

WELSH GOVERNMENT INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EXTRACT)

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill

SECTION 1. WHAT ACTION IS THE WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING AND WHY?

Long term

- 1.1 The ways in which we live and work in Wales are constantly changing and our public service organisations need to keep pace with that change. The Welsh Government wants to support strong and empowered local government which provides bold, determined and focused leadership. We want local government which is valued by the communities they serve; and elected members and officers should be respected by and be representative of those communities.
- 1.2 Our vision for local government aims to build on the strengths local government already has. Principal councils which work together and with others to make a difference, using public money effectively for the public good. A local government system where the workforce are valued, respected and influential in improving services – supported and encouraged to be advocates for the people they serve. A system in which social partnerships underpin the relationship between principal councils and their staff, recognising their values and strengths.
- 1.3 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill (“the Bill”) provides the legislative framework to deliver a major package of reforms to reinvigorate local democracy and to strengthen local authority accountability and performance. It provides greater opportunities for people to engage with local government, including votes for 16 and 17 year olds and foreign citizens legally resident in Wales, coupled with a range of other important changes to improve voter registration and voting. The Bill strengthens the powers available to local government, by providing them with a general power of competence, and includes measures to improve openness and transparency. It sets out a single, consistent, simplified and straightforward framework for democratically accountable regional working and collaboration by principal councils through ‘corporate joint committees’. A new governance and performance system will put the emphasis on principal councils taking ownership of their own improvement, by promoting a culture where they are open to and embrace challenge, whether presented from within the council or externally. The Bill makes provision for the Welsh Ministers to provide support and, where necessary, intervention to assist principal councils facing significant problems with governance and performance. It also enables the voluntary merger of principal councils where the councils determine it is in the best interests of their areas.

Prevention

- 1.4 We face new challenges arising from continued austerity made more acute by the impact of globalisation.
- 1.5 A new generation is looking to public service leaders to provide direction, preserve the fabric of communities and provide opportunities for involvement in democratic decision making. Strong and empowered local democracy will be vital in addressing the challenges we face, in finding the best local solutions and in delivering sustainable public services.

Integration

- 1.6 The Bill aims to ensure that local government is sustainable and can provide the foundation on which future generations and their communities can prosper. It will aid the process of transforming service delivery and give principal councils the tools to lead their communities and for their communities to engage with them.
- 1.7 The ultimate objective of the Bill is to strengthen local government and to reform local government elections in Wales. There is clear alignment between this objective and five of the seven well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A globally responsible Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of Cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- 1.8 Wales needs strong, effective, empowered principal councils with the capacity to weather continued austerity and build a system of local democracy which is relevant to future generations. This is critical to delivering *Prosperity for All* and enabling local government to maximise its contribution to our shared well-being goals.

Collaboration

- 1.9 Our proposals provide an opportunity to have a conversation with the people of Wales about restoring trust in our democratic institutions by enabling principal councils to be as open and transparent as possible and by engaging and involving their citizens in their work. The Welsh Government will work with local government to champion the role of elected members and help communities understand, and value, the important part their principal council plays in their lives. It will also enable communities to engage more widely and in different ways with their council.

Involvement

- 1.10 The Welsh Government has consulted extensively with stakeholders and the public on its evolving proposals since 2014 through a series of Green and White Papers and a draft Local Government Bill. During the development of the 2015 White Paper *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People*, the Welsh Government commissioned a number of reviews and specific pieces of research. This sought to provide evidence where the base was otherwise weak, including attitudes towards local government, diversity in local government, community governance and co-production. The research also sought to review the effectiveness of its current policies, including those on audit, inspection and regulation; local government scrutiny; operation of the executive and scrutiny system in local government, and implementation of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.
- 1.11 A consultation “Electoral Reform in Local Government Wales” was issued July 2017 and produced a high number of responses (979). Following the consultation, a number of workshops were held with stakeholders and included: leaders, chief executives and senior management of principal councils, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Wales Council Voluntary Action, UK Government officials, One Voice Wales, Society for Local Council Clerks, Wales Audit Office, Estyn, Care Inspectorate Wales, Centre for Public Scrutiny and others.
- 1.12 Measures to tackle fraud and avoidance of non-domestic rates were consulted upon twice; initially in November 2015 and again in April 2018. The response from both consultations was overwhelmingly in favour of reducing the opportunities for disingenuous ratepayers to avoid contributing to vital funding for local services. Some of these measures require new primary legislation provided for in this Bill and other changes will be delivered through amendments to subordinate legislation and more effective collaboration between public bodies.
- 1.13 Extensive political engagement has taken place throughout the policy development period, including through the independently-chaired Local Government Working Group established in 2018. The Working Group provided a forum for constructive dialogue and the agreement of shared principles to underpin the development of a statutory framework and delivery of regional working and collaboration by principal councils. Following the conclusion of its work, a new sub-group of the Partnership Council for Wales has been established to take forward the Working Group’s relevant key recommendations.

Impact

- 1.14 We are committed to ensuring that local government is equipped with the powers it needs to make life better in our communities. The general power of competence will enable principal councils and community councils which meet the eligibility criteria to adopt innovative approaches to meet the needs of their communities, working collaboratively with partners across the public, private and third sectors.

- 1.15 It is anticipated that the proposed changes to the local government electoral process and franchise will have a positive impact on individuals with disabilities, people from BME groups and on young people between the ages of 16 and 17. Enfranchising all foreign citizens who are legally resident in Wales, not just those who are currently enfranchised, is likely to impact on individuals who are not currently able to participate in local democracy by voting or standing for election to their local council.

Costs and Savings

- 1.16 The costs and benefits associated with the options have been assessed within the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) that accompanies the Bill.

Mechanism

- 1.17 The Bill will provide a framework for delivering the major reforms needed to improve and modernise electoral arrangements in Wales and to strengthen and empower principal councils to continue to deliver for their communities in the future as austerity continues.

SECTION 7. CONCLUSION

7.1 How have people most likely to be affected by the proposal been involved in developing it?

- 7.1.1 The provisions for this Bill have been informed by previous extensive engagement and consultation with a range of stakeholders and the public since July 2014. During that period, five consultations on reform have been conducted as well as a specific consultation on electoral reform, on reform of Fire and Rescue Authorities and two consultations on measures to tackle avoidance of non-domestic rates. Responses to the consultations have informed the current proposals.
- 7.1.2 The consultation on “Electoral Reform in Local Government Wales” was issued July 2017 and produced a high number of responses (979).
- 7.1.3 The Green Paper *Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People* was published in March 2018 and posed 15 key questions (33 questions in all, including sub questions) on strengthening local government.
- 7.1.4 Measures to tackle avoidance of non-domestic rates have been consulted upon twice; initially in November 2015 and again in more detail in April 2018. The response from both consultations was overwhelmingly in favour of reducing the opportunities for disingenuous ratepayers to avoid contributing to vital funding for local services.
- 7.1.5 As well as publishing the consultations, the then Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services undertook a series of engagement meetings and events throughout the consultation period.
- 7.1.6 **Local authority events**
- Half-day symposium – attended by majority of local authorities, typically leaders, chief executives and executive members.
 - Individual meetings with principal councils
- 7.1.7 **Meetings with Other public services, third sector and private sector**
- Local Health Boards and NHS Trust chairs and chief executives.
 - Police and Police and Crime Commissioners.
 - North Wales Regional Leadership Board.
 - Third Sector – Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Electoral Reform Society Cymru, Building Communities Trust and Third Sector Support Wales.
 - Federation of Small Businesses and Confederation of British Industry.
 - Public Service Ombudsman for Wales
 - Welsh Revenues and Benefits Managers Working Group
 - Welsh Ratepayers Forum
 - Valuation Tribunal for Wales
 - Valuation Office Agency
 - Fire and Rescue Authorities

- 7.1.8 Following the 2018 Green Paper consultation, the independently-chaired Local Government Working Group was established to develop a shared agenda for reform and to aid the sustainability of local government and local service provision. This led to the agreement of shared principles to underpin the development of a statutory framework for regional working and collaboration by principal councils. A new sub-group of the Partnership Council for Wales is taking forward the Working Group's relevant key recommendations.
- 7.1.9 In addition to discussing the Bill proposals at the Working Group, the Minister for Housing and Local Government has engaged extensively with local government Leaders through individual meetings, the WLGA Executive Board and the Partnership Council for Wales. The Bill provisions have been discussed in detail at these meetings, particularly those relating to regional working and the opportunities presented by the creation of corporate joint committees.
- 7.1.10 The Minister for Housing and Local Government has also discussed the regional working proposals and the ambition for one mechanism to support regional working across Ministerial portfolios with her Cabinet colleagues, both individually and formally through Cabinet. The Minister gained Cabinet agreement for simplification and consistency of approach for government imposed regional working arrangements.

7.2 What are the most significant impacts, positive and negative?

Specific Impact Assessments

7.2.1 All impact assessments have been published and where the impact is directly relevant to a particular provision, it has been identified within the relevant assessment. Specific impact assessments have been undertaken on the following topics:

- Children's Rights
- Welsh Language
- Equality
- Justice Impact Assessment

Children's Rights

7.2.2 Reducing the minimum voting age in Welsh local government elections to 16 will give many young people the opportunity to vote while they are still at school. Resources will be developed to sit in the *Active Citizenship* theme of *Personal and Social Education* of the current curriculum, and largely in the *Humanities Area of Learning and Experience* in the new curriculum. Reducing the voting age to include 16 year olds could lead to a maintained engagement with young people, which would hopefully lead to a greater interest in democratic politics more generally, including standing as a candidate. The Welsh Government will set in place a programme of education and awareness raising about registering to vote, voting and

participation in political life for those whom the Bill proposes to enfranchise. For young people, schools and colleges will be obvious delivery partners for this programme, but we will also work with stakeholders to engage with young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training.

7.2.3 This is in keeping with the commitments in *Taking Wales Forward 2016-21* and *Prosperity for All: the national strategy*.

7.2.4 It is important that local government closely represents the communities it serves, and as it stands, particularly in relation to age, gender and ethnicity, the culture and working practices within principal councils are not always as conducive as they could be to encouraging young people to actively take part. The proposals to improve governance, openness, transparency and engagement with the public and communities generally will enable councils to target specific groups such as young people. This should mean they take account of children's and young people's concerns which could result in improvements in service planning and delivery.

Welsh Language

7.2.5 The Welsh language, Welsh-speaking communities and Welsh speakers in communities where Welsh is not the main language can benefit from the general aims of the Bill. The proposed reforms seek to ensure principal councils can use their capacity effectively and are more inclusive, more accountable, and share more power and responsibility with communities. In this context, 'communities' means communities of interest as well as communities of place, and so encompasses Welsh speakers in all parts of Wales, not just those communities where the Welsh language is predominant. This should ensure principal councils can better serve and represent those who speak Welsh and better provide services, facilities, and education in the Welsh language. The proposals should also support principal councils to support culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and to meet their requirements under the Welsh Language Standards to promote and facilitate use of the Welsh language, including in the workplace.

7.2.6 Regional working arrangements will provide the opportunity for principal councils to share Welsh language capacity, with the potential to benefit those wishing to receive services through the medium of Welsh. This would be enabled both by the sharing of staff and professionals who plan and deliver services and the sharing of Welsh language capacity in corporate services.

Equality

7.2.7 The Bill seeks to make a contribution to creating a more diverse, representative, transparent local government, which will positively and openly involve all members of the community. The general power of competence will enable principal councils and eligible community councils to develop innovative and ambitious models of service delivery, which could be of particular benefit to vulnerable groups. Principal councils will be encouraged to involve a wide range of people more in their decision making to ensure a

consistently robust level of engagement across local government with all communities, improving equality of opportunity.

- 7.2.8 The enfranchisement of qualifying foreign citizens for local government elections will enable anyone from any nationality who resides in Wales (and who meets other qualifying criteria such as age) to play a part in our inclusive democracy. It will make clear that people from all nations and nationalities who have made their homes here should be able to participate fully in our democracy. This will include enabling qualifying foreign citizens to stand as local government councilors. We will set in place a programme of education and awareness raising to help ensure that foreign citizens newly enfranchised and enabled to participate in political life are informed, involved and engaged with as part of the elections process.
- 7.2.9 For example, as service users and contributors to the funding of local services, it is right and fair that qualifying foreign citizens are able to help appoint those who represent them and make decisions on their behalf at a local level. Welsh Government wishes to promote diversity and wider representation at local government level and enfranchising the widest possible group of people will have the benefit of supporting this aim.
- 7.2.10 There is at present a lack of diversity amongst elected members. Provisions to make meetings more accessible and open, including publishing meeting documents electronically, will also contribute to encouraging the culture and working practices within principal councils to be more open and diverse. Changes to the current provisions for remote attendance at principal council meetings will aid councillors with employment or caring responsibilities. These new provisions will also cover the wider local government family including national park authorities, fire and rescue authorities, community councils and a port health authority for a port health district in Wales. The Bill will also provide more flexibility for the Welsh Ministers to specify maximum periods of family absence for councillors, enabling them to bring the current limits into line with the statutory arrangements for employees. Empowering principal councils to appoint job-share members of certain offices, such as executive leader, member of the executive, committee chair and presiding member, would also provide greater capacity and flexibility. If this, in time, also led to the composition of a council's executive better reflecting the society it serves, that has the potential to improve a council's decision-making processes. In turn, a council could also benefit from greater engagement and credibility with the communities it served.

Justice Impact Assessment

7.2.11 As we are bringing forward new primary legislation, the potential impact on the justice system of the following areas of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill ("the Bill") has been considered in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ):

- Electoral Reform
- General Power of Competence
- Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Code of Conduct Investigations

- Performance and Governance
- Collaborative regional working
- Mergers and restructuring
- Non-Domestic Rates Avoidance

Electoral Reform

7.2.12 The Bill will include provisions to reform the electoral system for local government elections in Wales. The reforms aim to improve the electoral process and extend the electoral franchise. Those reforms for which an impact assessment is considered appropriate are:

- Extending the franchise to 16 and 17-year olds and all foreign citizens legally resident in Wales;
- and
- Improving voter registration.

7.2.13 Extending the franchise means that existing electoral offences will apply to a wider group of people. The Bill also creates a new summary offence of disclosing electoral information about young people under the age of 16. These provisions could potentially have an impact on the number of offences committed. However, there is no evidence from Scotland, following the extension to the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds there, or across the UK more generally to suggest that there would be a quantifiable increase in the number of offences committed.

7.2.14 Similarly, it is considered reasonable to assume that the other aspects of electoral reform will have a minimal or nil impact on the justice system.

General Power of Competence

7.2.15 The Bill will provide qualifying authorities (i.e. principal councils and eligible community councils) in Wales with a general power of competence (GPOC). It is intended that this power should replace the current well-being power (section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000) with a broad power to enable qualifying authorities to do anything an individual generally may lawfully do, subject to limitations or restrictions under other legislative provisions that overlap with the general power.

7.2.16 The breadth of the power and the experience of how the courts have interpreted the GPOC in cases involving English authorities suggest that the number of court challenges substantively relating to GPOC would potentially be lower than for the well-being power it replaces. Reliance on the GPOC in itself would not provide a defence if an authority's process leading up to a decision contravened public law principles, so much turns on the quality of individual authority's decision-making processes.

7.2.17 It has, therefore, been concluded that there would be a minimal or nil impact of this provision on the justice system.

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Code of Conduct Investigations

7.2.18 The Bill will improve the accessibility of the law covering the conduct of investigations by the Ombudsman under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2000. The provisions deal with practical matters such as conflicts of interest, powers to obtain and disclose information and protection from defamation. They replicate, with appropriate modifications, the existing law in Wales which is derived from sections 60-63 of the 2000 Act as applied in Wales through subordinate legislation made by the Welsh Ministers. The main positive effects are clarity and improved accessibility of the law relating to the Ombudsman's powers. There are no negative effects on the justice system.

7.2.19 The provisions provide for a modified approach to offences relating to the obstruction of investigations, to bring them into line with the equivalent provisions in the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019. However, the Ombudsman has not found it necessary to initiate proceedings under the current legislation and the modified provisions are not expected to increase the likelihood of this in future. It has, therefore, been concluded that there would be a minimal or nil impact of this provision on the justice system.

Performance and Governance

7.2.20 The Bill makes provision for a new performance and governance regime for principal councils in Wales. The new system, which replaces that in Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, places the onus on individual councils to take ownership of their improvement. The new regime is based on a system of self-assessment by principal councils, coupled with periodic panel review which will provide an external, expert perspective on the council's performance and improvement.

7.2.21 As under the current system, the Welsh Ministers will have a range of powers to provide support and, where necessary, to intervene to assist a principal council that faces significant problems. Where a principal council does not comply with an 'intervention direction' given by the Welsh Ministers, the Welsh Ministers will be able to apply to the courts for the direction to be enforced by mandatory order. It is difficult to predict the number of cases for intervention, but based on experience of the existing performance regime, the number of applications for a mandatory order is likely to be very low or even nil.

7.2.22 The Bill also includes powers (again similar to existing powers) for the Auditor General for Wales (the AGW) to carry out a special inspection of a principal council when concerns about that council have been identified. Again, experience of the equivalent powers in the current regime – where there have been no challenges – suggests the number of challenges to the conduct of a special inspection is likely to be very low.

7.2.23 An inspector appointed by the AGW to carry out a special inspection will be empowered to require a person who is able to do so to provide information and documents for the purpose of the inspection. A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with such a requirement, or who intentionally obstructs an inspector carrying out a special inspection, will

commit an offence and on summary conviction will be liable to a fine. These offences replace existing equivalent offences in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, which are being repealed.

7.2.24 It has, therefore, been concluded that there would be minimal or nil impact of these provisions on the justice system.

Regional Working

7.2.25 The Bill will provide a power for the Welsh Ministers, through regulations, to establish corporate joint committees to undertake certain local authority functions. The establishment of such bodies will be at the request of principal councils themselves, or at the instigation of the Welsh Ministers in relation to a limited number of specified service areas. As the provisions are concerned with the administrative means through which two or more principal councils come together to exercise certain functions, the proposal is considered to have no or negligible potential impact on the justice system. It is possible that a decision by the Welsh Ministers to establish a corporate joint committee that has not been requested by the relevant principal councils concerned could be subject to challenge through judicial review. However, it is anticipated that the risk of such challenge would be very low.

Mergers and Restructuring of Principal Areas

7.2.26 The Bill will include provisions to enable the Welsh Ministers to make regulations to give effect to:

- A voluntary merger between two or more principal councils; or
- A restructuring of a principal council, which could entail merging the council with one or more of its neighbouring councils or splitting its area among two or more of its neighbours.

7.2.27 The decision to voluntarily merge or restructure a principal council is likely to be controversial and thus might persuade those opposed to it to seek to apply for judicial review, even where there was support for the proposal from the councils involved. A decision by the Welsh Ministers not to merge two or more principal councils which have requested to do so voluntarily might be challenged by the councils concerned. It is difficult to predict how many such mergers might be proposed and even more difficult to predict the likelihood of a challenge coming forward from either principal councils or other interested parties. However, it is anticipated that the number of challenges is likely to be very low and, therefore, the impact on the justice system would be minimal.

7.2.28 In principle, legal aid would be available to an individual / group to fund a judicial review providing the relevant criteria are met. However, the Legal Aid Agency might also expect a “community contribution” to be paid because others in the area might benefit from the proceedings to the same or greater extent than the person / group seeking to challenge a decision. As indicated above, it is anticipated that the number of applications proceeding to judicial

review, and thus the potential implications for legal aid, is likely to be very low, but will be kept under review.

7.2.29 No wider impacts have been identified.

Non-domestic Rates Avoidance

7.2.30 Since April 2015, full fiscal responsibility for non-domestic rates has been devolved to the National Assembly for Wales. This means that revenue generated from non-domestic rates now has a direct impact on the overall resources available to the Welsh Government and Welsh local authorities. An amount of fraud and avoidance activity exists within the system, which Welsh Ministers are committed to tackling as part of a wider programme of reform to ensure local taxes are fair and fit for purpose.

7.2.31 The Bill will:

- Enable the Welsh Ministers, through regulations, to require ratepayers to notify billing authorities of a change in their circumstances which may affect their liability for non-domestic rates;
- Enable a billing authority to enter and inspect a property to verify information for the purposes of billing and collection; and
- Enable a billing authority to request information from ratepayers and third parties to verify information for the purposes of billing and collection.

7.2.32 A person who fails to comply with the obligations described above may be liable to a range of civil penalty notices issued by the billing authority. Persons issued with a penalty notice will have a right of appeal to the Valuation Tribunal for Wales (VTW). In the most serious (but limited cases) where an inspection of a property has been wilfully obstructed or where false information has knowingly been provided a person may be liable on summary conviction to a fine imposed by the Magistrates Court. It is anticipated that the threat of a penalty or prosecution will encourage co-operation in the majority of cases. The VTW already hears appeals against penalty notices issued by the Valuation Office Agency, which has similar powers to request information and to inspect properties. Appeals of this nature are currently very rare with just one case in Wales in 2018-19.

7.2.33 The provisions are an extension of the existing billing, collection and enforcement role of billing authorities in relation to the administration of local taxes, fees and charges in delivering services. It has, therefore, been concluded that there would be a minimal or nil additional impact of these provisions on the justice system.

7.3 In light of the impacts identified, how will the proposal:

- **maximise contribution to our well-being objectives and the seven well-being goals; and/or,**
- **avoid, reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?**

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

- 7.3.1 The ultimate objective of the Bill is to strengthen local government and to reform local government electoral arrangements in Wales. There is clear alignment between this objective and the five ways of working as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 7.3.2 **Long term** - Our vision for local government builds on the strengths local government already has. It looks forward to councils with more strength and scope to work in the best interests of the communities they serve. Councils which work with others to make a difference and use public money effectively for the public good. A local government system where the workforce are valued, respected and influential in improving services – supported and encouraged to be advocates for the people they serve. A system in which social partnerships underpin the relationship between principal councils and their staff and are recognised and valued as a strength. In turn principal councils will empower communities and community and town councils to be bold and ambitious.
- 7.3.3 **Prevention** - we now face new challenges, made more acute by the impact of globalisation. A new generation is looking to public service leaders to provide direction, preserve the fabric of communities and provide opportunities for involvement in democratic decision making. Strong and empowered local democracy will be vital in addressing the challenges we face, in finding the best local solutions and in delivering sustainable public services.
- 7.3.4 **Integration** - The Bill aims to ensure that local government is sustainable and can provide the foundation on which future generations and their communities can prosper. It will aid the process of transforming service delivery and giving councils new tools to lead and interact with their communities.
- 7.3.5 **Collaboration** - Our proposals will provide an opportunity to have a conversation with the people of Wales about restoring trust in our democratic institutions by enabling councils to be as open and transparent as possible and by engaging and involving their citizens in their work.
- 7.3.6 **Involvement** - Extensive engagement and consultation with a range of stakeholders and the public has been held since July 2014 including four consultations which explored a number of options and alternatives. Research has also been undertaken to review the effectiveness of current policies. Officials have continued to hold meetings with a number of stakeholders during the development of the Bill, which have formed part of the evidence informing the Bill. Extensive political engagement throughout the policy development period has helped shape shared proposals for improved and consistent regional working.

Prosperity for All

- 7.3.7 We are committed to ensuring that local government is equipped with the powers it needs to make life better in our communities. This legislation that includes the general power of competence for principal councils and

community councils which meet eligibility criteria will enable local authorities to adopt more innovative approaches in meeting the needs of their communities. The Bill will make a contribution to improving the ways in which councillors reflect our communities and are representative of the diversity of experience, interests and priorities in those areas.

7.3.8 Wales needs strong, effective, empowered local government with the capacity to weather continued austerity and build a system of local democracy which is relevant to future generations. This is critical to delivering *Prosperity for All* and enabling local government to maximise its contribution to our shared well-being goals.

7.4 How will the impact of the proposal be monitored and evaluated as it progresses and when it concludes?

Post Implementation Review

7.4.1 The success of Welsh Government's proposals to extend the local government electoral reform franchise will be measured in terms of the number of newly enfranchised individuals registering and then exercising their right to vote. Officials are working with the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research (WISERD), the interdisciplinary social science research centre and the Welsh Government's Knowledge and Analytic Services to determine the right combination of evaluation factors going forward.

7.4.2 For all of the provisions within the Bill, we will ensure continuous assessments of how the legislation has taken effect and impacted on the policy intent. Additional powers, their costs and benefits against the baseline set out in the RIA will be monitored and the Welsh Government will hold bilateral meetings with the relevant Ministers to discuss and monitor progress.

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