

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

19 MARCH 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

REVIEW OF THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR IN WALES

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum of the current Welsh Government consultation regarding the review of the future of the Community and Town Council Sector.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The review may assist in the achievement of all of the following Corporate Priorities:

1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Gwenda Thomas and Rhodri Glyn Thomas were appointed as co-chairs of an Independent Review Panel considering the future of the Community and Town Council Sector in Wales. The review has a broad remit to:
- explore the potential role of local government below principal councils, drawing on best practice.
 - define the most appropriate model(s)/structure(s) to deliver this role.
 - consider how these models and structures should be applied across Wales. This will include consideration of any situations in which they would not be necessary or appropriate.
- 3.2 The review is focusing on what is required to ensure the most local level of government is effective, efficient and delivering benefits to local communities.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 Since the start of the Review in July last year, the panel has heard views and gathered evidence from a range of stakeholders including Community and Town Councils themselves, Local Authorities, the Third Sector and key stakeholders including One Voice Wales, the Wales Audit Office, The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission and the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
- 4.2 The Panel is keen to get the Local Authority perspective on what role Community and Town Councils should play, and what needs to be in place for them to be able to play that role. From engagement to date, the relationship between the two tiers of local government is a key consideration.
- 4.3 The Panel would welcome views on what Community and Town Councils should be responsible for, how they should operate, what barriers stand in the way and what opportunities exist for Community and Town Councils. A survey has been prepared to gather views and is available using the following link:
(<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DGMA8/>)
- 4.4 Additional information is provided at **Appendix 1** to show the questions included in the survey and an information sheet at **Appendix 2** which has been provided on the the Welsh Government website:
(<http://gov.wales/topics/localgovernment/communitytowncouncils/review-of-community-town-council-sector/?lang=en>).
- 4.5 Claire Germain from the Welsh Government and Laurie Davies the Secretariat to the Panel, will be in attendance at the meeting to share an update on review to date and hear the forums views on the future role of the sector.

5. Effect Upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 There is no impact on the Council's policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications.

- 7.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Town & Community Council Forum note and consider the information contained within this report.

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06 March 2018

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Background documents – None

PUBLIC SURVEY FOR THE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES

#MyCommunityMyCouncil

As well as hearing from the councils themselves, The Independent Review Panel are keen to hear from members of the communities and towns the councils serve – including the communities and towns who do not have a council.

They want your thoughts on:

1. Where do you live?



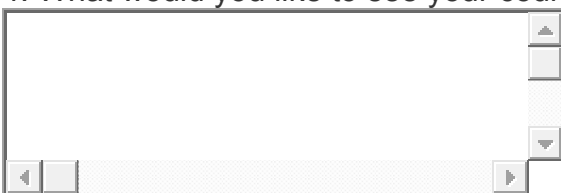
2. Are you aware of a Community or Town Council in your area?

- Yes
- No

3. Do you know what your council does?

- Yes
- No

4. What would you like to see your council do?



5. Have you been engaged by your council?

- Yes
- No

6. If not, how would you like to see your council engage with the community?

7. In your opinion, do you think your council is representative of your community?

- Yes
- No

If your answer is no, How do you think they can represent you better?

8. Have you ever considered standing for your council?

- Yes
- No

If your answer is no, Why not?

Please use space below to leave additional comments regarding your views on the Review of Community and Town Councils in Wales: