

Meeting of:	TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM
Date of Meeting:	22 SEPTEMBER 2025
Report Title:	FUTURE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Responsible Officer:	RACHEL KEEPINS DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules
Executive Summary:	This report invites discussion between the Council's Chief Executive, the newly appointed Town and Community Liaison Officer and Town and Community Council representatives, over future working relationships and the role of the Forum.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider and progress collaborative working between the Local Authority (the Authority) and Town and Community Councils (TCCs) to ensure effective future local service delivery and to consider the future of the Forum and whether its role meets the requirements necessary to achieve this collaboration.

2. Background

- 2.1 Collaborative working is encouraged by the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 and Welsh Government, along with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and One Voice Wales. It promotes partnership working to improve public services and local democracy by encouraging dialogue, sharing best practices, and establishing clear frameworks for regional collaboration. The TCCs work closely with the Authority, representing the interests of their communities and addressing shared local issues by pooling resources, expertise and influence.
- 2.2 Recent engagement between TCCs and the Authority in October 2024 and January 2025 via discussion sessions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, have

highlighted the need to consider how the Authority works with Town and Community Councils to deliver local services to their communities. To facilitate successful partnership working, it was subsequently agreed to hold a Forum meeting to enable these discussions, tying in with the new appointment of the Town and Community Liaison Officer, whose role is to act as the main point of contact between the Council and TCCs, providing support, guidance and communication, developing and maintaining strong working relationships.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Town and Community Council Forum consider what future local service delivery will look like, the current and future budget situation of the Authority and TCCs and how the two can work together to meet the needs of their communities and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of public services through joint working and co-operation.
- 3.2 Consideration should also be given to the future role of the Forum and whether it is the correct vehicle for taking forward collaborative working or whether changes to its approach or working arrangements need to be made to help facilitate and achieve this joint goal.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations Implications and Connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there is no significant or unacceptable impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. Any future collaborative working between the Authority and TCCs will need to consider and be based around the achievement of the Council's Well-being Objectives.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct climate change or nature implications as a result of this report however future collaborative working between the Authority and TCCs could potentially include aspects which result in climate change and nature implications.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, however any future collaborative working between the Authority and TCCs will need to consider the budget implications for both parties.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Forum consider and make any comments or proposals in relation to:
- a) future local service delivery and how to progress effective collaborative working between the Authority and Town and Community Councils;
 - b) the future of the Town and Community Council Forum.

Background documents

None