



Local Government Transformation and Partnerships Division
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4 October 2021

Dear colleague,

Consultation on the Corporate Joint Committees: draft statutory guidance

Thank you very much for the opportunity to take part in the above consultation. We would like to comment on one particular aspect of the draft guidance, that is, the clauses dealing with the Welsh language. We support the references to promoting the Welsh language, making the language part of workforce planning, providing services to members of the public in the language of their choice and complying with duties introduced under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. We welcome the expectation that the Corporate Joint Committees will contribute to increasing the use of Welsh internally and in the community. We also welcome the expectation that they will contribute to achieving the vision that the Government announced in its Welsh language strategy, Cymraeg 2050.

It is noted that the Welsh Language Commissioner may impose standards on the Corporate Joint Committees. We would like to draw attention to clause 47.8 of the draft guidance:

With the establishment of the CJCs as new corporate bodies we would expect the CJCs, from the outset, to embed the use of the Welsh language within the CJCs themselves and in relation to the Welsh language services they provide.

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We would like to emphasise the importance of embedding the use of the Welsh language in the Corporate Joint Committees from the outset, particularly during the period before the standards are set. It is critical that the Corporate Joint Committees act in accordance with the Cymraeg 2050 objectives immediately, taking the opportunity to act positively in the context of the Welsh language while waiting for the standards to be set.

The Commissioner's office responded to the consultation on the Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees on 4 January 2021. We noted then that there was an excellent opportunity to establish the practice of administering the Corporate Joint Committees through the medium of Welsh from the outset. This would follow the practice already in place among the councils and/or council departments operating exclusively or mainly through the medium of Welsh. This practice should be incorporated within the governance framework and administrative arrangements of the Corporate Joint Committees from the very beginning.

We noted in the same response that there is a need to ensure that the transition to work for a Corporate Joint Committee does not erode individuals' opportunities to work through the medium of Welsh. In addition, it must be ensured that Corporate Joint Committees have procedures in place that enable officers of constituent councils with whom they work to continue to work through the medium of Welsh in writing and orally without placing an additional burden on them.

We would like to know more about the process of establishing the Corporate Joint Committees and the proposed timetable, please, and we would be glad to have a meeting with Government officials to discuss this further. We are also keen to arrange meetings between the Commissioner's office and representatives of the Corporate Joint Committees to discuss the standards setting process. We would be grateful if you would respond to these requests, please, by contacting Rhodri Roberts, Senior Regulation Officer: Rhodri.Roberts@cyg-wlc.cymru.

Yours sincerely



Aled Roberts
Welsh Language Commissioner