

Public Document Pack



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Dr Gwynne Jones
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive
CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
Swyddfeydd y Cyngor - Council Offices
LLANGFNI
Ynys Môn - Anglesey
LL77 7TW

Ffôn / tel (01248) 752500
Ffacs / fax (01248) 750839

| | |
|---|--|
| RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD | NOTICE OF MEETING |
| PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL (CYFARFOD CYLLIDEB) | CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MEETING) |
| DYDD MAWRTH, 31 HYDREF, 2017 am 10:00 y bore | TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2017 at 10.00 a.m. |
| YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR 1, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR, LLANGFNI | COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNCIL OFFICES, LLANGFNI |
| Swyddog Pwyllgor | Ann Holmes 01248 752518 Committee Officer |

AELODAU/MEMBERS

Cynghorydd/Councillor:

PLAID CYMRU / THE PARTY OF WALES

Trefor Lloyd Hughes, MBE, *Sedd Wag/Vacant Seat*, Dylan Rees (*Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair*), Alun Roberts, Nicola Roberts

Y GRWP ANNIBYNNOL / THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

Richard Griffiths, Richard O. Jones

PLAID LAFUR CYMRU/ WALES LABOUR PARTY

J. Arwel Roberts

ANNIBYNNWYR MÔN / ANGLESEY INDEPENDENTS

Aled Morris Jones (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrats)(*Cadeirydd/Chair*)
Shaun Redmond

AELODAU CYFETHOLEDIG (Gyda hawl pleidleisio ar faterion Addysg) / CO-OPTED MEMBERS (With voting rights when dealing with Educational matters)

Mr Keith Roberts (Yr Eglwys Gatholig / The Catholic Church)
Mrs Anest G. Frazer (Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru / The Church in Wales).

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declaration of interest from any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

2 MINUTES OF THE 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2017 MEETING (Pages 1 - 24)

To submit the minutes of the previous meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on the following dates –

4th September, 2017

Arising thereon –

Item 7: Annual Report 2016/17 – Listening and Learning from Complaints.

To present a verbal update on the feasibility of monitoring Social Worker turnover in relation to children who are looked after.

2nd October, 2017 (extraordinary)

3 BUDGET CONSULTATION PLAN 2018/19 (Pages 25 - 30)

To present the report of the Head of Corporate Transformation.

4 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL (Pages 31 - 52)

To present the report of the Finance Scrutiny Panel.

5 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 53 - 56)

To consider adopting the following:-

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test”.

6 BUDGET 2018/19 - THE PROCESS SO FAR (Pages 57 - 80)

To present the report of the Scrutiny Manager and the Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer.

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September, 2017

- PRESENT:** Councillor Aled M. Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dylan Rees (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Richard Griffiths, Trefor Lloyd Hughes, MBE
Alun Roberts, J. Arwel Roberts, Nicola Roberts,
Shaun Redmond.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation/ Statutory Director of Social Services)
Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer
Interim Head of Children's Services
Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager (for item 3)
Head of Adults' Services (for item 3)
Head of Housing Services (for item 3)
Housing Technical Services Manager (DR) (for item 3)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Carwyn Jones, Richard O. Jones, Mr Keith Roberts (Co-opted Member)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Leader & Portfolio Member for Social Services), Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Corporate Services), Councillor John Griffith (Portfolio Member for Finance), Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvement), Head of Democratic Services.

The Chair welcomed all the Members and Officers present at the meeting. He extended a particular welcome to Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes, MBE after a period of ill health.

The Chair congratulated Mrs Anwen Davies on her appointment as Scrutiny Manager.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2 MINUTES OF THE 10TH APRIL, 2017 MEETING

The minutes of the previous meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on the dates noted below were presented and were confirmed as correct –

- 26th June, 2017
- 11th July, 2017 (extraordinary meeting)

3 PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CORPORATE SCORECARD Q4 2016/17

The report of the Head of Transformation incorporating the Corporate Scorecard which portrayed the Council's position against its operational objectives at the end of Quarter 1 2017/18 in relation to Performance Management, People Management, Financial Management and Customer Service was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Corporate Services reported that the scorecard overall as at Appendix A reflects an encouraging picture at this stage with the majority of indicators performing well against targets with the exception of 3 indicators in Adults', Children's and Housing Services which are presenting as Amber or Red against their annual target for the year. Details of these are provided in paragraphs 2.3.3. to 2.3.5 of the report along with the mitigation measures proposed to raise the performance in each of the three areas. With regard to People Management, the performance of the Council's sickness absence rates at the end of Quarter 1 of 2.23 shows a further improvement in comparison with the 2.69 for the same period for 2016/17. Associated with sickness rates is the management of sickness absence and this includes compliance with corporate sickness policies. Whilst the figures for conducting Absence Review Meetings (ARM) have improved significantly – 78% compared with 57% at Quarter 4 2016/17, the percentage of Return to Work (RTW) interviews conducted within timescale - 67% - has dropped significantly below the target of 80% and is now ragged Red. The total RTW interviews held is also low at 85% compared to a target of 95%.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) referred to indicator SCC/025 – the % of statutory visits to looked after children that took place during the year in accordance with regulations which was one of the three underperforming indicators identified. She informed the Committee that the performance linked with this indicator has been analysed carefully and it has been found that it has been miscalculated, over a 2 year period. For example, the performance of the indicator for August, 2017 was stated originally as 72% whereas the correct figure after revision was 86%. The position is not therefore as discouraging as at first appearance. The service is also keen to review the Quarter 1 percentage of 59.93% which seems unusually low, to establish whether it has been calculated correctly and to dispel any misimpression that may have been created as a result.

The Committee considered the information presented with regard to performance at the end of Quarter 1 of the new 2017/18 financial year and it made the following points –

- The Committee noted that one new indicator within the Housing Service – PAM/015: the average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is showing as Red on the scorecard for Q1 having performed at 221.7 days against a target of 200. The Committee sought an explanation for the underperformance; it queried whether the target of 200 days was realistic and whether it was locally or nationally derived and it sought clarification of the Service's performance compared with that of other local authorities in this area.

The Housing Officers said that the Disabled Facilities Grant application and delivery process can be complex involving as it does input by a number of other parties which can cause delay in the time taken from the initial contact with the Council until such time as the work has been signed off as complete. Both Housing and Social Services acknowledge that the DFG process requires review with the aim of reducing the time taken to deliver the grant. There is no single common factor in the application process that explains the delays; rather it is a combination of factors which has at its root the complexity of the process. The position with regard to other local authorities' performance will become clear once the national data is published.

- The Committee noted that there had been a marked decline in the percentage of Return to Work interviews held within timescale in Quarter 1 (67% against a target of 80%) and that the total RTW interviews held was low at 85% compared to a target of 95%. The Committee sought assurance that the underperformance represents a temporary reversal and does not signify the start of a downward trend.

The Chief Executive said that the performance with regard to RTW interviews at Quarter 1 was disappointing and could not be satisfactorily explained. This performance will be challenged by the Senior Leadership Team and by the performance challenge panels to ensure improvement by Quarter 2. However, whilst the downturn in the performance of RTW interviews is concerning, conversely the significant improvement in performance with regard to Attendance Review Meetings (ARM) – up from 57% in Quarter 4 2016/17 to 78% in Quarter 1 2017/18 as well as in the quality of the ARMs conducted by services – is reassuring given that Attendance Review Meetings are a significant component of the sickness absence management process.

- The Committee noted with regard to financial management for Quarter 1 that whilst the budget was £33m, the forecasted actual expenditure was £34m with a forecasted variance of minus 29.64% at this stage. The Committee sought clarification of whether any measures were being considered to bring the position back into line.

The Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer said that the actual forecast variance is an overspend 3.47% at this stage. The profiled budget is the Service's assessment of how the budget is likely to be spent during the year and income collected. Whilst the profiled budget works well in relation to fixed costs such as salaries for example as these can be accurately predicted, it can be skewed by some larger payments and by grants and their timing. In terms of budget monitoring, the significant outcome figure is that for the year end; the Scorecard shows that for a budget of £126m, the forecasted end of year revenue outturn is for an overspend of £2.16m or 1.71% of the net budget. Whilst the first quarter figures can provide an early indication of the possible direction of travel, the timing differences make the comparison less than perfect. The quarter 1 position represents 3 months of actual expenditure and 9 months of projected expenditure in which time many things can happen. Projections tend to be conservative; greater clarity will come with the Quarter 2 results when some projections will be strengthened by certainty. Additionally there are seasonal factors to consider with the winter months more likely to have an impact on costs particularly in relation to Highway and Social Care services and these feed into projections. The overspend is an outcome that is predicted in a context where there is no longer any safety net within individual service budgets following years of budget reductions. The issue is especially pertinent in demand led budgets such as Children's, Education and Adults' services where the financial pressures can be acute.

- The Committee sought clarification of how much reliance is placed on the sale of assets in meeting the budget. The Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer said that capital receipts from the sale of assets do not feed into the revenue budget; rather they are used to fund capital projects and are factored into the capital programme or to generate cash balances which enable the Council to reduce its borrowing commitments and/or indebtedness.
- The Committee sought clarification of how the 2017/18 Quarter 1 financial position compared with the same period for 2016/17 as a potential indicator of the scale of the financial challenge facing the Council in the current financial year. The Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer said that the 2016/17 Quarter 1 position showed an overspend of £560k against the profiled budget and the projected year end overspend

was less than that for the current year. In the event, the projected overspend became an actual underspend at the end of 2016/17 due to the emergence in the year of certain one-off saving items. The current position therefore is less favourable than at the same time last year.

The Committee, having noted the general picture of the Council's performance against its operational objectives for Quarter 1 2017/18 as portrayed by the Q1 Corporate Scorecard, and having noted also the underperforming areas identified and the mitigating actions proposed, RESOLVED to -

- **Note and to support the areas which the Senior Leadership Team is managing to secure improvements into the future as conveyed in paragraphs 1.3.1. to 1.3.4 of the report.**
- **Note and to accept the mitigation measures outlined in relation to the areas set out in the aforementioned paragraphs.**

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION WAS PROPOSED

4 COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2022

The report of the Head of Corporate Transformation incorporating the draft Council Plan for the period from 2017 to 2022 was presented for the Committee's consideration and comment.

The Portfolio Member for Corporate Services reported that the Council Plan is a key strategic document which sets out the aims and objectives of the Isle of Anglesey County Council for the next five year period. The document will be the major driver behind the Council's decisions during this period including how it shapes its budget, how it develops its strategies and how it plans its services.

The Chief Executive said that the document outlines the Council's priorities for the coming five years; the Plan will be an integral tool in managing and in evaluating the Council's performance including ensuring that the Council remains accountable for the work that it does. The Committee might wish to consider whether the Plan gives a clear direction to the Council's work for the period it covers; whether it is sufficiently specific in the priorities it puts forward and whether it provides a clear and strong framework for reviewing the Council's performance over the course of the five years. In developing the Council Plan, consideration was given to the cost implications of realising the Council's priorities and in ensuring that they are aligned to the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Senior Leadership Team has also set out specific objectives over three years which will help achieve the overall Plan.

The Committee considered and accepted the Plan with the proviso that it be monitored to ensure it remains on course; it was proposed and seconded that it be re-presented to the Scrutiny Committee for review within a year. An amendment was proposed and seconded that the Council Plan be reviewed within 6 months especially from a financial perspective and on the basis that to wait 12 months might mean a missed opportunity to identify and to rectify any potential slippage.

The Chief Executive said that a review after 12 months is likely to afford a clearer, more composite picture of how the Plan's implementation is evolving. From a financial point of view it is not thought that there are any significant budget implications to the Plan at this point in time.

The Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer said that the Plan is made up of a combination of projects which are to be funded from existing revenue budgets. Should it transpire as implementation of the Plan progresses that additional revenue funding is required, then that will be built into the annual budget or if mid-year will be

addressed via the usual democratic process requiring the Executive's approval. In the case of any capital projects feeding into the capital programme, then the capital programme is also subject to regular quarterly monitoring via the Executive. With regard to HRA related projects there is a HRA business plan which is monitored by the Housing Services Board; the HRA budget is also monitored by the Executive. So there are well established financial monitoring processes that will help ensure the Plan stays on track financially. Additionally, as the Council Plan is a five year plan it is unlikely that significant progress will have been made by the end of 6 months in terms of actual expenditure; part of this initial period is likely to be taken up by planning arrangements. This does not mean that the Plan is not being delivered but that expenditure necessarily follows on from other actions. It was his professional opinion that in the Plan's first year, a review at 12 months would prove more advantageous than one at 6 months.

Having considered the Officers' opinion, and after further discussion, the Committee voted to accept the Council Plan, and that its implementation be reviewed by the Committee after 12 months being mindful also that if necessary the review could always be brought forward. *(The Chair abstained from voting).*

It was RESOLVED to accept the Council Plan as presented to be forwarded to the Executive for formal recommendation to the Council, and that its implementation be reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee after 12 months.

ADDITIONAL ACTION: Review of the Council Plan to be scheduled at the end of 12 months.

5 PROGRESS OF IMPROVEMENTS IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

5.1 The report of the Interim Head of Children's Services setting out the progress to date against the revised Children's Services Improvement Plan which incorporated the recommendations of the CSSIW Inspection report was presented for the Committee's consideration and comment.

The Portfolio Member for Social Services reported that the recommendations made by CSSIW are in the process of being implemented with staffing matters currently the focus of the work including restructuring the practice teams, launching a new supervision policy and putting a Workforce Strategy into effect. This is intended to reinforce staff recruitment and retention arrangements. The Children's Services Improvement Panel has met on two occasions and has given consideration to establishing a programme of work over the coming months.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) said that ensuring workforce stability is essential if the service is to deliver both on its legislative obligations and on the recommendations of the CSSIW inspection given that an unstable workforce in recent years has been identified as a weakness in the service. Addressing this is a key element of the Service Improvement Plan and the report describes the elements which have been the focus of attention in recent months. These encompass restructuring; supervision, staff recruitment and retention and developing and implementing the Workforce Strategy. As part of the restructuring, new Service Managers and Practice Leads have been appointed and are due to commence in their new roles in early September. Recruitment is however ongoing with the aim of reducing the service's dependence on agency staff. Other changes in relation to working with partners, quality assurance and services for children, young people and families are also being put into effect.

The Interim Head of Children's Services elaborated on the new staff structure involving smaller Practice Groups across early intervention and intensive intervention headed by a Practice Leader responsible for three or four Social Workers and a much reduced caseload.

5.2 A progress report by the Scrutiny Manager on the work of the Children's Services Improvement Panel to date was presented for the Committee's consideration.

Councillor Richard Griffiths, the Committee's representative on the Children's Services Improvement Panel and the Children in Care Champion updated the Committee on the issues discussed by the Panel at its initial two meetings in July and August, 2017 as summarised in section 3.2 of the report. He confirmed that all work streams pertaining to the Service Improvement Plan appear to be on target thus far and that there are no matters at this point that need to be escalated by the Panel for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee considered the information presented and made the following points –

- In light of the re-structuring and the commitment made to reduce reliance on agency staff, the Committee sought clarification of the current position with regard to the deployment of agency staff in Children's Services, the ratio to permanent staff and the costs involved. The Interim Head of Children's Services said that there were 11 agency staff within the service at present; he explained that the service is implementing a programme to reduce the number of agency staff over time. However, there are agency staff whose experience and expertise the service would wish to retain as permanent staff via the normal recruitment process.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) said that the service is seeking to ensure that the restructuring occurs within the current staff budget. The majority of agency staff cover existing posts that are vacant so an element of the costs falls within existing budgets. However there are additional costs linked to agency staff. The service is endeavouring to recruit to the permanent vacant posts and that will take time. Until that process is complete there will be utilisation of agency staff. The service has already recruited five newly qualified social workers who will become registered in a few months' time whose caseloads will initially be lighter to allow them to familiarise themselves with the service. Agency staff will provide additional cover during this period which will entail additional costs. The Officer said that a substantial element of the costs in Children's Service derives from looked after children and young people whose needs are such they can only be met through residential care placements. There has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people who are looked after in recent years. Within that population, there is a small kernel of young people whose needs are complex and acute. Meeting the needs of this cohort is both challenging and costly. Added to that is a shortage of local foster carers meaning that the service has to have recourse to the independent foster care sector where the costs are higher.

- The Committee noted that the retention of staff has posed a challenge to the Service in the past. The Committee sought clarification of the measures being taken to retain staff.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) said that whilst the service is seeking to create the conditions wherein staff will want to stay at the Council it can be a challenge, and therefore an element of "churn" is to be expected. The practice teams restructure; the launch of a new supervision policy and the implementation of a comprehensive induction programme as well as Workforce Strategy are all designed to provide enhanced support to new as well as existing staff. Whilst some staff turnover is a natural element of the workforce, it is hoped that the strategies being implemented will make it easier for the service to retain staff.

Having considered the information presented both verbally and via the written reports, the Committee RESOLVED -

- **That on the basis of the information presented, it was satisfied with the pace of progress and improvements made to date within Children's Services**
- **It noted the progress made to date with the work of the Children's Services Improvement Panel**
- **It noted that all work streams pertaining to the Service Improvement Plan appear to be on target thus far.**
- **It noted that there are no matters at this point that need to be escalated by the Panel for consideration by the parent committee.**

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION WAS PROPOSED

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee's updated Forward Work Programme to April, 2018 was presented for the Committee's consideration. **The Committee accepted and noted the Forward Work Programme as presented.**

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION WAS PROPOSED

7 ITEM FOR INFORMATION: ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17 – LISTENING AND LEARNING FROM COMPLAINTS.

The Social Services Representations and Complaints Procedure Annual Report for 2016/17 was presented for the Committee's information. The report set out the way in which the Social Services' Representations and Complaints Procedure was implemented within Adults' and Children's Services during 2016/17.

The Committee noted that an analysis of the complaints to Children's Services shows that one of the themes found in Stage 1 complaints were numerous changes in social worker. The Committee sought clarification of whether the Service monitors the frequency of changes in looked after children's social workers. The Committee further noted that the percentage of looked after children who have experienced one or more changes of school during periods of being looked after is monitored via the Corporate Scorecard because of the potential impact such change might have on the child, and it suggested that the same standard should apply to changes in social workers.

The Officers confirmed that whilst changes in social workers is not currently an aspect of performance that is tracked and monitored the introduction of a new IT system might make that more feasible. Staff turnover and recruitment and retention issues can lead to such changes; however the re-structuring of practice teams and the implementation of a Workforce Strategy which covers recruitment, retention and support issues are expected to lead to more stability, consistency of practice and therefore less changes and less complaints to the Service in future.

The Committee noted the annual report for information purposes including –

- **The views of service users received during 2016/17 regarding the services provided by Social Services;**
- **The performance of Social Services in implementing the Representations and Complaints procedure and dealing with complaints;**
- **The Action Plan for developing the arrangements for dealing effectively with representations and complaints received for service users and their representatives.**

ADDITIONAL ACTION PROPOSED: Officers to examine the feasibility of monitoring systematically the frequency of changes in looked after children's social workers and to report back to the Committee's next meeting.

**Councillor Aled Morris Jones
Chair**

DRAFT

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October, 2017

- PRESENT:** Councillor Aled Morris Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dylan Rees (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Richard Griffiths, Richard O. Jones,
Alun Roberts, Shaun Redmond
- Co-opted Member: Mr Keith Roberts (The Catholic Church)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process
Transformation/ Statutory Director of Social Services)
Head of Learning (for item 4)
Head of Adults' Services (for item 5)
Head of Corporate Transformation (for item 3)
Programme and Business Planning Manager (GM) (for item 3)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)
- APOLOGIES:** Mrs Anest Frazer (Co-opted Member – The Church in Wales)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Leader & Portfolio Member for
Social Services), Councillor R.Meirion Jones (Portfolio Member
for Education), Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio
Member for Corporate Services), Councillor Carwyn Jones (a
Local Member with regard to item 4), Councillor Lewis Davies
(a Local Member with regard to item 4), Vicky Poole (North
Wales Area Director - CSSIW (for item 2), Marc Roberts (Lead
Inspector – CSSIW) for item 2), Assistant Chief Executive
(Partnerships, Community & Service Improvements), Head of
Democratic Services
- Also Present for item 4: Mrs Emma Taylor (Chair of Governors,
Ysgol Beaumaris, Mrs Rhian Jones (Ysgol Beaumaris),
Councillor Frank Carr (Beaumaris Town Mayor), Councillor
Alwyn Rowlands (Beaumaris Town Council).

The Chair welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. He extended a particular welcome to Vicky Poole, North Wales Area Director CSSIW and Marc Roberts, Lead Inspector CSSIW and also to representatives of Ysgol Beaumaris and Beaumaris Town Council who were present to address the meeting with regard to item 4 on the agenda.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Lewis Davies (not a member of the Committee) declared a personal interest with regard to item 4 on the agenda as Chair of Ysgol Llangoed Board of Governors. Councillor

Davies said he had taken legal advice and had been advised that the interest is not prejudicial.

Councillor Carwyn Jones (not a member of the Committee) declared a personal interest with regard to item 4 on the agenda as Chair of Ysgol Llandegfan Board of Governors. Councillor Jones also declared a further prejudicial interest with regard to this matter on the basis of his first cousin's employment in Ysgol Beaumaris and the attendance at Ysgol Llandegfan of his cousin's son. Councillor Jones said that following an application to the Standards Committee, he had been granted a dispensation on 18 July, 2017 to participate fully throughout the school's modernisation process in the Seiriol area but not to vote on the matter.

Councillor Alun Roberts declared a personal interest with regard to item 4 on the agenda as a member of Ysgol Beaumaris Board of Governors. Councillor Roberts said that he had taken legal advice and had been advised that the interest is not prejudicial and that he was able to participate and to vote on the matter.

2. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES 2016/17

The performance review letter of the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) in relation to the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Social Services was presented for the Committee's consideration along with the Authority's responsive Action Plan. The letter summarised the outcome of the Inspectorate's inspection, engagement and performance review activity with regard to Anglesey's Social Services during 2016/17.

Vicky Poole, North Wales Area Director for CSSIW reported on the main points of the letter as follows –

- The Local Authority has made sustained progress in implementing the Social Services and Well-being Act (SSWBA) with particular focus having been given to developing preventative services that promote independence and community resources.
- The Adults' Services transformation programme emphasises supporting people to live independent and fulfilled lives. The single point of access in adult's services is well established.
- The Inspectorate noted that there were positive examples of the development of alternative models of delivery in line with the SSWBA which looked at new ways of providing services for people.
- The Inspectorate noted that partnership working with the BCUHB is ongoing and that positive progress has been made specifically with regard to developing residential services to support people who have dementia and complex needs. Strategic partnership working with BCUHB continues to be a challenge which the local authorities in the region need to address collectively.
- The Inspectorate also noted that the Authority has plans to recommission domiciliary care on a patch basis and has advised caution in this approach.
- The local authority is an outlier in its reported performance with respect to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and is looking at its data collection processes to better understand the reasons for this. This is an area that CSSIW will be following up in 2017/18.
- There has been insufficient progress in modernising services for adults with learning disabilities, although it has been noted that more progress has been made in this area this year.
- Advocacy and access to advocacy is an important part of the SSWBA. Advocacy has been identified by the local authority as an area for development in adults' services. Children's Services were seen to make effective use of informal advocacy.

- During 2016/17, the Inspectorate's engagement activities across all authorities in Wales focused on two main themes viz.
 - Safeguarding for adults – the Inspectorate was satisfied with how safeguarding arrangements for adults at risk were working in Anglesey and found this to be an area of strength for the local authority
 - Carers – the Inspectorate recognised that there are established third sector services to support carers commissioned by the local authority. The elected member who is the designated carers' champion is well informed about carers' needs which is also a strength. However, there is a waiting list for the established young carers' service – this has been discussed with Children's Services. Support for carers of people with mental health and substance misuse problems is also an issue across all authorities in Wales. Officers have not consistently given attention to the development of the carers' strategy and support services.
- Follow up work with regard to the November, 2016 inspection of Children's Services is ongoing. The local authority has produced an improvement plan that is being monitored by CSSIW through a structured series of review meetings. CSSIW is also observing key officer meetings and member scrutiny and tracking the experiences of families. The service will be re-inspected to evaluate progress.
- The letter also summarises the Inspectorate's inspection, engagement and review plans for the current year.

The Leader and Portfolio Member for Social Services said that the performance review letter reflects progress made by the Local Authority with its Adults' and Children's services. Although the principal focus in 2016/17 has been on Children's Services where the work is ongoing, the authority has not lost sight of Adults' services and recognises the need to maintain momentum in this area. The Letter serves to highlight the importance of approaching both with an equal commitment to improvement. The Portfolio Member paid particular thanks to the work of the Carers' Champion who had brought to the fore - the need to give carers a voice both locally and nationally. As the previous Carers' Champion she had established links with Action for Children which supports services for young carers in Anglesey; the local authority acknowledges that there is further work to be done to improve the young carers' service and to understand the needs of young carers more fully.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation/ Statutory Director of Social Services) confirmed that addressing the needs of young carers is identified as item 12 in the Improvement Priority Plan; options are currently under consideration including both regional and sub-regional working.

The Committee considered the information presented and made the following points –

- The Committee noted the contents of the letter; the Committee sought clarification as to whether the level of concern on the part of the Regulator with regard to certain aspects of service provision has reduced as the Authority moves forwards.

The CSSIW's Lead Inspector said that whilst there has been concern around some areas as described in the letter e.g. slow progress in modernising the way services for adults with learning disabilities are commissioned, the Inspectorate is aware of the work being undertaken particularly with partners to progress matters in this area. The Authority is assessing how the risks with regard to domiciliary care are being managed; whilst the Authority is taking a systematic approach to the matter the outcome remains difficult to predict because the situation is evolving and remains live. The Inspectorate is assured that performance in relation to DoLS is primarily a data collection issue and

there is no evidence to suggest that service users have suffered an adverse impact as a result of this matter. A substantial amount of work has been done based on the detailed Children's Services Improvement Plan and whilst the Inspectorate continues to have concerns regarding Children's Services, it recognises that progress has been made especially in relation to the strategic approach to preventative services and to workforce and quality assurance issues.

- The Committee sought clarification of the Inspectors' use of the word "caution" in that part of the letter which refers to services for older people and residential provision to support people who have dementia and complex needs. The Inspectors clarified that the caution is in relation to recommissioning domiciliary care on a patch basis (other authorities in Wales have tried this approach and have encountered problems) and not in relation to the approach to residential support for people with dementia regarding which the Inspectors have no concerns. There are risks around transferring the right people to extra care provision; the Authority is aware of these and is drawing on its previous experiences of placing individuals in extra care provision. The Authority is also aware of the need to continue to provide appropriate care for vulnerable older people within their own homes.
- The Committee noted that the Children's Panel will be considering the actions within the Improvement Priority Plan that are specific to Children's Services and that it is scheduled to report on progress against the detailed Improvement Plan to this Committee in November. The Committee further noted that it needs to be kept similarly informed of progress with regard to matters pertaining to Adults' Services and it requested a corresponding update on Adults' Services to the November meeting.
- The Committee noted that some of the improvement priorities identified in the Action Plan do not carry an implementation target date. The Committee emphasised the importance of specifying timescales and of not leaving matters open ended and therefore at risk of not being addressed in a timely way. The Head of Adults' Services said that some actions do not have a target date for specific reasons i.e. because they follow on from other actions e.g. action point 1 is dependent on the receipt of a report from CSSIW. The Officer said that completion dates can be incorporated in the updates on the two services to the Committee's November meeting.

It was resolved that the Committee –

- **Accepts and notes the content of the Annual Performance Review Letter issued by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales in June, 2017 as a reflection of the progress of Social Services in 2016/17.**
- **Endorses the Social Services Action Plan in response to the Annual Performance Review Letter.**
- **Requests that a progress report against priority actions in both Adults' and Children's Services be presented to the Committee's November meeting.**

ADDITIONAL ACTION PROPOSED: That the updates on Adults' and Children's Services to the Committee's November meeting include implementation dates for all priority actions.

3. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (IMPROVEMENT PLAN) 2016/17

The report of the Corporate Head of Transformation incorporating the Annual Performance Report for 2016/17 was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report looks back

at the performance of the Council for 2016/17 and specifically the progress made against the improvement objectives set out in the 7 key areas in the 2015/16 Annual Delivery Document.

The Portfolio Member for Corporate Services reported that the Annual Performance Report conveys a positive message about the Council's performance in 2016/17. The Authority succeeded in continuing to deliver on many of its commitments in a number of priority areas in the preceding year including Adults' Services, Education, Economic and Community Development and Housing; these successes are expanded on in the narrative of the report. Over 64% of the Council's Performance Indicators (PIs) improved during the year and whilst some PIs declined in performance, the percentage of those is also down from 45% in 2015/16 to 24% in 2016/17. The Portfolio Member for Corporate Services said that he was very gratified to be able to report that the Isle of Anglesey County Council is for the first time ever within the top four local authorities in Wales as regards overall PI performance and seventh out of the 22 local authorities as regards PIs in the top quartile performance. This is undoubtedly a significant and commendable achievement particularly in the context of the changes that have occurred at the Council in recent years as well the increasingly challenging financial climate.

The Leader said that the previous Council had worked committedly over the course of its term to take the Council forwards; in so doing it has set a challenge to the new Council to maintain the momentum of progress. She noted that thanks are due to all who have contributed to the success to which the Performance Report is testimony.

The Committee considered the report and noted the progress made in fulfilling the objectives which the Council had set in 2016/17 which also marked the end of the period of the 2013/17 Corporate Plan. The Committee further noted that whilst one of the Council's stated aspirations was to "drive community regeneration through developing holistic town and community plans for the Island's main settlements prioritising Holyhead, Llangefni and Amlwch", there was no mention made of the plans for Amlwch as one of the named priority settlements and neither was it linked to the schemes referred to in the list of achievements. Additionally, the Committee noted that there was no reference to community regeneration plans for Beaumaris as the primary town in the south-east corner of the Island which it believed should also be included in any renewal programme.

The Committee noted that the period which the Performance Report covers pertains to the previous Administration at the Council prior to the May 2017 local government election and asked that this be clarified within the report.

Having considered the report the Committee resolved that it agreed that a final version of the 2016/17 Performance Report be published by the statutory October deadline, and that it be completed by Officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for publication on the Council's website with the proviso that it be clarified that the report refers to a period pertaining to the previous Administration.

ADDITIONAL ACTION PROPOSED: The Head of Service (Community Regeneration and Economic Development) be invited to report to the Committee on the progress of community regeneration plans for Amlwch as a named priority settlement, and whether there are plans in the offing for Beaumaris.

4. SCHOOLS MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – SEIRIOL AREA

The report of the Head of Learning incorporating the outcome of the non-statutory consultation on the modernisation of schools in the Seiriol area was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report set out the following elements of the process –

- The context including the main change drivers for modernising primary education provision on Anglesey that underscores the schools' modernisation programme as a whole and will influence the decision regarding the best provision for the Seiriol area (section 2)
- The consultation process which ran from 19 June, 2017 to 30 July, 2017
- The observations and responses received from the staff, governors and parents of pupils during consultation meetings at the schools affected - Ysgol Beaumaris, Ysgol Llandegfan, and Ysgol Llangoed (section 4)
- The other stakeholders to whom the consultation document was circulated (section 5)
- The extended list of drivers for change against which the options were scored out of 10 (section 9)
- A detailed analysis of 9 options encompassing those that were included in the consultation document as well as others that emerged during the consultation exercise and their scores (section 9).
- A cost analysis of the options and summary of the scores in tabular form (section 10)
- A recommendation on the way forward as regards the preferred option(s) on which to base a next step statutory consultation process (section 11)

The Portfolio Member for Education reported that the consultation on the provision of primary school education in the Seiriol area is the latest phase of the Schools' Modernisation Programme on Anglesey and follows on from the decision taken by the Executive on 21 July, 2016, to authorise Education Officers to proceed with an informal or non-statutory consultation on the primary school education provision in the area and to prepare options with which to proceed. A number of options have been considered and have been scored with 2 options jointly scoring highest (79), namely –

To close Ysgol Beaumaris and give parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, to renovate both and to perhaps federalise (option 2), and

To close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and to review the catchments (option 3)

The Portfolio Member said that he had attended the consultation meetings at the three schools and had spent time reflecting on all the material considerations and had come to the unavoidable conclusion that most of the options which score highly against the drivers for change involve the closure of Ysgol Beaumaris. Although consideration has been given to ways of avoiding putting forward this option, the combination of factors and the resulting scores produce the same end result, namely that closing Ysgol Beaumaris features prominently in the options that most closely meet the criteria for change. The Portfolio Member for Education added that notwithstanding he remained open to listening to feasible alternative options.

In response to a request for clarification by the Chair regarding the validity of the process given that the consultation had run into the school holiday period, the Head of Learning said that the consultation which was held and on which the report is based is an informal and non-statutory consultation i.e. it is a consultation which the Authority does not have to hold and which it is not obliged by law to do so, but is an additional step which the Authority has chosen to take in this, as in all the other areas where it has consulted on modernising the primary school provision, as a matter of good practice. In being informal and non-statutory the consultation process that was held does not have to comply with any legal requirements so the validity/and or legality of the process is not an issue that arises. The Authority seeks to hold an informal consultation process within a 6-week period; although the process in this instance lasted to the end of July, the consultation

meetings involving the staff, governors and parents of pupils at the three schools and all engagement activities were held in June prior to the end of the school summer term.

The Head of Learning proceeded to highlight a number of considerations in addition to the main section headings referred to above including the following –

- The drivers for change have been agreed and established by the Authority since 2012 and have been applied consistently in each of the areas in which the Authority has consulted on the reconfiguration of the primary school provision. Additionally, in making a business case for funding to Welsh Government for new schools and/or adaptations, the Authority is required to show how the proposals will contribute towards among other things - energy efficiency, non-contact time for teachers and reduced repair and maintenance backlog costs.
- Eleven ideas for possible options emerged from the consultation meetings in the schools and from responses to the consultation. These are listed on page 6 of the consultation outcome document which also notes whether or not they were given further consideration. These are in addition to the original options that were listed in the consultation document. Twenty options were available following this process and were assessed against the established criteria.
- The non-statutory consultation document also took into account the possible need for additional housing in the Seiriol area consequent upon the Joint Local Development Plan and the implications for pupil numbers. Based on the data in the JLDP regarding housing developments in the area and the average number of children of primary school age in every household (according to a standard formula), the table at page 75 of the report shows that Ysgol Llandegfan would have to accommodate 6 additional pupils; Ysgol Beaumaris 14 and Ysgol Llangoed, 8. In taking into account the empty places in the schools, it can be seen that there is room available at both Ysgol Beaumaris and Ysgol Llangoed but that Ysgol Llandegfan will continue to be full to capacity over the coming years. Based on the formula, to bring Ysgol Beaumaris back to capacity would require 550 new houses to be built in the area.
- As well as observations made directly at the consultation meetings, correspondence was received from variously the Headteachers, Chairs of the Governing Bodies and/or Governors, Town/Community Councils, Playgroup Committees associated with the three schools as well as from the 3 Elected Members for the Seiriol area (appended to the consultation outcome report). The latter draw attention to the need for a cohesive corporate plan for the whole south-east corner of the Island as an area that has been rapidly losing services and they emphasise the importance of retaining the three schools.
- From the scoring exercise, the two highest scoring options (79 - options 2 and 3) both entail the closure of Ysgol Beaumaris; the next highest (78 – option 16) also refers to the closure of Ysgol Beaumaris. Out of the 9 highest scoring options, 7 involve the closure of Ysgol Beaumaris.

Representatives of Ysgol Beaumaris as the school on which the two recommended options had the greatest direct impact were invited to address the meeting.

Emma Taylor, Chair of Governors at Ysgol Beaumaris referred to correspondence which she had circulated on the 29th September which raised concerns regarding the matters noted below which she expanded on at the meeting –

- Inadequate timeframe to analyse the consultation outcome report especially given its far reaching implications for primary education in the area;

- Recommended options to close Ysgol Beaumaris run contrary to the Welsh Government's advice to local authorities to consider all alternatives to closing rural schools
- Inconsistencies in the drivers for change used in the scoring exercise
- Scoring mechanism is problematic in terms of the rationale for selecting the 11 drivers listed as well as the logic of weighing each equally.
- Inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the scores allocated.

Rhian Jones, Chair of the Committee for responding to the report highlighted the following issues –

- Whilst recognising that a great deal of work had gone into the consultation and the resulting document, it was considered that the consultation outcome report is flawed in being based on a process that did not follow the Schools Organisation Code or the guidelines it sets for conducting such a consultation and the detailed factors that have to be taken into account, including the disposal of land. Ysgol Beaumaris is situated on a key site the additional use of which as a site for extra care housing is also being proposed as a separate matter at this meeting. The community should have been informed of the intentions as regards the site as a whole and no decision should be made on the basis of one part of the site without considering and consulting on the use of the site in its entirety.
- The draft Strategic Outline Plan (SOP) Band B makes reference to 3 options for the Seiriol area including the closure of a primary school and the renovation of another which makes the impression that the closure of Ysgol Beaumaris has been predetermined difficult to avoid.
- The consultation document refers to a backlog of repairs and maintenance costs at Ysgol Beaumaris amounting to £971k which is a factor reflected in the scoring exercise. No breakdown of this figure is given and no mention is made of the fact that £190k comprise of possible costs with the remainder being phased costs.

Councillors Frank Carr and Alwyn Rowlands both expressed concerns about the impact the closure of Ysgol Beaumaris would have on the future of the town as a viable and thriving community and they emphasised that every effort would be made to withstand any decision taken to close the school.

Councillors Carwyn Jones, Lewis Davies and Alun Roberts (also a member of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee) addressed the Committee as Local Member and collectively they raised issues in relation to education costs per head which in the Seiriol area are reported as £4,356 - comparing favourably with the Anglesey average (£4,869) and only slightly higher than the Welsh average (£4,226); the perceived complexity and inconsistency of the scoring system used in this exercise ; the need for a corporate regeneration plan for the south-east corner of the Island; the impact of the potential loss of a school on the demographic of Beaumaris as a town and the future of its youth population; the reduction over the years in the pupil numbers at Ysgol Beaumaris and whether this was planned; the possibility of an increase in pupil numbers in future with the advent of major economic developments on the Island including Wylfa Newydd; the weight given to the volume of support for Ysgol Beaumaris; the suitability and potential of the Ysgol Beaumaris site as a shared site for much needed social housing; the need to take a much broader and more detailed approach to the future of primary education in the area in tandem with the area's economic future and to allow much more time for that process to take place; the absence of any positive option in the form of a new area school.

Those speaking in favour of retaining Ysgol Beaumaris asked the Committee to reject the recommendations of the report and to allow additional time for the school and the community to develop alternative options.

The Portfolio Member for Education reiterated that no decision had been made and that he remained open to new proposals although he could not see that any such alternatives had been put forward hitherto. He said that parental choice is an important factor and that in the case of Ysgol Beaumaris, only 37 of the school catchment's pupils attend the school with the parents of 34 children choosing to send their children to school elsewhere. The cost per pupil at Ysgol Beaumaris is therefore higher meaning that the provision of education at the school is more expensive than at the other two schools. Consideration has been given to the areas on the Island where it would be feasible to establish a new area school; this option was found to be unsuitable for the Seiriol area.

The Head of Learning in responding to the points raised highlighted and re-emphasised the following –

- That the consultation exercise conducted was an optional, informal and non-statutory consultation meaning that the question of the legality or the propriety of the process does not apply. It provided the Authority with an opportunity to engage informally with the community and to obtain views and perspectives as a starting point ahead of reporting to the Executive on the need or otherwise to proceed to a formal and statutory consultation stage. Should it be decided that a formal and statutory consultation process be undertaken, then much more detailed work will be carried out as part of the process in accordance with the statutory guidelines.
- That in drawing up the Band B Strategic Outline Plan, the Authority has to inform Welsh Government of the areas to be included within Band B as well as the approximate amount of funding for which it is applying. To be able to do this the Authority must have an idea of the possibilities in terms of modernising the schools in the areas in Band B but it does not mean that any conclusive decisions have been made beforehand, only that the Authority must make a business case for funding for Band B based on the areas included in the Band B. This has to be done before any consultation takes place.
- Costs have to be taken into consideration. The cost per pupil in Ysgol Beaumaris is 50% higher than that in Ysgol Llandegfan for example. To seek to continue to justify such a cost is to perpetuate a situation whereby the primary school children of Anglesey are not given equal educational opportunities which is a key principle of the Schools Modernisation Programme. The strategy from the outset has sought to reduce the variation in costs per pupil. Therefore, discussions have to be held with those communities where there are small schools because smaller sized schools are more expensive to maintain.
- That there is a backlog of repairs and maintenance work on the Island's schools to the value of over £15m. There has been a historical failure over decades to invest sufficiently in school buildings including many buildings which were modern structures in the 19th century but cannot be considered so in the 21st century. Reference has been made to the repair and maintenance costs associated with Ysgol Beaumaris; these are estimates based on the Council Property Service's long-standing schedules. However, it is likely that the cost of bringing Ysgol Beaumaris up to the standards expected of a modern day, twenty-first century school would exceed these estimates.
- Statistics provided by Horizon suggest that preparations for Wylfa Newydd will only bring an additional 220 children to the Island. If all 220 were to re-locate to Beaumaris then that would bring the school to capacity. However, reliance cannot be placed on this possibility in considering the future of Ysgol Beaumaris. As mentioned, 550 additional homes would need to be built in the area to bring the school to full capacity.

- That there were 37 statutory age pupils at Ysgol Beaumaris at the time of the consultation. The pupil projections up to 2022 as set out in the original report are for 40-50 pupils. The prospects as regards births in the area therefore are not at present propitious.
- The school site covers approximately 5 acres which is not considered adequate for building a twenty first century school of a single storey, the usual requirement for such an establishment being approximately 6.5 acres.
- Whilst the Authority is sympathetic as regards the reduction in pupil numbers that has occurred over recent years at Ysgol Beaumaris, it has not been due to any intentional strategy. Any such suggestion is unacceptable and implies that officers would be willing to sacrifice children's education to achieve a particular objective which is not true.
- Parental choice is an important consideration. Last year, 34 children from the catchment attended schools other than Ysgol Beaumaris. The authority has also taken into account the likelihood that parents would not choose to make the journey back to Beaumaris or Llangoed if Ysgol Llandegfan were to close, or if a new school were to be built in the centre of the three catchments.
- That the drivers on which the scoring system has been based have been part of the process from the outset; the methodology for scoring is a practice that has been developed by the Authority since 2012. The scoring system and how it is applied is scrutinised by Welsh Government each time an education reorganisation process is put into effect and documents submitted for scrutiny and approval by Welsh Government. The Authority's approach has not been questioned for accuracy for any of the processes it has implemented to date. The Authority is due its fourth Gateway review by Welsh Government which involves being questioned on the processes for its modernisation strategy. The way the Authority in Anglesey operates especially in conducting an additional, informal consultation process is considered good practice.

The Chief Executive gave his perspective on the situation and he made the following points –

- Whilst the Authority recognises the importance of education at a local level, it must continue to address the issue of empty places as a cost it cannot afford in the current financial context and as a matter on which it has, and will continue to be challenged by Estyn.
- The approach to scoring has been consistent since the beginning of the School Modernisation Programme.
- That challenging Ysgol Beaumaris on addressing the reduction in the number of pupils choosing to be educated at the school should also be the responsibility of its Board of Governors.
- In those areas where a new school has been established as part of the modernisation programme, a new school was not regarded as a positive solution at the time of consultation. The options now being proposed for the Seiriol area offer significant investment and benefits in two of the area's primary schools with the aim of ensuring a sustainable education provision for the area in future years.
- That the south-east area of the Island encompassing the Seiriol ward could benefit from a dedicated corporate plan within resources. However, such a plan would still need to devise a strategy for raising pupil numbers from 40 to 150 in order for the area to have a school that is defined as viable; this is a significant challenge.
- The fact that 34 pupils from the Beaumaris catchment and 29 from Llangoed attend schools elsewhere is a key consideration that has to be given weight.
- Whilst the cost of provision is not the main reason for seeking to modernise primary education on the Island, regard must be had of how resources are used. The costs at Ysgol Beaumaris are £55k higher than those at other schools meaning there are less

resources available for pupils of other schools which militates against the principle of equal opportunity.

- Raising and maintaining educational standards is a key driver in the schools modernisation programme. Standards in the Foundation phase and in KS2 at Ysgol Beaumaris have been variable against the quartiles for a period of 3 years or more.
- The Authority has to ensure that there is sufficient and appropriate leadership capacity within the Island's schools which continues to be a challenge.
- The Committee in coming to a recommendation should consider the matter in the context of the Island as a whole; the informal non-statutory process has given consideration to a number of options including those from within the community as well as taking account of the range of education related factors which are common to the modernisation programme as implemented throughout the Island.

The Committee in considering the information presented both on paper and verbally, made the following observations –

- The Committee noted that the consultation undertaken was an informal process which allowed the Authority to gauge views in the area. The Committee understood also that in order to establish how much funding it might require when submitting the Band B SOP and related business case to Welsh Government the Authority needs to have drawn up options before consultation has taken place.
- The Committee noted that the cost of education per head at Ysgol Beaumaris is high and is commensurate with a school with much higher pupil numbers. The Committee noted further that the provision of education at Ysgol Beaumaris is expensive and therefore unsustainable in the long term.
- The Committee accepted the importance of ensuring both a level playing field for all primary schools on the Island and equal educational opportunities for the Island's primary school aged children.
- The Committee recognised that small schools are not best suited to deliver modern education standards and practices and it supported the Authority in wanting to ensure that the Island's children are provided with the best possible standard of education to be able to compete successfully in the wider jobs market within an environment that provides up to date facilities.
- The Committee accepted that committing expenditure to the upkeep of old school buildings is not the best use of scarce resources.
- The Committee noted that falling pupil numbers at Ysgol Beaumaris is a significant factor that is difficult to explain. The Committee further noted that 34 of the catchment's children currently attend school elsewhere which it also considered to be a significant factor.
- Whilst it acknowledged and it sympathised with the strength of feeling within the community of Beaumaris in relation to the option of closing the town's school which the Committee viewed as a very difficult option, for the reasons stated above the majority of the Committee was of the view that all three schools cannot be maintained and therefore retaining the status quo is not an option.

Councillor Richard O. Jones proposed that the options recommended within the report be accepted by the Committee to be forwarded to the Executive. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Richard Griffiths.

Councillor Shaun Redmond proposed an amendment to the effect that further consideration be given to an additional option of a new school to replace the current Ysgol Beaumaris, Ysgol Llangoed and Ysgol Llandegfan; the new school to be located on the site of the present Ysgol Beaumaris but to occupy a smaller footprint to enable consideration to be given to co-locating affordable housing on the same site.

The reasoning for the proposal being to protect the value, future prosperity and vibrancy of Beaumaris as a well-regarded town on the Island There was no seconder for the proposal.

Councillor Alun Roberts proposed a further amendment to the effect that the Lifelong Learning Service be asked to reconsider the options in the light of the discussion at this committee and report back to the Committee at its November meeting. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Aled M. Jones.

The second amendment was rejected by the Committee and the original proposal was carried by the majority. Councillor Shaun Redmond abstained from voting.

It was resolved that the Committee –

- **Accepts the report on the non-statutory consultation in the Seiriol area and recommends the report to the Executive.**
- **Supports the recommendations in the report in relation to the preferred options, namely to undertake a statutory consultation upon the following -**

Option 2 – Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents the choice to send their children to the other two schools, renew both schools and possibly federalise them;

Option 3 – Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents the choice to send their children to the other two schools and review the catchment areas.

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION WAS PROPOSED

5. EXTRA CARE HOUSING – SEIRIOL AREA

The report of the Head of Adults' Services setting out a proposal to engage with the community of Seiriol on the development of extra care housing in the area was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Social Services reported that a key element of the Transformation Programme for Adults is reconfiguring accommodation provision and moving away from the traditional residential care setting towards an Extra Care housing model. In October, 2015, a commitment was made to give consideration to appropriate site options within the South of Anglesey for the development of extra care housing, and the Seiriol area was identified as the preferred location should sites be available within that vicinity. During 2016 a survey of possible sites was commissioned through the Council's Property Services which considered the factors listed in the report. Those factors have influenced the site selection process the report on which is attached at Appendix A. The report identified the preferred option as being to develop Extra Care Housing on the site of the current primary school either to be co-located with the school thereby ensuring the effective use of land, or alternatively to be the sole tenant. Two locations within the site were assessed, the one being the location of the now vacant day centre and the other to the rear of the school. The latter provides for better use of the area potentially supporting the maintenance of a build design consistent with the listed status of the school and potentially allows for sharing catering facilities with the school.

Councillor Lewis Davies speaking as a Local Member said that the site would be better suited to social housing which is in short supply in Beaumaris. The proposed development of an Extra Care facility on this site serves to increase the older people demographic of Beaumaris and together with the possible closure of the primary school, reinforces the impression of the town as primarily a place for older people. Councillor Davies emphasised

the importance of having a corporate plan for the area to address this and other considerations relevant to the area's future and its economic prosperity and viability.

The Chair clarified that opportunities to comment on the proposals in detail will arise during the engagement period. He requested that the outcome of the engagement with the local area be reported back to this Committee ahead of the presentation of the feedback to the Executive.

It was resolved that the Committee supports holding a period of engagement locally within the Seiriol area during November, 2017 with regard to the following matters:

- **Developing Extra Care housing provision in the Seiriol area to provide a minimum of 39 self-contained flats in accordance with nationally approved models of provision**
- **That the preferred site for this development is the site of the current Ysgol Beaumaris either co-located with an adapted school or as the prime use for this land**
- **That the Council pursues options to fund the development through the Housing revenue Account so that the development becomes additional council housing stock within the county providing vital accommodation for older people.**

ADDITIONAL ACTION PROPOSED: Head of Adults' Services to present a summary of the feedback from the engagement process to this Committee prior to its consideration by the Executive.

**Councillor Aled M. Jones
Chair**

This page is intentionally left blank

| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
|---|--|
| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny/Executive |
| Date: | 31.10.17 / 6.11.17 |
| Subject: | Budget Consultation Plan 2018/19 |
| Purpose of Report: | To reach agreement on the proposed plan |
| Scrutiny Chair: | Aled M. Jones |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Dafydd Rh. Thomas |
| Head of Service: | Scott Rowley |
| Report Author: | Gethin Morgan |
| Tel: | 752111 |
| Email: | gethinmorgan@ynysmon.gov.uk |
| Local Members: | Not Applicable |

| 1 - Recommendation/s |
|---|
| <p>1.1 The attached provides a high level description of the proposed budget consultation plan to be implemented during the period - week beginning November 6th to December 29th.</p> <p>1.2. It conveys a cross sector approach with the intention of presenting citizen's comments through -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Press b. Town and Community Councils c. Stakeholder Workshops d. Internet e. Social Media f. Citizens' Panel g. Children and Young People's Workshops <p>1.3. The Committee is asked to scrutinize the proposed plan so that future budgetary consultation plans can be improved and also maximize corporate awareness of the expected work over the period indicated by agreeing to the proposed plan</p> |

| 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities |
|---|
| <p>2.1 This plan is being proposed as a consultation plan on financial matters that are consistent with the Council's development over the years to come and highlighted in the newly adopted Council Plan at the end of September this year.</p> <p>2.2 This consultation fits in with the aim of 'engaging and continuing to engage with residents of Anglesey on the way decisions are made'</p> |

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [**focus on customer/citizen**]

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]

3.3 A look at any risks [**focus on risk**]

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [**focus on performance & quality**]

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[**focus on wellbeing**]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

4.1 Does the Committee consider any stakeholders that need to be included that are not on the current list?

4.2 What development of this year's process is an improvement on last year's process?

4.3 Does the Committee consider there are specific additions required for the plan as a whole?

5 – Background / Context

The attached plan was discussed at the recent Engagement and Consultation Board (12.9.17) which gave guidance that there was a need for better attendance and discussion with partners as part of this year's consultation plan.

In addition, the plan was presented to a briefing session for all members of the County Council on the 5th of October.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

The plan is designed to ensure the input and response of as many residents as possible from different areas and backgrounds. Impact assessments regarding the specific proposals will be considered as part of the wider discussion of the process.

7 – Financial Implications

The financial implications of realizing this plan will be very small. What will be required to implement it is staff resource and time with a small amount of revenue expenditure being envisaged to hold panels and discussions with specific residents.

8 – Appendices:

Appendix A - Anglesey County Council Financial Proposals Consultation / Communication Plan 2018/19 (Part 2)

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Council plan 2017-2022

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION PLAN –**BUDGET PROPOSALS CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN 2018/19 – PART 2**

The purpose of this plan is to acknowledge the areas of work required for the Council to realise its aim of consulting as thorough as possible, so that the Executive's final budget proposals for the 2018/19 budget to the Council in February 2018 is done so with the appreciation and understanding of the different viewpoints and perspectives of the opportunities which arise and the risks it entails.

This plan is a follow on from Part 1 which started to portray the story (end of the summer) and provided an appreciation to our citizens / partners of the future financial challenges facing us as a public sector body.

The following schedule encompasses the dates Nov 7th – Dec 29th.

| Ref. | Date / Period | Event / Campaign & Purpose | Lead | Support | For information |
|------|---------------|---|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| A | Sept | Meeting of Exec to accept MTFP and adopt process for consulting on savings proposals this year (i.e. remainder of this document) | Finance | Finance / Business Planning and Performance Team | SLT / Penaethiaid |
| B | 31.10.17 | Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise areas of concern identified as part of the Sept / Oct workshops and also to consider the consultation plan. | Scrutiny Manager | Penaethiaid | Finance / Portfolio Holders |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| C | 6.11.17 | An Executive meeting to propose efficiencies for 2018/19 for the purpose of consultation and communication (with full understanding of the impact of such proposals) | Finance | Business Planning and Performance Team | SLT & Penaethaid |
| Ch | End of Nov | A meeting of the Town & Community Council sub-group to discuss the opportunities and consequences of the budget proposals. | Leader | Finance / Business Planning & Performance Team | J Huw Jones Penaethaid |
| D | To be decided | Stakeholder workshop in Chamber / YB1 to increase understanding and ignite discussion surrounding the opportunities and risks flowing from the 2018/19 budget proposals | Business Planning and Performance Manager | Press Team Senior Accountant Leader & Chief Executive | Penaethaid |
| <p>A campaign to promote the proposals in the public arena through number of different channels.....</p> | | | | | |

| D | 31.10.17 | Press briefing re: budget proposals for 2018/19. Increase appreciation of readers and keep to corporate line for communication. <i>Expected output would be articles in traditional press and websites + possibly on TV</i> | Press Officer | Finance / Business Planning and Performance Team | Penaethiaid & Staff |
|----|---------------------|--|---|--|---------------------|
| DD | 07.11.17 – 29.12.17 | Promotional campaign focusing on website and e-questionnaire to collate citizens views across the island. The extensive use of FB & Twitter essential here by now as well as supportive promotional work on radio such as Leader interviews on MonFM | Business Planning and Performance Team | Finance / Lleisiau'n Lleol | Staff |
| F | 07.11.17 – 29.12.17 | Use of a citizen panel and recognised community forums such as Youth Council / Schools a.s.o. to gain feedback from those impacted directly from budget decisions. (to be confirmed) | Business Planning and Performance Manager | Medrwn Mon Press Team | ACE's |

This plan will enable Officers to collect and collate the necessary information to formulate a report outlining the different perspectives of individuals and organisations to the proposed budget proposals so that it can be reported and discussed at (i) briefing session for all members prior to end of January and (ii) the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled for the beginning of February.

| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
|---|---|
| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 31 st October, 2017 |
| Subject: | Finance Scrutiny Panel |
| Purpose of Report: | Progress update on the work of the Finance Scrutiny Panel |
| Scrutiny Chair: | Cllr Aled Morris Jones |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Cllr John Griffith |
| Head of Service: | Marc Jones |
| Report Author: | Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager |
| Tel: | 01248 752578 |
| Email: | AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk |
| Local Members: | Not applicable |

| 1 - Recommendation/s |
|--|
| <p>R1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress made to date with the work of the Finance Scrutiny Panel • That processes pertaining to budget monitoring for 2017/18 and budget setting for 2018/19 appear to be on track thus far <p>R2 Escalate the following matters for consideration by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express concern regarding the overspend in children’s services and the learning service. Also, to note that as a first step, the Panel has invited the Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Learning to provide an explanation of the financial situation in both services and the mitigation measures proposed to be put in place to control the overspend. • Recommend to the Executive that the principles and assumptions underpinning the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan are robust and based on the best available information |

| 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities |
|---|
| <p>Direct link between the Council Plan / transformation priorities and the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Panel’s consideration of the initial budget proposals for next year will include how the proposals enable the Executive to deliver on the Council Plan and transformation programme as well as any specific risks</p> |

| 3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members |
|--|
| <p>To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-</p> <p>3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]</p> |

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality **[focus on value]**

3.3 A look at any risks **[focus on risk]**

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role **[focus on performance & quality]**

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

At the request of the Panel:

1. What should the percentage increase be in the Council Tax for 2018/19? **[AP 17]**
2. Does the Committee have any views on the priority of the work streams in the Panel work programme?

5 – Background / Context

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Members will be aware that consideration was given at previous meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee¹ to the need to develop scrutiny work through 3 scrutiny panels namely:

- **Finance Scrutiny Panel**
- Schools Review Scrutiny Panel
- Children's Services Improvement Panel

All 3 panels are up and running and are currently meeting on at least a monthly basis. This report summarises progress made to date as regards the Finance Scrutiny Panel.

2.2 Panel Governance Arrangements

The Panel has been established as a permanent panel and sub-group of this Committee. It is the intention to endeavour to continue to convene monthly meetings of the Panel, in accordance with the timeline for budget monitoring by the Executive and also the Authority's budget setting process. There is now a process in place for regular reporting to this Committee. Councillors Dafydd Roberts and Robin Wyn Williams, as Scrutiny Committee representatives on the Panel, will in turn present progress reports on the work of the Panel.

¹ Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 10th April, 2017 and 26th June, 2017

2. FOCUS OF WORK OF THE FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

2.1 The Finance Scrutiny Panel has now met on three occasions, namely – 17th August, 29th September and 25th October, 2017. Attached are the decisions matrices for the first two meeting of the Panel (**APPENDIX 1**) and a verbal update will be presented from the last meeting of the Panel at the Committee.

Also attached (**APPENDIX 2**) is a copy of the Panel's work programme.

2.2 Hitherto, the Panel has concentrated on the following matters:

- **Governance matters** – putting in place clear governance arrangements (including a terms of reference) and a work programme as the basis for the work of the Panel over the coming months
- Overview of Local Government finance
- Detailed consideration to **Theme 1 – Budget Monitoring** - with the Panel taking the view that its function should concentrate on scrutinizing the response of the Executive to budget monitoring arrangements (rather than pre-decision scrutiny of budget monitoring). It was anticipated that this approach would support the Executive to make better decisions
The Panel scrutinized the response of the Executive to the Qtr1 report on revenue budget performance at its meeting of 29/09/17. The Portfolio Holder for Resources was in attendance for this discussion. In light of its deliberations, the Panel agreed the following action points:
 - i. Express concern regarding the overspend in children's services and the learning service [**AP 20**]
 - ii. As a first step, invite the Assistant Chief Executive and the Head of Learning to provide an explanation on the financial situation (children's services and learning service) and the mitigation measures proposed to put in place to control the overspend. The information to also include how any invest to save funding was spent
 - iii. Invite the Head of Learning to consider the propriety of basing the school transport service on secondary school catchment areas
- Detailed consideration to **Theme 2 – Medium Term Financial Plan**. The Panel examined the principles and assumptions underpinning the proposed 3 year financial plan
- At the last meeting, the Panel gave consideration to **Theme 3 - Annual budget setting process** which included looking in detail at the initial budget proposals. A verbal report on the discussion will be presented at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

3. MATTERS TO BE ESCALATED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PARENT COMMITTEE

The following matters be escalated for consideration by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee:

3.1 Current overspend and budget pressures in children's services and the learning service. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to come to a view about the robustness of the Panel's actions thus far

3.2 Any percentage increase in the Council Tax for 2018/19 be discussed as part of the Committee's consideration of the initial budget proposals for next year.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

| |
|---|
| 6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language] |
|---|

| |
|-----|
| N/a |
|-----|

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| 7 – Financial Implications |
|-----------------------------------|

| |
|---|
| This report discusses the following elements of the work of the Finance Scrutiny Panel: |
|---|

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 2017/18 revenue budget performance monitoring ii. Initial proposals as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19 iii. Medium Term Financial Plan (underpinning principles and assumptions) |
|--|

| |
|------------------------|
| 8 – Appendices: |
|------------------------|

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decisions matrices for the following meetings of the Finance Scrutiny Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th August, 2017 • 29th September, 2017 |
|--|

| |
|---|
| [A verbal report will be presented from the meeting convened on 25 th October, to the committee] |
|---|

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Finance Scrutiny Panel work programme |
|--|

| |
|---|
| 9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information): |
|---|

| |
|---|
| Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7HF |
|---|

Cllrs Dafydd Roberts & Robin Wyn Williams
Scrutiny Members on the Finance Scrutiny Panel
Date: 18/10/17

SCRUTINY FINANCE PANEL, 17/08/17

Present: Cllr Aled Morris Jones; Dafydd Roberts; Dylan Wyn Rees; Robin Wyn Williams; Marc Jones; Bethan Hughes-Owen; Anwen Davies.

| Item | Key points | Action point | Action by Who / When ? | Status |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| 1. Terms of Reference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Scrutiny – a key element of the role and contribution of Scrutiny within the Council's broader governance arrangements. Likely to be a significant part of the WAO review of our Scrutiny arrangements (timetable for field work yet to be confirmed by WAO) • Governance Arrangements and Terms of Reference – the scoping paper before the Panel today to inform development of the final terms of reference • Clear objective → ensure development of Panel members as subject specialists to lead financial discussions with their fellow members in the parent committees, Members' briefings etc. | AP1 Summarise the Panel's work and report every ¼ to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. Discussion in the parent committee on an exception basis only. | Head of Resources in conjunction with the Scrutiny Manager [preparing documents] Cllrs Dafydd Roberts / Robin Wyn Williams [reporting back] [Ongoing] | |
| | | AP2 Hold monthly meetings of the Panel | Scrutiny Manager [Ongoing] | |
| | | AP3 Prepare final terms of reference for the Panel, to be approved at the next meeting | Scrutiny Manager [29/09/17] | |
| 2. Setting the Context | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's financial work tends to occur in an annual cycle of April → March. Some exceptions e.g. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which is a 3-year plan. The budget process starts in June every year | AP4 Confirm the need to scrutinize the drivers / principles and assumptions underpinning the Medium Term Financial Plan, as part of the Panel's work programme | Head of Resources / Scrutiny Manager [29/09/17] | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consider the propriety of conducting a consultation exercise on the Business Rates Relief Scheme • Scrutinizing the quarterly monitoring of the revenue and capital budgets a key element of the Panel's work – either by scrutinizing the Services' mitigation measures before consideration by the Executive Committee or at the end of the process by scrutinizing the Executive's response to budget management (in order to assist the Executive to make better decisions) • Ensuring an element of training for Panel members is important to help them to play a key role in scrutinizing financial matters • The role and contribution of the Panel considered a key part of the Council's governance arrangements. Need to focus on scrutinizing the impact of budgetary decisions (not the accuracy of the budgets themselves) and also scrutinize the decisions of the Executive. The Audit Committee had a clear role in treasury management, ensuring accuracy of accounts and management of risks | <p>AP5 Consider the propriety of a consultation exercise on the Business Rates Relief Scheme.</p> | | |
| | | <p>AP6 Initially, the Panel to scrutinize the Executive's response to budget management. Review after the first ¼</p> | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | | <p>AP7 As a first step, prepare a flowchart on the process of establishing the annual budget, including summarizing the key milestones</p> | Scrutiny Manager in conjunction with the Head of Resources | |
| <p>3. Theme 1: Budget Monitoring</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general discussion on the monitoring of revenue and capital budgets, using the Q4 (2016/17) monitoring report as an example | <p>AP8 Need a further discussion about the appropriateness of including the HRA (Housing Revenue Account) in the scope of the Panel's work</p> | All | |
| | | <p>AP9 Invite the Portfolio Holder for Resources when the Panel scrutinized the Executive's</p> | Scrutiny Manager [quarterly, ongoing] | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | response to the financial monitoring, on a quarterly basis | | |
| 4. Panel's Work Programme: August - December 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital to ensure a robust work programme to support the Panel's contribution to meaningful scrutiny that adds value | AP10 Put a work programme in place for the Panel, starting with the period August 2017 → March 2018 | Scrutiny Manager | |
| 5. Date of Next Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule dates for monthly meetings of the Panel, September 2017 → March 2018 initially • Panel to focus on a single theme / individual elements of the budget round, per meeting | AP11 Next Panel meeting to be held on 29 September, 2017 @ 9.30am | Scrutiny Manager [31/08/17] | |
| | | AP12 Schedule the financial themes to be considered at individual meetings of the Panel | Head of Resources / Scrutiny Manager | |
| | | AP13 Next meeting of the Panel to focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Response of the Executive to the Q1 monitoring report (2017/18) b. Principles / Assumptions of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) [MTFP will be submitted to the Executive on 18.09.17] | Scrutiny Manager | |

| ACTION STATUS | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| No Actions to be implemented | On target to implement the Action Point(s) by the next meeting | Anticipated delay in completing the Action Point(s) by the next meeting, but will be implemented. | Behind schedule and a significant risk of not being implemented |
| | Green (G) | Amber (A) | Red (C) |

SCRUTINY FINANCE PANEL, 29/09/17

Present: Cllr Aled Morris Jones; Dafydd Roberts; Dylan Wyn Rees; Robin Wyn Williams; Marc Jones; Bethan Hughes-Owen; Anwen Davies

Cllr John Griffith, Portfolio Holder for Resources (for the discussion on item 3: budget monitoring 2017/18: Q1)

| Item | Key Points | Action Point | Action by Who / When? | Status |
|--|---|--|---|--------|
| 1. Record of Previous Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel Members confirmed that the format of the decisions matrix remained fit for purpose and an effective tool for monitoring progress / performance Format of the document pack challenging for use on Ipads | AP 14 Continue to trial presenting reports in PDF format in separate files for both languages | Scrutiny Manager | |
| Training and awareness raising session [Medium Term Financial Plan – principles and assumption underpinnings the Plan] | | | | |
| 2. Medium Term Financial Plan [Theme 2] | <p>Detailed introduction to the financial spreadsheet underpinning the Council's medium term financial plan. The Financial Plan and its underlying assumptions were adopted by the Executive at its meeting on 18/09/17</p> <p>A 3-year financial plan for the Council for the period 2017/18 → 2019/20 (rolling programme) A number of assumptions had been made in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual increases for National Insurance; salaries; pensions; inflation; interest | AP 15 Provide assurance to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee that the Medium Term Financial Plan was underpinned by robust assumptions. It was noted that the assumptions were based on the best available information | Panel Members with responsibility for reporting back on progress of the Panel's work [31/10/17] | |

| Item | Key Points | Action Point | Action by Who / When? | Status |
|--|--|---|---|--------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce turnover rate • Costs of our main service contracts • Energy costs • Total reserves [compulsory redundancy costs] • Financial pressures e.g. Children's Services, Canolfan Addysg y Bont, Grass Cutting Contract <p>A financial gap of around £8.5m was anticipated over a 3 year period (£4m in 2018/19; £2.5m in 2019/20 & £2m in 2020/21) and a 4% increase in Council Tax. The Council Tax represents 26% of the Council's income and the Financial Plan based on an assumption of an annual increase of 4% in the Council Tax level</p> | <p>AP 16 Consider the propriety of offering taxpayers an option to pay Council Tax over a 12 month period (rather than 10 months), by direct debit and also making arrangements to raise public awareness</p> | Head of Resources | |
| | | <p>AP 17 Ensure discussion at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the percentage increase in Council Tax for 2018/19, as part of Scrutiny Members' consideration of the initial budget proposals for the forthcoming year.</p> | Panel Members with responsibility for reporting back on the progress of the Panel's work [31/10/17] | |
| 3. Terms of Reference | Key to ensure that the work of the Panel was underpinned by sound governance arrangements | AP 18 Adopt the terms of reference as submitted | Scrutiny Manager | |
| 4. Budget Monitoring [Q1, 2017/18] [Theme 1] | <p><u>THEME 1: MONITORING THE BUDGET</u> A detailed look at the Executive's response to the budget monitoring report → Q1 (2017/18)</p> <p>Context The Executive's resolutions were noted (18/09/17):</p> | AP 19 Note the Executive's response to the budget monitoring report for Q1 | n/a | |

| Item | Key Points | Action Point | Action by Who / When? | Status |
|--|--|--|--|--------|
| <p>At the request of the Panel, the Portfolio Holder for Resources was present for the discussion on this item</p> | <p>“(It was resolved) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the position set out in respect of the financial performance to date. • To agree to a review of earmarked reserves to identify earmarked reserves which are no longer a priority and which could be used to help fund the projected overspend. • To note the position of the invest to save programmes. • To note the position with regard to efficiency savings for 2017/18. • To note how the costs of agency and consultancy staff will be monitored in 2017/18. • To delegate the release of the Council Tax Premium to the Section 151 Officer based on the calculations that the Premiums have been paid.” <p>Input of the Portfolio Holder / Head of Resources It was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Portfolio Holders would lead a discussion with the Heads whose budgets were overspending with a view to putting mitigation measures in place • The situation was not expected to deteriorate – it was an assessment based on 1 quarter with a number of factors possibly impacting on expenditure during the 9 months remaining of the current financial year • Overspend in children's services, learning (out of county placements, transport). Pressure on budgets in adults services, highways and leisure • Main risks in social services (children and adults services) and learning <p>Questions from Panel members: i. Was there a trend of overspend over a number of years in front line service budgets? (analysis attached to the decisions matrix)</p> | <p>AP 20 Express concern regarding the overspend in children's services & the learning service</p> | | |
| | | <p>AP 21 As a first step, invite the Assistant Chief Executive and the Head of Learning to provide an explanation of the financial situation (children's services and learning) and the mitigation measures proposed to put in place to control the overspend. The information to also include how any invest to save funding was spent</p> | <p>Assistant Chief Executive / Head of Learning [10/25/17]</p> | |
| | | <p>AP 22 Invite the Head of Learning to consider the propriety of basing the school transport service on secondary school catchment areas.</p> | <p>Head of Learning</p> | |

| Item | Key Points | Action Point | Action by Who / When? | Status |
|------|--|--------------|-----------------------|--------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Which services were underspending? iii. Which budgets were the biggest concern for the Council? iv. Was there an appetite to create a joint foster care agency across North Wales as a way of managing overspends / financial pressures in children's services? v. What factors were causing the continued increase in the number of looked after children in the authority? What were the projections? vi. What was the strategy to increase the number of our foster parents? vii. Was it appropriate to re-consider the provision of a specialist children's residential service (to replace Queen's Park), possibly in conjunction with the 3rd Sector? viii. What assurance was there that recovery measures would be in place to control the overspend and the increasing financial pressures – especially in children's and learning services ix. What was the purpose of the surplus in the Housing Revenue Account? x. How can the Housing Revenue Account be used to fund the Extra Care Housing scheme in Seiriol? xi. Was it possible not to ring-fence the Housing Revenue Account? <p>In making its recommendation, the Panel considered 3 options:</p> | | | |

| Item | Key Points | Action Point | Action by Who / When? | Status |
|--|--|---|-----------------------|--------|
| | <p>a. Delay taking action until Q2 performance information was available</p> <p>b. Escalate the matter straight to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee recommending a review of the management of children's services and learning budgets</p> <p>c. Refer the matter to the attention of the Corporate Parenting Panel and request the Panel to intervene and take steps to control the budget</p> | | | |
| 5. Panel Work Programme: August – December, 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vital to ensure a robust work programme to support the Panel's contribution to meaningful financial scrutiny that adds value Ensure external, specialist input to assist us to evaluate and evidence the impact and added value of the Panel. The outcomes of the evaluation to be available to develop good practice at a national level | <p>AP 23 Put a work programme in place for the Panel starting with the period August, 2017 → March, 2018</p> | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | | <p>AP 24 Invite CIPFA Wales to a Panel meeting, with the objective of agreeing input into our evaluation of the impact of the Panel's work</p> | Scrutiny Manager | |
| 6. Date of Next Meeting | | <p>AP 25 Next Panel meeting to be held on 25th October, 2017 @ 10.00am</p> | Scrutiny Manager | |

| Item | Key Points | Action Point | Action by Who / When? | Status |
|------|------------|--|---|--------|
| | | AP 26 Next Panel meeting to focus on the 2018/19 initial budget proposals | Scrutiny Manager with Head of Resources | |

| ACTION STATUS | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| No Actions to be implemented | On target to implement Action(s) by next meeting | Anticipated delay in implementing the Action Point(s) by the next meeting, but will be implemented. | Behind schedule and a significant risk of not being actioned |
| | Green (G) | Amber (A) | Red (R) |

**PANEL SGRIWTINI CYLLID – RHAGLEN WAITH /
FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME**

| CYFARFOD / MEETING | DYDDIAD / DATE | PWNC / SUBJECT | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL / REPORT TO CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR GWAITH / REPORT TO EXECUTIVE |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| AWST → RHAGFYR, 2017 AUGUST → DECEMBER, 2017 | | | | |
| 1 | AWST AUGUST 17/08/17 [2.00 – 4.00] | Sesiwn ddatblygu/codi ymwybyddiaeth → Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol <i>Development session/awareness raising → Local Government Finance</i> | | |
| | | CG, Cynllun Prosiect a gosod y cyd-destun / <i>TOR, Project Plan & setting the scene</i> | | |
| | | Thema 1: Monitro'r Gyllideb (CH 4: 2016/17) / Budget Monitoring (Qtr 4: 2016/17) | | |
| | | Rhaglen waith ac anghenion datblygu / <i>Work programme and development needs</i> | | |
| 2 | MEDI SEPTEMBER 29/09/17 [9.30 – 12.30] | Sesiwn ddatblygu/codi ymwybyddiaeth → Egwyddorion/rhagdybiaethau'n sail i'r Cynllun Cyllidol Tymor Canol <i>Development session/awareness raising → Theme 2: Principles/assumptions underpinning the Medium Term Financial Plan</i> | | |

| CYFARFOD / MEETING | DYDDIAD / DATE | PWNC / SUBJECT | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL / REPORT TO CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR GWAITH / REPORT TO EXECUTIVE |
|--------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | Cylch Gorchwyl terfynol / <i>Final Terms of Reference</i> | | |
| | | Thema 1: Monitro'r Gyllideb (CH 1: 2017/18) – cymryd golwg manwl ar ymateb y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Budget Monitoring (QTR 1: 2017/18) – <i>a closer look at the response of the Executive</i> | | |
| | | Thema 2: Cynllun Cyllidol Tymor Canol – cymryd golwg manwl; herio'r rhagdybiaethau; cyswllt efo arbedion arfaethedig 2018/19 / Theme 2: Medium Term Financial Plan – <i>a closer look; scrutinise assumptions; link to 2018/19 proposed efficiencies</i> | | |
| | | Rhaglen waith ac anghenion datblygu / <i>Work programme and development needs</i> | | |
| 3 | HYDREF / OCTOBER 25/10/17 [10.00 – 12.30] | Sesiwn ddatblygu/codi ymwybyddiaeth → Proses o sefydlu'r gyllideb flynyddol Development session/awareness raising → Annual budget setting process | | |

| CYFARFOD / MEETING | DYDDIAD / DATE | PWNC / SUBJECT | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL / REPORT TO CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR GWAITH / REPORT TO EXECUTIVE |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | <p>Thema 3: Proses sefydlu cyllideb flynyddol – cymryd golwg manwl; herio'r cynigion cychwynnol: craffu unrhyw argymhellion mewn perthynas â chynnydd yn y Dreth Gyngor</p> <p><i>Theme 3: Annual budget setting process – a closer look; scrutinise initial proposals; scrutinise any proposals relating to an increase in the Council Tax</i></p> <p>Rhaglen waith ac anghenion datblygu (adolygiad) / <i>Work programme and development needs (review)</i></p> | <p>Pwyllgor Sgriwtini Corfforaethol / <i>Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 31/10/17</i></p> | <p>Pwyllgor Gwaith / <i>Executive, 06/11/17</i></p> |
| 4 | <p>RHAGFYR / DECEMBER 01/12/17 [9.30 – 12.00]</p> | <p>Sesiwn ddatblygu/codi ymwybyddiaeth → Egwyddorion/rhagdybiaethau'n sail i'r Polisi Rhyddhad Treth Busnes <i>Development session/awareness raising → Principles/assumptions underpinning the Business Tax Relief Policy</i></p> <p>Thema 1: Monitro'r Gyllideb (CH 2: 2017/18) – cymryd golwg manwl ar ymateb y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Budget Monitoring (QTR 2: 2017/18) – a closer look at the response of the Executive</p> | | |

| CYFARFOD / MEETING | DYDDIAD / DATE | PWNC / SUBJECT | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL / REPORT TO CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR GWAITH / REPORT TO EXECUTIVE |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | Thema 4: Polisi Rhyddhad Treth Busnes - cymryd golwg manwl; craffu'r egwyddorion a rhagdybiaethau <i>Theme 4: Business Tax Relief Policy – take a closer look; scrutinise the underpinning principles and assumptions</i> | | |
| | | Rhaglen waith ac anghenion datblygu (adolygiad) / <i>Work programme and development needs (review)</i> | | |
| IONAWR → MAI, 2018 JANUARY → MAY, 2018 | | | | |
| 5. | IONAWR / JANUARY 04/01/18 [3.00 – 5.00*] (Ar godiad y Sesiwn Briffio Aelodau) | Sesiwn ddatblygu/codi ymwybyddiaeth → Egwyddorion a phrosesau lleol yn sail i reolaeth dyledion <i>Development session/awareness raising → Principles & local processes underpinning debt management</i> Thema 3: Proses sefydlu cyllideb flynyddol – cymryd golwg manwl yn sgîl sylwadau dderbyniwyd yn ystod yr Ymgynghoriad Cyhoeddus / <i>Theme 3: Annual budget setting process – a closer look in light of comments received during the recent Public Consultation</i> | Pwyllgor Sgriwtini Corfforaethol / <i>Corporate Scrutiny Committee,</i> 05/02/18 | Pwyllgor Gwaith / <i>Executive,</i> 18/02/18 |

| CYFARFOD / MEETING | DYDDIAD / DATE | PWNC / SUBJECT | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL / REPORT TO CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR GWAITH / REPORT TO EXECUTIVE |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | <p>Thema 5: Rheoli dyledion – cymryd golwg manwl ar ein prosesau rheoli dyledion; perfformiad lleol yn erbyn awdurdodau eraill (2016/17) / <i>Theme 5: Debt management a closer look at our local debt management processes; local performance against other authorities (2016/17)</i></p> <p>Rhaglen waith ac anghenion datblygu (adolygiad) / <i>Work programme and development needs (review)</i></p> | | |
| 8. | CHWEFROR / FEBRUARY (diwedd mis neu ddechrau Mawrth) | <p>Sesiwn ddatblygu/codi ymwybyddiaeth → Egwyddorion a rhagdybiaethau'n sail i'r cynllun busnes y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai <i>Development session/awareness raising → Principles and assumptions underpinning the Housing Revenue Account</i></p> <p>Thema 1: Monitro'r Gyllideb (CH 3: 2017/18) – cymryd golwg manwl ar ymateb y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Budget Monitoring (QTR 3: 2017/18) – <i>a closer look at the response of the Executive</i></p> <p>Thema 6: Cynllun Busnes y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai – cymryd golwg manwl; herio'r rhagdybiaethau; cyswllt efo cyllideb arfaethedig 2018/19 / <i>Theme 2: Housing Revenue</i></p> | | |

| CYFARFOD / MEETING | DYDDIAD / DATE | PWNC / SUBJECT | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL / REPORT TO CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR GWAITH / REPORT TO EXECUTIVE |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | <i>Account Business Plan – a closer look; scrutinise assumptions; link to 2018/19 proposed budget</i> | | |
| 9. | MAWRTH / MARCH (diwedd mis dechrau Ebrill) | <p>Sesiwn ddatblygu/codi ymwybyddiaeth → adolygu cynnydd gwaith y panel / gwerthusiad</p> <p><i>Development session/awareness raising → progress review / evaluation</i></p> | <p>Gwerthuso effaith gwaith craffu'r Panel rhwng Awst, 2017 → Chwefror, 2018; cynnig argymhellion i'r Pwyllgor Sgriwtini Corfforaethol o ran rhaglen waith y Panel yn ystod 2018/19 /</p> <p><i>Evaluate the impact of the Panel's scrutiny work between August, 2017 → February, 2018; make proposals to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the Panel's work programme for 2018/19</i></p> | <p>Pwyllgor Sgriwtini Corfforaethol / Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 09/04/18</p> <p>Pwyllgor Gwaith / Executive, 30/04/18</p> |
| 28/02/18 → Cyngor Sir yn derbyn cyllideb ddrafft 2018/19, i'w mabwysiadu / Full Council to receive the 2018/19 draft budget, for adoption | | | | |
| MEHEFIN → JUNE → | | | | |

| CYFARFOD / MEETING | DYDDIAD / DATE | PWNC / SUBJECT | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL / REPORT TO CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | ADRODDIAD I'R PWYLLGOR GWAITH / REPORT TO EXECUTIVE |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

This page is intentionally left blank

DDIM I'W GYHOEDDI NOT FOR PUBLICATION

(Teitl yr Adroddiad /Title of report
Cyllideb Refeniw Drafft 2018/19 Draft Revenue Budget

PRAWF BUDD Y CYHOEDD PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

| | |
|--|---|
| Paragraff(au) Paragraph(s) 12, 13, 14, 15 Government Act 1972 | Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 Schedule 12A Local |
| Y PRAWF – THE TEST | |
| <p>Mae yna fudd i'r cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu oherwydd /</p> <p>There is a public interest in disclosure as:-</p> <p>Mae yna fudd cryf i'r cyhoedd yn nhryloywder ynglyn â materion cyllidebol a gwario cyhoeddus yn amseroedd o bwysau ariannol.</p> <p>There is a strong public interest in transparency about budgetary matters and public spending in times of financial pressure.</p> | <p>Y budd i'r cyhoedd wrth beidio datgelu yw /</p> <p>The public interest in not disclosing is:-</p> <p>Mae'r adroddiad yn cyfeirio at unigolion penodol yn eu swyddi. Mae yna fudd cryf i'r cyhoedd i sicrhau y datgelir gwybodaeth yn adroddiadau mewn ffordd nad yw'n annheg na'n anghydnaws â hawliau unigolion o dan ddeddfwriaeth gwarchod data a phreifatrwydd.</p> <p>Mae'r adroddiad yn cyfeirio at faterion cyflogadwyaeth a all godi mewn ymgynghoriadau neu drafodaethau. Mae yna fudd cryf i'r cyhoedd i sicrhau nad amharir ar na ragfernir unrhyw ymgynghoriad neu ymgynghoriad a ystyrir drwy ddatgelu i'r byd eang ar bwynt cynamserol.</p> <p>Mae'r adroddiad yn cynnwys cyfeiriadau i wybodaeth ynglyn â materion busnes y Cyngor a all roi'r Cyngor dan anfantais mewn trafodaethau masnachol yn ystod caffael gwasanaethau. Mae yna fudd cryf i'r cyhoedd i sicrhau na ddatgelir gwybodaeth mewn ffordd sy'n niweidiol i fuddiannau ariannol y Cyngor ac, yn y pen draw, y bobl y gwasanaethir.</p> <p>Fe ddatgelir y gyllideb maes o law, mae hyn yn gwanhau unrhyw ddadleuon o blaid datgelu'r adroddiad yma ar sail tryloywder. Bydd tryloywder yn cael ei fodloni maes o law ac fe fodloni'r budd cyhoeddus dilys.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>The report makes references to specific individuals in their job-roles. There is a strong public interest in ensuring that information is disclosed in reports in a way that is not unfair and incompatible with individuals' rights under data protection and privacy legislation.</p> <p>The report refers to employment matters which could arise in consultations or negotiations. There is a strong public interest in ensuring that consultations or contemplated consultations are not impacted or prejudiced through disclosure to the world at large at an untimely point.</p> <p>The report contains references to information about the business affairs of the Council, which could place the Council at a disadvantage in commercial discussions during the procurement of services. There is a strong public interest in ensuring that information is not disclosed in a way that is detrimental to the financial interests of the Council and, ultimately, the people it serves.</p> <p>The budget will be disclosed in due course, this weakens any public interest arguments in favour of disclosure of this report on the grounds of transparency; transparency will be satisfied in due course and the public's legitimate interest will be satisfied.</p> |
| <p>Argymhelliad - Mae budd y cyhoedd wrth gadw'r eithriad o bwys mwy na budd y cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu'r wybodaeth.</p> <p>Recommendation - The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p> | |

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank