



News from One Voice Wales:

Welcome to Issue 18 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

February Newsletter

Cleaner rivers ,stronger regulation, better accountability: Wales charts new course for water governance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Climate Action
News**



Gweithredu ar
Hinsawdd Cymru
Climate
Action Wales

[Newsletter](#)



Invitation: Supporting climate adaptation and service resilience in the Welsh Public Sector

Welsh Government published the [Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales](#) in October 2024, and recognises that while there is a wide range of activity underway across organisations and sectors to address climate risk and adapt, some hazards may be better mapped and understood than others.

To support the Welsh Government in identifying what the most effective and impactful support measures might be to help organisations understand and manage climate risk, we are inviting you to participate in a short engagement session to be facilitated by [Local Partnerships](#).

This session will be an opportunity for you to share your perspectives on progress, capacity and knowledge gaps, and share what your organisation / sector needs to enable you to make effective decisions and timely interventions to manage climate risk and deliver adaptation actions for services and communities. It is important we get a broad range of perspectives, so this invitation extends across all service areas, beyond climate officers.

The sessions are intended to explore areas where WG might best focus its resource to support the public sector to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The outputs from these sessions will be used to inform further work by the Welsh Government, building on the Adaptation Strategy for Wales.

Dates and times for the engagement sessions are provided below. Please reply to this email or select a preference [via this link](#) for which you can attend. If you feel a colleague would be better placed to attend, then please feel free to forward on the invitation for RSVP.

Engagement sessions* (Please respond to this email indicating which session you would like to attend or select [via this link](#).)

1. Local Authorities (1): Tue 24 Feb, 10:00 – 11:00
2. Local Authorities (2): Wed 4 Mar, 11:00 – 12:00
3. Higher Education: Mon 2 Mar, 13:00 – 14:00
4. Other: Wed 25 Mar, 14:00 – 15:00



Keep Wales Tidy are pleased to announce we are working in partnership with the [Bigbelly Smart Waste Management System](#). The system has been in the U.K. since 2008 and has proven to :-

- *Eliminate overflowing bins, reduce pest issues & create more welcoming public spaces*
- *Reduce your CO2 Emissions by up to 70%*
- *Reduce your waste collections by up to 80%*

The Bigbelly range can be designed to your own specific requirements and can make a major contribution to your sustainability and recycling commitments. Keep Wales Tidy is pleased to announce it has secured a **FREE, no-obligation, introductory offer** until end of March 2026 which includes:

- consultation meeting and site visit with Bigbelly Bin team
- free bin audit
- recommendations on where, and which type of, Bigbelly bins could be best deployed
- 3-month trial of up to 20, 'wrapped' bins (*you design the branding*)
- Free regular servicing and cleansing visits
- Free access to the CLEAN management software and 'fullness' alerts
- Trial report highlighting their impact and future recommendations

I have attached more information on their bin range, including case studies, and an introductory video [Meet the Future Street UK Team | Who We Are & What We Do](#)

If you would be interested in meeting Bigbelly to discuss our offer in more detail, please let me know and we will introduce you? Any info you can provide on your current bin/litter challenges, and any questions you have would also be useful.

Louise.tambini@keepwalestidy.cymru

Brochure

Introduction

Elected Members Guidance to infrastructure consenting

Significant infrastructure projects (SIP): elected members' guide to infrastructure consenting

How elected members can engage in the infrastructure
consenting process for significant infrastructure projects.

Part of: [Significant infrastructure
projects \(SIP\): guidance
Planning applications](#)

Organisation: [Planning and Environment
Decisions Wales](#)

First published: 6 February 2026

Last updated: 6 February 2026

How elected members can engage in the infrastructure consenting process for
Significant Infrastructure Projects

Guidance Document

Strategic planning guidance for the Gwent Levels National Natural Resource Area (Future Wales Policy 9)

We are writing to inform you that the Welsh Government has launched a public consultation on the Draft Strategic Planning Guidance for the Gwent Levels.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 identifies the Gwent Levels as a National Natural Resource Area under Policy 9. In line with this policy, the Welsh Government has prepared and is now consulting on draft Strategic Planning Guidance to strengthen the implementation of Policy 9 and ensure a consistent, evidence-based approach to planning across the Levels. The Guidance once adopted will supplement Future Wales and alongside Planning Policy Wales will be relevant when preparing development plans and determining planning applications. It will ensure planning decisions across the Levels support a resilient environment, restore ecological networks and secure long-term benefits for nature and communities.

The Consultation documents including The Guidance, The Draft Environmental Report (and its Non-Technical Summary) and The Consultation Report, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.wales/strategic-planning-guidance-gwent-levels-national-natural-resource-area>

We would encourage all stakeholders to contribute their views on the Draft Guidance and the Draft Environmental Report. You can respond via the following methods:

- Completing the consultation response form and e-mailing it to: planconsultations-h@gov.wales.

- Completing the online form.

Both of the above forms can be found at: <https://www.gov.wales/strategic-planning-guidance-gwent-levels-national-natural-resource-area>

The consultation runs from **17 February 2026** to **31 March 2026 at 4pm**.

If you require further information, please contact the Gwent Levels Team of the Planning Directorate at: planconsultations-h@gov.wales.



Ombwdsmon Ombudsman Cymru • Wales

Draft Strategic Plan for 2026-2029

We are writing on behalf of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to let you know that we have today launched a public consultation on our draft Strategic Plan for 2026-2029.

Please find attached a letter from Michelle Morris, the Ombudsman, inviting you to share your views.

Further details about the consultation, including how to respond, are available on our website: <https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ombudsman.wales%2Fombudsman-consultations%2Fconsultation-on-our-draft-strategic-plan-2026-2029%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cldcadwallader%40onevoicewales.wales%7C79055b5a1bd94342782d08de6e428bb3%7C28654e0966a54e75af7bcfb8697bea58%7C0%7C0%7C639069429259536326%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiJlWlJlbnQ%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NKTXvoqzidDJBashRISC0mkMNONEuk4r2syyYCK6xU%3D&reserved=0>.

NOTE Any councils that will be submitting responses - could we kindly ask that you also copy in our policy officer **Catrin Jones** on - cjones@onevoicewales.wales

Letter sent our CEO

Webinar - A Lifetime of Resilience: Flood Engagement Through Every Life Stage - 25 March 2026

Resilience grows when communities are engaged throughout their lives.

Flood resilience is strongest when learning, preparedness, and action happen from childhood, all the way up to old age.

Flood resilience develops over time, shaped by how people learn, experience risk, and support one another across their life-course. Yet too often, engagement focuses on one part of the community, missing opportunities to build long-term, shared resilience. This webinar will explore how life-stage engagement, from young children and teenagers to parents, working adults, and older people, can create sustained, cross-generational approaches to flood preparedness. When engagement starts early and adapts through different life stages, it helps to:

- Build sustained awareness
- Empower families and communities to take action
- Strengthen preparedness
- Support long-term resilience rooted in lived experience.

Join our speakers who will draw on Flood Resilience Innovation Project cases in the UK to share practical examples of how organisations are engaging communities in ways that recognise changing needs, roles, and capacities over time.

Date: 25 March 2026, 1pm-2.30pm (UK time)

Register: via this [MS Teams link \[events.teams.microsoft.com\]](https://events.teams.microsoft.com)
[\[events.teams.microsoft.com\]](https://events.teams.microsoft.com)

Met Office Training

Those of you who work with **Community Response groups and the voluntary sector** may also be interested to know that the **Met Office has published a separate 2026 Prospectus of courses aimed at Community Responders/volunteers**, - these courses are “aimed at those who work or volunteer in local communities to make them more resilient to severe weather events”

Met Office Community resilience Prospectus

Changes to political restrictions for roles in community councils, Corporate Joint Committees, and local authorities

Statutory Position: Section 65 of the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024, amends the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to add that a person who holds a politically restricted post under a Community Council, corporate joint committee or a local authority in Great Britain is disqualified from becoming or remaining a member of a Community or Town Council. The amendment further clarifies who is to be regarded as holding a politically restricted post under a community council (Section 65(3)).

The amendment also extends other provisions in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to community and town councils, namely those concerning the granting and supervision of political restriction exemptions (section 65(4)), the limitations on paid leave for undertaking local authority duties (section 65(5)) and the provisions relating to conflicts of interest in staff negotiations (section 65(6)).

This provision comes into force from 6 May 2027.

Note

In relation to which roles are politically restricted posts, brought about by the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024. Section 65 (3), which amends the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, states that this is:

(a) "a paid officer having responsibility, for the purposes of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, for the administration of the financial affairs of the Community Council;

(b) a person holding a paid post that is for the time being specified by the Community Council ..."

Under (a) above, this includes clerks or RFOs, if they are the designated s151 financial officer.

This also matches the intent that clerks are disqualified from being Members of the Senedd (from the Senedd Cymru Disqualifications (Order) 2025). The purpose is that it avoids conflicts of interests where a person is a (neutral) paid officer in one council, but an elected member (potentially in a party political capacity) in another council or the Senedd.

Any guidance would be produced by Electoral Commission but is not currently available for the 2027 Local Government elections; the most recently available guidance is Local elections in Wales | Electoral Commission.

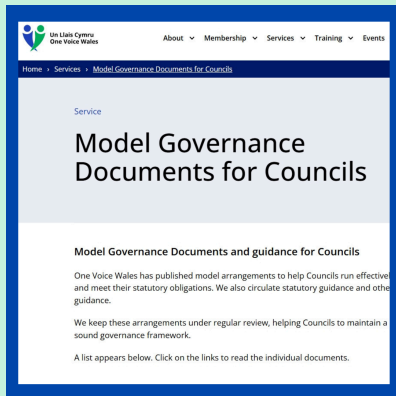
Please find a link to the Commissioner's latest newsletter below, which provides an update on her work to deliver positive change for older people over the past few months.

[Commissioner's Newsletter: February 2026](#)

You can also find out more about the Commissioner's work by visiting www.olderpeople.wales, or follow us on X / Facebook / LinkedIn.

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.

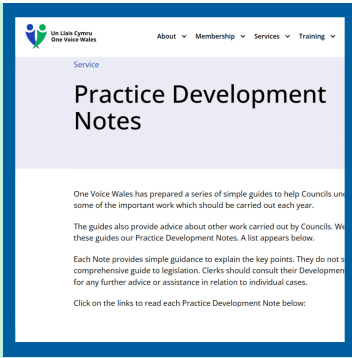
We keep these arrangements under regular review, helping Councils to maintain a sound governance framework.

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

[For further information](#)

.....

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:



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.

Currently no jobs for advertising.



Save the Date

**Gwella ein Lleoedd
Lleol – Astudiaethau
Engreifftiol a**

**Cynhadledd
Cenedlaethol a
Seremoni Gwobrau
Un Llais Cymru**

**Cynhadledd Arfer
Arloesol Un Llais
Cymru**

**Dyddiad: 19
Mawrth 2026,
10:30yb-1:30yp (ar-
lein:Teams)
£53 yr un**

["Gwella ein Lleoedd Lleol - Astudiaethau Enghreifftiol a Diweddariadau Cynllunio o Gymru" - Un Llais Cymru](#)

One Voice Wales Funded Projects Updates:

Cost of Living Crisis Project News:

Join Our Cost of Living Crisis Forum



Our Cost of Living Crisis FaceBook Forum is a collaborative online space for Community and Town Councils across Wales to ask questions, exchange ideas, and learn from shared experience.

Councils taking part are already accessing useful information such as funding and grant updates, examples of best practice, case studies, guides, toolkits, and practical resources linked to the Cost-of-Living Crisis.



Here's a typical example of the kind of resource shared on the forum, Prestatyn Town Council's Warm Hub Case Study.



Join the Cost of Living Crisis forum today

Join Us



Local Places for Nature

Contact Rachel, Sam & Jen: Biodiversity@onevoicewales.wales

2026 Social Farms & Gardens Community Management Awards Cymru.

Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 1pm.

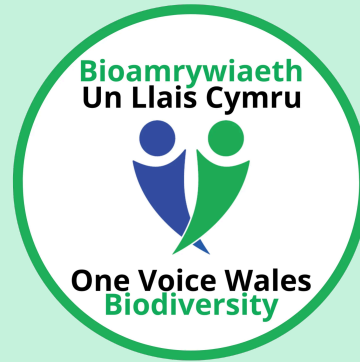
Social Farms & Gardens invite you to join them to celebrate the 2026 Social Farms & Gardens Community Management Awards Cymru.

These projects from around Wales will be revealed and celebrated for their distinguished voluntary work in accessing land and managing green spaces in their communities.

The Awards Ceremony is pre-recorded and will be available on our You Tube Channel from 13:00 hrs on 25th February 2026.

If you are not able to join us at the launch, the films are available to 'watch again' on that same You Tube page along with the regional clusters of films.

[Full details here](#)



Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales

24 College St, Ammanford SA18 3AF
United Kingdom



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](#)

