

FOREWORD



**BY THE RT HON. DAVID HUNT MBE MP,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES**

In Wales we now have an historic opportunity to build on the positive partnership between central and local government which exists in our Principality and which is the envy of many other parts of the United Kingdom. The challenge which faces us is to establish a structure of local government which will serve Wales well for many years to come. That is the target. I now wish to consult the people of Wales on how best we achieve that result.

This consultation paper sets out our proposals on the way forward for local democracy in Wales. I believe we should consider moving towards unitary authorities as the best foundation. The proper size and number of such authorities, however, are matters on which everybody will have a view. This paper sets out three alternative suggestions, one of which I consider the most attractive. But all three are offered as a basis of consultation. I would welcome your views on how you want your own communities to be governed in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hunt'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive hand.

THE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES

A Consultation Paper

Contents

A Foreword by the Secretary of State for Wales

Chapter

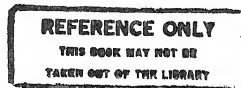
1. Introduction
2. Unitary Authorities
3. Considerations
4. Reshaping Local Government in Wales
5. Cooperation and Partnership
6. Community and Town Councils
7. Costs and Transition
8. Financial Arrangements
9. The Next Stage
10. Submission of Responses

Map

1. Counties and County Boroughs before 1974
2. The Present Structure of Counties and Districts
3. 13 Unitary Authorities
4. 20 Unitary Authorities
5. 24 Unitary Authorities

Annex

- A.
Approximate population, area and population density of counties and districts in Wales.
- B.
Local government functions: Main current responsibilities of counties and districts in Wales.
- C.
Approximate population, area and population density of unitary authorities shown in maps 3, 4 and 5.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Secretary of State for Wales considers that a structure of unitary local authorities would provide the best foundation for Welsh local government as it prepares to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This paper sets out the case for this reform and discusses how such a structure of local government might be created. Views are invited on these ideas.

The background to this paper

1.2 In January 1991 the Secretary of State invited views from the Welsh local authority associations and others about the future finance, structure and functions of local government in Wales. He has received a number of representations about the structure of local government which would best meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Wales. Most of those who responded, including many in local government, argued in favour of unitary authorities, but there was considerable disagreement about the appropriate number and size of such authorities. Some argued that a two-tier structure should be retained in some areas. Others saw no need to change the present structure in any part of Wales.

1.3 The Secretary of State has examined with care the arguments which have been put to him. He is now taking the debate forward by publishing his initial ideas and seeking views on them from a wide range of people and organisations. This consultation paper concentrates on the structure of local government in Wales. The Government have already issued a consultation paper on a new tax for local government. Other matters such as the scope for improving the internal organisation of local authorities will be the subject of future consultation.

1.4 In England the Government propose to establish a Local Government Commission to look at cases for change to the present local government structure. This Commission would draw up recommendations for improving the structure of local government area by area. In Wales, however, the exercise is on a smaller scale and it is both feasible and desirable to examine the structure of Welsh local government as an integrated whole. The issues involved have to a large extent become clear in preliminary consultations.

1.5 In these special circumstances the Secretary of State does not propose to establish a new Commission such as is proposed for England. He trusts that, in the light of responses to the ideas set out in this consultation paper, it will prove possible to reach a broadly-based agreement on the way forward in Wales. Once the overall shape of any reform has been established, however, there could well be a role for the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in drawing up the precise boundaries of the new authorities.

Fundamental Principles

1.6 In considering the representations put to him, and in drawing up the possible new structures described in this paper, the Secretary of State has borne in mind certain fundamental principles. These principles, which he considers should be embodied in any pattern of local government, are that:

- local authorities should be democratically accountable to their electorates;
- local public services should be responsive to the wishes, needs and circumstances of local communities;
- the roles of local authorities, and their responsibilities for service delivery, should be clearly understood by local people;
- local authority boundaries should, as far as possible, reflect and strengthen existing community loyalties; and
- local public services should be of high quality, and delivered efficiently, economically and effectively.

Recent developments in Welsh local government

1.7 There are at present 8 county councils and 37 district councils in Wales. These local authorities were created by the Local Government Act 1972 and came into existence on 1 April 1974. They replaced a complex structure of Counties, County Boroughs, Municipal Boroughs, Urban Districts and Rural Districts which had evolved over many years. Map 1 shows the structure of the top tier of local government, the Counties and County Boroughs, as it was before the 1974 reorganisation. Map 2 shows the present pattern of counties and districts. (Information on the population, area and

population density of the authorities shown in Map 2 is given in Annex A to this paper). There are also more than 700 community and town councils in Wales. The role of these councils is considered in Chapter 6.

1.8 Since this local government structure was established in 1974, the role of local authorities has developed and changed. Some functions which were once local government responsibilities are now carried out in other ways. A recent example is the proposed transfer of Further Education and 6th Form Colleges from local authority control (from 1 April 1993), giving the colleges greater freedom to manage their own affairs.

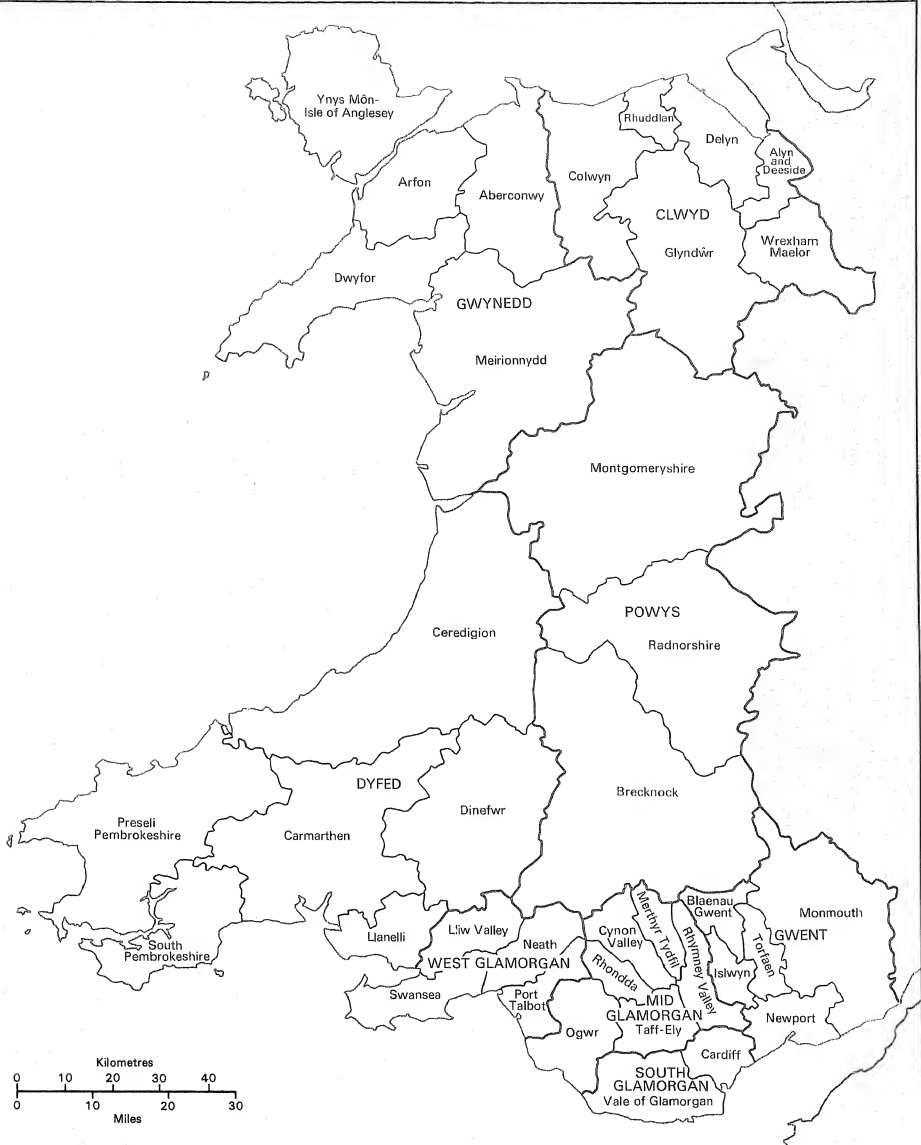
1.9 In other fields, councils have taken on new roles and responsibilities. Since 1983 local government in Wales has played a lead role in the development of services for people with a mental handicap. The proposals in the White Paper "Caring for People" and the provisions of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 have given local government an expanded role in the development of community care more generally. Many local authorities are now more actively and effectively promoting business development and attracting investment to their area, making use of the economic development powers conferred on them by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

1.10 The continuing transformation of local authorities from service providers to service enablers and purchasers has been a fundamental change. More and more services are being delivered not directly by the councils themselves but by other organisations, including those in the voluntary and private sectors, on their behalf. Councils are able to concentrate more on identifying local needs, coordinating and targeting resources, setting standards for quality of service, and monitoring performance and cost-effectiveness. The Government will continue to support and promote these highly desirable and effective developments where appropriate.

1.11 The main current functions and responsibilities of local government in Wales are set out in Annex B. The range of these functions and responsibilities, and the methods by which they are delivered, have been subject to change over time. The future structure of Welsh local government will need to be flexible and resilient enough to meet changing circumstances and new challenges.



County and County Borough Boundary —————



County Boundary —————
District Boundary —————

2. UNITARY AUTHORITIES

The case in principle

2.1 The principles which guided the creation of the present system of county and district councils in 1974 included self-sufficiency and economies of scale. It was expected that most local public services would be delivered directly by the authorities themselves. As the optimum size of authority for delivering some services was not well suited to the delivery of others, responsibilities for service delivery were shared between two tiers. Counties were to deliver those services which would benefit from a concentration of expertise and resources and a strategic perspective. Districts would take responsibility for services where local knowledge and responsiveness, and proximity to smaller communities, were at a premium. It was considered also that there were merits in principle in dividing local government functions for an area between two authorities, so that the one could provide a check and counterbalance to the other and competing interests and considerations could be adequately voiced.

2.2 The changing role of local authorities and the decrease in direct service provision have diminished the relevance of these arguments, and there has been considerable criticism of the present county and district structure. Effective coordination and action may be hampered because services that should be working closely together, such as housing and social services, are the responsibility of different tiers. Such arrangements have the potential to cause friction and confusion, and expensive duplication of effort. There is also a duplication of internal administrative services such as secretariat, legal, finance, computing and personnel departments.

2.3 The division of responsibilities between the two tiers is not always clear. People can be uncertain about which local council is responsible for which services. Under the present local taxation system, district councils are responsible for sending out bills and collecting revenue, yet county councils are responsible for most revenue expenditure on local government services. These arrangements cloud the accountability of both county and district councils to their electorates.

2.4 Proposals have been put to the Secretary of State which argue that it would be right to replace the existing pattern of counties and districts with a structure of unitary authorities, each of

which would be responsible for most local government functions within its area. The Secretary of State accepts the strength of these arguments in favour of unitary authorities, and proposes to introduce such authorities in Wales. He is persuaded of the advantages which would be gained if people could identify one authority which was responsible for ensuring the delivery of local services in their area, particularly as that authority would also be responsible for setting a budget and issuing local tax bills which reflected its decisions.

2.5 The advantages of a structure of unitary authorities in Wales would be:

- clearer accountability to the local electorate;
- the removal of friction between county and district authorities;
- better coordination in the provision of local services, leading to improved quality and cost-effectiveness;
- greater administrative efficiency, which should lead in due course to a reduced burden on taxpayers.

2.6 In some areas of Wales many people feel that the authorities created in 1974 were not well related to the communities and areas with which local people had traditionally identified. Introducing unitary authorities offers an opportunity to take account of local loyalties and traditions in considering options for a new local government structure.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 How many unitary authorities should there be in Wales? Which areas and communities should each cover? Are there optimum sizes of area or population for authorities to meet the distinctive needs and circumstances of particular areas in Wales? The following paragraphs set out the considerations which the Secretary of State feels should be taken into account in seeking answers to these questions. The weight which should be given to some of these considerations will vary from area to area within Wales, and in many cases there will be no one answer applicable in all circumstances.

3.2 **Efficiency, accountability, responsiveness.**

Wales must have a structure of local government which promotes the most efficient, accountable, economical and responsive local administration and service delivery possible. The pattern of local authorities in Wales should flow from these fundamental principles. In the Government's view, it is wrong to start from a desired number of authorities and fit service provision into that predetermined structure.

3.3 **Common boundaries with other organisations in Wales.**

Welsh local government supports and has important working relationships with a range of other organisations, including for example, health authorities, Training and Enterprise Councils, National Parks, the Welsh Development Agency, the Wales Tourist Board and a wide range of voluntary and other organisations. In many cases these bodies have common administrative boundaries with the local authorities with whom they work closely. In some cases these common administrative boundaries are a particular and unique feature of arrangements in Wales. This brings advantages, and is an argument for ensuring that any new boundaries are drawn in a way which maximises a local authority's potential for coordinated action with other organisations in Wales. Alternatively, the boundaries of some other organisations might themselves be redrawn, so preserving the benefits of

common borders, either with single local authorities or with a group of them.

3.4 **A voice in the Government of Wales.**

Welsh local authorities play an important role in representing their areas in discussions with the Welsh Office and central government generally. A single-tier structure could enhance local government's ability to carry out this function, and enable it to develop its distinctive voice in Welsh affairs. Some may feel that authorities which were too small might perhaps find this difficult. A particular consideration in drawing up a local government structure will be the desirability of preserving and strengthening the good working relationship which has developed in Wales between central and local government. In some areas relatively large authorities could perhaps fit more effectively into the Welsh strategic framework, particularly in fields such as transport planning and the the development with health authorities of new patterns of care.

3.5 **Knowledge of local circumstances.**

Some services are best delivered on the basis of a local assesment of needs and circumstances: examples include housing and development control, which are currently district responsibilities. Unitary authorities larger than the current districts might, in some areas of Wales, need to maintain or develop internal administrative substructures for the effective arrangement or delivery of such services.

3.6 **Attracting investment.**

Local authorities in Wales which represent clear and recognisable local communities are well placed to promote economic development and attract investment. If such authorities were too small they might not be in a position to fulfil these objectives or to make their localities attractive to potential investors.

4. RESHAPING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES

4.1 The Secretary of State has considered a wide range of possible patterns for a single tier of principal local authorities in Wales. Some have argued that the present 37 district councils should, in addition to their present functions, assume responsibility for all those functions which are now with county councils. Conversely, it has been proposed that the present 8 counties could assume all local government functions and responsibilities.

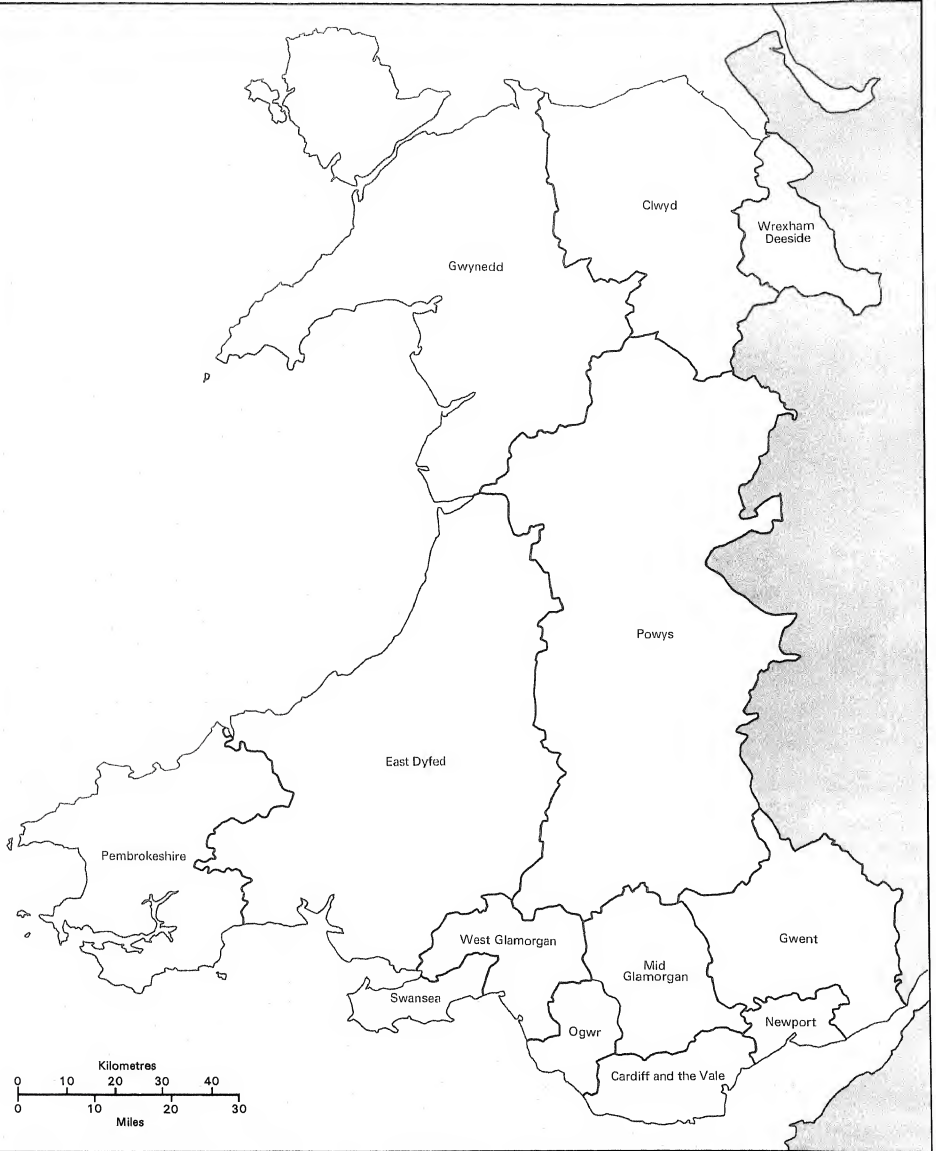
4.2 In the Secretary of State's view, neither of the structures described in paragraph 4.1 would be acceptable in Welsh circumstances. Unitary authorities based everywhere in Wales on the present districts would in a number of areas produce authorities which were too small to support the effective delivery of the full range of local government services. Effective and accountable local government would be hampered by the excessively complex joint and cooperative arrangements that would be necessary. However, if unitary authorities were to be based on the present 8 Welsh counties then a number of major Welsh cities and other areas which have traditionally had their own local authorities would no longer be separately represented in this way.

4.3 The Secretary of State is persuaded that the best structure for a single tier of unitary authorities in Wales will be found between these extremes. Maps 3, 4 and 5 show three possible patterns of local government in Wales. Map 3 shows a structure of 13 unitary authorities, Map 4 shows a structure of 20 unitary authorities, and Map 5 shows a structure of 24 unitary authorities. Each offers some benefits and has some disadvantages. Information on the population, area and population density of these possible new authorities is given in Annex C. The names which have been given to these authorities are provisional only.

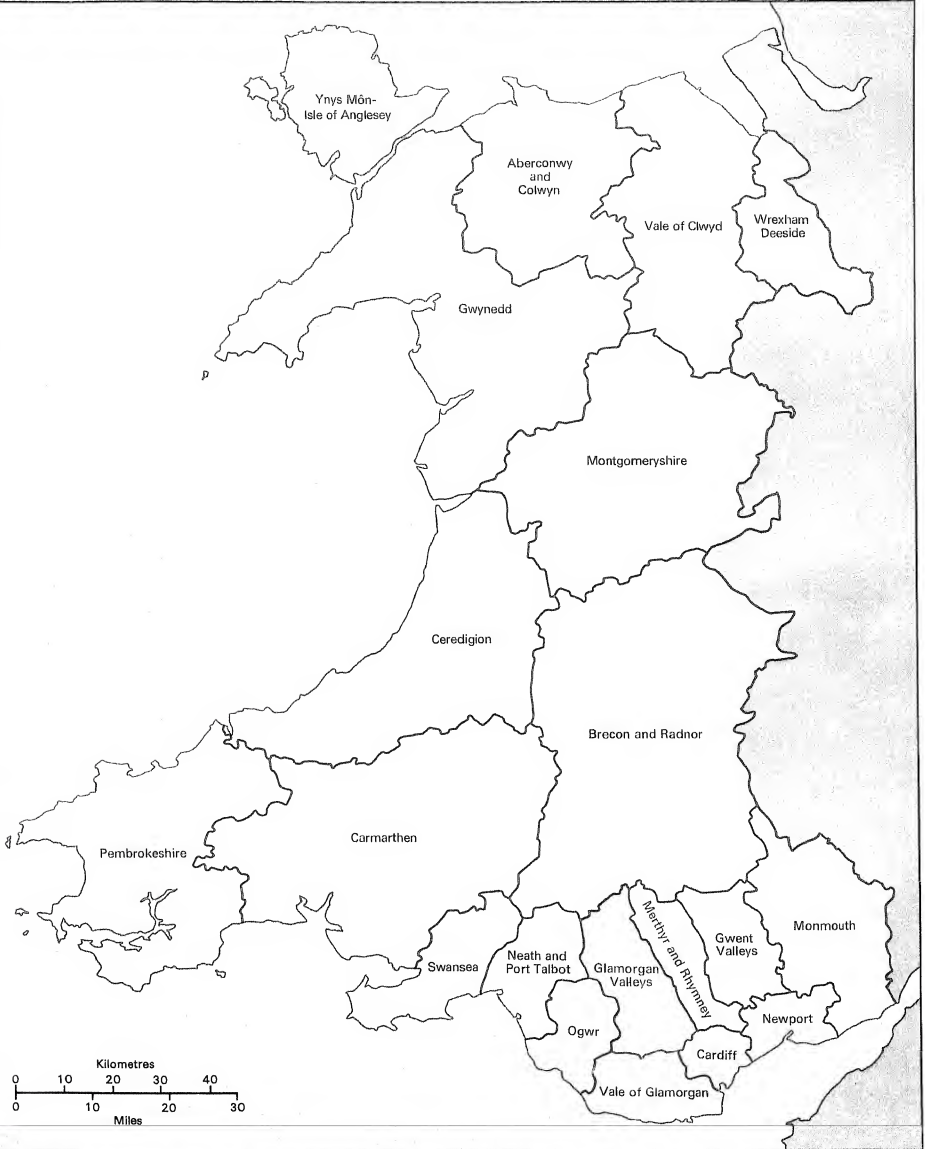
4.4 The Secretary of State considers that the structure of 20 unitary authorities shown in Map 4 has significant attractions and appears to offer the best basis for further discussion. He acknowledges however that some may feel that parts of Wales might be better served by local authorities structured as in Map 3 or Map 5, or by some other arrangement. Comments on these models and alternative suggestions are therefore invited.

4.5 The authorities shown in Maps 3, 4 and 5 are built up using

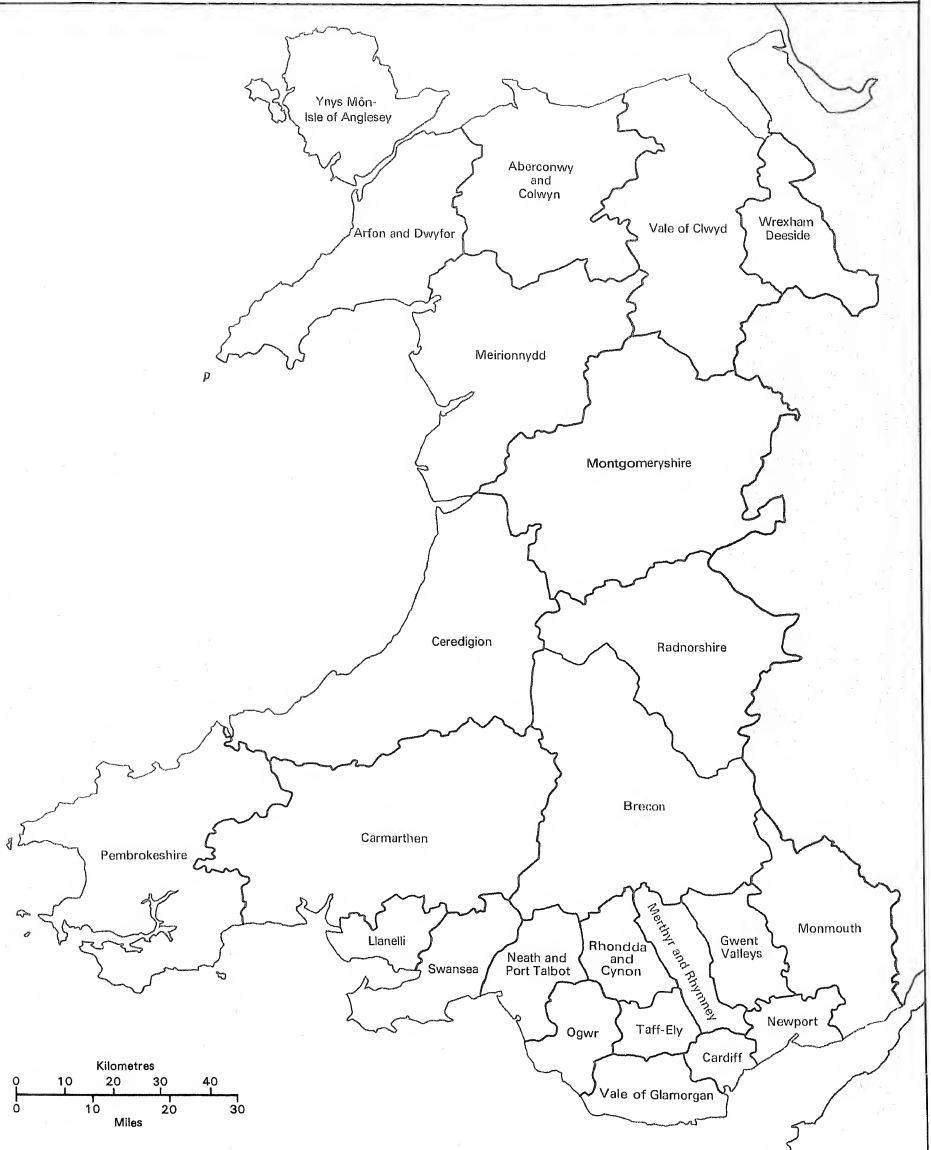
the boundaries of the present district councils as building blocks. There would be advantages in preserving this "district-boundary building block" approach in introducing any new structure, so as to keep upheaval to a minimum. However, in some areas other considerations might suggest different arrangements. Decisions on the precise boundaries of new authorities would be taken at a later stage in the process of reorganisation but the Secretary of State would welcome comments now.



Unitary Authority Boundary —————



Unitary Authority Boundary —————



Unitary Authority Boundary —————

5. COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

5.1 Some local public services are better managed and coordinated if they cover large geographical areas and large populations. Similarly, some services are resource-intensive but are needed by relatively few people, though they are important to them. These strategic or specialist services – such as transport planning or personal social services – are delivered at county level under present arrangements. They benefit from strategic planning and targeting of resources.

5.2 There is a range of options available for ensuring that the quality and efficiency of these services will be maintained or improved with the introduction of unitary authorities. For example, some services might need to be provided by several councils acting together to form joint boards for specific purposes, or cooperating in other ways. Councils could also contract out services to other agencies or organisations. Groups of councils could formulate joint strategies for dealing with common problems or challenges.

5.3 Cooperative arrangements would need to be set up with care, as such mechanisms could be a source of that friction between authorities, blurred accountability and extra cost which the introduction of unitary authorities is intended to remove.

5.4 Joint arrangements already exist for the police, fire, magistrates' courts and probation services, and it would be the Government's intention to retain these.

6. COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS

6.1 The Government believe that community and town councils can play an important role in the maintenance of a healthy local democracy. Proposals for reorganising the present county and district structure must take into account the consequences for the continued effective operation of these councils.

6.2 Community and town councils perform functions of two kinds. First, they have powers (but not, unlike principal authorities, duties) to provide or maintain certain facilities for their communities, or to contribute to their provision by others. These facilities include allotments, sports facilities, community halls, off-street car-parking, bus shelters and footpaths. Secondly, community and town councils act as a representative voice for their communities. They can play an important role in the planning process and must, if they so request, be notified of planning applications for their area.

6.3 It would be appropriate to consider the case for enhancing the role of community and town councils under a single tier of principal local authorities, particularly insofar as they represent and articulate local opinion. Comments are invited on the range of matters about which community and town councils might be consulted by other authorities and agencies before decisions are reached, and how this might be achieved.

7. COSTS AND TRANSITION

7.1 Any new local government structure must increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of local government administration. It will be a principal consideration in the design of any new structure that the real administrative cost of local authority services should not be greater than under the existing structure, and the potential for real efficiency savings should be demonstrable.

7.2 Any move to a new structure of local government for Wales is bound to entail some upheaval. The extent of this would vary, depending on the nature and scope of the changes which are introduced. Before reaching any firm conclusions and making detailed proposals for change, the Secretary of State will need to be convinced that upheaval during the transitional period can be minimised, and that reorganisation will bring long-term benefits and improvements.

8. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

8.1 The Government have already published a consultation document setting out proposals for a new Council Tax. The introduction of unitary authorities would tend to simplify these financial arrangements and enhance the direct accountability of local authorities to their taxpayers. However, the proposals for the Council Tax do not depend upon any particular form of local government structure, and could be implemented independently of any plans for reorganising Welsh local government.

9. THE NEXT STAGE

9.1 The Secretary of State would welcome views on the ideas set out in this consultation paper, and alternative suggestions, from any individual or organisation with an interest in the structure of local government in Wales. When he has considered the responses to this paper, the Secretary of State intends to publish his conclusions on the future shape of Welsh local government and on the timetable for any reform, and to consult on them. Legislation will then be required to put the Secretary of State's final proposals into effect.

10. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

10.1 Comments on this consultation document should be sent to:

Local Government Review Team (Structures)
Room 2-113
Welsh Office
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF1 3NQ

Responses should arrive no later than 31 October 1991.

10.2 The Secretary of State may wish to publish responses to this paper in due course, or to deposit them in the libraries of the Houses of Parliament or in the Welsh Office library. Should respondents wish their comments to be treated as confidential, they should make this clear in any papers submitted. All responses may nevertheless be included in statistical summaries of the number of comments received and views expressed.

ANNEX A

APPROXIMATE POPULATION, AREA AND POPULATION DENSITY OF COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS IN WALES (1989)

Authority	Population (000s)	Area (000 ha)	Density (persons/ha)
Clwyd	411	243	1.7
Alyn and Deeside	73	16	4.7
Colwyn	56	55	1.0
Delyn	66	28	2.3
Glyndwr	42	97	0.4
Rhuddlan	57	11	5.2
Wrexham Maelor	117	37	3.2
Dyfed	353	577	0.6
Carmarthen	57	118	0.5
Ceredigion	69	179	0.4
Dinefwr	39	98	0.4
Llanelli	75	23	3.2
Preseli-Pembrokeshire	70	115	0.6
South Pembrokeshire	43	44	1.0
Gwent	447	138	3.2
Blaenau Gwent	77	13	6.1
Islwyn	68	10	6.7
Monmouth	81	83	1.0
Newport	128	19	6.8
Torfaen	93	13	7.3
Gwynedd	241	387	0.6
Aberconwy	54	60	0.9
Arfon	56	41	1.4
Dwyfor	28	62	0.4
Meirionnydd	32	152	0.2
Isle of Anglesey – Ynys Mon	71	72	1.0
Mid Glamorgan	538	102	5.3
Cynon Valley	65	18	3.7
Merthyr Tydfil	59	11	5.3
Ogwr	138	29	4.8
Rhondda	77	10	7.7
Rhymney Valley	104	18	5.9
Taff-Ely	96	17	5.8
Powys	117	507	0.2
Brecknockshire	41	179	0.2
Montgomeryshire	52	206	0.3
Radnor	23	123	0.2
South Glamorgan	404	42	9.7
Cardiff	285	12	23.7
Vale of Glamorgan	119	30	4.0
West Glamorgan	363	82	4.4
Port Talbot	49	15	3.2
Lliw Valley	63	22	2.9
Neath	65	20	3.2
Swansea	186	25	7.6
WALES	2,873	2,077	1.4

ANNEX B

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS: MAIN CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS IN WALES

Function	County Responsibility	District Responsibility
Archaeology	*	
Careers Service	*	
Civil Defence	*	
Coast Protection	*	
Coroners	*	
Education	*	
Fire	*	
Local Highways	*	
Traffic Management	*	
Magistrates' Courts	*	
Personal Social Services	*	
Police	*	
Probation Service	*	
Public Transport	*	
Sea Fisheries Committees	*	
Trading Standards	*	
Archives	*	*
Arts	*	*
Concessionary Fares	*	*
Economic Development	*	*
Land Use Planning	*	*
Libraries	*	*
Museums and Galleries	*	*
Off-Street Parking	*	*
Tourism	*	*
Grants to Voluntary Bodies	*	*
Building Regulations		*
Environmental Health and Public Protection		*
Housing		*
Parks and Open Spaces		*
Playing Fields and Sports Facilities		*
Waste Collection and Disposal		*
Local Tax Collection		*
Registration of Electors		*
Administration of Housing Benefit		*
Administration of Community Charge Benefit		*

ANNEX C

13 UNITARY AUTHORITIES (MAP 3): APPROXIMATE POPULATION, AREA AND POPULATION DENSITY.

Authority	Population (000s)	Area (000 ha)	Density (persons/ha)
Clwyd (1)	221	191	1.2
Wrexham Deeside (2)	190	53	3.6
East Dyfed (3)	240	418	0.6
Pembrokeshire (4)	113	159	0.7
Gwent	319	119	2.7
Newport	128	19	6.8
Gwynedd	241	387	0.6
Mid Glamorgan (5)	400	73	5.5
Ogwr	138	29	4.8
Powys	117	507	0.2
Cardiff and the Vale (6)	404	42	9.7
West Glamorgan	177	57	3.1
Swansea	186	25	7.6

NOTES

- (1) Clwyd = the present districts of Colwyn, Rhuddlan, Delyn and Glyndwr
- (2) Wrexham Deeside = the present districts of Wrexham Maelor and Alyn and Deeside
- (3) East Dyfed = the present districts of Ceredigion, Carmarthen, Dinefwr and Llanelli
- (4) Pembrokeshire = the present districts of Preseli-Pembrokeshire and South Pembrokeshire
- (5) Mid Glamorgan = the present districts of Rhondda, Cynon Valley, Taff-Ely, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney Valley
- (6) Cardiff and the Vale = the present county of South Glamorgan

**20 UNITARY AUTHORITIES (MAP 4):
APPROXIMATE POPULATION, AREA AND POPULATION DENSITY.**

Authority	Population (000s)	Area (000 ha)	Density (persons/ha)
Ynys Mon – Isle of Anglesey	71	72	1.0
Gwynedd (1)	116	255	0.5
Aberconwy and Colwyn	111	116	1.0
Vale of Clwyd (2)	165	136	1.2
Wrexham Deeside (3)	190	53	3.6
Montgomeryshire	52	206	0.3
Brecon and Radnor	64	302	0.2
Ceredigion	69	179	0.4
Pembrokeshire (4)	113	159	0.7
Carmarthen (5)	171	239	0.7
Swansea (6)	249	47	5.4
Neath and Port Talbot	114	35	3.3
Ogwr	138	29	4.8
Vale of Glamorgan	119	30	4.0
Cardiff	285	12	23.7
Glamorgan Valleys (7)	238	44	5.4
Merthyr and Rhymney	163	29	5.6
Gwent Valleys (8)	237	35	6.8
Newport	128	19	6.8
Monmouth	81	83	1.0

NOTES

- (1) Gwynedd = the present districts of Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd
- (2) Vale of Clwyd = the present districts of Delyn, Rhuddlan and Glyndwr
- (3) Wrexham Deeside = the present districts of Wrexham Maelor and Alyn and Deeside
- (4) Pembrokeshire = the present districts of Preseli Pembrokeshire and South Pembrokeshire
- (5) Carmarthen = the present districts of Carmarthen, Dinefwr and Llanelli
- (6) Swansea = the present districts of Swansea and Lliw Valley
- (7) Glamorgan Valleys = the present districts of Rhondda, Taff-Ely and Cynon Valley.
- (8) Gwent Valleys = the present districts of Blaenau Gwent, Islwyn and Torfaen

24 UNITARY AUTHORITIES (MAP 5): APPROXIMATE POPULATION, AREA AND POPULATION DENSITY.

Authority	Population (000s)	Area (000 ha)	Density (persons/ha)
Ynys Mon – Isle of Anglesey	71	72	1.0
Arfon and Dwyfor	84	103	0.8
Meirionnydd	32	152	0.2
Aberconwy and Colwyn	111	116	1.0
Vale of Clwyd (1)	165	136	1.2
Wrexham Deeside (2)	190	53	3.6
Montgomeryshire	52	206	0.3
Brecon	41	179	0.2
Radnorshire	23	123	0.2
Ceredigion	69	179	0.4
Pembrokeshire (3)	113	159	0.7
Carmarthen (4)	96	216	0.4
Llanelli	75	23	3.2
Swansea (5)	249	47	5.4
Neath and Port Talbot	114	35	3.3
Ogwr	138	29	4.8
Vale of Glamorgan	119	30	4.0
Cardiff	285	12	23.7
Rhondda and Cynon	142	28	5.1
Taff-Ely	96	17	5.8
Merthyr and Rhymney	163	29	5.6
Gwent Valleys (6)	237	35	6.8
Newport	128	19	6.8
Monmouth	81	83	1.0

NOTES

- (1) Vale of Clwyd = the present districts of Delyn, Rhuddlan and Glyndwr
- (2) Wrexham Deeside = the present districts of Wrexham Maelor and Alyn and Deeside
- (3) Pembrokeshire = the present districts of Preseil Pembrokeshire and South Pembrokeshire
- (4) Carmarthen = the present districts of Carmarthen and Dinefwr
- (5) Swansea = the present districts of Swansea and Lliw Valley
- (6) Gwent Valleys = the present districts of Blaenau Gwent, Islwyn and Torfaen