



Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

2021 asc 1

PART 3

PROMOTING ACCESS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING BY PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

Principal councils' duty to encourage participation in local government

39 Duty to encourage local people to participate in decision-making by principal councils

- (1) A principal council must encourage local people to participate in the making of decisions by the council (including the making of decisions in partnership or in conjunction with any other person).
- (2) In subsection (1), a reference to the making of decisions includes a reference to the making of decisions by a person in relation to the exercise of a function delegated to that person by a principal council.

40 Strategy on encouraging participation

- (1) A principal council must prepare and publish a strategy (“a public participation strategy”) specifying how it proposes to comply with the duty in section 39.
- (2) A public participation strategy must, in particular, address—
 - (a) ways of promoting awareness among local people of the principal council’s functions;

- (b) ways of promoting awareness among local people of how to become a member of the principal council, and what membership entails;
 - (c) ways of facilitating access for local people to information about decisions made, or to be made, by the principal council;
 - (d) ways of promoting and facilitating processes by which local people may make representations to the principal council about a decision before, and after, it is made;
 - (e) arrangements made, or to be made, for the purpose of the council's duty in section 62 of the 2011 Measure (bringing views of the public to attention of overview and scrutiny committees);
 - (f) ways of promoting awareness among members of the principal council of the benefits of using social media to communicate with local people.
- (3) A public participation strategy may address how a principal council proposes to comply with a duty imposed by any enactment.

41 Public participation strategy: consultation and review

- (1) A principal council's first public participation strategy must be published as soon as reasonably practicable after section 40 comes into force.
- (2) In preparing that strategy the council must consult—
 - (a) local people, and
 - (b) such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- (3) A principal council—
 - (a) must review its public participation strategy as soon as reasonably practicable following each ordinary election of councillors to the council, and
 - (b) may review its strategy at any other time.
- (4) In conducting a review of a public participation strategy under subsection (3)(a) a principal council must consult—
 - (a) local people, and
 - (b) such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- (5) Following a review under subsection (3) a principal council may revise its public participation strategy, or replace it with a new strategy.
- (6) But before revising or replacing its public participation strategy following a review under subsection (3)(b) a principal council must consult—
 - (a) local people, and
 - (b) such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- (7) If a principal council revises or replaces a public participation strategy, it must publish the revised or new strategy as soon as reasonably practicable.