Town Clerk's Report

Meeting Date: 16th July

One Voice Wales Conference

On Wednesday, 3rd July 2024, both the Deputy Town Clerk, Clair, and I attended the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference. This conference, held at Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, provided a valuable opportunity for us to gain insights and share knowledge with peers across various councils.

Conference Agenda Overview

10:15 - Welcome by Cllr Mike Theodoulou, Chair One Voice Wales

10:20 - Setting the Scene for Today's Conference by Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales

10:30 - The changing needs of communities by Shelley Davies, Deputy Director, Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government

11:00 - Age Friendly Communities by Rachel Bowen, Director of Policy, Older People's Commissioner for Wales

11:40 - Short Break

12:00 - Engagement with young people by Councillor Tom Moses, Project Leader CWBR (Youth) Pembrokeshire

12:40 - Lunch Break

1:20 - Risk Assessment by Brian Brookes (Risk Manager), Clear Insurance

2:00 - Amid a Persistent Cost of Living Crisis by Emma Goode, Cost of Living Manager, One Voice Wales

2:30 - Short Comfort Break

2:40 - Break Out Groups:

Community Wellbeing and Resilience (Youth) Project in Pembrokeshire – What Works? by Councillor Tom Moses

Cost of Living Crisis and its impact on local people throughout Wales by One Voice Wales Cost of Living Team

Effective Engagement with all sections of the community by Blaenavon Town Council

Addressing the needs of older people by Rachel Bowen and Sion Evans, Older People's Commissioner Team

3:25 - Plenary Session – To receive short feedback reports from Leaders of Break Out Groups

3:45 - Conclusion of Conference by Cllr Mike Theodoulou, Chair One Voice Wales

Breakout Sessions

During the conference, we participated in different breakout sessions to maximise our learning and bring back diverse perspectives to the council.

Engaging Young People in Local Governance:

I attended the breakout group facilitated by Tom Moses. This session focused on strategies to engage young people and encourage them to become councillors. I found the session extremely beneficial and came away with several actionable tips. These tips include creating youth engagement programmes, leveraging social media for outreach, and partnering with local youth groups and organisations. I will be collaborating with Tom Hope, our Community Engagement Officer, to develop a comprehensive action plan based on these strategies. We will present this plan to the council in a later meeting.

Cost of Living Crisis:

Clair participated in the breakout group addressing the cost-of-living crisis. This session provided insights into the various challenges communities are facing due to rising living costs and discussed potential solutions. Clair was particularly interested in finding ways to source funding for essential community projects. One key takeaway from the session was identifying potential grants and funding opportunities for a new projector. This projector would enable us to hold community events in the town hall free of charge, run by volunteers. Clair will report back with more details on this initiative at a future date.

Risk Assessment Session

I also found the risk assessment section of the conference very helpful. I am currently in touch with the presenter for further details and will be working with our insurance broker later this year when our current policy expires to incorporate these insights.

Summary and Actions

Overall, it was an extremely useful day for both networking and learning. The officers will be taking forward the following actions:

a) **Youth Engagement Action Plan:**

Develop a comprehensive plan with Tom Hope, Community Engagement Officer to engage young people in local governance.

Present the action plan to the council.

b) **Funding for Community Projects:**

Clair will explore potential grants and funding opportunities for a new projector.

The projector will be used to hold community events in the town hall free of charge, run by volunteers.

Clair will provide a detailed report on this initiative at a future date.

c) **Risk Assessment Improvements:**

Implement insights from the risk assessment session.

Work with the insurance broker later this year to renew our insurance accordingly.

These actions will help enhance our community engagement, support local projects, and ensure better risk management for the Town Council.

This concludes the Town Clerk’s report. Thank you.