



Serving the people

Plaid Cymru will ensure that local government and public services in Wales are democratically accountable to the people and communities they serve.

We will have a grassroots approach, with a stronger, community level of local government that focuses on delivery of services. We will support community councils to be able to scrutinise and ensure effective local services in all Welsh communities. This means that all decisions can be taken at the level closest to the people.

We want to strengthen the democratic process by increasing the number of Assembly Members and decreasing the number of Members of Parliament.

Giving people a voice

We will work to increase the number of people who are registered to vote and will increase resources to electoral registration officers. We will encourage engagement by lowering the voting age to 16 and introducing compulsory citizenship classes in schools and colleges.

We want to see the Single Transferable Vote used, where applicable, for all elections, so that as many votes as possible count towards the election of a representative.

How England should be governed is a matter for the people for England, and they should be given an opportunity to decide the best method for governing themselves. In principle, we support English Votes for English Laws. However, Welsh MPs must be able to vote upon any issue which affects the people of Wales or the Welsh Government's finances.

Accountability and Transparency

Elected representatives must be answerable to the people. We support a right to recall Members of Parliament, and other elected representatives, who have broken the law or otherwise brought their role into disrepute.

We want to see an elected House of Lords, elected by Single Transferable Vote, while decisions affecting Wales continue to be made there. There should be a Welsh constituency for elections, with a weighted balance to ensure that Wales is heard on all matters

and a reduction in the number of members in the second chamber. We do not approve of the current patronage appointment system to the second chamber.

We will give the Welsh language official status within the UK Parliament so that meetings of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee and the Welsh Grand Committee can be addressed in either of Wales' two official languages.

We will remove part two of the Lobbying Act and will ensure that the lobbying system is genuinely transparent with appropriate access to all.

We will create a Welsh Civil Service, with a Welsh Civil Service training system, based on international best practice.