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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation – summary of response

Draft statutory guidance – Performance and governance of
principal councils

March 2021

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

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Contents

- 1. Introduction - Background to the consultation..... 3
- 2. Consultation process 3
- 3. Summary of responses..... 5
 - Question 1 5
 - Question 2 7
 - Question 3 9
 - Question 4 11
 - Question 5 13
 - Question 6 14
 - Question 7 15
 - Question 8 16
- 4. Next steps..... 18
- Annex A – List of respondents to the consultation..... 20

1. Introduction - Background to the consultation

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. The Act was given Royal Assent on 20 January 2021.

Part 6 of the Act relates to the performance and governance of principal councils, and Chapter 1 of that part provides for a new regime for improving performance and governance, replacing the current improvement duty for councils set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. Part 6 of the Act also makes provision for the Welsh Ministers to provide support and, where necessary, to intervene in principal councils facing significant problems.

The new approach set out in the Act is designed to provide for a more streamlined, flexible, sector-led approach to performance, good governance and improvement. The intention is for councils to be proactive in considering how internal processes and procedures should change to enable more effective planning, delivery and decision-making to drive better outcomes.

The Act requires that a council should have regard to any guidance issued by Welsh Ministers in relation to the performance requirements and the exercise of its functions under Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Act. The duty to have regard to the guidance will not have effect until the relevant functions to which the guidance relates are commenced on 1 April 2021.

2. Consultation process

The Welsh Government undertook a formal consultation on draft statutory guidance for principal councils about the exercise of their functions under Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Act between 11 November 2020 and 3 February 2021.

Online versions of the formal consultation document, draft statutory guidance and response form were provided in English and Welsh on the Welsh Government website. The link to the consultation was emailed to all principal councils, as well as a range of other stakeholders. Following a request for an Easy Read version of the consultation, this was also prepared and made available online.

Responses received

A total of 31 responses were received by the deadline. A further 3 responses were received after the deadline but have been included in this analysis and taken into account for the purpose of finalising the guidance.

Responses were received from:-

- 17 principal councils
- 1 Government agency / other public sector body
- 2 Community and town councils
- 3 Audit/Inspection/Regulator

3 Representative bodies, professional bodies or associations

1 Third Sector

1 Trade Union

4 Members of the public

1 other

1 anonymous

A full list of respondents, other than those who requested anonymity, can be found at Annex A

3. Summary of responses

This document is intended as a summary of the responses received. It does not aim to capture in detail every point raised by respondents.

Eight questions were asked in the consultation document and the responses to each are summarised below.

Not all questions were answered by all respondents and some gave a general response to the consultation rather than answering specific questions. Where this is the case we have included their response under the most appropriate question.

Question 1 - Does the draft guidance make it clear what is expected of principal councils as set out in the provisions of Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill in a way that can be understood by principal councils?

If not, why not?

There were a total of 30 responses to this question, of which 26 broadly agreed that the draft guidance makes clear what is expected of principal councils, including all principal councils who replied to the consultation. In its response the WLGA stated:-

'...approach to co-production is welcome and has meant the guidance note has been broadly endorsed by local government'

although they also added:-

'...there were and remain some features which were not universally supported by local government, for example, the statutory requirement for a panel assessment and some detail of prescription in some areas'.

Some key themes in response to this question were:-

- The approach to co-development of the guidance was welcomed explicitly in a number of responses.
- The emphasis on self-improvement was appreciated.
- There was support for the flexibility in the guidance for local discretion: *'it clearly lays out the context of the requirements on principal councils but leaves flexibility to adopt the most appropriate process that suits each local authority and their specific circumstances' (principal council).*
- It was felt a clear overview was provided of expected roles and responsibilities.
- The links made with other legislation was found to be helpful.
- A recognition that councils are working in this way already and the guidance will support the continuing development of the approach.
- The guidance was felt to be well structured around the main duties in the Act.
- Some respondents specifically welcomed the move away from an approach based on targets, and the repeal of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Some respondents agreed that the guidance was broadly clear but made some specific points:-

- Long term funding pressures were highlighted as a potential barrier to councils 'exceeding expectations' as referred to in para 1.10 of the draft guidance, and one principal council suggested the new guidance could provide *'greater flexibility and encouragement in their approach to thinking about their performance, how they challenge themselves and how they innovate without set prescription, which currently may limit them'*.
- The need for the emphasis to be on outcomes and driving improvement.
- The guidance could be shorter and less discursive.
- There could be value in further explaining the links between the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and one respondent questioned references to Socio-economic Duty over other legislation.

Of the four respondents who explicitly disagreed that the draft guidance makes clear what is expected of principal councils as set out in the provisions of Part 6, the following key points were raised:-

- There was a request that the guidance is 'amplified and expanded' in relation to a right to adequate housing.
- There should be more explanation of what is meant by the terms 'economically, efficiently and effectively' in the performance requirements, and more clarity is required on what is meant by 'functions'.
- More explanation is needed of what is best practice and how it can be shared, and how Welsh Government, auditors and regulators work together.

Question 2 - Does Chapter 2 of the guidance set out the performance requirements and the duty to keep performance under review sufficiently clearly?

If not, what would you add or change?

There were a total of 28 responses to this question, of which 25 broadly agreed that Chapter 2 of the guidance sets out the performance requirements and the duty to keep performance under review sufficiently clearly. The response from the WLGA noted:

'The WLGA welcomes the promotion of self-improvement and recognition that councils are best placed to assess their own strengths and areas for improvement.'

Some key points raised were:-

- Expectations are clear and this chapter provides a useful overview of the requirements.
- Flexibility to align the duty to keep performance under review with local corporate governance arrangements was welcomed by a number of respondents, and it was suggested could assist with integrated reporting.
- Focus on outcomes rather than processes or outputs is welcome.
- One principal council noted that it *'removes previous duplication between the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Local Government Measure 2009'*.
- Emphasis on self-improvement appreciated.
- A number of principal councils noted they already work to a similar framework and welcome the opportunity to continue with developing this approach, for example: *'We have been developing our monitoring arrangements and review processes in recent years and the guidance is consistent with the Council's evolving approach'*.
- The duty to consult is clear and the ability to incorporate in a wider approach to engagement is welcomed rather than requiring a standalone consultation.
- Opportunity to integrate reporting duties explicitly welcomed by some, although one principal council questioned whether the report may be weakened by trying to meet multiple requirements.
- Identifying sources of evidence to inform the self-assessment that a council may already have available is helpful.

Some suggestions were also made in relation to this chapter:-

- Community and town councils should have a role in the self-assessment of principal councils.
- There may be differing interpretations of phrases such as *'exercising its functions effectively'*.
- Support for initial implementation of the new approach would be helpful.
- An increased emphasis on consultation, participation and engagement as sources to inform the self-assessment would be welcomed, and a suggestion was made that principal councils should also demonstrate how feedback shaped strategy and policy development.
- There could be greater emphasis on looking at how the council is maximising its resources through joint working.

- Permissive approach could make comparing performance between councils more difficult.
- Important that the expectation in para 1.10 referring to exceeding expectations is considered in the context of challenges relating to austerity and the impact of Covid-19.
- Support to streamline approach to meeting a range of legal duties would be helpful.

There were also some calls for clarity on points in this chapter:-

- Clarity regarding timing of making and publishing the self-assessment report, and the challenge of aligning with other existing reports.
- Clarity needed on consultation requirements and whether the draft self-assessment needs to be published for consultation.

Of those who did not explicitly agree that Chapter 2 of the guidance sets out the performance requirements and the duty to keep performance under review sufficiently clearly, the following issues were raised:-

- The relationship between the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and economy, efficiency and effectiveness could be set out more clearly.
- The chapter should emphasise that councils should pursue and place greater weight on reliable evidence such as statistically representative surveys.
- The guidance should allow for the duty to consult on performance to be based on a more flexible approach to consultation and engagement, at the discretion of councils.
- Important that all scrutiny committees are involved in the process, not only the governance and audit committees.

Question 3 - Does Chapter 2 of the guidance explain how a council could meet the requirement to undertake self-assessment in order to fulfil its duties?

If not, what would you add or change?

There were 28 responses to this question, of which 17 broadly agreed that Chapter 2 of the guidance explains how a council could meet the requirement to undertake self-assessment in order to fulfil its duties.

Some key points made in support of how Chapter 2 explains how a council could meet the requirement to undertake self-assessment were:-

- Useful examples provided of sources that can be used to inform a self-assessment.
- Self-assessment is already embedded in councils' approach.
- Flexibility for councils to determine their own approaches to self-assessment was welcomed.
- The suggestion of framing self-assessment around the seven corporate areas for change in the Well-being of Future Generations Act was welcomed.
- Key principles outlined for self-assessment are helpful and could be strengthened by emphasising the cultures and behaviours that support effective self-assessment.
- Approach taken in the guidance on the requirement to produce a self-assessment report is helpful.

Some suggestions were also made in relation to this Chapter:-

- More explanation could be given on what would be a reasonable timescale to publish the self-assessment after the end of the financial year to which it relates.
- Should be careful that requirements do not overlap with the powers of the Auditor General for Wales.
- Continued guidance, support and advice on the detail will be needed during implementation, including advice on best practice.
- Using the CIPFA Framework for self-assessment may be a good approach.
- Chapter could expand on the importance of partnership working, collaboration and integration as key performance expectations.
- Clarity on how the self-assessment should fit with other annual reports required by legislation and other performance frameworks would be helpful.
- Could be helpful to give increased prominence to the value of internal self-evaluations at a service level to inform corporate level self-assessment, as well as to support self-improvement at all levels.
- Reference to seeking the views of children to inform the self-assessment.
- More definitive guidance on the content of self-assessment may be helpful.

Some other points made were:-

- Involving stakeholders could lengthen the timescale for delivering the assessment.
- Consulting on how the council has met the performance requirements could be challenging and will require thought.

- Consultation on the performance requirements is positioned as an event and should use the language of involvement as in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Each principal council developing its own approach to self-assessment was questioned by one respondent as this would not enable comparison between councils.
- A risk that self-assessment will duplicate content and judgements already found within other reports and documents.
- The list of sources to inform self-assessment emphasises that councils are already subject to a number of reporting duties and this potentially brings an additional layer.
- The guidance isn't clear on who the audience of the self-assessment is.
- The chapter could be more prescriptive to ensure rigour and quality.
- The guidance could be clearer in relation to the connection between self-assessment and audit, inspection and regulator reports.
- It could be helpful to provide clearer information on the range of evidence that could be sourced from the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.
- Important to note scrutiny and internal audit will be a key part of a council's self-assessment arrangements.

Question 4 - Does Chapter 3 of the guidance make the minimum requirements for principal councils to arrange and respond to a panel performance assessment clear, as well as provide sufficient flexibility for each council to determine its own approach?

If not, what would you add or change?

A total of 29 responses specifically replied to this question. Of these the majority broadly agreed that the draft guidance was clear about the minimum requirements for principal councils to arrange and respond to a panel performance assessment. The WLGA noted that it did not support the introduction of statutory panel assessments, but added:

'One the WLGA's concerns was that making the process statutory would affect the dynamics of what is, in essence, a peer process which could lead to a quasi-regulatory approach. The WLGA therefore welcomes paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10 which stress that the panel performance assessment is not an audit or about holding the authority to account, but rather about supporting councils and to provide external peer perspective on how the council is operating and any areas where it may need to focus particular attention.'

The following themes were raised in support of the approach taken in the guidance and the concept of panel performance assessment more generally:-

- Peer challenge is welcome, should help councils develop further and share lessons across Wales. For example, one principal council stated: *'We feel that it could have a positive effect on principal council's internal performance mechanisms more generally, because of the very transparent nature of the assessment and the desire to ensure that any significant performance issues are identified and resolved promptly'*.
- A number of respondents welcomed the flexibility afforded by the guidance for councils to develop their own approach. However, some respondents felt some aspects of the guidance, such as that relating to panel membership, were too prescriptive, while conversely another noted that there could perhaps be less room for difference to ensure consistency and quality.
- The guidance helpfully acknowledges the combination and timing of other reviews such as those undertaken by external audit and Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.
- The guidance emphasises the supportive nature of the approach.

There were also a number of suggestions and questions about how panel performance assessments would work in practice:-

- It was suggested a draft scope or terms of reference for panel performance assessment would be beneficial.
- A number of principal councils referred to the number of panel assessments to be conducted in a 5 year electoral cycle, and the potential call on serving senior officer and elected members to be panel members, and suggested that there be some national co-ordination in respect of timing and supply of panel members.
- Call for training and accreditation of panel members.

- In terms of panel membership, it was noted that costs could be mitigated through reciprocal arrangements, and panels should be diverse and multi-skilled. One respondent suggested specific mention of front-line representation for panels would be more forward thinking.
- Unison suggested trade unions should play a role on the panel. One Voice Wales and two town and community councils suggested community and town councils should be represented on the panel, and as a minimum consulted by panels.
- The two week window for a panel assessment in the draft guidance was considered short by three respondents.
- Highlighting effective behaviours of peer reviews in other contexts might be helpful.
- Estyn noted that it would be helpful if councils were required to notify inspectorates, auditors and regulators of the dates chosen for its panel assessment at least 6 months in advance, to enable this to be taken into account when scheduling inspections of local government education services.
- Estyn also suggested it would be helpful for the panel to seek the views of auditors, inspectors and regulators, as well as ombudsmen and commissioners where relevant.
- One principal council felt Welsh Government would need to have good oversight to ensure the guidance is being applied systematically.
- Cardiff Council, and the chairs of its scrutiny committees, called for a more equitable and consistent approach to the involvement of scrutiny committees in panel performance assessment.
- The Auditor General for Wales commented that the draft does not provide guidance to panels or councils as to how they should ensure the quality of panel assessments.
- The WLGA and LGA believe that the offer of a coordinated approach to panel assessments would allow the sharing of methodologies, resources, peers and minimise the logistical requirements of commissioning and organising each panel assessment.
- A number of councils and the WLGA felt that the guidance was too prescriptive in terms of panel membership.
- It was suggested that a maximum period allowable between assessments should be set out, rather than indicating a 9 year gap would not be encouraged.

Question 5 - Chapter 4 outlines the Auditor General for Wales' powers to carry out a special inspection, and the duties of principal councils and Welsh Ministers to respond to any recommendations. Chapter 5 describes the powers and duties for both Welsh Ministers and councils in relation to supporting and assisting with improving performance; and powers for intervention by Welsh Ministers.

Do Chapters 4 and 5 sufficiently describe and explain these powers?

If not, what would you add or change?

A total of 26 respondents replied to this question. Of these, 21 agreed that chapters 4 and 5 sufficiently explain the powers and duties of the Auditor General for Wales, principal councils and Welsh Ministers in relation to special inspections; and Welsh Ministers and principal councils in relation to support and intervention.

Of those who agreed that Chapters 4 and 5 sufficiently describe and explain these powers, 14 were principal councils. Many respondents noted that the powers and duties described reflected existing powers, and the guidance chapters reflected what they would have expected to see.

While agreeing that the guidance was sufficiently clear, some felt further clarity may be useful, such as:-

- Specific examples of when a special inspection or intervention would be likely to be required.
- The amount of notice a council may expect to receive of a special inspection.

Other comments related to the impact of councils supporting other councils if directed by Welsh Ministers.

Of those who did not explicitly agree that Chapters 4 and 5 sufficiently describe and explain these powers and duties, one response questioned the powers themselves but noted the interrelationship between Audit Wales and Welsh Government would be important to support constructive work with councils.

Other respondents asked for points of clarity such as:-

- The time available to respond to a special inspection report.
- Whether Welsh Ministers would act on the recommendations of a special inspection report.
- How the Auditor General for Wales or Welsh Government would determine that a special inspection was warranted.

There was a call for involvement of scrutiny committees in responding to special inspection reports.

Question 6 - We would like to know your views on the effects that the guidance would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

There were a total of 21 responses to this question, of which 16 were from principal councils and the WLGA.

Key points raised were:-

- The guidance will not directly impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language as in implementing the guidance councils will adhere to their current duties in relation to the Welsh language.
- The opportunity afforded by the guidance to continue to promote the use of the Welsh language was welcomed.
- It was felt the guidance should reference relevant language legislation.
- The guidance should encourage principal councils to involve people from all backgrounds and languages to participate in the process.
- Suggestion that the panels undertaking panel performance assessment could include a Welsh speaker or learner.
- A council's performance in relation to the Welsh language should be a feature of their self-assessment and a panel performance assessment.

Question 7 - Please also explain how you believe the guidance could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and ensure there are no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.

There were a total of 13 responses to this question, of which the majority were from principal councils.

Key points raised were:-

- The guidance could have a greater reference to the Welsh language and the requirements of the Welsh Language Measure, as well as the Well-being Goal of 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language'.
- The guidance should be made available in all formats in Welsh and English.
- It should be a requirement for all documents used in the process to be available in Welsh and English.
- Best practice material for engagement and consultation would be helpful in ensuring the Welsh language is considered from the outset.
- The guidance makes the connection with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which includes reference to the Welsh language.
- Welsh speakers could be asked for their view about the Welsh language provision of the council and how it is meeting its targets in relation to promoting the Welsh language.
- Guidance could recommend panels undertaking panel performance assessment reflect the linguistic profile of the communities served by the council being assessed.

Question 8 - We have asked a number of specific questions on the draft guidance. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Question 8 provided an opportunity to raise any related issues which were not specifically addressed by other questions.

There were 21 responses to this question (including 3 taken from covering letters) which covered a range of issues that respondents wished to raise or reiterate their position on.

Some broader points raised about the new performance and governance regime in response to this question were:-

- The challenge of finding the resources necessary to fully implement the regime given austerity, and issues such as responding to Covid-19 and the UK's departure from the Single Market and Customs Union.
- That guidance should be a practical resource for councils and ensure that requirements are explained clearly to enable implementation.
- One respondent expressed that the format and tone of the guidance should be less discursive and academic and more procedural and practical.
- Maximum flexibility for councils on interpretation and implementation of the requirements should be clear within the guidance.
- Concern that the range of activity and member time required for the new regime would be time consuming to organise.
- The guidance could perhaps be strengthened to focus on improving outcomes rather than just performance requirements.
- Concern about how the consultation to inform the self-assessment will work in practice.
- View that there should be a procedure for complaints.
- Welsh Government need to have good oversight of how this is implemented in principal councils to ensure the guidance is applied systematically across Wales.
- Repetition in the guidance about how principal councils should meet their duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- References to other regulatory environments and organisations in the guidance does not add value.
- Guidance appears to back up the intent of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to strengthen and empower local government.
- Guidance aims to place more responsibility on principal councils to find their own path to delivering service improvement, something that is welcomed.
- One respondent expressed the hope the developing approach contributes to a more mature relationship between national and local government.
- The guidance does indicate that scrutiny should be involved in the process but does not provide a similar level of influence as that of governance and audit committees.
- References to Audit Wales and the Auditor General for Wales should be amended to better reflect its role and responsibilities within the performance and governance regime.

- The definition of improvement in paragraph 1.9 of the draft guidance was noted as introducing a sense of clarity and consistency on what improvement means in driving better outcomes for people.
- Specific reference could be made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and evidence available to councils as part of his work.
- One council noted: *'The development of the statutory guidance in conjunction with WLGA, Local Authorities and Welsh Government has been a useful process. The Council would be supportive of the WLGA continuing to provide support [to] Local Authorities in improvement activities generally and specifically in the process of 'operationalising' arrangements to reduce the potential for duplication and to continue to encourage the sharing of skills, experience and transferrable practice'*.

Some specific points were made in relation to membership of panels undertaking panel performance assessments:-

- A concern that panels will be made up of 'the usual "great and good"' and there should be more emphasis on local people being on the panel.
- The panels should be diverse and representative of the communities of the principal council they are assessing.
- Clarity on what 'recent' means in relation to the requirement in paragraph 3.24 that *'no-one who is, or has recently been, a member or officer of an authority to be assessed should be considered for appointment to the panel'*.

One respondent also noted that it would be interesting to understand how this might apply to Corporate Joint Committees.

4. Next steps

The Welsh Government values all the responses received to the consultation. Whilst this report will not be providing a response to each of the issues raised, the responses have been carefully considered and taken into account when considering both the final version of the statutory guidance and the support for implementation moving forward.

It is noted that there is broad support for the guidance as drafted, and the approach to co-development was seen as valuable and constructive. There were some points raised where changes could be made to the guidance to respond to suggestions to clarify or strengthen specific aspects, and these will be undertaken for the final guidance. For example: clarifying references to more accurately reflect the role of audit; ensuring references to outcomes are clear; and clarifying points in relation to the timing of making and publishing reports.

There were a number of areas where the flexibility in the draft guidance would already enable a council to do something that was suggested in the responses to the consultation. For example, additional sectors to be involved as members of the panel, and the importance of considering partnership working in the self-assessment.

Our approach has been not to over-complicate the guidance by referring to everything that *may* be done, as it could give the impression that anything that is not listed is not permissible within the boundaries of the duties. This more permissive and less prescriptive approach was welcomed by a number of respondents, and reflects an approach agreed with local government partners at the outset of the co-development of the guidance. We suggest that these areas can be explored further during implementation once the duties are commenced.

There were also some points raised that we are unable to respond to through the guidance. The guidance is intended to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and it cannot include any duties that were not included in the primary legislation.

For example, two respondents called for the scrutiny function of principal councils to be given equal parity to governance and audit committees within the statutory guidance. As the draft guidance set out, scrutiny arrangements will be a key part of self-assessment and it will be for a council to determine and agree how best to involve their scrutiny committees. However the statutory role of governance and audit committees in the process is set out in the Act, and is therefore described in the guidance. The guidance cannot prescribe the same role for scrutiny committees as this is not included in the Act.

There were some respondents who called for specific representation on the panel undertaking panel performance assessment. The guidance sets out minimum expectations in relation to membership of a panel, including a serving local government senior officer, a serving elected member, and a peer from the wider public, private or voluntary sectors. A council may *choose* to appoint other additional members of the panel as they see fit, and a panel can involve or consult others when undertaking their assessment, but the guidance cannot prescribe this. The provisions in the Act give the Welsh Ministers powers to make regulations in relation

to the appointment of panel members, but the intention is to cover this through guidance initially.

A number of points raised related to continued support for, and detail around implementation of, self-assessment, including: sharing best practice and effective approaches; identifying effective culture and behaviours for self-assessment; effective methods for consultation and engagement; effective use of evidence; and ensuring quality of self-assessments. A number of responses also called for support and co-ordination for panel performance assessments.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government has agreed to providing funding for a sector-led improvement and support programme, hosted and led by the WLGA, to support the legislative reforms within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The Improvement and Support Programme outlines an ambition by both the WLGA and the Welsh Government to ensure sector led capacity is in place to support local government to improve services and to support those councils who may need more bespoke support. Through this programme the intention is to provide co-ordinated support for self-assessment, as well as providing co-ordination for a peer network to support panel performance assessments. We will continue to work closely with the WLGA and local government to develop this approach.

Some respondents highlighted concerns with implementing a new regime when local government continue to face challenges in relation to austerity and the impact of Covid-19. We acknowledge these challenges and that the pace of change within local government has accelerated significantly in response. The new performance and governance regime puts in place a flexible and responsive approach to support a principal council, through an ongoing process of review, to reflect on and respond to challenges as they arise. The new regime can be built into existing governance approaches within each principal council to enable an honest and open reflection on performance, to support innovation in driving service delivery, and to respond to emerging challenges.

Welsh Government is committed to continuing to work with WLGA, principal councils and partners following this consultation process and publication of the final statutory guidance to ensure the successful implementation of the new performance and governance regime.

The final statutory guidance will be published in March 2021 but the powers and duties in Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Act, to which the guidance relates, will only apply to principal councils from 1 April 2021 (with the exception of the duties in respect of panel performance assessments which will come into force following the next ordinary local government elections in May 2022). Principal councils will be required to have regard to the guidance once the relevant functions come into force.

Annex A – List of respondents to the consultation

Principal councils

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cardiff Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Ceredigion County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Monmouthshire County Council
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Newport City Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Powys County Council
Swansea Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

Government agency / other public sector body

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

Community and Town Councils

Barry Town Council
Henllys Community Council

Audit/Inspection/Regulator

Auditor General for Wales
Care Inspectorate Wales
Estyn

Representative bodies, Professional bodies or Associations

Local Government Association
One Voice Wales
Welsh Local Government Association

Third Sector

'Back the Bill' Campaign, namely Tai Pawb, CIH Cymru, Shelter Cymru

Trade Union

UNISON Cymru Wales

Members of Public

Four Submissions

Other

The Scrutiny Chairs of Cardiff Council

Anonymous

One submission