

NORTH POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

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12th September 2009

The WAG Consultation on Local Councils
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
Wales

Dear Sir

Consultation - future of Local Councils

Thank you for your letter regarding the above seeking to complete a consultation with Town and Community Councils.

I confirm that my Council has considered the proposals and has the following comments to make:

- A) The power of Well Being is in place within Wales for County Councils and County Borough Councils. The recommendation is that this power should apply to Town and Community Councils as well. **THE FORUM SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL**

- B) The Welsh Assembly recognises that in the future some Town and Community Councils may well be taking on more responsibility. To aid funding the recommendation is that the WAG is given the power to give direct grants to Town and Community Councils in the same way as for County Councils at present. **THE FORUM IS IN SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL**

- C) The paper seeks to make more formal working relationships between County and Town or Community Councils. The recommendation is that the charters that exist between the two authorities should be formalised. **THE FORUM SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL**

- D) The Welsh Assembly recommends that the Quality Council awards to English Councils be extended to Welsh Town and Community Councils. **THE FORUM SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL**

Cont..

- E) The Welsh Assembly recommends that the election rules be changed so that if co-option is used applications must be sought by extensive advertising. **THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL** HOWEVER the smaller Councils are concerned about the cost of elections (a large part of a small Councils budget) and suggest that if this proposal is put into place that the WAG should pay for Community Council elections.
- F) The paper seeks to create greater accountability with regard to all local authorities in the form of open information.
THE FORUM SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL
- G) The proposal is that the Welsh Assembly be the authority who sets the salaries, pensions and allowances for County Councillors.
THE FORUM SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL
- H) The paper is recommending that Town and Community Councils should be encouraged to 'look after its Councillors better' and to aid the seeking of more candidates for local elections.
THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL

The Council also wishes to make three further points:

- 1) The time in which to respond (ie mid August to mid September) creates a lack of time to respond, particularly as the paper was issued in the holiday period. It is suggested that an extended period be given so that more community and town councils could respond.
- 2) In any proposals the views of the Town and Community Councils should be a 'material consideration' and not on the same level as normal consultees for their areas.

No doubt you will take the above views into account when finalising your proposals.

Yours faithfully


Robert A Robinson FRICS
Secretary