Monmouthshire County Council Review of Community Boundaries

As you will be aware Welsh Government Ministers have yet to sign the Order confirming the review of the community boundaries in Monmouthshire as set out in the Local Boundary and Democracy (LDBC) Report dated January 2019 see link below to Report on LDBC website:-
https://ldbc.gov.wales/reviews/01-19/monmouthshire-final-recommendations

You will also be aware that on behalf of the Monmouthshire Community & Town Councils One Voice Wales asked all relevant bodies in turn i.e. Monmouthshire County Council, Local Democracy & Boundary Commission and Minister for Housing & Local Government for the Review to be re-run after the Community & Town Councils were misinformed that they would have further opportunity to comment on the proposals put forward by Monmouthshire County Council which was not the case.

Following all relevant bodies refusal to re-run the Review we sought legal advice on whether there was a case for a judicial review and we were advised that unfortunately there were no grounds.

Since then we have been waiting for the Review to be signed off by Welsh Government Ministers which should result in the issuing of orders that we understand will give guidance to those Councils who find that their areas are to be split up or even dissolved.

For some Community & Town Councils the Review will simply mean a change to the boundary with the loss or gain of local properties which will simply affect the calculation of the precept.
Others will have questions regarding the transfer of assets, contracts, services or other formal agreements.

Councils that are to be dissolved will need to take action regarding Clerks or other staff faced with redundancy and any remaining finances and assets may need to be divided between neighbouring Councils that absorb the community areas of those Councils.

One Voice Wales recognises that Councils will require support and advice on how to deal with these matters some answers will be relevant to all Councils other Councils will need specific guidance.

Until the Order confirming the Review is signed off and becomes law we will not receive the legal orders that we understand will give guidance on some of the questions that you may have already identified.

Hopefully now that the Senedd elections have taken place Welsh Government will resume business and legal orders will signed.

The urgency of the situation has been impressed on Welsh Government officials who have been asked to consider providing practical advice and guidance to accompany the legal orders when they are received.

Until that time One Voice Wales would ask that if you have not already done so that your Council consider the implications of the Review for your Council and set out the issues and questions that arise.

We recommend that you have conversations with neighbouring Councils to identify assets or services that may need to be transferred between Councils.

Then as soon as the legal orders are issued if they do not provide answers to the questions your Council faces One Voice Wales can support you to answer any remaining issues or questions.

I can assure you that One Voice Wales will not lose sight of this issue and our officials are impressing the need for urgency on those in Welsh Government involved in this matter.

Shân Bowden, Development Officer will be the One Voice Wales officer who will be the first point of call regarding the Review and the issues it has created Shân can be contacted by email: sbowden@onevoicewales.wales or Mob No 07917 846511.

Please be aware Shân works part time but will respond as quickly as she can to emails or any messages left on her answer phone.

Regards
Lyn Cadwallader
CEO

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Un Llais Cymru
One Voice Wales

The principal representative body for Community and Town Councils in Wales/

Y prif gorff cynrychioli ar gyfer Cynghorau Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru

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