

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

### UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

#### Purpose

1. To inform the Committee of progress on the Local Government Bill in the UK Parliament and offer the opportunity for members to comment on the Bill's provisions.

#### Summary

2. The Local Government Bill received its first reading in the House of Commons on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2002. It includes many provisions requested by the Assembly Government and provides for extensive secondary powers for the Assembly. The Bill will have received its second reading on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2003 and will enter its committee stage shortly following that.

#### Background

3. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published the draft Local Government Bill in June 2002. The Committee discussed the draft Bill on July 10<sup>th</sup> and received a report (LGH-12-02(p.3)) outlining the Assembly Government's proposals for primary legislation for Wales.
4. The Minister wrote to the Committee Chair on 25<sup>th</sup> November (**at annex 1**) to inform her that the Bill had been introduced in the House of Commons on that day and this letter was circulated to members of the Committee. The letter reported on the outcome of negotiations with the UK Government on matters of importance to Wales.
5. The Bill includes provisions with regard to capital finance and accounts; financial

administration; grants; Business Improvement Districts; non-domestic rates; council tax; housing finance, and miscellaneous provisions.

## **Consideration**

6. Members may wish to comment or seek further information on the implications for local government of the Bill.
7. The parliamentary committee consideration of the Bill is timetabled to begin in week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> January and last for three weeks.
8. Any significant developments during Committee stage which are relevant to Wales will be drawn to this Committee's attention.

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