

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following recommendations	Response/Comments
22-Oct-2018	Collaboration with Town and Community Councils	Members request that a letter is drafted to One Voice Wales in relation to no representative being presented to attend the meeting to contribute on how best to facilitate collaboration between all Councils. The Committee emphasised that attendance should be encouraged in the future.	Letter drafted and sent 29 October 2018 - Attached.
		The Committee recommend that the report 'Collaboration with Town and Community Councils' alongside the comments and recommendations made at this meeting are presented to the Town and Community Council Forum to initiate debate and gauge appetite for collaboration with Bridgend County Borough Council.	Report and feedback sent to Cabinet Committee for inclusion on the next TCC Forum agenda, 27 November 2018
		The Committee discussed the differing skills and abilities of town and community councillors and clerks within the Borough and that to understand all capabilities, Members recommend that a skills audit is carried out and ask that the topic is added to the Town and Community Council Forum agenda for discussion.	This has also been sent to Cabinet Committee for inclusion on the next TCC Forum agenda, 27 November 2018
		To strengthen working relationships between Town and Community Councils (TCC's) and Bridgend Council, Members recommend that a protocol is developed outlining appropriate contacts for legal issues and similarly for service queries along with estimated timelines for a response.	The proposal will be considered by the CAT officer as part of his new role which includes liaison with TCC's
		The Committee understand the timing issues between the TCC's precept setting and the Council's budget setting process, but indicate the need for the Council to outline possible budget reductions to allow the TCC a longer time period to consider proposals for undertaking future services and assets from the Local Authority.	It is difficult to come to an entirely satisfactory solution on this matter but the Council sets out its proposals for MTFS savings at a very early stage the previous year as part of the budget consultation and BREP process.
		The Committee voiced their concerns in relation to the Community Asset Transfer Officer's role being extended to include liaison responsibilities with TCC's and query how the possible increased workload will affect his capacity to work effectively.	This will of course be monitored moving forward but often there is significant crossover between CAT matters and other TCC requests to collaborate and so the broadening of the role makes sense in strategic terms particularly as there is currently no additional resource to appoint an extra officer to carry out the liaison role.
		In relation to the findings and recommendations of the Independent Review Panel when considering the future role of Town and Community Councils, the Committee recommend that a whole Council response is submitted outlining the comments below:	N/A
		The Committee raised concerns regarding the recommendation against dual-hatted Members, the Committee disagreed and emphasised the importance of working collaboratively with Town and Community Councils to share best practice and to maintain a constructive connection between both Councils;	To be included in a Corporate response which is currently being collated by Senior Democratic Services Officer - Members and Mayoral.
		When discussing the devolution of Council services and their associated budgets to TCC's, Members questioned their capabilities with dealing with County Borough Council budgets. These comments were heightened by the lack of accountability that TCC's need to adhere to.	To be included in a Corporate response which is currently being collated by Senior Democratic Services Officer - Members and Mayoral.
		To assist with encouraging collaborative working between TCC's and to for them to observe the added benefits of merging with other TCC's, the Committee recommend that a pilot is prepared to trial a 'federative Bridgend'.	The council would be sensible to support and assist any town and community councils that wish to more formerly collaborate, merge or federate. However officers would advise that the council avoids any temptation to suggest which bodies should be involved in that and on what terms; the experience of Welsh Government drawing maps and attempting to tell specific councils to merge should be a salutary lesson and the councils should avoid replicating a similar approach with town and community councils.
		The Committee emphasised the need to streamline the process for TCC's, voluntary sector and individuals to undertake services on behalf of the Council. Therefore Members recommend that the liaison officer has the delegated power to undertake a risk assessment for applications for supplying assistance and provide suitable permissions.	This matter is being considered as part of the task and finish group reviewing the current CAT process and the findings will be presented to scrutiny in due course.
		<p>Additional Information</p> <p>Members request to receive the rules and regulations for commissioning a formal merger.</p>	<p>To start this process a formal request would need to be made to BCBC by the TCC.</p> <p>Once that request is received we would follow the process as set out in the attached guidance.</p>

<https://gov.wales/docs/lgbcw/publications/131220commrevguideen.pdf>