

CTC 08

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

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

Ymateb gan: Cyngor Cymuned Llysaen

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
<b>The role and value of community and town councils in Wales</b>	Provision of low cost, highly effective and approachable representation for local residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• Comprehensive participation in all relevant Consultations affecting Lisvane residents</li><li>• 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</li></ul>

<b>Whether the sector is fit for purpose in an evolving local government landscape</b>	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"> <li>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</li> <li>Regular meetings of a Village Plan team drawing together various community groups who then launch and cultivate new activities such as nordid</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>walking, Men's Shed, improvements to local playing field etc</li> <li>Funding of Community Library (4,000 books) which also provides events for local children as well as a highly successful annual Literary Festival</li> <li>Management of annual Remembrance Sunday service and similar events</li> </ul>
<b>Governance and scrutiny arrangements and its impact on accountability and transparency</b>	<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"> <li>LCC has a very good record of Audit compliance with Audits being unqualified for the last several years</li> <li>Very effective oversight of systems by the LCC Policy Committee and full Council</li> <li>Very positive feedback from the annual Standards and Ethics Observation of LCC meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Scope of digital and new technology to improve decision-making, service provision and participation in local democratic processes</b>	<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"> <li>Website is accessibility compliant</li> <li>Website is freely available for use by all local Community groups</li> <li>Primarily low cost teleconferencing provision but also use of Zoom/Teams meetings where appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>How new powers and responsibilities for this tier of government are utilised to support communities</b>	General Power of Competence is less relevant for a community of our size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCC fully supports biodiversity engagement and has located several swift bird boxes at its premises</li> </ul>