

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	14 May 2019
TITLE OF REPORT:	Leader's Annual Report
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To report on work undertaken during 2018/19
REPORT BY:	Leader of the Council

Foreword

This is my second report as Council leader. This annual report will follow the same format as last year's report in order to provide consistency and to highlight progress against the Coalition's Manifesto.

This was the Group's Manifesto in 2017 -

In the 2013 election, Plaid Cymru candidates pledged to the people of Anglesey that they wanted 'To restore Anglesey's good name'. Plaid Cymru Councillors and the Independent Councillors have worked together effectively over the last four years and want to build on this success.

Political maturity has evolved over the last 4 years and will give the Isle of Anglesey County Council a solid foundation for the next phase. The members that have come together have proved that they have the ability to provide the political stability that is essential in order ensure effective governance.

What have we done?

We have continued to work in the same way as the previous Council and have retained all protocols in order to ensure a fair opportunity for all councillors.

The Wylfa Newydd development has positive aspects with regard to our youth and the future of the families on Anglesey, with up to 800 permanent jobs. But we do not accept this development at any cost. We want to protect the interests of Anglesey and ensure that the developers can mitigate any side effects on our communities as a result of the development. We aim to have strong and prosperous communities.

What have we done?

Recent news regarding the suspension of the Wylfa Newydd development has highlighted the importance of the development. Despite this news, we have continued to work for the benefit of Anglesey with regard to the planning process and have presented evidence in order to safeguard the island's interests and the section 106 agreement is testament to our efforts to mitigate the impacts. We will

continue to put pressure on the governments in Cardiff and London to do everything they can to ensure the realisation of the Wylfa Newydd development.

In collaboration with Medrwn Môn, considerable progress has been made with regard to Place Shaping. The initial areas have started to identify their priorities in order to create strong and prosperous communities. I am very grateful to the areas for their support.

We face significant cuts to the authority's budget and maintaining services is challenging. We will drive the transformation agenda forward in order to protect our front line services.

What have we done?

We have agreed on the 18/19 budget but it is important to note that this was not an easy process as the financial pressure on the Council is greater than ever with an overspend again this year in Social Services and Education.

We continued to drive service transformation and the residents of Anglesey can now make more use of the internet in their dealings with the Council, e.g. paying bills, contacting individual departments.

Education

I'm sure you will remember that we as a Coalition are of the firm belief that every child and young person in Anglesey deserves the best opportunity to achieve their full potential -

* We want to continue to invest in new schools to ensure the best facilities to educate our children.

What have we done?

The new Santes Dwynwen School has opened and this is an exciting development for the area. Discussions have begun regarding the future of post-16 education. We have updated the Education Modernization Strategy which aligns with the desire of the coalition to promote modernization for the benefit of the education of Anglesey's children and in order to provide everybody with equal opportunities.

* We will support Teachers and Headteachers in order to ensure the best standards for Anglesey's children.

What have we done?

We are collaborating with GwE, Welsh Government and other authorities in order to ensure the best possible opportunities for our Teachers and Headteachers.

This year, we had a good report from Estyn on our schools and none of Anglesey's schools are in the red category.

* We want to work with partners to ensure that our young people develop essential work skills.

What have we done?

We have continued to work effectively with our partners. The Portfolio Holder is fully committed to ensuring that Anglesey has a strong voice in any national, regional and local discussions with all partners. We have supported the efforts of the Llandrillo Menai Group to develop STEM and skills resources on the site in Llangefni.

Care

Social Care is under constant pressure in our communities. We believe that there is a need to work together and strengthen aspects of the work to respond to demand -

* Work with the Health Service in constructive ways to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to live an independent life in their communities.

What have we done?

We have now implemented the Domiciliary Care Contract which is having a positive impact with regard to discharging people from hospital. The cluster officers have started in post here on Anglesey – these are joint posts between the Health Board and the Council in order to promote independence in the community. We have collaborated regionally on Healthier Wales schemes in order to ensure additional resources for Anglesey.

* Strengthen support services for families in need of such services.

What have we done?

We have received a positive report from Care Inspectorate Wales which points to significant improvement in the Children's Services. We believe the Service is in a good position to respond to the current challenges.

The Anglesey Family Team (Teulu Môn) has been recognised nationally as good practice with regard to providing services for families. We have succeeded to secure Resilient Families funding on a permanent basis as the support has provided families with good prospects of success and to prevent children from coming into care.

A number of new Hubs have opened in the community in order to respond to local needs.

* Work with partners to ensure suitable homes for our older adults.

What have we done?

We have opened Hafan Cefni in Llangefni which provides an opportunity for older people to live independently with support and facilities which enrich their lives. The Housing Department and the Adult Services have worked together on the Maes William Williams scheme in Amlwch to create a community facility which will provide a hub for the adults in the area.

* Ensure support for carers who look after family or friends

What have we done?

We continue to work closely with our partners to secure the necessary support for our carers in the Anglesey and Gwynedd Partnership. We also take advantage of Regional plans through the Regional Partnership Board that supports carers. We have received more applications for direct payments which provide families with flexibility to arrange care independently. We encourage carers to ask for support.

Housing

The group believes that everyone has the right to a suitable home -

* Continue to respond to housing need by building our own social housing and increasing the supply of affordable homes for our young people.

What have we done?

We have started to develop Council housing in Holyhead and Moelfre. We have plans for a number of other areas in Anglesey. We have bought back a number of ex Council houses.

We had a positive report from the Welsh Audit Office on the service.

* Ensure empty homes are brought back into use to respond to housing need.

What have we done?

We collaborate with the owners of empty homes in order to bring them back into use. This work will continue.

* Ensure support for first buyers by means of a council tax premium.

What have we done?

We have put more money into the scheme in order to provide more opportunities for young people here in Anglesey. We have evidence of the positive effect this scheme has had on young people who have been able to buy their first homes.

The Economy / Jobs

The economy and jobs are essential if we are to keep our young people in Anglesey. We believe we can do this by -

* Ensuring that local businesses benefit from any major project.

What have we done?

We have continued to emphasize the importance of local businesses in all our discussions with large companies and in regional economic discussions.

* Support local businesses to be able to apply for Council contracts.

What have we done?

We have ensured contracts for local companies over the last year. We have held meet the buyer events in order to provide local businesses with the opportunity to work with the Council.

* Promote and create opportunities for young people through apprenticeships.

What have we done?

A number of young people had the opportunity to work for the Council last summer as part of the 12 week 'Attracting Talent' scheme and a number of these young people are now working for the Council. With our support, the scheme will continue next year.

Environmental Protection

Anglesey is unique because of its surrounding natural environment. We want -

* To continue the fight against the pylons.

What have we done?

We have continued to express the Council's strong opinion by presenting convincing arguments against pylons, having internal and external discussions and supporting local groups in their fight against the pylons.

* Protect Anglesey's natural environment, which is so important to the tourism sector.

What have we done?

We have created Supplementary Planning Guidance in order to ensure that the needs of Anglesey are met in the best possible way. The Local Development Plan is monitored annually in order to ensure that it is appropriate for our communities. We succeeded to fund environmental work in Craig y Don, Amlwch. The work with regard to water quality in Cemaes has been successful this year which is good news for the area. Collaboration with NRW to improve our flood prevention processes.

* Ensure we meet recycling targets.

What have we done?

This year, Anglesey was the best Authority in Wales with 72% of our waste being recycled.

To close

I wish to thank all the partners who have collaborated with the Council this year in order to ensure the best services for the people of Anglesey. Thanks to the staff for serving the people of Anglesey and also my fellow councillors for their support and commitment in ensuring that Anglesey Council succeeds.

**Councillor Llinos Medi
Leader of the Council**