



Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

2021 asc 1

PART 7

MERGERS AND RESTRUCTURING OF PRINCIPAL AREAS

CHAPTER 1

VOLUNTARY MERGERS OF PRINCIPAL AREAS

Merger regulations

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- (1) Merger regulations must set—
 - (a) the date of the first ordinary election of councillors to the principal council for the new principal area, and
 - (b) the terms of office of councillors returned at that election.
- (2) Merger regulations may include provision—
 - (a) cancelling an ordinary election of councillors to one or more of the merging councils and extending the existing terms of office of councillors;
 - (b) cancelling an election of an elected mayor to one or more of the merging councils and extending the existing terms of office of elected mayors;
 - (c) relating to requirements to fill casual vacancies in the office of councillor, vice-chair or chair, and the holding of elections in any of the merging councils or the shadow council to fill casual vacancies;
 - (d) postponing an ordinary election of councillors to community councils in the new principal area and the extension of the existing terms of office of councillors.

- (3) Merger regulations may also include provision about—
- (a) the appointment of a returning officer at the first ordinary election of councillors to the principal council for the new principal area;
 - (b) meeting expenditure incurred in holding that election, including provision for the making of determinations by the Welsh Ministers about how expenditure is to be met;
 - (c) declarations of acceptance of the office of councillor of the new principal council;
 - (d) the holding of the first meeting of the new principal council.
- (4) Provision made under subsection (3)(a) may include provision for the Welsh Ministers to give directions to a principal council as to the appointment of a returning officer, and for the enforcement of such directions.