

# BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

## Guidance Notes

### Background

The Councillor's Annual Report is a mechanism for improving communication between Councillors and the local electorate. The Welsh Government identified that Annual Reports would help improve local people's understanding of what their Local Councillor does, and the important role they serve.

Local Authorities are expected to provide a format and mechanism for Annual Reports to be published; however the content (in the main) is the responsibility of individual Councillors.

Bridgend County Borough Council has developed a process which it is hoped will be factual, interesting and non-political. The BCBC 'Model' allows the completion of 4 specific areas of activity as follows:

1. **Role & Responsibilities**
  2. **Constituency Activity**
  3. **Initiatives & Special Activities**
  4. **Other Activities & Issues**
- **Role & Responsibilities**

Previously the Authority provided a list of committees and other bodies to which each councillor was appointed. This was very labour intensive for officers to accurately compile and insert into each annual report. This information is now available to the public on the BCBC website therefore its inclusion in the report has been replaced by a link to the Councillors profile page.

It is proposed that the revised paragraph in the report template will be updated by Democratic Services to include any specific information and links on completion of the report.
  - **Constituency Activity**

This is where Councillors have an opportunity to detail any work that they have undertaken on behalf of their local constituents. It can include details of regular surgeries held, key referrals made to Council departments, together with their outcomes. It can include the support that Councillors have provided to local residents on a range of topics of high interest.

- **Initiatives & Special Activities**

This is where Councillors have the opportunity to describe any major initiatives or special projects that they have been associated with on behalf of BCBC which have a direct impact on local constituents. Examples of this could include being part of a working party associated with a particular topic or issue, part of a regeneration project, proposals and activity associated with improved leisure facilities for part of the community.

- **Other Activities & Issues**

This is an opportunity for Councillors to offer information on themselves which they believe would be of interest to their constituents of which constituents should be made aware.

Examples of this could include promotion of Welsh Language Skills across the local community, the role that they have undertaken in fund-raising events, support for specialist local business or areas of personal special interest (eg support for local sports clubs, events, or organisations). It is the opportunity to show the 'personal' aspect of your role as a local Councillor.

## **Process**

Democratic Services will provide the report template as a word document to each Elected Members at the end of April each year. This will then enable Elected Members to complete their initial draft of their report for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May of the previous year until 30 April of the current year. Initial Drafts will be requested to be returned to Democratic Services by 31 May.

One of the most important aspects of the BCBC Model is that Councillors are encouraged to provide as much or as little information within the 500 word limit. Staying within the word count limit will provide some consistency and to maintain the focus on the key issues of your report. It will also enable the translation costs necessary when publishing these reports to be managed.

Reminders will be provided by Democratic Services to return completed initial draft reports. It will be assumed that any Elected Member not returning their report by the 31 May will not be completing an annual report for the period.

Democratic Services will review the report and finalise any formatting before returning it to the elected Member for approval. A copy of the finalised Annual Reports may be reviewed by the Group Leaders (if required)

The approved reports will be translated and both documents will be linked from the Elected Members profile page on the BCBC website by 01 September each year.

Details of the number of Elected Members completing their annual reports will be provided to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

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