

Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People

Page 2: Chapter 3

Q1. 1a. What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?

1. In our response to last year's consultation, Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed, we set out a number of issues for consideration.
2. Engagement with local authorities and service providers needs to take place to ensure that co-productive working is not inhibited during such a shift.
3. It will be necessary to be clear about what can be organised better at regional level, and what is needed to enable community-led participation on improving health and wellbeing – for example, links to GP practices through social prescribing.
4. To ensure success it will be important to engage with organisations delivering services jointly across more than one region or service area and to ensure strong relationships between social services are built with other relevant services e.g. housing and education. Ensuring clear accountability within social services will be critical.
5. The Parliamentary Review into Health and Social Care has urged a shift towards seamless, community-based services. Welsh Government has just published its response to this, A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care. Assuming that social services will become regional, we urge Welsh Government to engage strongly with the sector in order to help its vision for seamless health and social care take shape on this basis.
6. Regarding Regional Partnership Boards: A Healthier Wales outlines plans for RPBs to oversee the development or scaling up of two new models in each of their areas over 12 months. For the sector to maximise its role in this work, it must be properly resourced to fully play its part on these boards. Third sector organisations are not resourced effectively and are therefore unable to fully offer their expertise and services. Recent conversations with the Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care about working together with statutory bodies to put the sector's role on RPBs on a more equal footing, through the National Transition Programme, have been welcome, and we look forward to working with Welsh Government on this in future.
7. There is a need to reduce the complexity, reflected in the number of partnerships and structures that operate at local authority and regional level with their overlapping footprints and cursory representation of the sector. These structures consume capacity and resource rather than create them. There should be a greater clarity of roles and functions between local, area/regional and national, with the application of the common ways of working set out in the Future Generations Act.
8. We are proud of the relationship with Government established as part of the devolution process. However, we feel that these structures and the compact with the sector need to be reviewed and strengthened with both national and local government. We would hope that the reforms being proposed for local government and be an opportunity to restate the principles and redesign the practice to reflect our common purpose. We simply see too many cases of bad commissioning practice and under valuing of the role of the sectors contribution to community wellbeing.

Q2. 1b. What are your views on the common elements to the process of mergers we outline in this section?

Service deliverers need clarity of communication on who they should be in contact with and who is ultimately responsible for service standards should local authority mergers take place. Where two or more organisations are delivering a service in different regions, then find regions become merged – are they expected to work together to deliver this service? Would one organisation be expected to drop the service? This will aid clarity.

Q3. 1c. What are your views on the options for creating fewer, larger authorities which we have set out?

No Response

Q4. 1d. Are there other options for creating fewer, larger authorities we should consider?

No Response

Q5. 1e. Do you have evidence on costs, benefits and savings of each option which can inform decision-making? If so, please provide details.

No Response

Page 3: Chapter 4

Q6. 2a. Do you agree that providing clarity on the future footprint of local government is important?

Absolutely. Clarity as soon as possible is vital for the sector to prepare for its future.

Q7. 2b. Do you agree with the factors we have identified to inform our thinking? Would you change or add any?

1. We note that there is little reference to the five ways of working of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act within the consultation document. It would help to explain the Welsh Government's thinking on how these proposals address the Act, plus other legislation including the Budget.
2. Local authorities should be encouraged to adopt the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales, as endorsed by Welsh Government.
3. Change should focus on the culture required if local authorities are to play an effective role in delivering for people. Local government needs to focus on enabling citizen and community-led solutions. This requires a different approach to top-down delivery, which is designed to solve problems and provide services on behalf of citizens, not alongside them.

Q8. 2c. What are your views on the new areas suggested in this section?

No Response

Q9. 2d. Do you have alternative suggestions and, if so, what is the evidence to support these as an alternative?

No Response

Q10. 2e. In the context of these proposals, are there other ways we should simplify and streamline joint working arrangements at regional level and among public bodies within the new authority areas? If so, what are they?

No Response

Page 4: Chapter 5

Q11. 3a. Do you agree with the proposed process of transition: namely establishing Transition Committees and ensuring elections to Shadow Authorities can be held ahead of vesting day for the new authorities?

No Response

Q12. 3b. Do you agree that, if option 1 were pursued, we should set a date by which voluntary merger proposals should come forward in each electoral cycle?

No Response

Q13. 3c. Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed process?

No Response

Q14. 4. The consultation suggests holding any local government elections in June 2021. Are there any reasons why June 2021 would not be a suitable date? If so, please suggest an alternative date with the reasons why that would be more suitable.

No Response

Q15. 5. The Welsh Government recognises that there are some plans or assessments, for example the preparation of assessments of wellbeing by Public Service Boards, which are linked to electoral cycles. We will make provision to make sure these tie into any new electoral cycles going forward. Are there any other plans or matters which might be tied into the electoral cycle which we need to consider?

No Response

Q16. 6. What are your views on the approach which should be taken to determining the parameters of electoral reviews?

No Response

Page 5: Chapter 6

Q17. 7a. How can councils make more effective use of their elected members knowledge of, and connections in, their communities?

1. WCVA has, over the last 12 months, undertaken a lot of work around resilient communities with a variety of partners, including work with Carnegie UK Trust on our jointly-published Turnaround Towns publication. Evidence from this work shows that there is an urgent need to give communities a stronger voice in decision-making, with community engagement happening using a variety of methods.
2. Councillors must engage with a wide variety of people and communities and be urged to engage more effectively with local Community Anchor Organisations. If they need support to achieve all this, it must be provided. In this role they become an advocate and an enabler for empowerment. This stronger link between democratic and participative roles is essential.
3. We have published a report, following engagement work with the sector, titled Empowering Communities, outlining several actions to take to create empowered communities. These include promoting the role of Community Anchor Organisations; integrating community ownership and empowerment into commissioning processes; emphasising place-based approaches in policy and recognising the informal voluntary and community action that is the bedrock of empowered communities.
4. There is also a need for a greater role for town and community councils in working with their communities to shape their future, building belonging and civic pride. This needs to be built around places, towns, neighbourhoods and communities, not local authority areas.

Q18. 7b. How could we better recognise the level of responsibility involved in being a local councillor? What changes to the remuneration and support councillors receive would enable a wider range of people to become involved in local democratic representation?

No Response

Q19. 8a. Are there other powers which local government should have? If so, what are they?

No Response

Q20. 8b. Are there other freedoms or flexibilities which local government should have? If so, what are they?

No Response

Q21. 9a. Which areas offer the greatest scope for shared transactional services?

No Response

Q22. 9b. How might such arrangements be best developed?

No Response

Q23. 10a. In ensuring we deliver a consistent approach across Wales, where consistency is important, how do you think the advice and support on each of these matters could be best provided?

The third sector are in a unique and valuable position to support communities as their services shift to regional working, however there must be clear guidance given to those groups providing services that will shift to regional working. They must be supported to ensure that there is no disruption to those who receive their services and be resourced to ensure transformational change.

Q24. 10b. Are there any other challenges or opportunities from structural change or providing additional powers and flexibilities that have not been identified above? If these areas require support, what form should this support take?

No Response

Q25. 10c. Which of the issues identified above or in your response should be prioritised for early resolution?

No Response

Page 6: Impact assessments

Q26. 11a. What effects do you think there would be?

No Response

Q27. 11b. How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

No Response

Q28. 12. Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy within this consultation could be formulated or changed (if required) so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

No Response

Q29. 13a. Are there any positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?

No Response

Q30. 13b. Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive effects or reduce any possible adverse effects?

No Response

Q31. 14a. Are there any other positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?

No Response

Q32. 14b. Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive or reduce any possible adverse effects?

No Response

Q33. 15. Please provide any other comments you wish to make on the content of this consultation.

1. Wales Council for Voluntary Action will be pleased to discuss these or any other points relating to this consultation response with officials, Cabinet Secretaries or Ministers if requested.
2. WCVA is the national membership organisation for the third sector in Wales. Our vision is for a future where the third sector and volunteering thrive across Wales, improving wellbeing for all. Our mission is to be a catalyst for positive change by connecting, enabling and influencing.
3. WCVA works with a range of national specialist agencies, county voluntary councils and other development agencies, to provide a support structure for the third sector in Wales. We have over 3,000 members, and are in touch with many more organisations through a wide range of national and local networks.

Page 7: Submit your response

Q34. You are about to submit your response. Please ensure you are satisfied with the answers you have provided before sending.

Name David Cook
Organisation (if applicable) Wales Council for Voluntary Action

Q35. If you want to receive a receipt of your response, please provide an email address.
Email address

[REDACTED]

Q36. Telephone

[REDACTED]

Q37. Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cardiff
[REDACTED]

Q38. Responses to consultations may be made public. To keep your response anonymous (including email addresses) tick the box.

No Response

I give my views in relation to the Gwent area and do not pretend to know what is best for other areas of Wales.

I can see no point in merging Caerphilly and Newport without including the other authorities in Gwent.

1. Historically, we identify ourselves as being from Gwent (or Monmouthshire before that).
2. If the 5 authorities combine, we share common boundaries with police and health services which can only be positive from a working perspective.
3. The population would still be under 600.000 - but would be big enough to make service provision more efficient.
4. Area wise, we are a compact county with good transport links in the north, middle and south enabling easy access to services.
5. The Cardiff City Region would be more dynamic with the 5 authorities area merged into one.

Asking local authorities to merge on a voluntary basis will never work. The final decision should be made at Wales level with a date set and agreed for the changeover. I would suggest a CEO should be appointed as a first step to lead the reorganisation alongside an elected mayor for the new Greater Gwent. Big organising committees are too slow and cumbersome , better to have initially one member from each area on board to drive forward change.

I have lived through two reorganisations of local government (being born and living in Mynyddislwyn, then Islwyn and now Caerphilly) and believe re establishing Gwent as the new authority would ensure we do not need a further change in 25 years time. Only by merging the 5 authorities will you get the scale to make efficient and economic provision of services.

David Rowlands
Pontllanfraith,
Gwent .

Annex C: Consultation Questions

Your Name	David R Harries
Organisation (if applicable)	
E-mail / Telephone	
Your Address	BRIDGEND

You can find out how we will use the information you provide by reading the privacy notice in the [consultation document](#).

Chapter 3
Consultation Question 1
In Chapter 2, we restated our commitment to regional working in key areas but recognised the need for this to be supported by further change. In chapter 3, we set out the broad options for moving toward fewer, larger local authorities and summarise features of the process which would be common to each option.
a) What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?
No comment
b) What are your views on the common elements to the process of mergers we outline in this section?
No comment
c) What are your views on the options for creating fewer, larger authorities which we have set out?
I understand the rationale, but I have concerns – see below.
d) Are there other options for creating fewer, larger authorities we should consider?
<p>Paragraph 4.20 states:</p> <p>“The average population of these new areas, as shown in table 2 of Annex B would be just over 311,000. There will be some variation, particularly between more urbanised areas, (Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff with 489,931 and Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil with 441,293)....”</p> <p>My reaction is that these areas (above) are too big; and furthermore, the Bridgend-RCT-Merthyr area is like the old Mid Glamorgan, which is not a natural, cohesive unit. Moreover, there is a weakness in the Cardiff-Vale configuration, especially as the West Vale is very largely served by</p>

health services based in Bridgend.

Therefore, I suggest that Bridgend remain separate *and* gain parts of the Vale, either as far east as Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Aberthaw, in line with the health service provision boundary, or at least as far east as Wick and St Brides Major (as up to the 1996 re-organisation).

Health delivery boundaries still reflect the old Poor Law Union boundaries, while local authority boundaries do not. Opportunities have been missed to re-align these.

e) Do you have evidence on costs, benefits and savings of each option which can inform decision-making? If so, please provide details.

No

Chapter 4

Consultation Question 2

Chapter 4 has explained the need for clarity on the future footprint for local government and the range of factors which should be taken into account to determine a new configuration. It sets out a suggested future footprint for local government, which could be reached via each of the options set out in the previous chapter.

a) Do you agree that providing clarity on the future footprint of local government is important?

yes

b) Do you agree with the factors we have identified to inform our thinking? Would you change or add any?

No comment

c) What are your views on the new areas suggested in this section?

Take Bridgend out of Bridgend-RCT-Merthyr and strengthen it by extending it eastwards.

d) Do you have alternative suggestions and, if so, what is the evidence to support these as an alternative?
Take Bridgend out of Bridgend-RCT-Merthyr and strengthen it by extending it eastwards. Bridgend is the focus of health services in the west of the Vale and has been for about 150 years or more.
e) In the context of these proposals, are there other ways we should simplify and streamline joint working arrangements at regional level and among public bodies within the new authority areas? If so, what are they?
No comment

Chapter 5
Consultation Question 3 Chapter 5 sets out the proposed approach to transition and implications for establishing Transition Committees and elections to Shadow Authorities under each option.
a) Do you agree with the proposed process of transition: namely establishing Transition Committees and ensuring elections to Shadow Authorities can be held ahead of vesting day for the new authorities?
yes
b) Do you agree that, if option 1 were pursued, we should set a date by which voluntary merger proposals should come forward in each electoral cycle?
No comment

c) Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed process?
Please minimise disruption and strive to avoid further re-organisations.
<p><u>Consultation Question 4</u></p> <p>The consultation suggests holding any local government elections in June 2021.</p> <p>Are there any reasons why June 2021 would not be a suitable date? If so, please suggest an alternative date with the reasons why that would be more suitable.</p>
No comment
<p><u>Consultation Question 5</u></p> <p>The Welsh Government recognises that there are some plans or assessments, for example the preparation of assessments of wellbeing by Public Service Boards, which are linked to electoral cycles. We will make provision to make sure these tie into any new electoral cycles going forward. Are there any other plans or matters which might be tied into the electoral cycle which we need to consider?</p>
No comment
<p><u>Consultation Question 6</u></p> <p>What are your views on the approach which should be taken to determining the parameters of electoral reviews?</p>
No comment

Chapter 6

Consultation Question 7

- a) How can councils make more effective use of their elected members knowledge of, and connections in, their communities?

No comment
b) How could we better recognise the level of responsibility involved in being a local councillor? What changes to the remuneration and support councillors receive would enable a wider range of people to become involved in local democratic representation?
No comment
<u>Consultation Question 8</u>
a) Are there other powers which local government should have? If so, what are they?
No comment
b) Are there other freedoms or flexibilities which local government should have? If so, what are they?
<u>Consultation Question 9</u>
a) Which areas offer the greatest scope for shared transactional services?
No comment
b) How might such arrangements be best developed?
No comment
<u>Consultation Question 10</u>
a) In ensuring we deliver a consistent approach across Wales, where consistency is important, how do you think the advice and support on each of these matters could be best provided?

No comment
c) Are there any other challenges or opportunities from structural change or providing additional powers and flexibilities that have not been identified above? If these areas require support, what form should this support take?

d) Which of the issues identified above or in your response should be prioritised for early resolution?

<u>Consultation Question 11.</u> We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals within this consultation would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
a) What effects do you think there would be?
No comment
b) How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

<u>Consultation Question 12</u> Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy within this consultation could be formulated or changed (if required) so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.
Bigger authorities should have more resources to promote Welsh, from economies of scale.

<p><u>Consultation Question 13</u></p> <p>The Children's Rights Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on children and young people. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.</p>
<p>a) Are there any positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?</p>
<p>No comment</p>
<p>b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive effects or reduce any possible adverse effects?</p>
<p>-----</p>
<p><u>Consultation Question 14</u></p> <p>The Equalities Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.</p>
<p>a) Are there any other positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?</p>
<p>No comment</p>
<p>b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive or reduce any possible adverse effects?</p>
<p>-----</p>

<u>Consultation Question 15</u> Please provide any other comments you wish to make on the content of this consultation.
none

Elch cyf / Your ref:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Dyddiad / Date:

Rhif union / Direct dial:

12-06-2018

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Cyng / Cllr Hugh H Evans OBE

Arweinydd ac Aelod Arweiniol dros yr Economi a
Llywodraethu Corfforaethol

Leader and Lead Member for the Economy and
Corporate Governance

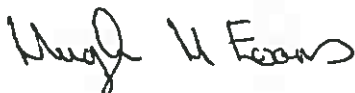
Judith Greenhalgh

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive

Mewn ymateb i ddogfen ymgynghori Papur Gwyrdd Llywodraeth Cymru ar ddiwygio Llywodraeth Leol o dan y teitl Cryfhau Llywodraeth Leol: Cyflawni dros ein Pobl ("y Papur"), gwelwch ynghlwm ymateb Cyngor Sir Ddinbych a drafodwyd a chytunwyd heddiw mewn cyfarfod arbennig o'r cyngor llawn.

In response to the Welsh Government's Green Paper Consultation Document on Local Government Reform entitled Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People ("the paper"), please find attached Denbighshire County Council's response which was discussed and agreed today at a special meeting of full Council.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,



Cyng / Cllr Hugh H Evans OBE

Arweinydd & Aelod Arweiniol dros yr Economi a
Llywodraethu Corfforaethol
Leader & Lead Member for the Economy and
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Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People

Consultation Response

Denbighshire County Council does not believe that a credible case for change has been made in the Green Paper Consultation Document. Denbighshire's consistently high standard of service delivery demonstrates that it is delivering to residents and other service users. The Council is also actively engaged in existing and developing regional and sub-regional collaborations. Some collaborations, for example, the school effectiveness and improvement service for North Wales (GwE) are providing excellent services across the region. Local authority joint committees are not a suitable vehicle for some other regional collaborations and this would remain true after a local government reorganisation. Legislative provisions to enable existing or future local authorities and their partners to successfully collaborate are needed.

The transition process would inevitably become a central focus for all local authorities in the lead up to the mergers. This would undermine their ability to deliver services to their residents and other service users over a number of years even if the transition period and mergers were fully funded and allowed an appropriate timescale in which to take place. The Council disagrees with the Green Paper's timescales relating to having new merged authorities from April 2022; the work involved over so short a timescale would be too disruptive to services and could not be adequately supported alongside a programme of managing budget reductions.

The effects of austerity are well-noted and although a combined Denbighshire and Conwy could potentially achieve some savings in management, support services and elected member costs, there would likely be a weakening of links between local communities, their elected representatives and decision making. It must be noted that the public are not expressing any desire for local government reorganisation. Most local authority spend is targeted at services such as education and social care which are unlikely to produce significant cost savings as a result of having larger merged authorities. Many other services from waste collection and recycling to leisure facilities will not see obvious opportunities for savings that cannot be delivered by the existing local authorities either by themselves or through collaborative efforts.

The experience of the last local government reorganisation indicates that the new merged authorities would face serious challenges especially during their first few years, but potentially for an even longer period. The reduced service provision over this extended period is not in the interests of our service users or local democracy and accountability.

The Council has agreed the following response to the consultation questions as set out in this document. It is noted that no question was asked, or view expressly sought, as to the case for change. It is therefore to be assumed that Government has decided to pursue a policy of merger and is seeking views solely as to the process by which this is to be achieved. The response to the consultation questions is framed on this basis.

Consultation Question 1

- a) What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to the education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?**
- b) What are your views on the common elements to the process of mergers we outline in this section?**
- c) What are your views on the options for creating fewer, larger authorities which we have set out?**
- d) Are there other options for creating fewer, larger authorities we should consider?**
- e) Do you have evidence on costs, benefits and savings of each option which can inform decision-making? If so, please provide details.**

Response

a) The current regional working arrangements could be made more effective by creating appropriate structures for them to be governed and operate in a way that is appropriate to the functions that they are seeking to discharge.

The question cites three examples of regional working. Taking these three examples in turn, in North Wales the education consortium is governed by a traditional joint committee arrangement with the partner authorities each being able to delegate functions to and appoint representatives to sit on the committee. This appears to be an appropriate model for this service.

The regional working in respect of Social Services is to a large part under the auspices of the Regional Partnership Board. This is a body created by statute yet it has no real decision making powers and consists of not just the local authorities but also the health board. If it is to be effective it should be a body that is able to take decisions appropriate to its function. Given that it is not a solely local government body it would appear necessary for there to be legislative action to create an appropriate governance vehicle to which power can be delegated by the constituent members and decisions taken by that vehicle.

The regional growth board is trying to negotiate a regional growth deal and will then need to implement the projects within that deal across a number of functions that are not solely local authority functions and with partners from other parts of the public sector and the private sector. The model of governance is a joint committee, yet the law does not entitle non local authority membership of an executive joint committee resulting in governance arrangements that are having to be adapted to try and make them fit the existing legislative requirements. The creation of an appropriate statutorily based governance vehicle enabling all partners to participate would be more effective.

The previous White Paper regarding mandatory regional working did at least recognise the need to create an appropriate governance vehicle even if the proposals were muddled and didn't

seem to always recognise the extent to which there would need to be amendments to existing legislation.

b) The common elements appear to be sensible. It is agreed that there should be a clear future footprint upon which any merger proposals, under any of the options put forward, are based.

It is agreed that there should be a structured, democratically led process to enable proper preparation and give any new authorities the best chance of succeeding. The concerns that arise from the processes described in the Paper are that in terms of Option 3, the timescales are incredibly tight especially those relating to the determination of electoral arrangements for the new authorities.

Appropriate support and assistance to enable local authorities to manage the process of merger will be crucial. There needs to be a recognition by Government that the process of merger will be hugely disruptive to the work of local authorities and a massive drain on resources and capacity both at officer and political level. It will not be possible for local authorities to deliver mergers at the same time as trying to transform services and manage cuts due to austerity, as well as engaging in ambitious regional projects. The financial pressures that have been experienced by local authorities since Government first proposed structural change mean that senior management capacity across all authorities has been reduced. If Government believes that local government re-organisation is as important as the Paper suggests, then local authorities need to be given the time and space to manage it properly without increasing financial pressures during that transition. The Government will need to provide the necessary funding to enable merging authorities to build the capacity to deliver the change, invest in new systems and cover the costs of redundancies and retirements.

It is to be welcomed that Government expresses the view in the Paper that local authorities are the experts in running local government and that there should not be an overlap or duplication of activity between central and local government. Appropriate support and assistance should be just that, and not a mechanism by which Government issues directions and seeks to assert overt control.

The suggestion that there should be greater powers, flexibilities and other opportunities is to be welcomed, however, it is difficult to comment without further clarity as to what is actually being proposed.

It is agreed that there should be backstop intervention powers for Government. It is understood that there is already a process and a power in existence under the Local Government Wales Measure 2011. It is not clear whether the suggestion in the Paper is intended to replace or augment this power, or whether it is concerned solely with the process of merger.

c) There are benefits and disadvantages to all three of the options set out in the Paper.

Option 1 would appear to be the least effective option. If Government is confident of the case for change then Option 1 appears to do little to deliver the change that is described. There is no clear vision or a realistic timescale for what is to be achieved. It assumes that local authorities would wish to merge voluntarily. The past experience of some authorities with regard to voluntary mergers and Government's response to them is hardly encouraging. There would inevitably be a lengthy period during which many authorities were undergoing the transition,

diverting resources and capacity from the achievement of service transformation and regional working. Changes to the size of local authorities on an ad hoc basis will lead to an imbalance of political representation and influence on regional bodies and a long period of time during which one or more of the regional partners will be distracted from that work by the merger process.

Option 2 describes a phased approach. This option appears to recognise the sheer volume of work required to merge all 22 authorities within a short period of time, not least by the Local Government Democracy and Boundary Commission which is already involved in a review of the electoral arrangements of existing local authorities, work which will presumably be aborted if these options are progressed. The advantage of this option is the time to prepare properly for merger and the fact that there is a definite end date. The disadvantage is that the process will be stretched out over an eight year period during which it may be that there is drift in terms of service transformation and regional working given the impending change. The distraction of re-organisation will be present for a longer period. If there are early adopters there will be a potential for imbalance in regional arrangements.

Option 3 is the most ambitious of the proposals. It would appear sensible that if change is to be made it should be made at the same time across the whole of Wales. This minimises the period during which local authorities are unable to devote resources and capacity to service transformation and regional working. It also avoids an imbalance in the size and scale of local authorities particularly in respect of regional arrangements. The major disadvantage is the timescale in which this option is to be achieved. Senior political and management capacity will inevitably be almost entirely taken up by the process for merger. The review of electoral arrangements seems the least likely to be achieved within the timescale described given the likely reduction in councillors required across Wales to meet the current Council Size Policy of the Commission. Presumably any changes to that policy will need to go through a consultation process before the reviews can begin, resulting in a further reduction in the time available to complete the reviews by August 2020.

In summary, the most sensible option would be single comprehensive merger programme but one that is delivered on a realistic timescale. Government would need to consider extending the current term of the existing Councils to enable this to be achieved.

d) If the policy objective is to create fewer, larger local authorities covering the same broad scope of functions, then there do not appear to be any other options save for the amendment of the timescales of Options 2 and 3.

e) The Paper refers to cost and savings estimates which cover a very broad range and are several years out of date. There will be one-off transition costs as well as ongoing costs of harmonising pay and contract rates. The policy over council tax harmonisation could be costly depending how it is approached. Contribution rates to pension schemes and pension deficits may be an issue as would the equalisation of spend on services per head. There should be savings in management, the support infrastructure and democracy but given the above costs, these may take a significant period to achieve a payback on the decision.

Consultation Question 2

- a) Do you agree that providing clarity on the future footprint of local government is important?
- b) Do you agree with the factors we have identified to inform our thinking? Would you change or add any?
- c) What are your views on the new areas suggested in this section?
- d) Do you have alternative suggestions and, if so, what is the evidence to support these as an alternative?
- e) In the context of these proposals, are there other ways we should simplify and streamline joint working arrangements at regional level and among public bodies within the new authority areas? If so, what are they?

Consultation response

- a) It is agreed that providing clarity on the future footprint of local government is important.
- b) The identified factors appear to be appropriate and sensible.
- c) The Council is pleased that the responses provided in respect of previous consultation exercises have been listened to and that Government accepts that if mergers are to take place that 3 authorities is the appropriate number for the North Wales region.
- d) There are no alternative suggestions.
- e) The Council would repeat the observations made in respect of question 1 that there should be some thought given to designing and then legislating for an appropriate governance vehicle or model for regional working that involves partners other than local authorities.

Consultation Question 3

- a) Do you agree with the proposed process of transition: namely establishing Transition Committees and ensuring elections to Shadow Authorities can be held ahead of vesting day for the new authorities?
- b) Do you agree that, if option 1 were pursued, we should set a date by which voluntary merger proposals should come forward in each electoral cycle?
- c) Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed process?

Consultation response

a) It is agreed that there should be a process involving Transition Committees and elections in sufficient time to allow Shadow Authorities to make necessary decisions and arrangements prior to vesting day. It is also appropriate for there to be a regime of restrictions on financial and other transactions in the lead up to merger. It is suggested that this regime be as light touch as is appropriate and does not become overly burdensome and bureaucratic. If there is to be prior approval of these transactions it is suggested that this is done as locally as possible and that it would be preferable for the Transition Committee to be the approving body rather than an organ of Welsh Government. There would need to be recognition too of the potential impact on regional projects of a succession of approvals being required for decisions being taken by authorities across the region on matters that may be connected. There would need to be a system of exceptions and urgency provisions.

b) Yes

c) The comments made previously regarding the timescales of Options 2 and 3 are repeated, as are those pertaining to capacity and resources. Cabinet members will be expected to sit on their own Cabinets, Transition Committees and often, one or more regional bodies during this period. Transition Committees will also bring their own resource and support requirements at a time when those very resources are or have been reduced. There will need to be a recognition of resource and capacity demands to support these additional structures.

There does not appear to be any mention of the Scrutiny arrangements for Transition Committees. By whom will decisions of these committees be scrutinised? It is suggested that it should be for the merging authorities to agree and implement the arrangements considered, locally, to be the most appropriate.

There appears to be insufficient time to properly undertake electoral reviews to Shadow Authorities for 2021.

Consultation Question 4

The consultation suggests holding any local government elections in June 2021.

Are there any reasons why June 2021 would not be a suitable date? If so, please suggest an alternative date with the reasons why that would be more suitable.

Consultation response

The combination of a National Assembly election followed extremely closely by a UK Parliamentary election in 2016 proved very challenging and stressful for electoral staff. The Local Government elections are the most complex and demanding of all of the elections that we administer given the number of separate contests across unitary, town and community councils. Holding these elections in such close proximity to Assembly elections is a considerable burden. Consideration should be given to extending the period of time between the two elections. If

possible, consideration should be given to moving the Assembly election either forwards or backwards to allow a greater period between the elections.

The assumption of the question is that the Assembly elections should come first. Given that the Shadow Authorities will need sufficient time to make the necessary decisions and appointments in preparation for vesting day, the election of these bodies should be the priority and they should be held first, unless it would be impossible for the reviews of electoral arrangements to be completed in time. If the elections must be held in May and June, then the local government elections should be held first as it would be easier logistically to manage the two elections in that order than it would be to try and administer the local government elections whilst in the middle of an Assembly election.

If Option 3 were pursued, consideration should be given to extending the timescale to allow for elections in 2022 and vesting in 2023.

Consultation Question 5

The Welsh Government recognises that there are some plans or assessments, for example the preparation of assessments of wellbeing by Public Service Boards, which are linked to electoral cycles. We will make provision to make sure these tie into any new electoral cycles going forward. Are there any other plans or matters which might be tied into the electoral cycle which we need to consider?

Consultation response

Councils have a duty to set Well-being objectives under the Future Generations Act. This is the same legislation as the Public Service Board example given in the Paper, and is tied to the electoral cycle in the same way. We set these as our 'corporate plan' as do most organisations.

The Council is also still subject to the Local Government Act (Wales) 2009, which requires us to publish 'Improvement Objectives' annually and is again linked to the electoral cycle. This element of the Act has not yet been repealed despite previous consultations suggesting that this would happen.

Consultation Question 6

What are your views on the approach which should be taken to determining the parameters of electoral reviews?

Consultation response

The current programme of electoral reviews began in Quarter 1 of 2017 and is planned to finish in Quarter 1 of 2021 according to the information published by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. This programme involves reviews of single authorities only and does not involve cross border reviews.

The reviews suggested by the Paper are more complex than those currently being undertaken and, it would appear, would need to be made under a new policy on Council size which is yet to be consulted upon or determined.

The Paper suggests that this could be commenced in late 2018 and be completed by August 2020 which appears to be in stark contrast to the current timetable. If Option 3 were to be pursued it is of some concern that the electoral reviews will either not be completed in sufficient time, or, will be completed on the basis of rushed and potentially flawed consultation.

Serious consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the timescale described for Option 3 since it appears to be the option favoured by the Paper.

Consultation Question 7

a) How can councils make more effective use of their elected members' knowledge of, and connections in, their communities?

b) How could we better recognise the level of responsibility involved in being a local councillor? What changes to the remuneration and support councillors receive would enable a wider range of people to become involved in local democratic representation?

Consultation response

a) The creation of fewer, larger authorities which in turn will have fewer, larger wards, coupled with increased regionalisation of functions and services will potentially mean that there is an increased distance between individual citizens, communities and decision makers. Individual Councillors will represent larger areas and a greater number of citizens than they do currently.

Previous White Papers have proposed ways in which area based decisions may be made. These proposals were flawed in that they added tiers of decision making and bureaucracy. Since the executive model of local government reserves the majority of decisions to the executive, the way to make more effective use of elected members' knowledge of and connection to their communities is by effective pre-decision consultation with, and scrutiny by, non-executive members.

b) Previous White Papers have suggested that there be fewer councillors and that their remuneration should also be reduced. This never seemed to be an effective way of encouraging more people to become involved in local democratic representation.

As stated above, there will be fewer councillors but they will represent larger geographical areas and numbers of citizens. It would therefore appear reasonable to assume that their workload and time commitment will increase. There will also potentially be a more complex landscape of service provision and decision making for them to contend with, given the possibility of increased regional bodies and alternative models of service delivery.

The current remuneration is based on a notional part-time commitment of three days a week applied to average earnings. This system recognises that there is also an unpaid public service element to Councillors' work. The Independent Remuneration Panel should be tasked with quantifying/estimating the time commitment for Councillors in the new merged authorities and reaching a determination as to the appropriate level of remuneration.

Members of this Council are provided with ICT equipment and support. It should be for the Transition Committees and Shadow Authorities to consider the most appropriate method of supporting Councillors in future. This may include secretariat support, office facilities and accommodation etc.

In order to make the role of Councillor more attractive it may be necessary for Government to review the current statutory provisions for employers to give time off work for this public duty.

Consultation Question 8

- a) Are there other powers which local government should have? If so, what are they?**
- b) Are there other freedoms or flexibilities which local government should have? If so, what are they?**

Consultation response

The Council is broadly supportive of the powers and flexibilities set out in a letter to the Cabinet Secretary by the WLGA dated 31st January 2018. The Council would however make the point that powers can be granted or removed without having to completely reorganise the structure of local government.

It would seem sensible that if the Government is considering changes to the future local government financing system in Wales – whether that be changes to the council tax system, local income tax, business rate retention etc., then the shape, size and capacity of whatever infrastructure is created should be designed knowing this change may be on the horizon. In many respects, changes to the funding system are potentially more radical and will have a greater impact than moving administrative boundaries around.

Consultation Question 9

- a) Which areas offer the greatest scope for shared transactional services?
- b) How might such arrangements be best developed?

Consultation response

In previous consultations the Government has made the case for a single all Wales support service based upon the model used by the NHS in Wales. This Paper gives very little in the way of detail as to what the Government currently envisages.

It is agreed that there is scope for greater sharing of expert professional services such as Legal, HR, Payroll, Finance, Estates etc., however the Council does not accept that the previous suggestion of an all Wales single back office service is either desirable or likely to provide effective support to all authorities. Different services may lend themselves to be more effective over different sized “footprints”.

If the Government decides to proceed with Option 2 or Option 3 it would appear more sensible to implement the merger programme first and look at the best model of providing support services to the new Councils. Councils in the process of merging will need strong support services in place to help manage the transition. If Option 3 in particular is chosen, there will be no time to establish shared services in advance of the merger programme in any event.

It is suggested that the sharing of support services should be done on a regional/sub-regional basis at first and in a way that suits the participating authorities’ needs rather than a one size fits all approach as was previously suggested.

The evidence to support significant savings on major shared transactional service projects is limited and often quality is diminished. The latter can lead to duplication as centralised services begin to pop up under a different guise in spending or front line services. By the time the systems infrastructure is taken into account, the payback on such significant change projects can be massive. There are examples in England where such arrangements have ended up costing more than the services they replaced. If mergers progress, the merging authorities are more likely to be able to drive efficiencies out of the back office system themselves, whilst maintaining a reliable level of service. This could be on a regional footing where appropriate. If new taxes are introduced or radical changes to existing taxes, there may be scope to manage collection of these regionally or even nationally, depending on the scale.

Consultation question 10

- a) In ensuring we deliver a consistent approach across Wales, where consistency is important, how do you think the advice and support on each of these matters could be best provided?

b) Are there any other challenges or opportunities from structural change or providing additional powers and flexibilities that have not been identified above? If these areas require support, what form should this support take?

c) Which of the issues identified above or in your response should be prioritised for early resolution?

Consultation response

There is a perception in local authorities that when the Government uses terms like “consistent” it means control from the centre either by reserved powers of direction or the use of specific grants. If Government is serious about its declared vision in the foreword to the Paper of powerful, robust and energised local government, it should provide practical support both financial and otherwise together with guidance on good practice that can be shared by all. It should then get out of the way and let the new authorities deliver services in ways that best serve their local communities whilst holding to account those that fail to do so.

It is agreed that consistency, in its ordinary sense, is important, however, it should still be for Transition Committees and Shadow Authorities to determine, having regard to professional advice, and in consultation with Trade Unions, their own employment policies and structures. Consistent doesn’t mean exactly the same. The figures contained in the Annexes to the Paper highlight differences across Wales in the staffing of different services. It will be necessary to understand the reason for these differences and share good practice rather than impose a one size fits all solution on the new Councils. There should be guidance as to processes and procedures to be developed for the transition process in terms of staff transfer and recruitment.

There are likely to be differing and costly IT platforms and solutions across Wales and the cost of adopting single systems for the new authorities will be considerable. Previous consideration of service mergers have foundered on the cost of making the necessary changes to adopt single common systems. Councils will need financial support to achieve this. It doesn’t seem practical to suggest as the Paper does, however obliquely, that asset sales will pay for these costs.

The Paper rightly acknowledges that Local Government is the expert on Local Government. If there is to be assistance in designing services, integrating systems and rationalising estates this should be in the form of building capacity to release the experts in local government to develop these ideas and not rely on consultants who often fail to appreciate the complexities of local government in their advice.

The priority should be on making realistic and properly thought out estimates of the costs of merger, the capacity deficits in certain areas and how Government can provide financial support to meet both.

Consultation question 11

We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals within this consultation would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

- a) What effects do you think there would be?
- b) How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Consultation response

The linguistic profile of Conway and Denbighshire is similar and it is agreed that the proposal to merge the two authorities would be unlikely to have a negative impact on the ability to provide services in Welsh and may increase the capacity to do so by having a greater pool of Welsh speaking staff to deploy to specific services. Overall, the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language are thought to be neutral. It is unlikely that the proposals will increase the likelihood of authorities that do not have Welsh as their administrative internal language to move to this.

Consultation Question 12

Please also explain how you believe the proposals within this consultation could be formulated or changed (if required) so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Consultation response

Denbighshire and Conwy have similar proportions of Welsh speakers and similar Welsh Language Standards and the two councils already collaborate to provide Welsh translation services for both authorities. The proposals within the consultation do not offer increased positive effects (or any adverse effects).

Consultation Question 13

The Children's Rights Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on children and young people. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.

- a) Are there any positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?
- b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive effects or reduce any possible adverse effects?

Consultation response

The only comment would be that the assessment appears to have taken into account matters not explicitly referred to in the Paper itself.

Consultation Question 14

The Equalities Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.

- a) Are there any other positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?
- b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive or reduce any possible adverse effects?

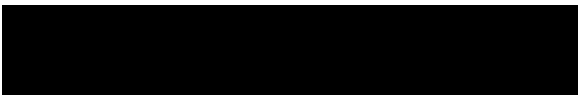
Consultation response

The only comment would be that the assessment appears to have taken into account matters not explicitly referred to in the Paper itself.

Consultation Question 15

Please provide any other comments you wish to make on the content of this consultation.

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Strengthening Local Government,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
CAERDYDD
CF10 3NQ

2 June 2018

Annwyl Syr neu Fadarn,

Thank you for sending me the questionnaire on local government reform. We had much the same local government bodies for several hundred years until fifty years ago, since when we have had three major revisions, none to much benefit that I could see. It is true that the last revision, creating Conwy as a county (or whatever) on its own account has been modestly successful, but I can quite see the financial need for further reform.

Most of your plan seems sensible and it is difficult to think of anything better, but one omission sticks out like a sore thumb. National Park Committees seem to be peculiar unelected bodies who sometimes do things against the general interest. In my own experience, Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri had a policy that was plainly contrary to the County Plan, was passed on the nod by the chairman, was not passed to the Welsh Government and was used to try to stop a development extending into counties on either side. There had to be an extra Public Inquiry. PCE/SNPA Counsel said at the Inquiry that SNPA had not followed 'best practice' (I heard him) and the other counsel said it was 'unlawful.' Strong language for a Public Inquiry. The Inspector sided with the objectors to the policy and it was changed. The SNPA chairman resigned.

It seems to me that these bodies should come under closer supervision. We cannot have National Park Committees making up policies on the hoof with nobody to keep an eye on them.

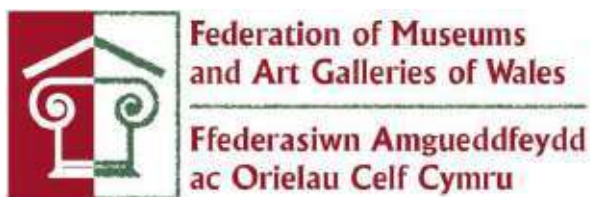
There have also been irregular goings-on in dark corners that have had the Welsh Government make over a County Council. All credit to the Welsh Government – they did the right thing and they kept it out of the English newspapers. I hope you will keep those powers.

The Welsh Government has been helpful to some matters in which I take an interest (not financial!) and I think their circulation of consultations (such as this) is admirable. O si sic omnes.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,



Dr. Pedr Jarvis



The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales is the independent strategic body for museums and art galleries in Wales. We advocate for the highest standards of museum provision throughout Wales.

A Response to the Green Paper Consultation Document – Strengthening Local Government – Delivering for People

The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales represents a full range of museums in Wales – National, Local Authority and Independent. It is important to remember that many independent museums rely on local authority support - our response reflects the whole museum sector.

Museums in Wales have developed rapidly over the last 40 years and now provide a valued resource for communities across Wales. Museums offer uplifting, enjoyable and thought provoking experiences, and empower people through learning, participation and inspiration. Museums and their collections strengthen community identity, their well being and help communities develop. And importantly they make a significant contribution to the economy through tourism and regeneration. Museums have significant experience as inclusive venues and are well placed to contribute to the anti-poverty agenda that has such a high profile in local authorities at the present.

The Federation has no opinion on some of the broader issues detailed in this consultation document, but would like to comment on a particular question that you ask.

Q1 a) What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?

In 2014 the Welsh Government commissioned an Expert Review of Local Museums in response to the difficulties being faced by local authority museums in the face of decreasing resources.

The report was published in 2015, and the first of its 10 recommendations was:

Welsh Government, in partnership with Welsh Local Government Association, to create three Regional Bodies to provide operational direction, management and support to locally delivered museums.

All the recommendations have been endorsed by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure who has responsibility for museums and culture.

Regional working is an important aspect of the report, with the expert panel seeing this as a way to address the underlying issues within the Welsh museums sector: insecurity of funding, loss of skills and expertise, lack of investment to ensure museums are fit for 21st century visitors (local and tourist alike) and insufficient support and resources to ensure community engagement and participation is meaningful and sustained.

The continuing emphasis on regional working within the consultation document is therefore very appropriate. Regional Working works across a variety of disciplines//work areas and museums, as a specialist service area, would work more effectively at this level. Outside of Wales, in Somerset and Devon or Tyne and Wear for example, there are a number of regional bodies that demonstrate that museums as part of a regional partnership are particularly suitable for working across wider areas.

Whilst we understand the Welsh Government's focus on certain major service areas that are suitable for Regional Working, the omission of museums is surprising given the previous work of the Expert Panel and the recommendations that have been endorsed by the Cabinet Secretary. It has already been 'demonstrated' that museums are a strong contender – their size in this context is important, as testing the validity of regional working would be much easier, and potentially be a 'quick win' situation.

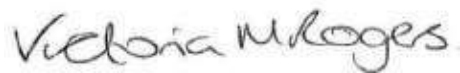
The consultation document suggests that pooling contributions from constituent local authorities is the most practical solution to undertaking regional working. Whilst this seems reasonable we are concerned that pooling the very low level of existing funding for museums might not be able to deliver the expected outcomes on a regional basis. In these circumstances should some alternative or additional arrangements be made (for example, modest intervention from Welsh Government perhaps) to ensure viability? The museum Expert Review outlines a number of funding options that would ensure that regional museum bodies receive sustainable and protected funding. The Expert Review showed that that in the great scheme of local authority funding this will actually cost very little and will ensure great benefit.

Museums have demonstrated that they are willing to work in partnership across local authority boundaries, and are anxious to continue. Previous voluntary attempts at regional working for museums have not progressed beyond short term projects, so the recommendation in the consultative document gives some hope of ensuring the long term sustainability of museums in Wales.

The Expert Review commissioned by Welsh Government demonstrated that Wales has a tangible model for regional working in terms of Wales' museums that has the potential to ensure their survival. The regional bodies proposed could echo new other regional bodies or consortia, counties or groups of new counties depending on the relevance or what is most appropriate 'on the ground'. This model would not only ensure survival of current provision and these vital community assets, but would actually build capacity, improving services in smaller museums.

The Federation urges the Welsh Government to consider museums within the early stages of partnership working as outlined within the consultation paper.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Victoria M. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victoria Rogers

President, Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales

Annex C

Consultation Questions

Your Name	Revd Canon Jeremy Martineau
Organisation (if applicable)	Secretary of Fishguard and Goodwick Chamber of Trade and Tourism
E-mail / Telephone	
Your Address	

Chapter 3

Consultation Question 1

In Chapter 2, we restated our commitment to regional working in key areas but recognised the need for this to be supported by further change. In chapter 3, we set out the broad options for moving toward fewer, larger local authorities and summarise features of the process which would be common to each option.

a) What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?

So far as is possible there should be common boundaries especially with CRs for economic strategy and tourism purposes and Health Boards to achieve coordination between health and social care. Vital to avoid new larger authorities building vanity new offices. Must use existing stock which will help retain a local presence. Use of new IT facilities is key to ensure easy access to staff, information and resources

b) What are your views on the common elements to the process of mergers we outline in this section?

No views

c) What are your views on the options for creating fewer, larger authorities which we have set out?

Option 3 will be required as some authorities will be reluctant to face the changes required.

d) Are there other options for creating fewer, larger authorities we should consider?

Larger authorities must be designed to respect and engage with newly formed community councils that have to be given powers to deliver some services –as on the French pattern – see Ch 6.

e) Do you have evidence on costs, benefits and savings of each option which can inform decision-making? If so, please provide details.

Chapter 4
Consultation Question 2
Chapter 4 has explained the need for clarity on the future footprint for local government and the range of factors which should be taken into account to determine a new configuration. It sets out a suggested future footprint for local government, which could be reached via each of the options set out in the previous chapter.
a) Do you agree that providing clarity on the future footprint of local government is important?
Yes. So far as SW region goes bringing together the three existing authorities makes sense in terms of efficiency but will need to respect and retain traditional identities in terms of promoting the successful Pembrokeshire Brand for its all important tourism industry. This is less dependent on having a Local Authority that carries the same name but any new larger Council must respect and support such local identities, which may also occur elsewhere and not try to impose its new name on local communities. The Anglican church model is an exemplar with individual parishes or Local Ministry Areas known to be within a larger area – the diocese.
b) Do you agree with the factors we have identified to inform our thinking? Would you change or add any?
c) What are your views on the new areas suggested in this section?
Agree for SW Wales
d) Do you have alternative suggestions and, if so, what is the evidence to support these as an alternative?
e) In the context of these proposals, are there other ways we should simplify and streamline joint working arrangements at regional level and among public bodies within the new authority areas? If so, what are they?
Community Councils must undergo fundamental transformation to make them effective rather than just for show. See comments on Chapter 6.

Chapter 5

Consultation Question 3

Chapter 5 sets out the proposed approach to transition and implications for establishing Transition Committees and elections to Shadow Authorities under each option.

- a) Do you agree with the proposed process of transition: namely establishing Transition Committees and ensuring elections to Shadow Authorities can be held ahead of vesting day for the new authorities?

- b) Do you agree that, if option 1 were pursued, we should set a date by which voluntary merger proposals should come forward in each electoral cycle?

- c) Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed process?

Consultation Question 4

The consultation suggests holding any local government elections in June 2021.

Are there any reasons why June 2021 would not be a suitable date? If so, please suggest an alternative date with the reasons why that would be more suitable.

Consultation Question 5

The Welsh Government recognises that there are some plans or assessments, for example the preparation of assessments of wellbeing by Public Service Boards, which are linked to electoral cycles. We will make provision to make sure these tie into any new electoral cycles going forward. Are there any other plans or matters which might be tied into the electoral cycle which we need to consider?

Consultation Question 6

What are your views on the approach which should be taken to determining the parameters of electoral reviews?

Chapter 6**Consultation Question 7**

a) How can councils make more effective use of their elected members knowledge of, and connections in, their communities?

Increase the number of residents per councillor to c6000, pay a full and professional salary for this councillor but provide personal and administrative support. This proportion would give the new SW Council 65 members. Councillors should be properly trained for their role as advocates for their larger community/set of smaller communities. They should be required to report to their constituents every 6 months at least. Emphasis should be on representing and leading their communities rather than being primarily on council committees. The council staff should be the ones with the expertise, councillors should be responsible for scrutinising the impact of policies on their constituents and feeding this back to council.

b) How could we better recognise the level of responsibility involved in being a local councillor? What changes to the remuneration and support councillors receive would enable a wider range of people to become involved in local democratic representation?

Example: Fishguard and Goodwick would reduce from 3 to one councillor but have a full time admin assistant. There would be a saving enough to increase the salary of the one councillor to a professional level and make it a worthwhile position. Should be a shared office with the local town council to ensure close collaboration, with the Town Council having a new range of powers and responsibilities including external promotion, having an organic development plan and taking over some of the assets and functions from the distant County Council; such as road and parks maintenance, car parking. See the French model where communities have a wide range of responsibilities and collaborate with neighbouring councils to ensure they have sufficient resource to provide key services. This is a bottom up way of ensuring effective accountability and delivery of key services. Town and Community Council must be given such new responsibilities or disbanded as an expensive and ineffective luxury. Under such a system the County Councillor would truly become a leader of that community. In any event mayors should be elected for 3-5 years and required to have clear policies to submit to the electorate.

Consultation Question 8

a) Are there other powers which local government should have? If so, what are they?

Key infrastructure projects should be able to be delivered by the new larger authorities. They, rather than Government, know the importance for their communities of such projects such as road building. If the boundary is shared with Health Boards there would be a more accountable process for deciding large capital projects.

b) Are there other freedoms or flexibilities which local government should have? If so, what are they?

Consultation Question 9

a) Which areas offer the greatest scope for shared transactional services?

b) How might such arrangements be best developed?

<u>Consultation Question 10</u>
a) In ensuring we deliver a consistent approach across Wales, where consistency is important, how do you think the advice and support on each of these matters could be best provided?
b) Are there any other challenges or opportunities from structural change or providing additional powers and flexibilities that have not been identified above? If these areas require support, what form should this support take?
c) Which of the issues identified above or in your response should be prioritised for early resolution?
<u>Consultation Question 11.</u> We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals within this consultation would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
a) What effects do you think there would be?
b) How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?
<u>Consultation Question 12</u> Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy within this consultation could be formulated or changed (if required) so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

<p>Consultation Question 13</p> <p>The Children's Rights Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on children and young people. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.</p>
<p>a) Are there any positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?</p>
<p>b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive effects or reduce any possible adverse effects?</p>
<p>Consultation Question 14</p> <p>The Equalities Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.</p>
<p>a) Are there any other positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?</p>
<p>b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive or reduce any possible adverse effects?</p>
<p>Consultation Question 15</p> <p>Please provide any other comments you wish to make on the content of this consultation.</p> <p>More centralisation is vital to save on staff costs and to ensure delivery of services in sparsely populated areas, but, of equal importance is the need for local people to have easy access to their representatives by them having a local office which should be co-located with Town/Community Council. This ease of access should not be restricted in this way but use of IT should make it easier for residents to access information on key services. We have experimented for 5 years on a Town Team approach. A common feeling is that, if we had a more effective Town Council working collaboratively with other key local organisations, the Town Team would be superfluous. Answer – radical reform of Town/Community Councils. The review of this aspect should have been coterminous with this consultation as it is key to finding the best solution.</p>

would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

Strengthening Local Government Green
Paper Consultation
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

12 June 2018

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

01352 702105

Email/Ebost:

aaron.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk

chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk

Dear Cabinet Secretary and Consulting Officials,

Local Government Reform: Welsh Government Green Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Green Paper.

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) has submitted a full response to the consultation which has our absolute support. Also, the North Wales group of Councils is submitting a position statement in advance of our private meeting with the Cabinet Secretary later this week. Our collective regional position is to support more expansive local government and cross-sector regional collaboration, and not to support enforced council mergers.

The collective local government position is clear and unequivocal.

This response reflects the unanimous view of the six political groups which make up Flintshire County Council and is based on a debate held at full Council in public session in April.

We have opted not to complete the full response questionnaire. Rather, we are submitting a response in open letter form.

Firstly, we challenge why there seems to be an obsession within some quarters of Welsh Government with a structural reform of local government in Wales. There is no compelling case for structural reform and the Green Paper does not mount one. Secondly, Welsh Government has made a 'turnabout' in its own policy under successive Cabinet Secretaries in less than a year. This does not suggest that there is a collective policy position within Welsh Government or any long term planning on the future model for local government.

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6NF
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6NF
www.sirffflint.gov.uk



We welcome correspondence in Welsh. We will respond to correspondence received in Welsh without delay.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Ymatebwn yn ddi-oed i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

A sustainable model for local government should be based on functions and powers; sufficient and flexible funding with medium term planning; effective governance; ongoing modernisation and transformation from within; and performance aspirations. An ongoing debate on the number of councils is not the same as designing and agreeing a sustainable and durable model of local government based on the principles of self-governance and subsidiarity.

We call for the co-production of a sustainable model for local government with self-determination in the local approach to achieve nationally set social, economic and environmental policy objectives; a fair and sustainable funding base; medium-term financial planning by Governments; continuity in strategic planning for public services underpinned by strong and mutually respectful central-local relations; legal powers including the general power of competence and new constitutional models for flexible and effective governance of regional collaborations; freedoms and flexibilities in the use of funds and specific grants; more expansive trading powers; greater flexibilities over charging and income generation; and less restrictive national policies over alternative delivery and employment models.

We had remained open-minded over the question of local government reform and mergers in past consultations. However, both Flintshire and Wrexham should be sustainable units of local government in their own right, with our respective population sizes and economic bases, if properly and fairly funded. The legal capacity and the opportunity already exists for any councils who might wish to explore a voluntary merger. There is no appetite for voluntary mergers in North Wales. This ongoing debate over the number of councils and the uncertainty it has caused is stymieing longer term planning, could damage confidence in collaborative regional planning, and is affecting morale amongst elected members and the workforce. It needs to be brought to an end.

There has to be a compelling case for change if structural reform is to be supportable with the 'tests' of any case advocating a smaller number of larger councils to include (a) whether larger councils would be better governed whilst remaining democratically accountable (b) whether we can be assured of larger councils achieving improved performance over the current set of councils and (c) whether larger councils would be more cost efficient and more financially sustainable.

It is imperative that any such case is supported by an objective, up-to-date and robust cost-benefit analysis. There is no up-to-date and robust cost-benefit analysis behind the Green Paper, and what calculations exist are highly speculative. There is a risk that the costs of a structural reform programme are significantly underestimated.

At the recent Local Government Symposium (4 June) the Cabinet Secretary, when questioned, committed to meeting the costs of any structural reform in full. We are not clear what the cost base of structural reform would be if fully and

comprehensively calculated. How can the public have confidence that a reform programme would not become an exercise with runaway costs?

The risks of a structural reform programme are many: complexity and delay in political, workforce, service model, and systems integration; a major distraction with impacts on service performance and continuity in transition; morale, and workforce retention; benefits over-estimation; cost under-estimation; fragmentation of unity in regional working during an unpopular and contested process. The financial benefits will be limited as councils are already 'lean' in cost overheads, and the benefits of the economies of scale of larger councils in the UK are not proven.

Our recommendation is that a structural reform programme be abandoned and that the debate is re-centred around a sustainable model of local government for the future. Flintshire will contribute constructively to this debate and will continue to be a positive collaborator and self-reforming council in the meantime.

Yours sincerely



Aaron Shotton
Leader



Colin Everett
Chief Executive

[REDACTED]

Llanelli

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ebrill 7ed 2018

Mr Alun Davies, AM

Gweinidog.

Llywodraeth Cymru.

Annwyl Alun,

Danfona dim ond un dudalen i ymwneud a'r
Yngynghoriad i newid ffiniau awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru.

Ers ymadael a Ty'r Cyffredin, r'wyf wedi gwario llawer iawn o amser yn
edrych yn fanwl ar y modd mae yr awdudrodau lleol yn gweithio. Mae hyn
wedi golygu eistedd yn nifer o Orielau Cyhoeddus drwy Gymru pan fod y
Cynghorau a'r Pwyllgorau yn trafod eu gwaith.

Y peth sydd yn sefyll allan yw yr angen i newid ffiniau Powys, oherwydd nid
yw yr aelodau etholedig wedi symud ymlaen i dderbyn fod y dair Sir
blaenorol wedi diflannu. Yn wir, maent yn cwrdd yn gyson fel Pwyllgorau y
dair Sir.

Cyfle felly i ymuno yr "hen" dair Sir gyda Siroedd eraill.

*Yn ddiiffruant
Yn eiddo Wrecce*

WELSH GOVERNMENT GREEN CONSULTATION PAPER. Number WG 34071

Annex C

Consultation Questions

Your Name	GARETH WARDELL
Organisation (if applicable)	
E-mail / Telephone	
Your Address	

Chapter 3
Consultation Question 1
In Chapter 2, we restated our commitment to regional working in key areas but recognised the need for this to be supported by further change. In chapter 3, we set out the broad options for moving toward fewer, larger local authorities and summarise features of the process which would be common to each option.
a) What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?
b) What are your views on the common elements to the process of mergers we outline in this section?
c) What are your views on the options for creating fewer, larger authorities which we have set out?
That the process has not begun in the most appropriate geographical area.
d) Are there other options for creating fewer, larger authorities we should consider?
Yes. Start with dismembering the County of Powys. Its Shire Committees are in place. Merge Radnorshire with Ceredigion, Brecknockshire with Merthyr.
e) Do you have evidence on costs, benefits and savings of each option which can inform decision-making? If so, please provide details.

[REDACTED]
Gwynedd
2/4/18

Annwyl Syr/ Madam,

Ysgifennaf i ddweud fy mod i'n cytuno yn llwyr efo'th awgrym i uno 'r chwech o gynghorau sirol yn y Gogledd i wneud tri chyngor sirol newydd. Rydym wedi cael dau gyngor ar gyfer y Gogledd o'r blaen ond yr oedd y cynghorau'n rhy fawr, ac y mae'n amlwg bod y cynghorau presennol yn rhy fach. Byddai uno Môn a Gwynedd yn datrys y dryswch ger Bangor, am fod y ddinas yn darparu nifer o wasanaethu ar gyfer yr ynys yn answyddogol.

Am fy mod i wedi cael fy magu yn y De- ddwyrain, teimlaf nad yw'r cynigion yno'n iawn. Rydych wedi gwneud camgymeriad sylfaenol wrth geisio uno'r cynghorau presenol, yn hytrach na dechrau o'r newydd. Hefyd, teimlaf y dylech greu cynghorau newydd sy'n nes at maint cynghorau arfaethedig y Gogledd o ran nifer yr etholwyr a nifer y gweithwyr. Cwestiwn arall yw a ddylid uno Ceredigion, ardal Machynlleth a'r hen sir Feirionydd?

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd yn awyddus i ddatganoli rhai o'i gyfrifoldebau ac mae nifer o gynghorau cymunedol yn cydsynio, ond mae hynny'n anodd am fod rhai o'r cynghorau'n rhy fach i dderbyn cyfrifoldebau ychwanegol h.y. mae angen uno rhai cynghorau dan bartneriaethau (sy'n golygu colli cryn dipyn o reolaeth ddemocrataidd) neu'n well byth, eu huno i greu cynghorau newydd.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Godfrey D Northam

Godfrey D Northam [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

DATE OF DECISION 8 June 2018

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 8 June 2018

DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE and implemented,
unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of
the Gwynedd Council Constitution 15 June 2018

Cabinet Member: Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn, Council Leader

SUBJECT

Subject :
Welsh Government - Green Paper Consultation Document "Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People"

DECISION

To present a response on behalf of the Council

REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED

Please see attached report

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE


None

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Consultation with
Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET – OFFICER REPORT

Name and title of Cabinet Member/s:	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn, Council Leader
Name and title of Report Author :	Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive
Date of Decision :	7-6-18
Signature of Cabinet Member/s :	

Subject :

Welsh Government - Green Paper Consultation Document “**Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People**”

Recommendation for the Decision :

To present a response on behalf of the Council

Reason why Decision is needed :

The Welsh Government has published a consultation paper titled "Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People". This is a consultation paper on the options to create stronger and more powerful local authorities by bringing them together to create new authorities.

The paper sets out the case for change and then under the heading "Options for strengthening local government", it states that there is only one credible option to do that which is the unification of authorities, and the paper is actually consulting on 3 options for achieving that.

The green paper can be found in full by following the link below:

<https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-03/180320-strengthening-local-government-consultation-v1.pdf>

Reason and justification behind the Decision :

A report was presented to the full Council on the 3rd May, 2018 outlining the background of the green paper together with the presentation of principles to be discussed in order to respond to the consultation.

The full response of the Council is attached. It is based on the discussions at the Council meeting.

As there are potentially significant implications for Local Authorities, it is crucial that we submit a response to the consultation on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

Declarations of personal interest by any Cabinet Member consulted with and any relevant dispensations approved by the Standards Committee

None

Any consultations undertaken prior to making the decision :

Head of Finance – This matter has already been the subject of comprehensive consideration by the full Council. I have no further comments to add.

Monitoring Officer – The principles which form the basis for preparing this response were adopted by the Full Council. No comments from a propriety perspective.

Annex C: Consultation Questions

Name	Dilwyn O Williams, Chief Executive
Organisation (if relevant)	Cyngor Gwynedd
E-mail / Telephone Number	Dilwynwilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Your Address	Cyngor Gwynedd, Pencadlys, Caernarfon, Gwynedd

The privacy notice in the [consultation document](#) explains how we will use your information.

Chapter 3
<p>Consultation Question 1</p> <p>In Chapter 2, we restated our commitment to regional working in key areas but acknowledged the need for this to be supported by further change. In chapter 3, we present the general options for moving toward fewer, larger local authorities and summarise features of the process which would be common to each option.</p> <p>a) What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?</p> <p>In this Council's opinion, there is one practical step that the Government could take that would improve the collaboration arrangements, be they regional or otherwise.</p> <p>In this Council's opinion, Welsh Government needs to move away from the continuous tendency to go into detail on where and how local authorities should collaborate. What makes sense in the Cardiff Bay area, where the nature of the communities may be quite similar, does not necessarily make sense in an area such as North Wales, which has communities with features that are quite unlike each other.</p> <p>As the authorities of the North have stated all along, the experiences of the North over the past years shows that the best outcomes for residents derive from authorities themselves determining where the greatest benefit would come from; how to arrange this and through this, take ownership for any collaboration.</p> <p>The worst examples come from situations where the Government in Cardiff has decided on things on the basis that one format would suit everyone. In doing so, there have been cases where the arrangements are not as smooth as they</p>

should be, and this leads to confusion as authorities attempt to work around arrangements that are not effective or efficient.

The field of education consortia and social care are excellent examples of where the Government's 'prescription' has led to confusion, with front line staff suffering lack of clarity and therefore deviating their efforts from the front line to endless co-ordinating meetings.

There is now also a danger that these arrangements weaken local accountability and democracy - something that seems to go amiss when following the Government's dogmatic collaboration arrangements.

What has happened with the Growth Bid in North Wales is a lesson in terms of how authorities in the North can come together to create a wider benefit for residents. They have done so voluntarily, because real benefits will arise from it.

There are other smaller examples such as the collaboration in the field of Waste, the collaboration in the field of trunk roads and emergency planning, which have been successful as the opportunity was identified by the local authorities and test by them before commencement, rather than doing it on a political dogma.

We agree with what the Williams Commission noted, being that better and more optional use should be made of collaboration, and that the key is to allow Local Government itself to decide whether it is beneficial or not.

There is a need to simplify the complex regional collaboration picture that has developed in light of the instructions from different Government departments that leads to inefficiency and ineffectiveness, and accountability lines need to be made more clear.

We are of the opinion that any discussions on collaboration should be driven by how it benefits the people of Gwynedd in terms of improving our ability to achieve what is important to them, or to do it more efficiently. This should then be assessed against the impact on local accountability. This cannot be done from Cardiff.

b) What are your views on the common elements to the process of mergers we outline in this section?

We cannot agree with what has been set out in the green paper as we are not of the opinion that sufficient research has been carried out thus far to consider whether there is a real case for change.

As a basic principle, this Council believes that services should be delivered on the most local level possible.

In future, we would like to see a pattern for public services that includes a meaningful role for town and community councils in terms of being responsible for, and providing, some services.

Whilst also accepting that there are some roles that need to be carried out by larger councils, a balance needs to be struck between an appropriate size for these councils and keeping in touch with the communities served in order to protect local accountability and democracy.

Therefore, in our opinion, a comprehensive piece of work is required to stimulate a national conversation on what should be done on which level of government (be it Community Councils, County Councils or Welsh Government) in order to realise clause 6.13 of the green paper, which is to be in a position to avoid having two tiers of government attempting to deliver the same duties. We need to be much clearer about the boundaries between the roles of local government and Welsh Government, where the accountability lies, and to respect this.

c) What are your views on the options for creating fewer, larger authorities which we have set out?

First of all, we are of the opinion that it is not necessarily the size of a Council that influences its ability to deliver to its residents. We would strongly argue that the most influential factor would be leadership.

We do not believe that the green paper gives enough consideration to the implications for local accountability in its proposals, and is blinded by some idea that the proposals would come to rescue local government financially, or an element of a dogmatic opinion that big is not necessarily a good thing.

We only need to look at the experiences of the Health Authority in the North to see that this is a shaky and dangerous presumption.

We are of the opinion that the size of the current Gwynedd Council is appropriate, given the challenges identified by the Williams Commission and in the green paper, and our past experiences demonstrate that we are able to meet the challenges we face and still maintain the quality of basic services despite the significant financial hardship.

We accept that this is coming to a point where it is unsustainable but, unless reorganisation is going to free up significant amounts of money, it is not going to provide a solution. The solution is to stop the financial constraints on local authorities.

However, as the main purpose of the Council is to protect the benefits of our residents, and the services provided for them, we will not close the door on any possibility that could lead to savings in managerial, central or back office costs that would, in turn, be able to reduce the amount of cuts that the Council would have to realise over the coming years.

Having said that, the financial case has not been proven and a considerable amount of work would need to be done to consider whether this case exists.

The estimates of the Williams Commission were far from accurate, and were based on very uncertain presumptions. Work carried out since then has demonstrated that there is a tendency to significantly overstate the possible savings and underestimate the cost of any reorganisation, be it financial or in terms of the additional effort that will be required to co-ordinate the activities of a larger body.

Any decision to reorganise should balance the financial benefit (if there is one) against any impact on local accountability.

d) Are there other options for creating fewer, larger authorities we should consider?

See C above.
e) Do you have evidence on costs, benefits and savings of each option which can inform decision-making? If so, please provide details.
<p>No. As noted above, we do not believe that any financial case has been established or challenged, and we should certainly not rely upon the statements in the report of the Williams Commission as the financial presumptions in that report are uncertain to say the least.</p> <p>An attempt was made in North Wales some years ago, with the support of external consultants, to see whether there was a case for collaborating in central support fields, but the result of this extensive work showed that the cost would be much higher than the potential annual saving, which raises fundamental questions about the entire assumption.</p> <p>Policy needs to be based on real facts and figures - not on statements that seem to turn into facts because they are repeated often enough.</p>

Chapter 4
<u>Consultation Question 2</u>
Chapter 4 has explained the need for clarity on the future footprint for local government and the range of factors which should be taken into account to determine a new configuration. It sets out a suggested future footprint for local government, which could be reached via each of the options set out in the previous chapter.
a) Do you agree that providing clarity on the future footprint of local government is important?
See the response in 1 B and C above.
b) Do you agree with the factors we have identified to inform our thinking? Would you change or add any?
See the response in 1C and especially the point about local accountability.

c) What are your views on the new areas suggested in this section?
-
d) Do you have alternative suggestions and, if so, what is the evidence to support these as an alternative?
-
e) In the context of these proposals, are there other ways we should simplify and streamline joint working arrangements at regional level and among public bodies within the new authority areas? If so, what are they?
See the response to question 1A

Chapter 5
<u>Consultation Question 3</u>
Chapter 5 sets out the proposed approach to transition and implications for establishing Transition Committees and elections to Shadow Authorities under each option.
a) Do you agree with the proposed process of transition: namely establishing Transition Committees and ensuring elections to Shadow Authorities can be held ahead of vesting day for the new authorities?
b) Do you agree that, if option 1 were pursued, we should set a date by which voluntary merger proposals should come forward in each electoral cycle?
c) Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed process?
<u>Consultation Question 4</u>
The consultation suggests holding any local government elections in June 2021. Are there any reasons why June 2021 would not be a suitable date? If so, please suggest an alternative date with the reasons why that would be more suitable.

<p><u>Consultation Question 5</u></p> <p>The Welsh Government recognises that there are some plans or assessments, for example the preparation of assessments of wellbeing by Public Service Boards, which are linked to electoral cycles. We will make provision to make sure these tie into any new electoral cycles going forward. Are there any other plans or matters which might be tied into the electoral cycle which we need to consider?</p>
<p><u>Consultation Question 6</u></p> <p>What are your views on the approach which should be taken to determining the parameters of electoral reviews?</p>

Chapter 6
<u>Consultation Question 7</u>
<p>a) How can councils make more effective use of their elected members knowledge of, and connections in, their communities?</p> <p>In any restructuring, assurance is required that there will be no proposals to create wards that are too large which would make the work harder for elected members to engage effectively with their electors and their communities.</p> <p>Specifically, assurance is required that there will be no more multi-member wards, as such provision can confuse the accountability of individual members within their constituencies.</p>
<p>b) How could we better recognise the level of responsibility involved in being a local councillor? What changes to the remuneration and support councillors receive would enable a wider range of people to become involved in local democratic representation?</p>
<u>Consultation Question 8</u>

a) Are there other powers which local government should have? If so, what are they?
b) Are there other freedoms or flexibilities which local government should have? If so, what are they?
<u>Consultation Question 9</u>
a) Which areas offer the greatest scope for shared transactional services?
b) How might such arrangements be best developed?
<u>Consultation Question 10</u>
a) In ensuring we deliver a consistent approach across Wales, where consistency is important, how do you think the advice and support on each of these matters could be best provided?
b) Are there any other challenges or opportunities from structural change or providing additional powers and flexibilities that have not been identified above? If these areas require support, what form should this support take?
c) Which of the issues identified above or in your response should be prioritised for early resolution?
<u>Consultation Question 11.</u> We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals within this consultation would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
a) What effects do you think there would be?

b) How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Consultation Question 12

Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy within this consultation could be formulated or changed (if required) so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Consultation Question 13

The Children's Rights Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on children and young people. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.

a) Are there any positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?

b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive effects or reduce any possible adverse effects?
<p><u>Consultation Question 14</u></p> <p>The Equalities Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.</p>
a) Are there any other positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?
b) Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive or reduce any possible adverse effects?
<p><u>Consultation Question 15</u></p> <p>Please provide any other comments you wish to make on the content of this consultation.</p>

TAFLEN BENDERFYNIAD AELOD UNIGOL O GABINET CYNGOR GWYNEDD

DYDDIAD Y PENDERFYNIAD	8 Mehefin 2018
DYDDIAD CYHOEDDI'R PENDERFYNIAD	8 Mehefin 2018
DYDDIAD Y BYDD Y PENDERFYNIAD YN DOD I RYM ac y gweithredir arno, oni bai bo'r penderfyniad yn cael ei alw i mewn yn unol ag adran 7.25.1 o Gyfansoddiad Cyngor Gwynedd.	15 Mehefin 2018

ENW A THEITL YR AELOD CABINET

Y Cyngorydd Dyfrig Siencyn,
Arweinydd y Cyngor

PWNC

Llywodraeth Cymru - Dogfen Ymgynghorol Papur Gwyrdd "Cryfhau Llywodraeth Leol : Cyflawni dros ein Pobl."

PENDERFYNIAD –

Cyflwyno ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad uchod ar ran y Cyngor

RHESWM DROS YR ANGEN AM Y PENDERFYNIAD –

Gweler yr adroddiad atodedig

DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT PERSONOL AC UNRHYW OLLYNGIADAU PERTHNASOL A GANIATWYD GAN Y PWYLLGOR SAFONAU


Dim

UNRHYW YMGYNGHORIADAU A GYNHALIWDYD CYN GWNEUD Y PENDERFYNIAD-

Ymgynghorwyd â –
Swyddogion Statudol Cyngor Gwynedd

Adroddir ar ganlyniadau'r ymgynghoriadau yn yr adroddiad atodedig

TAFLEN BENDERFYNIAD AELOD UNIGOL O GABINET CYNGOR GWYNEDD – ADRODDIAD SWYDDOG

Enw a theitl yr Aelod/au Cabinet :	Y Cynghorydd Dyfrig Siencyn, Arweinydd Cyngor Gwynedd
Enw a theitl Awdur yr Adroddiad :	Dilwyn Williams, Prif Weithredwr
Dyddiad y Cymerwyd y Penderfyniad:	7-4-18
Llofnod yr Aelod/au Cabinet :	

Pwnc : Llywodraeth Cymru - Dogfen Ymgynghorol Papur Gwyrdd “Cryfhau Llywodraeth Leol : Cyflawni dros ein Pobl.”

Argymhelliad ar gyfer y Penderfyniad :

Cyflwyno ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad uchod ar ran y Cyngor

Rheswm dros yr angen am y Penderfyniad :

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyhoeddi papur ymgynghorol yn dwyn y teitl “Cryfhau Llywodraeth Leol : Cyflawni dros ein pobl” sy'n bapur ymgynghori ar yr opsiynau i greu awdurdodau lleol cryfach a mwy pwerus drwy eu dwyn ynghyd i greu awdurdodau newydd.

Mae'r papur yn gosod allan yr achos dros newid ac yna o dan y pennawd “Opsiynau ar gyfer cryfhau llywodraeth leol” , mae'n nodi mai dim ond un opsiwn credadwy sydd yna i wneud hynny sef uno awdurdodau, ac mae'r papur yn ymgynghori mewn gwirionedd ar 3 opsiwn ar gyfer cyflawni hynny.

Gellir gweld y papur gwyrdd yn llawn drwy ddilyn y linc isod.

<https://beta.llyw.cymru/cryfhau-llywodraeth-leol-cyflawni-dros-ein-pobl>

Gofynnir am ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad erbyn 12 Mehefin.

Rhesymeg a chyfiawnhad dros gyrraedd y Penderfyniad :

Cyflwynwyd adroddiad i'r Cyngor llawn ar y 3ydd o Fai, 2018 yn amlinellu cefndir y papur gwyrdd ynghyd â chyflwyno egwyddorion i'w trafod er mwyn ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad.

Mae ymateb llawn y Cyngor wedi ei atodi. Mae'n seiliedig ar y trafodaethau a fu yng nghyfarfod y Cyngor. Gyda goblygiadau sylweddol posib i Awdurdodau Lleol, mae'n allweddol bwysig ein bod yn cyflwyno ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad ar ran Cyngor Gwynedd.

Cofnod o unrhyw fuddiant a ddatganwyd gan unrhyw Aelod Cabinet yr ymgynghorwyd â hwy ac unrhyw oddefeb gan Bwyllgor Safonau :

Dim

Unrhyw ymgynghoriadau a gynhaliwyd cyn gwneud y Penderfyniad :

Prif Swyddog Cyllid – Mae'r mater yma eisoes wedi derbyn ystyriaeth gynhwysfawr gan y Cyngor llawn. Nid oes gennyf sylwadau pellach i'w hychwanegu.

Swyddog Monitro – Fe fabwysiadwyd yr egwyddorion sydd yn sail i baratoi'r ymateb yma gan y Cyngor Llawn. Dim sylwadau o safbwynt priodoldeb

Annex C: Cwestiynau Ymgynghori

Enw	Dilwyn O Williams, Prif Weithredwr
Sefydliad (os yw yn berthnosol)	Cyngor Gwynedd
E-bost / Rhif Ffon	Dilwynwilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Eich Cyfeiriad	Cyngor Gwynedd, Pencadlys, Caernarfon, Gwynedd

Mae'r hysbysiad preifatrwydd yn y ddogfen ymgynghori yn esbonio sut byddwn yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth.

Pennod 3

Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 1

Ym mhennod 2, dywedem unwaith eto ein bod wedi ymrwymo i weithio'n rhanbarthol mewn meysydd allweddol, gan gydnabod hefyd fod angen gwneud newidiadau pellach i gefnogi hyn. Ym mhennod 3, rydym yn cyflwyno'r opsiynau cyffredinol ar gyfer symud tuag at lai o awdurdodau, a'r rheini'n rhai mwy o faint, ac rydym yn crynhoi nodweddion y broses a fyddai'n gyffredin i bob opsiwn.

- a) Pa gamau ymarferol allai Llywodraeth Cymru eu cymryd i wneud y trefniadau gweithio'n rhanbarthol presennol yn haws ac yn fwy effeithiol, er enghraifft mewn perthynas â'r consortia addysg, gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a'r Dinas-ranbarthau a'r Bargeinion Dinas a Thwf?

Ym marn y Cyngor yma mae yna un cam ymarferol y gallasai'r Llywodraeth ei gymryd fyddai'n gwneud i drefniadau cydweithio fod yn well boed yn ranbarthol neu beidio.

Ym marn y Cyngor yma mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru symud i ffwrdd oddi wrth y tueddiad parhaus i fanylu ymhle a sut y dylai awdurdodau lleol gydweithio. Tydi'r hyn sy'n gwneud synnwyr o gwmpas ardal Bae Caerdydd, lle efallai y mae natur cymunedau yn lled debyg, ddim o reidrwydd yn gwneud synnwyr mewn ardal fel Gogledd Cymru sydd â chymunedau gyda nodweddion pur annhebyg i'w gilydd.

Fel y mae awdurdodau'r Gogledd wedi bod yn nodi ar hyd y daith, mae profiadau'r Gogledd dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf yn dangos fod y canlyniadau gorau i drigolion yn deillio wrth i awdurdodau eu hunain benderfynu lle byddai'r budd mwyaf yn deillio; sut i weud hynny, a thrwy hynny yn perchnogi'r cydweithio hwnnw.

Mae'r enghreifftiau gwaethaf yn deillio o sefyllfaoedd lle mae'r Llywodraeth wedi penderfynu ar bethau o Gaerdydd ar sail y bydd un ffurf yn siwtio pawb. Wrth wneud hynny fe welwyd achosion lle nad yw'r trefniadau mor llyfn ag y dylent fod ac mae'n arwain at ddryswch wrth i awdurdodau geisio gweithio o gwmpas trefniadau sydd ddim yn effeithiol nag yn effeithlon.

Mae'r maes consortia addysg a gofal cymdeithasol yn enghreifftiau gwych lle mae "presripsiwn" y llywodraeth yn arwain at ddryswch gyda staff rheng

flaen yn cael eu clymu mewn aneglurder a gwyro ymdrechion o'r rheng flaen i gyfarfodydd cydgordio di-bendraw.

Mae yna berygl hefyd bellach fod y trefniadau yma yn gwanio atebolrwydd a democratiaeth leol - rhywbeth sydd i weld yn mynd ar goll wrth ddilyn trywydd dogmataidd trefniadau cydweithio'r Llywodraeth.

Mae'r hyn sydd wedi digwydd gyda'r Cynllun Twf yng Ngogledd Cymru yn wers o ran sut y mae'r awdurdodau yn y Gogledd yn gallu dod at ei gilydd i greu budd ehangach i drigolion, gan wneud hynny yn wirfoddol oherwydd fod yna fudd gwirioneddol am godi.

Mae yna enghreifftiau eraill llai fel y cydweithio e.e ym maes Gwastraff, y cydweithio ym maes cefnffyrdd a Chynllunio Argyfwng, sydd wedi bod yn lwyddiant oherwydd mai awurdodau lleol wnaeth adnabod y cyfle a'i brofi cyn cychwyn, yn hytrach na'i wneud ar sail dogma gwleidyddol.

Rydym yn cytuno gyda'r hyn a ddywedodd Comisiwn Williams, sef y dylid gwneud defnydd gwell a mwy dewisol o gydweithio ac mai'r allwedd i hynny yw gadael i Lywodraeth Leol ei hun benderfynu a yw o fudd neu beidio.

Mae angen symleiddio'r darlun cydweithio rhanbarthol cymhleth sydd wedi datbygu yn sgil cyfarwyddiadau gwahanol adrannau'r Llywodraeth sydd yn arwain at aneffeithlonrwydd ac aneffeithiolrwydd, ac mae angen gwneud llinellau atebolrwydd yn fwy eglur.

'Rydym o'r farn mai'r hyn ddylai arwain unrhyw drafodaeth ar gydweithio yw a oes yna fudd am ddeillio i bobl Gwynedd o ran gwella ein gallu i gyflawni'r hyn sy'n bwysig iddynt, neu i wneud hynny'n fwy effeithlon. Dylid pwyso a mesur hynny wedyn yn erbyn yr effaith ar atebolrwydd lleol. Ni ellir gwneud hynny o Gaerdydd.

b) Beth yw eich barn chi am yr elfennau cyffredin i'r prosesau uno yr ydym yn eu cyflwyno yn yr adran hon?

Nid ydym yn gallu cytuno gyda'r hyn sydd wedi ei osod allan yn y papur gwyrdd gan nad ydym o'r farn fod yna ddigon o waith ymchwil wedi ei wneud hyd yma i ystyried a oes yna achos go iawn dros newid.

Fel egwyddor sylfaenol cred y Cyngor hwn yw y dylai gwasanaethau gael eu cyflawni ar y lefel mwyaf lleol posibl.

Fe hoffem weld patrwm o wasanaethau cyhoeddus i'r dyfodol sy'n cynnwys rol ystyrlon i gynghorau tref a chymuned o ran bod yn gyfrifol am, a darparu rhai gwasanaethau.

Gan dderbyn wedyn fod yna rai swyddogaethau sydd angen cael eu cyflawni gan gynghorau mwy, mae angen taro balans rhwng maint priodol ar gyfer y cynghorau hynny a chadw cysylltiad gyda'r cymunedau a wasanaethir, a hynny er mwyn gwarchod atebolrwydd a democratiaeth lleol.

Yn ein barn ni felly mae angen cynnal darn o waith cynhwysol er mwyn ysgogi sgwrs genedlaethol ar beth ddylai gael ei wneud ar ba lefel o lywodraeth (boed gan Gynghorau Cymuned, Cynghorau Sir neu Llywodraeth Cymru) a hynny er mwyn gallu gwireddu'r hyn a nodir yng nghymal 6.13 y papur gwyrdd - sef bod mewn sefyllfa i osgoi cael dwy haen o lywodraeth yn ceisio gwneud yr un gwaith. Mae angen i ni fod llawer cliriach ynglyn a'r ffiniau rhwng rolau llywodraeth leol a Llywodraeth Cymru, ymhle mae'r atebolrwydd yn gorwedd a pharchu hynny.

c) Beth yw eich barn chi am yr opsiynau a gyflwynwyd gennym ar gyfer creu llai o awdurdodau, a'r rheini'n rhai mwy o faint?

Yn gyntaf oll 'rydym o'r farn nad maint sydd o anghenraid yn dylanwadu ar allu Cyngor i gyflawni i'w drigolion. Byddem yn dadlau'n gryf mai arweinyddiaeth fyddai'r ffactor mwyaf dylanwadol.

Nid ydym yn credu fod y papur gwyrdd yn rhoi digon o ystyriaeth i'r oblygiadau ar gyfer atebolrwydd lleol yn eu cynigion, ac yn cael ei ddallu gormod gan rhyw syniad fod y cynigion am ddod ag achubiaeth ariannol i lywodraeth leol neu elfen o farn dogmataidd fod mawr o reidrwydd yn beth da.

Nid oes ond angen edrych ar brofiadau yr Awdurdod Iechyd yn y Gogledd i weld fod hynny yn ragdybiaeth sigledig a pheryglus.

Rydym o'r farn fod maint y Cyngor Gwynedd presennol yn briodol o ystyried yr heriau a nodwyd gan Gomisiwn Williams ac yn y papur gwyrdd, a dengys ein profiadau yn y gorffennol ein bod yn gallu cwrdd a'r sialensau a wynebwyd gan gynnal ansawdd gwasanaethau sylfaenol er gwethaf y cynni ariannol sylweddol.

Byddem yn derbyn fod hynny yn dechrau cyrraedd pwynt lle nad yw'n gynaliadwy, ond, oni bai fod ad-drefnu am ryddhau symiau ariannol sylweddol, nid yw ad-drefnu am gynnig ateb i hynny. Atal y cyfyngiadau ariannol ar awdurdodau lleol sydd am wneud hynny.

Fodd bynnag gan mai prif bwrpas y Cyngor yw gwarchod buddiannau ein trigolion, a'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir ar eu cyfer, nid ydym am gau'r drws ar unrhyw bosiblwrwydd all arwain at arbedion mewn costau rheolaethol, canolog

neu swyddfa gefn a fyddai yn ei dro yn medru lleihau maint y toriadau y bydd yn rhaid i'r cyngor eu gwneud dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Wedi dweud hynny nid yw'r achos ariannol wedi ei phrofi a byddai angen cryn dipyn o waith i ystyried a yw'r achos honno yn bodoli.

Roedd amcangyfrifon Comisiwn Williams yn bell ohoni ac yn seiliedig ar dybiaethau sigledig dros ben. Mae darnau o waith a wnaed ers hynny wedi dangos bod yna dueddiad i or-ddatgan yn sylweddol yr arbedion posibl a than ystyried cost unrhyw ad-drefnu boed yn ariannol neu yn ymdrech ychwanegol fydd ei angen i gydgordio gweithgareddau corff mwy.

Fe ddylai unrhyw benderfyniad ar ad-drefnu falansio'r budd ariannol (os oes yna un) yn erbyn unrhyw effaith ar atebolrwydd lleol.

d) A oes unrhyw opsiynau eraill y dylem eu hystyried ar gyfer creu llai o awdurdodau, sy'n fwy o faint?

Gweler c uchod

e) A oes gennych dystiolaeth ynglŷn â chost, manteision ac arbedion pob opsiwn a allai helpu i lywio'r penderfyniad? Os oes, rhowch fanylion.

Nagoes. Fel y nodir uchod nid ydym yn credu fod unrhyw achos ariannol wedi ei sefydlu na'i herio ac yn sicr ni ddylid dibynnu ar y datganiadau yn adroddiad Comisiwn Williams, gan fod y tybiaethau ariannol yn yr adroddiad hwnnw yn sigledig a dweud y lleiaf.

Fe wnaed ymdrech yng Ngogledd Cymru rhai blynyddoedd yn ôl gyda chymorth ymgynghorwyr allanol i weld a oedd yna achos dros gydweithio mewn meysydd cefnogaeth ganlog ond canlyniad y gwaith eang a wnaed oedd fod y gost am fod lawer uwch na'r arbediad blynyddol posibl, sy'n codi cwestiynau sylfaenol am yr holl dybiaeth.

Mae angen seilio polisi ar ffigyrau a ffeithiau go iawn – nid datganiadau sydd i weld yn dod yn ffeithiau oherwydd eu bod yn cael eu dweud ddigon aml.

Pennod 4
<u>Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 2</u> Mae pennod 4 wedi egluro'r angen am eglurder ar y patrwm ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yn y dyfodol a'r ystod o ffactorau y dylid ei hystyried wrth benderfynu ar ffurf newydd. Mae'n cynnig patrwm posibl ar gyfer llywodraeth leol yn y dyfodol, y gellid ei gyflawni drwy bob un o'r opsiynau a drafodwyd yn y bennod flaenorol.
a) Ydych chi'n cytuno ei bod hi'n bwysig rhoi eglurder ynghylch y patrwm ar gyfer llywodraeth leol y dyfodol?
Gweler yr ateb yn 1 b ac c uchod.
b) Ydych chi'n cytuno â'r ffactorau a nodwyd gennym i lywio ein syniadau? A fydddech chi'n ychwanegu ffactorau eraill neu'n newid unrhyw ffactor?
Gweler yr ateb yn 1c ac yn arbennig y pwynt ynglyn ag atebolrwydd lleol.
c) Beth yw eich barn chi am yr ardaloedd newydd a awgrymir yn yr adran hon
-
d) A oes gennych unrhyw awgrymiadau eraill ac, os felly, pa wybodaeth sydd gennych i gefnogi'r rhain fel dewis arall?
-
e) Oes yna unrhyw ddulliau eraill y dylem eu defnyddio i symleiddio trefniadau cydweithio ar lefel ranbarthol a rhwng cyrff cyhoeddus â'i gilydd yn yr ardaloedd awdurdod newydd? Os oes, beth ydyn nhw?
Gweler yr ateb i gwestiwn 1a

Pennod 5
<u>Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 3</u> Mae'r pennod hon yn trafod y dull arfaethedig ar gyfer trawsnewid a'r goblygiadau ar gyfer sefydlu Pwyllgorau Pontio ac etholiadau i'r Awdurdodau Cysgodol o dan bob opsiwn.
a) Ydych chi'n cytuno â'r broses bontio arfaethedig: sef sefydlu Pwyllgorau Pontio a sicrhau bod etholiadau i Awdurdodau Cysgodol yn gallu cael eu cynnal cyn y diwrnod breinio ar gyfer yr awdurdodau newydd?
b) Ydych chi'n cytuno, pe byddai opsiwn 1 yn cael ei ddilyn, y dylem bennu dyddiad terfynol ar gyfer cyflwyno cynigion ar gyfer uno gwirfoddol ym mhob cylch etholiadol?

c) A oes gennych unrhyw sylwadau eraill ar y map arfaethedig?
<p><u>Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 4</u> Mae'r ymgynghoriad yn awgrymu cynnal unrhyw etholiadau llywodraeth leol ym mis Mehefin 2021.</p> <p>A oes unrhyw reswm pam na fyddai mis Mehefin 2021 yn ddyddiad addas? Os felly, awgrymwch ddyddiad arall gan nodi'r rhesymau pam y byddai'r dyddiad hwnnw yn fwy addas..</p>
<p><u>Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 5</u> Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod bod rhai cynlluniau neu asesiadau sy'n gysylltiedig â chylchoedd etholiadol, er enghraifft asesiadau llesiant a baratoir gan Fyrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus. Byddwn yn gwneud darpariaeth i sicrhau bod y rhain yn cyd-fynd ag unrhyw gylchoedd etholiadol newydd yn y dyfodol. A oes unrhyw gynlluniau neu faterion eraill a allai fod ynghlwm wrth y cylch etholiadol y mae angen inni eu hystyried?</p>
<p><u>Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 6</u> Beth yw eich barn am y dull y dylid ei ddilyn i benderfynu ar derfynau'r adolygiadau etholiadol?</p>

Pennod 6
<u>Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 7</u>
<p>a) Sut gall cynghorau ddefnyddio gwybodaeth eu haelodau etholedig am eu cymunedau, a'u cysylltiadau ynddynt, yn fwy effeithiol?</p> <p>Mewn unrhyw ail ddylunio mae angen sicrwydd na fydd unrhyw gynigion yn creu wardiau rhy fawr a fydd yn gwneud gwaith aelodau etholedig o ymgysylltu'n effeithiol gyda'u hetholwyr a'u cymunedau yn fwy anodd.</p> <p>Yn benodol, mae angen sicrwydd na cheir mwy o wardiau aml-aelod, gan fod darpariaeth felly yn medru drysu atebolrwydd aelodau unigol o fewn eu hetholaethau.</p>

b) Sut y gallwn gydnabod yn well lefel y cyfrifoldeb o fod yn gynghorydd lleol? Pa newidiadau i'r gydnabyddiaeth ariannol a'r gefnogaeth mae cynghorwyr yn eu cael fyddai'n galluogi ystod ehangach o bobl i fod yn rhan o'r gynrychiolaeth ddemocrataidd leol?

Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 8

a) A oes unrhyw bwerau eraill y dylid eu rhoi i lywodraeth leol? Os oes, beth ydyn nhw?

b) A oes rhyddid neu hyblygrwydd eraill y dylid eu rhoi i lywodraeth leol? Os oes, beth ydyn nhw?

Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 9

a) Pa feysydd sy'n cynnig y cwmplas mwyaf i rannu gwasanaethau trafodiadol?

b) Beth yw'r ffordd orau o ddatblygu trefniadau o'r fath?

Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 10

a) Er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn datblygu dull cyson ar draws Cymru, lle bo cysondeb yn bwysig, sut ydych chi'n meddwl fyddai orau i ddarparu'r cyngor a'r cymorth ar y materion hyn?

b) Oes unrhyw heriau neu gyfleoedd eraill yn deillio o newid strwythurol neu ddarparu pwerau a hyblygrwydd eraill nad ydynt wedi eu nodi uchod? Os oes angen cymorth ar y meysydd hyn, ym mha ffordd y dylid rhoi'r cymorth hwnnw?

c) Pa un o'r materion a nodwyd uchod neu yn eich ymateb ddylai gael blaenoriaeth i'w ddatrys yn gynnar?

Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 11.

Hoffem wybod eich barn am ba effeithiau y byddai'r cynigion yn yr ymgynghoriad hwn yn eu cael ar y Gymraeg, yn enwedig ar y cyfleoedd i bobl ddefnyddio'r iaith ac o ran peidio â'i thrin yn llai ffafriol na'r Saesneg.

a) Beth fyddai'r effeithiau yn eich barn chi?

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b) Sut y byddai modd cynyddu'r effeithiau cadarnhaol, neu liniaru'r effeithiau negyddol?

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Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 12

Eglurwch hefyd sut y credwch y byddai modd ffurfio neu newid (os bydd angen) y cynigion yn yr ymgynghoriad hwn er mwyn arwain at effeithiau cadarnhaol, neu fwy o effeithiau cadarnhaol, ar gyfleoedd i bobl ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg a pheidio â thrin y Gymraeg yn llai ffafriol na'r Saesneg, ac er mwyn peidio â chael effaith andwyol ar gyfleoedd i bobl ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg nac o ran trin y Gymraeg yn llai ffafriol na'r Saesneg.

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Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 13

Mae'r Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Hawliau Plant a gyhoeddir ochr yn ochr â'r ymgynghoriad yn amlinellu barn Llywodraeth Cymru am effaith y cynigion sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn yr ymgynghoriad ar blant a phobl ifanc. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ceisio barn ar yr asesiad hwnnw.

a) A oes unrhyw effeithiau cadarnhaol neu andwyol sydd heb eu nodi yn yr asesiad?

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b) A ellid ail-lunio'r cynigion er mwyn cynyddu'r effeithiau cadarnhaol neu leihau unrhyw effeithiau andwyol posibl?

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Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 14

Mae'r Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb a gyhoeddwyd ochr yn ochr â'r ymgynghoriad yn rhoi braslun o farn Llywodraeth Cymru ar effaith y cynigion sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn yr ymgynghoriad ar grwpiau sy'n cael eu diogelu o dan Ddeddf Cydraddoldeb 2010. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ceisio barn ar yr asesiad hwnnw.

a) A oes unrhyw effeithiau cadarnhaol neu andwyol eraill sydd heb eu nodi yn yr asesiad?

--

b) A ellid ail-lunio'r cynigion er mwyn cynyddu'r effeithiau cadarnhaol neu leihau unrhyw effeithiau andwyol posibl?

Cwestiwn Ymgynghori 15

Rhowch unrhyw sylwadau eraill sydd gennych ar gynnwys yr ymgynghoriad hwn.

