Annex C: Consultation Questions

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| Your Name |  |
| Organisation (if applicable) |  |
| E-mail / Telephone |  |
| Your Address |  |

You can find out how we will use the information you provide by reading the privacy notice in the [consultation document](https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-03/180320-strengthening-local-government-consultation.pdf).

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| **Chapter 3** |
| Consultation Question 1In Chapter 2, we restated our commitment to regional working in key areas but recognised the need for this to be supported by further change. In chapter 3, we set out the broad options for moving toward fewer, larger local authorities and summarise features of the process which would be common to each option.  |
| 1. What practical steps could the Welsh Government take to make current regional working easier and more effective, for example in relation to education consortia, social services and the City Regions and City and Growth Deals?
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| 1. What are your views on the common elements to the process of mergers we outline in this section?
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| 1. What are your views on the options for creating fewer, larger authorities which we have set out?
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| 1. Are there other options for creating fewer, larger authorities we should consider?
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| 1. Do you have evidence on costs, benefits and savings of each option which can inform decision-making? If so, please provide details.
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|  **Chapter 4** |
| Consultation Question 2Chapter 4 has explained the need for clarity on the future footprint for local government and the range of factors which should be taken into account to determine a new configuration. It sets out a suggested future footprint for local government, which could be reached via each of the options set out in the previous chapter. |
| Do you agree that providing clarity on the future footprint of local government is important? |
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| 1. Do you agree with the factors we have identified to inform our thinking? Would you change or add any?
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| What are your views on the new areas suggested in this section? |
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| Do you have alternative suggestions and, if so, what is the evidence to support these as an alternative? |
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| 1. In the context of these proposals, are there other ways we should simplify and streamline joint working arrangements at regional level and among public bodies within the new authority areas? If so, what are they?
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| **Chapter 5** |
| Consultation Question 3Chapter 5 sets out the proposed approach to transition and implications for establishing Transition Committees and elections to Shadow Authorities under each option. |
| 1. Do you agree with the proposed process of transition: namely establishing Transition Committees and ensuring elections to Shadow Authorities can be held ahead of vesting day for the new authorities?
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| 1. Do you agree that, if option 1 were pursued, we should set a date by which voluntary merger proposals should come forward in each electoral cycle?
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| 1. Do you have any other thoughts on the proposed process?
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| Consultation Question 4The consultation suggests holding any local government elections in June 2021. Are there any reasons why June 2021 would not be a suitable date? If so, please suggest an alternative date with the reasons why that would be more suitable. |
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| Consultation Question 5The Welsh Government recognises that there are some plans or assessments, for example the preparation of assessments of wellbeing by Public Service Boards, which are linked to electoral cycles. We will make provision to make sure these tie into any new electoral cycles going forward. Are there any other plans or matters which might be tied into the electoral cycle which we need to consider? |
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| Consultation Question 6What are your views on the approach which should be taken to determining the parameters of electoral reviews? |
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| **Chapter 6** |
| Consultation Question 7 |
| 1. How can councils make more effective use of their elected members knowledge of, and connections in, their communities?
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| 1. How could we better recognise the level of responsibility involved in being a local councillor? What changes to the remuneration and support councillors receive would enable a wider range of people to become involved in local democratic representation?
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| Consultation Question 8 |
| 1. Are there other powers which local government should have? If so, what are they?
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| 1. Are there other freedoms or flexibilities which local government should have? If so, what are they?
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| Consultation Question 9 |
| 1. Which areas offer the greatest scope for shared transactional services?
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| 1. How might such arrangements be best developed?
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| Consultation Question 10  |
| 1. In ensuring we deliver a consistent approach across Wales, where consistency is important, how do you think the advice and support on each of these matters could be best provided?
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| 1. Are there any other challenges or opportunities from structural change or providing additional powers and flexibilities that have not been identified above? If these areas require support, what form should this support take?
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| 1. Which of the issues identified above or in your response should be prioritised for early resolution?
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| Consultation Question 11.We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals within this consultation 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.  |
| 1. What effects do you think there would be?
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| 1. How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?
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| Consultation Question 12Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy within this consultation could be formulated or changed (if required) 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 no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. |
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| Consultation Question 13The Children’s Rights Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government’s view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on children and young people. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.  |
| 1. Are there any positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?
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| 1. Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive effects or reduce any possible adverse effects?
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| Consultation Question 14The Equalities Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation outlines the Welsh Government’s view of the effect of the proposals contained in the consultation on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010. The Welsh Government seeks views on that assessment.  |
| 1. Are there any other positive or adverse effects not identified in the assessment?
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| 1. Could the proposals be reformulated so as to increase the positive or reduce any possible adverse effects?
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| Consultation Question 15Please provide any other comments you wish to make on the content of this consultation. |
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