



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Government response to the consultation on the White Paper on the Local Government Reform

2nd January 2019

*Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government
c/o 123 St. Lucia street, Valletta*

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Executive Summary

Introduction and overview

1. A brief introduction about the subject.

The White Paper on the Local Government Reform was issued following a period of evaluation and analysis of the successes and failures of local government since its inception 25 years ago. The Local Government Reform is aimed at ensuring a better quality of life to residents. Following an intensive consultation process with the internal stakeholders that was started in July 2017, the process was opened for public consultation through a White Paper in October 2018.

2. The public consultation date.
Include the objective and purpose of the public consultation.

On 12 October 2018, the Parliamentary Secretariat for Local Government and Communities launched a White Paper setting out proposals for the Local Government Reform.

3. This consultation sought views on:

- *The Regions*
- *The Social, Educational and Community Sectors*
- *Administrative Committees*
- *Permits by Local Councils*
- *The office of Mayor*
- *Local Councillor responsibilities*
- *Increased youth participation*
- *Increased local citizen participation*
- *Strengthening of human resources*
- *A name change for the Act*
- *Amendment to the Maltese Constitution*

Responses to the consultation and process used to seek stakeholder views

This document is the Government Response to this consultation and sets out the Government's decisions on these matters.

4. The closing date of the public consultation. Which methods were used to receive the feedback.
The total amount of responses. From whom you received the feedback.

The consultation closed on 30 November 2018. The White Paper and the reply form were available online and responses were accepted electronically. In total, there were 39 responses. These were received from the public, Local Councils, as well as several civil society organisations.

5. Include (if any) meetings with stakeholders and list who the stakeholders were.

A number of meetings with stakeholders, including the private sector, were also held during the consultation period. These meetings are included in Annex A.

Summary of responses and decisions

The following is a summary of the consultation responses received. We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation and participate in stakeholder meetings around the consultation exercise.

6. Statistics.

- Total feedback received: 39
- Total feedback received by individuals: 28
- Total feedback received by organisations: 11
- Total feedback received through email: 39
- Total feedback received by post: NIL

7. Summary of feedback received.

An analysis of the replies received indicates the following priorities, listed in order of preference:

1. Recommendations re. improvements to Local Council human resources;
2. Recommendations for new responsibilities to Regions; and
3. Recommendations re. office of Mayor (term of office, full time Mayors, 16 year old Mayors, etc.)

8. Your assessment and the Government's decision (list the Government's decisions).

The Local Government Reform Committee is to meet in early January in order to evaluate all the recommendations received and decide on those proposals to take on board. However, from a preliminary review of the recommendations received, nearly all the proposals in the White Paper have been favourably commented upon, with the exception of the question relating to whether a sixteen year old councillor who has obtained the majority of votes should be declared as Mayor. It is also pertinent to note that many of the recommendations need to be included as legal amendments to the Local Councils Act or relative subsidiary legislation. There is also need for an amendment to the Constitution of Malta with respect to the proposal in Section 11 of the White Paper.

Implementation

9. When you intend to implement the decisions

Subject to Parliamentary approval, we intend to implement our decision during 2019, through amendments to the Local Councils Act and relative subsidiary legislation.

Contact Details

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact: dg.localgov@gov.mt

Annex A: List of public consultation meetings

Meeting with South-East Region – 2nd November 2018
Meeting with H.E. President of Malta – 5th November 2018
Meeting with Northern Region – 9th November 2018
Meeting with Assistant Attorney General – 12th November 2018
Meeting with Central Region – 13th November 2018
Meeting with Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives – 13th November 2018
Meeting with Forum Żgħażaġħ Laburisti – 13th November 2018
Meeting with Public (Southern area) – 14th November 2018
Meeting with Labour Party Administration – 15th November 2018
Meeting with LCA executive members – 15th November 2018
Meeting with Southern Region – 16th November 2018
Meeting with Public (Northern area) – 19th November 2018
Meeting with ANSEK executive members – 19th November 2018
Meeting with Nationalist Party administration – 19th November 2018
Meeting with Gozo Region - 23rd November 2018
Meeting with Malta Catholic Youth Network – 23rd November 2018
Meeting with MEUSAC administration – 26th November 2018
Meeting with Archbishop of Malta – 28th November 2018
Meeting with Rector and administration of the University of Malta – 29th November 2018
Meeting with Public (Gozo) – 30th November 2018
Meeting with Alternattiva Demokratika – 30th November 2018