

# BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

**Councillor Alex Williams**

**Ward: Pencoed & Penprysg**

**Party: Independent / Democratic Alliance**

This report identifies my key activities for the period 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

\* The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of Bridgend County Borough Council. \*

## **Role & Responsibilities**

I was elected to Bridgend County Borough Council to represent Pencoed & Penprysg on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022. I have undertaken a variety of roles within the Council this year. In addition to Full Council, I am a member of a number of Committees and was appointed as Chairperson of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee; Chairperson of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1; and as a member of the Governance & Audit Committee.

## **Full Council**

There have been 13 meetings during which time I:

- questioned the Council Leader on whether the administration was confident of meeting its manifesto commitments on time and on budget;
- questioned the Cabinet Member for Communities on the performance of waste and recycling management in the County Borough;
- proposed a motion for debate on the School Admissions Policy and Learner Travel Policy relating to Welsh-medium education.
- jointly proposed a motion for debate supporting a fully funded pay rise for local government and school workers.
- questioned the Cabinet Member for Communities on the potential for the withdrawal of bus subsidies and its effect on residents in Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw who use the service.

For more information about the work of Bridgend County Borough's Full Council, please click [here](#).

## **Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

There have been 8 meetings of the Committee and the issues discussed include:

- Recycling and Waste Services post-2024
- The Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate Annual Report
- Temporary Accommodation
- Cost of Living Payment Scheme Rollout
- Redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall
- The Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Workforce, Recruitment & Retention
- Disabled Facilities Grant

For more information about the work of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, please click [here](#).

## **Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1**

There have been 6 meetings of the Committee and the issues which have been discussed include:

- Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
- The Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Scrutiny Report - Central South Consortium
- Curriculum for Wales
- Education & Family Support Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026

For more information about the work of Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1, please click [here](#).

### **Governance & Audit Committee**

As a Member of the Council's Governance & Audit Committee, I and colleagues are responsible for reviewing the Council's governance, performance assessment, risk management and control frameworks and overseeing the financial reporting and annual governance processes. There have been 7 meetings of the Committee. For more information about the work of the Governance & Audit Committee, please click [here](#).

### **Attendance**

At the 34 meetings which I have been expected to attend since my election on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, I have an attendance record of 100%.

### **Referrals & Member Development**

I have supported the residents of Pencoed & Penprysg on a variety of issues and have formally raised 306 constituent queries with the Council. This is in addition to formally liaising with other organisations on your behalf and informally addressing dozens of other issues which you have asked me to help you resolve.

To enable me to fulfil my role as your representative, I have attended a number of Member Development Activities which have assisted me to ensure that my knowledge of national and local issues affecting the Council and my ward is maintained.

Further information about my roles, responsibilities and activities, please click [here](#).

### **Constituency Activity**

The Council delivers more than 800 services and the role of a County Borough Councillor is varied. From the 300+ referrals which I have made on behalf of residents in Pencoed & Penprysg, I have sought to support members of the public on issues ranging from:-

- Adult and Children's Social Care and Safeguarding
- Education & Family Support, Home to School Transport, Additional Learning Needs and Welsh-medium education provision
- Waste Management, Recycling, Fly-Tipping and Dog Fouling
- Highways and Transport including resurfacing, potholes, speeding, parking, active travel, road safety, street lighting and signage
- Social Housing and Disabled Facilities Grants
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Rights of Way
- Planning & Planning Enforcement
- Greenspaces – Grass cutting and TPOs

- Flooding and Drainage
- Council Tax and Cost of Living Payments
- Regulatory Issues including Noise Pollution; Environmental Health; Fire Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Bereavement Services

For part of the reporting period, I was a Governor of Pencoed Comprehensive School until my term of office expired.

I am also a Committee Member of Heol-y-Cyw RFC and Treasurer of Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall.

I have also hosted a number of charitable concerts in association with residents on behalf of the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, Macmillan Cancer Care and the Velindre Cancer Centre.

### **Initiatives and Special Activities**

Among the key issues affecting the Pencoed and Penprysg Ward on which I have been supporting residents and working with Bridgend County Borough Council are:

- The multi-million pound ambition to regenerate Pencoed town centre; dual the Penprysg Road Bridge; close the railway crossing; and ensure that any moratorium on development west of the railway line remains in place until Hendre Road is widened and public amenities in Pencoed improve.
- Issues surrounding the school pick up/drop off zone at Pencoed Primary School.
- Planning issues surrounding a major development east of Pencoed.
- Ongoing issues with the Recreational Covenants on land at Pencoed RFC which have potential ramifications on School Modernisation.
- The Community Asset Transfer at Heol-y-Cyw RFC.
- Planning Appeals in Rhiwceiliog.

### **Other Activities/Issues**

In my capacity as Chair of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, I sit on the Corporate Performance Assessment Panel, the Social Care Member Panel and the Budget Responsibility & Evaluation Panel.

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1, I sit on the School Improvement Group.

I also attend the Pencoed Anti-Social Behaviour Panel.

**Councillor:** Alex Williams

**Date:** 30/06/23