

Motion to go forward from Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council
for consideration at One Voice Wales' Annual General Meeting
October 2025

Acquiring Legal Advice on Welsh Law

Proposer – Cllr Jack Griffin Lewis, Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council

Seconder – TBA

Background

Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council had a difficult period this year with Accessible Meeting Arrangements and Discrimination. Our Town Clerk requested legal advice from OVW and received this disappointing reply:

“We can give general advice on reasonable adjustments. We are limited in what we can say as we are advising at arm’s length so we can only provide general advice and the council would like definitive advice on its position. We are also limited in that we cannot advise on Welsh specific legislation and meeting requirements differ in England and Wales. We can provide advice on that basis.”

The Town Council was left with no legal advice from OVW, but we overcame these issues at our Adjourned Full Council meeting in March. It was raised in this meeting that if we had clear legal advice from OVW, the discussion would have had a better understanding of the law to conclude the issues more productively.

It is a concern from myself and others, that if the Town Council faced ongoing legal issues which again had no legal advice from OVW, the Town Council would be at a great risk of a Legal Challenge which could cause reputational and financial damage as well as put a standstill on the Council’s work.

We would not like to see a fellow Council face a situation like this in the future without the proper legal advice provided by OVW.

OVW is a team with no legal officers of its own so it contracts legal advice services from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the precise nature of the legal advice services will be bound by the terms of that contract.

This motion asks OVW to acquire legal advice on Welsh Law from a Wales based organisation for the good of all the councils in Wales.

Resolution

To instruct One Voice Wales to seek professional legal advice on Welsh Law from Wales based organisations, when requested to provide knowledge on Welsh Law to Councils.