

# Help us decide the future of Community Councils in Wales

Local Government Secretary Mark Drakeford today announced that the Welsh Government was looking for two members to join a panel co-chaired by former Assembly Members, Gwenda Thomas and Rhodri Glyn-Thomas.

The co-chairs will be joined by another former Assembly Member, William Graham, and Powys councillor, Kathryn Silk.

The Welsh Government is seeking expressions of interest from clerks of community councils and those working directly with communities – whether in the public, voluntary or private sectors.

The review is part of the Welsh Government's broader plans to reform local government and aims to ensure that the most local level of government works well and delivers results.

Panel members will be asked to look at the potential role of community councils; define the most appropriate model/structure of local government to effectively deliver this role; and consider how this model could be applied across Wales.

Announcing details of the review today, the Cabinet Secretary said:

"We should never underestimate the difference that good community councils can make. They are often the closest to the people they serve and, with that kind of insight, are well placed to deliver services for the local area.

"However, while there are some very good community councils across Wales, their size, responsibilities and community involvement can vary.

"That's why we need an honest debate about what the future role of Community Councils might look like and how we can put in place a consistent structure that serves all of our communities well.

"We have representation on the panel from all the main political parties in local government in Wales and there will also be extensive political engagement as part of the panel's work.

"We now need two extra members who can bring their own experience to bear on the work of the panel. We would encourage anyone with a strong community-based background to apply."

The evidence-based and inclusive review of Community Councils is expected to start in July and take a year. All relevant stakeholders will be invited to

contribute including, but not limited to, community and town councils, principal councils and community and third sector groups.