



PRESTATYN
TOWN COUNCIL

7 Nant Hall Road
Prestatyn
LL19 9LR

5th March 2025

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of **FULL COUNCIL** to be held in The Chambers, Prestatyn Town Council, 7 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn on **Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 6:15pm.**

If remote access is required, please contact the office by phone on 01745 857185 or by email at info@prestatyntc.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Locum Town Clerk

CYNGOR
TREF PRESTATYN



7 Ffordd Llys Nant
Prestatyn
LL19 9LR

5^{ed} Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Gynghorydd

Fe'ch **GELWIR** i gyfarfod y **CYNGOR LLAWN** yn Y Siambrau, Cyngor Tref Prestatyn, 7 Ffordd Llys Nant, Prestatyn ar Ddydd Mercher **12^{fed} Mawrth 2025 am 6:15pm.**

Os byddwch angen mynychu ar-lein, cysylltwch â'r swyddfa drwy ffonio 01745 857185 neu drwy anfon e-bost i info@prestatyntc.co.uk.

Yn gywir iawn

Clerc y Dref Locwm

1 APOLOGIES

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive notice of Councillors personal and/or prejudicial interest in tonight's proceedings as required by Code of Conduct legislation.

4 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

5 LEVELLING UP FUNDS Round 3 - PRESTATYN
Presentation by Denbighshire County Council

6 MINUTES

Town Planning Committee 12.02.25
Community Development and Regeneration Committee 12.02.2025
Finance and Management Committee 12.02.25
Full Council 12.02.25

1 YMDDIHEURIADAU

2 CYFRANOGAETH Y CYHOEDD

3 DATGANIADAU O DDIDDORDEB

Derbyn hysbysiad am ddiddordebau personol a/neu ragfarnus y Cyngorwyr yn nhrafodion y cyfarfod heno fel sy'n ofynnol dan ddeddfwriaeth y Cod Ymddygiad.

4 CYFATHREBIADAU'R MAER

5 CRONFEYDD FFYNIANT BRO Rownd 3 – PRESTATYN
Cyflwyniad gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych

6 COFNODION

Y Pwyllgor Cynllunio Tref 12.02.25
Y Pwyllgor Datblygu ac Adfywio Cymuned 12.02.2025
Y Pwyllgor Cyllid a Rheolaeth 12.02.24
Y Cyngor Llawn 12.02.25

7 DCC CAR PARK SUBSIDY 2025/26

To provide response regarding future of Car Park subsidy.
Copy attached.

PTC 2025/26 Budget Provision £6,500

8 COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDITOR 2024/5/6

To consider appointment of SJC Chartered Accountants (formerly UHY Hacker Young)

Financial Implications: 2024/5/6
Budget Provision £1,250

9 TY PENDRE PM 166

To consider future form of room hire/lease/license for Ty Pendre.
Copy attached

10 NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL PM 62

Future options for Town and Community Council's in Wales.
Copy attached

11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider Exclusion of Public and Press in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A Parts 1,2,3,4,5,7 during the following items:-

Full Council – Part Two Minutes 12.02.2025

Building Conditions Report – Town Council Office/Community Rooms - copy attached

Staffing

7 CYMHORTHDAL MAES PARCIO CSDd 2025/26

Darparu ymateb am ddyfodol y cymhorthdal Maes Parcio
Mae copi wedi'i atodi.

Darpariaeth Cyllideb 2025/26 Cyngor Tref Prestatyn £6,500

8 ARCHWILYDD MEWNOL Y CYNGOR 2024/5/6

Ystyried penodi SJC Chartered Accountants (sef UHY Hacker Young gynt)

Goblygiadau Ariannol: 2024/5/6
Darpariaeth yn y Gyllideb £1,250

9 Tŷ PENDRE PM 166

Ystyried y math o drwydded/les/llogi ystafell ar gyfe Tŷ Pendre yn y dyfodol.
Mae copi wedi'i atodi

10 CYMDEITHAS CYNGHORAU LLEOL GOGLEDD A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU PM 62

Opsiynau'r dyfodol ar gyfer Cyngorau Tref a Chymuned yng Nghymru.
Mae copi wedi'i atodi

11 EITHRIO'R CYHOEDD A'R WASG

Ystyried Eithrio'r Cyhoedd a'r Wasg yn unol â Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 Atodlen 12A Rhannau 1,2,3,4,5,7 yn ystod yr eitemau a ganlyn:-

Cyngor Llawn – Cofnodion Rhan Dau 12.02.2025

Adroddiad Cyflwr Adeiladau – Swyddfa/ Ystafelloedd Cymunedol y Cyngor Tref – mae copi wedi'i atodi

Staffio

MEMBERSHIP:

All Councillors.

To: All Town Councillors
Denbighshire County Councillors
(Prestatyn and Meliden)
Public Notice
Mayor's Chaplin

AELODAETH:

Y Cyngorwyr i Gyd

I'r: Y Cyngorwyr Tref i Gyd
Cyngorwyr Sir Ddinbych
(Prestatyn a Gallt Melyd)
Hysbysiad Cyhoeddus
Caplan y Maer

Mayor and Deputy Event Attendance 14.11.24 - 12.03.25

Date Of Event	Event	Organisation	Mayor	Deputy Mayor
18.11.24	Prestatyn Police Station opening	North Wales Police	YES	YES
23.11.2024	An Evening Of Live Music from Musicals	Mayor of Rhuddlan Charity Evening	NO	YES
23.11.2024	Church of Holy Spirit Music Dimention proceeds to ukraine	Helping Hand for Ukarine, Music Dimention	YES	NO
25 or 26.11.24	PTC Christmas Window Competition	Prestatyn Town Council	YES	N/A
28.11.24	Tesco Collection for Prestatyn and Meliden Food Bank	Tesco Prestatyn	YES	YES
29.11.24	Tesco Collection for Prestatyn and Meliden Food Bank	Tesco Prestatyn	NO	NO
30.11.24	Tesco Collection for Prestatyn and Meliden Food Bank	Tesco Prestatyn	YES	YES
29.11.2024	PTC Christmas Light Switch On	PTC Light Switch On	YES	YES
03.12.2024	Denbighshire County Council Carol Service	Denbighshire County Council Carol Serv	YES	N/A
06.12.24	The Sophia Singers Carol and Christmas Song Concert	Kings Hall	YES	YES
07.12.24	Conwy Winterfest - Medieval Christmas	Conwy Town Council	NO	
07.12.24	Christmas Fayre	Holy Spirit Church	YES	YES
07.12.24	Christmas Party	Meliden Community Centre	YES	NO
11.01.25	Bowls Open Day	Ffrith Bowling Club	YES	N/A
17.01.25	Aimee's Friday Art Group	Aimee's Friday Art Group	YES	YES

Mayor and Deputy Event Attendance 14.11.24 - 12.03.25

17.01.2025/ 18.01.2025	Marine Exhibition	Amgueddfa Cymru (Museum Wales)	YES	YES
24.01.25	President's Match for Young Lives verses Cancer	Ffrith Bowling Club	YES	NO
05.02.25	Meeting with Childline Prestatyn Base	Childline Prestatyn	YES	N/A
13.02.25	Town Clock Repair Reveal	PTC	YES	YES
14.02.25	Valentines Day	PTC	YES	YES
15.02.25	Prestatyn & Rhyl Lions Charter Dinner	Prestatyn & Rhyl Lions	YES	YES
19.02.25	Citizen's Ceremony	DCC	YES	N/A
21.02.25	KIM Inspire - Coffee and Cake	KIM Inspire	NO	YES
24.02.25	Sketch and draw in Meliden	PTC	YES	NO
26.02.25	Sketch and draw in PTC	PTC	YES	NO
28.02.25	St. Davids Day	PTC	YES	YES
01.03.25	Twisted Twig - Ribbon Cutting (new shop opening)	Twisted Tree	YES	YES
01.03.25	Mayor Linda Corbetts Charity Ball	The Stamford Gate	NO	YES
03.03.25	St David's Day Window Competition	PTC	YES	N/A
06.03.25	Mayor of Rhyl Cllr Cheryl Williams Charity Evening, with Live Music	Rhyl Rugby Club	YES	YES
10.03.25	Cllr Peter Scott - Flag raising Ceremony - Celebrating Commonwealth Day	DCC	YES	N/A

TOWN PLANNING

Minutes of Town Planning Committee meeting held in Council Chambers, 7 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn, on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 6:15pm – 6:25pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: A. West (Mayor/Chairman), C. Holliday (Deputy Mayor), P. Duffy, I. Lifford, C. Evans, K. Clewett, G. Sandilands, B. Williams, J. Matthews, T. Jones MBE, A. Tomlin, R. Flynn, A. Sampson, J. McLellan (r), J. Thompson-Hill (r)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr N. Acott – Locum Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer, Miss S. Rinaldo – Administration and Support Officer (Agency), Miss M. Sinclair – Community Liaison Officer (Agency), Miss S. Clarke – Assistant Town Clerk, Miss B. Shaw – Financial and Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors: S. Frobisher, E. Heaton, H. Irving

136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of the need to declare personal and/or prejudicial interest in tonight's proceedings in accordance with the code of legislation. None received.

137 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

138 DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING CONSULTATIONS 12/02/2025

<u>APPLICATION</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
43/2024/1561/PF Erection of replacement refrigeration plant. Aldi Foodstore Ltd, Meliden Road, Prestatyn, Denbighshire, LL19 9RT. (C)	NO OBJECTION
43/2024/1551/PS Variation of condition no. 2 and 11 of planning permission code no. 43/2021/0990 to amend the design of the house types. Land At, 93 Meliden Road, Prestatyn, Denbighshire. (C)	NO OBJECTION Concern that mature trees on site have been removed. County Tree Preservation Office should be informed.

43/2025/0006/HH Alterations and extensions to dwelling and associated works. 60 Beach Road East, Prestatyn, Denbighshire, LL19 7LF. (E)	NO OBJECTION
43/2025/0011/TC Works to various trees in the Prestatyn (High Street) Conservation Area. Pendre Gardens Fforddlas, Prestatyn, Denbighshire. (E)	NO OBJECTION Works to be undertaken in accordance with County Tree Preservation Officer.
43/2025/0033/AD Display of replacement fascia sign Euphoria, 138 High Street, Prestatyn, Denbighshire, LL19 9BN (C)	NO OBJECTION Proposal within conservation area.

139 ONE MINUTES SILENCE

Cllr A. West, Mayor and Council stood for one minute silence following the sad passing of Lynn Prior (former consort to Jan Szabo, Past Mayor). Lynn was a good friend to the town and had worked as a nurse in public sector for many years until her retirement.

Mayor _____

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Community Development and Regeneration Committee Meeting held in Council Chambers, 7 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn, on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 6.25pm – 7.20pm.

PRESENT

Committee Members: Cllrs. G. Sandilands (Chair), K. Clewett (Vice-Chair), C. Holliday, B. Williams, A. Sampson.

Councillor Observers: A. West, P. Duffy, I. Lifford, C. Evans, J. Matthews, T. Jones MBE, A. Tomlin, R. Flynn, J. McLellan(r), J. Thompson-Hill(r)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr N. Acott – Locum Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer, Miss S. Rinaldo – Administration and Support Officer (Agency), Miss M. Sinclair – Community Liaison Officer (Agency), Miss S. Clarke – Assistant Town Clerk, Miss B. Shaw – Financial and Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES

140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of the need to declare personal and/or prejudicial interest in tonight's proceedings in accordance with the Code of Conduct legislation.

Declarations of Interest were received and forms completed as follows:

- Cllr C. Holliday declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of item no: 4 Grant Application - Benefit Advice Shop and Friends of the Railway.
- Cllr I. Lifford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of item no: 4 Grant Application - Friends of the Railway.
- Cllr C. Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of item no: 4 Grant Application - Wales In Bloom.
- Cllr G. Sandilands declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of item no:4 Grant Application - Friends of the Railway and Walking Festival.
- Cllr A. Sampson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of item no: 4 Grant Application - Walking Festival.

141 COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Cllr G. Sandilands, Chair introduced this item and thanked staff for draft proposals of community events and activities 2025/26. He then invited Morgan, Community Liaison Officer to address Committee.

Community Liaison Officer explained that draft proposals included regular annual events but also included new ideas e.g. Pride Event. Due to the nature of the budget setting cycle the programme of events had been prepared based on a similar level of finance as last year, however some events/ activities would be dependent upon securing external grant funds.

Cllr C. Holliday referred to success of Teddy Bears Picnic event held in Ty Pendre last year and hoped this would be repeated. Participation in World Book Day and Easter Egg Hunt in conjunction with Prestatyn Library are under active consideration.

Chairman expressed his view that community events and activities were formed by building community partnerships and that council's role should be as an enabling facilitator and working in partnership with others.

RESOLVED

- 1) That draft proposals report dated 12.02.25 be accepted for 2025/26 and that further details be prepared by officers.
- 2) That Staff be thanked for consultations and preparation work on community events/ activities programme.

142 GRANT APPLICATIONS PM60(i/ii/iii)

Details of grant applications had been circulated with agenda. During committee review of grant applications, it became evident that it was not clear on several applications which financial year the grant related to e.g. 2024/25 or 2025/26.

Locum Town Clerk advised that a review of grant process and timetabling would be of assistance to both Council and grant applicants for 2025/26.

RESOLVED

That grants be awarded as follows:

Llais Prestatyn – Defer and seek further engagement from local group.

Prestatyn, Rhyl and District U3A - Defer and seek further information about future financial sustainability from group.

Benefits Advice Shop – Defer and seek clarification on financial year of funding. Seek information on working with CAB.

(Cllr C. Holliday declared interest and retired during this item)

Friends of Prestatyn Railway Station – Grant £900.00 for 2025/26 subject to PTC budget provisions (Cllr G.Sandilands / I. Lifford/ C. Holliday declared interests and took no part in this item. Cllr. K. Clewett in Chair).

Citizens Advice Bureau - £2,500.00 for 2025/26 subject to PTC budget provisions. Seek data and statistics relating to Prestatyn and Meliden work, also information about working links with Benefits Advice Shop.

(Cllr G. Sandilands declared interest and retired during this item. Cllr. K. Clewett in Chair)

Prestatyn and District Festival of Walks - Grant £1,000.00 for 2025/26 subject to PTC budget provisions.

Prestatyn in Bloom - £1,000.00 for 2024/25 contained within budget provisions

143 PTC OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT - NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Details of North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils report on draft consultation document about future of Town and Community Council had been circulated with agenda. Cllr C. Holliday explained that the Association was seeking member council views to enable them to respond to Welsh Government. One proposal was to drastically reduce the number of smaller Town and Community Councils in Wales. Several Councillors indicated they felt many small communities valued local democracy and independence in Wales.

RESOLVED

That the item to be referred to Full Council.

144 PRESTATYN AND MELIDEN TOWN REGENERATION SUMMARY - DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Details of above summary report had been circulated with agenda. The document was a County Council position statement of significant regeneration projects planned and recently completed. It reflected a position in time and would be received annually.

Locum Town Clerk referred to a request to appoint two members to 'Levelling Up Funds' group which had been on the agenda for Full Council later tonight. It was envisaged that a dedicated Town Plan might be established to reflect a 'whole town' approach to community regeneration in future.

RESOLVED

That document be received.

Chairman_____

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Finance and Management Committee Meeting held in Council Chambers, 7 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn, on 12th February 2025 at 7.25pm – 7.45pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: C. Holliday (Chairman/Deputy Mayor) - Chair, I. Lifford (Vice-Chair), G. Sandilands, C. Evans, Cllr A. West, J. Matthews.

Councillor Observers: P. Duffy, T. Jones MBE, A. Tomlin, R. Flynn, K. Clewett, B. Williams, A. Sampson J. McLellan(r), J. Thompson-Hill(r)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr N. Acott – Locum Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer, Miss S. Rinaldo – Administration and Support Officer (Agency), Miss M. Sinclair – Community Liaison Officer (Agency), Miss S. Clarke – Assistant Town Clerk, Miss B. Shaw – Financial and Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES

145 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of the need to declare personal and/or prejudicial interest in tonight's proceedings in accordance with the Code of Conduct legislation. None received.

146 FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

Details of financial expenditure had been circulated with agenda. Members highlighted the high level of staff contingency and Locum Town Clerk explained this was primarily due to providing cover for Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer and also four current staff vacancies currently being filled by three agency staff. However, overall staff costs remained within budget forecast.

RESOLVED

That BACS 10/11, Payroll (P) BACS P8/ P9/ P10 and Direct Debits be approved.

Proposed: Cllr A. West Seconded: Cllr I. Lifford

147 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS – NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER INC & EXP, BALANCE SHEET

Details of accounts had been circulated with agenda papers.

RESOLVED

That the Financial Accounts for November/ December - Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet be accepted.

148 TY PENDRE PM (116)

A paper was circulated outlining the different types of agreements that could be used when allowing other party use of property e.g. licensing, leased, Tenancy, room hire.

RESOLVED

That this item be referred to Full Council for consideration.

149 STAFF COMMITTEE**RESOLVED**

That internal minutes of Staff Committee meeting held on 7th January 2025 and 4th February 2025 be accepted.

150 FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

Draft financial estimates 2025/26 had been circulated to Councillors prior to meeting. Locum Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer explained that this year he was presenting proposals with a 'standstill' budget approach but with a separate paper relating to future growth options. The Council Tax Precept options also reflected this approach.

Potential growth areas had been identified by Council during past year and during earlier budget setting discussions. The proposals recognised Council's difficult financial situation arising from aging property portfolio, changing services delivery method, unprecedented personnel issues, and rising election costs.

Reference was also made to the use of financial reserves in recent years to balance spending and enable no change to council tax. This was not a sustainable position in longer term. In addition, he also explained that whilst committee would help determine budget proposals the council tax precept would have to be set by Full Council later tonight. Committee thanked staff for clarity of presentation.

Committee then discussed financial estimates and proposals.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

- 1) That Committee recommend acceptance of Financial Estimates 2025/26
(Future Growth Options and Council Tax Precept to be determined by Full Council)
- 2) That Staff be thanked for clarity of presentation

Proposed: Cllr C Evans Seconder: Cllr I Lifford

Chairman _____

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chambers, 7 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn, on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7.45pm – 8.15pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: A. West (Mayor/Chairman), C. Holliday (Deputy Mayor), P. Duffy, I. Lifford, C. Evans, K. Clewett, G. Sandilands, B. Williams, J. Matthews, T. Jones MBE, A. Tomlin, R. Flynn, A. Sampson, J. McLellan (r), J. Thompson-Hill (r)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr N. Acott – Locum Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer, Miss S. Rinaldo – Administration and Support Officer (Agency), Miss M. Sinclair – Community Liaison Officer (Agency), Miss S. Clarke – Assistant Town Clerk, Miss B. Shaw – Financial and Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors: S. Frobisher, E. Heaton, H. Irving

151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded of the need to declare personal and/or prejudicial interest in tonight's proceedings in accordance with code of conduct legislation. None received.

152 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

153 COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2025/26

Cllr A West, Mayor referred to earlier meeting tonight and invited Locum Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer to address council. It was explained that whilst earlier Finance and Management Committee had made recommendations on budget proposals the council tax precept could only be set by Full Council.

An options paper had been circulated with agenda outlining different approaches to future growth in significant service areas as identified by council during its budget setting process. In addition, Denbighshire County Council (DCC) were reviewing service operations, and seeking to build upon community partnerships going forward. Central Government funding for Local Government services and unprecedented demands upon them for local government services continues to cause local difficulties.

Several Councillors also spoke about the need to improve town's environment and need to and ensure the town took opportunities arising from forthcoming 'levelling up' programme as discussed earlier tonight. Whilst this was external funding managed by Denbighshire County Council it was important that Town Council was in position to help tailor programmes to meet local needs.

RESOLVED

That Council Tax Precept 2025/26 be £634,875.00 per Band D property (Option 3).

Proposed: Cllr J. Matthews Seconded: Cllr C. Holliday

An earlier proposal for no increase in council tax precept was proposed by Cllr P. Duffy and seconded by Cllr R. Flynn. A recorded vote was requested. Motion was declared **LOST**

FOR

Cllrs: P. Duffy, R. Flynn.

AGAINST

Cllrs: A. Sampson, A. Tomlin, T. Jones,
A. West, C. Holliday, G. Sandilands,
I. Lifford, J. Matthews, K. Clewett,
B. Williams, J. McLellan, J. Thompson-Hill.
C. Evans.

ABSTAIN

None

154 MINUTES**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Minutes of Full Council 15.01.25 be approved
- 2) That Minutes of Town Planning Committee 15.01.25 be approved

155 DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – (DCC) LEVELLING UP FUNDS, PRESTATYN

Details of email from Denbighshire County Council, Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services had been circulated with agenda seeking two town council representatives to be appointed to 'Levelling Up Funds, Prestatyn' Liaison Group.

RESOLVED

That Cllrs I. Lifford and C. Evans be appointed.

Cllr I Lifford: Proposed Cllr G Sandilands Seconded: Cllr A Tomlin
Cllr C Evans: Proposed Cllr J Matthews Seconded Cllr A Sampson

156 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Council had received expression of interest from two councillors willing to fill the vacant school governor posts.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Cllr R. Flynn be appointed council representative on Ysgol Clawdd Offa.
- 2) That Cllr P. Duffy be appointed council representative on Ysgol y Lllys.

157 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**RESOLVED**

That Public and Press be excluded in accordance with local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, during the following items:

- 1) Scala Cinema 2) Resource and Appeals Committee

158 SCALA CINEMA, PRESTATYN

An email had been received from Property Services, Denbighshire County Council and copy circulated to councillors.

RESOLVED That Council supports Denbighshire County Council/leaseholder outline plans to review lease and improve Scala Cinema offering

159 MINUTES**RESOLVED**

That Finance and Management Committee - Part 2 Item Minutes 11.12.2024 be approved

That Full Council 15.02.2025 – Part 2 Minutes be approved

160 RESOURCES AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 06.02.2025

Details of recent meeting circulated.

RESOLVED That proposed future actions as reported be approved

Mayor_____

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

CYMRITHAS CYNGORAU TREFI A CHYMRITHASAU NIWYAF SOGLEDD CYNRU



SUMMARY PAPER

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIEW

1. Introduction

The changes for town and community councils have been on the 'cards' for some years. The momentum to progress more quickly is beginning to build.

There are now 5 regions (CCJ's) in place over Wales and the county councils all appear to be in financial crisis.

This paper looks at what might be a way forward to achieving this.

2. Town and Community Council review

The programme for completion by the Association of the paper for Welsh Government is:

January 2025	Identify the views and issues from the members. (issues and ideas) – Completed on 24 th January
February 2025	Consult member councils
March 2025	To complete the document with consultation. (Preparation of a paper). (Discussion by email and meetings).
April 2025	To agree at the main meeting the document For presentation to Welsh Government. (Final document).

3. The issues

The issues with regard to the reduction of Town and Community Councils from around 737 down to around 150 have been identified as follows (I am sure there are more):

Basis

It was recognised that one size does not fit all with towns (urban) being very different from villages (rural). Any plan for the future needs to reflect this.



Size of council

At present town and community councils vary from Barry (pop 50,000) to small rural councils (pop 500).

Precept under £10k	209	Total very small councils 351 (48%)
Precept 10-20k	142	
Precept 20-50k	155	Total mid-size councils 236 (32%)
Precept 50-100k	81	
Precept 100-200k	67	Total larger councils 150 (20%)
Precept over 200k	83	

Wales has a population of 3.2m and has 737 local councils, average population 4,300. If there were 150 town and community councils the average rises to approx. 20,000 population.

Identity

Towns and communities being joined raises the concern of loss of identity. Smaller councils may feel overrun by larger councils and feeling they may lose control of their communities.

Representation

Representation within communities was considered important and should be protected.

Legislation

It was felt that the only way combining councils or clustering councils would work was via legislation – it was recognised that many would not take part if not.

Culture

Many communities have diverse cultures to others and this becomes an issue if councils were combined as opposed to clustered.

Service delivery

The service delivery of more (handed down from County Councils) will give rise to issues of what each community wants. All vastly different in their views.



Service delivery of the level envisaged will require larger unit to enable it to happen.

The county councils have already intimated that they are looking to only do those things which they have a duty to. This will leave many services on the ground to be delivered by others (Town or Community Councils and the community).

Financial

Each council has various levels of reserves and some may not be happy to combine with a council with less funds.

Council tax will rise whatever the outcome as they will even up over the cluster or group.

VAT

The VAT status of councils would change with partial exemption not being an option once the council budget rise to the level expected.

Seats

If councils were to be combined the allocation of seats (of which there are likely to be less) will be an issue depending upon how they are calculated.

Councillors and payments

With larger councils and with the workload it is expected that councillors would need to be paid when a new system arrives. This has a cost implication.

Services and council tax

Councils may have two parts to their council tax. One part for their own area and part for joint services. Some may not wish to pay for a service on a collective basis if they do not receive it.

Town Clerk and staff

The cost of making staff redundant (less Town Clerk's required) – where is it met from?

We are sure you may have more to add.



4. Suggested basis for the next stage

The Executive suggests that we consider three types of local council

- a) Larger councils could remain much as they are now
(budgets of over £200k)
- b) Medium councils to combine in urban areas
where there is a common interest
(budgets of over £100k)
- c) Smaller councils to cluster in more rural areas
with a system to deliver services jointly. (budgets under £100k)

Consultation of members

The Association is asking its member councils for its views on this subject. Any responses need to be with the Association secretary no later than 28th February 2025.

The basic questions for you are:

Question	YES	NO	Don't know
Do you think the suggested way forward is a basis for further work?			
Do you think the issues identified are right?			
Do you think a reduction to 150 councils is the right way forward?			
If not how many do you think would be right?			

Please do give us your written views so we can fully understand and make sure they are included in the paper going forward.

All views will be included in the consultation document with any report.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You can find more detail within the following (which are made available to you):

- i) Association Executive Meeting minutes January 2025
- ii) Association Quarterly Meeting minutes January 2025
- iii) Copy of the slides used in the presentation to the Association in January 2205