



A Message from Lyn Cadwallader

Chief Executive - One Voice Wales

With cost-of-living pressures rising sharply again for households across Wales, Community and Town Councils continue to be one of the most immediate and visible layers of local support that communities can turn to. Whether responding to rising costs, tackling loneliness and isolation, supporting wellbeing, improving local spaces, or helping communities come together, councils are playing an increasingly important role in the everyday resilience of places and people.

This Social Impact Assessment provides important evidence of the contribution being made across the sector. It highlights not only the breadth of activity taking place within communities, but also the wider social value generated through local action, partnership working, volunteering, and preventative community support, much of it delivered through the most acute period of cost-of-living pressures.

The headline figures bring the scale into focus: **£25.97 million of social value created for communities across Wales, with £4.86 of value generated for every £1 councils invested.**

Behind those figures are warm hubs, food projects, benefits advice, volunteer time, and small local interventions that, taken together, have made a measurable difference for households across Wales navigating rising costs.

The findings reinforce something many of us working closely with the sector already know, that Community and Town Councils are far more than statutory bodies. They are local convenors, problem-solvers and trusted community anchors, often able to respond quickly and flexibly to emerging local need.

The assessment also demonstrates the value of collaboration. Much of the impact identified has been achieved through councils working alongside voluntary organisations, local authorities, community groups and residents themselves.

At One Voice Wales, we commissioned this work to help build a clearer evidence base around the role and contribution of the sector, to support learning, strengthen future development, and help inform wider policy discussions about prevention, wellbeing and community resilience in Wales. Those discussions are particularly important now, as households across Wales face renewed pressure on the cost of essentials

Phase 2 of the One Voice Wales Cost-of-Living Crisis Project, now live, builds directly on what councils told us in the assessment, with practical resources, grant funding, partnership support and new ways for councils to be part of the ongoing evidence base. The work the sector has been doing remains, in many ways, just beginning.

I would like to thank all of the councils, partners and individuals who contributed their experiences, evidence and examples to this work. We hope the findings will support continued discussion about the important role local councils can play in supporting strong, connected and resilient communities across Wales.

Lyn Cadwallader

Chief Executive, One Voice Wales