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CYNGOR SIR
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ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Mrs Annwen Morgan
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive
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| RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD | NOTICE OF MEETING |
| PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL | CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| DYDD GWENER 23 EBRILL, 2021 am 9:30 y. b. | FRIDAY, 23 APRIL 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, Margaret M Roberts, Nicola Roberts

Y GRWP ANNIBYNNOL / THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

Richard Griffiths, Richard O. Jones

PLAID LAFUR CYMRU/ WALES LABOUR PARTY

J. Arwel Roberts

ANNIBYNNWYR MÔN / ANGLESEY INDEPENDENTS

Aled Morris Jones (*Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrats*)(*Cadeirydd/Chair*)
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 from any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 1 - 22)

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

- 16 February, 2021
- 8 March, 2021

3 COUNCIL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (Pages 23 - 34)

To present the report of the Chief Executive on matters to be followed up at the request of the Committee.

4 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 35 - 40)

To present the report of the Scrutiny Manager.

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 16 February, 2021 (Budget Meeting)

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

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

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

Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Members

Councillors Glyn Haynes, G.O. Jones, Kenneth Hughes, Trefor Lloyd
Hughes, MBE, R. Llewelyn Jones, Dafydd Roberts.

Portfolio Members

Councillors Llinos Medi Huws (Leader and Portfolio Member for Social
Services), Robin Williams (Portfolio Member for Finance), R. Meirion
Jones (Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture & Youth), R.G.
Parry, OBE, FRAGS (Portfolio Member for Highways, Property and
Waste), Richard Dew (Portfolio Member for Planning and Public
Protection), Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Major Projects and
Economic Development), Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for
Corporate Business), Alun Mummery (Portfolio Member for Housing
and Supporting Communities) Councillor Ieuan Williams (Portfolio
Member for Service Transformation and the Welsh Language *(for part of
the meeting only)*)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Interim Director of Social Services
Head of Highways, Waste & Property Services
Head of Housing Services
Head of Democratic Services
Interim Head of Regulation and Economic Development
Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation
Programme, Business Planning & Performance Manager (GM)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Richard Griffiths, Nicola Roberts, Mr Dyfed Edwards (Co-
opted Member)

ALSO PRESENT: Bethan Roberts (Audit Wales), Accountancy Services Manager (BHO)
Mr Gareth Wyn Williams (Local Democracy Reporter)

The Chair welcomed all Members and Officers to this meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee which would be considering the initial proposals for setting the 2021/22 capital and revenue budgets.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

17 November, 2020

10 December, 2020 (extraordinary)

17 December, 2020 (extraordinary)

3 2020/21 BUDGET SETTING (REVENUE BUDGET)

The report of the Scrutiny Manager was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report outlined the context to the 2021/22 Budget setting process along with the key issues and questions for Scrutiny in evaluating the Executive's initial revenue budget proposals taking into consideration the key messages from the public consultation exercise. The following documentation was appended to the report -

3.1 The report of the Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer on the initial proposals for the 2021/2022 revenue budget which was presented to the Executive on 18 January, 2020 and which included a position statement with regard to the Executive's initial budget proposals; Welsh Government's provisional settlement for Local Government; the initial budget position for 2021/22; Council Tax; the Council's reserves and balances; savings proposals; budget pressures; risks and the impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Portfolio Member for Finance introduced the budget report and proposals by saying that they come at the end of an unprecedented year of challenges. The Council has to balance its desire to keep Council Tax increases to a minimum with the need to build resilience into the budget in readiness for future challenges. He recognised that Council Tax is a contentious issue there being an expectation that it will rise annually; personally he found it an unfair and inappropriate system for the twenty-first century. But in light of a better than forecasted Welsh Government provisional settlement for Anglesey for 2021/22 the Council was able to go out to public consultation on the basis of a proposed 3.75% increase in Council Tax for 2021/22. However, the timing of Welsh Government's settlement remains an issue and is an unsatisfactory way of funding local councils with the final budget settlement not due to be announced until 2 March, 2021 - a week only before the Council is expected to finalise and set its budget for 2021/22. The budget report sets out a number of considerations in setting the 2021/22 budget with one of the key elements being the new Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing Contract effective from 1 April, 2021. The cost of the new contract is significantly higher than the current budget and in itself equates to 3% on the Council Tax. Also the Executive has identified as a priority area the need to ensure a supply of suitably qualified and experienced labour for the future and is keen to reinstate the Professional Trainee Programme to help address any potential skills shortage that the Council may face.

The Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer provided an overview of the revenue budget process and context by way of a visual presentation and he highlighted the key aspects and considerations impacting on the level of Council Tax as follows –

- The initial budget for 2021/22 as projected in the Medium Term Financial Plan foresaw an increase of £6.680m based on additional provision being made for the higher cost of the new Waste and Street Cleansing Contract, investment in the Council's IT Service, changes in pupil numbers, inflation, extra demand on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and pressure on Adult Social Care taking the total projected budget for 2021/22 to £148.826m. The projected £6m increase in the budget would have required a 4% increase in the Council's Aggregate External Funding (AEF) and a minimum 7% increase in Council Tax.
- The provisional Local Government Settlement for Anglesey for 2021/22 amounts to £104.825m (an increase of 3.4% compared to an all Wales increase of 3.8%) and includes Tax base adjustment, the Teacher's Pay Grant, and additional funding to meet increased costs. The population statistics used in the funding formula have been updated and Anglesey has as a result seen a reduction in AEF because the revised population figures for Anglesey were lower than the previous forecast. However, had the AEF since 2013/14 kept up with inflation, then Anglesey would have been in receipt of £115m AEF in 2021/22 instead of the actual £105m it has received. As it is the Council has had to cut services and increase Council Tax to meet the shortfall over this time.
- The final budget proposal for 2021/22 (set out in detail in Table 5 at paragraph 10.10 of the report to the 18 January meeting of the Executive) based on the revised standstill budget for 2021/22 and taking into account committed changes, staffing costs (subject to confirmation of pay awards which is recognised as a risk area) and identified additional pressures in the form of funding the Professional Trainee Programme; additional capacity in Public Protection; Education Inclusion; IT Support for Schools, Management of Tourism and Tackling Climate Change amounts to £147.706m. Adjustments for additional income from increased car park charges, freezing of school meal prices, the CTRS budget and balance to the General Contingency bring the total proposed Council Budget for 2021/22 to £147.531 of which £104.825m is funded by AEF leaving £42.706m to be funded by Council Tax. The 2020/21 Council Tax Budget adjusted for the change in the tax base amounts to £41.162m which means that the funding shortfall (before an increase in Council Tax) is £1.544m.
- A Council Tax increase of 3.75% meets the shortfall and balances the budget.
- As at 2020/21 the Council had £7.060m in General Reserves equating to 4.97% of its net Revenue Budget (£142.146m) – up from 2019/20 (£5.912m) but down on the highpoint of £8.886m in 2016/17. General Reserves provide a safety net against unexpected events or emergencies. Had Welsh Government not provided additional financial support for Covid-19, then the Council would have had to draw on its reserves to meet the costs of dealing with the pandemic. Although there is no set minimum level of reserves for local authorities, the general unofficial benchmark is around 5% of the net revenue budget depending also on each Council's financial position and the risks they face. Taking into account actual and planned use of reserves (including to finance part of the 2021/22 capital expenditure), and a Q3 forecast underspend on the revenue budget, the Council's forecasted General Reserves position as at 31 March, 2021 is £7.526m .
- Whilst there are no indications on future settlements beyond 2021/22, there are several factors that could influence future funding e.g. the ongoing effect of the Pandemic and Brexit as well as the Senedd elections in 2021 and the Local Government elections in 2022. For the future it is hoped that Welsh Government will be able to provide longer term certainty to enable local authorities to more plan ahead more effectively than the current annual budget setting process allows.

3.2 The report of the Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager which provided an analysis of the messages from the Public Consultation exercise on the Authority's 2021/22 initial Budget proposals as approved by the Executive conducted during the period 19 January to 2 February, 2021 (Appendix 2)

The Portfolio Member for Corporate Business reported that the consultation exercise this year followed a similar pattern to previous consultation events held in recent years but with a shortened timescale enforced on the Council by Welsh Government and the impact of the pandemic meaning that public meetings could not take place and greater emphasis was placed on gaining an electronic response. The Council received 600 responses via electronic means as well as correspondence via e-mail. 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 and compares well with the number of responses to previous annual budget setting processes which have averaged in the region of 500 responses the exception being the 2019/20 budget setting process which attracted in excess of 5,000 responses.

The Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager summarised the headline findings from the public consultation exercise as follows –

- The majority of respondents (nearly 9 out of 10 people) did not agree with the proposal to increase the Council Tax by 1.1.% (on top of the 2.65% already earmarked as an annual rise) in order to fund the activities noted in the consultation.
- As regards prioritising those activities and/or Council Services, the majority of those who did not wish to see a 1.1% increase in Council Tax (244 or 45.69%) thought that no investment should be made and that the Council should continue without the need for further investment.
- In relation to proposals for generating income, the response to increasing car parking charges at coastal locations is split 60:40 against such a proposal. Correspondence received by a local Sailing and Water Sports Club raises concerns that increased car parking charges may affect Club participation numbers as well as reducing a season long income source for the Council. If new, more modern ticketing machines are introduced as proposed, then the Club suggests that a loyalty discount scheme for regular car park users be also introduced.
- There was a slight majority (51.55%) in favour of the proposals for capital funding over the next 12 months.
- With regard to the question of where and on what should the Council invest over the forthcoming 12 months, the largest response (69) revolved around the Council Tax increase with points made about it being unfair given the new charge on green waste and suggestions made about increasing the tax on holiday homes.
- The response to bringing in chrome books for schools was positive as was the response to additional work for flood relief schemes. A number of respondents also wanted to see an improvement to the roads on Anglesey and many were keen to see an increase in the number of cycle and walking routes. To a lesser extent points were made about the availability of affordable homes for first time buyers, provision of bins for dog waste on beaches, town improvement especially in relation to Holyhead; providing support for small businesses, tourism activities, investing in more job opportunities and funding improvements to the environment.
- The Schools Finance Forum having met on the previous Wednesday was generally satisfied with the budget proposals but indicated that it would like to see the delegated schools budget increasing in 2022/23 and beyond.

The main points of the full discussion that ensued focused on the following –

- Councillor Alun Roberts was concerned about what research has shown to be the hidden problems of Covid 19 especially the impact of lockdown restrictions on the welfare of children and their families. He asked whether in allocating resources to Children and Families Services consideration had been given to the potential increase in referrals to children's social care services as schools and society re-open and whether the proposed budget for Children and Families' Services is sufficient to be able to deal with increased demand and workload. Councillor Llinos Medi, Leader and Portfolio Member for Social

Services in acknowledging the point clarified that the matter is the subject of a national discussion and is a priority area for Social Services Portfolio Members across councils in Wales who collectively are calling for a national approach to the recovery of Children and Families. As regards the adequacy of the service budget the extent of the problem in terms of how children and families have been affected by Covid restrictions cannot be quantified and its impact on the budget is difficult to predict; however, the Authority does have reserves to help it meet increased demand for services should that be required.

- Several members raised the issue of the proposed increase in car parking charges at coastal locations. The points raised included the justification for the substantial increase in the charge for up to 12 hours parking for a car and trailer (up from £6 to £20); the merits of introducing a seasonal system where reduced or no charges at all are levied in winter, regularising tariffs across all coastal car parks so they all provide 1 or 2 hours parking, and the arrangements for enforcement.

Councillor R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS, Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and property responded by highlighting that no changes are proposed to town centre car parking charges or annual permits which will remain at current levels. He thought the proposed increases to coastal parking are reasonable especially when benchmarked with other authorities and also in light of the fact that the Authority unlike many other authorities offers a 1 hour parking option. Whilst a higher increase is proposed for car and trailer parking, a point to consider is that some trailers due to their size take up 2 to 3 parking spaces.

The Head of Highways, Waste and Property Services provided some context to the proposals and clarified that a Budget Challenge Panel had found that implementing savings in the highways and building maintenance budgets was not possible and that in light of the some of the challenges facing the service specifically in connection with the new waste collection contract the most feasible option involved looking at ways of generating additional car parking income to be led by a Steering Group for that purpose. The group considered a number of different options which in the end came down to £50k additional income from increased charges for town centre parking or £100k additional income from increased charges for coastal location parking; the group strongly supported the latter. Some of the proposals were intended to be implemented over summer 2020 but Covid 19 made adapting parking ticket machines difficult at the time. Over the phone payments are now possible. With reference to enforcement, the service has 4 Enforcement Officers 3 of which are full time with one vacant post. The vacant post will be filled by two seasonal officers to cover the spring and summer seasons thereby bringing additional flexibility to the service to enable it to better respond to evening and weekend calls.

Whilst seasonal car parking charges have been applied in the past, at present the same charges apply throughout the year. Most coastal car parks are closed during the year and the ticket machines are either covered or are removed because otherwise they would not withstand the winter weather and the level of use is insufficient for them to pay for themselves. Parking orders in some coastal locations allow on street parking thereby reducing the demand for car parks. However, introducing seasonal charges is an option if the Council so wishes. With regard to tariffs, the 1 and 2 hour parking tariffs are operative in car parks in those coastal locations where there are also shops and other amenities and where the call for short-term parking is therefore greater. But a wider range of tariffs could be introduced elsewhere if the demand arose.

- Whilst the proposed freeze on school meal prices was acknowledged and welcomed by several of the Committee's members Councillor Dylan Rees wanted to know in what way the proposed budget more broadly helps the Island's disadvantaged and less well-off residents. Councillor Rees further highlighted that the analysis of the public consultation

response does not say anything about the demographic of the participants which would have been helpful, and he suggested that for the future, age profile and/or postcode area information is provided.

Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance referred to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which provides people on low income with help in paying their Council Tax which is why it is important that the Council and other organisations raise awareness of the support that is available through the scheme. The Council is in other ways providing support to the most vulnerable by investing in the services which they rely upon so they remain viable and are there for those who need them in future.

- Councillor Bryan Owen referred to the public opposition to the proposed 3.75% increase in Council Tax (an additional 1.1% on top of the earmarked 2.65% annual raise) and he questioned whether there is scope to reduce the increase to 2.5% on the basis that many people find themselves in a difficult financial position because of the pandemic and because the increases in Council Tax implemented by the Council in recent years have been some way above inflation; failing that whether it was possible to freeze Band D payments. Whilst supporting the proposed increase in car parking charges as fair, Councillor Owen sought further clarity on the proposed investment in IT.

Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance highlighted that the level of Council Tax in Anglesey remains the second lowest in North Wales and is also among the lowest in Wales. However, if additional funding is made available and the final settlement allows, he would be ready to look at a 2.5% increase mindful also that protecting services versus increasing the Council Tax is a fine balancing act.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer clarified that the proposed investment in the Council's IT function is in response to the increase in demand for the use of information technology and consists of revenue investment in additional staffing resources to provide the necessary level of technical support to maintain the Council's infrastructure and software, and capital investment to update the Council's systems to protect the Council from ransomware attacks. The proposed provision of Chromebooks for schools is in recognition of the increase in IT as a method of teaching in schools which makes it necessary to ensure that pupils have the tools to benefit from it.

With regard to Council Tax, the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised that limiting the increase in Council Tax to 2.5%, would reduce Council Tax income by £500k which would have to be funded either by reducing the budget by the same amount or by using the Council's reserves to plug the gap. If the latter then that can only be on a one-off basis, which leaves the Council with an immediate £500k shortfall in 2022/23 which will have to be funded by a reduction in the budget or by an even higher increase in Council Tax. As there are a number of unknowns regarding the budget for 2022/23 and beyond, this would increase the financial risk to the Council. Freezing the Council Tax rate for Band D would lead to an even greater funding gap and further, due the way Council Tax is worked out, would be difficult as the other valuation bands are calculated as a proportion of Band D.

- Councillor Alun Roberts referred to pressure on Canolfan Addysg y Bont and wanted to know whether there was scope to invest in the centre to meet increased demand. Councillor Roberts also sought clarity on the availability of additional funding for teaching /classroom support to aid Education recovery and catch up following the pandemic.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 15 Officer clarified that the proposed 2021/22 budget funds 120 places at Canolfan Addysg y Bont (up from 115 in 2020/21). Since the Head Teacher of Canolfan Addysg y Bont has confirmed that this is

the maximum number of pupils the centre can accommodate any additional demand would have to be met by looking at mainstream schools or out of county provision. As the call for out of county placements by Children and Families Services has reduced as more looked after children are cared for locally by the Service's own foster carers, there is some scope within this budget although out of county provision remains a high cost option. Welsh Government has been providing additional funding over the past year to help the Council meet the costs of dealing with Covid-19 and to counter loss of income; although it is understood this support will continue, the amount and the form it will take remains to be confirmed and there has been no indication to date of a specific allocation for Education. In response to a further question about adapting mainstream schools to meet the additional needs of pupils, the Director of Function (Resources)/ Section 151 Office confirmed that the capital budget does include a £1.5m scheme over 5 years from 2017/18 to make adaptations to secondary schools to allow pupils with additional needs to continue in mainstream education.

Councillor Dafydd Roberts, Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel reporting from the Panel's 12 February, 2022 meeting confirmed that the Panel supported the proposed Revenue Budget for 2021/22 deeming the figures to be robust, the assumptions made to be sound and the response to the additional pressures reasonable. The Panel in noting the messages from the public consultation considered the possibility of introducing discounted parking for local people at coastal car parks. With regard to Council Tax, the Panel recommends that there is scope through the use of reserves to look at increasing Council Tax by less than 3.75%. In response to a request by the Chair for further clarity on the specifics, Councillor Roberts said that the Panel had not felt able to specify a figure pending confirmation also of the forecast underspend on the 2020/21 budget.

On the basis of the above, Councillor Bryan Owen, seconded by Councillor Aled Morris Jones proposed that a Council Tax increase of 2.5% be recommended to the Executive.

Councillor John Arwel Roberts in light of the discussion and recognising that there may be some latitude later on to consider alternatives, proposed that the Committee support a 3.75% increase in the Council Tax which would balance the budget. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Richard Owain Jones.

In the ensuing vote the proposal for a 3.75% increase in Council Tax was carried by a majority of the Committee's members.

Having considered the information presented both written and verbally at the meeting, and having regard to the messages from the public consultation exercise and feedback from the Finance Scrutiny Panel, it was resolved to recommend an increase of 3.75% in the Council Tax for 2021/22 to the Executive in order to create a balanced budget.

The Committee adjourned at 11:50 a.m. for a short break and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

4 2021/22 BUDGET SETTING (CAPITAL BUDGET)

The report of the Scrutiny Manager was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report outlined the context to the 2019/20 Capital Budget setting process along with the key issues and questions for Scrutiny in evaluating the Executive's initial capital budget proposals taking into consideration the key messages from the public consultation exercise. The following documentation was appended to the report –

4.1 The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer on the initial proposals for the 2021/22 capital budget which was presented to the Executive on 18 January, 2021 and which included a position statement with regard to the Executive's initial capital budget position for 2021/22; the level of capital

expenditure; borrowing impact on the revenue budget due to capital financing costs; ongoing revenue costs (e.g. maintenance); budget pressures and risks and impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Council Plan.

Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance reported that a capital programme of £36.155m is proposed for 2021/22; as unlike in previous years the capital budget for 2021/22 falls short by approximately £900k the intention is to utilise the projected underspend on the revenue account in 2020/21 to bridge the gap and enable the planned programme to be delivered. The greater part of the capital expenditure in 2021/22 is linked to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which maintains and develops the Council's housing stock.

The Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer provided an overview of the capital budget process by way of a visual presentation which he expanded upon orally with the key points highlighted as follows -

- That the level of funding under the Welsh Government's General Capital Grant and Supported Borrowing has not increased for a number of years and is not expected to change significantly between the provisional and final settlement.
- That the Council's capital strategy provides for funding to be allocated annually to invest in existing assets. Hence the programme includes £1m for refurbishing school buildings; £60k for other Council buildings; £1.25m for Highways; £195k for replacement vehicles and £292k to upgrade IT assets. A £50k allocation for the Disabled Facilities Grant is also included in the programme the grant being a statutory obligation.
- Capital investment of £6.6m is planned for new schools (Llangefni area – subject to the final decision) in line with the Council's commitment to the 21st Century Schools Programme.
 - The capital programme will be funded by a combination of external grants, the General Capital Grant, and supported and unsupported borrowing (details as at Table 1 paragraph 3.1 of the report). HRA projects are to be financed through HRA funding which is ring-fenced for the purpose.
- New one-off capital projects to the value of £1.105m are included in the capital programme for 2021/22 and these encompass chrome books for schools, resurfacing two play areas in Holyhead High School, flood relief schemes and match funding for economic development and environmental wellbeing projects. These projects will be financed from general reserves provided the predicted £1m underspend on the 2020/21 revenue budget is realised.

4.2 The report of the Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager which provided an analysis of the messages from the Public Consultation exercise on the Authority's 2021/22 initial Budget proposals as approved by the Executive conducted during the period 19 January to 2 February, 2021. (Appendix 2)

As previously reported the Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager confirmed that there was a slight majority (51.55%) of the respondents in the public consultation in favour of the proposals for capital funding over the next 12 months.

Councillor Dafydd Roberts, Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel reporting from the Panel's 12 February, 2012 meeting confirmed that the Panel agreed with the proposals for the 2021/22 capital programme but that it also registered concern over the condition of school buildings on the Island which it recognised as a long term issue that needs specific attention.

Following on from the feedback from the Finance Scrutiny Panel above, the Committee questioned whether a planned £1m allocation for school refurbishment in 2021/22 is sufficient and whether there are any prospects for additional funding being made available.

Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance acknowledged that the Council's school estate consists of ageing buildings especially so its secondary schools which will require investment over the coming years either by refurbishing the current buildings or replacing them with new buildings. Additional support for the delivery of new schools is being provided by Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised that maintaining the whole range of Council assets including schools, leisure centres and main Council building is going to be problematic for the future as the capital investment required is likely to far exceed what the Council is able to afford. Whilst the Council's capital strategy entails modernising its assets where it can by taking advantage of external funding where available, consideration will have to be given to rationalising the Council's assets as continuing to maintain them in the long term is becoming an increasing challenge.

In response to a question about the wisdom of investing £300k on resurfacing two play areas at Holyhead High school in the context of deteriorating school buildings, the Portfolio Member for Education clarified that the expenditure meets an immediate need at the school.

Having considered the information presented both written and verbally at the meeting, and having regard to the messages from the public consultation exercise and feedback from the Finance Scrutiny Panel, it was resolved to recommend the Capital Budget for 2021/22 as presented to the Executive (*Councillors Aled Morris Jones and Bryan Owen abstained from voting*).

5 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Dafydd Roberts reported that the Panel at its meeting held on 12 February, 2021 had examined the proposals for the 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets and that the feedback was as reported under items 3 and 4 above.

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Scrutiny Manager incorporating the Committee's Forward Work Programme to April, 2021 was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Chair requested that the two matters to be followed up from the Committee's scrutiny of the Council's response to Covid-19 with regard to the well-being of Council staff and communities, and monitoring the effectiveness of the track and trace system be scheduled to a meeting of the Committee in April, 2021.

It was resolved –

- **To agree to the current version of the forward work programme subject to scheduling the two follow up items relating to the Council's response to Covid-19 to an April meeting of the Committee.**
- **To note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme**

ACTION: Scrutiny Manager to update the Forward Work Programme accordingly.

**Councillor Aled M. Jones
Chair**

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CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 8 March, 2021

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

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

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)

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Richard Owain Jones, Mr Keith Roberts, Mr Dyfed Wyn Jones (Co-opted Members)

ALSO PRESENT: Accountancy Services Manager (BHO), Scrutiny Officer (SR), Mr Gareth Williams (Local Democracy Reporter)

The Chair welcomed all those present to this virtual meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

With reference to item 4 on the agenda, Councillor Nicola Roberts declared that she had served as a director of the Llangefni Partnership, the social enterprise that had for a period been responsible for managing and running the Llangefni Golf course. She clarified that the Partnership's involvement with the golf course predated her becoming a director.

2 SOCIAL SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The report of the Interim Director of Social Services and Interim Head of Adults' Services providing a summary of progress and improvements to date within the Social Services was presented for the Committee's consideration.

Councillor Llinos Medi, Leader and Portfolio Member for Social Services provided a summary of the key developments since the Committee was last updated in September, 2010 as follows –

- That Social Services are currently working within budget and both Adults and Children and Families' Services are on target to close the financial year in this position.
- In September, 2020 as part of the national Welsh Government initiative to roll out an ID card for young carers throughout Wales, the Service began working in partnership with Gwynedd Council and Action for Children to develop an ID card for young carers. This work has since progressed as detailed within the report and the Service is currently working with regional partners to develop a unified approach to design for a North Wales Young Carers ID card in digital, card and wristband format. The ID card is to be formally launched next week.
- That two of the established Small Group Homes are running at full capacity, work is progressing on a third and an offer has been made on a fourth property using ICF funding to provide accommodation for children cared for by the Authority.
- The Service has secured ICF provision funding to purchase a detached bungalow in order to offer an improved day care service for children with complex needs. A property has been identified and its purchase is in process.
- A "no wrong door" approach is being developed in responding to the emotional well-being and mental health needs of children and young people which have been brought into sharp focus by the pandemic. This means that families, children and young people seeking help with mental health and emotional well-being needs will not be bounced between services or told that they are knocking on the wrong door. A plan has been formulated to further develop and take this approach forward.
- An independent audit of Adults' Social Services has been commissioned and will report on findings to the Social Services Improvement Panel.
- Three Community Resource teams in Amlwch, Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley and Llanfairpwll are now in place and due to Covid-19 restrictions, are meeting virtually.
- A position update is provided with regard to the two projects aimed at delivering the Adult Learning Disability Strategy – these encompass external day services and the in house provision. Due to Covid 19 the commissioning timetable for the externally commissioned provision has slipped.
- The development of the Shared Lives Programme has been severely impacted by the pandemic. The project which is ICF funded is to be continued but will be opened up to support older people,
- The expansion of the community hubs has been put on hold during the pandemic. Elements of the work are continuing virtually examples of which are given in the report.

The Interim Director of Social Services said that despite the daily challenges of Covid-19, and the third national lockdown which came into effect on 19 December, 2020 and the

unprecedented demands on staff, both Adults and Children and Families' Services have continued to fulfil their statutory duties and as the report testifies, have succeeded in progressing a range of developmental and innovative projects as well. The Service and the Council are proud of their staff.

The Interim Head of Adults' Services referred to the Learning Disability Day Services noting that despite the lockdown closure of learning disability day centres, digital contact with clients has been maintained throughout the period. Consequently in developing its recovery plan, the Service will be looking to build on the lessons learnt during the pandemic in terms of doing things differently recognising that technology can be a part of supporting people with learning disabilities. This is in tune with the feedback received from clients and is one of the positives to come out of the pandemic.

Councillor Richard Griffiths reporting on the work of the Social Services Improvement Panel confirmed that despite Covid-19 the Panel has continued to meet regularly over the past six months in virtual form and has meetings scheduled for the coming few months as well. The Panel has continued to receive evidence of development across both Adults and Children and Families' Services and in the three meetings held over the course of October, 2020 to January, 2021 the Panel has given attention to the two services' performance over Qtrs. 1 and 2 2020/21; care home arrangements during Covid-19; progress against the Older People's Services Improvement Plan; winter pressures in Adults' Services and safeguarding with specific reference to domestic violence. An independent audit of Adult Social Care Services has been commissioned and an Internal Audit review of the Corporate Parenting Panel has been conducted and concluded that there would be advantages in more closely aligning the Panel with the Social Services Improvement Panel.

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

- Members were encouraged by the financial performance of Adults' Services and Children and Families' Services to date this year but accepted that both services could face increased pressures going into the new financial year as lockdown restrictions are eased and demand grows. In light of this the Committee sought assurance about the services financial resilience and ability to cope going forwards and whether any good practices could be taken from the pandemic that could mitigate the concerns in this respect.

The Committee was advised that Welsh Government has announced the provision of a £206m support package to help councils meet the additional costs of dealing with the pandemic for the first six months of 2021/22 to be accessed via claims to the hardship fund. Whilst it is difficult to project the level of demand and therefore the likely costs going forward, the experience in Children and Families' Services has shown that as lockdown restrictions have eased, referrals to the service have increased and the significant year end underspend projected in Quarters 1 and 2 of the current financial year has consequently reduced going into Quarters 3 and 4. It is possible that in returning to some normality the budgets for Adults and Children and Families' Services may prove insufficient leading to overspend which is where having reserves is important.

With regard to good practice, the increased reliance on technology during the pandemic has brought specific benefits for example the number of looked after children attending assessment review meetings conducted virtually has increased because they are more comfortable with meeting in this way and are used to the technology. The Service aims to capitalise on these gains by extending the use of technology to for example the support provided for foster carers.

The challenge moving forwards will be to recognise the effects of the pandemic on adults and children and to ensure that the service is prepared accordingly going into the recovery period. Some of the innovative projects referred to in the report e.g. the No Wrong Door mental health project lay the groundwork for recovery and further mitigations have been put in place through the establishment and expansion of the community hubs.

- Reference was made to the Young Carers ID cards with the Committee seeking clarity on the advantages they are expected to bring.

The Committee was advised that the ID card is a national scheme funded by Welsh Government and developed as a partnership between the Carers Trust and local authorities to help establish young people's status as carers and make it easier for them to be supported accordingly. From the feedback received young carers said that they would prefer to have a digital ID and so with Welsh Government and the Carers Trust approval, Anglesey and Gwynedd are piloting this option as part of the roll-out of Young Carers ID cards throughout Wales and have developed an app for the purpose.

- Reference was made to the independent audit of Adults' Social Services and the reasons for its being commissioned.

The Committee was advised that the independent audit will perform the function of a critical friend and provide an in-depth analysis of systems, processes and procedures in Adults' Services to ensure they are fit for purpose and that the delivery of services is timely and responsive and not hampered by bureaucracy or duplication. The audit will provide the Council with a detailed overview of what is a complex service area and will provide clear and agreed recommendations with regard to specific areas that the Service needs to focus on to improve outcomes for the service user.

- With reference to the No Wrong Door scheme, the Committee noted that the stresses on mental health and social care for children are recognised and that a significant increase in need is anticipated over the coming months. Reference was also made to evidence of school children seeking access to GP services because of mental health issues. The Committee sought assurance that current provision is adequate to be able to respond to this new additional need and that further, the plan for progressing the No Wrong Door scheme is sufficient and enables the Service to move quickly to deal with the potential upsurge in demand.

The Committee was advised that in acknowledging the challenges of the coming months the Service will consolidate its current approach and practice with regard to the good working relationship it has with schools and with the Learning Service especially in terms of tailoring and shaping services to meet the need, expanding the services on offer and using grant monies differently to ensure that the response is timely. Prior to the pandemic, the Service had commissioned joint working with Parabl which provides support for individuals over 18 years of age in North Wales with mental health needs and, on the basis of the evidence of need that has emerged during the pandemic, the Service is now working with Parabl to lower the age threshold at which individuals can be seen so that the organisation can meet virtually with children and young people under 18 years of age who might not be eligible for CAHMS intervention but who nevertheless require support. The Service is seeing families access support who but for the pandemic would not necessarily have made the approach to Social Services.

It was resolved –

- **To confirm that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is satisfied with the pace of progress and improvements made to date in Social Services and,**
- **To recommend to the Executive that progress and pace of improvements in Social Services are adequate.**

NO FURTHER ACTION WAS PROPOSED

3 MONITORING PERFORMANCE: CORPORATE SCORECARD QUARTER 3 2020/21

The report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation incorporating the Corporate Scorecard for Quarter 3 2020/21 was presented for the Committee's consideration and scrutiny.

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Portfolio Member for Corporate Business introduced the report highlighting that during Quarter 3, Wales was put into a 2 week national firebreak on the 23 October, 2020 and also into a national lockdown (level 4) on the 19 December, 2020; these lockdowns have had, and continue to have an impact on Council services. However, it is encouraging to note that 88% of the Corporate Health Performance indicators monitored are continuing to perform well against target and are ragged Green or Yellow with a standout performance in staff absence management - 4.69 days lost to absence per FTE in the period against a target of 6.91 days lost to absence per FTE. All indicators under the digital service shift subheading have seen performances that have surpassed previous annual results during the pandemic. The importance of Social Media in communicating messages and positively influencing behaviours during the pandemic cannot be underestimated – the Council's social media channels have seen an increase of 8,500 followers from the end of Qtr.3 2019/20. There are currently 15 Performance Management indicators (33%) for which the collection of the data has either been cancelled by Welsh Government or are currently not being collected because of the redeployment of resources to deal with the pandemic – details of the areas affected are provided in section 4.2 of the report. For the remaining indicators reported in Q3 (27 indicators), 74% are performing above target or within 5% tolerance of their targets. Eight indicators are underperforming against their targets and are highlighted as Red or Amber on the scorecard; these are in relation to Public Protection, Children and Families' Services, Housing Service and the Planning Service. Explanatory information is provided in the report along with proposed mitigations. It should be noted however, that feedback from local planning agents indicates that Anglesey's Planning Service is the only one in the region that is currently continuing to provide a near to normal service as possible.

The Head of Profession (HR) AND Transformation referred to the key role of the Council's Communications Service during the pandemic and clarified that a number of factors have contributed to the improved performance with regard to staff absence management e.g. increased hygiene awareness and observance due to Covid-19 regulations resulting in the reduction of "bugs and viruses" as seen in the near eradication in 2020/21 of the flu. The Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager said that the report covers the most unstable period which saw two lockdowns and increased numbers affected by Covid 19. It is especially encouraging therefore to note that the Q3 trend in the majority of the areas ragged Red is one of improvement from Q2.

In discussing the report and acknowledging the contribution made by staff in maintaining performance in very challenging times, the Committee raised the following points to which the Officers and Portfolio Members responded with further information and clarifications –

- Assurance was sought with regard to the level of public risk going forward in relation to Indicator 10 – the percentage of high risk businesses that were subject to planned

inspections that were inspected to ensure compliance with Food Hygiene legislation (ragged Red with a performance of 13% against a target of 80% which is an improvement on the 10% undertaken in Q2). The Interim Head of Regulation and Economic Development clarified that food inspections have been suspended by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) during the pandemic in recognition of the need to prioritise the response to Covid 19; consequently the Council's Public Protection capacity has been redirected to this priority. The programme of inspections is expected to resume and additional capacity has been put in place to support this work; the Service is confident that as Covid related pressures ease, further capacity will be released to focus on business as usual.

- Reference was made to the suspension of homelessness indicators from the Welsh Government and clarity was sought as to why the number of homeless and/or those at risk of becoming homeless cannot be measured. The Committee further asked for an overview of how the Housing Service is managing homelessness at this time. The Head of Housing Services confirmed that the Service continues to monitor homelessness cases on a weekly basis; it is aware of the number of people at risk of becoming homeless within 56 days as well as the number of individuals who through the Service's intervention, have been prevented from becoming homeless. The Service also keeps abreast of the number of people in emergency accommodation at any given time.

In acknowledging the response and taking assurance from the Service's commitment to managing homelessness the Committee thought it important that it be provided with some analysis of the homelessness situation locally to provide further clarity on how the Service is addressing what is an important issue and it asked for a report to that effect for the next meeting.

- Reference was made to the improving performance with regard to staff absence management which exceeded the target and which it was acknowledged could partly be accounted for by the different way of working which responding to the pandemic has necessitated as well as other factors as noted in the discussion. The Committee sought assurance that in moving to the new normal lessons would be taken from what has worked in responding to the pandemic and that there would not necessarily be a reversion to pre-Covid practices particularly with regard to post-Covid working arrangements. The Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation confirmed that the impact of Covid on working practices including considerations of the well-being and mental health of all staff to ensure a balance between office and home working will be one of the areas considered in planning for recovery and the new normal. Attendance at work levels are closely monitored and service managers are encouraged to hold regular conversations with staff to ensure that any issues can be quickly addressed. Any actions/measures that can contribute to improving attendance at work will be looked at carefully.

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.

ADDITIONAL ACTION PROPOSED: The Housing Service to provide data on managing homelessness to the Committee's next meeting

4 LLANGEFNI GOLF COURSE

The report of the Interim Head of Service (Regulation and Economic Development) on the options for the future of the Llangefni Golf Course following formal consultation was presented for the Committee's consideration. The consultation outcome report detailing the submissions received and the Council's response was appended.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development provided background information to the Llangefni Golf Course highlighting that the facility was operating at a loss of around £28k per annum prior to its closure which the Council had to subsidise. The Executive in May 2018 endorsed in principle the intention to dispose of the Golf course and reinvest the proceeds in Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. The process has taken time and as with all other facets of society has been disrupted by Covid-29. Anglesey is well provided for in terms of golfing provision and the driving range facility in Llangefni which reopened in January 2019 under Golf Môn is proving very popular and successful and will remain open.

Councillor R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS, Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property referred to the transfer in February 2015 of the management and responsibility for the golf course to Llangefni Partnership, a social enterprise in the town which after a review of the facility's financial performance and an independent feasibility study, decided that it was unable to make the facility work financially in the long run whereupon the course was handed back to the Council and was subsequently mothballed.

The Interim Head of Service (Regulation and Economic Development) referred to the context confirming that following the Executive's previous decision in 2018 to endorse in principle the disposal of the Golf course, the Service has been considering options for its future. Participation figures have reduced and the running costs have become unsustainable. The Council is under a duty to consider the impact of a proposed disposal of playing fields on the health and wellbeing of a local community, to consult with the community and relevant consultees and to consider any representations made. Accordingly the Council undertook a formal consultation process between 12 October, 2020 and 30 November, 2020 and this was carried out in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decision) (Wales) Regulations 2015.

The Economic Development Manager confirmed that in order to prepare for the public consultation external solicitors were commissioned to provide guidance and assistance to ensure full compliance with the Playing Fields Regulations 2015. Between October 2019 and March, 2020, Officers completed all formal site and press notices, a comprehensive and detailed consultation report, all supporting reports and impact assessments and also ensured that all internal ICT platforms were fully compliant.

Councillors Nicola Roberts and Dylan Rees spoke as Local Members and acknowledged that it was a difficult situation for them locally in that no one wanted to see the loss of an asset, but accepted that dwindling participant numbers at Llangefni Golf Course in recent years had made the facility unviable. They also noted that the Llangefni Partnership which took over the running of the Golf course in 2015 was not able to make it work financially and surrendered the lease. Councillor Nicola Roberts sought assurances about the conduct of the consultation and in the event of the Golf course being sold, that the funds will be reinvested in local leisure facilities with any prospective sale of the facility being on the basis of best value even if that means splitting the sale into different lots. Councillor Dylan Rees in agreeing that insufficient demand made retaining the Golf Course unsustainable in the long term noted that it was deemed that there is sufficient golfing provision on Anglesey and that the driving range in Llangefni will in any case continue to operate; that Sports Wales as the only statutory consultee to respond to the consultation has no objection to the disposal of the facility and that in proposing to earmark the proceeds from the sale of the facility to improve the Plas Arthur Leisure Centre, for the

benefit of the locality, the Authority is paying regard to health and well-being of the community.

The Economic Development Manager reaffirmed that the consultation process had been open to all and to ensure that it was undertaken safely and successfully, all formal notices were updated to include the extra measures set out in point 2.8 of the report. The Council has exceeded the Regulation 5 requirements in terms of minimum timescales for the proposed disposal to be available for public inspection with a full page colour notice placed in local and regional newspapers for 7 consecutive weeks from 12 October to 26 November, 2020. Oversight was provided by external solicitors who confirm that the consultation was compliant with the regulations. Should approval be given to dispose of the facility then the proceeds would be ring-fenced for investment in the Plas Arthur Leisure Centre and consideration will be given to securing maximum value from the sale.

Councillor Peter Rogers spoke with the consent of the Chair as a member who had taken a longstanding interest in the Llangefni Golf Course; he voiced his concerns about the way in which it was proposed the Golf Course be disposed of fearing that the land will be marketed at a time when it is looking its worst. He emphasised that having borne a loss on the Golf Course over a number of years the Council must obtain maximum value from its sale and he urged that the best way to achieve this would be by holding off on an immediate sale and looking instead at the possibilities for incorporating the land within the Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) to maximise its value.

In considering the future of the Llangefni Golf course the Committee was agreed that disposing of the facility was the best way forward and given the financial situation and the need to obtain value for money, that that should be done at the best possible price. The discussion focused on whether the Council should proceed with the sale and begin to market the site comprising of the Ffridd household and accompanying 42 acres on the open market as recommended by Option 1 of the Officer's report, or whether the sale should be delayed to allow for consideration to be given to opportunities for incorporating the land within the JLDP at the next review which would enhance its value as development land.

Officers responded with the following advice -

- That as the land is currently outside the development boundary, selling the land for development is not an option. Notwithstanding the JLDP will be reviewed, changing the development boundary would require robust justification.
- That the Golf course land has not been let since the facility was closed. Whilst the Council has maintained the facility by way of grass cutting which has then been sold as income for the Leisure Service, no other works have been undertaken so as not to prejudice any subsequent consultation or decision under the 2015 Playing Fields regulations.
- That placing an overage clause on the sale of the land would entitle the Council as the seller to share in a possible future increase in the land's value. Should it be decided that the land be sold as agricultural land, an overage agreement would stipulate that if the land use changes within the timeframe of the agreement then the Council would profit from a percentage of the uplift in the land's value at the time the change occurs.
- That the Ffridd property has remained empty since it ceased to be used as the greenkeeper's house; it has been retained as it adds value to the site. The property is in a reasonable condition and apart from some maintenance work, does not require a great deal of expenditure. If a decision is made to proceed with the sale of the Golf Course then the land and the property would be lotted to maximise income.

Councillor Llinos Medi, Leader of the Council referred to the timescales and highlighted that it would likely take some time to approve the inclusion of the Golf course land within the JLDP even if that could be justified which means delaying investment in the Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. She added that the Executive is keen to include some form of caveat in the sale of the land to provide protection to the Council in terms of ensuring it benefits from any future profit on the land.

Councillor Bryan Owen proposed that the sale of the Golf course land be delayed to allow options for incorporating the land in part or in full within the JLDP when the Plan is reviewed, to be explored. Councillor J. Arwel Roberts in seconding the proposal, proposed that the Ffridd property could in the meantime be marketed on the open market and the proceeds of sale used for the benefit of Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. Councillor Bryan Owen agreed to the amendment.

Councillor Dylan Rees although he could understand the rationale for the proposal pointed out that an application for affordable housing in Tyn Coed, Llangefni was refused and was turned down at appeal as it was considered that there is sufficient affordable housing supply in Llangefni. He proposed that Option 1 in the Officer's report i. e. to proceed with the sale of the Golf course land and begin to market the site (Ffridd household and accompanying 42 acres) for sale on the open market be recommended to the Executive; the proposal was seconded by Councillor John Griffith.

The ensuing vote resulted in a tied vote. The proposal by Councillor Bryan Owen that consideration be given to incorporating the Llangefni Golf course land within the JLDP was carried on the casting vote of the Chair.

It was resolved to recommend to the Executive that the sale of the Llangefni Golf course land be delayed to allow consideration to be given to options for incorporating the land in part or in full within the Joint Local Development Plan when the Plan is reviewed, and that in the meantime the Ffridd property be marketed for sale on the open market and the proceeds of sale reinvested in the Plas Arthur Leisure Centre.

5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee's forward work programme to April, 2021 was presented for consideration.

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**

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| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
|---|--|
| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 23 April, 2021 |
| Subject: | Council's Response to Covid-19- Wellbeing of Council staff and communities and monitoring the effectiveness of the Track and Trace strategy (TTP) |
| Purpose of Report: | Scrutinise the Council's response to Covid-19 through protecting the wellbeing of staff and communities and the effectiveness of the Track and Trace strategy (TTP) on the Island. |
| Scrutiny Chair: | Cllr Aled Morris Jones |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Cllr Llinos Medi Huws, Council Leader |
| Head of Service: | Annwen Morgan, Chief Executive |
| Report Author: Tel: Email: | Annwen Morgan, Chief Executive 01248 752102 Annwenmorgan@ynysmon.gov.uk |
| Local Members: | All local members |

| 1 - Recommendation/s |
|--|
| The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to: Note the Council's response to the pandemic and specifically the response in protecting the wellbeing of staff and communities and the effectiveness of the Track and Trace strategy (TTP) on the Island. |

| 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities |
|---|
| This report outlines the Council's response to date to the worldwide pandemic under the auspices of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which is a key priority for the Council. The Council has defined roles and responsibilities under the Act in preparing and responding to an emergency at a local level. |

| 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**

1. To what extent have clear and adequate steps been taken to protect the health and wellbeing of Council staff during the pandemic?
2. What appropriate and timely activities have been provided to support community wellbeing and vulnerable individuals during the pandemic?
3. To what extent has the Council worked effectively in collaboration, taking full advantage of opportunities, resources and capacity to protect the wellbeing of everyone?
4. How has the Council played a full role and worked effectively in collaboration to implement the national Track, Trace and Protect system on the Island?
5. In which way could the Council have done more or have done things differently during the pandemic (from the perspective of wellbeing and TTP) if at all?

5 – Background / Context**BACKGROUND / CONTEXT**

- 1.1. Covid-19 is an infectious disease which has and is affecting over 200 countries worldwide¹, including the United Kingdom since January 2020 and continues to be extremely challenging for the whole world. It is therefore true to state that the pandemic is having a far-reaching impact. The current period (**managing the emergency response to the Pandemic, 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. This has meant that the Council has changed its way of working as a result of the global health emergency.

2.0 Council Preparations in Response to Covid-19

Corporate and Business Continuity Management plans were invoked following national guidance and due to the impact of COVID-19 which included the following interventions:

- i. Emergency Management Response Team established which continues meeting weekly whilst managing business as usual and preparing and managing unlocking and recovery

- ii. Local Prevention and Surveillance Group meeting weekly which includes key partners in order to provide an inter-agency response.
- iii. Weekly Situation Reports prepared summarising key decisions, issues and risks
- iv. Frequent communication internally with Members and staff and externally via the Council website and social media to assist in protecting the health, safety and the wellbeing of everyone.
- v. Formal COVID-19 risk register reviewed and updated weekly
- vi. Reflect, learn and identify good practices for the future.

3.0 Local situation and context

3.1 During the pandemic, the Council has dealt with numerous challenges relating to clusters and increasing cases, but has succeeded to respond appropriately to this in a timely manner through a multi-agency response. A recent example is the response to the significant increase in cases in the Holyhead area.

3.1.1 Robust actions were taken by the Council in a timely manner which included:

- Establishing an Incident Management Team (IMT)
- Re-emphasising regulations and behaviours locally
- Reviewing pupil cases and school position
- Mass community testing being deployed:
 - More than 800 people attended the MTU in Holyhead
 - 1,800 PCR tests returned following door to door visits
 - Asymptomatic Testing Centre – 290 tests thus far
 - 3,600 rapid LFD testing kits for secondary school pupils
- Proactive enforcement
- Communication and information sharing

3.1.2 As a result of the multi-agency response and intervention, the situation was successfully managed swiftly, avoiding further community spread to other Anglesey communities.

3.2 Current Covid-19 Statistics on the Island

Following a challenging period of dealing with a high number of cases on a daily basis on Anglesey, and with one of the highest incidence and positivity rates in Wales, the situation on Anglesey is now stabilising. Anglesey's data for 18.04.21 can be seen below:

- **4 new cases, cumulative 2,294. Incidence Rate now 8.6 (down by 22.8)**

Status of Covid-19 Cases on Anglesey (18.04.21)

| Last 7 days | Previous 7 days |
|--|--------------------------|
| 6 new cases (down 73%) | 22 new cases |
| 8.6 per 100,000/ 7 days | 31.4 per 100,000/ 7 days |
| Decrease of 22.8 per 100,000/ 7 days | |
| 543 tests (down by 16%) | 646 tests |
| Positivity rate- 1.1% (decrease of 2.3%) | 3.4% positivity rate |

3.3 Despite the recent improvement and reduction in number of cases, the Emergency Team and the Senior Management Team continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis, taking into account the impact of the recent relaxation of restrictions and the fact that all of Anglesey's students have now returned to formal face to face education. It will be possible to report verbally on the most recent data in the Committee on 23 April.

4.0 RATIONALE FOR SCRUTINISING THE TOPIC

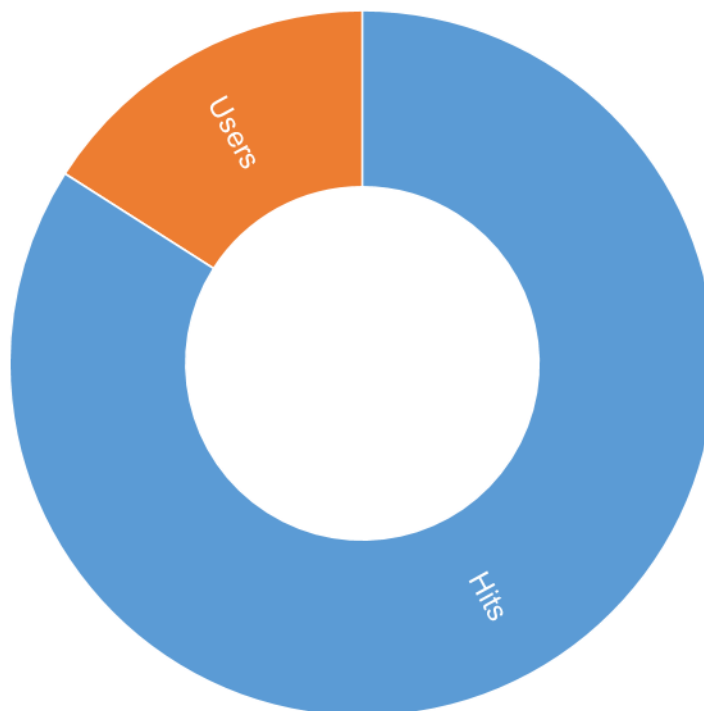
The case for scrutinising the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic is compelling:

- i. During an emergency period, governance and accountability are of key importance and that Elected Members and the citizens of Ynys Môn have the assurance that decisions made are appropriate, timely and transparent
- ii. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's good practice model refers to the need for Councils' scrutiny committees to scrutinise an overview of the organisation's response to Covid-19
- iii. Locally, the remit of both committees facilitates the process of setting the boundaries for the topic
- iv. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee requested at its meeting on 14 September, 2020 to follow-up on two specific aspects of the Council's response to Covid-19 namely: Wellbeing of Council staff and communities and monitoring the effectiveness of the Track and Trace system (TTP).

5.0 Staff Health & Well-being

- a. Staff health and well-being has been a key priority during the on-going pandemic, with several initiatives implemented during 2020-21.
- b. At the commencement of the initial lockdown period in March 2020, a Working from Home Well-being page was quickly established sharing information and resources around the on-going threat of Coronavirus, as well as health and well-being in general.
- c. During this period, the page had a total of 14,163 hits, across a total of 2,691 users. This highlights that the page was very well received as it clearly indicates that users were returning to the resource throughout the year.

Table 1



d. During March 2021, the page was revamped into a Health & Well-being Category and now houses 7 individual pages around specific Health & Well-being areas, and has registered 134 users across the 7 pages in the last month of 2020-21. The resource has been referred to regularly in the Chief Executive's weekly message.

e. A total of 21 sessions were arranged corporately around Health & Well-being areas such as financial well-being, hate crime, substance misuse, mental health and also an insightful question and answer session with Dr Dyfrig Ap-Dafydd on the COVID-19 Vaccinations. A total of 223 members of staff attended across all sessions. These are broken down in Table 2 below.

Table 2

| Course | Sessions Held | Numbers attended |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar | 1 | 6 |
| Fraud Prevention Training | 1 | 30 |
| Pre Retirement | 2 | 6 |
| Foundation of Financial Well-being | 1 | 10 |
| Financial Well-being - Protection | 1 | 11 |
| Financial Wellness | 1 | 7 |
| Hate Crime Awareness Session | 3 | 16 |
| Substance Misuse Awareness | 2 | 11 |
| Boosting Your Mental Health and Wellbeing | 1 | 20 |
| Emailogic - Email Etiquette and Wellbeing | 2 | 44 |
| Mental Health Awareness for Staff | 3 | 23 |
| Mental Wellbeing at Work for Managers | 2 | 18 |
| Dr Dyfrig - COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A | 1 | 21 |

f. In addition, the Social Care provision arranged a total of 7 Health & Well-being related sessions, with a total attendance of 62. These were primarily around Mental Health and Anxiety. See Table 3 for breakdown.

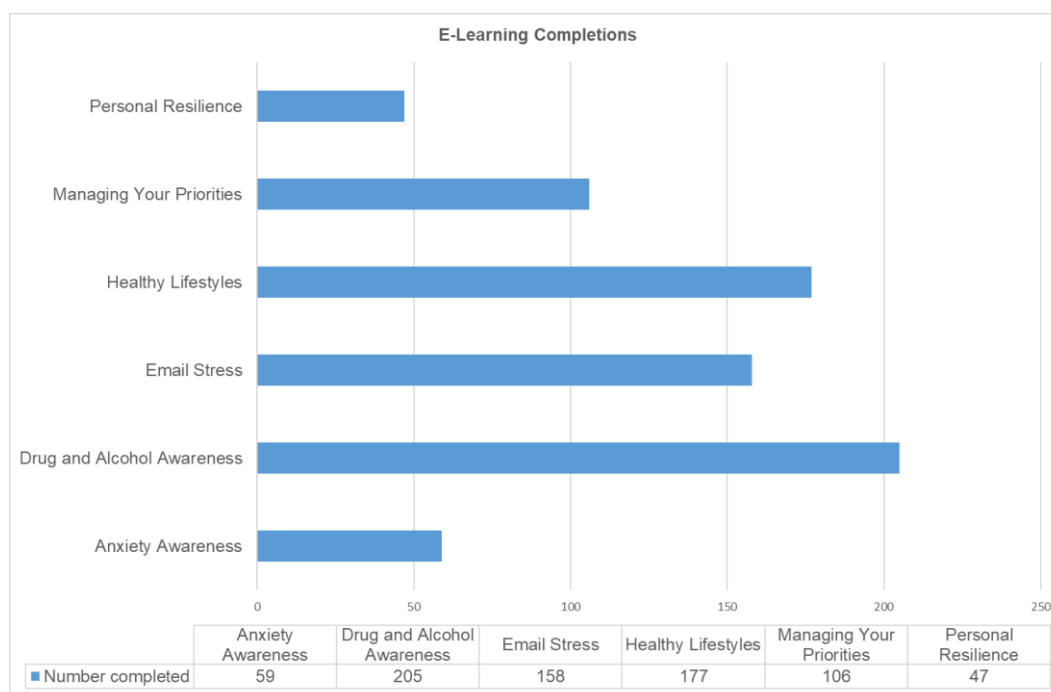
Table 3

| Course | Sessions Held | Numbers attended |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| Mental Health First Aid | 2 | 12 |
| i-act Mental Health Awareness - Managers | 1 | 11 |
| i-act Mental Health Awareness - Staff | 1 | 2 |
| Anxiety Awareness for Managers | 1 | 13 |
| Anxiety Awareness | 2 | 24 |

g. E-Learning again proved invaluable during this period, with existing modules being utilised, as well as the more recent launch of the Anxiety Awareness and Personal Resilience modules towards the end of February 2021, with completions being naturally lower due to their later launch in comparison to the other modules.

h. In total there were 752 completions across 6 modules during 2020-21. Completions are broken down per module in Table 4 below.

Table 4



6.0 Community Wellbeing and Support for Vulnerable Individuals

- a. Developed a community guidance document on Covid-19 and other important information, see link below. The link also contains contact details of community coordinators and distribution companies.
- b. The Council established a bespoke 9-option emergency telephone line, available 7 days a week. Information, Advice and Assistance in our communities is available through our Single Point of Access in the community facilitated by Medrwn Môn together with support from Local Asset Co-ordinators (community agents who refer individuals to community assets and services - a key element of the Medrwn Môn social prescribing service).
- c. The Council's in-house welfare rights team, O'Toole Centre, has handled 2,200 enquiries since the restrictions. This includes referrals to food banks, benefits advice and guidance and referrals to other specialist agencies, both internally and externally.
- d. Social Workers, Team Around the Family, Flying Start and Youth Workers kept in contact with vulnerable children and their families, delivering Free School Meals, distributing free masks to children and young people, providing activity bags (over 600 in total) and offering advice and guidance to parents who were struggling throughout this period.
- e. *"There has been effective collaboration between internal local authority departments, outside agencies and specialist services since the outset of the pandemic. Staff from Children's Services, Youth Services and the Education Psychology Service have worked closely with education staff (including school staff) to support vulnerable learners and improve pupils' learning and wellbeing."*

Review of local authorities work in supporting their learning communities in schools – January 2021 - Estyn

- f. Housing Services have made over 2,000 phone calls to our Pensioners and Sheltered Housing tenants, often putting them in touch with other services specific to any of their needs at the time.
- g. Contact Môn and Adult Services telephoned all residents on the shielding list, just under 4,000 people.
- h. 37 local volunteer teams (Area Teams) deployed 860 volunteers during the first wave of Covid-19. It is important to add that good turns continue to be done despite the relaxation of restrictions; however we have a cohort of residents on Anglesey who have lost confidence in going out and going shopping.
- i. Menter Môn created an interactive map of the details of each Voluntary Co-ordinator and the map was widely shared. To date, this interactive map has attracted 45,579 views. This includes a Canadian woman who was trying to establish local support for her elderly mother on Anglesey.
 - a. <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1PP3U6cU6ay2N5oOzWcRVt0aE2uPs2UmN&ll=53.293487875745875%2C-4.377189449999945&z=11>
- j. Area Teams are now involved in the Island's training scheme for Volunteers county wide, which was originally piloted in Mechell and Twrcelyn. Volunteers will be offered training in GDPR, Safeguarding in cases of Domestic Abuse. This training is delivered by the HR team at IACC by means of e-learning. The training can be used to support and enhance volunteers' knowledge and skills in key areas such

as safeguarding. It can also support long-term unemployed volunteers to gain new knowledge and skills to improve their career prospects. It is estimated that up to 600 volunteers will be trained through the IACC's e-learning training system.

- k. Over 2,000 food packages were prepared and delivered by food banks.
- l. 3,000 Neges packs were delivered to vulnerable Anglesey residents.
- m. Menter Môn's Ciando Project: a project to provide temporary accommodation for key workers in Gwynedd and Anglesey to reduce the risk of them infecting their families during the virus. 47 workers were accommodated and a total of 144 properties were registered. Worked in partnership with accommodation company Dioni. An evaluation of the project is currently being undertaken.
- n. Menter Môn's Agri Bank : 11 people have registered, and one smallholding in Holyhead has been able to take advantage of the sheep shearing scheme because the farmer is ill.
- o. Menter Môn's Selog Scheme: 12 resource packs including worksheets and solutions, 37 video clips to support the activities, a Facebook site created to share the product with parents - 620 followers, and 926 followers on Twitter. The work has been streamed nationally through the Hub, and there is evidence of its use beyond Anglesey.
- p. Five innovative individual wellbeing projects aimed at different groups were delivered, led by Housing Services in collaboration with various partners. Through Medrwn Môn's efforts, funding was sourced from various grant streams including the National Lottery. The groups included children with disabilities, adults with learning disabilities and those supported by the Magnox-funded North Anglesey Housing / Children Support Grant / children on the Child Protection Register and looked after children / council housing tenants . Gardening or indoor resources wellbeing packages were offered to support well-being. Over 1,000 residents received well-being packages and positive results were reported. Individual reports for each project are available through Housing Services. Deliveries for these projects were arranged through a multi-agency scheme between Clwyd Alyn and SKY.
- q. The Council developed the Our Team newsletter which was shared with all our partners, Elected Members and all town and community councils across the Island. This was to ensure that recipients of this newsletter were updated twice a week on progress and developments throughout the first wave. This newsletter has now been changed to a monthly one, but if there is a third wave we can review the frequency of the newsletter's publication. 16 Our Team newsletters were issued throughout the period.
- r. Contact was made with grant funding bodies and businesses to seek financial support to run the local food banks. This has been very effective, and approximately £100,000 was raised for Anglesey Food Banks which can provide up to 50 tonnes of emergency supplies. Based on peak levels, our food banks have sufficient funds and stock for up to 18 months.
- s. The Council has ensured that free school meal payments have been made since April, 2020, during periods when the schools were closed and during school holidays. Additionally, payments have been made to eligible parents if a pupil had to self-isolate (during full school closure, or when individual classes/years have had to self-isolate). During Easter 2021, 1,029 families received payments of £19.50 for 1,816 of children, with a total of £35,412 being paid weekly.
- t. Isle of Anglesey Council assisted over 2000 businesses on the Island to secure financial support as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Circa £40m grants distributed to Anglesey businesses.

- u. On a multi-agency basis and led by the Steering Group, the Council is leading on a short, medium and longer term well-being plan to safeguard the well-being of our residents. Numerous activities took place over the Easter 2021 period, including the provision of 250 afternoon teas for over 50s who have been on their own during this emergency period.
- v. 15 volunteers conveying Anglesey residents to vaccination appointments
- w. 210 individuals with mental health needs have been supported.
- x. Welsh Government grant funding for volunteers has enabled us to support community hubs that have lost income during this period due to Covid-19 guidelines. £450 has been shared between 39 community hubs to meet costs (*important that these hubs can re-open when Covid-19 guidelines allow them to do so because of their importance to the well-being of our residents*)
- y. Well-being plan providing resources and support for many age groups across the Island including virtual yoga through a private provider, funding towards technology for community hubs
- z. A Digital scheme through Medrwn Môn, Adult Services and Gwynedd and Môn Age Well to maximise the digital skills of Anglesey people. This scheme is funded by ICF and will hire a Samsung tablet for 60 people for a period of three months. Volunteer digital champions and Council officers have set up the scheme to support individuals to maximise their digital skills so that they can attend virtual hubs and manage their food shopping or finances on-line.
- aa. Effective collaboration among partners has built on a firm foundation, creating further opportunities for the recovery period and beyond (e.g preventative work, the recovery of communities, responding to climate change, and anti-poverty work etc).
- bb. Statutory work has continued with the Council's Social Services (Adults and Children and Families Services), in order to keep Anglesey's residents safe. Below is the total number of assessments undertaken by both services during the past 12 months. The demand for assessments has varied, and services will monitor this moving forward:

| Type of assessment | Completed 19/20 | Completed 20/21 | % Difference |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Adults – What's Important Part 1 (Initial Assessment) | 1, 224 | 803 | □ 41.54% |
| Adults– Specialist Social Services Assessment (Further Assessment) | 944 | 724 | □ 26.38% |
| Adults – Occupational Therapy Assessment Report | 502 | 167 | □ 100.15% |
| Adults – Safeguarding Enquiries Report | 227 | 281 | □ 21.26% |
| Children – What's Important Part 2 | 647 | 945 | □ 46.06% |
| Children – Specialist Social Services Assessment (Further Assessment) | 743 | 272 | □ 63.39% |

7.0 TTP Strategy on Anglesey

7.1 It is important to note that TTP systems are different in Wales and England, and that a regional model is operational across the 6 counties of North Wales. The system is funded by Welsh Government until 30 September, 2021. There are approximately 80 staff

working for the local TTP team on Anglesey, including Business Managers, Tracers and Advisers. Some staff have been seconded from their core jobs (until September 2021), and others have been newly recruited.

7.2 There are currently two different types of tests offered namely, PCR (symptomatic testing) and LFD test (asymptomatic testing), but there is a system in place if a LFD test is positive with the individual required to go for a PCR test. It can take up to 72 hours to receive test results, and any contacts are monitored for 10 days through phone calls or texts in order to ascertain whether they develop symptoms. All case files throughout Wales are kept on the CRM system, and a Contact Tracer makes contact with a positive case asking them to self-isolate for 10 days, and to collate the necessary information in order to ensure that any contacts follow the correct procedure. A target of contacting 80% of positive cases and contacts within 24 hours was set, and the local team on Anglesey continuously exceed this target as can be seen below:

Key Statistics (01.06.20 – 19.04.21)

Positive cases:

- 2294 cases (3.3% of the population)
- 1906 of these cases were eligible for follow-up
- Team have succeeded to make contact with 99% of these within 48 hours, which exceeds the target.

Contacts:

- 5886 contacts (8.4% of the population)
- 5709 of these contacts were eligible for follow-up
- Team have succeeded to make contact with 95% of these within 48 hours, which exceeds the target.
- A total of 12% of Anglesey's population have isolated during this period.

7.3 By now, the UK or Kent variant is the dominant variant across North Wales, with household transmission prevalent within households. Cross-household transmission is increasing here on Anglesey, with a clear pattern of cases in areas along the A55. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Holyhead has seen the highest incident rate, closely followed by Llangefni and then Llanfairpwll

7.4 Looking Forward

The team are planning for a possible 3rd wave, are considering what the arrangements will be after September 2021, and awaiting national confirmation and guidance to this end. Arrangements are in hand to ensure that mutual aid is available to the other counties in North Wales in case of a significant increase in cases in order to ensure an effective regional response to the emergency, and make the best use of the regional model for the benefit of North Wales' inhabitants.

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

N/A

7 – Financial Implications

8 – Appendices:

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

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| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
|---|---|
| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 23 April, 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 2021/22 |
| 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 2021/22</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 2021/22 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 Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee convened on 11th March, 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 2021/22

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 → June 2021 – November, 2021
[Version dated 13/04/21]

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 |
|--|--|
| June, 2021 (07/06/21) | June, 2021 (15/06/21) |
| Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q4: 2020/21 | Public Services Board Annual Report 2020/21 |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 | North Wales Economic Ambition Board Annual Report 2020-21 (to be confirmed) |
| | Update from Chief Executive of BCUHB |
| | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 |
| July, 2021 (08/07/21) | July, 2021 (date to be confirmed) |
| Social Services Statutory Director Annual Report 2020/21 (to be confirmed) | Annual Report: North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9: Health and Social Services) 2020/21 |
| | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 |
| September, 2021 (13/09/21) | September, 2021 (20/09/21) |
| Monitoring Performance: Q1: 2021/22 (to be confirmed) | Corporate Safeguarding |
| Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | North Wales Economic Ambition Board Quarter 1 Progress Report 2021/22 (to be confirmed) |
| Progress Monitoring: Social Services Improvement Plan | |
| Social Services Improvement Panel Progress Report | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 |
| October, 2021 (14/10/21) | October, 2021 (19/10/21) |
| | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 |

| CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
|---|---|
| November, 2021 (01/11/21) -Budget 2022/23 | November, 2021 (09/11/21) |
| Initial Draft Budget Proposals 2022/23 | Annual Report- Community Safety Partnership |
| Public Consultation Plan for 2022/23 Budget | Public Services Board- Governance Arrangements |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 | North Wales Economic Ambition Board Quarter 2 Progress Report 2021/22 (to be confirmed) |
| | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 |
| November, 2021 (16/11/21)- Q2 | |
| Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2021/22 | |
| Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 | |
| | |
| | |

Items to be scheduled:

Transformation of Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities

Schools' Modernisation Programme- Seiriol / Amlwch areas

Asset Management / Smallholdings Plan