



News from One Voice Wales:

Welcome to Issue 15 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

URGENT CLERKS WE NEED YOUR HELP ! TWO HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS

1. The One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting is being held on January 21st as you know (between 6-8pm), but we are still awaiting the names of the nominated representative to attend from many Councils. It is REALLY IMPORTANT that one member attends from EVERY MEMBER COUNCIL . Please can you ensure we have the name of your representative before you break for the Festive Period - or, if it is scheduled to be discussed at a January Council meeting please can you let us have the date so that we know when we can expect the nominated Councillors name
2. It would appear that many Clerks have never logged into the new OVW Website or haven't shared the log in details with their Councillors. If you haven't registered to access the members areas of the site, please contact admin@onevoicewales.wales and we can arrange this for you. If you already have your log in details, PLEASE can you make sure these are shared with your Councillors

EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION

Employment legislation is currently being considered by the UK Parliament and comprises of:

1. Removal of qualifying periods for basic rights such as sick pay and parental leave.
2. The qualifying period for the basic right of claiming unfair dismissal to be reduced from two years to six months.
3. More protection from dismissal in relation to pregnant employees on maternity leave.
4. Time limit for bringing a tribunal claim extended from three to six months.
5. Removal of the SSP lower earnings limit and requirement for SSP to be paid from the first day of absence.
6. Flexible working requests can be made from day one and will require employers to explain why their refusal of a request was reasonable.
7. Introducing brand new right for bereavement leave.

Borrowing approvals: guidance for community and town councils Advice for community and town councils on how to borrow money to buy capital items.

Guidelines Document



YDCW
CPRW

Elusen Cefn Gwlad Cymru

The Welsh Countryside Charity

Please find attached the Charter calling for a fair, democratic transition to net zero

Could the Charter be tabled as an agenda item for discussion at an upcoming meeting, and could you indicate whether your council supports it?.and let CPRW know via email to cprw.org.uk

Charter Document

Many Councils will be looking at their internal audit arrangements at the moment. The Practitioners Guide

Practitioners guide

(follow button link) includes some helpful advice on internal audit.

Here is also a helpful document from one Council in Cardiff

<https://radyrandmorganstowncc.org/wp-content/uploads/7-Audit-Plan.pdf>.



Consultation on proposed Audit Wales equality objectives for 2026-2030

This consultation invites views on our draft equality objectives for the period 2026-2030.

Following this consultation, we will review all responses, with input from Pawb (our staff equality interest group), and take them into consideration when preparing our next Strategic Equality Plan for publication in Spring 2026.

How to respond

We invite your views and have provided [more information on our website](#).

Please respond by 20 January 2026.

If you have any questions about the consultation, email info@audit.wales.

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.

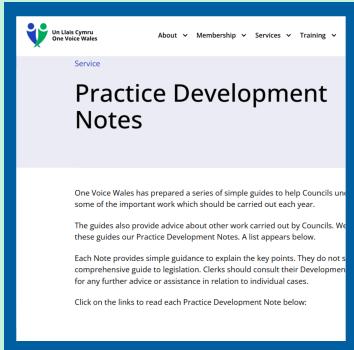
We keep these arrangements under regular review, helping Councils to maintain a sound governance framework.

framework.

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

For further information

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](#)

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:



The screenshot shows a website header with 'One Voice Wales' logo and navigation links for 'About', 'Membership', 'Services', and 'Training'. Below this, a breadcrumb navigation shows 'Home > Opportunities > Vacancies within the Community & Town Council sector'. The main content area is titled 'Vacancies within the Community & Town Council sector' and includes a sub-section 'Opportunities'. A text box states: 'As part of our annual membership, we offer our member Community and Town Councils the opportunity to advertise any sector-related vacancies with us. We encourage Councils to utilise this Vacancies section to advertise vacancies for Clerk, Responsible Funding Officers, and other staff required within their Councils.' A note at the bottom says 'The latest job vacancies appear below.'

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.

We are keen to work with our external partners to build a pipeline of individuals who are interested in applying for a board position.

To view the latest advertisements for public appointments in Wales, please visit:

[Appointment of Commissioner to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru \(Welsh Desirable\) - Welsh Government](#)

[Appointment of Commissioner to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru \(Welsh Essential\) - Welsh Government](#)

**Closing date for the above appointments is
09.01.2026 at 16:00.**



Save the Date

ONE VOICE WALES AGM

21st JANUARY 2026

6-8 pm

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:

Have you completed the Social Impact Assessment Survey? Your council's work matters. We've had a strong response from councils across Wales, but if your activity isn't captured in the data, it can't be reflected in the evidence we take to Welsh Government. This survey helps show the real scale and impact of what Community and Town Councils have delivered during the cost-of-living crisis, strengthens the sector's case for future funding and policy, and gives you evidence you can also use locally in bids and partnerships. It's not just what you've done, but the difference it's made, so detail really matter

Complete the survey: <https://eu-1n.sprw.ai/stt-hbAbe>

Download the questions in advance: <https://bit.ly/3L0UptQ>

Thank you to all councils who have already taken part, your contribution ensures councils are seen, heard and valued nationally.



Local Places for Nature

The third reporting round for Section 6 is now complete and all Councils should have completed their 2025 Section 6 Report.

The next reporting round will be in 2028. Your council will need to write and publish a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) outlining the actions it will take to meet the Section 6 duty for the next years.

We will be holding 6 online workshops to help Councils understand how to write an effective BAP for 2026-2028.

These workshops will be hosted on Microsoft Teams during January 2026.

Please see the attached flyer or click below for more information:

[One Voice Wales](#)

[BAP Workshops](#)

During each online workshop, Biodiversity Officers will demonstrate how to write an effective plan, share sources of information and guidance, and give Councils the opportunity to ask specific questions on how to write a BAP.

Following the workshop if individual advice is needed then Councils can contact us for advice.

Numbers in each workshop will be capped at a maximum of **40 Councils**, to allow each Council to get the most out of the session.

Councils can only register for one Workshop, but any number of Council members can attend together.

To book a place on one of the workshops please click on the preferred date below:

Biodiversity Action Plan

Online Workshops

[06.01.26 @6.30pm – 8pm](#)

[08.01.26 @11am – 12.30pm](#)

[13.01.26 @6.30pm – 8pm](#)

[15.01.26 @12pm – 13.30pm](#)

[21.01.26 @13.30pm – 15.00pm](#)

[22.01.26 @6.30pm - 8pm](#)

Once your registration is approved you will receive an email with the meeting link. This link can then be shared with members of the Council.



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](#)

