

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-2016

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Agenda Item No. 5

WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

Author: Ms.Karyl May, Head of Democratic Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek the approval of Council to the establishment of Working Groups of both the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the documents published by the Welsh Government in relation to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill in order that the Council can receive comments from Members of both Working Groups which will form the basis of the Council's response by the deadline of the 15th February, 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To set up Working Groups of both the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the documents published by the Welsh Government in relation to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill in order that the Council can receive comments from Members of both Working Groups which will form the basis of the Council's response by the deadline of the 15th February, 2016.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Members will be aware that the Welsh Government previously consulted on the following three White Papers on proposals to reform Local Government:

1. Reforming Local Government (consultation period 8th July to 1st October, 2014)
2. Public Services Staff Commission (consultation period 21st October, 2014 to 13th January, 2015)
3. Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People (consultation period 3rd February to 28th April, 2015)

As part of the package of reforms, the first Local Government (Wales) Bill was passed by the Assembly on the 20th October, 2015 and was given Royal Assent on the 29th November, 2015. The legislation makes provision for voluntary mergers and puts in place preparatory legislation for further mergers

and reform. The legislation includes provisions relating to Transition Committees, electoral arrangements, remuneration arrangements and restraints of transactions and recruitment etc.

- 3.2 Having considered the issues and views raised during the consultations, the Welsh Government have now published the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, Draft Explanatory Memorandum, Draft Regulatory Impact Assessments and specific impact assessments for a further period of consultation which ends on the 9th February, 2016.

Link to documents:

[http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/draft-local-government-\(wales\)-bill-consultation/?lang=en](http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/draft-local-government-(wales)-bill-consultation/?lang=en)

- 3.3 Given the size and complexity of the documents, totalling over 600 pages and requesting comments/views to 53 questions, it is proposed that Working Groups of the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established to consider the documents and the views/comments therefrom be reported to Council in order that a response can be made to the Welsh Government by the deadline of the 15th February, 2016.
- 3.4 Following consideration of the responses to the documents, it is the intention of Welsh Government to introduce the “Bill” into the National Assembly for Wales following the Assembly elections in 2016.