

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **30th March, 2023**

Report Subject: **Presiding Member's Annual Activities Report: June 2022 – March 2023**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor C. Smith – Presiding Member**

Report Submitted by: **Councillor C. Smith – Presiding Member**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Governance & Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet | Council | Other (please state) |
| | | | | | | | 30.03.23 | |

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Members of Council details of the events and engagement activities undertaken by the Presiding Member for the period June 2022 – March 2023.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 Pursuant to the Special Meeting of the Council held on 26th October, 2022 Members requested that a report be prepared detailing the engagements and events attended by the Presiding Member.
 - 2.2 The Role of the Presiding Member is to chair the Ordinary, Annual, Extraordinary and Special Meetings of the Council and to represent the Council at official and public events where representation has been requested and to promote the Council and its work as and when opportunities arise.
3. **Summary of Activities**
 - 3.1 This report provides a summary of activities undertaken for the period June 2022 – March 2023, details below:

August:

- Gwent Police Passing Out Parade and Awards Ceremony at Llanhilleth Institute.

September:

Due to the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during September several regional and local proclamation ceremonies were attended to pay tribute to Her Majesty and mark the Accession of King Charles III to the throne. These events included:

- The Reading of the Regional Proclamation at Newport.
- The Local Proclamation Event at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale. The Presiding Member took the lead role at this event by reading the official Proclamation to those present.
- Attendance at the Commemorative Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Tredegar Town Council.
- Attendance at the Fire Service Awards at Llantrisant.
- Hosted a small informal reception to congratulate Commonwealth Games Medallists, Charlotte Carey and Owain Dando at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale. Charlotte had won a bronze medal in the table tennis doubles and Owain had won a bronze medal in the men's triple bowls event.

October:

- Attendance at a meeting of the Youth Forum.
- Attendance at the Participatory Budget Event Community Fund in Tredegar.
- Chaired the GAVO Awards Ceremony at Llanhilleth Institute.

- Facilitated visits by Glanhowy and Sofrydd Primary School to the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.
- Attendance at the celebration to mark 130 years of the Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

November:

- Facilitated visits by All Saints Primary School, Tredegar Comprehensive and Brynmawr Foundation School to the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.
- Official handover of HM Queen Elizabeth II Condolence Book to Gwent Archives
- Attendance at the Work Charter Event at the General Offices.
- Attendance at the Gwent Music Showcase Concert at the ICC, Newport.

December:

- Attendance at Salvation Army Christmas Concert, Cwm.
- Attendance at Youth Mayor Inauguration at Bedwellty House, Tredegar.
- Visited Coed-y-Garn Primary School, Nantyglo.

January:

- Attendance at the Big Bocs Bwyd event at Willowtown Primary School, Ebbw Vale.
- Attended and participated in the International Holocaust Memorial Event at The Little Theatre, Tredegar.

February:

- Facilitated visits by Cwm and Ystruth Primary Schools to the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.

- Hosted 5 Blaenau Gwent Litter Champion Events throughout the County Borough to recognise and express the Council's appreciation to these individuals for their tireless hard work and dedication.
- Attendance at the official opening and unveiling of the Youth Shelter at Brynmawr Welfare Park.

March:

- Attendance at the Gwent High Sheriffs' Community Fund 'Your Voice, Your Choice' Grant-Giving Event in Newport.
- Official handover of the Freedom of the Borough Scroll to the Royal British Legion.
- Judging and Trophy Presentation at The Great Welshcake Off Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 at Bedwellty House, Tredegar.
- Facilitated a visit by Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community to the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.
- Attendance at the Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition in Swansea to support Ebbw Fawr Learning Community whose students were participating in the competition.
- Attendance at the International Women's Day Event at Bedwellty House, Tredegar.
- Attendance at the Wellbeing Workhub Launch at Parc Bryn Bach.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That Council notes the activities and events attended by the Presiding Member for the period June 2022 – March 2023.