

LG 26

Bil Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru)

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan: Grŵp y Ceidwadwyr, Cyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Response from Conservative Group on the City & County of Swansea Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Conservative Group on the City & County of Swansea Council, to give a summary of our response to the proposals in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

We broadly agree with the following:

- Creating 5 year cycles for local authority elections.
- Disqualification to the right to vote being extended to those who have committed crimes covered by the Sexual Offences Act.

We strongly disagree with the following:

- Extending the right to vote to prisoners.
- Extending the vote to those who are not UK citizens.
- Allowing each Council to decide on the voting system they use - FPTP/STV.
- Allowing Council Officers to stand in elections.

We agree in principle with the following, however cannot express full support due to existing concerns which have not been satisfied:

- Broadcasting Committees - We fully agree with extending broadcast of Council meetings, to include committees, but are concerned about the cost implications.
- Collaborative Working - This may bring some advantages, however there are concerns about new levels of bureaucracy being created and the impact it will have on the delivery of services in Swansea.
- 'Opt-Out' voter registration - while we encourage measures to increase voter participation at elections, there are concerns over where the data will come from and how this will be implemented.
- Community Council Reports - While we agree with greater scrutiny of community councils, there are concerns that this may lead on to further mandate them to deliver services which should be delivered by County Councils. Therefore creating a double taxation on residents.

We look forward to the outcome of this consultation in due course.

Kind regards,

Myles

Cllr Myles Langstone

Oystermouth Ward