

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol](#) ar [Y Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus \(Cymru\)](#)

This response was submitted to the [Equality and Social Justice Committee](#) consultation on [Social Partnership and Public Procurement \(Wales\) Bill](#)

SPPP 05

Ymateb gan: Cyngor Sir Ddinbych | Response from: Denbighshire County Council

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# **Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill**

This document presents written evidence from Denbighshire County Council for submission to the Equality and Social Justice Committee's Inquiry.

## **For more information, contact us:**

**By EMAIL:** [strategicplanningteam@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningteam@denbighshire.gov.uk)

**By TELEPHONE:** 01824 706291

Rydym yn croesawu galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome telephone calls in Welsh.

### **By POST:**

Strategic Planning and Performance Team,

Denbighshire County Council,

PO Box 62,

Ruthin,

LL15 9AZ

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. There will be no delay in responding to correspondence received in Welsh.

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## Written Evidence

- 1.1 Thank you for the opportunity to present evidence to the Equality and Social Justice Committee's Inquiry. This document sets out some high-level comments on the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.
- 1.2 We welcome the principles of the Bill and would like to engage in ongoing discussions about its provisions.
- 1.3 We would welcome regional workshops with lead members and relevant professional experts from across a range of disciplines and sectors, to ensure the Bill and its provisions are considered alongside developments such as the Growth Deal and the Corporate Joint Committee.
- 1.4 We note that there will need to be interoperability with other legislation, such as new UK Public Procurement legislation due in 2023 to 2024, which will sit alongside the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.
- 1.5 In order to deliver the stated policy intentions the Bill is supporting, preparatory work will be needed to support and mobilise the local supply chain to ensure it is well-positioned to fulfil the requirements of the Bill, once in statute. This will require a coordinated and targeted effort by all local authorities and public bodies, alongside Welsh Government.
- 1.6 The local supply chain, especially smaller businesses, will require some form of capacity building to fully understand social value, particularly within tenders where the social value response will need to be evaluated. It will be necessary to ensure consistency of message and support, and to share best practice in relation to supporting small and medium-sized businesses to become compliant and fully embrace the ethos of the Bill.
- 1.7 We are considering our own local response to the Bill, as it develops, to ensure our local procurement strategy reflects the intentions of the Bill. This could include, for example, establishment of a transformation board. We will work in an integrated way, across our council, to ensure that contract management mirrors procurement requirements. We are keen to explore and monitor social return on investment beyond the procurement and contract management phases.
- 1.8 Denbighshire established a Community Benefits Hub via its 2017 to 2022 corporate plan. The Hub is embedding community benefits and outcomes through procurement and the delivery of contracts and section 106 agreements. The Bill

would build upon our existing approach to securing community benefits for Denbighshire.

- 1.9 We would like to reiterate the [procurement focussed response that is published on Sell2Wales](#), and the response coordinated by WLGA and submitted in April 2021 (entitled “DRAFT. Consultation Response Form – WLGA, April 2021” [REDACTED]).
- 1.10 We have noted that our local integrated approach to impact assessment ([Well-being Impact Assessment](#)) will need to be reviewed and where necessary, updated, in response to the policy intentions of the Bill.
- 1.11 We have good relationships with trade unions and other representative groups, such as Denbighshire County Council’s Staff Council, and formal joint arrangements are in place with local Union branches. We are aware that Unions have contributed already or are preparing their own responses to this inquiry via their own submissions.
- 1.12 We would like to raise three questions:
  - I. Will there be a formal consultation beyond this stage?
  - II. Is a timetable in place to enable us to prepare for local and regional conversations to inform any formal consultation responses?
  - III. What, if any, financial or other support might available to public bodies to support implementation?