FIN(3)-21-10 : Paper 5

Tŷ Caradog 1-6 Plas Sant Andreas Caerdydd CF10 3BE

E-bost: cflll.cymru@cymru.gsi.gov.uk www.cflll-cymru.gov.uk



☎ (029) 2039 5031 Ffacs/Fax (029) 2039 5250 Caradog House 1-6 St. Andrews Place Cardiff CF10 3BE

E-mail: lgbc.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk www.lgbc-wales.gov.uk

Ms Angela Burns AC/AM Chair, The Finance Committee Welsh Assembly Government Cardiff Bay CARDIFF CF99 1NA

11 November 2010

Dear Ms Burns

Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure

Thank you for your letter of 5 November concerning the requirement in the proposed Measure to enable this Commission to undertake community reviews on behalf of the principal authorities.

The reason for the wide range of our initial estimates is because there will be several factors influencing the amount of time and resources needed for a review. These factors can be summarised as follows:

- The number of community areas within the principal authority area (some principal authorities have every community containing a community council and many of these are warded for electoral purposes. Other principal authorities may have much fewer- there is one principal authority where only one community has a community council).
- The geographical area
- The electorate size
- The extent of the consultation required
- The number of community councillors
- Assumed staff time (the number of hours per review)
- Administrative costs etc.

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It is possible that we may need to introduce more sophisticated methods to account for staff time but this will be something that can only emerge at a later date when we have a better understanding of the number of requests that we may receive to undertake these reviews. I hope that this will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wood Chairman