

Consultation Reference: WG25902

## Appendix 1

### Consultation Response Form

#### Proposals relating to Strategic Planning Panel Regulations Composition and Financial Matters

We want your views on our proposals for the detail to be provided in subordinate legislation supporting strategic planning provisions contained in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

***Please submit your comments by 2 November 2015.***

If you have any queries on this consultation, please email: [planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone Gemma Christian on 029 2082 6657.

#### Data Protection

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

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Proposals relating to Strategic Planning Panel Regulations Composition and Financial Matters		
Date of consultation period: 10 August 2015 – 2 November 2015		
<b>Name</b>	Marcus Goldsworthy	
<b>Organisation</b>	Vale of Glamorgan Council	
<b>Address</b>	The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT	
<b>E-mail address</b>	mjgoldsworthy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	
<b>Type</b> <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses/Planning Consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Planning Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies/Interest Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Voluntary sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, social enterprises, religious, and not for profit organisations)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above) or individual	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## 2.0 Composition of Strategic Planning Panels

<b>Q1</b>	<b>Are you aware of any further evidence that would support the approach proposed, in particular evidence on appointments from local authorities to similar public bodies?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments: The controlling group of the Council is gender balanced and the approach proposed is welcomed.</p>				

<b>Q2</b>	<b>Do you know of further evidence around the number of female local planning authority appointments to public bodies?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments: The Vale of Glamorgan Planning Committee has 21 members, 7 are female and 14 are male. In addition, the Cabinet member for Regeneration is female and she acts on various regional bodies.</p>				

<b>Q3</b>	<b>Do you support the inclusion of a minimum percentage for both women and men on Panels?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments: Greater gender diversity leads to better governance. It also accords with Welsh Government Policy (including Equalities Act 2010, White Paper - Reforming Local Government: Power to local people and the Labour Party Manifesto) and will</p>				

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**result in better and more representative decision making.**

**Consideration should also be given to other equal opportunity issues such as race, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation to ensure the panel reflects the society it serves.**

<b>Q4</b>	<b>Do you agree with the percentage being set at 40%, if not why not? Do you consider an alternative percentage to be more appropriate and if so why?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:  <b>Modelling indicates that this level is achievable in the 3 example SPP areas, it is based on evidence in Europe and reflects Welsh Government policy.</b></p>				

<b>Q5</b>	<b>Do you consider LPAs can work collaboratively to identify an appropriate balance of members or should a more prescriptive approach be used?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:  <b>Local authorities should be capable of working collaboratively to ensure that the appropriate member balance is achieved. Training relating to planning legislation, city region issues and preparation of SDPs should be provided to potential candidates for the SPP to ensure that they are suitably qualified to undertake the role and to ensure the gender balance is achieved.</b></p> <p><b>Further information is required on the following in order to give clearer guidance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the number of members required on the SPP</li> <li>- whether each local authority has the same number or a proportionate</li> </ul>				

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**representation on the SPP.**

- **details of the personal skills / knowledge and experience required to be an effective member of the SPP. It may be appropriate to issue personal specifications to make sure the best person is appointed to the role.**
- **information on the required selection process by LPAs to select panel members.**

**This should be resolved when the regulations are published.**

<b>Q6</b>	<b>If the gender balance requirement was not complied with how could this be addressed?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

**It is considered that there should be a lead in time to establishing SPPs to enable local authorities to identify suitable Councillors to be represented on the SPP to ensure the gender mix is achieved. After the lead in time, local authorities should be required to meet the gender balance and the Welsh Government should use their powers to intervene only where necessary.**

**It is considered that the Welsh Government should support LPAs to ensure that there is an adequate pool of females to meet the gender balance by providing additional training / mentoring / networking opportunities.**

**It is considered that a report on the composition of each SPP should be submitted to Welsh Ministers annually (in line with the financial monitoring). If the SPP does not comply with the gender mix, the report should identify reasons for the non-compliance and set out how this is to be addressed. Welsh Ministers should give the SPP a certain time period to rectify the situation and then should be empowered to appoint a suitable male or female representative.**

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<b>Q7</b>	<b>Do you think that Welsh Ministers should be able to intervene on failure to comply by making LPA member appointments to panels?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>It is considered that a legislative approach to enforcing a gender balance is more effective than a voluntary approach. Reporting on the gender balance is considered an appropriate mechanism.</p>				

<b>Q8</b>	<b>Are there other mechanisms to secure compliance with a gender balance requirement? If so, how would that operate?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Council supports the quota requirement and considers that action should be taken by the Welsh Government against non compliance where appropriate.</p>				

<b>Q9</b>	<b>Do you consider that gender balance could be achieved in a timely fashion without a quota requirement?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>If addressing the gender balance on the SPP is voluntary, it is considered that it</p>				

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is unlikely the gender balance will be addressed in a timely fashion. The quota requirement is an effective way of setting a target to achieve both the balance and a timescale in which it is to be achieved. Further guidance needs to be published on this issue.

Additional guidance on how potential members of the SPP should be appointed to the SPP should be provided.

Q10	What are the reasons, in your view, for under-representation by women in public bodies such as National Park Authorities and other similar bodies (see bodies referred to in Annex A).	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Historically women may have been under represented, prior to equality legislation bringing the issue to the forefront and lack of terms of reference making it a requirement. Smaller organisations may have struggled to engage women in public bodies as there would have been a smaller pool of women from the outset.</p> <p>It is considered that there are a number of issues which prevent women being under-represented including lack of flexible working arrangements, work life balance issues and / or disillusionment at the lack of career progression.</p>				

### 3.0 Financial Matters

Q11	Do you agree with the proposals relating to what might constitute qualifying expenditure?	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Comments:

The Council supports the definition of qualifying expenditure in principle, but remains concerned about the cost of the functions which must be met by the constituent authorities. The consultation document maintains that the production of lighter touch LDPs should result in resource savings for LPAs. However, the Council considers that in areas of high development pressure, such as the Vale of Glamorgan, lighter touch LDPs will remain a time consuming and costly process.

<b>Q12</b>	<b>Do you support the approach proposed in relation to adjustment to payments as set out in section 3.13?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

It is considered unclear how much the SPP will cost to be set up and administer (only headlines are given in section 3.14). It would be useful if there was more information on the cost implication of the SPPs and development of the SDP.

A review of costs on an annual basis should be undertaken in line with the required accounting process.

<b>Q13</b>	<b>Do you have any comments on the draft Equalities Impact Assessment that supports this consultation paper?</b>	Yes	Yes (subject to further comment)	No
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

There appears to be no discussion in the report (particularly section 4 the Equalities Impact Assessment) relating to the financial matters.

It is considered that Equality issues should be reflected more holistically in

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**setting up the SPPs. Additional thought should be given age, disability, race, sexual orientation and religion.**

I do not want my name/or address published with my response (please tick)

### **How to Respond**

**Please submit your comments in any of the following ways:**

#### **Email**

Please complete the consultation form and send it to :

[planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

[Please include '**Strategic Planning**' in the subject line]

#### **Post**

Please complete the consultation form and send it to:

**Strategic Planning Consultation  
Development Plans Branch  
Planning Division  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3 NQ**

#### **Additional information**

If you have any queries on this consultation, please

Email: [planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Telephone: Gemma Christian on 02920 826657