

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

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

Q1	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?

Q2	What more could the Welsh Government do to assist Authorities with this dialogue to improve their performance in the delivery of priority services?

Q3	What specific suggestions do you have for reducing and simplifying administration which would free up time and resources to deliver and improve services?
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Reforming Local Government – Strengthening democracy, sustaining and improving services

Q4	What specific changes should be made to the way in which Local Authorities are currently constituted to ensure openness, transparency and clarity of accountability?

Q5	How should the scrutiny support programme be shaped to support improvements in the effectiveness of scrutiny?

Q6	In what other ways should scrutiny be strengthened to drive service improvement?

Scrutiny and Governance – Fire and Rescue Authorities

Q7	How might governance and scrutiny of strategic service and financial decisions be best secured?

Community Governance

Q8	What suggestions do you have to ensure communities have an effective voice in the decision making process of the new Authorities?

Q9	What sort of consultation, engagement and feedback processes should the new Authorities have with communities?

National Partnership arrangements

Q10	How can we best engage with Local Government to take forward a programme of Local Government reform?
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How do we ensure Local Government performance is improving and continues to improve? – Improving Performance

Q11	How can we help and encourage Local Authorities to be more proactive in identifying and responding to delivery or governance issues?

Q12	What should be the principles and standards for performance management and performance reporting across Local Authorities, and the broader public sector?

Q13	In what ways could we more effectively use the money we invest in supporting Local Authority improvement?

The future shape of Local Government

Q14	Do you have specific suggestions for powers and responsibilities which could be considered for devolution to the new Authorities?

Facilitating and incentivising voluntary merger

Q15	Does anything else need to be covered in a power to achieve a voluntary merger?

Q16	Is your Authority considering submitting a proposal for voluntary merger?

Local Authority electoral wards

Q17	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?
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Remuneration of Elected Members

Q18	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?

Disposal of property and assets

Q19	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?

Q20	What sort of assistance or guidance might Local Authorities need?

Collaboration, cooperation and preparation in advance of mergers

Q21	Is there anything else which should be specified for joint transition committees to do in preparing for a merger of their authorities?

Q22	What other powers might the Welsh Ministers require to prevent harmful damaging behaviour?

Staffing matters

Q23	What should be the role and responsibilities of the Staff Commission?

Q24	Is anything else needed to prepare the way for merging Local Authorities?

Local Government Funding – Council Tax

Q25	What would be the most equitable approach to raising revenues for local services?

Other issues

Q26	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:

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: