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Julie James MS
Minister
Housing and Local Government
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
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13 July 2020

Sent by email to Julie.James@assembly.wales

Dear Minister,

Coronavirus Pandemic: Financial Support for Community & Town Councils

We wrote to you in April on behalf of the 4,000 members of the SLCC and their concerns regarding the future financial viability of the town, parish and community councils which they serve. Thank you for your prompt reply, the contents of which we note.

Our colleagues at One Voice Wales have apprised us of the outcomes of their survey into the impact of the pandemic on community and town councils, their discussions with Welsh Government officials, subsequent ministerial meeting and the proposed solutions. As the professional body for the clerks and senior officers of those councils, we would like to express our appreciation for your consideration of the plight of our sector and pass on to you four specific initiatives that we feel would further assist the sector at this difficult time.

1. Noting the very welcome removal of business rates on public conveniences in Wales, temporarily extend this relief to all community assets, the incomes from which have been affected by COVID.
2. Emergency temporary powers to capitalise revenue expenditure to sustain and secure from permanent closure such community assets
3. Holiday payments from Public Works Loans where financial distress is imminent.
4. Short term additional grant support to the sector across a broad range of areas and activities thus enabling councils to sustain themselves temporarily.

Thank you once again for your previous considerations and provisions. Should you wish to discuss with us any of the above, SLCC would be happy to join with colleagues from One Voice Wales to meet with you and your officials – through video conference – and explain them in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael King', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michael King
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Larter', written in a cursive style.

Linda Larter
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Smith', written in a cursive style.

Robert Smith
Chief Executive

cc Lyn Cadwallader, CEO, One Voice Wales