

THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Chair)
Councillor Ieuan Williams (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Richard Dew, Carwyn Jones, R. Meirion Jones,
Alun Mummery, R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS,
Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Robin Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business
Process Transformation)
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community &
Service Improvement)
Head of Function (Resources) & Section 151 Officer
Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring
Officer
Head of Housing Services (for item 8)
Head of Children and Families' Services (for item 9)
Head of Adults' Services (for item 9)
Head of Democratic Services (for item 6)
Principal Development Officer (TJ) (for item 12)
Committee Officer (ATH)

APOLOGIES: None

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Lewis Davies, Aled M. Jones, Dylan Rees,
Alun Roberts (from item 9 onwards), Nicola Roberts.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No member of the Executive declared an interest.

Councillor Dylan Rees (not a Member of the Executive) declared a personal but not prejudicial interest with regard to item 12 on the agenda.

2 URGENT MATTERS CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS APPOINTED OFFICER

None to report.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 18 June, 2018 were presented for the Executive's confirmation.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on the 18 June, 2018 be approved as correct.

4 MINUTES - CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 11 June, 2018 were presented for adoption by the Executive.

It was resolved that the draft minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 11 June, 2018 be adopted.

5 SCHOOLS' MODERNISATION - LLANGEFNI AREA (YSGOL Y GRAIG AND YSGOL TALWRN)

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Service Improvement) incorporating the report on the outcome of the statutory consultation on the modernisation of the primary education provision in the Llangefni area relating to Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn was presented for the Executive's consideration. The statutory consultation process was conducted in the period from 1 May, to 18 June, 2018.

The Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth reported on the aims and objectives of the Schools' Modernisation Programme which involves evaluating the future of schools and the effects on stakeholders including children, parents, school staff and governors. He acknowledged that it can be a contentious matter and a challenging task for the Authority and is also an issue that causes concern for parents which is understandable. However, what is under consideration is the future of the Island's schools for the next 50 years; a schools' service that is wilting under the pressure of financial cuts; a maintenance backlog, the demands of the curriculum as well as a number of other issues. The Council has to give serious consideration to making the schools' system more effective so as to create an environment wherein both pupils and teachers can succeed, and also to making it more efficient so that resources are used effectively and all schools get a fair share of the budget. Although Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig are under consideration at this meeting they cannot be considered in isolation; the issues affecting the two schools form part of a bigger picture encompassing the Island as a whole and the Education Service within it.

The Portfolio Member highlighted that the Education Service's budget makes up 40% of the Council's overall budget with the Education Service facing possible savings of £5.2m over the next 3 years. Education has been protected from the worst of the financial cuts in the past but that situation cannot continue - the schools' maintenance backlog cost is approximately £16m. Anglesey and other councils are labouring under the financial pressures resulting from the Westminster Government's continuing austerity agenda. The Authority's Schools' Modernisation Programme seeks to improve educational outcomes for children; to improve leadership standards and the

quality of teaching and learning and also to ensure there are sector leading schools in each area. The drivers of change remain the same; these are listed in the report and a number of those drivers apply in this particular situation. The Portfolio Member referred to the role of the Elected Member in the schools' modernisation process requiring of them a duty to their individual communities but also a duty to consider the Island as a whole i.e. the wider corporate responsibilities that extend beyond a single area.

The Assistant Chief Executive referred to the main themes and issues raised by stakeholders at the two schools in responding to the consultation process and the Authority's response to those matters as set out in detail in section 9 of the report. Those issues can be summarised as follows –

- Although a number of stakeholders from Ysgol Talwrn mention the high education standards at the school, both Ysgol Talwrn's performance and that of Ysgol y Graig has varied over the past three years in the Foundation Phase with Ysgol Talwrn in the lower quartile more often than Ysgol y Graig. Whilst the performance of the two schools in KS2 is similar what is significant is the number of pupils with an average of 7 in the cohort for Ysgol Talwrn and an average of 43 for Ysgol y Graig.
- Both schools have been inspected by Estyn recently with Ysgol Talwrn assessed as Excellent against one indicator, Good against 12 and Adequate against 2. Ysgol y Graig was judged to be Excellent against 4 indicators and Good against the remaining 11 indicators thereby giving Ysgol y Graig a stronger inspection profile than Ysgol Talwrn. Although both schools perform well in terms of expected levels, Ysgol y Graig is successful in attaining higher percentages for level 5+ which suggests it successfully stretches pupils well and meets levels higher than those for Anglesey and Wales.
- The cost per pupil for Ysgol Talwrn for 2017/18 at £4,447 is above both the average for Wales (£3,690) and the average for Anglesey (£3,972). It could be said that every place in Ysgol Talwrn costs £475 per pupil more and that the school therefore receives £22,325 additional finance. The spend per pupil for Ysgol y Graig at £3,395 is below the Welsh average and the Anglesey average. Additionally, the maintenance backlog cost at Ysgol Talwrn is £82.5k plus £250k for a new external mobile classroom based on the valuation provided by a professional valuer. For Ysgol y Graig, the maintenance backlog costs are £36.5k.
- In September, 2017 Ysgol Talwrn had 12% of surplus places, this is despite the fact that the percentage of pupils from outside the catchment area is relatively high at 45% making the surplus places position more vulnerable. At Ysgol y Graig surplus places were 1% in September, 2017.
- Some of the responses from Ysgol Talwrn make reference to the draft revised School Organisation Code which although it sets out a presumption against the closure of rural schools does not state that rural schools should not close. The Code makes it clear that there is a priority to provide high-quality education in small and rural schools and it recognises that education is the paramount consideration. Additionally, Ysgol Talwrn is not included in the list of rural primary schools in the draft revised Code. Notwithstanding the revised draft School Organisation Code is not at present legally binding, the Authority has sought to address its contents in this process.
- Comments were made with regard to the traffic situation at Ysgol y Graig being dangerous and the walking route to the school from the village of Talwrn being hazardous. The issue of small children having to travel by bus to Ysgol y Graig was

also raised. Should the proposed scheme be approved, a traffic impact assessment will be undertaken and will include the walking journey to Ysgol y Graig. Additionally, if the proposal is realised, the children would not necessarily travel to school by bus and could travel by taxi. Children of 4 to 11 years of age already travel to school by bus elsewhere on the Island.

- The potential effect on the community of closing Ysgol Talwrn was a concern for a number of the school's stakeholders. Whilst it is accepted that this is a challenge, closing a school does not have to lead to the demise of a community – a new school can lead to the creation of a wider community and there are examples where the community continues to thrive in villages where the school has closed. Some respondents state that smaller schools are better at creating a sense of family and that they offer better opportunities for participation – there is no evidence to suggest that either statement is true.
- Closing Ysgol Talwrn would not necessarily lead to an increase in carbon emissions as has been claimed. Calculations show that even the use of 2 buses would not have a greater impact because 45% of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn currently travel to the school from outside the catchment area.
- As regards impact on the Welsh language, strengthening and safeguarding the Welsh language is a priority for the Authority. Any plan for a new school will be subject to the requirements of the language policy and it is the Authority's expectation that schools that are part of the modernisation programme continue to be Welsh speaking community schools. At present, 60% of Ysgol Talwrn pupils speak Welsh compared to 78% at Ysgol y Graig meaning that it could be argued that closing Ysgol Talwrn and transferring the pupils to Ysgol y Graig would strengthen Welsh.
- Other options were presented and considered. These along with the Authority's response to them, are listed in section 4 of the report.
- Maintaining the two schools would require that the combined maintenance backlog costs of £369k are addressed with the potential for further costs as Ysgol Talwrn comes to the end of its useful life. Building an extension to Ysgol y Graig to replace Ysgol Talwrn would be more expensive but this additional cost would be partly offset by an increase in the Welsh Government's contribution and by the capital receipt from selling the Ysgol Talwrn site. The detailed results of the financial appraisal of the two options (i.e. doing nothing or implementing the recommendation of the report) are set out in the table in section 10 of the report.
- For the reasons stated, a summary of which is provided at section 12 of the report, it is recommended that the capacity of Ysgol y Graig be increased by implementing the 3 steps described in the report, and that Ysgol Talwrn be closed.

Councillor Aled M. Jones, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee reported from the Committee's meeting held on 5 July, 2018 which considered this matter. Councillor Aled M. Jones said that although the Committee did not reach a consensus on making a specific recommendation to the Executive, it did not accept the recommendation in the Officer's report and further, the Committee made recommendations for improving the reporting process in terms of clarifying and providing additional information.

Councillors Dylan Rees and Nicola Roberts spoke as Local Members. Councillor Dylan Rees explained why in his view, many of the drivers for change do not apply to Ysgol Talwrn in particular the need to reduce surplus places as the issue in Llangefni is a lack of places. He also said that the proposal is contrary to the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan which refers to the need to maintain a healthy community

spirit. Closing Ysgol Talwrn will not make this possible. Councillor Nicola Roberts highlighted the disparity between Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig in relation to expenditure per pupil which is indicative of the unequal situation across Anglesey where larger primary schools are losing out financially to smaller, and in some cases, less effective schools. The Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Education has said that school modernisation proposals must show the value behind each application. She emphasised that this now has to be the right solution for this part of Llangefni and she sought assurances in relation to the arrangements for staffing, the governing body, traffic and parking, nursery provision and integration within the two block model.

The Executive considered the report and the views of the Local Members and responded as follows –

- The Executive was agreed in supporting the vision for primary education provision on Anglesey which the Schools' Modernisation Programme embodies. The Executive noted that the programme's aims in seeking to improve the quality of learning and teaching conditions for pupils and staff, to increase equity and effectiveness in the education system and to provide for more efficient use of resources are to be commended. The Executive also noted that a number of primary schools on Anglesey including Ysgol Talwrn are housed in older, dated buildings which are not able to provide the learning and teaching environment expected of Twenty-First Century schools.
- The Executive noted that concerns have been raised about the long-term sustainability of communities following the closure of the village school. The Executive noted also that the closure of a school need not necessarily lead to the decline of a community e.g. Llanddeusant where the village school closed some years ago.
- The Executive noted that 45% (19) of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn are from outside the catchment area making the surplus places situation more vulnerable.
- The Executive noted that parking and traffic are problematic issues in relation to Ysgol y Graig. The Executive sought assurance that were the recommended scheme to be approved, a traffic and parking impact assessment will be conducted to ensure that arrangements for parking and travelling provision in and around Ysgol y Graig and to and from the village of Talwrn are safe and adequate.

The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that in the event the proposals are approved, a traffic impact assessment encompassing the traffic and parking situation around Ysgol y Graig as well as the walking route from Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig will be conducted. The Officer also said that the governing body of the extended Ysgol y Graig would need to reflect the community.

With regard to dealing with staffing matters, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Authority will be guided by advice provided by the Human Resources Services. The process for addressing staffing matters is set out in the statutory consultation document.

- The Executive noted that a lack of capacity is an issue in relation to schools in the Llangefni area. The Executive sought assurance that the recommended scheme allows for growth as a result of developments in the area.

The Assistant Chief Executive said that the JLDP refers to housing developments in the Llangefni area between 2011 and 2016. A number of those houses have already been built. The Officer confirmed that actual and planned developments have been taken into account in projecting pupil numbers in the Llangefni area in future and that this has been done using the Welsh Government formula.

- The Executive noted that implementing the recommended scheme is expected to generate financial savings and that in light of the challenging financial circumstances in which the Authority finds itself, financial considerations are an important factor in the School Modernisation Programme. The Executive noted further that from the calculations set out in section 10 of the report, the Do Nothing option appears on the face of it, to be more economical than the option whereby Ysgol y Graig is to be extended and Ysgol Talwrn closed. The Executive sought assurance that the recommended scheme will yield savings.

The Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer said that revenue savings are created as running one larger school is less costly in terms of building maintenance and energy; management costs are reduced (one Head teacher instead of two) and class sizes can be set to an optimum level which reduces teaching costs. The figure of £39,540 savings was reached by using an agreed formula to calculate the teaching staff and allocation per pupil at the new extended school based on the number of pupils currently at Ysgol y Graig plus pupils from Ysgol Talwrn. The formula also allows an element of funding for each school regardless of pupil numbers or staff; currently both Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn receive this funding (around £8,000), whereas it would only be applied once in the case of the proposed new extended Ysgol y Graig. The proposed new extension will incur costs; the estimated costs linked to the new extension compared to the costs of the current Ysgol Talwrn have been factored into the £39k projected savings. Transport costs (£28k) have been estimated based on running two buses from Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig daily.

On the capital side, the Officer said that the Authority is expected to fund its share of the capital costs of the scheme – 50% - with Welsh Government contributing the other 50%. The Authority's contribution is made up of borrowing and the capital receipt from the sale of the Ysgol Talwrn site. The borrowing element would be funded over a 50 year period and include loan interest. Building an extension to Ysgol y Graig to replace Ysgol Talwrn is more expensive but will result in a brand new school building – this should be balanced against the as yet unknown costs of continuing to maintain Ysgol Talwrn as the building ages, as well as the known maintenance backlog costs at the school.

- The Executive noted that two new area schools have already been built, the one being Ysgol Cybi in Holyhead and the other, Ysgol Rhyd y Llan in Llanfaethlu. In light of the initial opposition to these schemes, the Executive sought clarification of the feedback from the two schools now they are up and running.

The Assistant Chief Executive said that comments from a discussion with seven children from the School Council at Ysgol Rhyd y Llan confirm that all seven are happy at the school for a variety of reasons from having more friends to participating in a range of activities. Six out of the seven travelled to school by bus and apart from comments about noise, they were satisfied with the arrangement. Similarly, there were

no negative responses from those surveyed at Ysgol Cybi with many citing new experiences as a positive feature of the new school.

- The Executive noted that Welsh Government funding for the modernisation of schools comes from the Twenty First Century Schools' Programme with stakeholders e.g. local authorities expected to contribute 50% of the costs of the projects they apply for. The Executive sought clarification of whether Officers foresee a point in future wherein the Authority will not be able to contribute its share of funding to continue with the modernisation programme.

The Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer said that the opportunity to modernise and renew Anglesey's schools stock which the Twenty First-Century Schools Programme offers is too good to miss; the Authority must find the funding to complete the modernisation process which in providing for new and/or refurbished schools to replace what are in many instances, very old and not fit for purpose buildings, is a process worth doing. Additionally, the modernisation process in eliminating surplus places does also reduce costs. If pressure can be brought on Welsh Government to increase its contribution to projects under the programme then that would be welcome; nevertheless, it is unlikely that an opportunity such as this will present itself again, and if the Authority does not take advantage of it, then it will have to find the resources itself to modernise and build new schools in future.

- The Executive noted that ensuring that schools provide the highest possible standards of education is one of the most important responsibilities a Local Authority has; it is only reasonable therefore that authorities are provided with sufficient funding to be able to fulfil this responsibility. The Executive noted further that the financial pressures which the Authority is operating under are significant leading to hard choices and difficult decisions; these pressures are the result of austerity enforced by the Westminster Government.

The Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth summarised by saying that many of the Island's primary schools were built around 150 years ago when walking to school was the norm; they no longer meet the education needs of the twenty-first century and are not always in the right place. The Authority has to organise its schools in accordance with circumstances. The Twenty-First Century Schools Programme provides an opportunity to put into effect a modernisation programme which the Authority might not otherwise be able to implement. The Portfolio Member said that it is accepted that closing a school is regrettable and is hard for the community thereby affected; nevertheless communities are sustained by people not buildings. Also, the Executive has a duty to consider the best interests of the Island as a whole. For these reasons, the Portfolio Member proposed that the recommendation of the report be approved and that Ysgol y Graig is extended to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and that Ysgol Talwrn is closed.

In supporting the proposal, the Executive emphasised that the new block for Ysgol y Graig must be integrated with the existing Ysgol y Graig building and that it should operate as one school.

It was resolved that the capacity of Ysgol y Graig be increased to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and that Ysgol Talwrn be closed.

This to be done by:

- **Using the existing building for Key Stage 2 i.e. years 3 to 6 and adapting it;**
- **Building a new “Block” for the Foundation Phase, namely Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2;**
- **Considering relocating the Flying Start provision within the Ysgol y Graig campus.**

The new “block” would be part of Ysgol y Graig and would not be a separate unit.

Elected Members noted that the new arrangement should operate as one school and not as two separate units.

6 THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Democratic Services incorporating the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period from August, 2018 to March, 2019 was presented for the Executive's approval.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that there were three new items on the updated Forward Work Programme as noted below, and that these constituted the only changes to the Programme presented –

Item 11 – Health and Safety Annual Report to be considered by the Executive at its 17 September, 2018 meeting

Item 23 – 2018/19 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report for Quarter 3 to be considered by the Executive at its 18 February, 2019 meeting.

Item 27 – Corporate Scorecard Quarter 3, 2018/19 to be considered by the Executive at its 25 March, 2019 meeting.

It was resolved to confirm the Executive's updated Forward Work Programme for the period from August, 2018 to March, 2019 as presented.

7 DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS 2017/18

The report of the Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer incorporating a summary of the draft final accounts for 2017/18 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Ieuan Williams drew attention to the fact that he was named in the report, but as the report is a factual account the legal advice is that he was not required to declare an interest.

The Portfolio Member for Finance reported that the audit of the draft final accounts has commenced and that the final audited accounts will be presented to the Audit Committee and to the Full Council in September, 2018.

The Head of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer confirmed that the audit process may result in minor amendments to the figures contained in the summary of

the Financial Statements. The Officer clarified that the Consultancy Costs for Quarter 4 are included as part of the report as they were not reported on in the Revenue Budget Monitoring report as is usual practice.

The Executive noted that the financial outcome for 2017/18 indicates that the continuing austerity programme is having an impact on public spending. The Authority is making every effort to identify savings but reconciling this need with delivering a balanced budget is becoming ever more challenging.

The Executive also noted that although the Council's General Reserve Fund has reduced at the end of 2017/18 due mainly to meeting the overspend on the revenue budget, the Council does hold money in reserve for such a purpose i.e. as security against unforeseen events or unplanned for expenditure.

It was resolved –

- **To note the draft unaudited main financial statements for 2017/18.**
- **To note the position on earmarked reserves and to approve the use of, or increases to individual reserves as noted in Appendix 4 of the report.**
- **To approve the new reserves amounting to £0.513m as shown in Table 3 of the report.**
- **To note the school balances position.**
- **To note the HRA balances as at 31 March, 2018.**
- **To note the Consultancy costs for Quarter 4.**

8 ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

The report of the Head of Housing Services incorporating the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy following consultation was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Housing and Supporting Communities reported that the Anti-Poverty Strategy was considered by the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 9th July, 2018; the Scrutiny Committee recommended that the Strategy be approved and that it also becomes an objective for each service within their annual Service Delivery Plan. The Portfolio Member said that he was grateful for the Scrutiny Committee's input and saw the inclusion of the strategy as an objective in service delivery plans as a point of strength giving added impetus to tackling poverty.

The Head of Housing Services said that the Anti-Poverty Strategy has been through a comprehensive consultation process.

It was resolved –

- **To approve the Anti-Poverty Strategy as presented**
- **That each Service includes the Strategy as an objective within the annual Service Delivery Plan.**

9 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2017/18

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation) and Statutory Director of Social Services on the effectiveness of Social Services during 2017/18 was presented for the Executive's consideration. The Chair and Portfolio Member for Social Services reported that the Annual Report had been scrutinised by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 5 July, 2018. She commended the report to the Executive.

The Assistant Chief Executive/Statutory Director of Social Services said that this is the second year wherein the Annual Report has followed the current format which is prescribed by the Code of Practice and is based on six Quality Standards. The report is aimed at a varied audience including elected members, the general public, service users, partners and Care Inspectorate Wales and seeks to promote awareness and accountability for the performance and progress made over the past year in delivering Social Services within the Isle of Anglesey County Council. The Service held a well-attended Service Challenge session on 14 June, 2018 to which partner organisations, third sector organisations, carers, and providers had been invited.

The Officer said with reference to Adults' Services that the Service has made good progress during the year, in particular the re-modelling of Garreglwyd in Holyhead in order to provide specialist support for older people with dementia, thereby enabling them to remain on Anglesey closer to family and friends. Hafan Cefni, the new Extra Care facility in Llangefni is scheduled to open later in 2018 and will also enable more people to remain within their community as their care and support needs increase. In addition, the service has tendered for new Domiciliary Care arrangements which will improve access and consistency of service. The Social Services' collaboration with partners has also improved during the year in particular with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales Police and Third Sector partners.

Significant progress has been made in improving Children and Families' Services during the year as acknowledged by Care Inspectorate Wales in its letter of January, 2018. Although a number of elements in the post Inspection Action and Improvement Plan are now in place, the Service continues on its journey of improvement and is due to be re-inspected by CIW later in 2018.

The Officer added that the Social Services' support to the people of Anglesey is also a corporate responsibility and is not limited to statutory Children and Adults' Services. The Service has arranged for all Council staff to receive training on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence which is mandatory on all councils and other public organisations; 75% have received training at the first level which compares well with other local authorities.

The Statutory Director of Social Services thanked all those who had contributed to the Social Services' performance during the year be that by collaboration or by providing support and challenge; those include the Service's partners and service providers; communities on Anglesey, the staff of Adults' and Children and Families' Services and also the Elected Members serving on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, the Executive and the Children's Panel and the Adults' Services Transformation Board.

Councillor Aled M. Jones, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee reported that the Committee at its meeting on 5 July 2018 had scrutinised the Annual Report in detail and had resolved to accept the report and to recommend it to the Executive.

The Executive considered the Annual Report and made the following observations –

- That Social Services have now transferred to the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) which integrates social care and health information in a national system. The Executive noted that the Service had experienced initial issues with the system which are being addressed with external support. The Executive sought assurance that Social Services' staff are now happy in the use of the system and that the system meets theirs and the service's needs.

The Statutory Director of Social Services said that the WCCIS helps Health and Social Care staff including both Children and Adults' Social Care staff work together to provide better care based on a single national information system. However, the system can be adapted and Anglesey's Social Services has engaged a consultant to implement modifications to ensure the system is responsive to the Service's needs; this process has commenced with Children and Families' Services and is to be followed by Adults' Services.

The Head of Children and Families' Services confirmed that the Service is working through the various work streams in Children and Families' Services to establish how the WCCIS can be made to suit each element of the service. This work has been completed to the staff's satisfaction in relation to Teulu Môn and work is now commencing on the second phase in relation to Child Protection and Looked after Children services.

The Head of Adults' Services said that the Service is working with the Consultant to ensure that work streams are reasonable thereby ensuring the system enables the service to support individuals in the community and to oversee staff whilst being aware of the work that needs to be done, and also that there is easy access to the information required to support each individual's care. There are regular meetings with the Consultant and it is anticipated that areas in Adults' Services will be addressed towards the middle part or the end of the summer. The Officer said that in the areas where the system has been adapted to meet the service's specific needs, it has made a significant difference.

- That Social Services and in particular Children and Families' Services are experiencing financial pressures and were overspent in 2017/18. In light of the financial challenges, the Executive sought clarification of how Social Services plan to ensure continuous improvement.

The Statutory Director of Social Services said that the legislative and legal requirements in relation to children and families have increased as has the number of children and young people needing to be looked after by the Authority. Their care needs are met in different ways e.g. placements with foster carers, with friends and family and sometimes due to specific reasons, they are placed out of county which can be costly. A small percentage of young people receive their care in out of county residential placements and these incur significant costs. Whilst the service is seeking

to safely reduce the number of children and young people in care placed out of county, these are costs which are largely out of the Authority's control as it has to meet the needs of the children and young people it looks after in the most appropriate way. The Service is focusing on developing prevention and early intervention strategies e.g. the Resilient Families Team to reduce the need for children to become looked after as well as recruiting additional foster carers so that looked after children can remain on the Island. The Service is also considering setting up a Small Group Homes arrangement.

- That an important factor in enabling people to remain independent for longer thereby reducing the need for residential/nursing care is the development of community based provision. The Executive sought clarification of the progress made in developing community hubs on the Island and the financial support for them as well as the expectations for Extra Care services in Hafan Cefni and beyond.

The Head of Adults' Services said that community based provision as well as Extra Care provision enable people to remain within their communities. Community Hubs provide older people with the opportunity to stay active within their communities by participating in and contributing towards community activities. Similarly, Extra Care provision allows people to remain independent within their own homes where otherwise they might have entered residential or nursing care. The Authority believes these are more effective and efficient ways of meeting the needs of older people. The Authority has been helping Community Hubs access grant funding mostly in the form of capital funds to adapt buildings; the Authority does not as a rule provide the Hubs with long-term grant support instead encouraging them to be self-supporting. However, there have been occasions when the Authority has intervened and when that happens it seeks to ensure that it acts consistently and fairly. The Extra Care facility at Hafan Cefni is expected to open mid-September, 2018 and 40 of the apartments have been allocated. By the time it is open it is anticipated that the facility will be nearing full occupation recognising also that the people who will be accommodated at Hafan Cefni are those whose needs are best met through Extra Care. The planned Extra Care facility in the Seiriol area is linked to a decision in relation to the future of the school in Beaumaris; the scheme can be progressed once a decision has been made. It is the intention to extend Extra Care throughout the Island with the North being the next area to be considered.

It was resolved to accept the Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services as an accurate reflection of the effectiveness of Social Services during 2017/18.

10 GROWTH VISION AND STRATEGY FOR THE ECONOMY OF NORTH WALES: GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

The report of the Chief Executive incorporating a Governance Agreement for the first stage of regional working in relation to the Growth Deal Bid for North Wales was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Chair reported that all partners to the Growth Deal Bid work have adopted a preferred governance model i.e. a regional joint-committee under the working title of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board; the model is now well-established and is on track to present a Bid to Government for initial agreement within 2018. A

Governance Agreement (GA1) has been developed for this first stage of the Growth Deal Bid for adoption by all partners to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer reported that the Governance Agreement has now been adopted by the other five North Wales local authorities. The four partner colleges are not expected to come to a decision until September following the summer holiday period. It is anticipated that the Governance Agreement will be signed at the end of September or the start of October. The Executive is asked to agree to the GA1 as the Governance model for the development and presentation of the Growth Bid to Government. The creation of a governance mechanism to be able to do this is one of the requirements of Government prior to its considering the Bid. In response to a question by the Executive regarding the engagement of legal specialists to undertake work on the Agreement, the Officer clarified that the Government requires public bodies in Wales to use the National Procurement Service framework to engage specialists such as legal specialists. Legal advisors Pinsent Mason were selected by Flintshire Council as the most appropriate to provide expert independent advice on the development of the GA1.

The Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer confirmed that no decision in relation to future financial contributions other than each partner organisation's contribution to the development of the GA1, has been made.

It was resolved –

- **To note and welcome the progress on the development of a Growth Deal Bid.**
- **To approve the first stage Governance Agreement subject to the Full Council's approval of the non-Executive arrangements i. e. the arrangements for Scrutiny.**
- **That Full Council be presented with the final draft Growth Deal Bid for review and consent in September/October 2018 prior to the stage of reaching Heads of Terms with both Governments.**
- **To recommend that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and the Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader to finalise the terms of the Governance Agreement substantially in accordance with the draft attached at Appendix 1 to the report.**
- **To recommend that Executive arrangements contained within the Governance Agreement be included in the Constitution and that the Council be asked to include the non-Executive arrangements relating to Scrutiny within the Constitution.**

11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair took the Chair for this and item 12 on the agenda.

It was resolved under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the Public Interest Test presented.

12 FUTURE OF SHIRE HALL, LLANGEFNI

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development in relation to the future of the Shire Hall building in Llangefni was presented for the Executive's consideration. The report set out the three options open to the Executive in deciding on a course of action with regard to the Shire Hall, and it detailed the implications, consequences and risks in connection with each option as well as recommending a way forward in light of those considerations.

Councillor Dylan Rees, a Local Member spoke on the matter as a member of Llangefni Town Council.

It was resolved to authorise Property Services to proceed in accordance with the recommendation of the report.

Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Chair for items 1 to 10)
Councillor Ieuan Williams (Chair for items 11 and 12)