

CTC 08

Ymgynghoriad ar rôl, llywodraethiant ac atebolrwydd y sector cyngorau tref a chymuned

Consultation on the role, governance and accountability of the community and town council sector

Ymateb gan: Cyngor Cymuned Llysfaen

Response from: Lisvane Community Council

Submission by Lisvane Community Council to the consultation for governance and accountability of the community and town council sector.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are to examine:

- The role and value of community and town councils in Wales.
- Whether the sector is fit for purpose in an evolving local government landscape.
- Governance and scrutiny arrangements and its impact on accountability and transparency.
- Scope of digital and new technology to improve decision-making, service provision and participation in local democratic processes.
- How new powers and responsibilities for this tier of government are utilised to support communities.

Inquiry Line	LCC Achievements	Examples
The role and value of community and town councils in Wales	Provision of low cost, highly effective and approachable representation for local residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of guidance and support to residents on a wide range of planning matters and providing valued local comment to the Planning Authority on individual applications and also LDP matters• Comprehensive participation in all relevant Consultations affecting Lisvane residents• Co-ordination of local Environmental meetings comprising of relevant community groups ensuring that PRoWs are properly maintained along with ongoing improvements to local woodlands and parks

Whether the sector is fit for purpose in an evolving local government landscape	Despite a modest annual Precept costing the average household around £3 per month LCC has been able demonstrate huge benefits to local residents other larger local government organisations would either fail to provide or provide at a much higher financial cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and construction of £1.6m new community centre which has weekly footfall of 2,000 people of all age groups in an area where local services are essential due to poor public transport • Regular meetings of a Village Plan team drawing together various community groups who then launch and cultivate new activities such as nordid walking, Men's Shed, improvements to local playing field etc • Funding of Community Library (4,000 books) which also provides events for local children as well as a highly successful annual Literary Festival • Management of annual Remembrance Sunday service and similar events
Governance and scrutiny arrangements and its impact on accountability and transparency	<p>Good use is made of the OVW Governance Toolkit</p> <p>All Members attend appropriate Training events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC has a very good record of Audit compliance with Audits being unqualified for the last several years • Very effective oversight of systems by the LCC Policy Committee and full Council • Very positive feedback from the annual Standards and Ethics Observation of LCC meetings
Scope of digital and new technology to improve decision-making, service provision and participation in local democratic processes	<p>Improved Website</p> <p>Promptly introduced hybrid meetings in line with WG legislation</p> <p>Fully integrated with strong working relationships established with County Councillors, MP and AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website is accessibility compliant • Website is freely available for use by all local Community groups • Primarily low cost teleconferencing provision but also use of Zoom/Teams meetings where appropriate
How new powers and responsibilities for this tier of government are utilised to support communities	General Power of Competence is less relevant for a community of our size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC fully supports biodiversity engagement and has located several swift bird boxes at its premises