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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DYDD MAWRTH, 16 CHWEFOR, 2021 am 9:30 y. b.	TUESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2021 at 9.30 am
CYFARFOD RHITHIOL	VIRTUAL MEETING
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Ann Holmes 01248 752518
	Committee Officer

AELODAU/MEMBERS

Cynghorydd/Councillor:

PLAID CYMRU / THE PARTY OF WALES

John Griffith, Dylan Rees (*Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair*), Alun Roberts, Nicola Roberts, *Sedd Wag/Vacant Seat*

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*)
Bryan Owen

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)

Mr Dyfed Wyn Jones (Rhiant Llywodraethwr – Sector Ysgolion Cynradd/Parent Governor-
Primary Schools Sector)

Llio Johnson (Rhiant Llywodraethwr – Sector Ysgolion Uwchradd ac ADY/Parent
Governor- Secondary Schools Sector and ALN)

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 1 - 28)

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

- 17 November, 2020
- 10 December, 2020 (extraordinary)
- 17 December, 2020 (extraordinary)

3 2021/2022 BUDGET SETTING (REVENUE BUDGET) (Pages 29 - 56)

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

4 2021/2022 BUDGET SETTING (CAPITAL BUDGET) (Pages 57 - 82)

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

5 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair of the Panel will report verbally.

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 83 - 90)

To present the report of the Scrutiny Manager.

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 17 November, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Aled Morris Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dylan Rees (Vice-Chair)

Councillors John Griffith, Richard Griffiths, Bryan Owen, Alun Roberts,
John Arwel Roberts.

Co-opted Member: Mr Keith Roberts (The Catholic Church)

Portfolio Members

Councillors Llinos Medi Huws (Leader and Portfolio Member for Social Services), Richard Dew (Portfolio Member for Planning and Public Protection), Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Major Projects & Economic Development), R. Meirion Jones (Portfolio Member for Education, Youth, Libraries & Culture) Alun Mummery (Portfolio Member for Housing and Supporting Communities) R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS (Portfolio Member for Highways, Property and Waste), Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Council Business), Robin Williams (Portfolio Member for Finance)

By Invitation: Councillor Dafydd Roberts (Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel)

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Director of Education, Skills & Young People
Interim Director of Social Services
Head of Highways, Waste & Property
Head of Housing Services
Interim Head of Adults' Services
Head of Democratic Services
Interim Head of Service (Regulation and Economic)
Head of Profession (HR) & Transformation
Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager (GM)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Lewis Davies, Richard Owain Jones, Nicola Roberts, Mrs Anest Frazer (Co-opted Member)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Gareth Wyn Williams (Local Democracy Reporter)

The Chair extended a welcome to all those present and for the purpose of the recording asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 14 October, 2020 (Call-in) and 20 October, 2020 were presented and were confirmed as a correct record.

3 ANNUAL DELIVERY DOCUMENT (IMPROVEMENT PLAN) 2020-2022

The report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation incorporating the Annual Delivery Document for the 18 month period from October, 2020 to March, 2022 was presented for the Committee's consideration and scrutiny. The Annual Delivery Document focuses on the work which the Authority will undertake to accomplish aspirations set in the County Council Plan 2017-22.

The Portfolio Member for Council Business introduced the report and highlighted the extended 18 month timeframe which the Document covers and referred to the challenge of drafting the document in the climate of uncertainty which the Covid-19 pandemic has created. The objective in crafting the Plan which will be reviewed as circumstances evolve and change was to be ambitious but realistic acknowledging through the inclusion of four themed recovery programmes the far reaching impact which the Covid-19 emergency has had on the Council, the Island's inhabitants, society and economy. Those four programmes will focus on economic recovery, destination recovery, social and community recovery and organisational recovery.

The Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation agreed that it was important that the programme of work which the Delivery Document encapsulates as well as being aspirational should also be achievable irrespective of the current pandemic. The background to implementing the Document lies within the service business plans which attest to the deliverability of the measures. The longer than usual timeframe is in recognition of the current situation and affords time and opportunity to come out of the crisis and take the Plan forwards.

The Chair referred to the key scrutiny questions the first of which was about the limitations which potential financial pressures and lack of resources might place on the Council's ability to deliver the proposed Plan given that it will be necessary to continue dealing with the pandemic. He invited the Portfolio Member for Finance to give his perspective on the financial position going forwards.

Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance confirmed that the Executive would be provided with an update on the 2020/21 Quarter 2 revenue and capital budget position at its 30 November meeting. The data currently indicates that the revenue budget is underspent and in normal circumstances this would be welcomed. However given the prevailing uncertainty due to the ongoing pandemic crisis and the speed with which the situation can change, decisions need to be taken with caution and the Council will need to take stock after the financial year has run its course when it will be better able to assess the financial position and plan on that basis. At present, Welsh Government continues to provide financial support to local authorities.

The Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised that although the financial data appears promising at this point in time, there remains considerable uncertainty as to how the next three months will unfold. It is anticipated that greater clarity will be obtained with the announcement by Welsh Government of the provisional local government settlement for 2021/22 in December and the availability of Quarter 3 results for the 2020/21 financial year thereafter. Historically the winter period brings with it additional pressures especially in Social Services but the hope is that by the onset of Spring the

financial situation will have become clearer and this data can then be fed through to the Executive to inform its decisions with regard to the 2021/22 budget.

The Deputy Chief Executive responding to questions about the Plan's affordability given the Covid-19 context and the impact on Council performance advised that an important consideration is the capacity of the organisation to progress the work. Although Officers are confident that the programme set out in the Delivery Document is achievable and that the Council has within its workforce the capabilities and expertise to deliver it, it should be noted that activities and actions will be driven by the course which Covid-19 takes entering into the new year – an improving situation will enable recovery plans to be brought forward whereas if the situation deteriorates then staff may have to be re-deployed to help with the emergency response.

Addressing a question about the implementation of the four recovery programmes in tandem with the Delivery Document, the Chief Executive clarified that recovery is a process over time and that during this period the nature of the Council's work will adapt and change. Whilst the Council's core responsibilities will continue to be fulfilled any additional interventions will be dependent on national programmes and the availability of funding and capacity for local authorities to undertake further recovery work. Draft recovery plans have been formulated but if these are not to be implemented before Spring, then many things can change in the interim e.g. the recent decision to extend Furlough with implications for local employment. Given that the Delivery Document is an eighteen month plan, it is likely that it will be revisited to more effectively reflect the progress of the recovery process and the Authority's recovery priorities and to afford the opportunity for political input, influence and challenge in respect of the plans presented. Priorities will be dictated by need be those by community or by sector not forgetting also the impending implementation of Brexit which is an additional complication in terms of the economy adding to the mix of factors which all need attention. However, as the Authority moves forward and gains confidence that it is progressing into the recovery period, under the guidance of the Chief Executive it will be giving consideration to its day to day work, to additional recovery work as well as to emergency work with a view to combining these elements into a new Action Plan that will meet the needs of the Island's communities, its businesses and its economy.

Responding to a question about the importance of partnership working to the delivery of the document, the Leader gave examples of where partner contribution forms an important part of the document adding that the Authority has over many years forged productive working relationships with a range of key partners and the emergency has served to strengthen those links. The Deputy Chief Executive said that the Authority is committed to effective collaboration across services and portfolios with the emergency having brought this aspect to the fore; the Authority will continue to collaborate and to work in partnership where doing so enables it to gain influence, to have an impact and where it brings added value.

Further comments and questions were raised as follows –

- Whether the Authority's commitment to utilising the Council Tax Premium to ensure that local people are able to access suitable housing in their local communities by developing 3 empty homes and making them available for purchase by local first time buyers is ambitious enough and whether it should be setting itself a more aspirational target for what the Committee considered to be a commendable initiative. The Head of Housing Service explained the process whereby the Council works with owners of empty properties who choose to sell the properties to the Council rather than on the open market ; the Council refurbishes those properties and then sells them on to local first time buyers whilst retaining a share of the equity to ensure they remain affordable. The Officer clarified that for the period of the Plan the Housing Service has 3 such properties

which it is currently renovating although it has already completed work on 7 properties.

- A follow up point was raised about the second homes tax “loophole” whereby second homes are re-designated as business properties (after being certified by the Valuation Agency Office as having met the criteria) meaning they do not pay the second home Council Tax premium nor Council Tax but pay business rates instead with a number of such properties then being eligible for small business rates relief. Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance confirmed that concern expressed by the Executive regarding the loss of income due to the transfer of an increasing number of second homes from the council tax regime to business rates had been relayed in a letter to Welsh Government to which the First Minister had responded. The Portfolio Member for Finance read out the First Minister’s response which in summary referred to Wales as being the only country within the UK where discretionary powers have been conferred on local authorities to levy a Council Tax premium of up to 100% on second homes and long-term empty homes pointing out also that those provisions were introduced to help councils manage problems relating to local housing supply rather than as a revenue generating measure. Whilst Welsh Government recognises the problems which the transfer of second homes out of domestic tax to business rates causes within communities in the North and the need to find appropriate solutions for those communities to ensure that local people are not priced out of the communities into which they were born, it states that there are no quick answers and that 4 potential avenues are being considered as ideas for the next administration namely to vary the higher level of land transaction tax regionally for second homes; to increase the time period for which a property must be let before becoming eligible for business rates; to introduce powers for local authorities to levy a tourism tax and creating advantages for local first time buyers. The Portfolio Member for Finance concluded that it appears that this matter will not be addressed by the current Welsh Government Administration which does not consider there to be a loophole; this is disappointing given that it is an issue in Anglesey and affects a number of other local authorities in Wales as well.
- Acknowledging the work being done to create affordable homes for local people including by bringing empty properties back into use, a point was made about the equally pressing need to increase the number of houses for rent given that houses designated as affordable homes are not within everyone’s financial reach. The Portfolio Member for Housing clarified that the Authority’s buy back of council houses is 30% above target and that new council housing continues to be developed (although below target this year because of the pandemic) with many units in the offing and several ready to be let as part of the aim of providing a sustainable housing stock.

Having considered the Annual Delivery Document for the eighteen month period from October, 2020 to March, 2022 and the additional information provided by Officers and Portfolio Members at the meeting, the Committee resolved to recommend the Annual Delivery Document 2020-2022 to the Executive (Councillors Aled Morris Jones and Bryan Owen abstained from voting)

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION WAS PROPOSED

4 MONITORING PERFORMANCE: CORPORATE SCORECARD QUARTER 2 2020/21

The report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation incorporating the Corporate Scorecard for Quarter 2 2020/21 was presented for the Committee’s consideration and scrutiny.

The Portfolio Member for Council Business introduced the report and clarified that the quarterly reports for Q4 2019/20 and Q1 2020/21 were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic where it was agreed to cancel their publication and discussion with the relevant committees. Dealing with the pandemic has been a significant challenge for the Council – not only in maintaining key frontline services and conducting normal business where possible, but also in ensuring that health and safety arrangements are in place to protect the Authority's staff whilst providing services. The Council has had to respond to and adapt swiftly to changing circumstances. However, it is encouraging to note that the majority (88%) of the indicators monitored are continuing to perform well against targets (Green or Yellow RAG) with attendance at work (2.66 days lost to absence per FTE in the period against a target of 4.48 days) and indicators under the digital service shift representing highlights for the reporting period.

Points made and questions raised by the Committee were responded to as follows -

- With regard to the importance of resilience and the well-being of staff in continuing to maintain good performance, the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation agreed that the Council's success in responding to the crisis is due in large part to the co-operation and adaptability of its workforce. The Council has in turn sought to communicate, engage with and provide support to its staff in respect of their wellbeing and remote working needs which is attested to by the positive response to the Interim Staff Survey on Home Working circulated earlier in the pandemic. Stress levels are also monitored as part of monitoring attendance at work and it is encouraging to note that there has been no increase in staff stress levels compared to the equivalent quarter for the previous year. Managing stress is important with staff being encouraged to take regular breaks reinforced in the Chief-Executive's weekly messages and supported by service managers. It is recognised that dealing with the pandemic over the course of many months can lead to fatigue especially as the winter months approach.
- With regard to home working possibly being a factor in the improved attendance at work levels, the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation explained that the onset of the pandemic saw the workforce coming together and committing as a team to respond to the emergency. An analysis of the data in comparison with last year and the reasons for sickness absence shows that while the range of illnesses remains the same, occurrences have reduced but remembering also that Quarter 2 coincided with a period of fine weather which is linked to better health regardless of whether staff are at home or in the office. The winter months traditionally represent the most challenging period for attendance at work and it is anticipated that this will be reflected in Q3 and Q4 data. Nevertheless, Officers are confident that the strong start to 2020/21 will result in the end of year target for attendance at work being met and possibly surpassed. The improved figures are attributable to a range of factors in what is an exceptional year.
- With regard to the projected deficit on Council Tax and projected overspend of £234k and the implications for Council services in meeting their targets, the Portfolio Member for Finance explained that the possibility of an increase in the number of people defaulting on their Council Tax payments and applying to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme because of financial difficulties resulting from the pandemic has been a concern. Whilst the extension of the Furlough scheme to the end of March, 2021 will undoubtedly help the financial situation, it is still too early to predict how the situation will unfold to year end and what the Council's position will be at that time.

The Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer clarified the position with regard to the impact on Council Tax income outlining how the Council Tax base is calculated between the properties liable for standard Council Tax, and those liable

for the Council Tax premium (100% premium in the case of long-term empty homes and 35% premium in the case of second homes). For the purpose of calculating the tax base a figure of 80% of the properties to which the premium applies is used in order to reflect the in year changes in the number of properties that fall within the premium and to also ensure that the target for income from the Council Tax premium is not set at too high a level. During the year a number of second homes have transferred from domestic to business rates leading to loss of council tax income as well as income from the premium. Additionally, the registration of some second homes approved for business rates valuation can be backdated meaning the Council must reimburse the council tax paid from the date of registration. Whilst the number of second homes re-registering as businesses has increased the number of homes within the second homes premium category has not changed significantly due mainly to people purchasing standard Council Tax properties as second homes which are identified as such by the Authority and upon which the premium is then levied. The upshot of these movements is a reduction in the number of standard Council Tax properties which has an impact on Council Tax revenue. Whilst the income from the premium is above target because only 80% of the eligible properties are used for the Council Tax base calculations thereby building in surplus within the budget, income from standard Council Tax is lower due to the transfer of homes into the premium category, due to properties moving out of the council tax system altogether and due to the reimbursement of second home owners for council tax paid following their registration as businesses. In terms of Council Tax collection, although the collection rate is lower than last year it has caught up well partly because of the Furlough scheme which has enabled people to continue with their payments without recourse to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. However, the long term impact of the pandemic on those with Council Tax debt is not known and will not become clear until the debt collection process has been completed. It is anticipated that the provision for bad debt will need to increase which in turn will have an effect on the revenue budget.

In response to further questioning about the revenue derived from the premium and whether the policy needs to be reviewed in light of the loophole, the Officer confirmed that the second homes and long-term empty homes premiums generate income of approximately £1m and £500k per annum respectively with a substantial amount of that income being allocated to the Housing Service to support local housing. Switching from second homes to business properties is not a matter of choice – the Valuation Agency Office must confirm that the necessary criteria have been met ; the issue is whether there is sufficient capacity within the Valuation Agency Office to monitor ongoing compliance with the criteria in subsequent years following original registration as a business property. A report on the operation of the Premium since its implementation in Anglesey will be presented to the Executive in December, 2020.

- With regard to Indicator 43 (Percentage of planning appeals dismissed) which presented Red on the scorecard with a performance of 50% against a target of 65%, whether the 3 (out of 6) appeals upheld by the Planning Inspectorate were due to a Committee determination that was contrary to Officer recommendation. The Portfolio Member for Planning clarified that the 3 appeals were in relation to applications for replacement dwellings and were determined by Officers. In response to further comments about planning site visits by Committee – currently suspended due to Covid 19 - being an important component of the determination process, the Portfolio Member confirmed that site visits have been reintroduced in virtual form. The Chair suggested that the matter could be discussed further by the Group Leader meetings.

- With regard to Indicator 27 (Percentage of referrals of children that are re-referrals within 12 months) which presented as Red on the scorecard with a performance of 38.89% against a target of 10%, the reasons for the underperformance were queried. The Leader and Portfolio Member for Social Services clarified that the indicator is a local indicator introduced to address a specific issue raised by CIW. A re-referral does not necessarily mean that the child involved meets the threshold for assessment or intervention and the indicator will be reviewed to establish whether it is still fit for purpose. The Interim Director of Social Services confirmed that the indicator refers to a relatively small number of cases in the context of the number of families with whom Social Services engage whose needs do change and evolve meaning they can be re-referred for support that meets those new needs. A review of the re-referral case files found that they were all appropriately re-referred into the service due to new reasons and situations that could not have been foreseen or prevented.
- With regard to Indicator 35 (The average number of calendar days to let lettable units of accommodation excluding DTLs) which presented as Red on the scorecard with a performance of 78 days against a target of 26 days the reasons for the underperformance was queried. The Portfolio Member for Housing confirmed that the pandemic situation had had an impact on performance with it not being possible to let housing at the same level because of the need to comply with coronavirus legislation and social distancing requirements. However, the Service will be analysing this indicator in greater depth to obtain a better understanding of the reasons for the underperformance. The Head of Housing Services advised that the letting process has continued during the pandemic albeit at a much slower rate e.g. 131 units were let this year compared to 206 units for the same period last year. Whilst this is still an achievement given the challenging circumstances, the Service will endeavour to bring the performance closer to target over the coming months.

Having considered the report and the updates provided by Officers at the meeting, the Committee resolved to accept the report, to note the areas which the Senior Leadership Team is managing to secure improvements into the future and to recommend the mitigation measures as outlined to the Executive.

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION WAS PROPOSED

5 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Dafydd Roberts, Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel updated the Committee verbally on the latest meetings of the Panel as follows –

- Provided a recap of the Panel's discussions from its meeting on 3 September which were reported fully to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee's 14 September, 2020 meeting.
- Outlined the main topics of discussion from the Panel's meeting held on 13 November as noted below -
 - The progress of expenditure on the 2020/21 capital budget noting an underspend of £16m on the programme at Quarter 1 where schemes have been delayed due largely to the pandemic
 - The performance of the revenue budget at Quarter 1 with particular scrutiny of variances in individual service budgets and the reasons behind underspends/ overspends at this point.
 - The resumption of service reviews in preparation for the budget setting process.
 - The prospects for the 2021/22 budget noting that the provisional local government settlement is due to be announced on 22 December, 2020.

It was resolved to note the update provided and to thank the Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel for the information.

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee's forward work programme was presented for consideration. The Chair highlighted the scheduling of two extraordinary meetings on 10 and 17 December, 2020 to consider the Schools' Modernisation Programme in the Llangefni area.

It was resolved –

- **To agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2020/21.**
- **To note the progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.**

**Councillor Aled Morris Jones
Chair**

DRAFT

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the extraordinary virtual meeting held on 10 December, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Aled Morris Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dylan Rees (Vice-Chair)

Councillors John Griffith, Richard Griffiths, Bryan Owen, Alun Roberts,
Nicola Roberts.

Co-opted Members: Mrs Anest Frazer (The Church in Wales), Mr Dyfed
Wyn Jones (Parent-Governor – Primary Schools Sector), Mr Keith
Roberts (The Catholic Church)

Portfolio Members

Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Leader and Portfolio Member for Social
Services)
Councillor R. Meirion Jones (Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries,
Culture and Youth)
Councillor Robin Williams (Portfolio Member for Finance)
Councillor R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS (Portfolio Member for Highways,
Property and Waste) (*a Local Member in respect of item 2 on the
agenda*)
Councillor Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Major Projects and
Economic Development)
Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Corporate
Business)
Councillor Richard Dew (Portfolio Member for Planning and Public
Protection)
Councillor Alun Mummery (Portfolio Member for Housing and
Supporting Communities)

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation
Head of Highways, Property and Waste
Head of Democratic Services
Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Richard Owain Jones and J A Roberts, Llio Johnson (Parent
Governor – Secondary Schools Sector)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Kenneth Hughes, Dafydd Roberts, Mr Robat Idris Davies (on
behalf of Ysgol Talwrn and community), Ms Bethan Roberts (Wales
Audit), Interim Director of Social Services, Communications Officer (GJ)

The Chair welcomed all those present to this virtual meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and extended a particular welcome to Mr Robot Idris Davies who was present to make representations on behalf of the parents of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn and also the wider community of Ysgol Talwrn. Members and Officers were asked to introduce themselves and the Chair set out the process he intended to follow with regard to the business under item 2 on the agenda and he explained that the recommendation made by the Scrutiny Committee at today's meeting would be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 17 December, 2020.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made as follows –

Councillor Nicola Roberts declared a personal but not prejudicial interest with regard to item 2 on the agenda as a member of the governing bodies of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn.

Mr Marc Jones, Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in item 2 on the agenda on the basis of his father in law being Chair of the Governing Body of Ysgol Talwrn.

2 THE COUNCIL'S SCHOOLS' MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – LLANGEFNI AREA: YSGOL TALWRN AND YSGOL Y GRAIG

The report of the Director of Education, Skills and Young People with regard to the schools' modernisation programme in relation to the Llangefni area was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report set out the responses to the statutory consultation held in February/March 2020 on Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig and sought the Committee's views on the recommendation that in light of all the consultation responses and impact assessments the most appropriate way forward is to proceed with the original proposal namely *to increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn.*

The Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth introduced the report with general remarks about the Schools' Modernisation Programme which in this case involves weighing and assessing the future of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig and the consequent impact on all the stakeholders, and in particular the children at the two schools. He emphasised that the interests of the children should be uppermost in all participants' considerations. Modernising schools can be a contentious issue and is among the most challenging aspects of the Council's work; parents' concerns on this matter are understandable and appreciated. The schools modernisation programme sets the groundwork for the future of schools over the next 50 years at a time when they are under pressure from budgetary cuts, burdensome maintenance costs and meeting the requirements of the New Curriculum to which can now be added the impact of Covid. The Council is duty bound to consider how the school system can be made more effective in the sense of creating the conditions under which teachers and pupils can flourish and also how it can be made more efficient in terms of making the best use of resources and ensuring that all schools receive their fair share of the budget. The Portfolio Member referred to the Authority's strategies which are linked to the Schools' Modernisation Programme as set out in section 2 of the introductory report. He reported that between 6 February and 20 March, 2020 Council officials undertook a statutory consultation on the

future of the two schools in question. Officials were authorised to carry out the consultation after the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Executive considered the proposal paper in January, 2020. The consultation closed on the last day of school before the first lockdown period as a result of the global pandemic that transformed education provision for a time. He highlighted that the Council had received a letter from the School Organisation and Admissions Branch of Welsh Government confirming that Welsh Government Ministers were giving the Council an extension until March, 2021 to publish any proposal. The Council has operated in accordance with the Schools Organisation Code 2018 throughout the pandemic period.

The key drivers for change as set out in the Schools Modernisation Strategy 2018 include improving educational standards; improving leadership and management; ensuring that school buildings are fit for purpose; reducing the number of surplus places; reducing the overall cost of education and the variation in cost per pupil; maintaining and improving Welsh-medium provision and increasing the community use of school buildings. In addition, it is considered that the proposal presented would secure sufficient school places for the future.

The Portfolio Member for Education acknowledged the role of elected members within the process who, as well being accountable to their individual communities have as the Council's policy makers, a number of strategic and corporate management responsibilities including governing their areas well and participating in the work of managing and governing the Council which also involves scrutiny.

The Portfolio Member concluded his introduction by thanking all those who had contributed to the process.

The Director of Education, Skills and Young People in guiding the Committee through the written report confirmed the original proposal namely increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, closing Ysgol Talwrn and reviewing the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig as the recommended option adding that a number of other alternative options had also been considered as part of the consultation process an analysis of which is provided at section 6 of the report. The Council received 57 responses from the smart survey undertaken and 10 responses in the form of letters and e-mails with both individuals and community organisations responding to the consultation (summary provided at section 5 of the report). Other educational models were put forward and were assessed by officers against the criteria and drivers of the current Schools Modernisation Strategy (section 6.4 of the report refers). After considering all the alternatives and following a comprehensive analysis of their strengths and weaknesses against the drivers of the Schools' Modernisation Strategy, the original proposal is considered the most appropriate way forward because it meets both the key challenges faced by Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig and satisfies the key drivers for change set out in the Strategy in the following way –

- Standards across all schools must be at least good or excellent and would be expected to be in the green category needing the lowest level of support. The new expanded school would be in a position to maintain the Estyn grade and retain the green categorisation in the medium to long-term.
- Leadership and management must be good or better in all schools. Head teachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management challenges with teaching commitments. At the new expanded Ysgol Y Graig it is envisaged that the Head teacher would have no teaching commitment. It would be possible to build and further develop a senior management team, which could improve leadership and management.
- The school building needs to provide an inspiring learning environment that will encourage all pupils to achieve their potential across all areas of learning and must comply with the Equality Act 2010 in term of accessibility. A new 21st century low

maintenance building will be designed to BREEM specifications and will be fully compliant with the Equality Act, 2010. The current and projected maintenance costs of both schools of £408,500 would be written off.

- Sufficient school places need to be available in the area to meet current demand, future forecast numbers as well as reduce surplus places. Pupil movement from within and outside the catchment area needs to be reduced. The proposal addresses the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol y Graig as well as enabling pupils from Ysgol Talwrn to be taught in classes where the age range is smaller. Fewer pupils will move between catchment areas.
- Any revised school provision in the area needs to be cost efficient and needs also to reduce the variation in cost per pupil across individual schools. The projected cost per pupil at the new expanded school at £3,436 (based on the 2019/20 budget) would eliminate the variation in cost per pupil between Ysgol Talwrn (£4,553) and Ysgol Y Graig (£3,429) and is lower than the average for Anglesey primary schools (£3,988). The proposal incurs an additional revenue cost of approximately £33k per annum, (details provided in section 7) but eliminates current and projected maintenance costs of £408,500 which it would cost the Council £32,000 per annum to fund through an unsupported loan over a 20 year period. It can therefore be concluded that the proposal is close to cost neutral.
- At the very least, the existing good Welsh medium provision would be maintained.
- The wider community would continue to benefit from the use of the newly expanded school building.

Impact assessments in relation to the Equality Act, Language, Community and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 were conducted and are included as one composite Impact Assessment under Appendix 1 to the consultation report. A total of 40 respondents (70% of them online) commented on the impact assessment a breakdown of which is given at section 6 of the introductory report. The number of responses to the impact assessment question provides 95% certainty that the response is correct and matches the feelings of the rest of the consultation respondents. A 95% confidence level means that if the survey was conducted 100 times, the same results would be provided 95% of the time. The Impact Assessment remains a live document and has been updated to include stakeholder comments received during the statutory consultation period; it will continue to be regularly updated throughout the development period so that should another risk/issue arise, the Council in partnership with the local community can put in place mitigation measures to overcome the risk or issue that arises. This arrangement will operate throughout the development phase and will be accountable to the Corporate Programme Board for Services Transformation.

The cost of building the proposed new provision is estimated at approximately £6m. Subject to approval, it will be funded by a Welsh Government contribution of 65% through the 21st Century School Band B programme and a contribution of 35% by the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

In considering the case for change put forward by the Portfolio Member for Education and the Director of Education, Skills and Young People, the Committee raised the following points –

- In light of the consultation taking place just before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the beginning of the first lockdown, whether the number of consultation responses was higher or lower than in the previous consultations held since 2017. The Committee was advised that 57 responses were received with regard to the latest consultation compared with 50 responses to the consultation conducted in 2018 and 29 responses to the consultation conducted in 2019.
- That that it would have been useful had there been a separation of the current and projected maintenance costs the Chair being of the view that the two figures can be

differentiated on the basis that current maintenance costs reflect work that is known and quantifiable whilst projected maintenance costs are estimates of possible future work. The Committee was advised that the figure of £408k is the projected cost of work required on the two schools if the Council were to proceed to maintain both schools in the future. It was confirmed that the current Ysgol Y Graig school building was opened in 2009.

- Should the proposal be approved, whether in the event of a further post-Christmas lockdown, the next stage of the process would be paused? The Committee was advised that at the time of the first lockdown in March, 2020 when schools were closed, Welsh Government issued additional guidance for local authorities going through the schools organisation process which introduced minor changes in the expectations with regard to consultation. As there was nothing in the additional guidance (which was effective up until 25 July, 2020) that prohibits authorities from proceeding with the process, the Authority would be able to move forward with the proposal subject to its approval and subject also to any new guidance which Welsh Government might issue.
- Notwithstanding that the Authority may be permitted to proceed, whether in light of the restrictions and limitations imposed by the pandemic, the Authority is right to do so and whether it can be sure that stakeholders will respond in the event of another lockdown it being noted from comments which a Local Member said that he had received that parents are unhappy that the Authority is rushing ahead with the modernisation programme in the midst of a pandemic. The Committee was advised that stakeholders need to know definitively where they stand on the matter of schools organisation and that Audit Wales in its assessment of the Authority's response to the Covid-19 crisis and its approach to recovery dated 4 November, 2020 states "the Council may be able to identify opportunities to continue to deliver prioritised elements of the transformation programme and formalise recovery plans, which will contribute to the resilience of the Council's services." As the likely duration of the pandemic is not known, the Authority, in the interests of ensuring the resilience of its services into the future has to move forward albeit in different ways and by adopting different forms of engagement. In addition, the time limitations with regard to the Welsh Government 21st Century School Band B programme funding is an important factor in the scheduling of the proposal and associated process.
- The Committee sought clarity on the latest figure for empty places at Ysgol Talwrn it being noted that reducing surplus places is one of the key drivers of the schools modernisation programme. The Committee also sought clarification with regard to the number of pupils that attend Ysgol Talwrn from outside the school's catchment as well as the number of children who reside in Talwrn who attend schools elsewhere. The Committee was advised that based on the most current data held by the schools SIMS information management system, the number of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn has reduced since the consultation and that at the beginning of December it stood at 36 pupils meaning that the number of surplus places at the school has increased to 13 or 27%. Further, 33% of the pupils at Ysgol Talwrn are from the village of Talwrn, 13% of the pupils at the school are from the Ysgol Goronwy Owen catchment, 37% of pupils at the school are from the Ysgol Y Graig catchment and 17% of pupils are from other catchment areas including Henblas, Bodffordd, Pentraeth, Llanfairpwll and Corn Hir.
- Whether any mitigating measures have been developed to reduce the potential impact on the Welsh language of transferring pupils from Ysgol Talwrn to Ysgol Y Graig where the use of Welsh socially and informally outside the classroom may not be as prevalent. The Committee was advised that the Welsh language is a key consideration across all the Authority's schools and that 72% of pupils at Ysgol y Graig speak Welsh at home with the figure for Ysgol Talwrn being 40%. Should the proposal be approved, safeguarding and promoting the Welsh language and bilingual education will be a priority of the new school at it is in all the Authority's schools and

the proposed new extended school will be a Welsh medium community school. The Authority has a number of plans for language centres across the Island and is working to develop resilience within each school in terms of developing the Welsh language.

- Whether in light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Island's economy and its ongoing implications for local government funding specifically for education budgets, the proposal for a new extended school is affordable and reasonable. The Committee was advised that whereas a number of the schemes under the Schools' Modernisation Programme have generated ongoing revenue savings the priority for schemes in the Llangefni area has been the creation of additional capacity, insufficient capacity having been identified as a pressure point in the area that needs to be addressed. Although the borrowing costs to implement the proposal under consideration exceed the expected revenue savings, not proceeding at this time would risk losing the 65% grant funding offer by Welsh Government meaning that any future capital investment costs linked to the two schools would have to be borne by the Council in full. A further risk is that given the age of the school building, other unforeseen and therefore unbudgeted for costs may emerge in future were Ysgol Talwrn to remain open. The proposal eliminates this risk.
- Having regard to concerns voiced by parents about pupils from Ysgol Talwrn potentially struggling to settle in a school the size of the proposed extended Ysgol Y Graig and the move being disruptive, what plans does the Authority have to assure parents and their children that they have a happy and brilliant future at Ysgol Y Graig? The Committee was advised that although the Authority recognises that the change may be difficult for some pupils especially from Ysgol Talwrn, every effort would be made to ensure the transfer is as seamless as possible and to extend the warmest welcome to pupils from Ysgol Talwrn. Whilst joint activities have been held between schools involved in previous mergers to enable pupils to get to know each other Covid-19 related restrictions makes this more challenging. However, the Authority will use the experience gained from Year 6 pupils transitioning to Year 7 where virtual activities in the form of virtual tours, videos and podcasts have been arranged, in order to draw up an appropriate plan. The Committee was further advised that as the proposed extended Ysgol y Graig would not be ready until the summer of 2023, the change will not be immediate meaning that hopefully circumstances will have changed by that time and the challenges posed by the pandemic will have receded.

Mr Robat Idris Davies, was given the opportunity to present observations on the proposal paper from the perspective of Ysgol Talwrn and the community. The Committee noted that Mr Davies was the only person to request to speak at the meeting under the Council's Protocol for public speaking at virtual Scrutiny Committee meetings.

Mr Davies in saying that it was a privilege to have been asked to speak on behalf of the community raised the following concerns:

- That it was sad that he had to be present at the meeting at all to defend Ysgol Talwrn from closure this being the third consultation in 3 years with a number of attempts to close the school having been made in the preceding years as well. This is unfair and dispiriting and must surely be a factor in the decision by parents to take their children to schools outside the catchment area, the continuing uncertainty being a worry to them.
- That at a time when communities are under siege for a number of reasons, the loss of a school is a severe blow; the impact may not be apparent immediately but over time the heart of the community is lost and its young people move out elsewhere. A school is more than a building in which to formally teach children; a village is needed to nurture a child.
- That the consultation response paper is a catalogue which rejects every argument for keeping Ysgol Talwrn open and is opposed to every reasoned argument for

- alternative solutions to the real problem of organising a good education provision for the children in the Llangefni area. This is not a quarrel between Talwrn and Llangefni.
- That a week only has been afforded to read and digest such a lengthy document. Is it fair to expect the Committee to come to such a far-reaching decision if it has not had time to consider the paper fully and reasonably? Is it also reasonable to be prioritising this matter in the middle of a pandemic when it has been difficult for parents to meet to have a reasoned discussion? Shouldn't the matter be postponed? Given that the issue has been under consideration for such a long time, it cannot be that urgent apart from reasons of securing Welsh Government funding.
 - That it appears that the Council's response to the consultation is this – the majority of people disagree with our proposal but we will carry on with it regardless; as long as we follow the process correctly, we'll close the school. The viewpoints in the consultation response report are those of Council Officers – they do not become the Council's position until or if the paper is adopted by the Executive and the distinction is important.
 - That the School Organisation Code requires that the work be undertaken with an open mind. However, as far as he was aware, after last year's scheme was withdrawn the Council's Officers have not approached the two schools to try to reach a consensus on the way forward. The insistence on not accepting any opposing views is obvious in the report and whilst it is not unusual for the parents of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn to object to its closure, the depth of opposition by parents, staff, governors and community groups should be a cause for reflection. Mr Davies offered an example of what he saw as the report's bias by reference to section 5.2.1 of the document where the comment of one parent from Ysgol Talwrn who agrees with the proposal is quoted but none of the comments of the 91% of respondents who disagree.
 - That whilst it is recognised that every reasonable step should be taken to increase capacity in Llangefni there is no need to close Ysgol Talwrn in order to do so. Educational standards at the school are good and the building although old, is not in danger of collapse. The comment that standards at the school cannot be guaranteed in future could be applied to any school; the Council's arguments with regard to cost per pupil, non-contact time for the head teacher and multi-age classrooms are all generic statements that could be used to close dozens of rural schools in Wales and are not specific to Ysgol Talwrn. It is not the Welsh Government's policy to close rural schools and while it is accepted that mathematically the cost per head of providing services in a rural area is higher than that for more populated urban areas, fewer services are provided in rural areas making the total expenditure per head lower in rural areas.
 - That the statements in relation to language and community impacts are felt to be deficient and have not been updated to reflect that radical changes wrought by the pandemic. It is feared the effects of the school's closure will be destructive to the Welsh speaking community - families with children are less likely to buy houses in a community that has no school leading to an older demographic and a community in which the number of second homes is likely to rise. For incomers, the presence of a school strengthens the connection with the Welsh language and culture and consequently improves a community's chances of survival.
 - That the issues raised by the consultation could be used to form a different conclusion and a reasonable way forward would be to apply for 21st Century Schools funding to extend and improve Ysgol Y Graig which stakeholders at Ysgol Talwrn agree is necessary and at the same time, to include a moderate sum for structural improvements at Ysgol Talwrn following which consideration can then be given to different educational models for all the schools in the Llangefni area. Done correctly, this could expand the educational and social horizons of all the pupils.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the representations made by Mr Davies and in response she re-emphasised that the process is not being rushed through and that answers are needed. With the variation in cost per pupils having reached a high point, it is especially important to ensure fairness and consistency across all communities. Whilst federating Ysgol Talwrn with another school was considered, it was found on analysis to only partially meet the challenges faced by the school. It is acknowledged that standards are currently good at Ysgol Talwrn but that they can also change rapidly in any school and there is a risk that this performance might be difficult to maintain in the long-term. Although communities have their own identities, Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig are close enough to be part of the same extended community. Larger primary schools are also coming under increasing pressure meaning there is insufficient sustainability in the current education system. The 21st Century School Programme offers an unparalleled opportunity to transform schools for future generations. The Portfolio Member for Education said that further delay will not improve the situation and that consideration has to be given to the Island wide picture. Funding and resource considerations are among a number of reasons for wanting to proceed and, as it is impossible to meet the needs and preferences of all parents, generic factors do play a part in deliberations. However, ensuring general fairness across Island is a primary objective.

Councillors Nicola Roberts and Dylan Rees spoke in their capacity as Local Members as well as members of the Committee. Both acknowledged the high standard of education at Ysgol Talwrn which together with the nurturing ethos at the school make it a school of choice for many of the parents who enrol their children at the school. These considerations make the decision about the future of Ysgol Talwrn very difficult. Both members also recognised that it is the Authority's duty to ensure that all the Island's children are taught in the very best schools which are able to provide the latest and best educational resources but in doing so they sought assurance with regard to the following matters –

- That it is appropriate to be making such a significant decision in a pandemic situation. Covid-related restrictions have prevented the community of Talwrn from coming together to discuss and form a response to the proposal as a community and as a consequence they feel disenfranchised. The public perception is that the proposal is being introduced through the back door.
- That the proposal were it approved, really does address the lack of capacity in this part of Llangefni for the long-term. The area's schools and in particular Ysgol Talwrn and its community have endured uncertainty and the anxiety that goes with it for too long for this process to be repeated again.
- That the challenges in merging two schools in a pandemic situation can be overcome without detriment to the children involved.
- The reasons why the model now being proposed for the schools in the other part of Llangefni where Ysgol Bodffordd is to be retained and a new Ysgol Corn Hir built cannot also be applied to Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig.
- That due consideration has been given to approved and planned housing developments in the Llangefni area and their implications for school places have been factored into the Authority's plans.
- The potential impact of implementing the proposal on the community. The conclusion of the Impact Assessment that this would be neutral was challenged.
- The threat to community activities held locally at Talwrn from closing the school with specific reference to the Pensioners' Lunch Club which in being located in the school is an inter-generational activity; Cylch Meithrin Talwrn and the local Eisteddfod for which the school is the bedrock. Assurance was sought that the Authority will endeavour to provide support to enable the continuation of these community activities.

The Chief Executive referred to the higher number of responses to this consultation which indicates that the community has engaged more fully with the process. A further delay would put Welsh Government grant funding at risk and would also have implications for Ysgol Y Graig. She provided assurance that although the Authority is not able to provide financial support for community activities, it will as it does in all communities on the Island, use its best endeavours to promote such activities. The Portfolio Member for Education said that he did not believe a school to be a prerequisite for community activities and he gave examples of villages where such activities and in some cases, a local eisteddfod, have continued and flourished despite the absence of a school.

The Director of Education, Skills and Young People confirmed that if Covid-19 restrictions are still in effect, the Authority will use alternative virtual means to engage with and introduce pupils from Ysgol Talwrn to their new school and will support their familiarisation with the new arrangements. However, as it is not envisaged the change will happen overnight and that it will take time to complete the proposed extended Ysgol Y Graig in readiness to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn the situation may be different at that time. The Officer confirmed the Authority has considered new housing developments in the area (section 5.4.8 of the report refers) and believes that the proposal put forward would provide sufficient places for the predicted peak number of pupils at the school in the next few years. Should the proposal be approved the Authority would discuss the possibilities with regard to maintaining the Cylch Meithrin. The Authority treats each school modernisation case individually and evaluates each case against a specific set of criteria e.g. repair and maintenance expenditure, building condition and location, transport costs, cost per pupil and budget allocation, before coming to a recommendation.

Councillor R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS, Executive Member and Local Member reiterated that the Authority is not rushing into a decision and that the future configuration of the schools in this part of Llangefni has been long in the consideration. He referred with surprise to the low number of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn from the village itself (the Portfolio Member for Education having confirmed earlier in the meeting that from enquiries he had made some time ago the figure stood at 14) and requested in advance of the 17 December meeting of the Executive, a breakdown of the households from which those 14 pupils come i.e. whether they are all individual households or households with more than one child. He acknowledged that parent anxiety in anticipation of a change to their child's education arrangements is natural and understandable and referred to similar anxieties ahead of the previous mergers which have happened under the Schools' Modernisation Programme in Anglesey. The Head teachers of the Ysgol Cybi, Ysgol Rhyd y Llan and Ysgol Santes Dwynwen have confirmed that in their experience pupils have settled well with the new arrangements.

Mrs Anest Frazer, Co-opted Member and Church in Wales representative whilst agreeing that it was a difficult decision to make thought that her responsibility as a member of the Committee is to consider the needs of all the County's pupils and to ensure that they receive a provision that meets the requirements of the new curriculum and are provided with 21st century school resources. She acknowledged the importance of keeping communities and the Welsh language viable but felt that it was not a task that falls exclusively to schools but is everyone's responsibility. The Authority's duty is to make sure schools have the appropriate space and resources to enable pupils to achieve to the best of their ability.

Mr Dyfed Wyn Jones, Primary sector Parent Governor representative in recognising that the process must be difficult for Talwrn residents agreed that it is the Committee's place to consider the most appropriate steps to take in the context of providing children with the conditions that will allow them to develop and prosper educationally. He cited Ysgol

Llanfairpwll as a good example of a larger primary school which successfully sustains a Welsh school community which is also reflected on the school yard. Large primary schools are not necessarily negative and can be a vehicle for the Welsh language to prosper in term of both Welsh speakers and Welsh learners. Mr Jones further highlighted the necessity of progressing with the Schools Modernisation Programme in the interests of other communities on Anglesey which are awaiting their turn to benefit from the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Councillor Bryan Owen raised a number of concerns with regard to the proposal in relation to value for money highlighting that 10% of the proposed £2.1m (the Authority's 35% contribution) of borrowing which the Authority will undertake over 50 years to build the new extended school would be sufficient to bring Ysgol Talwrn up to standard; in relation to inconsistency in the treatment of areas highlighting that federation was deemed a suitable solution for schools in Llanbedrgoch, Moelfre and Benllech but not for schools in the Cefni area and in relation to the location of the proposed extension to Ysgol Y Graig on the opposite side of the main school building on what is part of the busy Llangefni orbital road meaning that children will have to cross the road to access the new extension. Councillor Owen in addition believed that closing Ysgol Talwrn will change the character of the community in the long term as properties are bought by incomers looking to purchase second homes in the area.

The Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager clarified that the aim of the work being undertaken in this part of Llangefni is to increase capacity to ensure there are sufficient places to meet current and future needs; housing provision in the area is expanding and the work undertaken with the Housing and Planning Services shows that the number of primary school age children will rise as consequence. Any capital investment in Ysgol Talwrn would have to be fully funded by the Authority as the main purpose of the 21st Century Schools Programme is to provide for school buildings for the next 50 to 60 years; for example a proposal to procure and fit a new mobile classroom at Ysgol Talwrn would not be in line with the objectives of the Programme. Officers have over the course of the past 18 months looked at potential sites for the Ysgol Y Graig extension; the preferred site is on the same side of the road as the main Ysgol Y Graig school building.

The Head of Highways, Waste and Property confirmed that the proposed location of the Ysgol y Graig extension lies to the left of the main road on the same side as the principal school building meaning that children will not have to cross the Llangefni link road to go from one building to the other. With regard to highway safety and associated considerations, he advised that the proposed new extension is subject both to Executive approval and planning process approval and as part of the latter a traffic impact assessment would be carried out and the scheme would be developed in consultation with officers from the Highways Service prior to the submission of the application. The proposed scheme would also provide an opportunity to resolve current parking issues at Ysgol Y Graig especially during school arrival and departure times. Although Ysgol Y Graig was designed as a green school with excellent walking and cycling routes to the school being provided, these are not fully utilised by parents taking their children to school. Whereas with Ysgol Y Graig the Authority followed Welsh Government guidance in terms of providing minimum parking provision to encourage walking and cycling, with the new development the Authority would seek to provide maximum parking provision in recognition of the fact that it is not practical for children from Talwrn to walk or cycle to Ysgol Y Graig. In addition, transport by bus will be provided free of charge to children from Talwrn transferring to Ysgol Y Graig. It should also be noted that since the opening of the new Llangefni link road in 2017, traffic flow past Ysgol Y Graig has reduced significantly.

Responding to the issue of federalisation, the Director of Education, Skills and Young People reiterated that the option was considered and appraised in the consultation document but was found not to meet the requirements nor to address the challenges in this case.

The Chair in conclusion briefly summarised the main issues arising from the discussion.

Councillor Bryan Owen proposed that Ysgol Talwrn be federated with Ysgol Y Graig or the new Ysgol Corn Hir.

There followed further discussion about the appropriateness of the proposal (given that Ysgol Corn Hir did not form part of the business of this meeting) and questions were put by Councillor Nicola Roberts regarding how the proposal would work in practice given the current pressures of a full time workload on the Head teachers of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir who would be asked to manage a larger entity and also given the opinion of Officers who are of the view that federalisation is unfeasible in this case. In response to a request by the Chair, the Director of Function (Council Business)/ Monitoring Officer provided procedural advice and confirmed that the proposal could be made and that further, any member of the Committee could seek clarifications of the proposer to better understand the proposal and the justification for it. Councillor Bryan Owen confirmed that in order to ensure the continuing viability of the community of Talwrn he proposed **that Ysgol Talwrn be federated with Ysgol Y Graig or the new Ysgol Corn Hir**. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Aled Morris Jones.

Officers were asked to give their opinion on the proposal and confirmed that federalisation was not in their view the most appropriate solution in this instance.

In the ensuing vote, the proposal was defeated by 8 votes to 2.

Councillor John Griffith proposed, seconded by Councillor Richard Griffiths **that the most appropriate way forward is to increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn**. (i. e. the recommendation of the Officer's report).

In the ensuing vote, the proposal was carried by 8 votes to 2.

Having considered all the information presented and the representations made, the Committee RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive that it proceed with the original proposal as the most appropriate way forward, namely to increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn.

**Councillor Aled Morris Jones
Chair**

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CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the extraordinary virtual meeting held on 17 December, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Aled Morris Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dylan Rees (Vice-Chair)

Councillors John Griffith, Richard O. Jones, Bryan Owen, Alun Roberts.

Co-opted Members: Mrs Anest Frazer (The Church in Wales), Mr Dyfed Wyn Jones (Parent-Governor – Primary Schools Sector), Mr Keith Roberts (The Catholic Church)

Portfolio Members

Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Leader and Portfolio Member for Social Services)

Councillor R. Meirion Jones (Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth)

Councillor Robin Williams (Portfolio Member for Finance)

Councillor R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS (Portfolio Member for Highways, Property and Waste) (*a Local Member in respect of item 2 on the agenda*)

Councillor Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development)

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Corporate Business)

Councillor Alun Mummery (Portfolio Member for Housing and Supporting Communities)

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation
Head of Highways, Property and Waste
Head of Democratic Services
Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager
Architectural Services Manager (GWT)
Principal Valuation Officer (TDE)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Richard Griffiths

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Dafydd Roberts, Mr Dafydd Jones (Chair of the Governing Body of Ysgol Corn Hir), Mr Gareth Parry (Member of the Governing Body of Ysgol Bodffordd), Programme Manager (AH), Scrutiny Officer (SR), Mr Gareth Wyn Williams (Local Democracy Reporter)

The Chair welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and he extended a particular welcome to Mr Dafydd Jones, Chair of the Governing Body of Ysgol Corn Hir and to Mr Gareth Parry, a member of the Governing Body of Ysgol Bodffordd who were both present to make representations in relation to the business under item 2 on the agenda. Members and Officers introduced themselves and the Chair explained the process that would be followed in dealing with item 2 on the agenda.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Dylan Rees declared a personal but not prejudicial interest with regard to item 2 on the agenda as the Vice-Chair of the governing body of Ysgol Bodffordd.

2 THE COUNCIL'S SCHOOLS' MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – LLANGEFNI AREA: YSGOL CORN HIR AND YSGOL BODFFORDD

The report of the Director of Education, Skills and Young People with regard to the schools' modernisation programme in relation to the Llangefni area was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report set out the responses to the statutory consultation held in February/March 2020 on Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd and sought the Committee's views on the recommendation that the most appropriate way forward following the statutory consultation is the other reasonable alternative which is *to build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir and leave Ysgol Bodffordd as it is.*

The Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth introduced the report with general remarks about the Schools' Modernisation Programme which in this case involves weighing and assessing the future of Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd and the consequent impact on all the stakeholders, and in particular the children at the two school whose interests and well-being should be the predominant consideration. Modernising schools can be a contentious issue and is among the most challenging aspects of the Council's work; parents' concerns on this matter are understandable and appreciated. The schools' modernisation programme sets the groundwork for the future of schools over the next 50 years at a time when they are under pressure from budgetary cuts, burdensome maintenance costs and meeting the requirements of the New Curriculum to which can now be added the impact of Covid. The Council is duty bound to consider how the school system can be made more effective in the sense of creating the conditions under which teachers and pupils can flourish and also how it can be made more efficient in terms of making the best use of resources and ensuring that all schools receive their fair share of the budget. The Schools' Modernisation Strategy which was updated in October, 2018 links into the Council's major strategies and priorities as set out in section 2 of the introductory report and this proposal spans Band A and Band B in the Strategy's timetable.

Between 6 February and 20 March, 2020 a statutory consultation on the future of the two schools in question was held. Officials were authorised to carry out the consultation after the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Executive considered the proposal paper in January, 2020. The consultation closed on the last day of school before the first lockdown period as a result of the global pandemic that transformed education provision for a time. The Portfolio Member said that it is important to note that the Council has received a letter from the School Organisation and Admissions Branch of Welsh Government confirming that Welsh Government Ministers are giving the Council an extension until March, 2021 to publish any proposal. The Council has operated in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018 throughout the pandemic period.

The key drivers for change as set out in the Schools' Modernisation Strategy 2018 include improving educational standards; improving leadership and management; ensuring that school buildings are fit for purpose; reducing the number of surplus places (in the case of the Llangefni area ensuring sufficient capacity); reducing the overall cost of

education and the variation in cost per pupil; maintaining and improving Welsh-medium provision and increasing the community use of school buildings.

The Portfolio Member for Education referred to the role of elected members within the process who, as well being accountable to their individual communities have as the Council's policy makers, a number of strategic and corporate management responsibilities including governing their areas well and participating in the work of managing and governing the Council which also involves scrutiny.

The Portfolio Member concluded his introduction by thanking all those who had contributed to the process.

The Director of Education, Skills and Young People guided the Committee through the written report and highlighted the main points. He referred to the statutory consultation which was held between 6 February and 20 March, 2020 which considered a number of proposals including the Council's original proposal for the two schools which was *to relocate and extend Ysgol Corn Hir to a different site to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Bodffordd, close Ysgol Bodffordd and review the catchment areas of Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Corn Hir*. Following the statutory consultation the proposal that is being recommended is the other reasonable alternative which is *to build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir and leave Ysgol Bodffordd as it is*.

There were 823 online responses and paper responses to the consultation. Responses were received from staff, parents, governors and children at both schools as well as from individuals and organisations (summary provided at section 5 of the report). The significant feedback from the majority of stakeholders associated with the two schools confirmed acceptance of the original proposal with regard to the need for a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir but questioned why this should be at the expense of Ysgol Bodffordd. As part of the process, other educational models were put forward and were assessed by officers against the criteria and drivers of the current Schools' Modernisation Strategy (analysis at section 6.4 of the report). After considering all the alternatives and following a comprehensive analysis of their strengths and weaknesses against the drivers of the Schools' Modernisation Strategy, the other reasonable alternative proposed by stakeholders is considered to be the most appropriate way forward because it meets most of the key challenges faced by Ysgol Bodffordd. This would equate to a partial implementation of the original proposal i.e. a new building would be provided for Ysgol Corn Hir, but Ysgol Bodffordd would not close and its pupils would not be moved to the new school building. The proposal has changed for the following reasons -

- Standards at Ysgol Bodffordd – Ysgol Bodffordd has improved in terms of its category moving upwards from Amber in 2015 to Yellow (B) in 2019.
- Curriculum Delivery – Ysgol Bodffordd is in a strong position to collaborate with other schools in the local area to deliver the curriculum.
- The Welsh language – with 60 pupils at Ysgol Bodffordd (85%) and 138 pupils at Ysgol Corn Hir (61%) speaking Welsh at home (PLASC 2019) Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Corn Hir have the potential to sustain and further develop the existing Welsh-medium provision.
- Capacity – the other reasonable alternative meets the capacity needs under consideration as part of the original proposal and therefore meets the expected future increase in pupil numbers.
- Travel arrangements – the other reasonable alternative is unlikely to change pupils' current travel arrangements. Pupils from Bodffordd, who at present walk or cycle to school are likely to be able to continue to do so without probable changes to the carbon footprint.
- Bodffordd Community Centre – there will be no changes. As a result, the community centre at Ysgol Bodffordd can continue to be used as at present.

- The School Organisation Code 2018 – Ysgol Bodffordd is identified in the Code as a Rural School, and as a result the Council has followed a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating the other reasonable alternative. (The Code does however note that a presumption in favour of rural schools does not mean that a rural school will never close).

Impact assessments in relation to the Equality Act, Language, Community and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 were conducted and are included as one composite Impact Assessment under Appendix 1 to the consultation report. A total of 338 responses to the Impact Assessment were received a breakdown of which is given at section 6 of the introductory report. The number of responses to the impact assessment question provides 95% certainty that the response is correct and matches the feelings of the rest of the consultation respondents. A 95% confidence level means that if the survey was conducted 100 times, the same results would be provided 95% of the time. The Impact Assessment remains a live document and has been updated to include stakeholder comments received during the statutory consultation period; the current assessment includes an assessment relating to the new proposal recommended for implementation. The Impact Assessment will continue to be regularly updated throughout the development period so that should another risk/issue arise, the Council in partnership with the local community can put in place mitigation measures to overcome the risk or issue that arises. This arrangement will operate throughout the development phase and will be accountable to the Corporate Programme Board for Services Transformation.

The cost of building a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir is estimated to be approximately £9m to £10m. Subject to approval, it will be funded by a Welsh Government contribution of 50% through the 21st Century School Band A programme with the Isle of Anglesey County Council contributing the other 50%.

There were no questions by the Committee at this point on the case for change presented by the Portfolio Member for Education and the Director of Education, Skills and Young People.

Mr Dafydd Jones, Chair of the Governing Body of Ysgol Corn Hir was invited by the Chair to present the perspective of Ysgol Corn Hir in respect of the proposal.

Mr Jones, as well as thanking the Chair for the opportunity to speak at this meeting thanked the Officers for their work in collating and analysing the volume of responses to the consultation. He confirmed that the recommended proposal to build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir and to leave Ysgol Bodffordd as it is, comes as a relief to everyone at Ysgol Corn Hir and is the first time in 5 years that a proposal regarding the future of Ysgol Corn Hir is not subject to the future of another school. As far as he knew no one had ever argued against a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir - the objections that have hampered previous proposals have all been related to the proposed closure of other schools. He thought it important to remind Members why Ysgol Corn Hir needs their support for this proposal and he referred to the current conditions at the school which is struggling with a lack of space. The school is overflowing and the building is now wholly inadequate for today's educational needs never mind the requirements of the new curriculum. When he last addressed this Committee in January, 2020 Ysgol Corn Hir was 13% over the 203 pupil capacity; it now has 236 pupils and is 17% over capacity having had to refuse admission to 5 pupils from other schools since September, 2020. Mr Jones described to the Committee how insufficient space coupled with the need to comply with Covid-19 restrictions is affecting life at the school meaning that some of the classrooms can only accommodate 4 pupils and a teacher (from a class of 24) with social distancing and due to the communal hall being too small, 3 instead of 2 daily dinner sittings have had to be held since September. The lack of space has implications for health and safety and personal privacy – counselling sessions have to be held in corridors as do lessons taken by peripatetic teachers; there is no space for pupils' coats and bags which pose a hazard

when pupils are moving from one class to another; the hall cannot accommodate more than 30 pupils for PE lessons and lacks the space to conduct whole school services. Toilet facilities are also inadequate. A backlog of maintenance works means that some classrooms have leaking roofs. Despite these and other drawbacks which make it difficult for the school to flourish, Ysgol Corn Hir has nevertheless succeeded in maintaining standards throughout the year and it remains a Green category school (a school that is performing well and needs the lowest level of support). Mr Jones further referred to the ways in which Ysgol Corn Hir has contributed prominently to local and national initiatives including in relation to policy development, the development of an OU teacher training course, leading on preparing for new ALN legislation and schools self-evaluation. He hoped that he had shown how hard everyone at Ysgol Corn Hir has worked to ensure the highest possible standards of education, but even with best efforts the school will not be able to sustain those standards in the years to come without the necessary investment which is why he was asking the Committee to support the proposal.

There were no questions by the Committee for Mr Dafydd Jones but in response to a query by the Chair, the Chief Executive confirmed that 3 consultations (including non-statutory consultation) had been held with regard to Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd.

Mr Gareth Parry, speaking on behalf of Ysgol Bodffordd likewise thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak and for the hard work undertaken by Officers over the past few months. Referring to the proposal he emphasised that stakeholders at Ysgol Bodffordd had never taken issue with building a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir recognising that there is a need for it but had argued against doing so at the expense of Ysgol Bodffordd. Ysgol Bodffordd is a designated rural school and is a community school in every sense of the word; it is a school whose language is Welsh and is an integral part of a busy community centre which has proved especially valuable as a community hub during the current pandemic. It is also a school that is full. Mr Parry confirmed that the recommended proposal for a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir and the retention of Ysgol Bodffordd is welcomed by Ysgol Bodffordd and all involved with the school, and subject to the proposal being approved, he wished Ysgol Corn Hir well.

Councillor R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS, Executive Member and Local Member said that he was glad of the proposal to build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir as there is a real need for it the school being overfull. He re-emphasised that schools' modernisation is undertaken for the benefit of the children and that subject to approval, the children at Ysgol Corn Hir will be able to enjoy modern facilities in a building that is fit for purpose. He hoped the Committee would lend its support to the proposal.

Councillor Dylan Rees, a Local Member and a member of the Committee, in highlighting that he had been consistent throughout in not wanting to see Ysgol Bodffordd close explained why his perspective in this case was different to that he took in dealing with Ysgol Talwrn and he cited the following reasons –

- That every case needs to be considered and assessed individually
- That Ysgol Bodffordd is full whereas Ysgol Talwrn has empty places
- That the community centre is an essential part of Ysgol Bodffordd the village having no other facility to house community activities including the 18 organisations that make use of the centre. Talwrn has a village hall that is separate to the school.
- That repair and maintenance costs at Ysgol Bodffordd amount to a third of the costs pertaining to Ysgol Talwrn.
- Ysgol Bodffordd is a designated rural school under the School Organisation Code 2018 whereas Ysgol Talwrn is not.

He noted the significant feedback from the consultation and thanked the Officers for listening to the representations made and in light of those, coming to a different

conclusion. He added that he had conducted a telephone survey with parents, and could confirm that 42 (89%) of the 47 parents contacted (representing 64 children who attend Ysgol Bodffordd) stated that they disagreed with the original proposal which involved closing Ysgol Bodffordd. He recognised the great need for a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir and asked for clarification of the timeline for the new school build in the event that the proposal is approved.

The Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager advised that it was difficult to give a completion date for a capital project that has not begun because a number of things can happen along the way to cause delay. However, subject to approval, the Authority would be looking to open the new Ysgol Corn Hir in the 2022/23 education year.

There was consensus among the Committee's members regarding the merits of the proposal. Councillor John Griffith in voicing his support asked for clarification of the financial implications of the Council's would be £4.5m contribution towards the project given the current economic situation. The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised that it is important to look beyond individual schemes and the costs associated with them and view them instead as part of an Island wide schools' modernisation programme where some projects generate savings as a result of school closures whereas others incur costs because they create additional capacity. Although the cost of addressing the shortage of places in the Llangefni area where some schools are heavily oversubscribed is higher than the cost of the current situation, those costs should be seen in the context of the savings created by the schools' modernisation projects already implemented in other parts of the Island. In addition, the availability of Welsh Government funding which will provide 50% of the funds in this case provides an opportunity for capital investment in schools that may not be repeated. The need for a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir is accepted and would have to be addressed by the Council at some point in future in all likelihood at a far higher cost than that of the current proposed project which will be co-funded by Welsh Government.

Councillor Bryan Owen welcomed the alternative proposal which will see Ysgol Bodffordd remain open and he reiterated his views about the centrality of schools in ensuring the viability of rural communities and the Welsh language pointing out that this view is shared by the Education Minister. With this in mind he suggested that there was still merit in the Executive's considering whether the £6m planned expenditure on extending Ysgol Y Graig and closing Ysgol Talwrn could not be saved by designing a new Ysgol Corn Hir that would be large enough to accommodate the surplus pupils in Llangefni. He called for equanimity in taking the schools' modernisation programme forwards in other parts of the Island and for consultations to be meaningful.

The Chief Executive in responding advised that although the School Organisation Code 2018 contains a presumption in favour of rural schools, it also acknowledges that this does not mean that a rural school will never close. Whilst closing a school is always a difficult proposal, it is the Authority's duty to ensure that schools and children across the Island are treated equitably, that resources are shared fairly and that opportunities are provided equally. The current situation wherein there is significant variation in the cost per pupil and where the cost of simply maintaining the school estate is approaching £20m is not sustainable. The 21st Century Schools Programme provides an opportunity to address these issues where the burden of funding is shared by Welsh Government. This opportunity may not be available in future especially given the drain on resources which responding to the Covid-19 pandemic is proving to be. A school is one element of a community; sustainability becomes more of a challenge when parents as is their entitlement, choose to take their children to schools elsewhere outside of their communities. The Authority has always taken a comprehensive approach to conducting

consultation and has in the past – although not required to do so - carried out non statutory consultations out of respect for communities. Consultations are held in compliance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Director of Education, Skills, and Young People reiterated that a number of options have been considered in respect of the configuration of schools in the Llangefni area and their advantages and disadvantages have been carefully evaluated against the drivers in the Schools' Modernisation Strategy 2018. With regard to Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd, the professional opinion following consultation, is that the other reasonable alternative as outlined represents the best way forward for this part of Llangefni. The Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager confirmed that a variety of options have been considered along the journey with communities providing their views during the course of this process. The suggestion of an option that involves a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir large enough to take surplus pupils in Llangefni and not extending Ysgol Y Graig has not formed part of the community response and so as a new option would have to be re-consulted upon thereby creating more uncertainty.

The Portfolio Member for Education, Skills and Young People spoke about the different elements that make up communities of which a school is one and the effect which the policy of choice has on communities where parents choose to send their children to schools other than their community school. All communities are subject to demographic change and the closure of a school does not inevitably lead to the decline of a community. He referred to the challenge of creating an education service that meets the needs of all parents and highlighted that the Authority has in light of the consultation response, come to a different viewpoint in this case.

Councillor Richard Owain Jones wanted assurance that the emphasis on the community aspects of Ysgol Bodffordd does not come at the expense of the educational provision. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People provided assurance by explaining that the most important component of a school are its children and young people supported by an effective body of staff at classroom level who are able to work with the children. To realise this, robust leadership, vision and co-operation are required. From his previous experience as a Head teacher, he was assured that the vision and desire to continue improving is strong in Ysgol Bodffordd, and that the school and its governing body have plans to make that happen. This is both the school's and the Learning Service's priority and applies to Ysgol Bodffordd as it does to all the Authority's schools. After considering the views presented by parents, staff, governors and others during the consultation, the Authority has been persuaded that Ysgol Bodffordd is in a good place and it is confident that the school can continue on its improvement journey which in reality is a process that does not end as better more effective ways of teaching and learning continue to be sought for all schools.

Mrs Anest Frazer, Co-opted Member and Church in Wales representative in recognising that difficult decisions have to be made when considering the future of schools said that the greatest threat to justice is injustice and that the Committee's role today is to look at reconciling the education provision across the county, and to ensure that all children have the necessary space to help them succeed. She said that as in last week's meeting when the Committee discussed the future of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig, her decision would be based on ensuring equality of provision and opportunity for the Island's school children within the limited resources that are available and also on ensuring that those resources are used to maintain education standards for all pupils.

The Chair in conclusion briefly summarised the main issues arising from the discussion.

Councillor Bryan Owen proposed, seconded by Councillor Dylan Rees that the Committee supports the proposal to build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir and leave Ysgol Bodffordd as it is i.e. the option as recommended by the Officers in the written report.

In the ensuing vote, the proposal was carried unanimously.

Having considered all the information presented and the representations made, the Committee RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to the Executive that the most appropriate way forward following statutory consultation is the other reasonable alternative, namely to build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir and leave Ysgol Bodffordd as it is.

**Councillor Aled Morris Jones
Chair**

DRAFT

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 th February, 2021
Subject:	2021/22 Budget Setting (Revenue)
Purpose of Report:	Scrutiny consideration of final budget proposals for 2021/22
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Robin Williams
Head of Service:	Marc Jones, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
Tel:	01248 752578
Email:	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Not applicable

1 - Recommendation/s

Agree a formal response to the Executive on the Council's proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 below), taking into account the key messages from the recent public consultation exercise.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Direct link with the Council Plan and transformation priorities. The Committee'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.

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

The following key questions are proposed to underpin the Committee's consideration of the 2021/22 budget proposals:

- i. To what degree does the Committee support the proposed additional investment package (as detailed in Table 5 of the attached report)?
- ii. Does the Committee think that there is a need to include additional investment in the budget to respond to any further requirements (Appendix 1 paragraph 10.7)?
- iii. Does the Committee consider that any of the budget proposals will have a detrimental effect on the citizens of Anglesey or any protected groups? Does the Committee consider that any further action should be taken to mitigate the impact of the proposals on Anglesey citizens or protected groups?
- iv. Does the Committee support an increase in the Council Tax of 3.75% in order to create a balanced budget for 2021/22? If it does not, which changes identified by the Executive to be realised in 2021/22 should not be implemented?

5 – Background / Context

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Scrutiny of the budget setting process has developed and matured over recent years, laying the foundations for a better, more systematic process based on outcomes and good practice. In fact, the process allows for a more systematic approach to financial scrutiny, as an essential building block of sound financial management and governance. Our approach to financial scrutiny is emerging as a model of good practice.

1.2 Members will be aware that finance is critical to the services the Council delivers and that there are far reaching implications to financial issues facing us as a local authority – both in terms of the services being received by our citizens and also the level of Council Tax or fees and charges being levied¹. As it becomes increasingly difficult to find the necessary levels of savings through efficiencies, the Council will need to give detailed consideration to all possible options. This will inevitably require us to ask challenging questions about which services to offer to the future and the degree to which current methods of service delivery remain appropriate. Another consideration is also how best to manage expectations of local people in making the necessary changes. In the current economic climate, Members therefore need to be assured that the Council is making the most effective use of diminishing resources, in particular finances.

1.3 In considering their response to the final budget proposals, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will need to consider the proposals in terms of the longer term financial position of the Council (our Medium Term Financial Plan) and the Council's long term objectives and priorities (as set out in the Council Plan).

¹ Raising the Stakes: financial scrutiny in challenging times. A guide for Welsh local authorities (Centre for Public Scrutiny June, 2014)

2. SETTING THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2021/22

2.1 Attached is the report of the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer on the initial proposals for the 2021/22 budget (**APPENDIX 1**) which was submitted to a meeting of the Executive on 18th January, 2021. The paper provides a position statement on the following issues:

- The Executive's initial budget proposals
- Local Government initial settlement (Welsh Government)
- Initial budget position for 2021/22
- Council Tax
- Savings proposals
- Budget pressures
- Risks
- Impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan

Details of the Final Settlement for the 2021/22 budget are expected from Welsh Government on 2nd March, 2021. It will therefore be necessary for the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer to submit a verbal report to the Executive detailing the final budget proposals for the next financial year.

3. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY – SETTING THE 2021/22 BUDGET

3.1 Financial scrutiny is much more than adding value to decisions taken by the Executive. It is about ensuring that there is proper scrutiny in the effective planning, delivery and follow up of key decisions impacting on taxpayers and local communities. Scrutiny should therefore:

- Provide effective challenge
- Hold decision makers to account; and
- Assist the Executive to develop a robust budget for the coming year.

4. FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

4.1 A Finance Scrutiny Panel has been established to ensure the following key outcomes:

- Develop a model of working on finance matters focusing on a smaller group to enable Members to become more involved, develop a level of subject expertise, encourage good attendance and teamwork
- Forum to develop a group of members with the expertise and ownership to lead financial discussions at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

4.2 The Panel considered the latest details of the budget proposals at its last meeting (12th February, 2021). A summary of the Panel's deliberations will be presented verbally at the meeting by Cllr Dafydd Roberts, chair of the Panel.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCES

5.1 The consultation exercise built on the solid foundations set over the past few years under the direction of the Joint Engagement and Consultation Board established with 3rd Sector partners.

5.2 To this end and because this year is another exceptional year as regards timing of the Initial Settlement and the ongoing impact of Covid-19, the consultation process consisted of the following steps:

- i. Budget report for the purpose of comments via the Council website
- ii. Schools' Finance Forum

This consultation period ran from 19th January until 2nd February, 2021.

Attached is the report of the Head of Profession Human Resources and Transformation Service which summarises the main messages of the recent public consultation (**APPENDIX 2**). A verbal report on the discussion from the Schools' Finance Forum will be provided at the meeting.

6. KEY SCRUTINY ISSUES

6.1 The 2021/22 budget setting process provides an opportunity for Elected Members to consider and challenge the implications of the draft standstill budget and any efficiency proposals. Input has also been received via the Finance Scrutiny Panel who have given detailed consideration to the initial draft budget proposals. At this stage in the process, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is now requested to agree a formal response to the Executive² on the Council's final proposals for the 2021/22 revenue budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 above).

6.2 In light of the 2021/22 budget setting process to date, it is therefore proposed that the Committee should:

- i. Consider the Executive's initial budget proposals and provide comments which the Executive can consider before agreeing its final budget proposals on 1 March 2021.
- ii. Examine in detail the likely impacts on citizens of the initial proposals
- iii. Come to a view about the level of the Council Tax for 2021/22.

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the process.

7 – Financial Implications

This report discusses the process for setting the Council's 2021/22 budget, which includes consideration of the final budget proposals

8 – Appendices:

APPENDIX 1: report of the Director of Function (Resources) on the proposed final revenue budget for 2021/22

APPENDIX 2: report of the Head of Profession Human Resources and Transformation Service summarising the main messages of the recent public consultation

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 7TW

² Meeting of the Executive to be convened on 1st March, 2021

Date: 04/02/21

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DATE:	18 JANUARY 2021
SUBJECT:	DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	COUNCILLOR ROBIN W WILLIAMS
HEAD OF SERVICE:	MARC JONES
REPORT AUTHOR:	MARC JONES
TEL:	01248 752601
E-MAIL:	rmjfi@ynysmon.gov.uk
LOCAL MEMBERS:	n/a

A - Recommendation/s and reason/s

The final budget will not be approved by the full Council until 9 March 2021, however, at this point, the Executive is recommended to approve the following:-

- (i) The Budget adjustments included in the Standstill Budget, as set out in Paragraphs 4 to 7;
- (ii) The standstill budget for 2021/22 of £147.076m and this should form the basis of the 2021/22 revenue budget (para 7.1);
- (iii) A proposed increase in Council Tax for 2021/22 at 3.75%, which will be subject to public consultation (para 10.2);
- (iv) Additional proposed budget amendments, as set out in Table 5;
- (v) An initial proposed budget for 2021/22 of £147.531m;
- (vi) That the Executive should seek the opinion of the public on the proposed budget proposal and council tax rise for 2021/22.

The detailed report on the preparation of the 2021/22 standstill budget, the provisional settlement and funding the budget gap is attached as Appendices 1 – 3.

B - What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

N/A

C - Why is this a decision for the Executive?

This matter is delegated to the Executive.

CH - Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes

D - Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Yes

DD - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Comments from the SLT have been incorporated into the report
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	n/a – this is the Section 151 Officer's report
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	TBC
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Scrutiny	TBC
8	Local Members	
9	Any external bodies / other/s	
E - Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	
F - Appendices:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Report on Draft Revenue Budget 2021/22 • Appendix 2 – Analysis of the Movement from the 2020/21 Final Revenue Budget to the 2021/22 Standstill Budget • Appendix 3 - 2021/22 Standstill Budget by Service 		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 – See Executive Meeting Agenda 28 September 2020 – Item 8 		

DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The following report sets out the Executive's provisional revenue budget for 2021/22. The budget is prepared on the basis of the assumptions set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by the Executive in September 2020, the provisional local government settlement, which was issued by the Welsh Government on 22 December 2020, and the proposed revenue savings which have been identified by the individual services and have been discussed at the various workshops that have taken place during the summer and autumn.
- 1.2. The provisional budget approved by the Executive will then be subject to a formal public consultation process, which will run from 19 January 2021 to 2 February 2021.
- 1.3. Following receipt of the final settlement figures on 2 March 2021, the final budget proposal will be subject to a review by the Scrutiny Committee on 16 February 2021, will be recommended for approval by the Executive on 1 March 2021, with the final 2021/22 budget being approved by the Council at its meeting on 9 March 2021.

2. MAIN ASSUMPTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

- 2.1. The Medium Term Financial Plan sets out a number of assumptions and these assumptions have been taken into account in calculating the standstill budget for 2021/22. The standstill budget is a budget which provides resources to operate services at 2020/21 levels but updated to reflect any known changes outside the control of the services (committed changes) and to reflect the costs in 2021/22.
- 2.2. These assumptions have been factored into the standstill budget along with more detailed changes (committed changes) which allow for known increases in costs e.g. contractual commitments and minor budget corrections. The draft budget also allows for additional funding, known changes to grant funding and minor budget corrections deemed necessary to ensure that the Council's budget accurately reflects the costs it faces in 2021/22.

3. COMMITTED CHANGES

- 3.1. Committed changes are amendments which are taken into account in drawing up the standstill budget and they reflect an increase or decrease in costs which are outside the control of the Council or the individual service. The changes can include items of one off funding required or falling out of the budget, costs arising from legislative changes, changes in costs arising as a result of a tendering exercise, capital financing costs etc. The total adjustments made to the budget total £2,642k, details of the major changes are discussed in the paragraphs below.

3.2. Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing Contract

Following a formal procurement process, the Council has entered into a new agreement with Biffa for the provision of refuse collection and street cleansing services. The new contract commences on 1 April 2021 and will run for an initial 8 year period. The agreed contract price for 2021/22 is £909k above the current budget. In addition, the Council has agreed to fund the purchase of £4.5m of new vehicles and plant which Biffa will use to undertake the contract. The Council will undertake unsupported borrowing to fund the purchase of the vehicles and plant and this will result in an annual minimum revenue provision (MRP) charge of £563k to the revenue budget along with additional annual interest costs of £68k.

In January 2020, the Executive agreed to introduce an annual charge for the collection of green garden waste and, in October 2020, the Executive agreed that the annual charge would be £35 per household. It is estimated that the charge, net of additional staffing costs, will generate £265k in additional income which partly offsets the additional costs of the new contract.

Therefore, the new contract will require an additional £1.275m of funding, which is equivalent to around a 3% increase in Council Tax.

3.3. Information Technology

The Council is becoming ever more reliant on information technology to provide its services and this shift to digital services has been of great benefit during the pandemic, with staff switching to working from home and more of the Council's customers dealing with the Council electronically. This increase in demand for the use of information technology requires an increased level of technical support to maintain the Council's infrastructure and software. Additional staffing resources are now required and £257k has been allocated in the 2021/22 budget to fund these additional resources.

In addition, the threat to the Council's systems and data is ever increasing with daily attempts being made to hack into the Council's systems. An additional £22k has been allocated to upgrade the Council's systems to protect from ransomware attacks.

Maintaining contact with all of the Council's staff has become more important during the pandemic and it has highlighted the need for all the Council's staff to be allocated a corporate e-mail account. This will require the Council to purchase an additional 600 licenses at an annual cost of £43k.

During the pandemic, a significant number of staff have moved to home working in response to the Welsh Government's request, however, working from home does create issues on a number of fronts, not least in respect of telephony. The Council's current telephone system is based on a handset on each desk which is inflexible and costly to maintain. By moving to calls being routed to staff using Teams it will allow staff to access calls from home or on their own personal devices and will result in savings in capital expenditure i.e. to replace the infrastructure and handsets and also reduce the need for staff to have a corporate mobile phone. The cost of the change is £85k per annum but savings will result in mobile phone costs, energy costs and maintenance costs. These savings will be applied to future revenue budgets when the level of actual savings are clearer.

Improvements are necessary to the Council's public wifi system and an additional £8k is required to maintain the upgraded system annually.

3.4. Pupil Numbers

Each year, the effect of the change in pupil numbers in the primary and secondary sectors is taken into account as part of the budget setting process. For 2020/21, this has resulted in an increase in the secondary sector of £333k but a decrease in the primary sector of £95k.

Up until 2018/19, the Council's Special School (Canolfan Addysg y Bont) funded 85 pupils. As part of the 2018/19 budget, an additional £78k was allocated in order to fund an additional 5 pupils. Since 2019/20, the budget has been changed to reflect the changes in pupil numbers. The budget has been increased by £147k to reflect the anticipated change in pupil numbers in 2021/22.

3.5. North Wales Growth Bid

At its meeting on 8 December 2020, the full Council resolved to commit to the Growth Bid for North Wales. In addition to an annual payment to meet the Council's contribution to the cost of running the Programme Office (£50k per annum), which is already included in the Council's revenue budget, the Council also agreed to contribute to funding the annual interest costs which will be incurred as a result of borrowing which will be required in the early years of the project. The estimated annual contribution for the Council will be £67k per annum and this sum has been added to the revenue budget for 2021/22.

3.6. Historic Pension Costs

The Council continues to make payments to both the LGPS and Teachers Pension Schemes in respect of former employees who retired early. The method of funding early retirements changed in the mid 2000s and annual contributions ceased, however, annual payments continue to be made in respect of employees who retired early before the change took place. Although the number of individual payments fall, as sadly the former employees pass away, the required sum is assessed by the pension scheme actuary every 3 years and this has resulted in the Council's contributions having to increase. The new sum is an additional £150k from 2021/22.

3.7. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Up until 2013/14, taxpayers eligible to receive a reduction in their Council Tax bills received this through the benefits system in the form of Council Tax Benefit, which was funded by the Department of Work and Pensions. In 2013/14, Council Tax Benefit was replaced by the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, with the funding for the scheme being transferred into the Revenue Support Grant. Initially, the scheme was fully funded but, as the level of Council Tax has risen and the number of claimants changed since 2013/14, it has been necessary for the Council to provide additional funding to meet the cost of the scheme (in addition to the sum provided in the Revenue Support Grant).

The budget for 2020/21 stood at £6.016m, although normally this budget will be reviewed further to take account of any further changes in the caseload and the final increase in Council Tax for 2020/21. However, the global pandemic and resulting economic downturn may result in a disproportionate increase in the caseload. This has been recognised by Welsh Government, who will be providing additional grant funding to meet the increased costs incurred during 2021/22.

However, it will still be necessary to increase the budget to take account of the increase in the level of Council Tax in 2021/22, with each 1% increase in Council Tax increasing the cost of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme by £60k. For the purposes of the standstill budget an additional £301k has been included to meet the cost of a 5% increase in Council Tax (as per the MTFP). The final budget will be amended to reflect the final agreed increase in Council Tax.

3.8. North Wales Fire & Rescue Service Levy

The Fire Service raises a levy each year which is allocated across the six North Wales Authorities based on population numbers, which vary each year between the 6 authorities. At its meeting on 9 November 2020, the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority resolved to increase the levy by 3.15%, which results in an increase in the budget of £97k, which takes the standstill budget to £3.690m.

3.9. Others

A number of other budgets have been adjusted to reflect changes that have taken place during the year which are outside the control of the service, these include income budgets where the Service can no longer charge the income. The total net value of these adjustments amount to a reduction of £54k.

4. CONTINGENCIES

- 4.1.** As part of the budgeting process, a number of contingency budgets are built into the budget to cover fixed term costs, potential risks that may require funding during the year or as a general contingency which is utilised during the year as additional budget pressures arise or as unexpected events occur. The changes made to the contingency budgets are shown in Table 1 below:-

Table 1					
Movement in Contingency Budgets between 2020/21 and 2021/22					
		End Date	2020/21 Budget	Proposed 2021/22 Budget	Change
			£'000	£'000	£'000
Stem Regional Project	Earmarked	2021/22	38	38	-
Regional Growth Bid	Earmarked	Ongoing	50	117	+ 67
Demand Risk	Earmarked	Transferred into Service Budgets	486	0	(486)
Salary and Grading	Earmarked	Ongoing	150	150	-
Lone Working	Earmarked	2020/21	20	0	(20)
NDR Discretionary Rate Relief		Ongoing		70	-
General Contingency		Ongoing	372	362	(10)
TOTAL			1,186	737	(449)

4.2. The Salary & Grading Contingency has been included in the Council's budget for a number of years to meet the cost of early retirements and redundancies, as the Council and schools reduced the workforce in response to the reduction in funding. The improved financial position in 2021/22 allows the Council to keep this budget at the 2020/21 level, as it is not expected that it will be necessary to make significant reductions in staffing numbers in 2021/22.

5. STAFFING COSTS

5.1. Pay costs will change annually to reflect the changes in staff over the year (new staff being appointed to a different point on the pay scale), staff receiving annual increments and the pay award. The effect of each on the budget is detailed below:-

5.2. Staff increments and changes in posts has increased costs by £541k.

5.3. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced, in November 2020, a pay freeze for all public sector workers (excluding NHS) earning over £24,000 and that the pay award for those earning less than £24,000 would be at least £250. However, the pay award for local government workers (NJC staff) is not set by the UK Government but is set by the body which represents local government employers. In addition, the setting of the annual teachers pay award has been devolved to the Welsh Government. As a result, this announcement has resulted in some uncertainty in respect of the potential pay awards for the 2 main groups of local government workers.

- 5.4. The Teachers pay award for the academic year commencing September 2020 ranged from 2.5% to 3.75%. The Welsh Government recognised that this settlement was higher than Councils would have allowed for in their budgets and, as such, awarded an additional grant to Councils to cover the additional cost. Anglesey received £90k to cover the cost from September 2020 to March 2021 and this grant has now transferred into the 2021/22 settlement. Given that this appears to be the Welsh Government's approach to Teachers' pay, it is reasonable to assume that the Council should provide a sum based on estimated inflation for the pay award from September 2021 onwards. In the current economic climate, estimating inflation in 2021 is difficult given the impact of the pandemic and Brexit. However, the current Bank of England forecast is that inflation will be around 1% by the middle of 2021 and so this figure has been allowed for as inflation for teachers' pay. This increased the overall pay budget by £171k.
- 5.5. Estimating the pay award for non teaching staff is equally as difficult and whether the Employers will follow the UK Government's lead and implement a pay freeze for this group of staff. A £250 increase for staff earning less than £24,000 would equate to an increase of between 1.05% and 1.38% for this group of staff but, as the staff in these pay grades only account for a proportion of the pay bill, an increase for these staff and a pay freeze for the remainder would result in an overall increase of less than 1% in the pay bill. Taking this into account and assuming that staff will receive some form of pay increase and that inflation is likely to remain at around or just below 1% in 2021, 1% has been allowed for in the standstill budget for pay inflation. This increases the overall pay budget for NJC staff by £427k.

6. NON PAY INFLATION

- 6.1. The Medium Term Financial Plan allowed for a level of general price inflation of 1.5%. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI), which is now widely recognised as the best measure of inflation, is currently 0.3% (as at November 2020) and is forecast to remain on or around 1% in 2021. However, the impact of Brexit is unknown and may result in an increase in inflation should the UK leave the EU with no deal agreed and any economic recovery following the pandemic may also increase inflation in 2021. It is, therefore, considered that an inflation rate of 1.5% is reasonable and this rate has been applied to all general supplies and services budgets. Where specific contracts have specific methods to determine the inflation to be applied, then that specific rate will have been applied to the appropriate budget.
- 6.2. Over the last 3 years, a general 3% increase has been applied to non-statutory fees and charges budgets and this figure has again been applied in 2021/22, although services have the discretion to increase individual fees and charges by more or less than this figure, provided that their overall income rises by 3%.
- 6.3. The net increase of the adjustments for non pay inflation and non statutory income is £1.009m.

7. STANDSTILL BUDGET 2020/21

- 7.1. Based on all of the adjustments and assumptions detailed above, the standstill budget for 2020/21 totals £147.076m, an increase of £4.930m on the 2020/21 final budget. This compares to the Welsh Government's Standard Spending Assessment of £148.168m for Anglesey. A summary of the changes made is attached as Appendix 2.

8. PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT

- 8.1. The provisional settlement for Local Government in Wales, announced on 22 December 2020, shows an increase of £177.0m in the overall level of funding for Wales, which is equivalent to a 4.0% increase in cash terms. However, £5.126m relates to grants transferred in and, when the effect of these changes are adjusted for, the true figure shows an increase in funding of £171.9m, which is a 3.8% increase. The details are shown in Table 2 below:-

Table 2 2021/22 Provisional Settlement		
	Anglesey	Wales
	£'m	£'m
2020/21 AEF	101.004	4,474.444
Adjustment for the Change in the Taxbase	0.275	0.000
Previous Years Grants Transferred In / (Out)		
Coastal Risk Management	0.000	1.145
Teachers' Pay	0.090	3.981
2020/21 Adjusted AEF	101.369	4,479.570
Provisional AEF 2021/22	104.825	4,651.494
Increase in comparison to 2020/21 AEF	3.821	177.050
% Increase in comparison to 2019/20 AEF	+ 3.78%	+ 3.96%
Increase in comparison to 2019/20 Adjusted AEF	3.456	171.924
% Increase in comparison to 2019/20 Adjusted AEF	+ 3.41%	+ 3.84%

- 8.2. The population statistics used in the funding formula have been updated and Anglesey have seen a reduction in the AEF due to this change because the revised population figures for Anglesey were lower than the previous forecast. Some authorities have gained from this change, in particular Newport, Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend, whilst others have lost due to falls in population, in particular Wrexham and Ceredigion. Other changes also feed into the distribution formula and this explains why the allocations to individual Councils vary from 2% to 5.6%.
- 8.3. The provisional settlement also includes details of a number of grants, although the individual allocations per Authority are not listed. The grants include the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Pressures Grant, which has increased from £40m to £50m. Anglesey will receive an additional £230k (approximate) from the increase in this grant.

9. THE FUNDING GAP

9.1. Based on a standstill budget of £147.076m and an AEF level of £104.825m, the net expenditure to be funded from Council Tax is shown in Table 3 below:-

Table 3		
Budget Funding Gap 2021/22		
Standstill Budget	£'m	£'m
Funded By:		147.076
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	81.345	
Share of Non Domestic Rates Pool	23.480	
Total Aggregate External Finance		104.825
Total Net Expenditure to be Funded from Council Tax		42.251
2020/21 Council Tax Budget (adjusted for the change in the taxbase)		(41.161)
Funding Shortfall (before an increase in Council Tax)		1.090

9.2. The impact of various levels of Council Tax increase and on the Band D equivalent charge (currently £1,304.73 in 2020/21) is shown in Table 4 below:-

Table 4				
Impact of Various Council Tax Increases on the Funding Shortfall				
% Increase	Council Tax	Funding Shortfall / (Surplus)	Weekly Effect on Band D	Total Increase in Band D
	£'m	£'m	£	£
0.5	41.366	0.846	0.12	6.48
1.0	41.574	0.638	0.25	13.05
1.5	41.778	0.434	0.38	19.53
2.0	41.985	0.227	0.50	26.10
2.5	42.190	0.022	0.63	32.58
2.65	42.252	(0.001)	0.66	34.56
3.0	42.397	(0.185)	0.75	39.15
3.5	42.601	(0.389)	0.88	45.63
4.0	42.809	(0.597)	1.00	52.20
4.5	43.013	(0.801)	1.13	58.68
5.0	43.220	(1.008)	1.25	65.25

10. FUNDING OTHER BUDGET PRESSURES AND SERVICE DEMANDS

10.1. The standstill budget of £147.076m would allow the Council to maintain its existing services, however, the Council faces new budget pressures and new demands for services which have not been allowed for in the standstill budget. These pressures and demands have become more apparent as the Council has responded to the Covid pandemic.

- 10.2.** Funding these additional pressures and demands can be done in 3 ways, either independently or as a combination. The 3 additional sources of funding are:-
- To use the Council's General Balances as a source of funding;
 - To implement savings in other budget areas and reallocate the savings to meet the costs of the additional pressures and new demands;
 - To increase the Council Tax higher than the sum required to fund the standstill budget.
- 10.3.** General balances are required to meet any unexpected expenditure or emergency situations and the current pandemic has highlighted why they are necessary. The level of general balances has improved during 2019/20 and the balance at the beginning of the 2020/21 financial year stood at £7.06m. It is forecast that the Council's revenue budget will underspend by approximately £1m in 2020/21 and this would increase the Council's general balances to £8m. This is equivalent to 5.44% of the 2021/22 standstill budget. This is just above the minimum level of 5% which is the Council's objective on reserves. However, it should be noted that the outturn position for 2020/21 may change from the current forecast. Although there is some scope for the use of general balances, they only provide short term funding e.g. one year only and their use does not provide a permanent source of funding. The use of reserves are best utilized to fund one off spending e.g. funding one off capital projects.
- 10.4.** During the summer of 2020, Heads of Services were asked to identify any potential future budget savings that could be implemented in the short to medium term. The majority of the savings identified would result in the reduction of services to the residents of Anglesey and were not generally supported by Members, and the general opinion of the Members was that they should only be implemented if the budget position required the implementation of budget savings in order to balance the Council's revenue budget.
- 10.5.** Having considered the standstill budget and given the fact that an increase of 2.55% is mainly required to fund the increase in the cost of the new Waste Collection and Street Cleansing contract, an additional rise of 1.2% in Council Tax was considered as a means of funding the additional budget pressures and demands. An additional increase of 1.2% above the level required to fund the standstill budget would generate an additional £494k in funding.
- 10.6.** The priority areas identified as requiring additional funding are as follows:-
- **Professional Staff**
For a number of years, the Council ran a successful trainee programme which provided opportunities for those seeking to start a career in Local Government to obtain the necessary skills and experience to enable them to achieve their goal and for the Council to obtain a supply of suitably qualified and experienced labour. As the austerity measures were implemented and the Council needed to make budget savings, the trainee programme was cut. However, the Council are finding it increasingly difficult to appoint suitably qualified professional staff in a number of areas across the Council's services. A budget of £250k would allow the appointment of between 8 and 10 trainees which would provide opportunities for local people to start a career in local government and would go some way to address future skills shortages which the Council will face.
 - **Public Protection Capacity**
The current pandemic has highlighted the critical role of Public Protection in maintaining public health on Anglesey. The expectations on the Function will continue once the current pandemic comes to an end as a result of the additional operational challenges and responsibilities arising from Brexit. Again as a result of austerity, this Service has seen a high level of budget savings implemented which has significantly reduced its capacity. A budget increase of £50k would allow the Function to increase its capacity to meet the increased demands.

- **Education Inclusion**

The Education Service has commissioned a report to assess the current educational provision for the most vulnerable learners at KS4 and to identify how the service could be improved. The conclusion of the report was reached following; Internal evaluations of the service (including feedback from students and parents); discussions and an assessment undertaken jointly with Estyn, a review of good practice with other Referral Units, input from Headteachers and an externally commissioned review. The externally commissioned review was clear of the need to work closely with Headteachers and other stakeholders to develop a model that better meets the needs of pupils. The proposed scheme is based on the development of provision in all of the Island's Secondary Schools. The proposed model is based on the "Clean Slate" model which is based on the Nurture + model (Nurture UK) and all secondary schools have already received training on the National Nurturing Schools Programme (NNSP) through the Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service. This means that these models would be compatible with the Authority's vision and training to establish innovative schools. £80k of additional grant funding to support the new model but schools are also expected to invest and a further £130k is required to deliver the proposed schemes.

- **IT support for Schools**

The use of IT in schools as a method of teaching has increased over the recent years but this change has been significantly accelerated in response to the pandemic and the need for schools to teach remotely. As the use of IT in schools increases, the need to maintain the IT equipment increases. This work is currently undertaken by Cynnal and the current budget is £183k and it is estimated that an additional £100k will be required to fund the cost of the additional support, whether that is provided through Cynnal or by other means.

- **Management of Tourism**

The Council's role in respect of tourism has been to promote the Island as a tourism destination but the summer of 2020 highlighted the need for the Council to undertake a more proactive role in managing tourists when they visit the Island. An additional £50k would allow the Council to improve the management of the beaches and the foreshore and also allow for improvements in data collection and data analysis in order that resources could be better directed.

- **Climate Change**

In response to the Welsh Government's declaration of a climate emergency in Wales, the Council, at its meeting on 8 September 2020, resolved to commit to achieve a Carbon Neutral Public Sector by 2030. Achieving this commitment will require substantial capital investment over the next 10 years and the Council needs to develop its strategy in order to be in a position to take advantage of any external capital funding that becomes available. An initial budget of £50k will allow that work to begin, although it is accepted that this budget may need to increase over the coming years.

10.7. The Council has reviewed its parking charges of its seasonal car parks at seaside locations and has concluded that the current charges are low in comparison to other authorities and there is scope to increase these charges. The Council's investment in new methods of payment now allows the Council to increase charges without having to deal with the difficulties that collecting increased amounts of cash would bring. The proposal is to increase the charges as follows:-

Up to 1 Hour – Current Charge £1.00, Proposed New Charge £1.00

Up to 2 Hours – Current Charge £2.00, Proposed New Charge £3.00

Up to 4 Hours – Current Charge £3.50, Proposed New Charge £6.00

Up to 12 Hours – Current Charge £4.50, Proposed New Charge £10.00

Up to 12 Hours (car & trailer) – Current Charge £6.00, Proposed New Charge £20.00

The increases are estimated to generate additional income in excess of £100k.

- 10.8.** The Executive have informally resolved not to increase school meal prices in September 2021 when the new school meals catering contract commences. This will give the successful contractor more certainty around the level of meals that will be purchased at the commencement of the contract. The standstill budget included a 3% increase in the income budget and reversing that change will increase the net budget by £23k.
- 10.9.** The standstill budget allows for a rise in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme budget of £300k as this was based on the initial estimated increase in Council Tax of 5% (as per the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan). Reducing the increase in Council Tax to 3.75% will reduce the required increase in this budget by £75k.
- 10.10.** Based on the proposals set out in paragraphs 10.5 to 10.9 above, the final budget proposal is set out in Table 5 below:-

Table 5		
Final Budget Proposal 2021/22		
	£'m	£'m
Standstill Budget		147.076
Additional Funding for Budget Pressures		
Professional Trainee Programme	0.250	
Additional Capacity – Public Protection	0.050	
Education Inclusion	0.130	
IT Support for Schools	0.100	
Management of Tourism	0.050	
Climate Change	0.050	
		0.630
Additional Income from Increased Car Park Charges		(0.100)
Freezing of School Meal Prices		0.023
Adjustment to CTRS Budget		(0.075)
Balance to the General Contingency		(0.023)
TOTAL PROPOSED COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/22		147.531
Funded By		
Revenue Support Grant	81.345	
Redistribution of NDR	23.480	
Total Aggregate External Finance		104.825
Council Tax with increase of 3.75%		42.706
TOTAL FUNDING		147.531

11. REVISED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

- 11.1** The Medium Term Financial Plan estimates that the Council's net revenue budget will need to increase by £3.8m in 2022/23 and £3.6m in 2023/24, simply to meet the costs of pay and price inflation, increased costs on tendered contracts and the continued increase in demand for services.
- 11.2** The 2021/22 provisional settlement gives no indication as to what the funding position will be in the following 2 years. Much will depend on the UK government and their plans for public spending which will be set out in the Chancellor's budget in March 2021. It should be noted that any additional funding announced for England will result in additional funding for Wales, but it is for the Welsh Government to decide how this additional funding is spent. It does not automatically follow that any additional funding announced for Schools or Local Government in England translates to additional funding for Schools and Local Government in Wales.
- 11.3** If the settlement in 2021/22 and 2022/23 showed an increase to match inflation i.e. around 2%, the Council will be faced with making further budget reductions or increasing Council Tax by more than inflation in those years (between 3.5% and 4%).

12. MATTERS FOR DECISION

- 12.1** The final budget will not be approved by the full Council until 9 March 2021, however, at this point, the Executive is recommended to approve the following:-
- i.** The Budget adjustments included in the Standstill Budget as set out in Paragraphs 4 to 7;
 - ii.** The standstill budget for 2021/22 of £147.076m, and this should form the basis of the 2021/22 revenue budget (para 7.1);
 - iii.** A proposed increase in Council Tax for 2021/22 at 3.75%, which will be subject to public consultation (para 10.2);
 - iv.** Additional proposed budget amendments as set out in Table 5;
 - v.** An initial proposed budget for 2021/22 of £147.531m;
 - vi.** That the Executive should seek the opinion of the public on the proposed budget proposal and council tax rise for 2021/22.

**ANALYSIS OF THE MOVEMENT FROM THE 2020/21 FINAL BUDGET
TO THE 2021/22 STANDSTILL BUDGET AND 2021/22 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	Standstill Budget		Report Ref
	£'m	£'m	
2019/20 Budget		142.146	
Committed Changes			
Refuse Collection Contract	1.275		Para 3.2
I.T. Staffing, Equipment and Software	0.417		Para 3.3
Pupil Numbers	0.389		Para 3.4
North Wales Growth Bid	0.067		Para 3.5
Historic Pension Costs	0.150		Para 3.6
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0.301		Para 3.7
Fire Service Levy	0.097		Para 3.8
Other Minor Changes	(0.054)		Para 3.9
		2.642	
Staffing Costs			
Increments	0.541		Para 5.2
Teachers Pay Award	0.171		Para 5.3
Non Teaching Staff Pay Award	0.567		Para 5.5
		1.279	
Non Pay Inflation		1.009	Para 6.3
STANDSTILL BUDGET 2021/22		147.076	
Additional Funding for Budget Pressures			
Professional Trainee Programme	0.250		Para 10.6
Additional Capacity – Public Protection	0.050		Para 10.6
Education Inclusion	0.130		Para 10.6
IT Support for Schools	0.100		Para 10.6
Management of Tourism	0.050		Para 10.6
Climate Change	0.050		Para 10.6
		0.630	
Final Budget Adjustments			
Additional Income from Increased Car Park Charges	(0.100)		Para 10.7
Freezing of School Meal Prices	0.023		Para 10.8
Adjustment of CTRS Budget to reflect increase of 3.75% in Council Tax	(0.075)		Para 10.9
Adjustment to General Contingency	(0.023)		
		(0.175)	
PROPOSED BUDGET 2021/22		147.531	

PROPOSED BUDGET 2021/22 BY SERVICE				
Budget	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Proposed Budget	Movement	% Change
	£'m	£'m	£'m	%
Lifelong Learning				
Schools	41.372	42.684	1.312	3.17
Central Education	10.891	11.057	0.166	1.52
Culture	1.244	1.211	(0.033)	(2.65)
Total Lifelong Learning	53.507	54.952	1.445	2.70
Highways, Waste & Property				
Highways	6.286	6.319	0.033	0.52
Property	0.931	0.996	0.065	6.98
Waste	8.030	8.820	0.790	9.84
Total Highways, Waste & Property	15.247	16.135	0.888	5.82
Regulation & Economic Development				
Economic Development & Maritime	1.882	1.955	0.073	3.88
Planning & Public Protection	2.131	2.243	0.112	5.26
Total Reg & Economic Development	4.013	4.198	0.185	4.61
Adult Services	26.872	27.679	0.807	3.00
Children Services	11.012	11.180	0.168	1.53
Corporate Transformation				
Human Resources	1.346	1.618	0.272	20.21
ICT	2.793	3.200	0.407	14.57
Transformation	0.853	0.868	0.015	1.76
Total Corporate Transformation	4.992	5.686	0.694	13.90
Housing	1.168	1.247	0.079	6.76
Resources	3.108	3.196	0.088	2.83
Council Business	1.669	1.708	0.039	2.34
Total Service Budgets	121.588	125.981	4.393	3.61
Corporate Budgets				
Corporate Management	0.626	0.636	0.010	1.60
Levies	3.599	3.695	0.096	2.67
Corporate & Democratic	2.785	3.010	0.225	8.08
Capital Financing Costs	6.939	7.499	0.560	8.07
Benefits Granted	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.00
HRA Recharges	(0.700)	(0.700)	0.000	0.00
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	6.016	6.242	0.226	3.75
Contingencies	1.035	0.985	(0.050)	(4.83)
Discretionary Rate Relief	0.070	0.071	0.001	1.43
Total Corporate Budgets	20.482	21.550	1.068	5.21
TOTAL STANDSTILL BUDGET 2021/22	142.070	147.531	5.461	3.84

Response to the Executive Committee's Initial Budget Proposals – 2021/22

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 2021

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council recently undertook a consultation exercise on the initial budget proposals agreed for consultation by the Executive Committee between 19th January and 2nd February, 2021. The 2 week consultation period focused on proposals from across Council services.
- 1.2. These proposals were the result of the annual budgetary process and were consulted upon in order to gain the views of the public and ensure the Executive can (as the process draws to a close) make recommendations from a fully informed position.
- 1.3. Consideration was given to a broad range of proposals such as increasing Council Tax levels by a further 1.1% on top of the 2.65% already earmarked as an annual raise, to fund essential Council services and invest in dealing with cost pressures identified as a result of the pandemic.
- 1.4. These proposals were publicised in various ways but were much more digitally targeted than in previous years;
 - 1.4.1. The proposals were published on the Council's website (homepage)
 - 1.4.2. Extensive use of social media – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to promote the proposals to a broader range of residents

Each of the channels above were aimed at publicising and creating enthusiasm amongst citizens and staff to engage and respond to the initial proposals.

- 1.5. Citizens, partners and staff were asked to respond to the consultation through the following means:
 - An on-line survey on our website
 - E-mail

The consultation this year followed a similar pattern to previous consultation events that have been held in recent years, with a shortened timescale enforced upon the Council by Welsh Government and of course the impact of the pandemic in being able to consult face to face with the residents of Anglesey. As a result, the emphasis again this year was placed on gaining an electronic response through our extensive use of social media due to the imposed constraints of Covid arrangements meaning that the usual public meetings could not take place.

The proposals were marketed as follows through the following social media channels –

13 times via Welsh facebook account

13 times via English Facebook account

13 times via Welsh Twitter account



13 times via English Twitter account

3 time via bilingual Instagram account

The Council received nearly 600 responses via electronic means. Correspondence was also received via e-mail. These responses encapsulate a relatively large number of responses compared to the previous annual budget setting processes which have averaged approximately 500 responses. There was an exception to this one year where in excess of 5,000 responses were received in the consultation of the Council's 19/20 budget setting process.

Bearing in mind this year's consultation was open for two weeks only, this is an appropriate and welcomed response by the residents of Anglesey to the consultation.

The results / findings are as follows –







1. Do you agree that the County Council should raise Council Tax further by 1.1% in order to fund the above activities / services?			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		12.33%	72
2	No		87.67%	512
			answered	584
			skipped	4

The above response demonstrates that the majority (nearly 9 out of 10 people) that responded to the consultation do not agree with the proposal to increase the Council Tax by 1.1% in order to fund the activities noted in the consultation.

2. If not, which of the above activities / services do you think the County Council should prioritise and fund from a Council Tax increase (please pick as many of the options below that you believe should be funded)?



			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Introduce a new professional entry level staffing programme to provide		14.23%	76

2. If not, which of the above activities / services do you think the County Council should prioritise and fund from a Council Tax increase (please pick as many of the options below that you believe should be funded)?

			Response Percent	Response Total
	opportunities for young local people			
2	Increase public protection capacity to maintain future public health on Anglesey		18.54%	99
3	Improve educational provision for the most vulnerable learners at KS4 through further investment in the Education Inclusion Service		19.10%	102
4	IT support for schools to enable and support increased IT activity in education		21.54%	115
5	Improved Management of beaches and foreshore plus improvements in data collection to aide future tourism investment		14.23%	76
6	Climate change adaptations		15.17%	81
7	None of the above – continue as you are without the need for further investment		45.69%	244
			answered	534
			skipped	54

The above provides a picture of where those who do not wish to see a 1.1% increase to the Council Tax to fund Council Services would prioritise if required. It can be seen clearly that the majority would continue to state that no investment should be made and that the Council should continue as is without the need for further investment. This response gained approximately 46% and the second highest response was that of an additional investment in IT support for schools to enable and support increased IT activity in education.

**2. To support these initiatives further and raise a proposed £100,000 the Council is also looking to increase car parking charges at seaside locations as it has concluded that the current charges are low in comparison to other authorities and destinations and believes there is scope to increase these charges. It proposes to increase these charges as follows:
 Up to 1 hour – current charge £1, proposed new charge £1
 Up to 2 hours – current charge £2, proposed new charge £3
 Up to 4 hours – current charge £3.50, proposed new charge £6
 Up to 12 hours – current charge £4.50, proposed new charge £10
 Up to 12 hours (car and trailer) – current charge £6, proposed new charge £20
 Would you agree with these proposals?**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		38.50%	226
2	No		61.50%	361
			answered	587
			skipped	1

The above question relating to increased car parking charges demonstrates a clear split in the opinion of respondents with an approximate 60:40 split against such a proposal. Correspondence has been received by a local Sailing & Watersports Club regarding the above proposal, who noted -

“The Club recognise that the Covid 19 Pandemic has put enormous strain on Council budgets and reductions in the support from the UK Government via the Welsh Assembly over the years have forced local councils across Wales to have to make difficult decisions.

However, Members had a number of concerns about the potential impact a substantial increase in car parking fees could have on Club participation levels”. The Club itself has over 600 members of whom about 250 are children.

The Club in its response asks that the County Council recognise our concern that, as many of our members are regular full day users of the Traeth Bychan car park, an unreasonable increase in the charge may not only impact participation in our Club activities, both on and off the water, but also reduce a more or less guaranteed season long income source to the County Council.

It also understands through its response that the council proposes to introduce more modern ticket issuing machines to some car parks. If this is correct, the Club would propose that it would be to the benefit of both the Club and the County Council to introduce a scheme that rewards regular car park users, such as the clubs members, with a loyalty discount to users who are prepared to purchase blocks of parking tickets in advance.

A similar proposal (namely that residents could be offered a beneficial parking rate) has also been offered by an elected member for further consideration.

3. The Council will also look to use some of its general reserves to fund the following one-off improvements projects.



Economic Development and environmental wellbeing projects. Match funding to be used as and when grant funding becomes available to draw down external funding in order to realise projects which will benefit the Island - £95,000

Chrome books for schools To fund 1,672 chrome books for Secondary and Primary schools to ensure that children have access to chrome books, increase the ratio of chrome books for pupils and contribute to the wider scheme of the 2019-2023 boost - £305,000

Resurfacing play areas Resurfacing two play areas at Holyhead High School - £300,000

Flood Relief Schemes To provide match funding (15%) for small scale schemes and also to provide match funding (15%) for prioritised major schemes in order to draw down Welsh Government (WG) grant funding. WG grant would therefore total £2.295m and allow Flood Relief Schemes to be built at Red Wharf Bay, Menai Bridge and Valley - £405,000

Do you agree with the proposed activities above?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		51.55%	300
2	No		48.45%	282
			answered	582
			skipped	6

The response to the Council’s proposal of how to use its capital funding over the forthcoming 12 months is at odds with the previous comments with a slight majority in favour of the proposals.

Further comments regarding some of these proposals and respondents views can be gleaned in answer to the following final question of the consultation.

5. If not, where and on what should the Council invest over the forthcoming 12 months?

The findings relating to this question have been thematically collated for the ease of analysis. They are listed in the order of popularity. i.e. the largest number first / smallest response last.

- **Discontent: 69**

This number revolves around the suggestion of increasing the council tax. Several points were made, however a few themes did crop up more than others. 2nd homes - or holiday homes - was the main theme that respondents commented on. It was felt that the council should be looking to increase tax on those who do not live in Anglesey all year round and own holiday homes, rather than increasing the council tax in general. Furthermore, respondents were keen to point out that many of those who do own 2nd homes are profiteering by running their second homes as Air BnB's. Respondents also noted that it was very unfair to suggest increasing the council tax considering that there is now a £35 charge for green bins, along with the burden and cost associated with the pandemic. Many people strongly felt that they could not deal with any further costs. Finally, some respondents wanted to make their feelings heard with regards to how well some of the councillors are paid.

Away from council tax, the majority of people who did respond were totally opposed to the idea of increasing car parking charges on beaches and other tourist destinations. They generally felt that it would cause more problems – people parking on the sides of roads and the worry that it may turn some tourists away. These views are aligned to those of the Sailing & Watersports Club mentioned previously.

- **No Further Spending – Do with what we have already: 38**

A number of respondents generally felt that due to Covid they would rather see no additional investment being made by the County Council this year if it means that their council tax must be increased.

- **Highways: 35**

A number of respondents were keen to note that they wanted to see an improvement to the roads on Anglesey. Furthermore, this wasn't a view what was just based on a few areas, it was an universal view for the whole island. Respondents often pointed out that the number of pot holes and poor road surfaces had caused damage to their cars.

- **Education: 27**

Respondents were generally very supportive of the idea to bring in chrome books for school. This can be seen in the number of people that supported an improvement in education. However, the £300,000 play area in Holyhead was seen as an 'absurd' amount of money to spend on such a facility.

- **Flood Relief Schemes: 23**

Respondents were very supportive of additional work being undertaken for flood relief schemes. Many cited the recent floods as their reasoning behind wanting additional funding for flood defence schemes at different parts of the Island.

- **Health and Wellbeing: 20**

The responses to this point revolves around several different aspects. Firstly, many respondents feel that there needs to be additional funds towards ensuring that adults and children can receive the necessary mental health counselling when required. It was also felt that funds need to be made available to the wellbeing of families who are living on the breadline. Finally, a few respondents also felt that there needs to be additional support to the elderly and disabled.

- **More Activities: 17**

Many were keen to see an improvement in the number of cycle routes and walking routes for the island - in particular roads around the Llangefni area. People also cited how they would like to see an increase, or refurbishment of several playgrounds – pointing that there isn't enough spots for children to play in many areas. This point can be aligned to those noted above regarding the health and wellbeing of the residents.

- **Housing: 15**

Two main points surfaced here. Respondents were keen to see an increase in the number of houses available to first time buyers – they would like to see an initiative from the council which supports younger people to purchase their first house. Secondly, they were keen to see either more council houses being bought, or an improvement in the state of several council houses that already exist.

- **Rubbish and Waste: 13**

This response was hugely aimed at dog waste more than anything. People are fed up of seeing dog waste at beaches and would like to see additional funding put towards bins on beaches.

- **Improving Communities: 11**

There was a general theme – especially with regards to Holyhead – that respondents wanted to see town improvements. Essentially, they were keen to see old, tired buildings refurbished and made to look more attractive.

- **Small Businesses: 10**

Respondents felt that small businesses require additional funding in order to help them through the pandemic. The effect of Covid has been very costly to small businesses who have had to close as a result of lockdowns.

- **Tourism: 10**

There was a feeling from respondents that money should be made available for tourism activities. They felt that tourism was the best way to inject money in to the local economy post-covid, and thus felt that the council should look to invest in attractions that could lure more people in to visiting Anglesey. This was seen as an opportunity.

- **More Job Opportunities: 9**

A small number of respondents were keen to see investment being made to ensure that the people of Anglesey can secure jobs. 5 of the respondents for this highlighted that they would like to see an increase in the number of opportunities for young people in particular.

- **Improve the Environment: 6**

A few respondents mentioned that they would like to see funding being made available in order to ensure that Anglesey is more eco-friendly. Responses varied from wanting to see more electric car charging stations, to wanting to see more trees etc. being planted.

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 th February, 2021
Subject:	2021/22 Budget Setting (Capital)
Purpose of Report:	Scrutiny consideration of final budget proposals for 2021/22
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Robin Williams
Head of Service:	Marc Jones, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
Tel:	01248 752578
Email:	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Not applicable

1 - Recommendation/s
The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to agree a formal response to the Executive on the Council’s final proposals for the 2021/22 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 below), taking into account views from the Finance Scrutiny Panel.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities
Direct link with the Council Plan and transformation priorities. The Committee’s consideration of the initial capital proposals for next year will include how the proposals enable the Executive to deliver on the Council Plan and transformation priorities as well as any specific risks.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration

- Collaboration
 - Involvement
- [focus on wellbeing]**

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

The following key questions are proposed to underpin the Committee's consideration of the 2021/22 capital budget proposals:

- i. Given the limited capital resources available, does the Committee consider that the proposed capital programme makes the most effective use of funding sources?
- ii. How do the 2021/22 capital proposals enable the Executive to deliver on the Council Plan and the transformation programme in the medium term whilst balancing short term priorities?
- iii. How has the Council prepared over recent years for diminishing capital funding? What are the risks in moving forward?
- iv. Does the draft budget enable the Council to take advantage of possible grant opportunities in support of our strategic objectives?

5 – Background / Context

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Scrutiny of the budget setting process has developed and matured over recent years, laying the foundations for a better, more systematic process based on outcomes and good practice. In fact, the process allows for a more systematic approach to financial scrutiny, as an essential building block of sound financial management and governance. Our approach to financial scrutiny is emerging as a model of good practice.

1.2 Capital Strategy 2019/20 – 2021/22

The revised CIPFA Prudential Code¹ requires local authorities to produce a capital strategy in order to:

- Set out the long term context within which capital expenditure and investment decisions should be made
- As a means of ensuring that Councils take capital and investment decisions in line with service objectives and priorities
- Ensure that local authorities properly take into account stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability when setting its capital programme.

The Authority's capital strategy and capital programme 2019/20 – 2021/22 was adopted by Full Council in May, 2019². It sets out the objectives, principles and governance framework to ensure that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with the Council Plan and local transformation priorities. A fundamental principle of the Strategy is to focus capital expenditure on projects which assist the Council meet the following key objectives of the Council Plan and help the Council meet its statutory responsibilities:

¹ Revised Prudential Code (CIPFA) dated September, 2017

² Meeting of Full Council convened on 14th May, 2019

- i. Ensure that the people of Anglesey can thrive and realise their long term potential
- ii. Support vulnerable adults and families to keep them safe, healthy and as independent as possible
- iii. Work in partnership with our communities to ensure that they can cope effectively with change and developments whilst protecting our natural environment

The Strategy also identifies the potential future capital expenditure, assesses the impact on the capital financing element of the revenue account and determines the funding available to finance new capital schemes for the period 2019/20 – 2021/22. Also, the strategy sets out the long term principles underpinning capital planning to the future.

1.3 Principles of the Capital Strategy

The Capital Strategy discusses a number of long term principles which should underpin the Council's capital programme:

- The annual capital programme should focus capital expenditure on projects which contribute most to the key priorities of the Council Plan 2017/2022
- Capital funding should be allocated each year to ensure investment in existing assets to protect them into the future
- The Council will maximise external capital funding wherever possible and affordable
- Capital funding will also be prioritised on assets required to help the Council deliver its statutory responsibilities
- Continued commitment to the 21st Century Schools Programme and to fully utilise external funding available

1.4 Capital Budget Funding Sources

The Council's annual capital programme is funded through a number of funding sources:

- Capital Receipts
- Contribution from Revenue
- Supported Borrowing
- Unsupported Borrowing
- General Capital Grant
- External Grants
- Major Repair Allowance

1.5 In considering their response to the final capital budget proposals, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will need to consider the proposals in terms of the longer term financial position of the Council (our Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy & Capital Programme 2019/20 – 2021/22) and the Council's long term objectives and priorities (as set out in the Council Plan).

2. SETTING THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2021/22

2.1 Attached is the report of the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer on the initial capital proposals for the 2021/22 budget (**APPENDIX 1**) which was submitted to a meeting of the Executive on 18th January, 2021. The paper provides a position statement on the following issues:

- The Executive's initial capital budget position for 2021/22
- Level of capital expenditure
- Borrowing impacts on the revenue budget due to capital financing costs

- Ongoing revenue costs (such as maintenance)
- Budget pressures
- Risks
- Impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Council Plan

Details of the Final Settlement for the 2021/22 budget are expected from Welsh Government on 2 March 2021. It will therefore be necessary for the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer to submit a verbal report to the Executive detailing the final budget proposals for the next financial year.

3. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY – SETTING THE 2021/22 BUDGET

3.1 Financial scrutiny is much more than adding value to decisions taken by the Executive. It is about ensuring that there is proper scrutiny in the effective planning, delivery and follow up of key decisions impacting on taxpayers and local communities. Scrutiny should therefore:

- Provide effective challenge
- Hold decision makers to account; and
- Assist the Executive to develop a robust capital budget for the coming year.

4. FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

4.1 The Finance Scrutiny Panel considered the latest details of the budget proposals at its last meeting (convened on 12th February, 2021). A summary of the Panel's deliberations will be presented verbally at the meeting by Cllr Dafydd Roberts, chair of the Panel.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCES

5.1 The consultation exercise built on the solid foundations set over the past few years under the direction of the Joint Engagement and Consultation Board established with 3rd Sector partners.

5.2 To this end and because this year is another exceptional year as regards timing of the Initial Settlement and the ongoing impact of Covid-19, the consultation process consisted of the following steps:

- i. Budget report for the purpose of comments via the Council website
- ii. Schools' Finance Forum

The consultation period ran from 19 January 2021, until 2nd February, 2021.

Attached is the report of the Head of Profession Human Resources and Transformation Service which summarises the main messages of the recent public consultation (**ATODIAD 2**).

6. KEY SCRUTINY ISSUES

6.1 The 2021/22 budget setting process provides an opportunity for Elected Members to consider and challenge the implications of the draft capital budget and any risks. Input has also been received via the Finance Scrutiny Panel who have given detailed consideration to the draft budget proposals. At this stage in the process, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is now requested to agree a formal

response to the Executive³ on the Council's initial capital budget proposals for the 2021/22 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 above).

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the process.

7 – Financial Implications

This report discusses the process for setting the Council's 2021/22 budget, which includes consideration of the initial capital budget proposals

8 – Appendices:

APPENDIX 1: report of the Director of Function (Resources) on the proposed capital budgets for 2021/22

ATODIAD 2: report of the Head of Profession Human Resources and Transformation Service summarising the main messages of the recent public consultation

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 7TW

Date: 04/02/21

³ Meeting of the Executive to be convened on 13th January, 2020

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Date:	18 JANUARY 2021
Subject:	INITIAL CAPITAL BUDGET 2021/22
Portfolio Holder(s):	COUNCILLOR R WILLIAMS
Head of Service / Director:	R MARC JONES
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	JEMMA ROBINSON 01248 752675 JemmaRobinson@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	n/a

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The Executive is required to propose a capital budget for 2021/22, which will be presented to full Council for approval at its meeting on 9 March 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To recommend to the full Council the following capital programme for 2021/22:-

	Ref	£'000
2020/21 Schemes Brought Forward	Para 4.1 & Table 2	3,970
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	Para 4.2.2 & Table 3	4,167
New One Off Capital Projects (Priority Projects)	Para 5.2 – 5.6 & Table 4	780
New One Off Capital Projects (Subject to Funding being Available)	Para 5.6	325
21 st Century Schools	Para 6	6,600
Housing Revenue Account	Para 7	20,313
Total Recommended Capital Programme 2021/22		36,155
Funded By:		
General Capital Grant		2,163
Supported Borrowing General		2,158
General Balances		596
General Balances (if sufficient funding available)		325
21 st Century Schools Supported Borrowing		2,897
21 st Century Schools Unsupported Borrowing		498
HRA Reserve & In Year Surplus		15,639
HRA Unsupported Borrowing		2,000
External Grants		5,909
2020/21 Funding Brought Forward		3,970
2021/22 Total Capital Funding		36,155

- To note the potential future funding requirements for 2022/23 onwards (Appendix 1, Table 3 and paragraph 5.3).

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?		
A number of additional schemes are to be considered in the capital programme with the main driving factor in funding being affordability and the maximisation of external grant funding.		
C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?		
The matter is delegated to the Executive to propose the capital budget.		
CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?		
Yes		
D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?		
N/A		
DD – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT)(mandatory)	Incorporated into the report
2	Finance / Section 151(mandatory)	n/a – this is the Section 151 Officer's report
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	N/A
5	Property	Budget requirements have been reflected in the proposed budget
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Budget requirements have been reflected in the proposed budget
7	Procurement	N/A
8	Scrutiny	
9	Local Members	N/A
10	Other	
E – Impact on our Future Generations(if relevant)		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island	The capital budget ensures funding to maintain the Council's assets and forms part of the strategy to meet the objectives set out in the Council's corporate plan.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority. If so, how:-	Continued maintenance of the Council's assets will prevent higher costs in the future.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision, if so, please advise whom:	Capital projects in respect of 21 st Century Schools and the HRA are aligned to priorities set out by the Welsh Government

4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward? Please explain how:-	The capital budget will be subject to a formal budget consultation prior to final approval by the Council in March 2021.
5	Outline what impact does this decision have on the Equalities agenda and the Welsh language	Elements of the capital programme contribute to the Equalities agenda e.g. Disabled Facilities Grants, Disabled Access in Schools, purchase of Chromebooks for school pupils.
F - Appendices:		
Appendix 1 – Report on the Capital Budget 2021/22 Appendix 2 – Proposed Capital Budget 2021/22		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
Capital Strategy Report – full Council 10 March 2020 Capital Budget 2020/21 – full Council 10 March 2020		

DRAFT CAPITAL BUDGET 2021/22**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The draft Capital Budget for 2021/22, set out below, takes into account the principles set out in the Capital Strategy which was approved by the Executive in March 2020 and the full Council in March 2020.

2. PRINCIPLES OF THE CAPITAL STRATEGY

- 2.1. The Capital Strategy for 2020/21 was approved by the Executive and full Council and will be updated for 2021/22 to reflect the new funding levels, any changes in the Council's priorities and any changes set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22, which will be approved by the Executive and full Council in March 2021.

- 2.2. The current Capital Strategy sets out the following principles for the Council in determining its capital programme:-

- Each year capital funding will be allocated to ensure an investment in existing assets to protect them into the future;
- The Council will maximise external capital funding wherever possible and affordable;
- Capital funding will also be prioritised on assets required to help the Council deliver its statutory responsibilities;
- The Council remains committed to the 21st Century Schools Programme and will continue to fully utilise 21st Century Schools external funding.
-

- 2.3. The strategy then went on to provide a little more information on how these principles would be delivered and included the following key points:-

- That the 21st Century Schools programme is considered separately from the remainder of the general capital programme;
- That the replacement of existing and obsolete assets has the benefit of reducing revenue costs and that the capital programme will allocate funding to replace or improve existing I.T. equipment, vehicles and Council buildings;
- It is a statutory requirement to offer disabled facilities grants and that the capital programme will allocate funding annually to comply with this requirement;
- A sum will be allocated annually to fund road improvement works. The sum will depend on the amount required to achieve any minimum contract values, the level of external and internal funding available and an assessment of the state of repair of the Authority's roads;
- Projects that require match funding will be assessed on a case by case basis, with any decision to allocate funding being based on how the project fits into the Council's corporate priorities, any ongoing revenue implications and the ratio of Council funding to external funding;
- Projects funded from unsupported borrowing will only be undertaken if the reduction in revenue costs or increased income generated is sufficient to meet any additional capital financing costs.

2.4. The Capital Strategy also sets out how any new bid should be scored, as follows:-

- How closely the project will contribute to the priorities of the Corporate plan – score out of 20;
- Whether the project attracts significant external funding – score out of 10;
- Whether the project will lead to revenue savings – score out of 10;
- Whether the project will help mitigate a corporate risk – score out of 10.

3. FUNDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

3.1. The funds available to finance the capital programme for 2021/22 are shown in Table 1 below. It should be noted that the figure for the General Capital Grant and Supported Borrowing are based on the provisional Local Government settlement figures. The final figure will not be known until the final settlement figures are announced on 2 March 2021. The level of funding under both headings have remained fairly constant over a number of years and are not anticipated to change significantly between the provisional and final settlement.

**Table 1
Anticipated Capital Funding Available for 2021/22**

Source of Funding	£'m	£'m
General Fund Capital Programme		
Schemes/Funding brought forward from 2020/21	3.970	
General Capital Grant	2.163	
Supported Borrowing	2.158	
Capital Receipts	-	
Capital Reserve	-	
Leisure VAT Reserve	0.750	
External Grants and Contributions	0.030	
Funding for the General Capital Programme (Council Fund)		9.071
21st Century Schools		
Supported Borrowing	2.897	
Unsupported Borrowing	0.498	
Welsh Government Grant	3.205	
Funding for 21st Century Schools		6.600
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)		
HRA Reserve	6.079	
HRA - In-year Surplus	9.560	
Welsh Government Major Repairs Allowance	2.674	
Unsupported Borrowing	2.000	
Funding for HRA		20.313
Total Capital Funding 2021/22		35.984

3.2. The potential for any significant capital receipts is limited as the majority of any remaining assets which remain unsold have been already earmarked to fund existing or future capital projects (21st Century Schools, leisure improvements and smallholdings).

- 3.3. In previous years, funding has been available from an earmarked reserve which was specifically set up to fund capital projects. Over the past few years, this reserve has been used as a source of funding, but the balance has fallen considerably and the remaining balance will be held to fund any emergency capital works which may arise during the year or to provide match funding if the offer of significant grant funding was received during the year which required a small amount of match funding.
- 3.4. The HRA funding is earmarked for HRA projects only and cannot be used for any other projects. The plan allows for the use of £6.079m in 2021/22, leaving £1.5m as the ongoing reserve balance. This is in accordance with the HRA Business Plan which has been previously approved by the Council.

4. DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME (Committed Schemes)

4.1. 2020/21 Schemes Carried Forward

The following schemes will not be completed in 2020/21 and will carry forward to 2021/22:-

Table 2
2020/21 Schemes Brought Forward

2020/21 Schemes Brought Forward	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Gateway Units	2,032	-	-
Tourism Gateway	1,290	170	-
Holyhead Landscape Partnership	210	190	-
Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II)	438	350	200
Total Schemes Brought Forward	3,970	710	200

4.1.1 Gateway Units – This is a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant funded scheme to build new industrial units on the gateway site, with the project completing in December 2021.

4.1.2 Tourism Gateway – This is a grant funded scheme and no additional Council funding will be required in 2021/22.

4.1.3 Holyhead Landscape Partnership – This is a scheme fully funded by external grants and no Council funding will be required to complete the scheme.

4.1.4 Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II) - £75k match funding was secured in 2020/21 for this scheme, with the remaining being funded by grant. The scheme will now run to 2023/24 with no additional Council funding required to complete the scheme.

4.2. Refurbishing/Replacing Existing Assets

4.2.1 Each year, sums are allocated in the capital programme in order to maintain, upgrade or replace existing assets. The sums allocated have been reviewed by the Finance Team in consultation with the relevant service and the following sums are recommended for 2021/22:-

- **Disabled Facilities Grant (DFGs)** – In previous years, £750k has been allocated and this was supplemented in 2018/19 and 2019/20 by the use of Intermediate Care Fund grants. The Director of Social Services has indicated that the use of the Intermediate Care Fund grant to top up the core budget is possible in 2021/22 and, as such, a core budget of £500k will be sufficient in 2021/22, although it will be necessary to increase the core budget back to £750k in 2022/23.
- **Disabled Access in Education Buildings** - £300k has been allocated to meet the cost of these adaptations in previous years. Property Services have identified £978k required in 5 secondary schools and has programmed this work to take place over 3 years. As a result the allocation of £300k is recommended again for 2021/22 as this is the second year of the 3 year programme.
- **Refurbishment of Schools** – The backlog maintenance in schools is significant and cannot be funded in the short to medium term. Whilst some of this may be mitigated by the 21 Century school programme, some urgent works on buildings unaffected by this programme are still needed. The Property Services Team have identified the most urgent work to utilise the usual allocation of £1m. However, the sum that can be expended on schools ideally needs to be carried out over holiday periods to avoid health and safety risks and disruption. This means that some longer term projects need to be started now so they can be completed before serious risks arise. Secondary schools in particular are in a very poor condition and need substantial investment. However, some building issues are becoming critical and cannot wait for the 21 Century programme. Ideally, the Authority should be allocating approximately £2.5m annually.
- **Refurbishment of Non School Buildings** – Again, a backlog of work has been identified in the Council's offices, residential homes, day care facilities, libraries and leisure centres and there is insufficient funding to undertake this work in any one year. £600k has been allocated in previous year and this level of funding will be sufficient to meet the cost of the majority of the priority work required to be undertaken.
- **Highways Resurfacing** – Highways have assessed that the £1.250m allocation funded from the Council's core capital funding is sufficient for 2021/22, which is conditional upon the announcement in the provisional settlement that the Public Highways Refurbishment Grant will again be funded by Welsh Government at the same level as 2020/21. However, going forward, the Annual Status and Option Report confirms that an annual budget of £2m is required in order to sustain the Steady State (Preventative) condition of our roads. A budget below this required amount would inevitably result in less efficiency and reduced value for money with additional costs to the Highway Authority, with more money being spent on emergency works and also the risk of increased third party claims being made against the Authority. The Welsh Government Highways Refurbishment programme, which saw Welsh Government allocate £20m to assist Councils with highways refurbishment, ran from 2018-2021 and, as yet, no further funding to this effect has been announced.

- **Vehicles** – A sum of £150k has been allocated in previous years to allow for the replacement of obsolete vehicles and to purchase more fuel efficient vehicles e.g. electric cars. However, in addition to the routine replacement of vehicles, Môn Community Transport minibuses are reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced as the repair costs are increasing and there is an increasing risk that vehicles may not be available when they are needed. A programme of replacement has commenced and an additional £45k is required in 2021/22. In addition, a further £100k will be required in 2022/23 to recommence the upgrade of the fleet of gritters.
- **I.T. Assets** – Continued investment is required to maintain the Council's core infrastructure and the replace devices used by staff to access systems. £171k has been identified as a sum required to maintain the core infrastructure, with £121k required for desktop devices. In previous years, licensing costs were funded from capital funding but as the pressure on the revenue budget has eased slightly, these costs have been transferred to the revenue budget, which releases some capital funding.
- **I.T. Assets (Schools)** - In July 2019, Welsh Government announced significant grant funding of £50m for 2019/20 to transform Education Technology within Welsh State Schools well into the future. The funding will help equip schools with the infrastructure needed to meet Welsh Government digital standards. Welsh Government is expected to invest £30m in 2020/21 and £20m in 2021/22 and finally £10m in 2022/23. The majority of the funding for 2021/22 (90% approximately £0.270m for Anglesey) will be held by Welsh Government and local authorities will purchase equipment from a central source organised by Welsh Government. 10% (an estimated £30k for Anglesey) of the funding is provided to local authorities to support implementation of the programme. This funding is dependent on the Council's commitment to replacing the equipment at some point in the future when it reaches the end of its life. Further discussion will be required as part of future budgets as how best to create sufficient funding to fund the required investment when the equipment reaches the end of its useful life.

4.2.2 The recommended core funding allocations above are summarised in table 3 below:-

Table 3

Recommended Allocation of Funding for Refurbishment / Replacement of Existing Assets 2021/22 – 2023/24

Refurbishing / Replacing Existing Assets	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Disabled Facilities Grants	500	750	750
Disabled Access in Education Buildings	300	300	300
Refurbishment of Schools	1,000	2,500	2,500
Refurbishment of Non School Buildings	600	600	600
Highways	1,250	2,000	2,000
Vehicles	195	295	250
I.T Assets	292	292	292
I.T Assets Schools	30	15	-
Total	4,167	6,752	6,692

4.2.3 The General Capital Funding received from Welsh Government for 2021/22 totals £4.321m. There has been little increase in the general capital allocation received from Welsh Government for a number of years as additional capital funding has been directed to specific projects e.g. 21st Century Schools. If this level of funding continues in 2022/23 and beyond, the Council's capital programme will either be limited to the refurbishment and replacement of existing assets or the allocations shown above will have to be reduced in order to free up funding to meet other commitments.

5. OTHER BIDS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- 5.1.** Services were requested to put forward bids for capital funding. These bids were assessed by the Finance Team, using the scoring mechanism set out in the Capital Strategy and then prioritised by the Senior Leadership Team. Excluding the 21st Century Schools programme and the Housing Revenue Account, the general core funding available for 2021/22 totalled £4.321m, of which £4.167m is required for the above, leaving £0.184m to fund any new one off projects.
- 5.2.** Having scored the projects, and following the review by the Senior Leadership Team, the following projects are recommended to be included in the 2021/22 capital programme (see Table 4 below):-

Table 4

Recommended One off Capital Projects to be Funded in 2021/22

Project Title	Description	Sum Recommended £'000
Economic Development and environmental wellbeing projects	Match funding to be used as and when grant funding becomes available.	95
Chrome books for schools	To fund 1,672 chrome books for Secondary and Primary schools to ensure that children have access to chrome books, increase the ratio of chrome books for pupils and contribute to the wider scheme of the 2019-2023 boost.	305
Resurfacing play areas	Resurfacing two play areas at Holyhead High School.	300
Flood Relief Schemes	To provide match funding (15%) for small scale schemes and also to provide match funding (15%) for prioritised major schemes in order to draw down Welsh Government (WG) grant funding. WG grant would, therefore, total £2.295m.	405
TOTAL NEW BIDS FOR CAPITAL FUNDING IN 2021/22		1,105

- 5.3.** The bids set out in Table 4 exceed the available funds by £0.921m and as the projects do not generate any additional income or do not reduce revenue expenditure, then unsupported borrowing is not considered to be an option. This only leaves the use of the Council's general balances as the only remaining funding option.
- 5.4.** The Council's current balance of general reserves stands at £7.06m (as at 1 April 2020) and, with the 2020/21 revenue budget currently being forecast to underspend by £1m, there is the potential for the general reserve to increase to approximately £8m by the end of the 2020/21 financial year. The Council has set a target of 5% of the net revenue budget as the target for the minimum level of general balances and, based on the proposed revenue budget for 2021/22, this would equate to a minimum balance of around £7.0m.
- 5.5.** Should the general balances rise to £8m, there is the potential to use £1m of general balances to fund the additional capital expenditure in 2021/22. However, should the revenue budget position worsen over the second half of the financial year, the level of funding available may be less than £1m.
- 5.6.** Of the 4 schemes detailed in Table 4, the match funding for Economic Development projects and the purchase of chrome books for pupils are considered as priority schemes which need to be funded in full in 2021/22. If sufficient reserves are not available i.e. the level of reserves are lower than forecast, then the final two schemes can be scaled back as follows:-
- The resurfacing of the two play areas at Holyhead Secondary school can be scaled back with only one area completed in 2021/22. This will reduce the scheme cost by an estimated £100k.
 - The match funding for the flood relief schemes includes £225k as match funding to undertake a £1.5m flood relief scheme at Red Wharf Bay. Although not making the match funding available for this scheme would result in the loss of £1.275m in Welsh Government grant, the scheme is considered to be a lower priority scheme than the other major schemes at Valley and Menai Bridge which are included in the capital programme.
- 5.7.** The bidding process also identified a number of projects which do not require funding in 2021/22 but may need to be funded in 2022/23 or beyond. These include the following:-
- School ICT – In July 2019, Welsh Government announced significant grant funding of £50m for 2019/20 to transform Education Technology within Welsh State Schools well into the future. The funding will help equip schools with the hwb infrastructure needed to meet Welsh Government digital standards. Welsh Government is expected to invest £30m in 2020/21 and £20m in 2021/22 and finally, £10m in 2022/23. The majority of the funding for 2021/22 (90% approximately £0.270m for Anglesey) will be held by Welsh Government and local authorities will purchase equipment from a central source organised by Welsh Government. 10% (an estimated £30k for Anglesey) of the funding is provided to local authorities to support implementation of the programme. This funding is dependent on the Council's commitment to replacing the equipment at some point in the future when it reaches the end of its life. The easiest way to do this is to set aside capital funding each year to build up a reserve of funds that are available when required. A sum of £500k per annum over 4 years from 2021/22 would secure a £2m fund in four years' time.

- Flood mitigation on the B5109 at Fryars Bay. As no properties are at risk from the flooding in this area, the scheme does not attract grant funding from the Welsh Government under its current scheme. Should grant funding become available, the Council may need to consider releasing match funding in order to complete the mitigation works.
- The provision of learning disability day services is currently under review. The outcome of that review may recommend a capital investment in one or more centre in order to modernise the service. It is not clear at this point how much capital funding would be required, but it is likely to be a significant sum.
- The Council is currently producing a leisure improvement plan, designed to identify what will be required to maintain and improve the leisure facilities at the Council's 3 main leisure centres. Around £750k is held in a leisure specific reserve and the funding available could be increased through the sale of the golf course, if the Council reaches that conclusion. However, the funding requirement is considerably higher and will require additional external funding to implement.
- The current Anglesey Connected equipment is nearing the end of its useful life and, in order to maintain the connections to the establishments currently served by Anglesey Connected, the equipment will need to be replaced or the connections need to be transferred to PSBA. It is estimated that, over a 3 year period, £180k will be required to complete the transition. However, moving away from Anglesey Connected would allow the masts to be sold, which would generate a capital receipt.
- The Council has invested sums over recent years in modernising its business processes by investing in back office systems and implementing the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The next step is to begin to develop automated response systems to deal with customer queries (ChatBots). Although the Council are not in a position to implement the technology at the present time, the need to invest in such technology was identified as a future capital bid.

6. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS

- 6.1.** Due to the significant amount of Welsh Government funding the schemes will attract and the need to modernise the existing school estate, the Council is committed to funding these schemes through the use of unsupported borrowing and the capital receipts from the sale of old school sites. The 2021/22 Capital Programme allows for the completion of the final Band A project and the commencement of Band B projects. It is for the Executive to decide what those projects will be and when they will be commenced.
- 6.2.** The estimated cost of the programme in 2021/22 is £6.600m (net of any capital receipts) which will be funded from £3.205m Welsh Government grant, £2.897m supported borrowing and £0.498m unsupported borrowing.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 7.1.** The Housing Revenue Account is a ring fenced account in terms of both revenue and capital expenditure. The proposed programme for 2021/22 will see the continued investment in the existing stock to ensure continued compliance with the WHQS standards, with £9.555m being invested. A further £10.758m will be spent on developing new properties and in re-purchasing former right to buy properties.

7.2. The programme will be funded from: the HRA Reserve (£6.079m), the revenue surplus generated in 2021/22 (£9.560m), Welsh Government grants (£2.674m) and new unsupported borrowing (£2.000m).

8. SUMMARY RECOMMENDED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

8.1. The recommended capital programme for 2021/22 is summarised in Table 5 below and analysed in further detail in Appendix 2:-

Table 5
Summary Recommended Capital Programme 2021/22

	Ref	£'000
2020/21 Schemes Brought Forward	Para 4.1 & Table 2	3,970
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	Para 4.2.2 & Table 3	4,167
New One Off Capital Projects (Priority Projects)	Para 5.2 – 5.6 & Table 4	780
New One Off Capital Projects (Subject to Funding being Available)	Para 5.6	325
21 st Century Schools	Para 6	6,600
Housing Revenue Account	Para 7	20,313
Total Recommended Capital Programme 2021/22		36,155
Funded By:		
General Capital Grant		2,163
Supported Borrowing General		2,158
General Balances		596
General Balances (if sufficient funding available)		325
21 st Century Schools Supported Borrowing		2,897
21 st Century Schools Unsupported Borrowing		498
HRA Reserve & In Year Surplus		15,639
HRA Unsupported Borrowing		2,000
External Grants		5,909
2020/21 Funding Brought Forward		3,970
2021/22 Total Capital Funding		36,155

Response to the Executive Committee's Initial Budget Proposals – 2021/22

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 2021

Author – Gethin Morgan, Business Planning, Programme and Performance Manager

Head of Service – Carys Edwards, Head of Human Resources & Corporate Transformation

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council recently undertook a consultation exercise on the initial budget proposals agreed for consultation by the Executive Committee between 19th January and 2nd February, 2021. The 2 week consultation period focused on proposals from across Council services.
- 1.2. These proposals were the result of the annual budgetary process and were consulted upon in order to gain the views of the public and ensure the Executive can (as the process draws to a close) make recommendations from a fully informed position.
- 1.3. Consideration was given to a broad range of proposals such as increasing Council Tax levels by a further 1.1% on top of the 2.65% already earmarked as an annual raise, to fund essential Council services and invest in dealing with cost pressures identified as a result of the pandemic.
- 1.4. These proposals were publicised in various ways but were much more digitally targeted than in previous years;
 - 1.4.1. The proposals were published on the Council's website (homepage)
 - 1.4.2. Extensive use of social media – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to promote the proposals to a broader range of residents

Each of the channels above were aimed at publicising and creating enthusiasm amongst citizens and staff to engage and respond to the initial proposals.

- 1.5. Citizens, partners and staff were asked to respond to the consultation through the following means:
 - An on-line survey on our website
 - E-mail

The consultation this year followed a similar pattern to previous consultation events that have been held in recent years, with a shortened timescale enforced upon the Council by Welsh Government and of course the impact of the pandemic in being able to consult face to face with the residents of Anglesey. As a result, the emphasis again this year was placed on gaining an electronic response through our extensive use of social media due to the imposed constraints of Covid arrangements meaning that the usual public meetings could not take place.

The proposals were marketed as follows through the following social media channels –

13 times via Welsh facebook account

13 times via English Facebook account

13 times via Welsh Twitter account



13 times via English Twitter account

3 time via bilingual Instagram account


The Council received nearly 600 responses via electronic means. Correspondence was also received via e-mail. These responses encapsulate a relatively large number of responses compared to the previous annual budget setting processes which have averaged approximately 500 responses. There was an exception to this one year where in excess of 5,000 responses were received in the consultation of the Council's 19/20 budget setting process.

Bearing in mind this year's consultation was open for two weeks only, this is an appropriate and welcomed response by the residents of Anglesey to the consultation.







The results / findings are as follows –

1. Do you agree that the County Council should raise Council Tax further by 1.1% in order to fund the above activities / services?			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		12.33%	72
2	No		87.67%	512
			answered	584
			skipped	4

The above response demonstrates that the majority (nearly 9 out of 10 people) that responded to the consultation do not agree with the proposal to increase the Council Tax by 1.1% in order to fund the activities noted in the consultation.



2. If not, which of the above activities / services do you think the County Council should prioritise and fund from a Council Tax increase (please pick as many of the options below that you believe should be funded)?			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Introduce a new professional entry level staffing programme to provide		14.23%	76

2. If not, which of the above activities / services do you think the County Council should prioritise and fund from a Council Tax increase (please pick as many of the options below that you believe should be funded)?

			Response Percent	Response Total
	opportunities for young local people			
2	Increase public protection capacity to maintain future public health on Anglesey		18.54%	99
3	Improve educational provision for the most vulnerable learners at KS4 through further investment in the Education Inclusion Service		19.10%	102
4	IT support for schools to enable and support increased IT activity in education		21.54%	115
5	Improved Management of beaches and foreshore plus improvements in data collection to aide future tourism investment		14.23%	76
6	Climate change adaptations		15.17%	81
7	None of the above – continue as you are without the need for further investment		45.69%	244
			answered	534
			skipped	54

The above provides a picture of where those who do not wish to see a 1.1% increase to the Council Tax to fund Council Services would prioritise if required. It can be seen clearly that the majority would continue to state that no investment should be made and that the Council should continue as is without the need for further investment. This response gained approximately 46% and the second highest response was that of an additional investment in IT support for schools to enable and support increased IT activity in education.

2. To support these initiatives further and raise a proposed £100,000 the Council is also looking to increase car parking charges at seaside locations as it has concluded that the current charges are low in comparison to other authorities and destinations and believes there is scope to increase these charges. It proposes to increase these charges as follows:
Up to 1 hour – current charge £1, proposed new charge £1
Up to 2 hours – current charge £2, proposed new charge £3
Up to 4 hours – current charge £3.50, proposed new charge £6
Up to 12 hours – current charge £4.50, proposed new charge £10
Up to 12 hours (car and trailer) – current charge £6, proposed new charge £20
Would you agree with these proposals?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		38.50%	226
2	No		61.50%	361
			answered	587
			skipped	1

The above question relating to increased car parking charges demonstrates a clear split in the opinion of respondents with an approximate 60:40 split against such a proposal. Correspondence has been received by a local Sailing & Watersports Club regarding the above proposal, who noted -

“The Club recognise that the Covid 19 Pandemic has put enormous strain on Council budgets and reductions in the support from the UK Government via the Welsh Assembly over the years have forced local councils across Wales to have to make difficult decisions.

However, Members had a number of concerns about the potential impact a substantial increase in car parking fees could have on Club participation levels”. The Club itself has over 600 members of whom about 250 are children.

The Club in its response asks that the County Council recognise our concern that, as many of our members are regular full day users of the Traeth Bychan car park, an unreasonable increase in the charge may not only impact participation in our Club activities, both on and off the water, but also reduce a more or less guaranteed season long income source to the County Council.

It also understands through its response that the council proposes to introduce more modern ticket issuing machines to some car parks. If this is correct, the Club would propose that it would be to the benefit of both the Club and the County Council to introduce a scheme that rewards regular car park users, such as the clubs members, with a loyalty discount to users who are prepared to purchase blocks of parking tickets in advance.

A similar proposal (namely that residents could be offered a beneficial parking rate) has also been offered by an elected member for further consideration.

3. The Council will also look to use some of its general reserves to fund the following one-off improvements projects.



Economic Development and environmental wellbeing projects. Match funding to be used as and when grant funding becomes available to draw down external funding in order to realise projects which will benefit the Island - £95,000

Chrome books for schools To fund 1,672 chrome books for Secondary and Primary schools to ensure that children have access to chrome books, increase the ratio of chrome books for pupils and contribute to the wider scheme of the 2019-2023 boost - £305,000

Resurfacing play areas Resurfacing two play areas at Holyhead High School - £300,000

Flood Relief Schemes To provide match funding (15%) for small scale schemes and also to provide match funding (15%) for prioritised major schemes in order to draw down Welsh Government (WG) grant funding. WG grant would therefore total £2.295m and allow Flood Relief Schemes to be built at Red Wharf Bay, Menai Bridge and Valley - £405,000

Do you agree with the proposed activities above?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		51.55%	300
2	No		48.45%	282
			answered	582
			skipped	6

The response to the Council’s proposal of how to use its capital funding over the forthcoming 12 months is at odds with the previous comments with a slight majority in favour of the proposals.

Further comments regarding some of these proposals and respondents views can be gleaned in answer to the following final question of the consultation.

5. If not, where and on what should the Council invest over the forthcoming 12 months?

The findings relating to this question have been thematically collated for the ease of analysis. They are listed in the order of popularity. i.e. the largest number first / smallest response last.

- **Discontent: 69**

This number revolves around the suggestion of increasing the council tax. Several points were made, however a few themes did crop up more than others. 2nd homes - or holiday homes - was the main theme that respondents commented on. It was felt that the council should be looking to increase tax on those who do not live in Anglesey all year round and own holiday homes, rather than increasing the council tax in general. Furthermore, respondents were keen to point out that many of those who do own 2nd homes are profiteering by running their second homes as Air BnB's. Respondents also noted that it was very unfair to suggest increasing the council tax considering that there is now a £35 charge for green bins, along with the burden and cost associated with the pandemic. Many people strongly felt that they could not deal with any further costs. Finally, some respondents wanted to make their feelings heard with regards to how well some of the councillors are paid.

Away from council tax, the majority of people who did respond were totally opposed to the idea of increasing car parking charges on beaches and other tourist destinations. They generally felt that it would cause more problems – people parking on the sides of roads and the worry that it may turn some tourists away. These views are aligned to those of the Sailing & Watersports Club mentioned previously.

- **No Further Spending – Do with what we have already: 38**

A number of respondents generally felt that due to Covid they would rather see no additional investment being made by the County Council this year if it means that their council tax must be increased.

- **Highways: 35**

A number of respondents were keen to note that they wanted to see an improvement to the roads on Anglesey. Furthermore, this wasn't a view what was just based on a few areas, it was an universal view for the whole island. Respondents often pointed out that the number of pot holes and poor road surfaces had caused damage to their cars.

- **Education: 27**

Respondents were generally very supportive of the idea to bring in chrome books for school. This can be seen in the number of people that supported an improvement in education. However, the £300,000 play area in Holyhead was seen as an 'absurd' amount of money to spend on such a facility.

- **Flood Relief Schemes: 23**

Respondents were very supportive of additional work being undertaken for flood relief schemes. Many cited the recent floods as their reasoning behind wanting additional funding for flood defence schemes at different parts of the Island.

- **Health and Wellbeing: 20**

The responses to this point revolves around several different aspects. Firstly, many respondents feel that there needs to be additional funds towards ensuring that adults and children can receive the necessary mental health counselling when required. It was also felt that funds need to be made available to the wellbeing of families who are living on the breadline. Finally, a few respondents also felt that there needs to be additional support to the elderly and disabled.

- **More Activities: 17**

Many were keen to see an improvement in the number of cycle routes and walking routes for the island - in particular roads around the Llangefni area. People also cited how they would like to see an increase, or refurbishment of several playgrounds – pointing that there isn't enough spots for children to play in many areas. This point can be aligned to those noted above regarding the health and wellbeing of the residents.

- **Housing: 15**

Two main points surfaced here. Respondents were keen to see an increase in the number of houses available to first time buyers – they would like to see an initiative from the council which supports younger people to purchase their first house. Secondly, they were keen to see either more council houses being bought, or an improvement in the state of several council houses that already exist.

- **Rubbish and Waste: 13**

This response was hugely aimed at dog waste more than anything. People are fed up of seeing dog waste at beaches and would like to see additional funding put towards bins on beaches.

- **Improving Communities: 11**

There was a general theme – especially with regards to Holyhead – that respondents wanted to see town improvements. Essentially, they were keen to see old, tired buildings refurbished and made to look more attractive.

- **Small Businesses: 10**

Respondents felt that small businesses require additional funding in order to help them through the pandemic. The effect of Covid has been very costly to small businesses who have had to close as a result of lockdowns.

- **Tourism: 10**

There was a feeling from respondents that money should be made available for tourism activities. They felt that tourism was the best way to inject money in to the local economy post-covid, and thus felt that the council should look to invest in attractions that could lure more people in to visiting Anglesey. This was seen as an opportunity.

- **More Job Opportunities: 9**

A small number of respondents were keen to see investment being made to ensure that the people of Anglesey can secure jobs. 5 of the respondents for this highlighted that they would like to see an increase in the number of opportunities for young people in particular.

- **Improve the Environment: 6**

A few respondents mentioned that they would like to see funding being made available in order to ensure that Anglesey is more eco-friendly. Responses varied from wanting to see more electric car charging stations, to wanting to see more trees etc. being planted.

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 th February, 2021
Subject:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Purpose of Report:	Assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering, agreeing and reviewing its forward work programme for 2020/21
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Head of Service:	Lynn Ball, Head of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
Tel:	01248 752578
Email:	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Applicable to all Scrutiny Members

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1 - Recommendation/s
<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <p>R1 agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2020/21</p> <p>R2 note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.</p>

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities
<p>Effective work programming is the foundation of effective local government scrutiny. Our Scrutiny rolling forward work programmes are aligned with the corporate priorities of the 2017/2022 Council Plan and corporate transformation programmes – ensuring the role of Member scrutiny makes a tangible contribution to the Council’s improvement priorities.</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> <p>3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]</p> <p>3.3 A look at any risks [focus on risk]</p> <p>3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]</p> <p>3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement <p>[focus on wellbeing]</p>

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

5 – Background / Context

1. Background

1.1 Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective local government scrutiny function¹. Done well, work programming can help lay the foundations for targeted and timely work on issues of local importance demonstrating where Member scrutiny can add value. Good practice advocates two key issues at the heart of the scrutiny forward work programme:

- i. Challenge around prioritising work streams
- ii. Need for a member-led approach and interface with officers.

1.2 Basic principles of good work programming²

- Work programming should not be a “start-stop” process
- Complementary work programmes for separate scrutiny committees
- Balance between different methods of work
- An effective process for reporting / escalating issues to the Executive
- Input and views of internal stakeholders
- Close working with the Executive
- Links with the Annual Scrutiny Report (evaluation and improvement tool).

2. Local context

2.1 There is now a well-established practice of forward work programming which are now rolling programmes focusing on the quality of scrutiny with fewer items, to add value. They are an important tool to assist Members in prioritising their work and are discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service. Both committees review the content of their work programmes on a regular basis, to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements now ensure greater focus on:

- Strategic aspects
- Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
- Priorities of the 2017/2022 Council Plan and transformation projects
- Risks and the work of inspection and regulation
- Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.

Outcome: rolling work programmes for scrutiny committees which are aligned with corporate priorities.

2.2 Committee chairs lead on developing the forward work programmes and are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum and for approval at each ordinary meeting of the scrutiny committees. The Forum is

¹ A Cunning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

² A Cunning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

considered an important vehicle to oversee these programmes and jointly negotiate priorities.

2.3 **“Whole council” approach to Scrutiny:** our work programmes provide a strong foundation for our improvement programme, ensuring the role that Scrutiny plays in the Authority’s governance arrangements:

- i. Supports robust and effective decision-making
- ii. Makes a tangible contribution to the Council’s improvement priorities
- iii. Continues to evolve

2.4 **Impact of the current Emergency on the Committee’s Work Programme**

The current period (**managing the emergency response to the Pandemic, the Recovery Period and gradually returning to the New Norm**) are extremely challenging periods for the Council and every other public organisation throughout Wales as we continue to face the challenges of the Covid-19 emergency and it is inevitable that this will impact on the Committee’s work programme. As a result, the Council has changed its way of working as a result of the global health emergency. During an emergency period, governance and accountability are of key importance.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny proposes a specific scrutiny model as a result of the pandemic, which in conjunction with the Council’s Committee Strategy provides a structure to inform the Committee’s work programme. A summary is provided below:

- i. Focus on a smaller number of key issues around “life and limb” aspects of local people’s lives
- ii. Maintain a “watching brief” over Council services, performance and financial matters
- iii. **Specific elements of the Scrutiny Model**
 - Overview of the Council’s response to Covid-19
 - Specific overview of *life and limb* matters (social care legislation, safeguarding children and adults; public health)
 - Continued overview of the Council’s financial matters
 - Act as a conduit for community experiences.

3. **Issues for consideration**

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee receives regular update reports on the implementation of its forward work programme. A copy of the current 2020/21 work programme is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report for reference and includes changes made to the work programme since the Committee last considered the document.³

3.2 Where appropriate, items may be added to the Committee’s forward work programme during the municipal year. Requests for additional matters to be considered for inclusion on the work programme can be submitted via the Members Request Form for an item to be considered for Scrutiny. Requests are initially considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum, using the following criteria:

³ Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 17th November, 2020

- the Council's strategic objectives and priorities (as outlined in the Council Plan 2017/2022)
- the ability of the Committee to have influence and/or add value on the subject (A Scrutiny Test of Significance Form will be completed).

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

Not applicable for this overarching issue but will be considered as an integral part of preparing for specific proposals to be submitted for consideration by the Committee.

7 – Financial Implications

Not applicable.

8 – Appendices:

Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2020/21

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

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR SCRUTINY → SEPTEMBER 2020 – APRIL, 2021
[Version dated 28/01/21]

Note for Stakeholders and the Public:

A [Protocol for Public Speaking at Scrutiny Committees](#) has been published by the Council.

Should you wish to speak on any specific item at a Scrutiny Committee then you should register your interest by submitting a written request using the form available as soon as possible and at least 3 clear working days prior to the specific Committee meeting. You can access information about the meeting and which items being discussed by reading this Forward Work Programme. Contact the Scrutiny Manager if you have any queries

[\[AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk\]](mailto:AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk)

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
September, 2020 (14/09/20)	September, 2020 (21/09/20)
Scrutiny of the Council's Response to Covid-19 Emergency (including the financial impact)	Public Services Board Annual Report 2019/20
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21	Scrutiny of Partnership Aspects: Council's Response to Covid-19 Emergency
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21
September, 2020 (22/09/20)	
Social Services Improvement Plan Progress Report and Social Services Improvement Panel Progress Report	
Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 2019/20	
October, 2020 (20/10/20)	October, 2020 (22/10/20)
Corporate Preventative Strategy	Schools Progress Review Panel Progress Report
Annual Performance Report 2019/20	Community Safety Partnership Annual Report: 2019/20
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21	Green Waste Collection Fees
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21
November, 2020 (02/11/20) (Meeting cancelled)	November, 2020 (10/11/20)
	Public Services Board- scrutiny of governance arrangements
	Governance Arrangement 2 - North Wales Economic Ambition Board
	Annual Report: Regional Partnership Board (Part 9: Health and Social Services)
	Pooled Budgets (Learning Disabilities)
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
November, 2020 (17/11/20) [Q2]	
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2020/21	
Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21	
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21	
December, 2020 (10/12/2020)	
Schools' Modernisation Programme – Llangefni area (Y Graig & Talwrn)	
December, 2020 (17/12/2020)	
Schools' Modernisation Programme – Llangefni area (Corn Hir & Bodffordd)	
January, 2021 – Cancelled	January, 2021 (19/01/21)- Cancelled
February, 2021 (16/02/21) [budget 2021/22]	February, 2021 (09/02/21)
Final Draft Budget Proposals 2021/22	GwE Progress Report 2020/21: supporting schools during Covid 19 pandemic
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Estyn: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21	Supplementary Planning Guidance – Accommodation and Facilities
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21
March, 2021 (08/03/21)	March, 2021 (11/03/21)
Social Services Improvement Plan Progress Report and Social Services Improvement Panel Progress Report	Public Services Board - scrutiny of progress on delivery of the Well-being Plan
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan (to be confirmed)	Equality Annual Report 2020/21
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2020/21	Climate Change (to be confirmed)
Llangefni Golf Course	North Wales Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2019/20
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21
April, 2021 (12/04/21)	April, 2021 (14/04/21)
	Update: Gwynedd and Anglesey Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Partnership
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2020/21

Items to be scheduled:

Transformation of Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities

Schools' Modernisation Programme- Llangefni/ Amlwch areas

Council's Response to Covid-19- matters to follow up at the request of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee (14/09/2020):

- **Wellbeing of Council staff and communities**
- **Monitoring the effectiveness of the Track and Trace system**

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