supported to improve their corporate capability and capacity. We believe effective leadership is the most important driver for ensuring Local Authorities are able to provide sustainable outcomes for local areas.

Cor	porate Governance							
	what extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree		rongly sagree
6.1	The proportion of independent members sitting on a Local Authority's Audit Committee should be increased							
6.2	The Chair of a Local Authority's Audit Committee should be an independent member							
		At least 2 people	1/4 of the Committee	1/3 of the Committee	Othe	r		on't Inow
6.3	What proportion of the Audit Committee should be independent?				Pleas			
6.4	What is the rationale for your answers?		•					
Self	-Assessment and Peer Review							
6.5	Do you agree that responsibility for effective per with the Local Authority, as does responsibility f			,	Yes	N	0	Don't Know
	what extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree		rongly sagree
6.6	Self-assessment is an appropriate mechanism for organisations to use to consider their current levels of capacity and capability							
6.7	Peer Review is an appropriate mechanism for organisations to use to challenge this self-assessment							
Self	Assessment and peer review should consider:				Yes	Ζ	0	Don't Know
6.8	Strategic Vision for the Authority							
6.9	Corporate planning, including financial manager	ment]	
	Governance arrangements]	
	Quality and timeliness of management and serv		ation					
6.12	Leadership, recruitment, talent development and	d retention						
6.13	Equality and diversity]	
	Efficiency		•••					
6.15	Procurement and the value for money deliveret third party expenditure	to local cor	mmunities t	nrough				
6.16	Engagement with the public, workforce and part	tners						
6.17	Responding to demographic, financial and dem							

6.18 Service innovation						
6.19 Effective working arrangements with other Publ	ic Services					
				Yes	No	Don't Know
6.20 Should a self-assessment be undertaken each	year?					
6.21 Should a peer-review be undertaken biennially	(every othe	r year)?				
6.22 Should the Chief Executive be required to provi matters of concern as a result of a self-assessment.						
6.23 Should these reports be considered by full Cour	ncil?					
6.24 Should these reports be considered by the Local	al Authority'	s Audit Co	mmittee?			
6.25 Should these reports be made public?						
6.26 How should self-assessment and peer assess improvement?		•		•	-	
6.27 How should Local Authorities be supported to b	ulia experti	se in seii-a	ssessmem	and pe	erre	view?
6.28 How could Welsh Government best support Loc	cal Authoriti	es to impro	ove?			
Power to Intervene						
				Yes	No	Don't Know
6.29 Do you agree that in some circumstances Minis Local Authority is showing signs of failure?	ters should	intervene	where a			_
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagi	ree	Strongly
following statements:	Agree		Agree or Disagree			Disagree
6.30 Commissioning an independent review is the correct mechanism to establish if a Local Authority is in need of support						
Which of the following triggers should be used to est	tablish an ir	ndependen	t review:	Yes	No	Don't Know
6.31 The performance of an Authority lagging signification behind its peers in key areas	cantly, or fo	r a sustain	ed period,			
6.32 Where there are concerns raised by the Authori	ity itself or i	ts Member	S			
6.33 Where information and intelligence provided by identifies concerns	external re	view bodie	S			
6.34 Where concerns are raised through whistleblow	ving					
6.35 Where there is significant public concern about	an issue					
6.36 Are there any other issues which you consider t	to be trigge	rs for a rev	iew?			
COZ Do vou agree that the findings from an indepen	dont roviou	مط العالم ما م	used to	Yes	No	Don't Know
6.37 Do you agree that the findings from an independent prompt Ministerial support and intervention?	dent review	snoula be	usea to			
6.38 How could the Local Government and Support						



Chapter 7: Performance in Local Government

Chapter 7 discusses the importance of information to deliver better outcomes for local areas. It does not discuss specific measures, but instead sets out how performance information can be used to best effect by the Local Authority, its scrutiny committees, the public, external review bodies and other interested stakeholders. Key to this is effective corporate planning which should use information and data to inform decisions and policy development.

Cor	porate Planning							
follo	what extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree		rongly sagree
7.1	Local Authorities should be required to produce a Corporate Plan							
Sho	uld the following categories be included within a	Corporate	Plan:		Yes	No	0	Don't Know
7.2				I-being]	
7.3	Corporate priorities for service delivery and implanguage standards, and the steps to achieve the being plan]	
7.4	Financial management plans, including medium corporate procurement strategies and asset ma		•	ng,]	
7.5	Workforce plans, including the strategic equalities	es plan						
7.6	The risk register]	
7.7	Existing service performance and benchmarking	<u> </u>						
7.8	Public engagement strategy, including in relatio and council tax	n to setting	of annual	budgets]	
	Planned performance levels for the short, medic]	
7.10	An Annual Report setting out achievements and previous year, which could also be used discharproposed duty under the Well-being of Future Greport on how they have delivered their objective the sustainability principle	rge the Loc Senerations	al Authority (Wales) B	/'s ill to]	
7.11	Are there any other categories that should be in	cluded with	nin a Corpo	rate Plan?				
Cor	porate Plans should include information that is:				Yes	No	0	Don't Know
7.12	short term]	
7.13	medium term]	
	long term							
7.15	How would the corporate plan be best presente	d and used	in engagir	ng with the	public?			

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagi	Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
7.16 Local Authorities should all produce information on performance levels and outcomes using the same data definitions.								
7.17 Local Authorities should all produce information on performance levels and outcomes using a consistent format and at the same time to allow for comparison.								
7.18 A single information portal would be a useful mechanism to provide regular, timely, and comparable information on a Local Authority area and Authorities across Wales to support and challenge performance in an area.								
A single information portal should include information	n on:			Yes	N	0	Don't Know	
7.19 Standardised performance data								
7.20 Complaints								
7.21 Reports from audit, inspection and regulation be	odies							
7.22 Self-assessment and peer review reports								
7.23 Information on upcoming inspections and audits	3							
7.24 Other (Please specify)								
7.25 In addition to information on performance, is there any other information that should be included on a single information portal?								
single information portal?	ere any othe	er informati	on that sho	ould be	incl	ude	d on a	
single information portal? Minimum Performance Outcomes	ŕ							
single information portal? Minimum Performance Outcomes To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	er informati Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	ould be Disagi		St	d on a rongly sagree	
single information portal? Minimum Performance Outcomes To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: 7.26 As part of a future performance regime the setting of minimum performance outcomes or standards should be considered	Strongly		Neither Agree or			St	rongly	
single information portal? Minimum Performance Outcomes To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: 7.26 As part of a future performance regime the setting of minimum performance outcomes or standards should be considered 7.27 There should be consequences for Local Authorities that fail to meet minimum Standards	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagn	ree	St Dis	rongly sagree	
Single information portal? Minimum Performance Outcomes To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: 7.26 As part of a future performance regime the setting of minimum performance outcomes or standards should be considered 7.27 There should be consequences for Local Authorities that fail to meet minimum	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagn	ree	St Dis	rongly sagree	
Minimum Performance Outcomes To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: 7.26 As part of a future performance regime the setting of minimum performance outcomes or standards should be considered 7.27 There should be consequences for Local Authorities that fail to meet minimum Standards 7.28 If you agree, what consequences should there standards?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagn	ree	St Dis	rongly sagree	
Minimum Performance Outcomes To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: 7.26 As part of a future performance regime the setting of minimum performance outcomes or standards should be considered 7.27 There should be consequences for Local Authorities that fail to meet minimum Standards 7.28 If you agree, what consequences should there standards? 7.29 Should financial penalties be used as an incent or standards?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ree	St Dis	rongly sagree	
Minimum Performance Outcomes To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: 7.26 As part of a future performance regime the setting of minimum performance outcomes or standards should be considered 7.27 There should be consequences for Local Authorities that fail to meet minimum Standards 7.28 If you agree, what consequences should there standards? 7.29 Should financial penalties be used as an incent	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	neet N	St Dis	rongly sagree Don't Know	

7.31 Local Authorities should decide should decide whether members of the public can record Council meetings						
7.32 The public have a right to report live from any Council proceedings, through written or electronic media						
7.33 Local Authorities should make arrangements to allow the public to make their views known on agendas of the full Council, the Executive of Committees in advance of meetings						
Complaints						
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree	Strongly Disagree
7.34 Local Authorities should have an online, as well as paper based, complaints process						
7.35 Local Authorities are already required to report on complaints made with regards to social services, they should be required to report on all complaints made about their services						
7.36 Is an Authority's Audit Committee best placed to			alia and of	Yes	N	o Don't Know
complaints (including data on number of complate their resolution, etc)?	amis receiv	ea, the time	eliness of			
7.37 If no, who would be best placed to consider suc	h a report?					

Chapter 8: Strengthening the Role of Review

Chapter 8 discusses the important role of internal and external review in supporting Local Authorities to deliver better outcomes for local areas. We believe the internal and external review processes do not currently work together well enough. The Chapter discusses how we will strengthen internal scrutiny to ensure it has a greater impact on Local Authority decision making. We also discuss the benefits of sharing information between the different external review bodies and with internal scrutiny. The Chapter also discusses how external review bodies should work together more.

_										
Den	nocratic Services									
					Yes	No)	Don't Know		
8.1	Do you agree that the Head of Democratic Serv role?	ices should	be a Chief	Officer						
8.2	Should the requirement preventing the Monitoria Head of Democratic Services be removed?	ng Officer fro	om also bei	ng the						
	8.3 How might we strengthen the independence of the Democratic Services function from the leadership of the Local Authority?									
Plar	nning for scrutiny									
					Yes	No	0	Don't Know		
	Is it appropriate to put in place a system of "key			.						
8.5	If introduced, how far in advance should the Executive be required to set out "key	3 months	4 months	6 months	Othe) r		Don't Know		
	decisions"?				Pleas spec					
	what extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disag	ree		rongly sagree		
	Scrutiny Committees should be required to establish short, medium and long term scrutiny plans									
8.7	Scrutiny Committees should be required to set out who they will engage with as part of their scrutiny plans									
8.8	Scrutiny Committees should be required publish their scrutiny plans									
					Yes	No	0	Don't Know		
8.9	Should co-opted members on Scrutiny Committ	ees be allov	wed to vote?	?]			
8.10	What is your reason for this answer?									
8.11	If yes, what circumstances would voting take pla	ace?								

Legal Dublic Assounts Committees							
Local Public Accounts Committees				Yes	N	Ю	Don't Know
8.12 Should Local Public Accounts Committees be e	stablished	in Wales?			[
8.13 How might a Local Public Accounts Committee				•	•		
Giving communities a voice in scrutiny	0, 1	1 4	N. 20	D:	ı	01	
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagr	ee		rongly sagree
8.14 Scrutiny Committees calls for evidence should be directed to relevant local community based representative bodies							
8.15 Individuals and representative bodies should be able to petition scrutiny committees							
8.16 How should a scrutiny committee be required to	consider a	and respond	to petitions	s?			
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,							
8.17 Should Local Authorities establish a 'public que	stion time' v	where mem	hers of	Yes	N	No Don't	
the public would be given the opportunity to rais							Know
Council?							
Regional scrutiny arrangements	01 1	1 A	N.1. 241	D:	ı	01	
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagre	ee		rongly sagree
8.18 Where a regional delivery mechanism is established, for example through joint commissioning, a joint scrutiny committee must be established							
8.19 How would this regional scrutiny committee mod	del interact	with local s	scrutiny?		·		
Strengthening links between External and Internal	al review						
				Yes	٨	Ю	Don't Know
8.20 Should the audit, inspection and regulation bodi reports with relevant Audit or Scrutiny Committee	•				[
8.21 Should the relevant Audit or Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the findings from audit, inspection a	e of a Loca	Authority b	e required		[
8.22 Should the audit, inspection and regulation bodi relevant Audit or Scrutiny Committees of a Local	ies be requ	ired to appe	ear before		Г		
when requested to do so?							
8.23 How else could links between external and inter	nal review	be strength	ened?				
Strengthening links between external review							
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagre	ее		rongly sagree
8.24 The audit, inspection and regulation bodies							
should be required to come together to plan a joint timetable of work with regards to Local Authorities							
8.25 This joint timetable should be published on the single information portal when established							

8.26 The audit, inspection and regulation bodies should be required to come together to produce a 'whole system' assessment of each Local Authority					
8.27 The audit, inspection and regulation bodies should be required to come together to produce an assessment of the overall health of Local Government					
		Every year	Every 2 years	Other	Don't Know
8.28 If introduced, how often should a 'whole system assessment of each Local Authority be undertal				Please specify	
8.29 How should this 'whole system' assessment of		orities be de	eveloped?	оросу	
		Every year	Every 2 years	Other	Don't Know
8.30 If introduced, how often should an assessment health of Local Government be produced?	of the			Please specify	
8.31 How should this assessment of the health of Lo	cal Govern	ment be de	eveloped?	, , ,	
External Review Framework					
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The purpose of external review is:					
8.32 Protecting the interests of citizens by holding the use of public resources to account and by rigorously telling the story of how citizens experience services.					
8.33 Contributing to the wider improvement framework, within organisations, the Welsh Government and wider public sector.					
8.34 Are there any other things you would consider t	o be part o	f the purpos	se of extern	al review?	
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The core functions of external review are:					
8.35 Assessing compliance with governance, financial stewardship and probity standards and regulations					
8.36 Assuring the quality and cost effectiveness of service provision					
8.37 Public reporting on the stewardship of public resources, service delivery against standards and the adherence to regulations					
8.38 Contributing to improvement including by encouraging self-improvement, acting upon critical reports and encouraging wider sectoral support					
8.39 Identifying, acting upon and reporting early signs of 'failure' within a service or an organisation					

8.40 Informing policy and practice, beyond individual organisations.					
8.41 Are there any issues or barriers which would prefunctions?	event exter	nal review l	oodies perfo	orming thes	е
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The key attributes of external review are:					
8.42 Proportionality: proportionate to the risk, potential for improvement, likely benefit and interests of citizens. It applies in terms of deciding whether to use external review and in deciding its nature, scope and duration					
8.43 Independence: it must not be constrained by any party in reaching its conclusions and publishing its findings. It must be free to make judgements about service delivery and report its findings into the public domain, and it must be able to decide how it discharges its responsibilities once its focus has been agreed					
8.44 Accountability: external review must demonstrate and report on the impact of its activities. Assessments and findings must be accurate, fair and capable of being defended					
8.45 Collaboration: external review must collaborate in the interests of greater local impact, greater cost effectiveness and to reduce the burden on those being reviewed					
8.46 Value for money: external review should be able to demonstrate it delivers benefits commensurate with its cost					
8.47 Transparency: external review must be transparent in all its activities, its focus, decision making criteria, business processes, assessments and reporting. Reports must be clear, independent and consistent					
 8.48 Professionalism and competence: external review must be conducted in a way which demonstrates professional integrity and competence. It should be credible, consistent and impartial in all its activities 8.49 Are there any issues or barriers which would professionalism. 				Operating t	
attributes?	eveni exier	ııdı ieview i	Joules dem	onshallig l	11696

Chapter 9: Finance

Chapter 9 discusses the way Local Government is funded and how this will need to change to support the reforms outlined in the White Paper in the shorter term, and also the need for a more fundamental review of the system in the longer term.

Our	vision								
9.1 What are your views on the proposed phased approach, where we intend to make the necessary changes needed to effect mergers and the reforms set out in this paper in the short term, and consider more fundamental changes to the system in the longer term?									
9.2 What specific features do you think a new financial framework for Local Government should exhibit?									
9.3 What specific aspects of the existing local taxation system could be simplified? (The existing local taxes are council tax and non-domestic rates.)									
	eral revenue funding – distribution								
follo	hat extent do you agree or disagree with the wing statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree			
	The distribution of central funding should take account of the relative need of each Local Authority, based on the demographic, social and economic characteristics across Wales								
	The distribution of central funding should take account of the ability of each Local Authority to raise income from local taxpayers								
	What would you change about the existing fund flexibility?	ling distribu	tion mecha	nism to pro	mote greate	er			
9.7	What would you incorporate into a future fundin	g distribution	on mechanis	sm to prom	ote greater	flexibility?			
Fina	incial Governance								
	How do you think Local Authorities could engag their spending priorities?		•			_			
	How do you think information about the results to residents?	from engag	ement exer	cises could	be made a	vailable			
9.10	How can we ensure financial plans are robust, s	strategic an	id sustainab	le?					
	What financial information should Local Authorit	•							
9.12	How can Local Authorities ensure the information	on is transp	arent and c	lear for pec	ple to unde	erstand?			

Any other comments

9.13 Are there any other issues we should consider as part of our programme of Reforming Local Government in Wales, for example matters relating to policy, legislation or implementation?

10 Impact Assessments

This section asks questions in relation to the impact assessments which will be undertaken and published in support of the Draft Bill which will be published later in 2015.

The questions are specifically seeking further evidence and information on the issues of Welsh Language, Children and Young People, and Equalities in relation to the proposals set out in the White Paper.

Wels	h Language					
	nat extent do you agree or disagree with the ring statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
10.1	The proposals set out in this White Paper will generally support the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh Language – laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.2	The proposals set out in Chapter 2 (Balancing the responsibilities of National and Local Government) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.3	The proposals set out in Chapter 3 (Renewing Democracy) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.4	The proposals set out in Chapter 4 (Connecting with Communities) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.5	The proposals set out in Chapter 5 (Power to Local Communities) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.6	The proposals set out in Chapter 6 (Corporate Governance and Improvement) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.7	The proposals set out in Chapter 7 (Performance in Local Government) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.8	The proposals set out in Chapter 8 (Strengthening the Role of Review) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.9	The proposals set out in Chapter 9 (Finance) will generally support laith fyw: laith byw?					
10.10	What do you see as the positive impacts/effe Welsh Language?	ects of the p	roposals se	et out in this	White Pape	er for the
10.11	How might these be further developed?					
10.12	What do you see as the negative impacts/eff Welsh Language?	ects of the	proposals s	et out in this	s White Pa _l	per for the
10.13	How might these be mitigated against?					

Children and Young People								
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree			
10.14 The proposals set out in this White Paper will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.15 The proposals set out in Chapter 2 (Balancing the responsibilities of National and Local Government) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.16 The proposals set out in Chapter 3 (Renewing Democracy) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.17 The proposals set out in Chapter 4 (Connecting with Communities) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.18 The proposals set out in Chapter 5 (Power to Local Communities) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.19 The proposals set out in Chapter 6 (Corporate Governance and Improvement) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.20 The proposals set out in Chapter 7 (Performance in Local Government) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.21 The proposals set out in Chapter 8 (Strengthening the Role of Review) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.22 The proposals set out in Chapter 9 (Finance) will generally have a positive impact on children, young people and their families								
10.23 What do you see as the positive impacts/effects of the proposals set out in this White Paper for children, young people and their families?								
10.24 How might these be further developed?								
10.25 What do you see as the negative impacts/effects of the proposals set out in this White Paper for children, young people and their families?								
10.26 How might these be mitigated against?								

Equanties			<u> </u>		_				
Equalities in this context refers to groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010:									
Age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership (in employment only); pregnancy and									
maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual or	ientation.								
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the	Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly				
following statements:	Agree	9	Agree or	3	Disagree				
	. 19		Disagree						
10.27 The proposals set out in this White Paper			2.0ag.00						
will generally have a positive impact on									
equalities issues					Ш				
•									
10.28 The proposals set out in Chapter 2									
(Balancing the responsibilities of National									
and Local Government) will generally have	_	_		_	_				
a positive impact on equalities issues									
10.29 The proposals set out in Chapter 3									
(Renewing Democracy) will generally have									
a positive impact on equalities issues									
10.30 The proposals set out in Chapter 4									
(Connecting with Communities) will									
generally have a positive impact on									
equalities issues									
10.31 The proposals set out in Chapter 5 (Power									
to Local Communities) will generally have a									
positive impact on equalities issues									
10.32 The proposals set out in Chapter 6									
(Corporate Governance and Improvement)									
will generally have a positive impact on									
equalities issues									
10.33 The proposals set out in Chapter 7									
(Performance in Local Government) will									
generally have a positive impact on									
equalities issues									
10.34 The proposals set out in Chapter 8									
(Strengthening the Role of Review) will									
generally have a positive impact on									
equalities issues									
10.35 The proposals set out in Chapter 9									
(Finance) will generally have a positive									
impact on equalities issues									
10.36 What do you see as the positive impacts/effects of the proposals set out in this White Paper on									
equalities issues?									
10.37 How might these be further developed?									
10.38 What do you see as the negative impacts/effects of the proposals set out in this White Paper on									
equalities issues?									
·									
10.39 How might these be mitigated against?									
5 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -									

Other Issues

Are there any proposals set out in the White Paper that have particular issues with regards to the following areas:

10.40 Privacy

[how personal information, related to groups or individuals, is collected, stored, protected, shared and managed as a result of policy development and delivery]

10.41 Rurality

[how the needs of the people who live, work, socialise and do business in rural areas are objectively considered in policy development and delivery]

10.42 Health

[how the health and wellbeing of a population may be affected by a proposed action]

10.43 Biodiversity and Habitat Regulations

[how biodiversity might be conserved and enhanced to halt the loss of habitats and species, and to take action to restore and enhance them by a proposed action]

10.44 Climate Change

[how proposed actions will contribute to reducing emissions by 3% in devolved areas.]

10.45 Environmental Impact Assessment

[how protection for land with special environmental, historic or cultural importance may be affected by a proposed action

10.46 Strategic Environmental Assessment

[how environmental issues are considered as part of proposed action]