



## One Voice Wales National Awards 2025

Applications for the One Voice Wales National Awards 2025 are now open!

The awards recognise and promote the initiatives and successes of Community and Town Councils. They provide examples of best practice which showcase the work of local Councils, inspiring others and demonstrating the value of our amazing Councils.

We are excited to formally launch this year's application process, which will culminate in a wonderful event at the Royal Welsh Showground on Wednesday 30 April 2025 when the winners will be announced.

Winning an award will place your Council at the forefront of national attention. We tell key decision-makers and opinion-formers such as Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association, Audit Wales, other partners and the public at large.

In previous years, applications from smaller Councils have been under-represented – we are really keen to receive applications from smaller Councils.

We are very grateful to **Unity Trust Bank**, who will be the main sponsors for our awards ceremony. We will welcome many delegates and guests to celebrate the best within the Community and Town Council sector in Wales!

- **About the awards**

We have improved the application process this year. We have made the process easier for Councils and helped our judging panel identify the very best projects across Wales.

Describe how the service or project has engaged and benefitted the community or the Council. Don't hold back. We want to hear from you!

All current members of One Voice Wales are eligible to win an award. We welcome applications in Welsh or English.

To find out more about our National Awards Conference, visit our website to read the National Awards Conference 2024 Report: [OVW Awards 2024 Conference Report](#)

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- **The award categories**

Here are the categories this year. They include some new ones.

**Best Governance Initiative**

This could include your Annual Report or other sound or innovative governance arrangements, which reassure the public that the Council is well run and properly managed.

**Best Democratic Health Initiative**

You will highlight work to improve the democratic health of the community. How has the Council encouraged engagement and voting at elections? How has the Council supported diversity.

**Best Use of Digital Resources**

Many Councils embrace digital communications to deliver sustainable and modern solutions and services. Hybrid meetings, social media platforms, lively websites, electronic newsletters? Tell us about your Council's achievements.

**Best Sustainability Initiative**

This award recognises a sustainable initiative introduced by the Council. You will demonstrate how the initiative benefits the local community and supports the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

**Best Environmental Project**

Tell us how you encourage biodiversity, provide safe places for wildlife or help tackle climate change. Local Councils do great work in these important areas.

**Best Heritage and Culture Initiative**

Wales is a land rich in culture. The Land of Song. Castles, industrial heritage and an ancient language. Is your Council a Heritage Hero?

**Best Tourism Initiative**

Wales is a beautiful land, full of wonderful scenery, a stunning coastline and interesting towns, cities and villages. Your entry will highlight a successful tourism initiative that the Council has introduced which actively supports the local tourism economy.

**Best Community Engagement Initiative**

Local Councils are at the grassroots of local democracy. This award celebrates an example of a successful community engagement initiative. Tell

us how the Council engaged with the community and how the community responded.

### **Best Youth Engagement Initiative**

Our young people are our richest asset. Tell us how the Council has developed and maintained successful engagement with the young people in its community.

### **Best Older Persons Initiative**

A new award category this year. Tell us how the Council has developed and maintained successful engagement with older persons within the community.

### **Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project**

Community and Town Councils are taking on more and more local projects. Your entry will highlight the work of a Council that has undertaken devolution of a service or an asset within the community to sustain a much-valued service or asset.

### **Best Initiative addressing the Cost-of-Living Crisis**

The Cost-of-Living crisis continues to impact on communities across Wales. Many Councils have put in place initiatives to tackle the crisis within their community or provided innovative service to help those impacted by the crisis.

In addition to the above awards, there is a special prestigious annual award that recognises the Council that has provided an outstanding local service for the local community, as agreed by the independent judging panel. This award is known as the **Caerwyn Roberts Best Local Council Service of the Year** award.

### **A word from our Chair**

One Voice Wales Chair, Councillor Mike Theodoulou, commented:

“After the resounding success of last year’s National Awards, One Voice Wales is eagerly looking forward to this year’s event.”

“There is a considerable amount of important work happening from day to day within the Community and Town Council sector that merits recognition and celebration. We are keen to provide the opportunity to do so once again this April.”

“The awards offer a stage for promoting and showcasing the outstanding work of Councils across Wales. We encourage Councils and the public to submit nominations from within their communities. Councils can be nominated in multiple categories, regardless of size, population or annual precept.

Applications will be independently assessed according to community engagement and the impact on the wider community.”