



Recruitment Information Pack

Audit & Risk Committee Chair

We believe in people from
the Valleys to the Coast.



Cymoedd i'r Arfordir
Valleys to Coast

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Welcome to Valleys to Coast

We're delighted you are considering joining us as Audit & Risk Committee Chair at Valleys to Coast. If you're reading this, then we already know you are passionate about making a difference, passionate about social housing, and passionate about working for an organisation that shares your values – all of which are ideal qualities for this role.

Here at Valleys to Coast our colleagues care about our customers, our local communities and our environment. They want to help us make the most of the unique opportunity we have to build and grow an organisation that is more than just a landlord. You too could help us reach our potential.

And so we're pleased to share with you our exciting plans as we reach a pivotal moment in our [10-year Corporate Strategy](#) and transition into our growth phase.

We feel now is the right time to think big about our ambitions – we're ready to raise the bar and think differently about how we deliver our purpose and vision to help build a better Bridgend and Wales.

So, over the next five years, we are going to be bold and ambitious as we grow our business.

Our ambition is to grow our financial capacity, and grow our leadership and capability of our people so we can;

- Grow our service offering
- Regenerate our communities to deliver our safe and happy objectives with our ultimate aim of
- Driving higher customer and colleague satisfaction

As Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee you will also be a Member of the Valleys to Coast Board and as such play a pivotal part of our vision for growth and success.



Joanne Oak

Group Chief Executive

Joanne.Oak@V2C.org.uk



Message from the Chair of the Board

Amanda has over 30 years of experience in affordable housing, including as Chief Executive of Pobl Group. A qualified accountant, she has led efforts to increase affordable housing and improve sustainability for tenants. She also has Non-Executive experience across housing, education, and economic regeneration and serves on the Board of Marie Curie Cymru and Dŵr Cymru.

I am thrilled to be part of Valleys to Coast at such an exciting time in its journey. As we enter the growth stage of our Corporate Strategy, we are building on a strong foundation to deliver even greater impact for the communities we serve. This is a pivotal moment for us as an organisation, and I'm looking forward to working with a Board and team who share my passion for housing and making a difference.

Throughout my 30-year career in affordable housing, I've been driven by a commitment to improving lives and pushing boundaries. From leading the delivery of more affordable homes across Wales to championing sustainability and affordability for tenants, I've seen first-hand how ambitious, forward-thinking organisations can transform communities. I bring this same energy and determination to Valleys to Coast, where we have bold ambitions for the future.

As Chair, I'm seeking passionate, strategic thinkers to join the Board—people who are inspired by our mission and excited about shaping the future of Valleys to Coast. We need individuals who believe in the power of collaboration and share our commitment to putting customers and communities at the heart of everything we do.

This is an incredible opportunity to contribute to an organisation that is not only growing but also leading the way in building sustainable, thriving communities across Bridgend. If you're excited by our ambitions and ready to make a difference, I look forward to welcoming you to the team. Together, we can achieve great things.



Amanda Davies
Chair of the Board



Who we are, and what we do

We are a not-for-profit organisation operating across the Bridgend County Borough Council local authority area.

We provide management, maintenance, and improvement services to a portfolio of rented homes, leasehold flats, commercial properties, and garages. We also develop new homes in and around the Bridgend area to support local housing need.

We are an ambitious housing association with our customers at the heart of all that we do, an approach reflected in our 10-year Corporate Strategy.

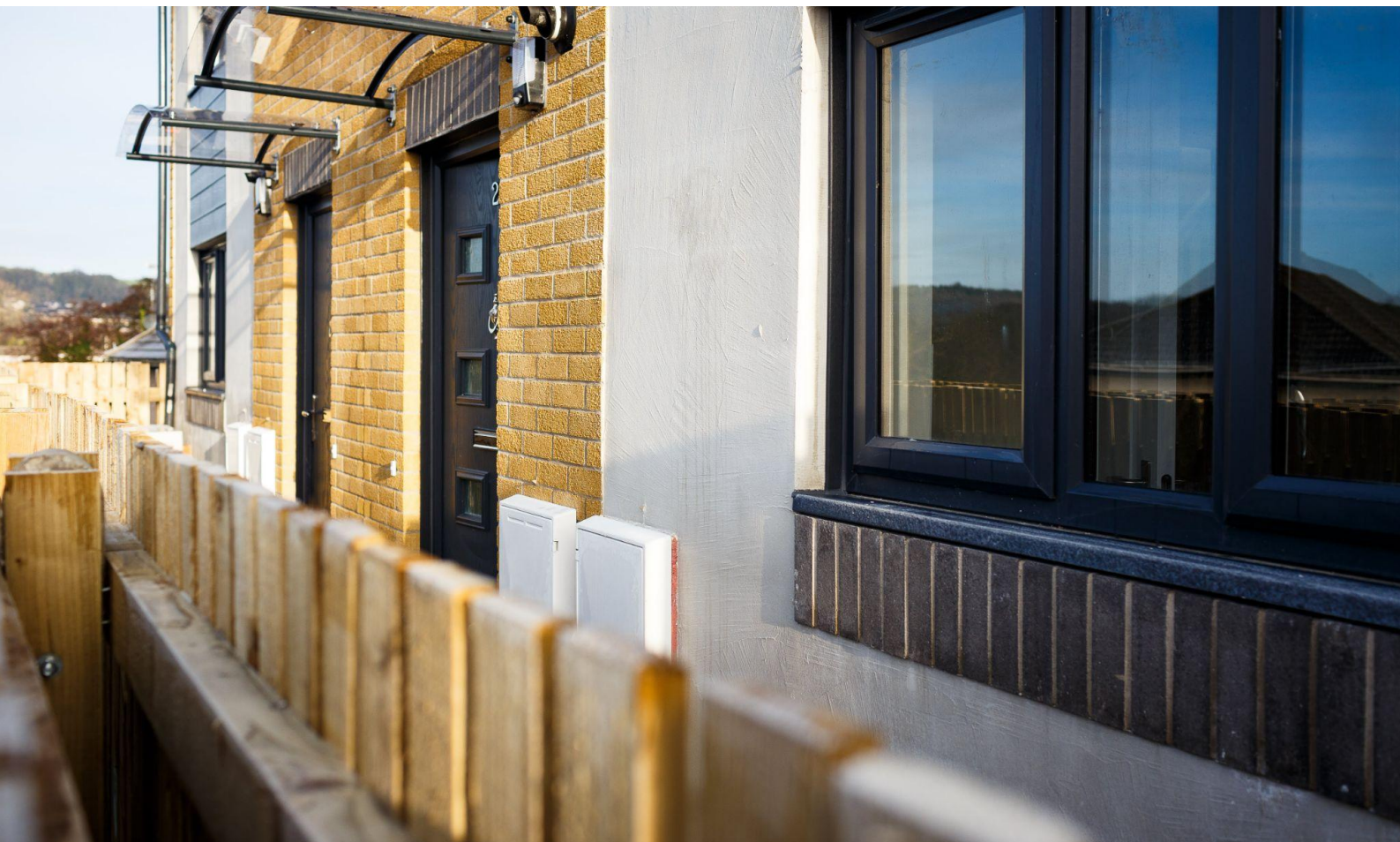
Now halfway through that strategy, and having laid strong foundations, we are ready to grow - being bold and ambitious in our plans to invest in our homes, places and people.

During 2024 we matured into a Group of companies launching our first wholly owned subsidiary Llanw, to deliver an improved and more efficient repairs and maintenance service for Valleys to Coast customers.

As part of our growth plans we plan to create another subsidiary in 2025 to deliver our ambitious and commercially-driven regeneration and development plans.

Three companies, rooted in the same values. To provide safe and happy homes and places.

Want to know more? Visit our website
www.valleystocoast.wales





Our vision

**Helping to
build a better
Bridgend
and Wales**

Our values

We value people

seeing the potential in those we work with and serve

We think differently

trying new things to improve peoples' lives and careers

We have courage to see things through

speaking, working and acting with conviction, strength and determination



Meet our Executive Team

Our Executive Team gives guidance and support to colleagues and partners, to provide homes and places where people feel safe and happy.



Joanne Oak
Group Chief Executive

Joanne, a qualified accountant with over 20 years of senior leadership experience in the public and third sectors, previously served as Director of Strategy and Corporate Services at Social Care Wales. She is an active Board member at Bridgend College and a Trustee for Building Communities Trust. Joanne joined us in May 2020.



Huw Lewis
Executive Director of Corporate Services

Huw, an accountant with over 30 years' experience, has led financial strategy at the Royal Mint and Cardiff Airport. Joining Valleys to Coast in December 2023, he became a permanent Executive Director in March 2024. A Bridgend resident, Huw also serves on the Swim Wales Board and as treasurer for Penybont SLSC, contributing valuable expertise to our organisation.



Emma Howells
Executive Director of Customers and Communities

With over 20 years' experience in the housing sector across Wales and England, Emma has held leadership roles at Trivallis, United Welsh, and the London Borough of Camden, delivering diverse housing services. Passionate about amplifying customer voices, restorative practices, and innovative service design, she joined us in January 2020.



Paul Price
Managing Director of Llanw

With four decades of experience in the housing sector, Paul is steering our course to success as the Managing Director of Llanw. Paul ensures seamless operations and exceptional service for our customers.

Meet the Board

The Valleys to Coast Board has a diverse range of skills and experience with not only housing sector knowledge, but also knowledge of the financial, public, governance and legal sectors too. This, along with their passion for social housing, is invaluable to us as we plan for the next 10 years.



**Amanda Davies
(Chair)**

Amanda has retired after a career of more than 30 years working in affordable housing. She is a qualified accountant and her most recent role was as Chief Executive Officer of Pobl Group Wales' largest Housing Association.



**Joanne Smith
(Vice Chair)**

Joanne works as a Governance and Regulation Manager for the housing association Coastal Housing Group. She worked in the Housing Regulation Team in the Welsh Government before that.



Richard Jenkins

Richard is a Portfolio Executive at the Development Bank of Wales, helping Welsh SMEs secure funding for job creation, acquisitions, and business expansion, while also overseeing financial performance.



Derek Hobbs

Derek is a retired Senior Civil Servant and Chair of Planning Aid Wales. He has held senior roles at DWP, The Pensions Regulator, and DVLA, with expertise in digital, marketing, and insight across public, private, and voluntary sectors.



Caroline Jones

Caroline is an Associate Director at Savills estate agents, as well as a chartered surveyor and a registered valuer of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.



Tara King

Tara is a Director at KingShipp Sustainable Solutions, an independent advisor for circular procurement, material resource management, and renewable energy projects.

Meet the Board



Sharon Lee

Sharon is the Chief Executive of Aelwyd Housing, a faith-based association in South Wales, with nearly 30 years in housing and homelessness. She is an experienced board member and former Chair of a large Welsh housing association.



Joy Ogeh-Hutfield

Joy is an international trainer, coach, and CEO of JT International Leadership Academy, with a strong track record in diversity, leadership development, executive coaching, and women's empowerment across the UK, Europe, USA, and Africa.



Gill Lewis

Gill is currently a Business Consultant specialising in the public sector. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and has worked across many parts of the public sector for over 30 years.



Andrew Wallbridge

Andrew is a Management Consultant for a Bridgend based consultancy firm and works with many housing associations across South Wales. He has been a Valleys to Coast tenant for over nine years and lives with his wife and family in Maesteg.



Mark Woloshak

Mark is a Cardiff-based solicitor, who works for the South Wales firm of Howells Solicitors. His professional work has included acting on behalf of housing associations, and he was previously on the Board of a housing association in Devon.

Audit & Risk Committee Chair

Role description

The salary for this role is £7,000 per annum.

Purpose

The Audit & Risk Committee is responsible for overseeing the organisation's audit functions and leads on matters of probity. The role of the Committee Chair is to provide strong leadership to ensure that the Committee executes its duties effectively and in accordance with its terms of reference.

Key duties and responsibilities

- Leading the Committee, ensuring it has a clear strategic direction, vision and is effective and efficient in all aspects of its role and setting its priorities;
- Ensuring that appropriate standards of behaviour are maintained in line with the Code of Conduct;
- Ensuring that all members are given the opportunity to express views;
- Ensuring that the Committee receives advice as necessary;
- Ensuring that the Committee operates effectively, working with the Governance team to set the agenda, approve the minutes, conduct and review the meeting;
- Ensuring that the Committee delivers to the expectations set by the Board, and should this prove challenging, reporting concerns back to the Chair of the Board.
- Ensuring effective communication and co-operation between the Committee and the Board, the Executive and the Governance team. This includes providing regular reports from the Committee to the Board and alerting the Chair and Chief Executive to matters of significance as they arise between Board meetings;
- Ensuring that the Committee performs effectively as a collective entity to address the matters delegated to it and that directors receive accurate, timely and clear information;
- Acting on the results of Committee performance evaluation by recognising the strengths and addressing the weaknesses of the Committee and, where appropriate, proposing rotation of members between committees.; and
- Meeting all the responsibilities of a Board Member. Outside of formal meetings the Committee Chairs will maintain a dialogue with the key individuals involved in Valleys to Coast's governance, including the Board Chair, the Group Chief Executive and relevant Executive Directors.


These essential functions of the Audit and Risk Committee Chair are in addition to the functions of all Board members.

Person Specification

Essential Attributes

- Financial knowledge (e.g. principles of budgeting, financial terminology, reading a balance sheet, financial viability and performance);
- Ensure there is appropriate and ongoing communication dialogue and liaison between meetings;
- Experience and understanding of risk management;
- Able to lead and inspire other Board members, staff and earn the respect of external organisations;
- Skilled at bringing people together to work collaboratively and build consensus;
- Flexible, fair minded, self-confident, concise, decisive, determined, good listening skills;
- Experience of managing conflicts of interest;
- Listens to others and provides decisive decision making when it is required;
- Able to promote open debate and discussion and to summarise conclusions;
- Able to devote an average at least one day per month to this role as Chair (this is over and above the Board member responsibilities) to Committee business, some of this to be during the working day to facilitate meetings with the Executive and other staff; and
- Strive to attend all Board meetings and meetings of the Committee, the Chair of a Committee may also be a member of another Committee.
- Model the values of the organisation, ensuring the behaviour of the committee is entirely consistent with the values.

Desirable Attributes

- Experience of working as part of a decision-making group (formal or informal, paid or voluntary etc.); and
 - Live and/or work within reasonable travelling distance.
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Key dates and the application process

Application process

you can apply for this exciting position by emailing governance@v2c.org.uk and including:

Your CV - detailing your education, work experience, skills, and relevant qualifications.

A supporting statement - explaining why you're the ideal candidate for the role, with examples or achievements that align with the position's criteria.

Closing date:

Wednesday 31 January 2025

Assessment date:

Week commencing 10 February 2025

For informal discussions about the role or if you are unable to attend on the identified date for assessment please contact Claire McDougall, Director of Governance and Assurance on claire.mcdougall@v2c.org.uk.





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Valleys to Coast

www.valleystocoast.wales
[@valleystocoast](https://www.instagram.com/valleystocoast)