

Sarah Sargent
Deputy Committee Clerk
Legislation Office
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

legislationoffice@wales.gsi.gov.uk

18th September 2009

**Consultation on proposed National Assembly for Wales
(Legislative Competence) (Local Government) Order 2009, relating
to community councils and councillor recruitment, retention and
allowances**

Dear Sarah,

Play Wales is the national organisation for children's play. We are the charity that provides advice, support and guidance for all those in Wales who have a concern or responsibility for any environment where children and young people might play. We uphold children's right to play. Freely chosen play is critically important in the healthy development of all children and young people. All children are entitled to quality play provision within their communities and we work strategically to achieve this goal on their behalf. We have been closely involved in drafting the national Play Policy (2002) and in providing recommendations for Play in Wales (2006) the Welsh Assembly Play Policy Implementation Plan. Play Wales' membership is drawn from a wide constituency including local and regional voluntary organisations, local authorities and individuals, employers and playworkers.

Play Wales welcomes the opportunity to give evidence on the general principles of the *proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Local Government) Order 2009*, relating to community councils and councillor recruitment, retention and allowances for the National Assembly for Wales' Legislation Committee No. 2.

Play Wales supports the proposed order to provide the National Assembly with the power to make measures within the policy areas defined by the matter. It is our view is that it is coherent with the intent of the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure in respect of children's play. Town and Community Councils can be key stakeholders in the provision of play opportunities locally. We agree that the Assembly Government should create legislation to enable arrangements to develop and strengthen the role of community councils. This will enable them to deliver a wider range of services and actions, which relate to national policy and strategy locally. We agree that these arrangements will serve to increase the effectiveness of community councils' representational role and their ability to work in partnership with other bodies.

Community councils have traditionally, though sporadically throughout Wales, provided for children's play, often with limited support from their respective county council. The proposed matters could better enable community and county councils to consider the respective roles of the partners in providing community based provision, and address requirements relating to planning, construction, liability, inspection and maintenance regimes.



One day Wales will be a place where we recognise and provide for every child's play needs

Un dydd bydd Cymru'n wlad ble y byddwn yn cydnabod ac yn darparu ar gyfer anghenion chwarae pob plentyn

National Office
Baltic House
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff
CF10 5FH

Swyddfa Cenedlaethol
Ty Baltig
Sqwar Mount Stuart
Caerdydd
CF10 5FH

Tel (029) 2048 6050
Cymraeg (029) 2043 6926
Fax (029) 2048 9359

mail@playwales.org.uk
post@chwaraecymru.org.uk

www.playwales.org.uk
www.chwaraecymru.org.uk

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Play Wales considers the scope of the proposed order to be relevant. In particular, we welcome Matters 12.12, 12.13, 12.14 and 12.15. We feel these aspects are crucial to support Community Councils to better respond to the play needs of children and young people locally. We feel the scope of the order, and particularly these Matters, to be instrumental in supporting local delivery of outcomes of other proposed measures, specifically the Proposed Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Measure and the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure.

This order and the proposed measures are potentially complimentary and we advise that the National Assembly considers and identifies ways in which they will ensure synergy, both legislatively and practically, between its policies, strategies and initiatives.

I trust that should you require any further clarification in respect of the concern detailed above, you will not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Greenaway', written in a cursive style.

Mike Greenaway
Director