



Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

2011 nawm 4

PART 1

STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

CHAPTER 2

LOCAL AUTHORITY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

8 Head of democratic services

- (1) A local authority must—
- (a) designate one of its officers to discharge the functions in section 9 (“democratic services functions”);
 - (b) provide that officer with such staff, accommodation and other resources as are, in its opinion, sufficient to allow his or her functions to be discharged.

[^{F1}(1A) A local authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers about the local authority's function under subsection (1)(b).]

- (2) A head of democratic services may arrange for the discharge of democratic services functions by staff provided under this section.
- (3) An officer designated by a local authority under this section is to be known as the head of democratic services.
- (4) A local authority may not designate any of the following under this section—
- [^{F2}(a) the authority's chief executive appointed under section 54 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021;]
 - [^{F3}(b)
 - (c) the authority's chief finance officer, within the meaning of [^{F4}section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989].

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 8(1A) inserted (4.3.2021) by [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) (asc 1), **ss. 161(1)**, 175(7); S.I. 2021/231, reg. 2(h)
- F2** S. 8(4)(a) substituted (5.5.2022) by [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) (asc 1), s. 175(7), **Sch. 5 para. 13**; S.I. 2021/231, art. 6(s)
- F3** S. 8(4)(b) omitted (5.5.2022) by virtue of [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) (asc 1), **ss. 161(2)(a)**, 175(7); S.I. 2021/231, art. 6(p)
- F4** Words in s. 8(4)(c) substituted (5.5.2022) by [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) (asc 1), **ss. 161(2)(b)**, 175(7); S.I. 2021/231, art. 6(p)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 8 in force at 30.4.2012 by S.I. 2012/1187, **art. 2(1)(b)**

9 Democratic services functions

- (1) The functions of the head of democratic services are—
- (a) to provide support and advice to the authority in relation to its meetings, subject to subsection (2);
 - (b) to provide support and advice to committees of the authority (other than the committees mentioned in paragraph (e)) and the members of those committees, subject to subsection (2);
 - (c) to provide support and advice to any joint committee which a local authority is responsible for organising and the members of that committee, subject to subsection (2);
 - (d) to promote the role of the authority's overview and scrutiny committee or committees;
 - (e) to provide support and advice to—
 - (i) the authority's overview and scrutiny committee or committees and the members of that committee or those committees, and
 - (ii) the authority's democratic services committee and the members of that committee;
 - (f) to provide support and advice in relation to the functions of the authority's overview and scrutiny committee or committees to each of the following—
 - (i) members of the authority;
 - (ii) members of the executive of the authority;
 - (iii) officers of the authority;
 - (g) to provide support and advice to each member of the authority in carrying out the role of member of the authority, subject to subsection (3);
 - (h) to make reports and recommendations in respect of any of the following—
 - (i) the number and grades of staff required to discharge democratic services functions;
 - (ii) the appointment of staff to discharge democratic services functions;
 - (iii) the organisation and proper management of staff discharging democratic services functions;
 - (i) such other functions as may be prescribed.
- (2) The references to “advice” in paragraphs (a) to (c) do not include advice about whether or how the authority's functions should be, or should have been, exercised.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) The following kinds of support and advice are not to be considered as support and advice for the purposes of subsection (1)(g)—
- (a) support and advice to a member of the authority in discharging that member's functions as part of the executive of the authority (except as provided for under subsection (1)(f));
 - (b) advice about whether or how the authority's functions should be, or should have been, exercised in relation to any matter under consideration, or to be considered, at a meeting of the authority, a committee referred to in subsection (1)(b) or a joint committee which a local authority is responsible for organising.
- (4) Nothing in subsection (1)(h) affects the duty of the [^{F5}chief executive in section 54(2) of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021].
- (5) In this section, references to a committee (or joint committee) include references to any sub-committee of that committee.

Textual Amendments

- F5** Words in s. 9(4) substituted (5.5.2022) by [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021 \(asc 1\)](#), s. 175(7), [Sch. 5 para. 14](#); [S.I. 2021/231](#), art. 6(s)

Commencement Information

- I2** S. 9 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

10 Duty to adopt standing orders about management of staff

- (1) The Welsh Ministers may by regulations require a local authority—
- (a) to incorporate prescribed provision relating to the management of staff provided under section 8(1)(b) in its standing orders;
 - (b) to make other modifications of those of its standing orders which relate to the management of staff.
- (2) In this section “management of staff” does not include appointment of staff or dismissal of staff or the taking of other disciplinary action against staff.

Commencement Information

- I3** S. 10 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

11 Local authorities to appoint democratic services committees

- (1) A local authority must appoint a committee (“a democratic services committee”) to—
- (a) exercise the function of the local authority under section 8(1)(a) (designation of head of democratic services),
 - (b) review the adequacy of provision by the authority of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions, and
 - (c) make reports and recommendations to the authority in relation to such provision.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) It is for a democratic services committee to determine how to exercise those functions.

Commencement Information

I4 S. 11 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

[^{F6}11A Reviews at request of a local authority

- (1) The democratic services committee of a local authority may, at the request of the authority, review any matter relevant to—
- (a) the support and advice available to members of that authority, and
 - (b) the terms and conditions of office of those members.
- (2) A democratic services committee must make reports and recommendations to the authority following a review.
- (3) It is for a democratic services committee to determine how to exercise its functions under this section.]

Textual Amendments

F6 [S. 11A](#) inserted (30.9.2013) by [Local Government \(Democracy\) \(Wales\) Act 2013 \(anaw 4\)](#), [ss. 60\(1\), 75\(2\)\(d\)](#)

12 Membership

- (1) A local authority is to appoint the members of its democratic services committee.
- (2) A local authority must secure that—
- (a) each member of its democratic services committee is a member of the authority;
 - (b) no more than one of the members of its democratic services committee is a member of the authority's executive [^{F7}(but see subsection (6))][^{F8}or an assistant to its executive];
 - (c) in the case of a local authority which operates a leader and cabinet executive (Wales), the executive leader is not a member of its democratic services committee.
- (3) The appointment of a person as a member of a democratic services committee has no effect if the membership of the committee breaches subsection (2) immediately after the appointment (whether or not by virtue of the appointment).
- (4) In a case where one or more persons are to become, or to cease to be, members of a democratic services committee at a particular time, all those changes of membership are to be taken into account in determining whether the membership of the committee breaches subsection (2).
- (5) A democratic services committee of a local authority is to be treated as a body to which section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) applies.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

[^{F9}(6) If two or more members of a local authority are appointed to the executive to share office, more than one of those members may be appointed to its democratic services committee (and if they are so appointed, together they count as one executive member for the purposes of subsection (2)(b)).]

Textual Amendments

- F7** Words in s. 12(2)(b) inserted (13.5.2022) by [The Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021 \(Consequential Amendments\) \(Job-sharing and Assistants to the Executive\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/533\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(2)(a)**
- F8** Words in s. 12(2)(b) inserted (5.5.2022) by [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021 \(asc 1\), s. 175\(7\), Sch. 6 para. 6\(2\)](#); S.I. 2021/231, art. 6(t) (as substituted by S.I. 2021/1249, art. 3(2))
- F9** S. 12(6) inserted (13.5.2022) by [The Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021 \(Consequential Amendments\) \(Job-sharing and Assistants to the Executive\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/533\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(2)(b)**

Commencement Information

- I5** S. 12 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), art. 2(1)(b)

13 Sub-committees

- (1) A democratic services committee—
- (a) may appoint one or more sub-committees, and
 - (b) may arrange for the discharge of any of its functions by such a sub-committee.
- (2) A sub-committee of a democratic services committee may not discharge functions other than those conferred on it under subsection (1)(b).

Commencement Information

- I6** S. 13 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), art. 2(1)(b)

14 Proceedings etc

- (1) A local authority is to appoint the person who is to chair the democratic services committee (who must not be a member of an executive group).
- (2) If there are no opposition groups, the person who is to chair the democratic services committee may be a member of an executive group but must not be a member of the local authority's executive [^{F10}or an assistant to its executive].
- (3) A democratic services committee is to appoint the person who is to chair any sub-committee of such a committee.
- (4) All members of a democratic services committee, or of a sub-committee of such a committee, may vote on any question that falls to be decided by the committee.

[^{F11}(4A) If two or more members of a democratic services committee are members of the executive who share office, those members have between them one vote for the purposes of subsection (4).]

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) A democratic services committee of a local authority, or a sub-committee of such a committee—
- (a) may require members and officers of the authority to attend before it to answer questions, and
 - (b) may invite other persons to attend meetings of the committee.
- (6) It is the duty of any member or officer of a local authority to comply with any requirement imposed under subsection (5)(a).
- (7) A person is not obliged by subsection (6) to answer any question which the person would be entitled to refuse to answer in, or for the purposes of, proceedings in a court in England and Wales.
- (8) A democratic services committee, or a sub-committee of such a committee, is to be treated as a committee, or sub-committee, of a principal council for the purposes of Part 5A of the Local Government Act 1972 (access to meetings and documents of certain authorities, committees and sub-committees).
- (9) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), the expressions “executive group” and “opposition group” have the same meaning as in section 75.

Textual Amendments

- F10** Words in s. 14(2) inserted (5.5.2022) by [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021 \(asc 1\)](#), s. 175(7), **Sch. 6 para. 6(3)**; S.I. 2021/231, art. 6(t) (as substituted by S.I. 2021/1249, art. 3(2))
- F11** S. 14(4A) inserted (13.5.2022) by [The Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021 \(Consequential Amendments\) \(Job-sharing and Assistants to the Executive\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/533\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(3)**

Commencement Information

- I7** S. 14 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), **art. 2(1)(b)**

15 Frequency of meetings

- (1) A democratic services committee must meet once in every calendar year.
- (2) The democratic services committee of a local authority must also meet if—
- (a) the local authority resolves that the committee should meet, or
 - (b) at least one-third of the members of the committee requisition a meeting by one or more notices in writing given to the person who chairs the committee.
- [^{F12}(2A) If two or more members of a democratic services committee are members of the executive who share office, those members together count only as one member of the committee for the purposes of subsection (2)(b).]
- (3) It is the duty of the person who chairs a democratic services committee to secure that meetings of the committee are held as required by subsections (1) and (2).
- (4) This section does not prevent a democratic services committee from meeting otherwise than as required by this section.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F12** S. 15(2A) inserted (13.5.2022) by [The Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021 \(Consequential Amendments\) \(Job-sharing and Assistants to the Executive\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/533\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(4)**

Commencement Information

- I8** S. 15 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), **art. 2(1)(b)**

16 Discharging functions

- (1) A democratic services committee may not exercise any functions other than its functions under this Chapter.
- (2) In exercising, or deciding whether to exercise any of its functions, a democratic services committee, or a sub-committee of such a committee, must have regard to guidance given by the Welsh Ministers.

Commencement Information

- I9** S. 16 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), **art. 2(1)(b)**

17 Termination of membership on ceasing to be member of authority

- (1) This section applies to a person (P) who is—
 - (a) appointed to be a member of a democratic services committee of a local authority, or of a sub-committee of such a committee, and
 - (b) is a member of the authority at the time of that appointment.
- (2) If P ceases to be a member of the authority, P also ceases to be a member of the democratic services committee or sub-committee.
- (3) But subsection (2) does not apply if P—
 - (a) ceases to be a member of the authority by reason of retirement, and
 - (b) is re-elected a member of the authority not later than the day of retirement.
- (4) Subsection (3) is subject to the standing orders of the authority or the democratic services committee or sub-committee.

Commencement Information

- I10** S. 17 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), **art. 2(1)(b)**

18 Reports and recommendations by head of democratic services

- (1) The head of democratic services for a local authority must, as soon as practicable after preparing a report or making a recommendation under section 9(1)(h), send to each member of the authority's democratic services committee a copy of the report or recommendation.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) A democratic services committee must consider any report or recommendation sent to the members of the committee under this section at a meeting held not more than three months after copies of the report are first sent to members of the committee.

Commencement Information

I11 S. 18 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

19 Reports and recommendations by democratic services committees

- (1) A democratic services committee for a local authority must, as soon as practicable after it has prepared a report or made a recommendation under section 11(1)(c)^{F13} or 11A(2)], arrange for a copy of it to be sent to each member of the authority who is not a member of the committee.
- (2) A local authority must consider any report or recommendations at a meeting held not more than three months after copies of the report or recommendation are first sent to members of the authority.

Textual Amendments

F13 Words in s. 19 inserted (30.9.2013) by [Local Government \(Democracy\) \(Wales\) Act 2013 \(anaw 4\)](#), [ss. 60\(2\), 75\(2\)\(d\)](#)

Commencement Information

I12 S. 19 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

20 Local authority functions not to be delegated

The functions of a local authority under sections 8(1), 11, 12(1) and (2), 14(1), 15(2) (a) and 19(2) are not to be delegated under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Commencement Information

I13 S. 20 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

21 Head of democratic services to be a politically restricted post

- (1) Section 2(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph (f) omit “and”.
- (3) After “delegated)” in paragraph (g) insert—
- “; and
- (h) the head of democratic services designated under section 8 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011”.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2. (See end of Document for details)

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Commencement Information

I14 S. 21 in force at 30.4.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1187](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, CHAPTER 2.