

# **Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report 2016-2017**

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Section 73 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (“the Act”) requires the Welsh Ministers to make a scheme setting out how they propose, in the exercise of their functions, to sustain and promote Local Government in Wales. The current ‘Local Government Partnership Scheme’ (“the Scheme”) was published in 2008.
- 1.2 Section 73 of the Act also requires the Welsh Ministers to publish a report of how the proposals set out in the Scheme were implemented in each financial year. This report does so for the financial year 2016-2017.

## **2 Local Government reform**

- 2.1 Following the National Assembly elections in May 2016, the Welsh Government developed a new approach to local government reform through extensive discussion and engagement with local authorities and other stakeholders.
- 2.2 The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government set out the Government's proposals in the White Paper 'Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed' on 31 January 2017.
- 2.3 The new approach was based on mandatory and systematic regional working to deliver a range of local authority services, whilst retaining aspects of the previous approach such as measures to build more open and accessible local democracy and improve the performance framework.
- 2.4 In line with the proposals, the Cabinet Secretary also announced he would be considering how the wider local government finance system could be reformed, ensuring a fairer and more sustainable system to support local authorities in the future.
- 2.5 The consultation on the White Paper ended on 11 April 2017. There were 164 responses received from a broad range of respondents. Analysis of the responses is underway and a summary report has been published on the Welsh Government website.
- 2.6 To inform the ongoing development of the local government reform agenda, a Local Government Reform Task and Finish Group has been established. The members of the Group have been nominated by the SOLACE and the Welsh Local Government Association, Welsh Government is also represented and the group is independently chaired.

## **3 Partnership**

### **Partnership Council for Wales**

- 3.1 The Partnership Council for Wales (“the Partnership Council”), together with its working groups, is the principal statutory forum for dialogue and collaboration between the Welsh Ministers and local government.
- 3.2 At the meeting in December 2016, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government continued to encourage greater engagement from local government in setting the agenda and in discussion of key topical issues. A detailed work programme, reflected the suggestions of the Partnership Council’s members for items for discussion has been developed and will shape the agenda of future meetings. It was also agreed that the Partnership Council for Wales should meet more frequently, at least three or four times a year. The Partnership Council agreed, at their December 2016 meeting, that the Local Government Partnership Scheme should be remade and working has been ongoing during the financial year 2016-17 to develop a new Scheme.

### **Workforce Partnership Council (WPC)**

- 3.3 The Workforce Partnership Council (WPC) brings together representatives from the trade unions, employers and Welsh Government to discuss strategic workforce issues across Wales through a tripartite arrangement. The WPC offers a key interface to support public service transformation. The Council met in July and November 2016 and March 2017 chaired by either the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government or the First Minister. During the year it agreed guidance on the use of non-guaranteed hours contracts, improved transparency of senior pay (both of which were developed by the Public Services Staff Commission) as well as the Code of Practice on Ethical Employment in the Supply Chain. The WPC has also continued to support and monitor the effective use of the Two Tier Workforce Code in Wales.
- 3.4 The WPC’s sub groups covering devolved services, education, health and local government have met throughout the year mirroring the tripartite structure of the WPC to progress specific actions. The Workforce Planning and Mobility (WPM) Sub-group of the WPC, chaired by the Minister for Skills and Science, is taking forward specific actions around workforce planning and mobility.

### **The Finance Sub Group**

- 3.5 The Finance Sub Group is a standing committee of the Partnership Council established to consider local government finance and funding matters. Its remit and work is outlined in the Finance Matters section of this report (Section 8). The Group met on three occasions during 2016 - 2017. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

chaired all the meetings.

3.6 The Group considered, amongst other things:

- Future funding pressures, opportunities and flexibilities;
- The formula for distributing the Local Government settlement for 2016-2017.

3.7 The Group was supported by technical working groups, the Distribution Sub Group and the Capital Finance and Investment Group. The Distribution Sub Group produced its annual report on changes to the settlement distribution formula for unitary authorities for 2017-2018. The Capital Finance and Investment Group considered innovative financing mechanisms and updates to the account and audit regulations and to the capital financing regulations.

3.8 The settlements for 2017-2018 for the unitary authorities and for Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales were prepared and published in accordance with partnership arrangements between the Welsh Government, local authorities, Welsh police forces and the Home Office.

## **4 Improving Local Government Organisation and Accountability**

### **Scrutiny**

- 4.1 The Welsh Government has continued to interact with the Scrutiny Officers Network, the Wales Audit Office and others to define the inter-relationships between the partnerships needed to support the implementation of the Well-being and Future Generation Act. The focus of policy development has been the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (PSBs) by local authority scrutiny committees and the challenges and opportunities this presents. The Welsh Government commissioned the Centre for Public Scrutiny to produce Guidance for local authorities on effective scrutiny practice in holding to account the PSB's contribution to the well-being goals. This guidance has now been issued.

### **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRP)**

- 4.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Panel produced its annual report making its determinations on councillors' salaries for county and community councils, fire and rescue and national park authorities to take effect from May 2017. It continued to make recommendations on the pay of chief executives and chief officers within county councils. The majority, although not all, of the Panel's recommendations have been accepted by the authorities concerned. The Panel ran a series of engagement events targeted at the community and town council sector to gather views on its current regime to inform its future deliberations.

### **The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales**

- 4.3 The Commission completed its preparatory work for the 22 Electoral Reviews it will be conducting between 2017 and 2021. It published its Electoral Review Policy and Practice paper, its Policy on Council Size paper and its 2017-2021 Electoral Review Programme. The Commission started its programme of reviews in January 2017 with Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys and will continue in tranches of three. The aim is to have up to date electoral arrangements in all local authorities in time for the 2022 local government elections

### **Increasing Diversity in Local Government**

- 4.4 The Welsh Government successfully concluded its "Diversity in Democracy" programme aimed at producing greater diversity in councils following the 2017 elections. The Project Lead was supported by a Steering Group which comprises of representatives from the main political parties, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Electoral Reform

Society Wales (ERS), Diverse Cymru, Women Making A Difference (WMAD), National Assembly for Wales (NAW), Chwarae Teg, One Voice Wales and Heads of Democratic Services from Conwy and Swansea Councils.

- 4.5 The programme offered a mentoring scheme through which potential candidates shadowed existing councillors. A total of 65 councillors registered as mentors during the life of the project with 51 people from under-represented groups signing up as mentees and being matched with 1 or more councillors, giving them the opportunity to shadow the councillors going about their day to day activities and learn more about the role of an elected member. It also ran training and networking events for the mentors and mentees and an employer programme. There was also an employer engagement programme which aimed to show employers and employees the benefits that having an employee who is a serving councillor can bring to an organisation. 21 of the 51 mentees expressed an intention to stand for election in May 2017.

## **5 Improving Local Government Services**

### **Invest to Save**

- 5.1 The main Invest to Save Fund has continued to invest in projects across Wales. A separate branch of the Invest to Save Fund is the Invest to Save Green Growth Fund which is a joint venture with the Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs aimed at supporting the Welsh public sector in meeting targets for the reduction of carbon emissions. The total investment made by the Fund in energy efficiency projects over the last 12 months is over £17 million. Work is on-going to develop a pipeline of projects for funding in 2017-2018 and beyond.
- 5.2 During 2016-2017 a major development for the fund was the launch of the Innovate to Save Fund which is a partnership with the innovation charity Nesta, Cardiff University and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). The new fund has a ring fenced budget of £5 million allocated from the core Invest to Save Fund to take on more innovative and therefore risky projects, providing the space and practical support to undertake intensive testing, research and evaluation of projects so that the chances of success are maximised. As well as developing a portfolio of projects which improve services and save money the fund aims to develop a body of research which will show why some projects fail and why some succeed.

### **Public Services Boards**

- 5.3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 reformed the approach to integrated community planning by putting it on a statutory basis, establishing Public Services Boards for each local authority area to drive collective action at a local level.
- 5.4 Public Services Boards were formally established on 1 April 2016. Their first task was to prepare an assessment of local well-being for their areas.
- 5.5 Public Services Boards engaged widely on the preparation of the assessments over the summer and autumn of 2016 before formally consulting on draft assessments at the start of 2017. Assessments were published ahead of the local government elections in May 2017.
- 5.6 The Welsh Government provided a package of support to Public Services Boards in 2016-2017 designed to facilitate the sharing of good practice; bolster the local capacity and capability to undertake robust assessments and incentivise the pooling of resources; and provide a common data set as a starting point for the evidence base.

- 5.7 Two events were held in November 2016 for Public Services Boards to take stock of progress and to support moving from the assessment phase into the phase where they start to identify priorities for action.

### **Social Services**

- 5.8 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 received Royal Assent in May 2014, putting in place the legislative framework to support the transformation of social services in Wales.
- 5.9 Through 2016-2017 the Welsh Government focused on supporting key stakeholders from across local government, health and the third sector to successfully implement the 2014 Act, which came into force on 6 April 2016.
- 5.10 In order to support implementation of the 2014 Act a £3 million Delivering Transformation grant was made available in 2016-2017. £2.85 million of the grant was targeted to support local authorities to work collaboratively with a range of partners and the NHS to secure implementation, reflecting the collaborative and partnership requirements set out in the 2014 Act. For 2017-2018 this funding has been transferred to the RSG.
- 5.11 The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act received Royal assent in January 2016. In 2016-17 the Welsh Government worked with a range of stakeholders including local government to develop the legislative framework that will support the implementation of the 2016 Act. Regulations and statutory guidance are being developed in 3 phases. In 2016-17 the principal focus was on the first phase, which handled much of the core legislation surrounding workforce related issues and took effect in April 2017. The second phase, which handles remaining workforce issues and regulation and inspection issues to do with adult and children's residential services and domiciliary care, is underway. The Welsh Government consulted on draft regulations and statutory guidance over the summer of 2017. The intention is to lay the second phase legislative package before the National Assembly before the end of 2017. Phase 3 overlaps with the closing of phase 2 and has recently commenced with the formation of technical groups to advise on the development of the remaining regulations under this Act. These principally concern advocacy, fostering and adoption and adult placement services. Development will continue through the early part of 2018, with a view to laying the final legislative package late in 2018.
- 5.12 The National Partnership Board for Social Care is the successor to the previous National Social Services Leadership Alliance. It provides a cross-sector, cross-party forum for discussion of key issues impacting upon social care, involving political and officer representatives from local government alongside health and third sector representatives and citizens. The National Partnership Board met twice in 2016-17 and



considered issues such as local government reform, the establishment of Social Care Wales and direct payments.

- 5.13 The Welsh Government has also implemented two of the key commitments set out in Taking Wales Forward, the five year plan for government:
- increased the capital limit used by local authorities who charge for residential care from £24,000 to £30,000, therefore allowing people to keep more of their hard-earned capital when they go into residential care. This is progress towards our ultimate goal of moving the cap to £50,000 in the coming years and complements the domiciliary care cap which limits the amount people must pay for care in their own homes.
  - introduced a full disregard of the War Disablement Pension in financial assessments when charging for social care, thus preventing disabled war veterans from paying towards their care from their disablement pensions.

#### **Intermediate Care Fund (ICF)**

- 5.14 In 2016-2017, ICF funding of £60 million continued to support initiatives in relation to supporting older people to maintain their independence and remain at home as well as to support integrated services for people with learning disabilities and children with complex needs and an integrated autism service.
- 5.15 Overseen by new regional partnership boards provided for by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, the fund has supported increased partnership working across Wales with local authorities, health boards and the third sector collaborating to enhance or develop sustainable models of care and support. These included single points of access schemes, co-ordination of health and social care services, preventative and reablement solutions. It also allowed for the development of rapid response teams, dementia care and seven-day social work support. Emerging evidence indicates that ICF has made a real difference to people's lives. Some examples include:
- £235k has been used to fund the Pembrokeshire Intermediate Voluntary Organisations Team to improve opportunities for independent living in the community and reduction in social isolation for individuals. To 31 March 2017, 1,300 bed days had been saved and 130 hospital admissions avoided, whilst 100% of recipients surveyed said the service had made things better.
  - The Complex Discharge Team in Cwm Taf used nearly £100k of ICF funds to support joined up services between primary care, secondary care, community care, social care and voluntary organisations. To 31 March 2017, over 1000 people have been supported by this scheme.

- 5.16 The Programme for Government includes a commitment to retain this important fund. A further £50 million revenue and £10 million capital funding will be made available to regions for 2017-2018. The fund has been rebranded as the *Integrated* Care Fund to reflect its wider remit and has been expanded to further align it with regional partnership boards' priority areas for integration. This includes adding carers to the fund's objectives for the first time. The changes will allow the ICF to be utilised as a mechanism to support delivery of the Act

### **National Park Authorities**

- 5.16 On the 29 September 2014, the Minister for Natural Resources commissioned an Independent Panel to conduct a review of designated landscapes in Wales. The review panel was chaired by Professor Terry Marsden of Cardiff University with John Lloyd Jones and Dr Ruth Williams as members.
- 5.17 The Independent Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales made 69 recommendations covering a raft of proposals and observations on purposes, principles, vision, governance models, planning, and funding. Due to the considerable scale and scope of the recommendations, further work was needed to understand their potential benefits and consequences.
- 5.18 Lord Dafydd Ellis-Thomas AM is in the process of leading a Future Landscapes Wales Working Group which explores these recommendations. The Group involves representatives of the National parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), interest groups, business, and local government and has been highly collaborative in its approach.
- 5.19 The Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales (Review of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks in Wales) Report was published in May 2017. The proposals in the report set the designated landscapes on the path to drive sustainable management of natural resources in their areas and to work beyond their current boundaries. It draws on the strengths and opportunities of partnership and collaboration and advocates greater flexibility in structures in order to meet the needs of places and communities.

### **Resilience**

- 5.20 Welsh Ministers have continued to work closely with senior officers from the emergency services, local government and other agencies on civil contingencies through the Wales Resilience Forum. The First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children participated fully in a national exercise in June 2016 to test the multi-agency response arrangements to a terrorist incident in Wales. Welsh

Ministers continue to support the development of this capability and other areas of emergency preparedness.

## **Fire**

- 5.21 The Minister for Public Services met the Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAS) and/or the Chief Fire Officers on three occasions during 2016 -17. Welsh Government officials and the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor for Wales also met with the Chief Fire Officers at least monthly.
- 5.22 The White Paper “Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed” referred to in paragraph 2.2 also set out the Welsh Government’s intention to review FRA governance, funding and performance management arrangements. Proposals are being developed with a view to full consultation to be undertaken in due course,
- 5.23 A multi-agency taskforce of specialists drawn from across Wales from the fire service, police, Public Health Wales, Met Office, Natural Resources Wales, local authorities and Welsh Government was established to reduce, and where possible, eliminate the impact of grass fires. *Operation Dawns Glow, launched in March 2016* delivered education, diversionary and enforcement activities around the key causes of grass fires. This successful programme has continued in 2017 – 18.
- 5.24 In September 2016 the Cabinet Secretaries for Communities and Children and Health, Wellbeing and Sport announced a set of priorities for Fire and Rescue Authorities to support the health and social care. Work is ongoing to ensure local commitment to this collaborative approach.

## **Armed Forces**

- 5.25 The Armed Forces Expert Group chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children met twice during 2016-2017. Its multi-agency membership provides an excellent opportunity for collaborative working. This has resulted in the review of Welsh Government’s Package of Support for the Armed Forces Community, a Welcome to Wales document for Service members and a Veteran’s Housing Pathway. The group has identified priorities going forward and will work towards their delivery during 2017-2018.
- 5.26 An Armed Forces Champion’s conference was held during 2016-2017, providing the opportunity to interact, share best practice and encourage collaborative working to enhance local arrangements ensuring the needs of the Armed Forces community are fully integrated. The events provided the platform on which to identify joint projects and initiate cross-sector working.

## **Education**

### **National Model for Regional Working**

5.27 The National Model for Regional Working, which is based on local authority collaboration and school-to-school support, has helped support significant gains. The national model is a shared endeavour that sees consortia working on behalf of local authorities to lead, orchestrate and co-ordinate the improvement in the performance of schools and education of young people. Together, they play a central role in delivering our ambition of a self-improving education system in Wales. This regional approach continues to play an important role in delivering improved outcomes for learners and we are committed to working with them to ensure the support they deliver enables all of our learners to achieve their potential. Going forward, consideration will be given to how the National Model needs to evolve in order to remain fit for purposes in the context of our education reform journey.

### **Local authority and consortia inspection activity**

5.28 Estyn inspected all 22 local authority education services between 2010 and 2013. Fifteen authorities required some follow up activity, with seven being placed in a statutory Estyn category of either significant improvement or special measures. During 2014-2015, inspection focused on monitoring the progress made by those authorities. By January 2016, all authorities that were in a follow up category had been removed.

5.29 Since that time, Estyn has provided authorities with a programme of local authority link inspector visits to ensure that challenge, monitoring and support continues.

5.30 Estyn has developed an improvement conference approach to ensure that local authorities causing concern are provided with bespoke support and challenge. Estyn is piloting this approach in 2017 with three local authorities. The purpose of the improvement conference approach is to support authorities to improve its education services. It does not replace full inspection, but is an interim measure and is seen in the broader context of the work that Estyn's local authority link inspectors carry out.

5.31 The Inspectorate is currently developing new inspection arrangements for local authority education services. This includes consulting with key stakeholders and developing a draft framework and guidance in readiness for pilot inspection in 2017 and 2018.

- 5.32 Estyn has set up a stakeholder group to support the development of the new inspection framework. The new cycle for local authority education services inspection will commence in September 2018.
- 5.33 Estyn inspected the four regional education consortia between March and June 2016 and will monitor the progress of each consortium in Autumn 2017.

## 6 Local, Regional and National Priorities

- 6.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and came into force on 1 April 2016. It gives a legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which these public bodies must work, and work together to improve the well-being of Wales, now and into the future. The Act provides for better decision-making by ensuring that those public bodies take account of the long-term, help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse, take an integrated and collaborative approach, and considers and involves people of all ages.
- 6.2 The Act places a well-being duty on these public bodies to carry out sustainable development, and in doing so set objectives (well-being) that are designed to maximise their contribution to achieving the seven well-being goals.
- 6.3 On the 4 November 2016 the Welsh Government published its initial well-being objectives, designed to maximise its contribution to the seven well-being goals for Wales. At the time the Government committed to review the objectives in the context of the development of a strategic approach to *Taking Wales Forward (2016-2021), the programme for Government*. By April 2017 those public bodies organisations subject to the well-being duty have now set out their well-being objectives, including how they make the best contribution to the well-being goals and what steps they propose to take to meet their objectives.
- 6.4 National Indicators to measure Wales' progress against the seven well-being goals were laid before the National Assembly in March 2016. The 46 indicators will enable the Government, Assembly Members and any citizen in Wales to find out what progress is being made at a Wales level in achieving the seven well-being goals. They will be reported on every year through an Annual Well-being Report – a new national scorecard for how Wales is doing. The Annual Well-being Report for Wales will be published under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This was published on 25 September 2017.
- 6.5 The purpose of the indicators is not to measure the performance of a public body (for example local authority or Welsh Government), the performance of a particular service (for example social services, education, planning), or the performance of a programme/policy (for example Jobs Growth Wales). Rather the indicators measure the progress of Wales as a whole in relation to different aspects of well-being. There are other, existing, mechanisms in place to measure the performance of public bodies which are linked to public service improvement.

## **Future Trends Report**

- 6.6 The first Welsh Government Future Trends Report was released 5 May 2017. It identifies the key social, economic, environmental and cultural trends that could affect Wales in the future, as well as some of the factors that could influence the direction of those trends.
- 6.7 The report sets out the future trends under six themes which are population, health, economy and infrastructure, climate change, land use and natural resources and Society & culture.
- 6.8 This report is seen as only a first step, with an intention to build a shared Future Trends resource that will be accessible and able to support the entire Public Sector in Wales.

## **7 Community Focus**

- 7.1 The Welsh Government has continued to collaborate with One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks, the representative bodies for the community and town council sector, along with other key partners and stakeholders to build the capacity and capability of the sector.
- 7.2 In October 2016 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government set out an 'agenda for action' to help build resilience and renewal in the sector in the short to medium term – looking at the things that can be done to strengthen the role of community councils and improve their operation and governance, enabling them to take on the provision of services and assets to local communities where they chose to do so.
- 7.3 The Cabinet Secretary also announced his intention to commission a comprehensive review of the community and town council sector to consider what the future of community councils might look like and what the right organisational format is to support local communities. The review panel began its work in September 2017 and will report in a year's time.

## **8 Financial Framework**

- 8.1 The Finance Sub Group of the Partnership Council provides a forum for discussion of Local Government finance matters which may benefit from more detailed consideration than is possible at the full Partnership Council. It complements the work of the Partnership Council which continues to include a remit to consider funding matters in relation to public service reform. Finance Sub Group met on three occasions during 2015-2016 (July and September 2016, January 2017). The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government chaired all the meetings.
- 8.2 The Group considered, amongst other things:
- future funding considerations for Councils and Police;
  - opportunities for managing future funding challenges;
  - review of Funding Flexibilities; and
  - the arrangements for the Local Government settlement for 2017-2018.
- 8.3 The Group was supported by technical working groups, the Distribution Sub Group and the Capital Finance and Investment Group. The Distribution Sub Group produced its annual report on changes to the settlement distribution formula for Unitary Authorities. Capital funding and wider financial developments were considered by the Capital Finance and Investment Group. The settlements for 2017-2018 for the unitary authorities and for Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales were prepared and published in accordance with partnership arrangements between the Welsh Government, local authorities, Welsh police forces and



the Home Office.

- 8.4 Local Authority input into the compilation of the Whole of Government Accounts for Wales for 2015-2016 was collected, collated and processed and contributed to the Whole of Government Accounts for the UK. At official level, regular engagement on financial matters has been maintained between Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). This engagement has been complemented by ongoing regular engagement with Local Authority Finance Officers on a wide range of financial matters through the Society of Welsh Treasurers, the Chief Accountants Group and the Welsh Revenue and Benefits Working Group. Engagement on police financial matters has been maintained through the Welsh Police Finance and Resources Group.

### **Tax Collection and Management**

- 8.5 The Tax Liaison Group (TLG) was established in 2016 and is chaired by the Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) Implementation Programme. The TLG membership includes the WRA implementation Director, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Head of Local Taxation policy in Welsh Government and officers from the Revenue and Benefits community within local authorities.
- 8.6 Primarily the TLG is focused on sharing good practise in tax collection, offering support to the WRA Implementation Programme, and exploring how the WRA and local authorities may work together in the future.

## **Annex**

### The Statutory Provision

Section 73 of The Government of Wales Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") makes provision for Welsh Ministers to make a Local Government Scheme as follows:

#### **73 Local Government Scheme**

- (1) The Welsh Ministers must make a scheme ("the Local Government Scheme") setting out how they propose, in the exercise of their functions, to sustain and promote Local Government in Wales.
- (2) The Welsh Ministers -
  - (a) must keep the Local Government Scheme under review, and
  - (b) may from time to time remake or revise it.
- (3) In determining the provision to be included in the Local Government Scheme, the Welsh Ministers must have regard to any advice which has been given, and to any representations which have been made, to them by the Partnership Council.
- (4) The Welsh Ministers must publish the Local Government Scheme when they make it and whenever they remake it; and, if they revise the scheme without remaking it, they must publish either the revisions or the scheme as revised (as they consider appropriate).
- (5) If the Welsh Ministers publish a scheme or revisions under subsection they must lay a copy of the scheme or revisions before the Assembly.
- (6) After each financial year the Welsh Ministers must –
  - (a) publish a report of how the proposals set out in the Local Government Scheme were implemented in that financial year, and
  - (b) lay a copy of the report before the Assembly.