



AGENDA

for a meeting of the Executive to be held on
Friday 8th March 2019 at 10.30am
in the Rhyl Town Council Offices

1. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

To consider and approve the minutes of the last meeting. (see appendix A)

3. Declarations of interest

To record any declarations of interest.

4. Financial Report

To consider an update on the finances. Current balance £6,567.30. (see appendix B)

5. Agenda for the quarterly meeting April 2019

To consider the agenda for the next quarterly meeting to be hosted by Bay of Colwyn Town Council on Friday April 2019. (see appendix B)

6. Any other business

To consider any other relevant business.

7. Dates of future meetings

To note the dates of meetings leading to the Annual Meeting in July 2019 as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

Friday 26th April 2019 – Bay of Colwyn Town Council

Friday 10th July 2019 – Connah's Quay Town Council

All Quarterly Meetings start at 10.30am.

Executive Meetings

Friday 9th March 2019

Friday 8th June 2019 All Executive

Meetings are held at 10.30am in the Offices of Rhyl Town Council.



APPENDIX A

MINUTES

of the Executive Meeting of the Association
held on
Friday 7th December 2018 at 10.30am
at the offices of Rhyl Town Council

Committee	Cllr B Roberts (Chair), Cllr H C have, Cllr H Meredith, Cllr B Barton, Cllr J Butterfield, Cllr J Ellis, Cllr B Hainge, Cllr R waters and Robert Robinson (secretary)
Remit	To discuss the agenda for the main meetings and do deal with any urgent business which cannot wait for a normal meeting.

1. Record of attendance

Committee	Cllr B Roberts (Chair), Cllr H C have, Cllr H Meredith, Cllr B Barton, Cllr J Ellis, Cllr B Hainge and Robert Robinson (secretary)
Remit	Cllr J Butterfield and Cllr R waters.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting. (see attached at appendix A)

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting actions taken since the last quarterly meeting which were:

School meals

The research into the school meals provision has been completed. A press release can now be issued to be approved by the Chair.

Homeless

A meeting has been held with Welsh Government. A new scheme involving volunteers is being put in place in Welshpool. Once this has happened a report will be issued on how it worked.

4. Financial

The meeting note the monthly accounts to 31.10.2018 – see appendix B of the agenda.

5. Quarterly Meeting Agenda

The meeting considered the quarterly meeting agenda as per enclosed at appendix C of the agenda. This was approved subject to the following alterations:



It was agreed that the following items should be added:

- a) Transport for Wales
- b) Hospital reports
- c) Planning matters for the July meeting

6. Future of local councils

The meeting noted the paper issued by the Minister. See appendix D of the agenda

7. Next quarterly meeting in Llandudno

The meeting considered the menu for the above. There is to be a set menu with an alternative if notified before the meeting.

8. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be Friday 9th March 2018 10.30am held at Rhyl Town Council Offices.

**APPENDIX B****AGENDA**

for a meeting of the Association to be held on
Friday 26th April 2019 at 10.30am
at The Colwyn Bay Cricket Club

1. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

To consider and approve the minutes of the last meeting.
(see attached)

3. Declarations of interest

To record any declarations of interest.

4. Actions from the last meeting

To consider a report on actions to be taken forward from the last meeting:

No	Item	Action
1	Investigate and publish the results regarding the tax situation with Councillors	Discussions with the Inland Revenue are taking place.
2	Post the 'Future of Councils' paper on the web site	Completed.
3	Publish the press release on school meal provision.	Completed.
4	Investigate if there is any common ground with One Voice Wales over working together without membership conditions.	A meeting with Lyn Cadwallader has been arranged.
5	Note change of date for next meeting and liaise with Tina Early Bay of Colwyn Council over the venue availability.	Completed.



5. Financial Report

To consider an update on the finances of the Association.

(See appendix A)

6. Executive Meeting Minutes

To consider the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on Friday 8th March 2019.

7. School Meals Provision

To consider an update on school meals provision and the payment for such meals as follows:

Welshpool High School new arrangements

Discussions with Welsh Government

8. Homeless

To consider an update on the Secretaries investigations into homeless provision and rules which may help Town and Community Councils to be able to help.

9. Welsh Language Policy

To consider a members request to adopt a Welsh Language Policy for the Association.

10. Future of Local Councils

To consider an update on the Ministers Statement regarding the future of Local Councils.

To note the following items will be taken forward over the next 12 months:

Ministers Statement – Matters to be taken forward immediately
Undergo a campaign to confirm the role of Local Councils.
Local Councils to consider what services they should deliver at local level.
Encourage Local Councils to form where there are none.
Using existing powers ensure reviews of boundaries area carried out regularly by the County Councils.
Establish a better understanding of the use of social media.
Undertake a campaign to get more people to stand for election.
Provide access to the General Power of Competence to qualifying councils.
Local Councils to prepare for the General Power of Competence.
Support the establishment of joint service delivery arrangements.
Provide and share good practise on service delivery models.



Continued.....

Raise awareness of existing sources of funding.
Identify core training and introduce a programme for Councillors.
Continue to provide a bursary scheme for smaller Councils.
Encourage an increase in the number of qualified clerks.
Facilitate work to strengthen key relationships between Local and Principal Councils.
Add a representative from Community and Town Councils in the list required by Public Service Boards.
Require all Town and Community Councils to issue an annual report.
Encourage Local Councils to follow the principles of engage, plan, undertake and report.
Explore how digital mechanisms to engage and share information are used and could be used more extensively by the sector.

11. Brexit and Town/Community Councils

The Welsh Government has been clear since the EU referendum result that a disorderly no deal Brexit would be disastrous for Wales.

Since the 2016 referendum, we have worked constructively in Wales, Westminster and Brussels to deliver a deal that works for Wales, which protects our people, our economy and our environment. But as it has become clearer a no deal outcome is a real possibility, so we have been actively increasing our preparations to safeguard the interests of Wales and its people.

The Welsh Government has set out a clear vision for a Brexit, which prioritises jobs, the economy and the interests of Wales. More information about this is available in our White Paper. This can be found on the Welsh Government Web Site.

Summary

In summary the effects on Town and Community Councils depends upon what activities they undertake, however the following should be noted:

- i) Councils with investments need to evaluate what they should do to protect them.
- ii) Allowance should be made for a small drop in commercial income, particularly where tourism is involved.
- iii) Allowance should be made for short term inflationary pressures.



12. Annual External Audit

To consider an update on the External Audit report by Welsh Government.

The relevant matters of note are:

The amount of money managed by local councils in Wales continues to increase. However, the current standard of financial management and

governance remains disappointing at too many councils as evidenced by a doubling of the number of qualified audit opinions

A significant number of councils fail to comply with their statutory responsibilities for preparing accounts and ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the statutory audit, including making arrangements for inspection of the accounts by their electors.

For information

The number of qualified audit opinions has doubled in 2017-18 to 340 councils, with auditors highlighting ongoing failings in financial management and governance

Auditors issue 'qualified' audit opinions when councils fail to comply with their statutory responsibilities or where auditors conclude that the information reported in the annual return is mis-stated.

Over 340 individual councils received a qualified audit opinion for 2017-18 compared with 170 in 2016-17. This increase is mainly due to a failure to adhere to the statutory timetable for the accounts and audit.

Auditors identified issues that require attention by the council, but which did not result in an audit qualification, at 522 councils compared with 424 in 2016-17.

Auditors have again highlighted a need to develop the internal audit function and this is supported by the findings of my national study on internal audit in the sector.

Financial Management and Governance – Town and Community Councils 2017-18
In 2018, due to significant deficiencies identified during the audit, I exercised my statutory powers to issue reports in the public interest or to make written recommendations to eight councils in Wales

Town and community councils in Wales can learn lessons from the reports in the public interest issued at seven councils during 2018. I am also considering similar reports on several other councils.

Councils can also learn lessons from written recommendations issued under section 25 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004. In 2018 I made such recommendations to one council. The 2018-19 and 2019-20 town and community council audits will continue to focus on areas where auditors identify scope for improvement in council's arrangements and during this period, I will review the adequacy and effectiveness of the current audit arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose



My audit programme for 2018-19 to 2020-21 will continue to focus on areas where there is scope for local councils to improve their financial management and governance.

In 2019, I will review the current audit arrangements to determine if they remain fit for purpose with any resulting changes to the arrangements expected to be introduced for the 2020-21 audit of accounts.

Note 1:

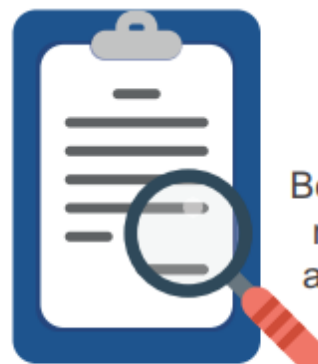
The 2017-18 audit is incomplete at 94 councils for various reasons.

	Number of councils
2017-18 annual return not submitted to the auditor	17
Councils not responding to requests for further information	24
Prior year audits incomplete	22
2017-18 audit issues to be resolved	31

Note 2:



80
Bodies failed to meet 30 June deadline



242
Bodies failed to make proper arrangements for audit

Source: Wales Audit Office analysis

**Note 3:****Exhibit 9 – audit timetable for 2018-19**

I have appointed 29 July 2019 as the date from which local electors may exercise their rights under section 30 of the and 31 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Action	To be completed by
Council to place audit notice in a conspicuous place and to publish a copy on its website	16 June 2019
Responsible Financial Officer to certify the accounting statements	30 June 2019
Council to approve the accounts for submission to the auditor	30 June 2019
Council to make accounts and supporting records available for public inspection	1 July 2019
End of statutory inspection period	26 July 2019
Date from which local electors can ask questions about or make objections to the accounts to the auditor	29 July 2019

2.18 As notice of these dates has now been given, I anticipate that almost all councils will comply with the Regulations for 2018-19.

13. Any other business

To consider any other business relevant to the Association.

14. Dates of future meetings

To note the dates for future meetings as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

Friday 26th April 2019 – Bay of Colwyn Town Council

Friday 10th July 2019 – Connah's Quay Town Council

All Quarterly Meetings start at 10.30am.



Executive Meetings

Friday 9th March 2019

Friday 8th June 2019 All Executive

Meetings are held at 10.30am in the Offices of Rhyl Town Council



APPENDIX A

FINANCIAL REPORT

NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS		APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR TO 31.3.2019												
INCOME	Membership & Meals	144.00	256.00	16.00	1098.00	206.00	120.00	161.50	296.00	16.00	288.00	
	Interest											
	Debtors											
	Other											
	TOTAL	144.00	256.00	16.00	1098.00	206.00	120.00	161.50	296.00	16.00	288.00	0.00
COSTS	Meals		704.10				560.00		670.40			
	Expenses											
	Administration											
	Bank charges											
	Cavel											
	Web hosting											
	Web site											
	Translation											
	Other											
	TOTAL	0.00	704.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	560.00	0.00	670.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BALANCE	144.00	-448.10	16.00	1098.00	206.00	-440.00	161.50	-374.40	16.00	288.00	0.00
BANK	Start	5900.30	6044.30	5596.20	5612.20	6710.20	6916.20	6476.20	6637.70	6263.30	6279.30	6364.45
	End	6044.30	5596.20	5612.20	6710.20	6916.20	6476.20	6637.70	6263.30	6279.30	6567.30	
	Balance	-144.00	448.10	-16.00	-1098.00	-206.00	440.00	-161.50	374.40	-16.00	-288.00	6364.45
	TREASURER		Robert Robinson									