

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

email / telephone number:

Your address:

Summary of consultation questions

Consultation Question One:

a) What are your views on CJsCs being subject to broadly the same powers and duties as principal councils?

UNISON is broadly supportive of CJsCs being subject to the same powers and duties as principal councils. It is important to ensure CJsCs are kept on a par with principal councils as far as possible.

The structures are already familiar and are proven to work effectively. As CJsCs are established to exercise a number of principal council functions, it seems only right that the powers and duties are broadly the same as those councils.

However, unlike in principal councils, there is no recognition of partnership working or any requirement to engage with trade unions. Given the possible implications on the shape of the workforce, it is crucial the workforce have appropriate representation and that trades unions are given a status on CJsCs.

b) Do you agree that CJsCs should have broadly the same governance and administrative framework as a principal council provided that this is proportionate? Please give your reasons.

Yes – UNISON would oppose any dilution of the governance framework. Democratic accountability is essential to the provision of local authority services, on whatever scale they are delivered.

CJC's must be seen as a part of the council, local authority family, rather than as a separate entity. A strong accountability framework is integral to ensuring this.

c) Do you agree that members of CJsCs should have appropriate discretion on the detail of constitutional and operational arrangements? Please give your reasons.

Yes – however, trade union engagement and participation should not be discretionary.

Consultation Question Two:

These CJC areas have been agreed by local government Leaders as the most appropriate to reflect the functions being given to CJsCs by these Establishment Regulations. Do you have any comments or observations on these CJC areas in relation to these functions or the future development of CJsCs?

UNISON has no particular observations on this issue and agrees with the approach taken to determine each CJC area.

Consultation Question Three:

- a) Do you agree with the approach to the development of the regulations for CJsCs as outlined in this consultation? Please give your reasons.***

UNISON broadly agrees with the approach to the development of the regulations for CJsCs as outlined in this consultation, however, it is essential for trade unions to be involved given the fact that one of the

- b) We have indicated throughout this document what may be included in the Regulations of General Application, subject to the outcome of this consultation. Whilst the Regulations of General Application are not the subject of this consultation, in order to inform their development we would welcome your views on anything else which should be covered?***

Consultation Question Four:

- a) Do you agree with the proposed approach to membership of CJsCs including co-opting of additional members? Please give your reasons.***
- b) What are your views on the role proposed for National Park Authorities on CJsCs, as described above?***

Consultation Question Five:

- a) What are your views on the proposed approach of 'one member one vote' and the flexibility for CJsCs to adopt alternative voting procedures?***
- b) What are your views on the proposed quorum for CJsCs?***
- c) What are your views on the proposed approach to voting rights for co-opted members to a CJC?***

Consultation Question Six:

What are your views on CJsCs being able to co-opt other members and/or appoint people to sit on sub-committees?

Consultation Question Seven:

- a) **Do you agree that the approach to co-option of members would enable wider engagement of stakeholders in the work of a CJC?**
- b) **What might be needed to support CJC members in the involvement and engagement of appropriate stakeholders in their work?**

Consultation Question Eight:

- a) **Do you agree that members and staff of a CJC should be subject to a Code of Conduct and that the code should be similar to that of Principal Councils? Please give your reasons.**
- b) **What are your views on the adoption of a Code of Conduct for co-opted members?**
- c) **Should all co-opted members be covered by a code i.e. those with and without voting rights?**

Consultation Question Nine

- a) **What are your views on the proposed approach for determining the budget requirements of a CJC?**
- b) **What are your views on the timescales proposed (including for the first year) for determining budget requirements payable by the constituent principal councils?**

Consultation Question Ten

- a) **Do you agree that CJCs should be subject to the same requirements as principal councils in terms of accounting practices? Please give your reasons.**
- b) **Do you agree that the detail of how a CJC is to manage its accounting practices should be included in the Regulations of General Application? If not what more would be needed in the Establishment Regulations?**

Consultation Question Eleven:

What are your views on the proposed approach to staffing and workforce matters?

Consultation Question Twelve:

What are your views in relation to CJCs being required to have or have access to statutory “executive officers”?

Consultation Question Thirteen:

Do you have any other views on provision for staffing or workforce matters within the establishment regulations?

Consultation Question Fourteen:

- a) *Is it clear what functions the CJsCs will exercise as a result of these establishment regulations? If not, why?*
- b) *Do the establishment regulations need to say more on concurrence, if so what else is needed, or should that be left to local determination?*
- c) *In your view are there any functions which might be appropriate to add to these CJsCs in the future? If yes, what?*

Consultation Question Fifteen:

Do you think the regulations should provide for anything to be a decision reserved to the CJC rather than delegated to a sub-committee? If so what?

Consultation Question Sixteen:

What are your views on the approach to transfer of the exercise of functions to these CJsCs?

Consultation Question Seventeen:

What are your views on CJsCs being subject to wider public body duties as described above?

Consultation Question Eighteen:

- a) *The Welsh Government is keen to continue working closely with local government and others on the establishment and implementation of CJsCs. Do you have any views on how best we can achieve this?*
- b) *In your view, what core requirements / components need to be in place to ensure a CJC is operational, and exercising its functions effectively?*
- c) *In particular, what do you think needs to be in place prior to a CJC meeting for the first time, on the day of its first meeting and thereafter?*

Consultation Question Nineteen:

- a) *Do you think it would be helpful for the Welsh Government to provide guidance on the establishment and operation of CJsCs?*
- b) *Are there any particular areas which should be covered by the guidance?*

Consultation Question Twenty:

- a) *How can the Welsh Government best support principal councils to establish CJsCs?*
- b) *Are there areas the Welsh Government should prioritise for support?*
- c) *Is there anything that CJsCs should/should not be doing that these Establishment Regulations do not currently provide for?*

Consultation Question Twenty One:

- a) *Do you agree with our approach to, and assessment of, the likely impacts of the regulations? Please explain your response.*
- b) *Do you have any additional/alternative data to help inform the final assessment of costs and benefits contained within the Regulatory Impact Assessment? If yes, please provide details.*

Welsh Language Questions

Consultation Question Twenty Two:

- a) *We would like to know your views on the effects that establishment of CJsCs would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.*
- b) *What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?*

Consultation Question Twenty Three:

Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy for the establishment of CJsCs could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Consultation Question Twenty Four:

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: