



To: Returning Officers
One Voice Wales
Electoral Administrators
Wales Electoral Co-ordination Board
Electoral Commission
WLGA
SLCC

August 2021

Dear

Consultation on the draft Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021 and draft Local Elections (Communities) (Wales) Rules 2021

I am pleased to announce the launch of a consultation on the draft Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021 and draft Local Elections (Communities) (Wales) Rules 2021.

These draft Rules make certain new provision and update, consolidate and re-state the law concerning town and community and principal council elections and the rules by which they are conducted. They are largely derived from The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (“the 2006 Rules”) and the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 (“the Communities Rules”) which applied across principal and parish, community and town council elections in England and Wales. This means, that while the 2006 Rules and the Communities Rules make provision for Wales, large parts do not apply to local elections in Wales. The draft Rules make new provision about certain election procedures and, in keeping with the principles set out in the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019, they will consolidate and re-state existing law; update the law where appropriate to make it more accessible particularly using clearer language and will be Wales specific. They will also be available in English and Welsh. The draft Rules also revoke the 2006 Rules and the Communities Rules for the purposes of principal and community and town council elections in Wales.

The consultation seeks the views of experts in electoral administration to help shape these important pieces of legislation and ensure the rules are workable from a practical perspective.

During the consultation period, we will be holding digital engagement events for stakeholders to discuss the draft Rules in detail. Invitations to this event will be sent shortly.

Following consultation, the final draft of the rules will be laid and considered by the Senedd with a view to their coming into force by the end of November 2021.

Attached is a copy of the draft Rules. Please could you respond to the written consultation by the 24 September. Details of how to respond are included in the consultation paper.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'L' and 'J'.

Lisa James
Deputy Director
Local Government Democracy