

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

John Griffiths, AM
Chair
Equality, Local Government and
Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 December 2019

Dear John,

Proposals to amend provisions in primary legislation which provide for changes to executive governance arrangements in principal councils

I am writing to inform you that I have launched a consultation which proposes amendments to provisions in the *Local Government Act 2000* and the *Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011* which enable changes to the executive governance arrangements of principal councils.

The consultation proposes that petitions for referendums to change executive governance arrangements should be presented no later than eighteen months before the date of the next ordinary election. This would provide sufficient time for any referendum to take place and enable any mayoral elections to be held at the same time as the next set of ordinary elections. Changing these timescales will limit the disruptive impact of repeated changes of executive arrangements within a relatively short period. Therefore this deadline would also apply to other ways of triggering of a referendum such as an order or direction by the Welsh Ministers or a resolution of the principal council.

The consultation also proposes that, where the executive arrangements of a principal council have been changed, no further changes can be made to them until after the completion of two complete electoral cycles.

It is my intention to bring forward these provisions by means of Stage 2 amendments to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

I am also seeking opinions on updating some of the regulations around petitions such as allowing for e-petitions, online notifications for petitions and whether the threshold required for signatures to a mayoral petition triggering a referendum should be amended.

The consultation, which runs until 27 February 2020, describes in more detail what we are proposing to do and sets out our reasons.

This is the first step of a two phase consultation. I intend to consult on proposed amendments to secondary legislation taking into consideration responses to this consultation.

The consultation document is provided to support the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill.

I look forward to assisting the Committee further with its scrutiny of the Bill.



Julie James AC/AM

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.