



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For information only the Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Welsh Government.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Full Council (26th January 2016) endorsed this Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, which is strongly based on the premise that the best outcome for our local communities is that Caerphilly County Borough Council remains as a stand-alone Authority.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill is the Minister for Public Services' vision for Local Government in Wales and is *based on activist Councils, engaged in delivering modern, accessible, high quality public services with their local communities*. The Bill closely aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, and the performance management framework for Local Government in Wales.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The objective of the Draft Bill is to complete the programme of Local Authority mergers and set out a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance, some elements of finance, and establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission. A round table discussion was held with the political leaders on drafting the Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the consultation. It was emphasised that the starting basis of the response is that Caerphilly County Borough Council wishes to retain its position as a stand-alone Authority (Appendix 1 contains the response submitted to the Welsh Government).
- 4.2 The Welsh Government is currently analysing responses to this consultation with the Welsh Government response anticipated autumn 2016.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A thorough consideration to equality issues is contained within the Draft Bill. There is an accompanying Equality Impact Assessment to the consultation document, and Welsh Language Impact Assessment. The Draft Bill closely relates to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which has A More Equal Wales as one of its 7 national well-being goals.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 If the Draft Bill is implemented there will be significant financial implications. Appendix B to the Bill contains a Regulatory Impact Assessment: Costs and Benefits Calculations.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 If the Draft Bill is implemented there will be significant personnel implications with the move to mergers with other Local Authorities in Gwent.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 This response endorsed by Full Council reflected the discussion held with the political leaders, and the Council's Management Network was also consulted for their views.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 For information only.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Caerphilly County Borough Council Response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Welsh Government Consultation