

CTC 20

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 Tawe Uchaf

Response from: Tawe Uchaf Community Council

Response of Tawe Uchaf Community Council

Tawe Uchaf Community Council attended the recent on-line event on the future of Community and Town Councils. The Council is concerned that this process has been announced with inadequate time allowed to discuss the proposals in any detail and the worrying scenario of the process outcome being pre-determined. However, the Council makes the following comments.

The Council noted and supports the comments made by attendees involved, on the wide spectrum of activities and significant differences in responsibilities, roles, assets and funding across town and community councils. This variability makes it difficult if not impossible to define purposes, without which there can be no meaningful evaluation of fitness for purpose."

In addition, it became obvious that the WG has no real grasp of the detailed picture and worryingly, sets an approach of one size fits all. The adoption of a one size fits all approach would be an unmitigated disaster for the sector and the electorates the sector represents. At a stroke it would remove local representation and contact with local Councillors further away from the residents of a community. Tawe Uchaf Community Council prides itself on a close working relationship with its local County Councillor. It is a relationship that benefits the residents and the Council. The Council may be unique in its approach to resolving local issues and it is a situation it wants to maintain.

The Council would strongly express the view that mergers of small councils into larger bodies or with town councils would be a significant loss of voice and representation for the communities they serve. Clusters of small councils would be a more effective strategy if change has to come. However, any such change must be consulted widely and critically at a local level to obtain the views of residents who the sector serves.

The Council finds it incredulous that at a time the County Council sector in Wales is in financial meltdown, the WG appears to see it as the appropriate time to set about a review of the Community and Town Council sector.

Elwyn Gwilym

Tawe Uchaf Community Council