

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

**SUBJECT:
WELSH GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION ON PROMOTING LOCAL
DEMOCRACY**

Introduction

On 17th May 2012 the Welsh Government published a White Paper entitled “Promoting Local Democracy”.

The Welsh Government intends to lay before the National Assembly for Wales a Local Democracy Bill. The purpose of the White Paper is to seek responses to the proposed content of the Bill together with other proposals designed to make improvements in relation to local democracy.

The White Paper is part of the Welsh Government Programme for Government published in September 2011.

The Welsh Government has already passed the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 2011 Measure). There are already some amendments to that proposed in the Bill.

The White Paper seeks views relating to:

- Reform of the organisation and functions of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in line with the recommendations of the Mathias report published in June 2011;
- Amendments to the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011:
 - The Powers of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales;
 - Local Authority Area Committees;
 - Local Authority Audit Committees & Democratic Services Committees;
- Access to Information: Town and Community Councils;
- Electoral Issues;
- Local Government Ethical Framework, and
- Local Government Scrutiny.

The response of the Authority

A response is being prepared, which focuses on areas that either directly impact on the Authority or has an indirect impact on our work.

Therefore our response has focused on:

- The Powers of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, and
- Local Government Ethical Framework

with brief comments made to some of the other sections if they have the potential to impact on our work. The draft response will be circulated to Members in due course.

The response has to be submitted to the Welsh Government by its deadline of 3rd August. However, we have obtained from the Welsh Government a special dispensation to have until 10th August to submit any amendments to the draft responses or alternatively confirm its contents following the approval of Members.

Financial considerations

None relating to this response.

Risk considerations

None relating to this response, however, sections of the response, such as the section on the Local Government Ethical Framework will impact on our Risk Management.

Compliance

None relating to this response.

Human Rights/Equality issues

None relating to this response.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

None relating to this response

Welsh Language statement

None relating to this response.

Conclusion

Members are asked to discuss and approve the submitted response.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are asked to approve the draft response to the Welsh Government consultation Promoting Local Democracy.

Background Documents

Welsh Government White Paper: Consultation on “Promoting Local Democracy”
<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsjlg/consultation/120517promlocdemocracyen.pdf>

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