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Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To: Leaders of Local Authorities in Wales

cc: Chief Executives / Welsh Local Government Association / One Voice Wales / Chairs of National Park authorities / Chairs of fire and rescue authorities / Chair Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales / Chair Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales / Auditor General for Wales

4 March 2021

Dear Leaders

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

Further to my update to Partnership Council I wanted to confirm that I have now made the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (Commencement No. 1 and Saving Provision) Order 2021.

Annex A to this letter sets out the provisions which will be brought into force by this commencement order.

I can also confirm that I have made the Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

These Regulations amend the Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 to increase adopter's absence entitlement for members of a local authority from 2 weeks to 26 weeks. The changes made by these Regulations will result in the same periods of maternity and adopter's absence being available to members of principal councils and provide for similar arrangements for adopter's absence as are already in place for maternity absence.

Yours sincerely

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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.

Annex A: Provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 brought into force by the first commencement Order

4 March 2021

- All regulation making powers within Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Act
- Duty on principal councils to have regard to guidance issued by the Welsh Minister in respect of the allocation of resources to the officers designated Head of Democratic Services (section 161(1))
- Content of, and duty to have regard to, guidance under section 38 of the Local Government Act 2000 (section 59)

1 April 2021

- Appointment by LDBCW of its chief executive (section 163)
- Directions under section 48 of the 2013 Act (section 164)

1 November 2021

- The general power of competence for principal councils.

1 April 2022

- Annual reports by community councils (section 52)

5 May 2022

Principal councils

- Public participation duty including duty to prepare a public participation strategy (sections 39 – 41)
- Duty to establish a petitions scheme (section 42)
- Duty to publish official addresses (section 43)
- Duty to have regard to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers under Chapter 2 of Part 3 (section 44)
- Duty to publish a constitution and constitution guide (section 45)
- Duty to make arrangements to enable the electronic broadcasting of meetings (section 46)
- Appointment of a chief executive (section 54)
- Reconsideration of remuneration following direction by the Welsh Ministers (section 56)
- Appointment of assistants to executive (section 57)
- Job sharing (section 58)
- Duty of political group leaders in relation to standards of conduct (section 62)
- Duty of standards committee to make annual report (section 63)
- Making information available to overview and scrutiny committees (section 65)
- Power to require authorities to appoint joint overview and scrutiny committees (section 66)
- Removal of the restriction on monitoring officers also being designated head of democratic services (section 161)
- Abolition of polls consequent on a community meeting (section 162)

Town and community councils

- General power of competence
- Participation at meetings of community councils (section 48)
- Duty of standards committee to make annual report (section 63)
- Duty on community councils to prepare a training plan (section 67)
- Abolition of polls consequent on a community meeting (section 162)

National Park authorities and Fire and Rescue authorities

- Duty of standards committee to make annual report (section 63)