

Legislation Committee No.4

LC4(3)-15-09 : Paper 1 : SG1 - Welsh Local Government Association : Additional Evidence

ADEW and WLGA Supplementary Evidence for Legislation Committee No. 4 National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence)(Education) Order 2010

Comments on the Legislative Competence Order

1. What are your views on the general principle that legislative competence in the areas identified in Matters 5.2A; 5.2B and 5.2C be conferred on the National Assembly.

There is broad agreement with this principle in that the transference of these to Wales will enable the dimension of a Welsh perspective of school governance to develop.

We understand that at present the legislative powers come from Westminster and it is unlikely that change would be preceded by consultation with governing bodies, Wales is however developing a process of consultation. Consultation in these areas is not statutory but we request the National Assembly considers and commits themselves to developing consultation and collaboration with governing bodies.

The LCO will assist in making the Governing Body into a more professional unit for managing schools.

The LCO in relation to school governance will link in with development of the School Effectiveness Framework.

It is difficult to comment in 5.2c regarding the establishment of 'bodies' when it is unclear as to the nature, remit and operation of the body.

2. What are your views on the terms of the proposed order? For example are they too narrowly or too broadly drawn?

Breadth gives the opportunity for developmental scope but this can only be successfully achieved within a consultative framework.

The Legislative Competence Orders to be inserted into Schedule 5 need greater clarification in how the National Assembly intends to utilise the powers which we would expect to see via any resulting Measures. The acquisition of these increase the ability to change the constitution of the governing bodies, training offered to governors, how Local Authorities support and interact with governing bodies and the development of how authorities work with further education institutions. In effect they offer an opportunity to change the way governing bodies operate.

There is a glimpse of how these competencies will effect the governing body of tomorrow but the detail of these will have to be discussed at the Measure stage and then a wider discussion on possible change emanating from the acquisition this legislation will be possible.

3. Other comments

It remains to be seen whether the transference of these Legislative Competencies will result in the implementation of the recommendations within the National Assembly for Wales, Enterprise Learning Committee, 'The Role of the School Governor'.

However, the 21 recommendations within the report could positively change the way in which governing bodies operate and the support they receive from the local authority. The transference of Legislative Competence Orders will be an integral part in achieving this.

Some examples of further development in Wales could be:

- Compulsory Induction Programme for all new Governors.
- Compulsory Training for all Chairs (starting with new Chairs),
- Compulsory Training for Clerks

the above designed nationally, coordinated regionally and delivered locally.

- Training module for Leading/Managing with your School Governors to be broadened.
- Training module also on PHIP & LPSH.
- Joint training (locally) with Heads & Chairs
- Consultation needed with LEA's and Governing Bodies if roles and functions are going to be charged as a result of the change in

legislation.