

Cabinet and Council only
Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 11.03.2024
Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 11.03.2024

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **21st March, 2024**

Report Subject: **Presiding Member’s Annual Activities Report: April 2023 – March 2024**

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)
							21.03.24	

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 April 2023 – March 2024.
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 April 2023 – March 2024, details below:

April 2023:

- Official handover of the Freedom of the Borough Scroll to Eva Clarke.
- Attendance at the Ceremony of Declaration of the High Sheriff of Gwent 2023-2024, Prof. Simon J. Gibson, CBE at the ICC, Newport.

May 2023:

- Visit to St. Mary's CIW Primary School, Brynmawr.

June 2023:

- Facilitated visits by Pen-y-Cwm Special School and Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community to the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.
- Attended official opening of Tennis Courts at Six Bells Park.
- Attendance at the Wales National Armed Forces Day in Newport.
- Attendance at the celebration of 225 years of worship at Siloh Baptist Uniting Church, Tredegar.

July 2023:

- Attendance at NHS@75 Presentation Morning with Vaughan Gethin, MS Minister for the Economy at PCI Pharma, Tredegar.
- Attendance at School Debate re NHS 75 at Bedwellty House, Tredegar.
- Attendance at Blaenau Gwent District Scouts Annual General Meeting, Cwm Scout HQ.
- Attended the visit of the Secretary of State for Wales to Six Bells Park.

August/September/October 2023:

There were no events scheduled during this period.

November 2023:

- Facilitated visits by Brynmawr Foundation School, Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community and Georgetown Primary School to the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.
- Visited Cwm Primary School.

December 2023:

- Attended Youth Mayor Inauguration.

March 2024:

- Attendance at the Gwent High Sheriffs' Community Fund 'Your Voice, Your Choice' Grant-Giving Event in Hengoed.
- Ebbw Vale Primary School Cluster Welsh Art Competition for St. David's Day - Presentation of Certificates at General Offices, Ebbw Vale.
- Facilitated visit by Tredegar Comprehensive School to the General Offices, Ebbw Vale.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That Council notes the activities and events attended by the Presiding Member for the period April 2023 – March 2024.