

Consultation Response Form

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NOTE : The responses given to the questions below reflect the impact that the proposals would have from a Town Council perspective.

The future of Local Government – what should we expect of Local Authorities?

Question 1: How can Local Authorities engage more effectively with their communities, about the challenges of sustaining services as they are currently delivered and the need for change?

Regular and sustained meaningful dialogue through regular meetings with Town and Community Councils

Question 2: What more could the Welsh Government do to assist Authorities with this dialogue to improve their performance in the delivery of priority services?

Actively support and promote all initiatives .
Legislate for the devolution of services .
Consideration for RSG support to be given to Town and Community Councils.
Requirement to merge Town and Community Councils

Question 3: What specific suggestions do you have for reducing and simplifying administration which would free up time and resources to deliver and improve services?

Social Services, Education, Environmental Health, and Highways , Trading Standards remain with newly formed Principal Authorities

Economic Development be the responsibility of the Welsh Government

Footpaths/Cycle Ways, green spaces together with provision of local amenities be devolved to merged Town and Community Councils

Remove element of bureaucracy such as Targets

Reforming Local Government – Strengthening democracy, sustaining and improving services

Question 4: What specific changes should be made to the way in which Local Authorities are currently constituted to ensure openness, transparency and clarity of accountability?

Each elected member of the newly formed Principal Authority should be required to report to their local Town/Community on a quarterly basis and be readily available at that time to respond to questions raised on behalf of the community.

Question 5: How should the scrutiny support programme be shaped to support improvements in the effectiveness of scrutiny?

Elected members from Town and Community Councils be able to sit on and participate in Scrutiny Committees and that the outcomes therefrom be published on the Internet and within the community.

Question 6: In what other ways should scrutiny be strengthened to drive service improvement?

Please response to question 5 with the inclusion of direct reports to Town and Community Councils from their respective representatives.

Scrutiny and Governance – Fire and Rescue Authorities

Question 7: How might governance and scrutiny of strategic service and financial decisions be best secured?

Would advocate a similar set-up to that which currently applies in the Health Service

Question 8: What suggestions do you have to ensure communities have an effective voice in the decision making of the new Authorities?

Please see earlier responses

Question 9: What sort of consultation, engagement and feedback processes should the new Authorities have with communities?

Please see earlier responses

National Partnership arrangements

Question 10: How can we best engage with Local Government to take forward a programme of Local Government reform?

Actively promote and support One Voice Wales and Local Government Association

How do we ensure Local Government performance is improving and continues to improve? – Improving Performance

Question 11: How can we help and encourage Local Authorities to be more proactive in identifying and responding to delivery or governance issues?

Re-introduction of BEST VALUE.

Enhance the powers currently given to the LG Ombudsman Service and Audit Service

Question 12: What should be the principles and standards for performance management and performance reporting across Local Authorities, and the broader public sector?

Provided Best Value is introduced and implemented properly then there would be no need to have a performance management system.

Suggest that a 3 yearly audit of Best value be undertaken

Question 13: In what ways could we more effectively use the money we invest in supporting Local Authority improvement?

Please see earlier response

The future shape of Local Government

Question 14: Do you have specific suggestions for powers and responsibilities which could be considered for devolution to the new Authorities?

Please see earlier responses

Facilitating and incentivising voluntary merger

Question 15: Does anything else need to be covered in a power to achieve a voluntary merger?

Allow the merging of Councils but not as per those detailed in the "Williams" report. e.g. allow Bridgend CBC to merge with the Vale of Glamorgan

Also consider the splitting of Town and Community Councils within the current Bridgend CBC area to the Vale of Glamorgan

Question 16: Is your Authority considering submitting a proposal for voluntary merger?

The Town Council is currently proposing a merger with Coychurch Higher CC and Coychurch Loer CC.

Local Authority electoral wards

Question 17: Is there anything else we need to do in order to ensure LDBCW is able to effectively consider and make recommendations for electoral arrangements in the proposed Authorities?

Would advocate the establishment of one member to represent each electoral ward

Remuneration of Elected Members

Question 18: Is there anything else we need to do in order to ensure the IRP is able to effectively consider and make recommendations for payments to councillors in the proposed merged Authorities and any preceding shadow authorities?

Consider the re-introduction of Attendance Allowances on a more robust method than previously adopted, to ensure that elected representatives attend for a defined time period at meetings.

Disposal of property and assets

Question 19: Do you agree the proposed power for the Welsh Ministers will be sufficient for disposal of property and assets? If you do not agree the proposed power will be sufficient, what specific problems do you envisage?

Pencoed Town Council is in agreement with this proposal.

Question 20: What sort of assistance or guidance might Local Authorities need?

Please see earlier responses

Collaboration, cooperation and preparation in advance of mergers

Question 21: Is there anything else which should be specified for joint transition committees to do in preparing for a merger of their Authorities?

Please see earlier responses

Question 22: What other powers might the Welsh Ministers require to prevent harmful damaging behaviour?

As stated earlier give more powers to the LG Ombudsman and also the Standards Committee to monitor and appropriately deal with obstructive behaviour

Staffing matters

Question 23: What should be the role and responsibilities of the Staff Commission?

Ensure that all staff are properly consulted and managed through a difficult period.

The dignity of staff must be upheld throughout the process.

Question 24: Is anything else needed to prepare the way for merging Local Authorities?

Please see earlier responses

Local Government Funding – Council Tax

Question 25: What would be the most equitable approach to raising revenues for local services?

Probably the current system of raising revenues is as good as it could be for Local Authorities. However the precept for Policing ,it is felt, leaves a lot to be desired and needs review.

Other issues

Question 26: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please see earlier responses and include the Town Council's total support for Coity Walia becoming a precepting authority.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: