

Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: 11th June 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Hugh Evans/ Chief Executive

Report Author: Gary Williams

Title: Local Government Reform – Green Paper

1. What is the report about?

The report is about the Welsh Government's Green Paper Consultation Document on Local Government Reform entitled Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People ("the Paper")

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To inform Council of the contents of the Paper and obtain approval of a Council response to it

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Council considers the content of the Paper attached as Appendix 1 to this report and approves the draft consultation response set out in Appendix 2 to this report for submission to Welsh Government.

4. Report details

The Welsh Government has published a consultation document, the Paper, setting out the Government's case for Local Government Reform and the options that it is considering implementing in order to achieve this.

The Paper is the ninth publication or consultation document issued by the Welsh Government on the topic of Local Government Reform since and including the Williams Commission Report in January 2014. Details of these publications and documents are set out in the annexes to the Paper.

The Welsh Government says that it has considered the results of these previous consultations in formulating the proposals set out in the Paper. The Paper is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Consultation responses are to be submitted to Welsh Government by the deadline of 12th June 2018.

Group Leaders were invited to discuss the Paper at a meeting on 15th May.

An all Member Workshop was held on the 24th May in order to obtain the views of the wider Council membership. Members of CET and SLT have also been consulted on the content of the Paper.

A draft consultation response has been prepared which tries to encapsulate the feedback given by officers and members following the work described above. The draft response is attached as Appendix 2.

Council is asked to consider the content of Appendix 2 and approve its submission to Welsh Government.

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

The decision does not contribute to the Corporate Priorities.

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

The response to the Paper will not incur any cost

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

An impact assessment is not required for this consultation response

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

CET and SLT have been consulted. The Paper has been considered by a meeting of Group Leaders, and has been discussed by all Councillors at a briefing workshop held on 24th May.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The prospect of a major change to the shape of local government in Wales at the same time as managing ongoing budget cuts poses a significant risk. Hopefully, Welsh Government will recognise this if proposals are taken forward. The cost implications of any emerging proposals must be properly considered nationally and locally and should be robust enough to make a business case to support the final decision.

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

There is a risk, if the Council fails to submit a response, that the Welsh Government will make a decision on the future of Local Government without having the opportunity to take into account the views of this Council and its Members.

11. Power to make the Decision

S111 Local Government Act 1972