

Meeting of:	TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM
Date of Meeting:	6 JULY 2026
Report Title:	FUTURE PARTICIPATION OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY CLERKS AT THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES
Responsible Officer:	HEAD OF SERVICE - PUBLIC REALM
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	THERE IS NO EFFECT UPON THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE RULES.
Executive Summary:	This report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of the evidence captured in a recent clerks' survey and to facilitate a discussion as to whether Members would like to invite a clerks' representative, nominated by the clerks to attend the T&CC Forum in an advisory capacity going forward.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Forum of the evidence captured in a recent clerks' survey and for Members to decide on the future involvement of T&CC clerks in the T&CC Forum.

2 Background

- 2.1 The T&CC Forum is a member led Forum with representatives from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the T&CCs across the County Borough. Under the current Terms of Reference for the Forum, clerks are not members of the Forum.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 A recent anonymised survey was completed by eleven out of the twenty T&CC Clerks and is attached as **Appendix A**. It identified a split response to feeling encouraged by their T&CCs to attend and participate in the T&CC Forum, while it found that clerks do not feel encouraged by the T&CC Forum to attend and participate in the Forum. There was a positive response to a Clerk representative who could speak on behalf of all clerks at the T&CC Forum.

3.2 This was further discussed at the clerks' meeting on 2nd June 2026. It was noted that BCBC Officers were invited to attend the Forum in order to provide updates, while there was no reciprocal opportunity for clerks. It was agreed for a request to be put forward as an agenda item for the next meeting of the T&CC Forum.

3.3 It is therefore proposed that Members of the Forum consider whether they want to invite a Clerks' representative to attend future meetings of the Forum in an advisory capacity only. The clerks could then nominate a representative at their next Clerks meeting.

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. The participation of Clerks in the T&CC Forum would contribute to the achievement of the following Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act objectives, both directly and indirectly:

- A prosperous Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- Cohesive communities

5.2 The involvement of Clerks in the T&CC Forum would contribute to the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives both directly and indirectly:

A Prosperous Place with thriving communities – Protecting our landscapes and open spaces and providing opportunities for culture, leisure and play.

Modernising - creating modern, seamless public services – Improving how we engage with people, listening to views, acting on them, modernising, and becoming a more efficient council, as well as improving partnership working with partners, the third sector and T&CCs. Any future collaborative working between the Authority and T&CCs would 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 negative climate change or nature implications arising from this report.

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.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Forum note the content of this report and determine whether they wish to consider a Clerk representative being invited to attend future meetings of the Forum in an advisory capacity.

Background documents

None