

Cyngor Tref Llangollen Town Council.

Agenda.

21.04.2026.

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| <p>1. Croesawiad a chyhoeddiadau Faer y Dref.</p> | <p>Town Mayors welcome and announcements.</p> |
| <p>2. Cyflwyniad.
Sir Ddinbych Ymwybodol o Dementia
Ms Rebecca Bowcott, Swyddog Lles Cymunedol.</p> | <p>Presentation.
Dementia Aware Denbighshire.
Ms Rebecca Bowcott, Community Wellbeing Officer.</p> |
| <p>3. Datganiadau gan y cyhoedd.
I dderbyn datganiadau oddiwrth y cyhoedd ar faterion ar yr agenda.</p> | <p>Statements from the public.
To receive statements from the public on matters on the agenda.</p> |
| <p>4. Datganiadau gan Cynghorwyr y Sir.
I dderbyn datganiadau gan Cynghorwyr y Sir ar faterion sy'n ymwneud â Llangollen.</p> | <p>Statements from County Councillors.
To receive statements from County Councillors on matters relating to Llangollen</p> |
| <p>5. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.
I dderbyn, ystyried a derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.</p> | <p>Apologies for absence.
To receive, consider and accept apologies for absence.</p> |
| <p>6. Datganiadau o Fuddiant.
I dderbyn unrhyw ddatganiadau o fuddiant ar eitemau ar yr agenda.</p> | <p>Declaration of Interest.
To receive any known declarations of interest in items on the agenda.</p> |
| <p>7. Cofnodion.
a) Awdurdodi'r Cadeirydd i lofnodi cofnodion y chyfarfodydd blaenorol a gynhaliwyd ar fel cofnod cywir.</p> | <p>Minutes.
To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the previous meetings held on as a correct record.</p> |
| <p>8. Adroddiadau ariannol.
I dderbyn adroddiadau a gyflwynwyd gan yr Clerc y Dref ac ystyried yr argymhellion ynddo. Mae adroddiadau yn ddogfennau gwaith ac felly nid ydynt yn cael eu cyfieithu
a) Datganiadau Ariannol
b) Taliadau Awdurdodedig
c) Bank reconciliation
d) Yswiriant</p> | <p>Financial reports.
To receive reports submitted to the Town Clerk and considered the recommendations therein. Reports are working documents and are therefore not translated.
Authorised Payments
Financial Statements
Bank reconciliation
Insurance</p> |
| <p>9. Adroddiadau Clerc y Dref.
I dderbyn adroddiadau a gyflwynwyd gan yr Clerc y Dref ac ystyried yr argymhellion ynddo. Mae adroddiadau yn ddogfennau gwaith ac felly nid ydynt wedi'u cyfieithu.</p> | <p>Town Clerk's Reports.
To receive reports submitted by the Town Clerk and considered the recommendations therein. Reports are working documents and are therefore not translated.</p> |

Llangollen UK Town of Culture Joint Committee Terms of Reference.

Llangollen UK Town of Culture Joint Committee Terms of Reference.

10. Adroddiadau i'r Cyngor.

I dderbyn adroddiadau a gyflwynwyd i'r Cyngor Tref ac ystyried yr argymhellion ynddo. Mae adroddiadau yn ddogfennau gwaith ac felly nid ydynt yn cael eu cyfieithu. Adeiladau adfeiliedig Llangollen

Reports to Council.

To receive reports submitted to the Town Council and considered the recommendations therein. Reports are working documents and are therefore not translated. Llangollen's derelict buildings

Authorised Payments

Description/Disgrifiad	Cyflenwr/Supplier	Dull / Method	Net	TAW/VAT	Gros/Gross
Bank charges	Unity Trust Bank	Charge	£14.95	£0.00	£14.95
Broadband	British Telecom	Direct Debit	£61.22	£12.24	£73.46
Business Rates	Denbighshire CC	Direct Debit	£1,142.50	£0.00	£1,142.50
Cloud Services	ACS Technology	Direct Debit	£242.30	£0.00	£242.30
Cloud services	BrightHR	Direct Debit	£33.43	£6.69	£40.12
Energy	Ecotricity	Direct Debit	£162.56	£8.13	£170.69
Energy	Ecotricity	Direct Debit	£374.37	£74.81	£449.18
Energy	Ecotricity	Direct Debit	£35.03	£1.75	£36.78
Energy	Ecotricity (Gas)	Direct Debit	£407.13	£81.43	£488.56
Mobile Phone	Your Coop	Direct Debit	£50.32	£10.06	£60.38
Pension	Nest	Direct Debit	£76.58	£0.00	£76.58
Cleaning	Brder Janitorial	Online	£124.32	£24.86	£149.18
Cleaning	Ultra Clean	Online	£318.50	£63.70	£382.20
Membership Fee	One Voice Wales	Online	£886.00	£0.00	£886.00
Projects	Davies Brothers Ltd	Online	£5,898.66	£1,179.73	£7,078.39
Expenses	LTC 3	Online	£25.20	£0.00	£25.20
Stationary	Viking Direct	Online	£15.94	£3.19	£19.13
Member training	One Voice Wales	Online	£42.00	£0.00	£42.00
Member training	One Voice Wales	Online	£42.00	£0.00	£42.00
Repairs and renewals	MF Systems	Online	£130.00	£26.00	£156.00
Repairs and renewals	Watkin and Willams	Online	£44.93	£8.99	£53.92
Repairs and renewals	P Ashby Locksmith	Online	£325.00	£65.00	£390.00
Printing	Rawsons	Online	£29.00	£17.00	£46.00
Translation	B Jones		£312.36	£0.00	£312.36
			£10,794.30	£1,583.58	£12,377.88

Llangollen Town Council
Cost Centre Year Comparison Summary
All Cost Centres and Codes

Code Title	Receipts (Current Year)		Payments (Current Year)		Receipts (Last Year)		Payments (Last Year)	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Administration								
Fees and charges			2,500.00	2,322.80			2,200.00	3,244.50
Cloud services			4,000.00	4,975.07			3,700.00	3,554.22
Health and safety			3,000.00	787.47			2,700.00	1,809.51
Insurance			5,600.00	5,493.89			5,550.00	5,610.12
Licenses			700.00	240.90			550.00	460.40
NNDR			14,000.00	12,922.00			14,000.00	12,376.22
Payroll			900.00	458.22			750.00	384.00
Subscriptions			1,800.00	188.00			1,600.00	1,190.00
Office supplies			1,100.00	1,416.82				
Broadband			1,000.00	997.64				
Photocopier rental			1,500.00	926.00				
Printing			1,400.00	261.09				
Translation			700.00	382.25				
Staff Training			2,500.00	1,572.07			1,500.00	855.00
Computer hardware			1,500.00	2,084.34				
Expenses				225.21			500.00	194.70
SUB TOTAL			42,200.00	35,253.77			33,050.00	29,678.67
Asset Management								
Equipment			1,000.00	3,300.25			14,500.00	13,342.78
Projects			32,300.00	68,551.54			20,000.00	11,590.25
Cleaning			3,500.00	5,182.55			3,300.00	3,936.20
Grounds maintenance			15,000.00	10,147.45			13,000.00	6,467.50
Christmas illuminations			16,300.00	13,605.00			11,000.00	9,679.08
Repairs and renewals			15,500.00	13,214.35			15,000.00	34,489.17
Waste collection			1,100.00	369.76			1,100.00	497.01
Water charges			900.00	1,181.22			900.00	683.25
SUB TOTAL			85,600.00	115,552.12			78,800.00	80,685.24
Bank Charges								
Unity Trust charges			400.00	116.05				
SUB TOTAL			400.00	116.05				
Capital Financing								
Loan repayments								
Assets Projects			10,000.00					
SUB TOTAL			10,000.00					

Llangollen Town Council

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All Cost Centres and Codes

Code Title	Receipts (Current Year)		Payments (Current Year)		Receipts (Last Year)		Payments (Last Year)	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Community								
Community grants			10,000.00	8,407.00			6,500.00	3,000.00
Donations								
Cittaslow			1,000.00				1,000.00	750.00
SUB TOTAL			11,000.00	8,407.00			7,500.00	3,750.00
Cost of Democracy								
Election expenses								
Civic costs			2,000.00	155.88			2,000.00	70.00
Civic events			3,800.00	3,859.82			3,800.00	776.32
Mayor's allowance								
Remuneration			1,716.00	1,878.00			1,800.00	
Member Training			2,000.00	675.00			2,000.00	80.00
Member allowances								1,235.00
SUB TOTAL			9,516.00	6,568.70			9,600.00	2,161.32
Energy Costs								
Electricity			7,500.00	7,283.38			11,000.00	8,526.78
Gas			9,000.00	5,524.67			8,500.00	12,793.56
SUB TOTAL			16,500.00	12,808.05			19,500.00	21,320.34
Income								
Precept	169,816.00	169,815.99			165,350.00	165,954.17		
Interest	2,400.00	3,723.14				4,380.39	2,700.00	
Room hire	15,000.00	22,259.52			14,500.00	15,555.50		
Rents	26,800.00	28,709.04			23,500.00	23,012.37		
Grants								
Tenants recharges	3,000.00				3,000.00	2,085.29		
VAT refund		19,629.73			1,100.00			
Donation		312.31				16.29		
SUB TOTAL	217,016.00	244,449.73			207,450.00	211,004.01	2,700.00	
Office Costs								
Office supplies							1,100.00	535.66
Broadband							700.00	943.24
Photocopier rental							1,000.00	926.00
Printing							1,400.00	87.26
Translation							700.00	338.88

Llangollen Town Council
Cost Centre Year Comparison Summary
All Cost Centres and Codes

Code Title	Receipts (Current Year)		Payments (Current Year)		Receipts (Last Year)		Payments (Last Year)	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Computer hardware							2,500.00	1,635.00
SUB TOTAL							7,400.00	4,466.04
Staff Costs								
Salaries			41,300.00	49,409.29			39,600.00	40,823.54
HR fees and charges				406.00				200.00
Pension			3,600.00	3,252.04			3,500.00	5,183.99
HMRC			12,000.00	15,887.93			9,000.00	13,659.23
SUB TOTAL			56,900.00	68,955.26			52,100.00	59,866.76
NET TOTAL	217,016.00	244,449.73	232,116.00	247,660.95	207,450.00	211,004.01	210,650.00	201,928.37
V.A.T.				23,953.13		13,969.34		18,803.51
GROSS TOTAL		244,449.73		271,614.08		224,973.35		220,731.88

Llangollen Town Council

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/03/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		221,386.21
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		244,449.73
			465,835.94
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		271,614.08
A	Cash in Hand 31/03/2026 (per Cash Book)		194,221.86
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/03/2026	0.00	
	Llangollen Town Council Instant Ac 31/03/2026	170,130.05	
	Llangollen Town Council Current A/c 31/03/2026	24,091.81	
			194,221.86
	Less unrepresented payments		
			194,221.86
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		194,221.86
	A = B Checks out OK		

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk.
SUBJECT: Insurance.
REPORT FOR: Decision.

1. Purpose of report.

1.1 To consider insurance cover..

2. Background.

2.1 In 2020, the Town Council undertook a formal tender exercise for its insurance provision and subsequently appointed Business Services at CAS Ltd, trading as Parish Protect, under a three-year long-term agreement commencing in 2021. Due to adverse market conditions, Parish Protect withdrew from the council insurance market in 2023, resulting in the Council being without cover at the point of renewal. Zurich Municipal, the Council's previous insurer, intervened and agreed to provide immediate cover.

2.2 Zurich Municipal submitted quotations, following which the Town Council entered into a further three-year long-term agreement at a fixed annual premium of £5,550.33. This agreement is due to expire on 31 May 2026.

2.3 Whilst there has been some stabilisation in the insurance market following the heightened pressures associated with Covid-19 and Brexit, a number of challenges remain. These include increased claims costs, climate-related risks, and reduced insurer capacity, particularly within specialist public sector markets such as town and community councils.

3. Financial regulations and renewal proposal.

3.1 The Council's Financial Regulations state that:

*"Every contract shall comply with these Financial Regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency. However, this regulation need not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi), including:
(iv) for work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract."*

3.2 Given the current market conditions, which continue to present limited competition and the risk of insurers withdrawing from the sector at short notice, maintaining continuity with a reputable and established provider such as Zurich Municipal represents a prudent and risk-managed approach.

3.3 The proposed renewal complies with the Council's Financial Regulations. The continuation of the insurance contract with Zurich Municipal falls within the permitted exemption for extending an existing contract. Therefore there are no legal barriers to proceeding with the renewal under the proposed terms.

3.3 Zurich Municipal has provided the following renewal terms for consideration:

- a) One-year term: £6,698.03 (including Insurance Premium Tax)
- b) Three-year Long-Term Agreement (LTA): £6,055.10 per annum (including Insurance Premium Tax). Under the LTA, the premium is fixed for the duration of the agreement, subject to adjustments for any changes to the policy (e.g. additions or removals).

3.4 The three-year Long-Term Agreement offers a reduced annual premium of £6,055.10 compared to the one-year option at £6,698.03, representing a cost saving to the Council. While the LTA commits the Council to a three-year term, it provides budget certainty and protection against potential premium increases during a period of ongoing market uncertainty.

4. Recommendation

4. It is recommended that the Town Council renews its insurance policy with Zurich Municipal under a three-year Long-Term Agreement at an annual premium of £6,055.10. This option provides a discounted rate, ensures continuity of cover, and represents a prudent and risk-managed approach in the current market conditions.

5. Reason for Recommendation.

5.1 To ensure effective financial probity and governance.

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk
SUBJECT: Llangollen UK Town of Culture Joint Committee:
Terms of Reference.
REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To consider and adopt the terms of reference for the Llangollen UK Town of Culture Joint Committee.

2. Background.

2.1 Members will recall that at the Town Council meeting in February it was proposed and resolved that the Town Council agreed in principle to proceed with an Expression of Interest and takes on the role of Accountable Body to hold overall responsibility for the programme, including financial management, legal compliance, coordination of partners, grant funding, and reporting to Department of Media Culture and Sport (DCMS).

2.2 Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the UK Town of Culture 2028 closed on 31 March 2026 and the attached bid, detailed in appendix 1 was submitted, and confirmation has been received from DCMS who have advised that once all EOIs have been assessed by their expert advisory panel, they will be back in touch to inform the Town Council of the outcome.

3. Other considerations.

3.1 During the preparation of the EOI it became apparent that the population of the Town of Llangollen itself fell below the threshold of the definition of a small town under the EOIO guidance notes which refer to the Office of National Statistics definitions for towns/urban areas based on population size. Under these classification small towns range between populations of 5000 – 20 000 and therefore it was decided to seek the approval of Llantysilio County Council and Llangollen Rural Community Council to support a joint submission to fulfil this population threshold.

3.2 This was also considered appropriate by the EIO drafting team as Llangollen Town Council, Llantysilio Community Council, and Llangollen Rural Community Council share deep historic and cultural roots as parts of the ancient parish of Llangollen in the Dee Valley, a landscape shaped by a common heritage dating back to early medieval origins. Although formal administrative divisions emerged in the late 19th century, separating the urban centre from its rural hinterland, and were later reinforced by modern local government boundaries, including the current split between Denbighshire and Wrexham, the three areas remain closely interconnected.

3.3 Given that Llangollen continues to function as the cultural and service hub for surrounding communities, while shared landmarks, traditions, and a strong sense of place underpin ongoing collaboration then this enduring relationship provides a robust foundation for joint working in culture and heritage, as defined within the UK Town of Culture 2028 programme.

3.3 In anticipation of a successful outcome the Town Council needs to consider the establishment of the mechanism to undertake the role of the Accountable Body as t its

earliest convenience so that the body can “hit the ground running” once announcements are made.

- 3.4 Having approached both Community Cocouncil they have agreed to be part of the bid and therefore it would be appropriate that the nominated representatives be included as representatives on the Accountable Body. To facilitate this a joint committee should be established and draft terms of reference are attached in appendix 2 for consideration.

6. Recommendations.

- 6.1 That the Town Council considerer and adopt the terms of reference for the Llangollen UK Town of Culture Joint Committee and seek the views of the partner Councils to move to establishing an appropriate schedule of meetings.

Appendix 1

UK Town of Culture 2028 Competition Expression of Interest (EOI)

Thank you for your interest in the UK Town of Culture 2028.

Please ensure you have read the “UK Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest: Guidance for bidders” document before applying. All EOIs must be submitted using this standard template.

The form comprises four sections which each require a statement response. You are provided with a series of prompts to use as a guide. You do not need to answer each prompt individually but your responses should address all prompts. The prompts draw from the competition criteria and bidding places should refer back to the criteria when completing the form to show the potential of their programme to make a contribution to the aims of the UK Town of Culture programme.

The form has set formatting (e.g., font size and line spacing) which should be adhered to. Please note that the EOI form is strictly word limited and we do not expect at this stage detailed economic data, research or in depth fundraising or delivery plans. Responses should also only include text.

The application deadline is **31 March 2026**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. **If a large number of applications are received, an initial sift will be conducted on the section, 'Section 2: Your Story', only.**

Contact: uktownofculture2028-competition@dcms.gov.uk

SECTION 1: BID INFORMATION

In this section, we ask for information relating to your bidding team and place. The information will not be scored but will be used to confirm your eligibility.

1.1 Contact Information

Please provide contact information for the single point of contact for your bidding team.
Name, Position, Team / Organisation, Telephone Number, Email Address.

Name: Gareth Thomas

Position: Town Clerk

Team / Organisation: Llangollen Town Council

Telephone Number: 01978 860 345

Email Address: townclerk@llangollentowncouncil.gov.uk

1.2 The Bidder

Please provide information for the bidder. With reference to the definitions of the Accountable Body and Delivery Body in “UK Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest: Guidance for bidders”. You should include information on who the lead bidder is and who the key partners are.

The lead bidder and Accountable Body for this Expression of Interest is Llangollen Town Council, which will hold ultimate responsibility for governance, financial stewardship, statutory compliance, risk management, monitoring and evaluation, and accountability to DCMS. Robust governance arrangements will be established, including clear reporting lines, financial controls, and transparent decision-making processes to ensure effective programme oversight and delivery.

The Delivery Body will be constituted as a dedicated UK Town of Culture Partnership Board for Llangollen, convened and chaired by the Town Council. The Partnership will bring together senior representatives from local cultural organisations, heritage institutions, community groups, education providers, tourism stakeholders and the business community. The Board will provide strategic direction, ensure alignment with local and regional priorities, and oversee programme implementation, audience development and legacy planning.

Key delivery partners will include (but are not limited to):

Major cultural organisations and festivals, including the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Llangollen Fringe Festival, Llangollen Operatic Society, The Young 'Uns,' The Collen Players, Llangollen Comedy Club, Llangollen Twenty Club, Dee Rocks Festival, Llangollen Silver Band, Clwb Celf Llangollen, Llangollen Museum, Our Historic Llangollen and Gwlangollen.

Key venues and heritage assets, including the Town Hall, Library and Tourist Information Centre, Llangollen Museum, Llangollen Pavilion, the Llangollen Group of Churches, Plas Newydd, the Llangollen Canal, Valle Crucis Abbey, and the Llangollen Railway, all of which contribute significantly to the town's cultural infrastructure and visitor economy.

Schools and youth groups ensure strong pathways for skills development, creative participation and youth engagement.

Local businesses and tourism partners, supporting economic impact, destination positioning and sustainable growth.

Community and voluntary organisations, including ecumenical partners such as Cymdeithas Cymraeg and Cytun (Churches together) ensuring inclusive engagement across communities.

The programme will be further strengthened through an established international cultural relationship, building on Llangollen's longstanding global profile through the International Musical Eisteddfod. This outward-facing dimension will enable comparative learning, international collaboration, co-commissioning opportunities and shared cultural dialogue, reinforcing Llangollen's role as a globally connected cultural town.

Impact will be measured across cultural participation, skills development, economic uplift, tourism growth, community cohesion and place identity. A clear legacy framework will ensure that investment results in sustained partnership working,

enhanced local capacity, strengthened cultural infrastructure and long-term benefits for residents, businesses and visitors beyond the Town of Culture year.

1.3 The Geographical Area

Please specify the geographical area that you are bidding for, with reference to the relevant geographical boundary designations. You may want to note the town categories set out in the “UK Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest: Guidance for bidders”. We will use your geographical area’s population size to categorise your bid.

The bid covers the town of Llangollen, Denbighshire, defined by the Town Council boundary and its immediate hinterland. Llangollen meets the eligibility criteria set out in the UK Town of Culture guidance.

Recognising the functional cultural geography of the area, the bid also reflects the strong historic, economic and community interdependencies between Llangollen and the neighbouring areas governed by Llantysilio Community Council and Llangollen Rural Community Council. While the Town Council remains the lead bidder and accountable body, the programme will be designed and delivered in a way that acknowledges the shared identity and lived experience across these three intricately connected communities with a combined population of 6,021 (2021 Census)

The relationship between Llangollen, Llantysilio and Llangollen Rural is underpinned by shared heritage assets, landscape and infrastructure, including the Llangollen Canal, the Dee Valley corridor, transport linkages, schools, faith networks and long-established patterns of social and economic exchange. Residents routinely access cultural venues, festivals, services and volunteering opportunities across administrative boundaries, operating as a single cultural and economic ecosystem.

Governance arrangements will ensure structured engagement with both neighbouring Community Councils through formal partnership representation, defined consultation mechanisms and shared programme planning processes. This approach will mitigate duplication, strengthen alignment with local priorities and embed collaborative decision making across the wider area.

Strategically, this geography strengthens the bid’s capacity to deliver inclusive growth and rural cultural engagement. It broadens participation reach, enhances volunteer capacity, supports tourism dispersal across the Dee Valley and reinforces Llangollen’s role as a cultural hub serving a wider rural hinterland.

By formally recognising these historic and contemporary linkages, the bid establishes a coherent small town cultural area with sufficient scale, strong governance foundations and a credible long-term legacy framework, while remaining fully compliant with UK Town of Culture eligibility requirements.

SECTION 2: YOUR STORY

In this section, we want to understand the unique story and culture of your town. [*Maximum*

2.1 Vision

Llangollen's story is one of a "Small Town with a Global Voice" rooted in landscape, language, and cultural exchange. Set in the Dee Valley and overlooked by Castell Dinas Brân, the town has drawn inspiration from its dramatic setting within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape. The River Dee, road and rail routes connected Llangollen to national and international networks, while the Llangollen Canal and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a UNESCO World Heritage Site are enduring symbols of innovation and ambition.

The town has a strong Welsh-speaking identity where the language remains central to daily life, shaping education, community activity, and cultural expression. This bilingual identity reinforces pride, continuity, and belonging, ensuring that tradition remains living and relevant.

In the 18th century, the Ladies of Llangollen at Plas Newydd established Llangollen as a place of independent thought and creative freedom. Their legacy of openness and intellectual curiosity continues to influence the town's inclusive and outward-looking character.

Growth in the 18th and 19th centuries strengthened Llangollen's role as a border market town and cultural destination, welcoming visitors, artists, and ideas. That spirit of exchange found modern expression in 1947 with the establishment of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. Created to promote peace after the Second World War, it has welcomed performers from over 100 nations and positioned Llangollen as an international meeting place where cultures connect through music and performance. For close to 80 years, the Eisteddfod has shaped civic pride and inspired generations of volunteers and young people.

Beyond the Eisteddfod, Llangollen sustains a vibrant cultural life. The Llangollen Fringe Festival, a network of choirs, arts groups, and heritage organisations deliver music, visual arts, storytelling, and community performance. Culture here is not an addition to economic life; it is the town's heartbeat.

This ethos reflects Llangollen's commitment to principles, championing local distinctiveness, environmental responsibility, and community led development. Deeply Welsh yet confidently international, Llangollen understands culture as a tool for connection, resilience, and shared prosperity..

Becoming a Town of Culture will enable expansion of opportunities for young people, support emerging creatives, and strengthen partnerships. Through themes of Peace, Place, and Participation, we will animate streets, schools, community spaces, and landscapes with accessible, high quality cultural activity.

Recognition will honour our past, unlock future potential, strengthen our economy, deepen social impact, to demonstrate how a small town can exploit culture to deliver lasting community benefit, where Wales welcomes the World.

2.2 Local Needs

Despite its strong cultural identity and international reputation, Llangollen faces challenges typical of many small rural towns. A seasonal visitor economy, limited progression routes for young people, and unequal access to opportunity create pressures. Housing inequality has made it increasingly difficult for young people and local families to rent or buy. As rural living becomes less affordable, demographic change has reshaped the town's social balance. Far from being only a retirement settlement, it is now a multi-generational community, yet younger residents face growing difficulty in remaining.

Tourism linked to flagship events and the surrounding landscape brings significant benefit, but economic activity fluctuates throughout the year. This instability affects local businesses, restricts secure employment, and contributes to the outmigration of young people seeking training and careers elsewhere. At the same time, infrastructure pressures, limited hotel capacity, parking constraints, overcrowding at peak times, poor public transport, and a shortage of taxis restrict sustainable growth. Stronger transport links to nearby centres such as Wrexham and improved regional connectivity within a realistic 90 minute travel radius are essential to broadening participation and audience reach.

Our bid responds directly to these issues by broadening who participates in and benefits from culture. The programme will prioritise young people, families on lower incomes, Welsh speakers and learners, older residents at risk of isolation, and individuals who do not currently engage with established cultural institutions. Particular emphasis will be placed on opportunities for unskilled and unemployed residents, ensuring culture becomes a pathway to confidence, skills, and work.

A focus will be on creating clear progression routes into creative skills, volunteering, apprenticeships, and employment. Through mentoring, commissions, partnerships with education providers, and collaboration with local businesses, including farming enterprises, which underpin the rural economy, we will strengthen support mechanisms and diversify income streams. Investment in people will sit alongside advocacy for infrastructure that enables sustainable cultural growth.

The bid will address disparities in cultural engagement across neighbourhoods and demographic groups. By co-creating projects with community organisations and under-represented voices, participation will be affordable, inclusive, and embedded in everyday settings, schools, outdoor spaces, community venues, and high streets.

Aligned with local and regional priorities around wellbeing, economic resilience, and sustainable place-making, UK Town of Culture will help Llangollen evolve from a town known primarily for landmark events to one where culture underpins everyday life and long term prosperity, retaining talent, supporting families, and ensuring a viable future for rural living.

2.3 Empowerment

This Expression of Interest has been shaped through multiple conversations with community groups, heritage and cultural organisations, businesses, schools, farming enterprises, and residents, building on long-standing collaboration in Llangollen. The town has a strong tradition of partnership, most visibly through the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, which has embedded volunteering, cultural exchange, and civic pride over generations. The networks and experience developed through these initiatives inform our ambition to extend cultural participation beyond flagship moments into everyday life, delivering investment with clear and lasting legacy outcomes.

Initial discussions have focused on shared challenges and aspirations: supporting local businesses to thrive year-round; addressing barriers created by rural isolation; improving access to mental health and wellbeing support, including collaboration with organisations such as Mind; and creating meaningful opportunities for young people. While Llangollen benefits from a strong outdoor tourism economy, many local young people cannot afford to participate in the activities that define their town. Community partners, including the local food bank and groups supporting disadvantaged, lonely, and homeless residents, have emphasised the importance of using cultural activity as a route to connection, dignity, and access to wider support services.

Creative practitioners have called for more commissioning opportunities and clearer pathways to develop work locally. Community organisations have stressed the need to reach families on lower incomes, older residents at risk of isolation, unemployed and unskilled young people, and those living in surrounding rural areas. This ongoing engagement confirms both strong support for a UK Town of Culture bid and a clear appetite for deeper, more coordinated collaboration.

The full programme will be co-designed with the community through open forums, workshops, and listening events, alongside targeted engagement with under-represented groups, youth organisations, schools, local businesses, and voluntary sector partners. Young people will shape dedicated strands through youth panels, paid commissions, and leadership opportunities, ensuring their voices influence both content and delivery.

Community involvement will extend beyond consultation into shared decision making. Governance will include a representative steering group supported by thematic working groups, a dedicated Project Manager overseeing delivery, and an Executive Committee providing strategic oversight, financial accountability, and legacy planning. Transparent reporting, regular public updates, and rigorous evaluation will ensure accountability and build trust.

Llangollen Town Council and its partners will keep community voices central throughout development, delivery, and long-term legacy planning, ensuring this investment strengthens skills, wellbeing, opportunity, and cultural confidence well beyond the programme year.

SECTION 3: CULTURE FOR EVERYONE

In this section, we want to understand how you will design a cultural programme for all which will provide visible, accessible culture that boosts the profile of your town. [*Maximum 400 words for each section*]

3.1 Quality and Innovation

A programme will be developed to animate and transform the town's underused and overlooked spaces, revealing their potential as stages for culture and community life. Empty shopfronts, open spaces, community halls and gathering places will be reimagined as vibrant venues for creativity. Centenary Square, at the heart of the town, will become a focal point for activity, alongside a network of smaller spaces that together create a cultural trail through the town. These found and familiar places will host a variety of outdoor performances, installations and events, staged against striking rural backdrops that root the programme firmly in its landscape. The result will be a dynamic, inclusive cultural landscape that reflects the town's character while opening new possibilities for engagement.

Artist led and community led projects will fill the town with activity, inviting residents to participate not only as audiences but as collaborators and creators. Through workshops, performances, exhibitions and participatory events, the programme will celebrate and reflect local culture, heritage and everyday stories, ensuring that the creative work grows directly from the place and the people who live there. This approach aligns closely with national priorities for culture, wellbeing and education, demonstrating how the arts can support community resilience, creativity and learning across generations. The outcome will create a vibrant, inclusive cultural environment that mirrors the town's identity while unlocking fresh opportunities for participation.

Activities will be diverse yet interconnected. Commissions, site-specific performances, exhibitions, workshops, and creative learning opportunities will build a coherent cultural ecosystem. Youth engagement will be central, using platforms such as TikTok and Instagram, alongside Scouts and schools through badge linked activities. Sports clubs, community groups, and all organisations will be consulted early and throughout delivery. Public consultation will ensure shared ownership and relevance.

Communications will expand through bloggers, social media ambassadors, and digital volunteers to boost volunteer recruitment and reach. Existing events, including the Eisteddfod, Fringe, Christmas Festival, Food Fair, cookery school, museum, and public houses, will be leveraged and amplified. The programme will connect these organisations to build a stronger cultural network.

Through this programme, overlooked spaces will become shared stages, and the town will act as a canvas for creativity. It will nurture pride of place, encourage connection, and demonstrate the power of culture to revitalise communities. This is a place with deep cultural roots and significant creative potential; a place that is not only ready for transformation, but worthy of sustained investment.

3.2 Opportunity

Opportunities within the programme will respond directly to the needs and aspirations of the local community, with a particular emphasis on the youth. Schools, youth organisations, creative practitioners, and community groups, including Young Farmers, the Silver Band, and the Young Archaeological Group will shape activity from the start. Places and organisations such as the Dory Gallery and Llangollen Spoken Word will be of central importance, offering spaces for creative expression, environmental storytelling, and heritage focused performances.’ Existing cultural venues and community hubs will be intertwined in the programme, ensuring the town’s history, including the first national Eisteddfod of 1858 and the 1825 road, is brought to life. This approach secures a programme that genuinely reflects local interests while inspiring young people to invest in the town’s future and legacy.

Learning and skills building will be delivered through workshops, mentoring, masterclasses, and hands-on creative projects in art, heritage, and performance. Career awareness will be embedded throughout, with structured pathways for young people to explore employment opportunities within creative industries. Partnerships with Wrexham University and Coleg Cambria will provide student summer placements, internships, and graduate projects that offer real world experience on community led initiatives. These projects will provide mentoring from industry professionals, strengthen local talent, and support rural and farming businesses, giving young people practical experience while fostering a sense of place and cultural connection.

Projects will bring different communities together, designed to be inclusive, socially engaging, and culturally diverse. Participation will be encouraged from under-represented groups, families on lower incomes, older residents, and Welsh speakers and learners. Co-creation with these groups will build understanding, collaboration, and shared ownership of cultural life. Art installations, heritage-based activities, and creative engagement with business spaces will highlight the town’s identity while creating opportunities for volunteering and youth participation.

The anticipated social and community impacts are measurable and wide ranging. Increased participation in cultural activity will strengthen pride in local heritage. Creative learning and employment opportunities will improve confidence, wellbeing, and aspiration among young people. Cross-community projects will enhance social cohesion, reduce isolation, and build stronger networks. By investing in skills, creative capacity, and local spaces, the programme will foster a resilient creative economy, retain young talent, increase year-round economic activity, and embed culture as a lasting driver of social, educational, and economic wellbeing, securing Llangollen as both a thriving tourist destination and a place for future generations to flourish.

3.3 Accessible

Accessibility will be embedded across the design and content of the programme from the outset. All activity will be designed to be welcoming, affordable, and integrated into everyday spaces, reducing practical, financial, and psychological barriers to

participation. Priority will be given to accessible and familiar locations, including parks, schools, community centres, and neighbourhood hubs, ensuring that culture feels part of daily life rather than a special occasion reserved for a limited audience. This approach reflects the town's commitment to inclusivity and to making cultural engagement a normal, routine part of community life.

We will work closely with local access groups and regional partners such as Disability Arts Cymru, Northeast Wales Sensory Support Service, and the South Denbighshire Community Partnership to ensure that all activities follow best practice in accessibility. This includes physical access, sensory considerations, and communication support. Ongoing audience feedback mechanisms will allow us to monitor participation, identify barriers, and adapt programming in real time. Digital access will complement in-person activity, with selected events streamed or shared online, and accessible digital content developed to reach people unable to attend physically, further extending inclusion and engagement.

To reach the widest possible audience, we will take culture directly into the spaces where people already live, work, and gather; rather than relying solely on traditional arts venues. Activities will be programmed across civic, educational, and community settings, in partnership with schools, youth organisations, sports clubs, care settings, faith groups, and local businesses. This embedded approach ensures that culture is visible and accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Our ambition is to maximise reach by removing barriers, building trust, and meeting people in familiar spaces. Instead of focusing only on traditional arts audiences, we will programme across civic, educational, and community environments, working in partnership with schools, youth organisations, faith groups, sports clubs, care settings, and local businesses.

A targeted outreach strategy will prioritise groups who are statistically less likely to engage with cultural activity, including young people, older residents, low-income households, rural communities and disabled audiences. Working with partners such as Wrexham University, Coleg Cambria and other local colleges, we will develop student ambassadors and creative placement opportunities to engage younger demographics and extend peer-to-peer promotion.

We will also implement a strong marketing and communications campaign, combining grassroots outreach with regional and national media partnerships to position the town as an inclusive, welcoming destination.

3.4 Communication

Our communications plan will be built around a multi-channel, audience focused approach designed to reach all demographics and ensure messaging is inclusive, engaging, and impactful. The strategy will combine digital, print, broadcast, and face-to-face engagement to create a coherent and far-reaching campaign that reflects Llangollen's bilingual identity and strong community networks.

Digital communications will include a dedicated website, digital newsletters and coordinated social media campaigns across key platforms. Content will range from short form video, blogs, and artist interviews to live streaming of selected events, ensuring accessibility for those unable to attend in person. Young people will be actively involved in digital storytelling, including vlogging and user-generated content, strengthening peer-to-peer reach and authenticity. Digital analytics will be used to monitor engagement, refine messaging, and expand reach regionally and nationally.

Print materials including posters, flyers, programmes, and features in local newspapers will complement digital outreach and ensure accessibility for residents who are less active online. Distribution points will include community venues, schools, libraries, local businesses, transport hubs, and neighbouring towns, supporting inclusive coverage across rural areas.

Broadcast media will play a key role in amplifying visibility. Partnerships with local radio, regional television, and online video platforms will share highlights, interviews, and behind-the-scenes insights. We will proactively seek regional and international press coverage to position Llangollen as a vibrant and welcoming cultural destination, building on the international recognition associated with the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

Face-to-face engagement will ensure accessibility and trust. Community briefings, open meetings, school visits, pop-up information points, and street level activations will create opportunities for dialogue and feedback. Targeted outreach will engage under-represented groups, rural communities, young people, and older residents at risk of isolation.

Messaging will be tailored to audience needs. Local communications will emphasise participation, pride, and opportunity, reinforcing community ownership. National and international messaging will highlight Llangollen's distinctiveness as a culturally rich, accessible rural town. All core materials will be bilingual, integrating Welsh and English to reflect identity and promote language visibility.

Central to the strategy will be storytelling, sharing personal journeys, volunteer experiences, creative collaborations, and social impact. By combining diverse media channels with inclusive practice and consistent branding, the communications plan will maximise awareness, encourage participation, and create a lasting sense of shared achievement across the community and beyond.

SECTION 4: MAKING IT HAPPEN

In this section, we want to understand how you will deliver a successful programme.

[Maximum 400 words for each section]

4.1 Partnerships

Partnership will drive both design and delivery. We will act, not wait. We will not rely on periodic meetings. A small, skilled delivery team will lead engagement across every

sector and turn dialogue into action. The team will cover programme management, finance, community engagement, Welsh language leadership, communications and digital. It will report to a strengthened strategic board with clear governance, risk control and decision-making authority. We will define the town structure from the outset to show we can manage a programme of this scale with confidence and clarity.

We will start with detailed stakeholder mapping. This will identify artists, traditional craft practitioners, rural skills networks, heritage groups, tourism organisations, outdoor companies, cultural organisation representatives, strategic partners, voluntary bodies and community leaders aligned with our vision. We will also map global contacts and international relationships that give the town a distinctive reach. All data will sit within a shared digital partnership register to support transparency, coordination and continuity beyond 2028.

Structured forums and targeted working groups will replace general discussion meetings. Each group will have clear outcomes, timelines and accountable leads. We will build early strategic partnerships with national bodies and broadcasters including Arts Council of Wales, the Welsh Language Commissioner, Cadw, BBC Wales, Radio Wales, BBC Radio Cymru, ITV Wales, and S4C to align investment, raise profile and secure legacy. We will work with Farming Connect and rural training providers to widen access to traditional craft and land-based skills, reducing cost barriers where they restrict participation.

Our commissioning framework will be open, fair and visible. It will combine open calls, targeted invitations and community led panels. We will prioritise Welsh and locally based practitioners, invest in grassroots practice and support traditional craft alongside contemporary work. Flagship projects and a fringe programme including cinema and outdoor activity will reflect landscape, heritage and global links. Youth pathways, mentoring and volunteer development will anchor the model.

We will invite businesses to contribute through sponsorship, in kind support, staff volunteering and hosting activity. Funding will balance flagship ambition with sustained grassroots investment.

Representation will be evidence-led. We will map partners against age, language, ethnicity, disability, socio economic background and geography, then address gaps. Young people, Welsh speakers, disabled residents, older people, farming families and low-income communities will shape governance and delivery. Bilingualism will be visible across all activity. This approach creates shared ownership, strong oversight and lasting impact beyond 2028.

4.2 Programme Management

Llangollen Town Council will provide strategic oversight, with a dedicated programme team responsible for delivery. Clear roles, risk management processes, and transparent reporting structures will be established from the outset. Key risks - including capacity, funding, and delivery timelines will be mitigated through phased planning, formal

partner agreements, and robust contingency arrangements.

Llangollen's experience delivering large scale events, particularly the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and the Llangollen Fringe Festival, provides a strong foundation of operational expertise, partnership working, and volunteer infrastructure. Delivery will sit with a Programme Board responsible for strategic direction and budget approval. A Programme Director will lead day-to-day management, overseeing programme development, partnerships, marketing, finance, and evaluation.

The core Programme Team will include representatives from Llangollen's cultural sector, business and tourism stakeholders, community organisations, and Welsh language interests. To ensure strong artistic cohesion and curatorial leadership, a Head of Programming based at Llangollen International Pavilion will coordinate and integrate activity across venues, partners, and strands - holding the programme together creatively while maintaining quality and consistency.

This team will coordinate commissioned artists, delivery partners, and volunteers. The delivery model will combine:

- Flagship projects led by experienced cultural partners
- Community-led strands delivered through grants and co-commissioning
- Strategic partnerships with regional and national organisations

This approach ensures both professional excellence and strong community ownership. Each strand will have a named lead responsible for outputs, budget management, and risk reporting.

Key Risks and Mitigation

Funding Shortfall

Risk: Insufficient external investment secured.

Mitigation: Phased programming, diversified funding streams, early fundraising strategy, and a scalable delivery model.

RAG: Amber

Capacity Constraints

Risk: Limited staffing resource in a small-town context.

Mitigation: Dedicated programme team, partnership delivery model, early recruitment, and clear delegation of responsibilities including programme leadership at venue level.

RAG: Amber

Volunteer Fatigue

Risk: Over-reliance on an established volunteer base.

Mitigation: Structured volunteer programme, skills development pathways, recognition schemes, and targeted recruitment of new volunteers, including young people.

RAG: Green

Reputational Risk or Delivery Delays

Risk: Failure to meet expectations associated with national designation.

Mitigation: Clear governance, regular monitoring, independent evaluation, strong executive oversight, and contingency planning.

RAG: Green

4.3 Financial Management

Llangollen has a long-standing and cherished reputation for cultural excellence, shaped by generations of people who have created, shared and celebrated extraordinary artistic experiences. From world renowned festivals to treasured community traditions, culture is not just something Llangollen delivers, it is part of who we are. This deep-rooted identity gives confidence and credibility to shape an exceptional UK Town of Culture 2028 programme: ambitious in its reach, authentic in its voice and proudly grounded in place.

To bring this vision to life, the development grant will strengthen the feasibility, financial resilience and strategic clarity of our application. The Accountable Body will a programme board, confirm key partnerships and establish an independent evaluation framework. This will ensure transparency, trust and accountability, values at the heart of our community.

Consultants will be appointed to lead this work, establishing the development company and forming the programme staffing structure to guide the year ahead. Their expertise will accelerate planning, reduce risk and ensure we present a programme that truly reflects Llangollen's spirit and potential. Development activity will focus on the following priority areas:

Programme Director and Core Team

The consultants will create a strong programme framework, establish the development company and design the staffing structure required to lead a cohesive and inspiring 2028 journey.

Programme Development

To commission detailed artistic proposals, develop flagship event concepts, and test collaborative ideas across Wales and the UK. This early stage of creative development will help ensure that the final submission celebrates local talent while also welcoming new creative voices. It will demonstrate genuine ambition supported by clear and achievable plans.

Financial Planning and Fundraising Strategy

To refine budgets, strengthen modelling and develop a compelling investment case that inspires confidence. Their work will support high quality funding bids and sponsorship materials, building the momentum needed to realise Llangollen's aspirations.

Technical and Capital Feasibility

Expertise will be used to assess infrastructure, accessibility and environmental needs to ensure our proposals are practical, inclusive and sustainable. Every element of the programme will be shaped with care for people and place.

Together, these actions will transform Llangollen's vision into a fully developed, compelling programme capable of delivering cultural, social and economic growth. Through this structured and strategically supported phase, we will present an application that is not only ambitious and credible, but also deeply inspiring, that reflects the passion, pride and potential of Llangollen as the UK Town of Culture 2028.

4.4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Legacy

The programme will focus on four areas: economic growth, community impact, cultural development, and place reputation. It will embed investment in young people, strengthen sense of place, and expand digital outreach connecting local culture to wider networks. Heritage mapping, arts trails, and written installations across the town will form part of lasting cultural infrastructure.

Economic Impact

As a tourism town with seasonal fluctuations, Llangollen will use the programme to build year-round resilience. Indicators will include increased overall and off-season visitor numbers; growth in overnight stays and occupancy; uplift in visitor spend and local revenue; jobs created or safeguarded in cultural and tourism sectors; growth in creative enterprises; and participation linked to heritage assets. These measures will assess progress in stabilising the economy and reducing seasonal dependency beyond 2028.

Community Impact

Addressing rural isolation, youth outward migration, and unequal access to opportunity is central to local need. The programme will invest in youth voice, creative skills, and digital storytelling through vlogging and social platforms, enabling young people to shape their town's narrative. Visible cultural activity in streets, trails, and community venues will strengthen belonging.

Measures will include participation across strands; engagement of children and young people; involvement of Welsh-speaking residents through bilingual delivery; participation by under-represented groups; volunteer recruitment and retention; and self-reported wellbeing and confidence. Pre- and post-engagement surveys, school partnerships, and collaboration with community wellbeing services will support consistent monitoring and legacy tracking.

Cultural Development

Building on the global profile of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, the programme will strengthen year-round creative economy. Artists, heritage bodies, and digital creators will be connected through commissions, partnerships, and skills development. Indicators will include commissions awarded; new partnerships; increased year-round activity; professional development programmes; growth in youth pathways; audience development; and digital reach across social and online platforms.

Place reputation

Culture will be made visible in everyday spaces, expanding Llangollen's identity beyond flagship events. Measures will include increased media coverage, digital engagement, visitor satisfaction, repeat visitation, and online interaction with locally produced

content.

Monitoring and Baseline

Existing evaluation practices including attendance data, tourism statistics, economic reporting, volunteer records, and audience surveys will be integrated into a unified Town of Culture Impact Framework for 2028. Enhanced methods will include youth pathway tracking, business feedback surveys, digital analytics, wellbeing surveys, and qualitative case studies. This methodology will provide a clear benchmark for ambitious, realistic targets for long-term cultural development beyond 2028.

Appendix 2

Llangollen UK Town of Culture Joint Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose.

- 1.1 The Joint Committee is established to oversee the planning, governance, and delivery of the UK Town of Culture 2028 programme for Llangollen and its surrounding communities. It will act as the coordinating body to ensure effective partnership working, compliance, and successful delivery of the programme.

2. Role of the Accountable Body.

- 2.1 The Accountable Body will:
- a) Receive, manage, and administer all grant funding associated with the programme.
 - b) Ensuring the safe and successful delivery of a UK Town of Culture programme
 - c) Managing the financial and legal requirements associated with the delivery of a UK Town of Culture programme.
 - d) Taking responsibility for the organisation of a UK Town of Culture programme, including leading on the necessary coordination between relevant partners
 - e) Taking responsibility for any grant funding associated with a UK Town of Culture programme, for which the Accountable Body is the recipient organisation.
 - f) Monitoring delivery of a UK Town of Culture programme and undertaking relevant reporting as may be required by DCMS.

3. Functions of the Joint Committee.

- 3.1 The Committee will:
- a) Provide strategic oversight and direction for the programme.
 - b) Support partnership working across councils and stakeholders.
 - c) Ensure alignment with funding requirements and governance standards.
 - d) Review progress, risks, and performance.
 - e) Make recommendations to the Accountable Body
 - f) Promote transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

4. Membership.

- 4.1 The Committee shall consist of: At least three elected members from Llangollen Town Council, one representative from Llangollen Rural Community Council and one representative from Llantysilio Community Council. The Committee may appoint co-opted members (non-voting) to provide expertise and stakeholder input. These may include:
- Representatives from cultural organisations
 - Local business or tourism representatives
 - Arts, heritage, or community leaders
 - Programme delivery partners.

5. Charing Arrangements.

- 5.1 The Chair shall be appointed from among the voting members of the Committee. A Vice-Chair may also be appointed. The Chair will lead meetings and ensure effective decision-making
- 6. Quorum.**
The quorum shall be at least three voting members, including at least one representative from Llangollen Town Council
- 7. Meetings.**
7.1 Meetings will be held regularly as required and agendas and papers will be circulated in advance
- 8. Decision-Making.**
8.1 Decisions will be made by a majority of voting members present In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote
- 9 Accountability and Reporting.**
9.1 The Committee will report to the participating councils regular on progress and financial reports will be produced. All reporting will meet DCMS and funding requirements
- 10 Duration.**
10.1 The Committee will operate for the duration of the UK Town of Culture programme, including planning, delivery, and evaluation phases
- 11. Review of Terms of Reference.**
11.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed periodically and may be amended by agreement of the participating councils.

REPORT AUTHOR: Cllr Robinson.
SUBJECT: Llangollen's derelict buildings
REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose of report.

- 1.1 To consider actions in respect off prominent derelict buildings which detracted from the town's visual appearance and appeal.

2 Background.

- 2.1 During the process of undertaking Llangollen's Town of Culture bid the impact of several prominent derelict buildings that have remained a feature of the town for decades have been brought into focus. Collectively these buildings (appended) detract from the visual quality of the town and risk undermining the "cultured" image that Llangollen is seeking to project through its bid.

- 2.2 It is accepted that responsibility for dealing with derelict and potentially unsafe buildings lies primarily with Denbighshire County Council which holds the relevant statutory powers relating to enforcement, compulsory purchase, and building condition. Llangollen Town Council does not have direct authority to intervene in these matters. Nevertheless, the Town Council has a clear and important role in representing community concerns, advocating for action, and ensuring that these issues are given appropriate priority, particularly in light of their impact on the Town of Culture bid.

- 2.3 The continued presence of these buildings has several implications for the town. They negatively affect the visual environment, influence visitor perceptions, and may discourage investment in surrounding areas. At a time when Llangollen is seeking recognition for its cultural vibrancy and heritage, such visible signs of neglect risk sending a conflicting message. Addressing these sites, or at least demonstrating clear progress, would strengthen the credibility of the bid and reinforce a sense of civic pride.

- 2.4 While direct action is not within the Town Council's remit, there are several practical steps that can be taken to influence outcomes and support progress:

- Formally engage with Denbighshire County Council to request updates and press for prioritisation
- Lobby local elected representatives to raise the issue at county and national levels
- Encourage public and stakeholder engagement to demonstrate the strength of local concern
- Support exploration of regeneration opportunities, including partnerships and external funding

4. Recommendation

4. It is recommended that the Town Council to take a proactive leadership role in lobbying for action and facilitating progress by the county council as defined in paragraph 2.4 of this report

5. Reason for Recommendation.

- 5.1 To ensure that the town's physical environment reflects a positive, well-maintained, and welcoming image for residents, visitors, and businesses, and to address the long-

standing negative impact of prominent derelict buildings on the overall appearance and perception of Llangollen.

The buildings in question are:



* **The former chapel in Hall Street** which has been derelict and in an advanced state of structural decay for more than 30 years at least. Conventional wisdom has it that the owner, thwarted in an attempt to secure planning permission to turn the building into a Chinese restaurant, decided instead to simply abandon it.



* **The former Jobcentre in Castle Street** which has been empty for well over 30 years and, as all-too-readily can be seen, is in an advanced state of deterioration both internally and externally. This is the eyesore building which is most visible to residents and visitors standing as it does in a prominent position in the town's busy high street. Its condition, long-term abandonment and blockage of development possibilities were frequently mentioned during the large-scale consultation exercise carried out for the Caru/Love Llangollen place plan published just a few years ago and which I chaired. Such was its prominence in our research that, at the time, I wrote to the owner, who is known to the Town Council, strongly suggesting that something be done to bring it back into use. I never received a reply, which appears indicative of the importance this person attaches to the parlous state into which it has been allowed to fall.



*One of the first landmarks visible to visitors arriving in Llangollen along the main A539 route is the very large factory building known as **Upper Dee Mill in Mill Street**. Dating back to the 1850s, it was originally used for textile production which changed to seed storage in the 1920s, with the building eventually losing as long ago as the 1970s. It has been for sale since March 2025 and has a For Sale board on the wall indicating two agents are involved – BA Commercial Services with a Chester telephone number and the Wingetts’ office in Wrexham. I understand it has previous planning approval for homes and offices, which has clearly not been proceeded with.



* Saving what is possibly the worst eyesore building until last, we have the former **Berwyn Works**, again in an extremely prominent position, this time on the A5 main route into Llangollen on Berwyn Street.

Since it was built in the 19th century it has been used as a brewery and later as light industrial and office accommodation.

For many year it has lain empty, derelict and potentially dangerous with debris sometimes falling onto the A5 which runs directly in front.

At the end of February 2025 an application by Grouber Ltd to repair and replace existing roof, doors and windows, including the alteration and insertion of new window openings and the rendering of the building's exterior and associated works was granted by Denbighshire planners.

To date, there are no signs of any of these works having been proceeded with.

It is my suggestion that the Town Council should be the prime motivator in finding solutions to all these eyesore sites. How this can be achieved has obviously to be determined following discussion.