

North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION – WHITE PAPER – FEBRUARY 2017

TOP TIER

The Welsh Government is to remain in place either as it is now or with more assembly members.

There are more powers being passed down to the Welsh Government from Parliament.

REGIONAL WORKING

The current proposal gives the following plan for certain services currently administered by the 22 County Councils in various ways.

No	Service	Proposals
1	Economic Development	Regions based upon North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the Growing Mid Wales Board.
2	Transport	Regions based upon North Wales and Mid Wales.
3	Strategic Planning	Sub Regional Joint Planning Boards.
4	Building Control	Developed on a Regional basis with no regions identified.
5	Social Services	Local Health Board in partnership with Local Authorities.
6	Education Improvement	To be delivered on a Regional basis but such regions not yet identified.
7	Additional Learning Needs	To be delivered on a Multi Agency basis alongside a Regional basis but such regions not yet identified.
8	Environment Heath, Trading Standards and Licensing	The white paper suggests that this would be better done on a regional basis but with no regions identified.
9	Housing	To be delivered on a Regional basis but such regions not yet identified.
10	Recycling and waste	Joint working between local authorities.
11	Youth, Safety and Justice	Suggestion that this might be devolved to regions of some sort.

COUNTY COUNCILS

The 22 County Councils remain in place but with less autonomy due to the regional working outline given above. There is no proposal to reduce the number of Councillors.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

There is to be a substantial review of Town and Community Councils.

The White Paper states that the Boundary Commission will not progress any changes to the boundaries of Town and Community Councils until the review has been held.

The review will look at top performing Town and Community Councils to set the scene for the future. How they will be selected has not been set out.

However, Powys and Ceredigion Counties have served notice on their Local Councils invoking a review of their boundaries in advance of any statement by the Minister.

There are some suggestions of introducing 'a General Power of Competence' to Councils who will need to meet a set criteria.

There will be some funding available to facilitate clustering of Councils.

Part of the new rules will include a duty on Local Councils to assess training needs for Councillors and a duty on the Town Clerk to 'provide or arrange training for Councillors'. There is no obligation on Councillors to attend but it must be offered.

VOTING

The Welsh Government is considering a central electronic voters data base.

There is no information on how Regions would be elected, if they are to be so.

Each County Council will be able to choose which voting system they wish to operate – either:

First Past the Post

or

Single Transferable Vote

The existing system would stay in place until a decision is made by the County Council on which system to use.

The Town and Community Councils will retain First Past the Post but consideration will be given in the review to have a Single Transferable Voting system.

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February 2017

SCHEDULE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL	CURRENT	LEIGHTON ANDREWS PROPOSAL	INITIAL OUTLINE	CURRENT PROPOSALS
TOP TIER	WELSH GOVERNMENT	WELSH GOVERNMENT	WELSH GOVERNMENT	WELSH GOVERNMENT
REGIONAL TIER	NOT IN PLACE	NOT IN PLACE	8 REGIONS	INTER COUNTY CO-OPERATION THROUGH JOINT WORKING AND REGIONS
COUNTY TIER	22 COUNTY COUNCILS	8/9 COUNTY COUNCILS	22 COUNTY COUNCILS	22 COUNTY COUNCILS
HEALTH AUTHORITIES	8 AREA HEALTH AUTHORITIES	8 AREA HEALTH AUTHORITIES	8 AREA HEALTH AUTHORITIES	8 AREA HEALTH AUTHORITIES
TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL TIER	735 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS	100 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS	TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIEW	TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIEW