



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

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| Date Written | 14 th January 2020* |
| Report Author | Ann Taylor |
| Service Area | Democratic Services |
| Exempt/Non Exempt | Non Exempt |
| Committee Date | 29 th January 2020 |

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welsh Government Consultation: Changes To Executive Governance Arrangements In Principal Councils

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Welsh Government has launched a consultation which proposes amendments to legislation enabling changes to the executive governance arrangements of principal councils (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The consultation relates to specific changes to:
- 1.2.1 the way councils can change their executive arrangements;
 - 1.2.2 the acceptance and publication of electronic petitions requesting changes;
 - 1.2.3 the number of electorate required to trigger a referendum on a change of executive arrangements.
- 1.3 Closing date for responses is 27 February 2020.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 In order to compile a collective response the forwarding to Democratic Services by any Member of any comments or observations be agreed.

2.2 The sharing of this collective response with all Councillors for their information be agreed.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 At present all 22 principal councils in Wales operate a 'leader and cabinet' model of executive governance arrangements whereby the principal council appoints a leader, who then appoints a Cabinet.

3.2 Under current legislation, the executive governance arrangements of principal councils can be changed to a model with an elected mayor taking responsibility for the discharge of the executive functions.

3.3 Changes to these executive governance arrangements can be introduced a number of ways, but each of them ultimately require approval by means of a referendum.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 To introduce deadlines for the submission of petitions or the drawing up of proposals which would allow sufficient time for a referendum to take place and enable any mayoral election to be held at the same time as the next set of ordinary elections.

4.2 The introduction of a provision which ensures that when the executive governance arrangements of a principal council have been changed, that same arrangement must be used for at least the next two electoral cycles.

4.3 Legislation be amended to require local authorities to accept electronic petitions to hold a referendum to change executive arrangements.

4.4 Views be sought on whether the requirement that 10% of registered electors to trigger a referendum should be changed.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

| | Positive Impacts | Negative Impacts | Not Applicable |
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| 1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives | 0 of 4 | 0 of 4 | 4 of 4 |
| 2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you | 0 of 5 | 0 of 5 | 5 of 5 |

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| considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement | | | |
| 3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i> | 0 of 10 | 0 of 10 | 10 of 10 |
| 4. Biodiversity | 0 of 1 | 0 of 1 | 1 of 1 |
| <u>Summary:</u> This is currently only a consultation document from the Welsh Government who are seeking views on whether changes should be introduced. No proposals have been made. | | | |

ELLIS COOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

| BACKGROUND PAPERS | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Title of Document(s) | Document(s) Date | Document Location |
| | | |
| Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution? | | No |

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.