



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Y Pwyllgor ar y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch
Llywodraeth Leol
The Proposed Local Government Measure
Committee**

**Cyfnod 1
Stage 1**

**Dydd Mawrth, 14 Hydref 2008
Tuesday, 14 October 2008**

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The Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure

Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Janice Gregory	Llafur (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Labour (Committee Chair)
David Lloyd	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
Nick Ramsay	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Jenny Randerson	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Joyce Watson	Llafur Labour

Swyddogion Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad yn bresennol
Assembly Parliamentary Service officials in attendance

Joanest Jackson	Cynghorydd Cyfreithiol y Pwyllgor Legal Adviser to the Committee
Liz Wilkinson	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Gareth Williams	Clerc Clerk

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 10 a.m.
The meeting began at 10 a.m.

Ethol Cadeirydd
Election of the Chair

[1] **Mr Williams:** Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the first meeting of the Proposed Local Government Measure Committee. The first item on the agenda is the election of the Chair. Therefore, under Standing Order No. 10.18, I call for nominations for Chair.

[2] **Joyce Watson:** I nominate Janice Gregory.

[3] **Mr Williams:** Are there any other nominations? I see that there are none. I therefore declare that Janice Gregory has been duly elected Chair of the committee.

[4] **Janice Gregory:** Thank you for your nomination, Joyce, and thank you all.

Penodwyd Janice Gregory yn Gadeirydd.
Janice Gregory was appointed Chair.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[5] **Janice Gregory:** Good morning to everyone. I will start with the usual issues that we need to go through at the start of any Assembly meeting. If anyone has a BlackBerry, pager, mobile phone or any other item of electronic equipment, please switch it off now. We are not expecting a fire drill and, therefore, should the fire alarm sound, Members should leave by the nearest exit, which is to our left, and follow the instructions of the ushers. As we know, the National Assembly for Wales operates through the media of both the Welsh and English languages, and headphones are provided for simultaneous translation, if required, on channel

1 and for the amplification of the sound on channel 0.

10.01 a.m.

**Y Mesur Arfaethedig ynghylch Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru)
The Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure**

[6] **Janice Gregory:** Thank you for electing me to chair the committee that will scrutinise the Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure. I think that it is an exciting Measure, which will form a way forward for local government, and I am looking forward to working with you all.

[7] We know, of course, that the purpose of today's meeting is to formally agree the committee's approach to the scrutiny of the Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure. By way of background, I remind Members that the Measure was laid before the Assembly by Dr Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, on 22 September 2008. The role of this committee is to consider and report on the general principles of the proposed Measure. We must conclude our work and report to the Assembly no later than 23 January 2009, in line with the deadline set by the Business Committee.

[8] Before this meeting, we had some informal discussions on our approach to the scrutiny of this proposed Measure. I suggest, as a framework for the committee's work, that we consider: first, the need for a proposed Measure to deliver its purposes of reforming the statutory basis of service improvement by local authorities and reforming community planning and strategies; secondly, whether the proposed Measure achieves its purposes; thirdly, the key provisions set out in the proposed Measure and whether they are appropriate to deliver its purposes; fourthly, the potential barriers to the implementation of the key provisions; and, fifthly, the views of stakeholders who will have to work with the new arrangements, if the Measure is passed. Are Members content with that approach? I see that you are. Thank you.

[9] Are you also content for us to issue a general call for evidence, to invite written submissions from organisations and individuals, and then to invite key stakeholders to give oral evidence over the coming weeks? I see that you are. Thank you all very much indeed.

[10] As I said, I am looking forward to working with you all on this proposed Measure and I am certainly looking forward to reading the written evidence that comes in. We want to invite as many people as possible to contribute evidence on this proposed Measure, and I am also looking forward to hearing the oral evidence. I should mention at this point in time that my husband is a local authority councillor for Bridgend County Borough Council and is also the chair of that authority's planning committee.

[11] Thank you very much for your attendance this morning. The next meeting will take place on 4 November, when the committee will conduct its first oral evidence-taking session with the Minister, Dr Brian Gibbons AM. Thank you very much. I now declare the meeting closed.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 10.04 a.m.
The meeting ended at 10.04 a.m.*