



News from One Voice Wales:

Welcome to Issue 13 of the One Voice Wales E-Bulletin. This edition is packed with our regular update from our *Cost of Living* team and *Local Places for Nature* programme, along with key news and opportunities to support your work in local communities.

NEWS



PONTARDDULAIS LEAD THE WAY

Pontarddulais Town Council Introduces Mandatory Training for Councillors

Pontarddulais, Swansea – November 2025

Pontarddulais Town Council has taken a proactive step to strengthen local governance by **requiring all councillors to complete six One Voice Wales training modules** within their first year of office and at the start of each new term.

The motion, now part of the Council's Standing Orders, covers modules on *The Council*, *The Councillor*, *The Council Meeting*, *Introduction to Local Government Finance*, *Code of Conduct*, and *Equality and Diversity*.

Town Clerk Susan Rodaway said the idea came from hearing the phrase “training should be mandatory” across Wales. “It was time to turn that sentiment into action,” she said.

The motion passed unanimously, with **Mayor Cllr. Philip Downing** praising it as a step toward stronger, more informed leadership:

“Well-informed councillors are the cornerstone of a thriving community.”

The Council hopes its example will encourage other local authorities to follow suit, supporting Wales’s wider goals of improving local democracy and public trust.

ANY OTHER FORWARD THINKING COUNCILS READY TO EMBRACE THIS - LETS SEE IF OTHERS FOLLOW SUIT !!



Free trees for schools and communities

Trees help people and nature thrive. Getting more in the ground will give us all a greener, healthier future, so we’re giving thousands away free to schools, councils, clubs and community groups to help make that happen.

[Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#)



[For main file click here](#)

As you may be aware, Ystadau Cymru established a building safety group in 2024 to address the various challenges encountered by public estate managers throughout Wales.

As part of this initiative, the group has commenced an investigation into the risks associated with EV charging and lithium battery management, forming a dedicated sub-group of experts to lead this work. While comprehensive guidance is being developed, a temporary guide has been created to ensure timely awareness (please find attached).

Estate managers are advised to review the document and address any outstanding issues. By implementing appropriate safety measures, risks associated with EV charging or lithium batteries can be effectively managed.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Building Safety Group or Ystadau Cymru more generally, please visit <https://www.gov.wales/ystadau-cymru> or email ystadaucymru@gov.wales

Following some initial investigation, my understanding is that if you have any queries regarding amendments to fire assessments at TCC buildings to reflect recent changes or updates, the local fire and rescue service should be able to offer support if required.

The Fire & Rescue websites below contain both contact details and some good advice:

[Welsh Government also have useful resources including a Fire Risk Assessment](#)

**South Wales
Fire**

**North Wales
Fire**

**Mid and West
Fire**



Wales Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP)

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) is developing a bespoke regional energy strategic plan (RESP) for Wales. The plan will help to ensure Wales gets the energy infrastructure it needs to meet goals for economic growth and decarbonisation. NESO have developed a proposed methodology, setting out how the plan will be produced. The methodology was published for consultation on 17 November 2025 and runs until 16 January 2026. You can view the methodology [here](#)

, where you will also find details on how to respond to the consultation.

It is imperative that your Council engages in this wider consultation process.

Contact Huw Lewis Regional Energy Strategic Planning - Wales -07860 509182 for any further information.

**RESP Main
Page**

News Article

**Methodology
Document**

Worth taking the time to view on the One Voice Wales Website:

Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils

Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils:

One Voice Wales has published model arrangements to help Councils run effectively and meet their statutory obligations. We also circulate statutory guidance and other guidance.

We keep these arrangements under regular review, helping Councils to maintain a sound governance framework.

Click on the the link to see the wealth of documents that are available

For further information

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Practice Development Notes:

Practice Development Notes:

One Voice Wales has created Practice Development Notes - simple guides to help Councils understand key annual tasks and provide advice on other council activities.

[View all Practice development notes here](#)

Amended Annual meeting PDN

[View here](#)

NEW - Members Induction PDN

[View here](#)

One Voice Wales Training Dates:

Councillors wishing to attend training modules please contact your clerk who will book you on to the relevant session.

[Click here to view dates](#)

JOBS

Vacancies within Community and Town Council Sector:

Vacancies:

As part of annual membership, One Voice Wales offers member Community and Town Councils the opportunity to advertise sector-related vacancies, such as Clerks, Responsible Financial Officers, and other staff roles.

[Further Information on vacancies](#)

Welsh Government Jobs

If you are looking for a new career then a job in the Welsh Government is a great place to start.

A career in the Welsh Civil Service offers you:

- the opportunity to make a difference to people's lives in Wales
- learning on the job and good career development opportunities
- flexible working hours and comprehensive benefits

There are a number of different ways to join the Welsh civil service.

The UK Government are looking for a representative for Wales for the Expert Advisory Panel

[UK City of Culture 2029 Expert Advisory Panel: Recruitment Advert - GOV.UK](#)

Vacancy: Team Manager - Quality and Information

Salary range or pay band: SEO £47,675 to £56,445

Closing date: 24/11/2025, 16:00

Link [Team Manager - Quality and Information - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Trainee Stonemason x3

Salary range or pay band: £27,302 to £29,291

Closing date: 27/11/2025, 16:00

Link: [Trainee Stonemason x3 - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Cafcass Cymru - Change Implementation Manager – Domestic Abuse – Safe & Together

Salary range or pay band: SEO £47,675 to £56,445

Closing date: 01/12/2025, 16:00

Link: [Cafcass Cymru - Change Implementation Manager – Domestic Abuse – Safe & Together - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Associate Data Scientist

Salary range or pay band: EO £30,754 to £34,997

Closing date: 01/12/2025, 16:00

Link: [Associate Data Scientist - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Data Scientist

Salary range or pay band: HEO £37,111 to £45,378

Closing date: 01/12/2025, 16:00

Link: [Data Scientist - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Principal Data Scientist

Salary range or pay band: SEO £47,675 to £56,445

Closing date: 01/12/2025, 16:00

Link: [Principal Data Scientist - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Science Engagement and Promotion Officer - London

Salary: £44,461

Closing date: 01/12/2025, 16:55

Link: [Science Engagement and Promotion Officer - London - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Divisional Support Officer, Strategic Road Network

Salary range or pay band: EO £30,754 to £34,997

Closing date: 02/12/2025, 16:00

Link: [Divisional Support Officer, Strategic Road Network - Welsh Government](#)

Vacancy: Head of ALN Delivery and Improvement

Salary range or pay band: Grade 6 £76,715 to £88,023

Closing date: 09/12/2025, 16:00

Link: [Head of ALN Delivery and Improvement - Welsh Government](#)

Save the Date

**ONE VOICE WALES
AGM**

21st JANUARY 2026

**ONE VOICE WALES
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE AND
AWARDS**

1st JULY 2026

**ONE VOICE WALES
INNOVATIVE PRACTICE
CONFERENCE**

30th SEPTEMBER 2026

One Voice Wales Funded Projects Updates:

Cost of Living Crisis Project News:

**Grants and Funding Newsletter issue
10**

[Click here](#)

Mental Health Support - Preparing Your Community for January Challenges

Friday 12 December 11am - 1pm

January is often the hardest month for residents: bills are due, routines return, and cold weather can deepen mental health and loneliness challenges. With many services closed over Christmas, early planning ensures that support is ready to go the moment it's needed.

Join this practical webinar to explore low-cost ways your council can support residents this winter. With insights from The Samaritans on the mental health impact across Welsh communities, and Bangor City Council on how their new community hub is helping locals with financial, social, and wellbeing needs.



Local Places for Nature

Section 6 Workshops

Thank you to everyone who has attended our Section 6 Workshops. They have proved very popular with almost 300 participants across 7 Workshops. The extra date was filled in just one day. The resources can be found on our [website](#), along with lots of information about the Section Duty.

All Councils are kindly asked to send a copy of their completed Section 6 Reports to us and include the URL link to their website where their report is published. Please send to: biodiversity@onevoicewales.wales

2026 will be the start of the next reporting round for Section 6 and we will be running a series of workshops to help C&TCs prepare their **Biodiversity Action Plans** in the new year. More details to come soon...

Biodiversity packages

Our **Ten packages** are open for applications, you can find out more here: [OVW Biodiversity Packages](#).

We are busy planting with bulbs with Councils at the moment and we won't be accepting anymore applications for the Bulbs packages as the Autumn planting season is now drawing to a close.

All the other packages are open to applications. We will be focussing on Hedges, Trees and Ponds over the winter months, followed by Signage, Plug plants, Wildflower seeds and Citizen Science packs in March. Please get your applications in as soon as possible or get in touch with us asap to discuss how our packages could fit into your Biodiversity Action plan. Biodiversity@onevoicewales.wales

Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales

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This E-Bulletin is distributed to all Councils in Wales . Please note that if you unsubscribe you will unsubscribe from both languages and the Newsletter . If you wish to receive only one version please send to kbrown@onevoicewales.wales

[Dad-Tanysgrifio / Unsubscribe](#)

