

Community and Town Council Perspective

- New Minister - taking a more positive and pragmatic view of the Sector
- Budgetary restraint goes beyond 2017/18
- Discussions now need to reflect the medium to long term

Cabinet Secretary Assembly Statement

- Initially, let me recognise the part played by town and community councils as part of the local government landscape. They play an **important role** in many communities, but in my visits across Wales I have been struck by the enormous **variability in scale**, scope, capability and ambitions within the sector. I intend to enact a set of **immediate arrangements to help town and community councils** as they exist today to become more effective. However, alongside this, **I intend to establish an independent group to take a root-and-branch look at the future role of this tier of government** and to develop a blueprint for getting the maximum potential out of the sector in future.

Not Business As Usual

- In terms of reshaping services just looking at the present savings targets is too limited.
- Need to recognise implications arising from the new approach to local government – e.g. mandatory co-operation of strategic services.
- For intermediate ,and non statutory services the introduction of e.g. the neighborhood model, invites some level of co-operation between the Community/Town and Principal Council.

Local Discussion

- Approached positively - recognising the constraints on each party.
- A binary approach to services – take it or lose it – too simplistic.
- If privatisation of a specific/local service e.g. toilets is considered – specific consultation with individual councils should precede proposals.
- Need to determine appetite and capacity to deal with changes.
- Minister has issued eight proposals to build resilience and renewal in community and town councils which is being circulated by One Voice Wales.