

## REGULATORY APPRAISAL

### The Library Advisory Council for Wales Abolition and Consequential Amendments Order 2004

#### Purpose and intended effect

1. The Library Advisory Council for Wales (known as the Library and Information Services Council (LISC) Wales) is an advisory Assembly Sponsored Public Body set up to advise what was then the Welsh Office on the provision and use of public library and information services in Wales and related matters.
2. In April 2002 the Welsh Assembly Government undertook a consultation exercise to develop a new strategic and advisory structure for the library, museum and archive domains. Of the proposals put forward in the consultation, the majority of respondents favoured the option of establishing a new division of the Welsh Assembly Government incorporating, amongst others, the functions undertaken by LISC (Wales). This new division, called CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales, will become operational on 1 April 2004.
3. In terms of legislation, LISC (Wales) needs to be abolished and the functions brought into the Welsh Assembly Government by Assembly legislation under Section 28 of the Government of Wales Act.

#### Risk Assessment

4. Failure to abolish LISC and transfer the functions into the Welsh Assembly Government would mean that the new Division established within the Welsh Assembly Government to assume responsibility for the functions currently undertaken by LISC could not become fully operational as proposed from 1 April 2004. This would run contrary to the option favoured by the majority of organisations and individuals who responded to the consultation.

#### Options

##### Option 1

5. Abolish LISC

##### Option 2

6. Not to abolish LISC

#### Benefits

##### Option 1

7. LISC (Wales) has contributed considerably to the development of public library and information services in Wales but its achievements have inevitably been limited in scope because of its advisory nature. Bringing the functions of LISC (Wales) into the Assembly via CyMAL will enable policies to be both developed and implemented on a more far-ranging and cross-cutting scale because of CyMAL's status, breadth, and strategic capability.

## Option 2

8. There would be no benefits from this option.

### **Cost implications**

9. LISC (Wales) has an annual budget of £30,000 which is used to fund specific projects and members' travel and subsistence costs (members are not remunerated). Abolishing the Council will negate the need for Assembly Government funding from 1 April 2004. The funding required to provide continuity of the Council's functions, and to ensure that existing achievements are maintained and new initiatives developed, has been allocated to CyMAL.

### **Impact on Small Businesses**

10. There are no costs resulting from the Order that will impact on small businesses.

### **Consultation**

11. A twelve-week period of consultation with organisations in library, museum, archive domains, and local authorities was undertaken from April 2002. Consultees favoured the option of creating a new structure within the National Assembly for Wales which would assume the functions of the Library and Information Services Council (Wales).

### **Summary**

12. Making this Order will enable policies to be both developed and implemented on a more far-ranging and cross-cutting scale than they are able to be currently.