

**CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN/
THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

ADRODDIAD I/REPORT TO	PWYLLGOR GWAITH/ THE EXECUTIVE
DYDDIAD/DATE:	7 Rhagfyr 2010 7 December 2010
PWNC/SUBJECT:	Cydweithio a gwarchod gwasanaethau rheng flaen Partnership Working and protecting front line services
DEILYDD(ION) PORTFFOLIO/ PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	Arweinydd/Leader
SWYDDOG(ION) ARWEINIOL/ LEAD OFFICER(S):	Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Dros Dro Interim Managing Director
SWYDDOG CYSWLLT/ CONTACT OFFICER:	Pennaeth Gwasanaeth – Polisi Head of Service - Policy (Ffôn/Tel: 2108)

- 1. Cadarnhewch nature yr adroddiad os gwelwch yn dda trwy roi tic yn un o'r blychau isod / Please confirm the nature of the report by ticking one of the following boxes:-**

Er gwybodaeth / For information

Gweithredol / Operational

Strategol / Strategic

- 2. Rheswm/Rhesymau pam fod angen penderfyniad gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith / Reason/s why a decision required from the Executive**

Cyflwyno gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol ynghylch y potensial i ddatblygu cydweithio pellach rhwng yr Awdurdod a Chyngor Gwynedd a chomisiynu astudiaeth.

Hefyd adrodd ar raglenni gwaith Bwrdd Partneriaeth Gogledd Cymru.

To report on correspondence received from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government on the potential for greater collaborative arrangements between Anglesey and Gwynedd and the commissioning of a scoping study.

Also to report on the Work programme of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

3. Crynodeb o'r adroddiad / Report summary

Rhoddir ystyriaeth i gyd-destun trefniadau cydweithio gyda Chyngor Gwynedd fel a nodir yn yr ohebiaeth gan y Cynulliad. Yn ogystal, cyflwynir gwybodaeth ynghylch gwaith y pedwar Bwrdd Rhaglen a sefydlwyd ar lefel Gogledd Cymru.

The report refers to the context and basis for collaborative working with Gwynedd Council as set out in correspondence from WAG. In addition, information is summarised on the work of the four Programme Boards established on a pan North Wales basis.

4. Argymhelliad/Argymhellion a'r rhesymau / Recommendation/s and reasons

Derbyn yr argymhellion/penderfyniad.

To accept recommendations/resolution.

1. Opsiynau eraill a'r rheswm/rhesymau dros eu gwrthod / Other options and reason/s for rejection

6. Ymgynghori / Consultation

- | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------|--|
| 6.1 | Cyllid/Adran 151
Finance/Section 151 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | do/yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | naddo/no | |
| 6.2 | Swyddog Cyfreithiol/Monitro
Legal/Monitoring Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | do/yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | naddo/no | |
| 6.3 | Adnoddau Dynol
Human Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | do/yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | naddo/no | <input type="checkbox"/> amherth / n/a |
| 6.4 | Gwasanaethau Eiddo
Property Services | <input type="checkbox"/> | do/yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | naddo/no | <input type="checkbox"/> amherth / n/a |

6.5 Uned Gyfathrebu do/yes naddo/no
Communications Unit

6.6 Rhai eraill yr ymgynghorwyd â
nhw (yn cynnwys Aelodau) Arweinydd/Leader
Others consulted (including
Members)

7. Unrhyw faterion Fframwaith Polisi / Any Policy Framework issues

8. Papurau cefndirol / Background papers

Introduction

The financial pressures and the need for greater efficiencies/savings present challenges for all local authorities. This has led to a greater focus on making rapid progress to develop collaborative arrangements and economies of scale. Indeed, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government has recently highlighted the need for all authorities to increase the pace and make rapid progress on collaboration. In this way greater efficiencies and better use of resources can be achieved whilst protecting essential front line service delivery.

Since its inception the Council can be proud of its track record in terms of partnership arrangements e.g. school improvement and support services, and the North Wales Partnership Board is driving forward the collaboration agenda. There are two levels to this approach - sub-regionally e.g. establishment of a joint Planning Policy Team with Gwynedd and regionally e.g. Waste Management and Telecare.

Current Economic Climate

The financial challenges facing the Council was recently discussed at a seminar convened by the Recovery Board for all Members of the Authority. It is clear from those discussions that Members recognise the importance of collaboration to minimise the impact of financial pressures and protect service delivery.

On a wider but related front service improvement, efficiency and delivering cashable savings is at the heart of the vision adopted by the NWRPB to develop joint working and supported by the 6 North Wales authorities. On this basis 4 Programme Boards have been established to drive forward collaborative arrangements and supported by Portfolio Members and Chief Officers:

- Education
- Social Care and Health
- Environment and Regulatory
- Support Services

The Terms of Reference of each Programme Board is attached for information (Appendix I). In addition, an outline of the main areas of current focus is attached at Appendix II which is subject to further scoping and development.

In moving forward these are important delivery mechanisms for the Council providing new ways of working, best use of resources and scope for service integration. There is however a need to engage the Council as a whole and raise awareness of the importance and significance of Collaboration in the context of major challenges ahead around the budget. A workshop for Members is suggested in the New Year on this issue building on the workshop convened recently by the Recovery Board on future challenges facing the Council and the positive feedback from Members on progressing matters.

Working across the six Authorities and securing benefits will have different

timescales around service integration issues. The Minister has recently met with Group Leaders in Anglesey and Gwynedd to discuss the potential for greater and more strategic collaboration between both Councils. On this basis WAG propose to commission a scoping study which will explore options for collaboration in more detail. Details are set out in a letter attached to this report dated 30th November 2010 (Appendix III). The outcome of this study is due to be reported to each Council in February 2011.

A number of important points of principle are set out in the Minister's letter:

- the emphasis on collaboration "to secure savings and protect front line services"
- "the preservation of both Council's democratic autonomy"
- this is not a move in response to WAG intervention and that "Anglesey has „failed' and is being „taken over"
- "this level of collaboration has to be a partnership of equals"

This provides a potentially significant opportunity for the Council to be at the forefront of innovation and rise to the challenges expressed by the Minister to all local authorities and ensure that rapid progress on collaboration can be made rather than Local Government reform in general.

The whole issue is one which needs careful consideration by the County Council including the need to address opportunities and risks.

Recommendation:

- i) To support in principle the joint study as set out in the letter from the Minister and recommend that this be referred to the Council for consideration.**
- ii) Subject to the Council endorsing the joint study, a stakeholder group of Members is established to oversee progress and that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be also requested to monitor progress.**

Resolutions:

- iii) That a workshop for Members on facing up to long term budget pressures and opportunities for partnership working be arranged.**

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/CS/468/10

Cllr Clive McGregor
Leader
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Council Offices
Llangefni
LL77 7TW

30 November 2010

At our very useful and positive meeting last week, we discussed the potential for greater and more strategic collaboration between Anglesey and Gwynedd. I had a similarly productive discussion with members in Gwynedd later the same day.

There is clearly a strong willingness in principle across both councils to move forward, and to undertake a scoping study which will explore options for collaboration in more detail. I fully support this. As we agreed, I have prepared a set of principles that seek to define the overall objectives of this work. In particular it emphasises the need to collaborate to secure savings and to protect front-line services while preserving both councils' democratic autonomy.

The principles deliberately do not refer to my current intervention in Anglesey. It is vital to stress that we are not moving in this direction because Anglesey has 'failed' and is being 'taken over'. On the contrary, this level of collaboration has to be a partnership of equals. If you and your colleagues are able to display the degree of leadership and political maturity needed to make this work, it will be powerful evidence of how far the Council has progressed in the last 18 months.

I believe this document fairly reflects the views which members of both councils expressed to me. In the interests of making progress I would be grateful if you could seek the agreement of the Council to the attached principles before Christmas if possible. I will then make arrangements to commission the study, which the Assembly Government will fund.

I am writing in similar terms to Dyfed Edwards, and copying this letter to David Bowles, Elan Closs Stephens and Steve Thomas.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AM/AC

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Strategic Collaboration between Anglesey and Gwynedd

Scoping Study Principles

All local authorities will face extreme challenges in the coming years because of the severe pressure on public-sector budgets and the implications this will have for service delivery. One of the most potentially fruitful ways of addressing those challenges while protecting front-line services is for authorities to collaborate more fully with each other.

Local authorities already routinely collaborate with each other. Gwynedd and Anglesey have, for instance, operated a shared education support service for many years and have recently committed to establishing a single strategic planning unit. However, while these examples are positive in their own terms, they and others like them will not achieve the level of savings that all authorities will need to secure in the short to medium term. That demands full-scale integration of major services and their management. Several councils in England and Scotland have already recognised and adopted this approach.

Following discussions between the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and members and senior management of the two councils, it is believed there is merit in exploring in depth the potential and possibility of such service integration. This document sets out the principles and terms on which such a scoping study will take place.

Overall

1. The aim of this scoping study is to consider how far integration of major services could realise efficiency savings for both councils while protecting and enhancing front-line services for citizens and communities.
2. Both councils are committed to this scoping study, and the Welsh Assembly Government and WLGA are committed to providing support to it. All will consider the findings of the study on their merits. But no party is committed now to accepting or implementing those findings.

Democracy

3. The study is not concerned with merging or abolishing authorities. Both councils will remain as autonomous democratic entities, and their members will have the same range of representational, scrutiny and executive functions as they have now
4. Nor is this study concerned with the takeover of one authority by another. Both councils have strengths and weaknesses and both face similar financial and delivery challenges. This study rather recognises the potential value in facing those challenges as equal partners.

Services

5. The study will consider the potential for integrating services which both councils provide and delivering them within a single set of operational and managerial arrangements. This includes corporate and 'back-office' services which are often key to realising major savings and to supporting wider integration. In particular, the study will seek to establish:
 - a. The services that might be included with such arrangements
 - b. The scale of efficiency savings that such arrangements might secure, and when those savings might arise;
 - c. The potential benefits that such arrangements might have in terms of protecting and enhancing the breadth and quality of services;
 - d. The effects that such arrangements might have on the ease of recruiting and retaining high-quality specialist staff, especially staff able to work through the medium of Welsh;
 - e. The risks of adopting this approach in particular services and generally, and how those might be managed; and
 - f. The financial and delivery consequences for both authorities of not adopting this approach.

Senior management

6. Fully integrated services point to oversight by an equally integrated senior management team. The study will establish the potential for establishing such a team, and the costs, benefits, risks and timing implications of doing so.
7. The study will also consider the appropriateness of each authority appointing a senior manager to oversee its own internal affairs and governance

Participation

8. The study will be commissioned and funded by the WLGA in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government. Implementation of its recommendations will be for each authority on an equitable basis to be agreed between them.
9. The study will seek the views of key stakeholders in formulating its findings and recommendations.

Timing

10. The study will commence as soon as possible and will aim to report to both authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government by February 2011.