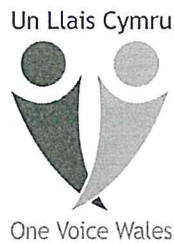


24c Stryd y Coleg
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Sir Gaerfyrddin
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Mr David Collins, Clerk
Cwmbran Community Council
The Council House
Ventnor Road
Torfaen NP44 3JY

27 January 2016

Dear Clerk

Please bring this letter to the attention of your council.

Membership of One Voice Wales 2016/17

I am writing to invite your council to renew its membership or join One Voice Wales from April 2016. Once again, the past year has seen many positive developments to our services, many of which are outlined in this letter, which we believe add significantly to the value for money offered by One Voice Wales membership.

We continue to represent the sector on the **Local Government Partnership Council** – during 2016-17 we have made strong representation on the role the sector can play in supporting sustainable local services and supporting the Local Government Reform agenda. One Voice Wales continued to make significant contributions to public policy developments through our representation on several Welsh Government advisory panels including the **Future Generations Bill Advisory Panel, National Assets Working Group**, the External Advisory Group on Community Asset Transfer and **Welsh Government Cynefin Place Leadership Board**. One Voice Wales is playing an ever increasing role in the development of policy for the sector working in collaboration with Cynnal Cymru and Natural Resources Wales and we continue to work closely with a range of other bodies including the **Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, Independent Remuneration Panel, Public Services Ombudsman and Wales Audit Office**. So our influence continues to grow.

There are exciting and challenging times ahead for Community and Town Councils in Wales and we will continue to develop our lobbying and representational roles. In the last year we have submitted responses to the **Alternative Service Delivery Models** consultations and **Local Government Reform consultations** and made representations to the **Minister for Public Services** during our regular briefing sessions on a range of matters but importantly on the devolution of services and asset transfer agenda. During 2015-16 we have increased our **representational role** and through One Voice Wales many councillors across Wales are increasingly able to provide their views across a wide range of policy areas to support our lobbying activities and **influence government and stakeholder organisations** in their decision-making including representation on health trust stakeholder forums and Marine Conservation Zones Stakeholder Groups. These developments have improved and further

Llais Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru - The Voice of Community and Town Councils in Wales

Ebost/Email: gweinydd@unllaiscymru.org.uk / admin@onevoicewales.org.uk
Gwefan/Website: www.unllaiscymru.org.uk / www.onevoicewales.org.uk

Llywydd Anrhydeddus / Honorary President: Caerwyn Roberts OBE JP FRAGS

developed our representational and lobbying roles and we will seek to further develop them in 2016-17.

Some of our other accomplishments over the past 12 months include:

- Launch of the Community and Town Councils Manifesto
- Ministerial representation at our National Conference, held our third very successful **Larger Councils Conference** and our third **joint training conference** with the **SLCC** (Society of Local Council Clerks)
- Welsh Government's comprehensive **Review of the Core Funding of Community and Town Councils** found that One Voice Wales was 'the most cost effective support structure' for the sector; was a 'highly valued service by member councils' and bodies that have dealings with it'; and, that 'the cost base and outputs from One Voice Wales indicate that it is operating efficiently relative to comparator bodies – there is sufficient evidence of One Voice Wales impact..'
- **Area Committees** continue to play an influential role locally, with many appointments to Local Service Boards, Local Development Plan Stakeholder Groups, Rural Development Partnerships, Standards Committees and the like now being proposed by Area Committees. One Voice Wales has become much more visible at the local level

As current members are aware we provide the following services and we are aware from feedback from our members that all aspects of the service are highly valued.

- **Provision of free legal advice** from a team of experienced Solicitors which can save members significant time and cost compared with using local solicitors for advice (These savings can in many cases exceed the membership that is payable)
- **Quality and timely advice and support service** on topics that are relevant to member councils.
- **Training** for members and staff, including policy seminars and new working opportunities.
- **General information via our website including a members' area.**
- Quarterly editions of our newsletter "**The Voice**".
- **Representation** of the sector on the Local Government Partnership Council.
- Creating **new opportunities for collaboration** with national organisations across Wales.

The training and development agenda is another area where much progress has been made during 2015/16. Under the auspices of the **National Training Advisory Group**, chaired by One Voice Wales, we have continued to refine and develop and extend our training provision to the community and town council sector including a successful bid to Welsh Government for support to update and improve the content of our training materials. Once again the breadth of our training programme has been extended and will be available to members throughout the year.

Furthermore our **Consultancy Services** have been growing at a pace with many councils taking advantage of this service. We are increasingly able to provide 'One Stop Shop'

solutions for our members and have supported our councils on **community planning exercises, accountancy services, HR and personnel matters including representation at Industrial Tribunals**, assisted in **policy development and health and safety** – and at **costs significantly below market rates**. We are also now able to offer consultancy support in relation to community planning and engagement. Please contact the Ammanford Office if you would like further details on how we can support you through these services.

I hope that this summary of current and future developments has demonstrated that One Voice Wales continues to do all it can to represent the sector and provide a high class information and support service for our members.

In order for your council to have a voice in the future of this vital sector of local government, and to benefit from the support provided by One Voice Wales, please complete the enclosed Membership Form and return to Tracy Gilmartin-Ward at our office in Ammanford. If you have any further queries relating to membership, please contact the office on 01269 595400 or email: admin@onevoicewales.org.uk

I trust that your Council will give this invitation full consideration and I hope to be able to welcome you into membership shortly. I look forward to working with your council in 2016/17.

Yours sincerely,



Lyn Cadwallader
Chief Executive

ONE VOICE WALES
The Voice of Community & Town Councils
Membership Form

Please enter all details in block letters and return original form for our records

Date:

I write to inform you that my Council has decided to join One Voice Wales for 2016/17

Clerk to the Council

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss (Delete as applicable)

Signed: Please print name:

Name & Address of Council - Enter any amendments clearly alongside

Mr David Collins, Clerk
Cwmbran Community Council
The Council House
Ventnor Road
Torfaen NP44 3JY

Tel No: 01633 624152

E-mail address: david@cwmbbran.gov.uk; clare@cwmbbran.gov.uk

Website: www.cwmbbran.gov.uk

Please inform us if any of the above details change

Please tick the preferred language for future correspondence:

Welsh English Bilingual

Membership Fee: **£4478**

Based on **15771** chargeable dwellings @ **£0.284p** per dwelling
(Based on Valuation List, not Electoral Register)

Please make cheque payable to **One Voice Wales**
Bank details - Account number: 16689360 Sort code: 30-94-85

Please return the form to the following address:

One Voice Wales, 24c College Street, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, SA18 3AF

E-mail: admin@onevoicewales.org.uk Tel: 01269 595400 Fax: 01269 598510