

Report to: Democratic Services Committee

Date of Meeting: 20 October 2017

Lead Officer: Gary Williams (Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services)

Report Author: Steve Price (Democratic Services Manager)

Title: Electoral Reform Consultation

1. What is the report about?

This is an information report about the Welsh Government's recent consultation on electoral reform.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To draw the Committee's attention to the Welsh Government's proposals for electoral reform.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee considers the proposals.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The Wales Act 2017 contains provisions on electoral and registration matters that are due to come into force in 2018. These provisions will transfer competence to the National Assembly to legislate in relation to the administration of Welsh local government and National Assembly elections. In addition, legislative competence for the registering of electors eligible to vote in those elections and the franchise applying to them will also be transferred to the Assembly. An exception to this is the digital registration system operated by the UK Government.
- 4.2 The Welsh Government opened a public consultation on the 18 July to consult on:
- how democracy works in Wales
 - how people become eligible to vote
 - how they exercise their right to vote
 - how elections are organised.
- 4.3 An explanatory foreword by Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.4 A response from the Lead Member on behalf of Denbighshire to the Welsh Government is attached as Appendix 2 for information. This response considered the views of electoral administrators from across North Wales. Group leaders were

supplied with information on the consultation and the proposals for their groups or individual members to make representations directly to the Welsh Government,

- 4.5 An 'easy to read' version of the Welsh Government's consultation document is attached as Appendix 3. The full version can be accessed at:

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/electoral-reform-local-government-wales>

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

No direct contribution.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no costs associated with this consultation exercise.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

An impact assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Group leaders have been informed of this Welsh Government consultation exercise.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Not required.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are a wide range of proposals in the consultation which, if enacted, would represent a significant change to the electoral system. A response is planned to the consultation.

11. Power to make the Decision

No decision is required.