

Big Society Advisory Forum (BSAF) Terms of Reference

Role

The Big Society vision is a once in a generation opportunity to move power away from state, granting it to the individual and communities. It has the potential to provide a future legacy for Wales, where responsibility, innovation and community mindedness are the solutions to some of the problems affecting our communities. This Forum has been established to learn from the experience of those who deal in Big Society issues.

To be most effective the vision must take the form a partnership with the Welsh Government for the benefit people of Wales. The Forum will seek to build a consensual narrative outlining a vision for the future contribution of civil society to the wellbeing of Wales.

The three foundations of the vision are;

- **Social action** - millions of people giving their time, effort, even money, to causes around them.
- **Public service reform** – so that they are responsive to individual needs, inclusive, of high quality, and provide value.
- **Community empowerment** - creating communities with the power and desire to change.

The Forum will discuss of the Big Society in Wales and allow members to present their experiences, thoughts, and ideas for how the Big Society can grow in Wales.

Members of the Forum will be appointed on a personal basis and will not be remunerated. They will provide high level advice and a Wales perspective to Wales Office Ministers but will not have a direct policy role.

Membership

In keeping with the scope of the Big Society membership will reflect the full spectrum of partners, drawing on members of the public, private, voluntary, charity and social enterprise sectors.

Membership will be offered on a personal basis, and will initially be for a twelve-month period, at the end of which we will review the future of the Forum.

Meetings

Meetings should take place on a quarterly basis to provide high level advice to Wales Office Ministers.

As membership is personal, it will not be possible for substitutes to attend.

Members will be invited to contribute suggestions for the agenda for each meeting. The Forum will be supported by a small secretariat drawn from the Wales Office.