

SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May, 2012 (1:00pm)

- PRESENT:** Commissioner Margaret Foster (Chair)
- Councillors W.J.Chorlton; K.P.Hughes; R.LI.Hughes, T.Lloyd Hughes; B.Owen; G.O.Parry,MBE; Eric Roberts (as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee); Chief Executive; Corporate Director (Environment and Technical Services); Deputy Chief Executive and Interim S.151 Officer.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Head of Service (Policy)
Head of Service (Finance)
Head of Service (Audit) (Item 7)
Head of Service (Internal Provider)
Business Planning and Programme Manager
Interim Accountant (RV)(Items 5 & 6)
Committee Services Manager
Messrs Huw Lloyd Jones and John Roberts (WAO)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors H.Eifion Jones, Tom Jones, G.W.Roberts,OBE, E.Schofield
- APOLOGIES:** Commissioners Alex Aldridge, Byron Davies, Mick Giannasi and Gareth Jones;
Councillor H.W.Thomas

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None to declare

2. APOLOGIES

As above

3. MINUTES

Submitted and confirmed as a true record, the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement Board held on 22nd March, 2012.

4. CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN – QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE

Reported by the Business Planning and Programme Manager upon the 2011/12 Quarter 4 Performance Scorecard for the Commissioners Corporate Governance Priorities, Improvement Priorities and the Council's Strategic Priorities, together with their RAG status.

Some of the Members considered that the report needed to have a more positive slant as regards democratic renewal, in that members were complying fully with the guidelines laid down by the Commissioners.

The Sustainability Board noted the contents of the report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT OF THE 2012-13 BUDGET

Reported by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Interim S.151 Officer – That a budget risk assessment report had been presented to this meeting on 22nd March, 2012 and to the Audit Committee the following day. The report was an initial assessment of the risks associated with the 2012-13 savings plan and the APP. This identified a number of areas where there were potential risks and these were detailed at Para 1.1 of this report, namely:-

- Integration
- Parks and outdoor facilities/Beaumaris Leisure Centre
- Adult services rationalisation
- Children's Out of County placements
- Savings associated with staffing reductions
- 3rd sector investment
- Highways and waste management

This initial assessment had been followed up by liaising with service areas to identify risks within the 2012-13 budget and how these were to be mitigated. An update was provided.

The previous assessment also highlighted a number of APP projects which were at risk of not being achieved in their entirety and these were summarised at Appendix 2 of the report. As well as those, Social Services had also identified Home Care Delivery, Older Persons Day Care, Adult Services Eligibility Criteria and Remodelling of Learning Disabilities as a risk due to the level of savings that were required to be achieved within Social Services. The total of the above risks identified was £247k which equated to 17% of the 2012-13 APP, contained within the financial year's budget.

A review of the 2011-12 provisional outturn position had highlighted recurring risks which would have a knock on effect on the 2012-13 budget. (These were detailed at Para 4.1 – 4.4 of the report).

Appendix 4 of the report showed the total risks identified within the budget, which had already identified mitigating actions or required further examination of how they were to be mitigated. The table therein showed that potentially £688k of risks currently had no identified mitigation actions and required further work to identify actions to ensure that they came within budget. The main areas of risk, with currently either no identified mitigation or partial mitigation in place were summarised at Para 5.1 of the report.

Some of the actions needed to balance the budgets were risks in themselves. If the mitigations were not realised, this would increase the need for further actions to be taken to ensure the financial position of the Authority came within budget.

The first quarterly monitoring in the 2012-13 financial year was crucial as it would provide the first view on how well the Council were delivering against the budget and any actions that needed to be taken to ensure that the overall position came within budget by the end

of the financial year. It would also provide a clearer indication of how the above risks were being managed and if there were any further risks within the 2012-13 budget.

Members drew attention to certain risks such as the school meals contract, the urgent need for high speed broadband on the Island to progress economic recovery, the need for members to be provided with a comprehensive catalogue of properties for disposal in the ownership of the Council, and the need to curtail staff being re-employed following redundancy.

The Sustainability Board:-

- *noted the contents of the report;*
- *approved the high risk areas identified within the report;*
- *approved implementation of project management support and financial support around the high risk areas;*
- *that a further assessment be carried out of the risks associated with the budget and update on how well the Authority is delivering against the budget after the first quarterly monitoring position becomes available and report this back to the Sustainability Board.*

6. ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2012 – PROGRESS TO DATE

Submitted – A verbal presentation by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer on progress made against the WAO's Annual Improvement Report for 2012 for the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

The purpose of today's briefing was to identify the importance and significance of the WAO Annual Improvement Report 2012 and provide an overview of the recommendations together with proposals for improvement. The update also provided members of the Board with an appreciation of the progress made against recommendations and proposals for improvement highlighted within the report. It also confirmed future actions and the timeline for further progress reports to the Board outlining developments.

The Sustainability Board noted the contents of the report.

7. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Reported by the Head of Internal Audit – That this Council was required to review at least once in a year, of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and governance arrangements and include a statement reporting on the review with any Statement of Accounts.

The review was a corporate one as well as taking into account the views of external auditors and other inspection agencies during 2011-12.

Attached for information to the report was a first draft of the Annual Governance Statement for 2011-12 on the areas that should be included in the review. The draft was based on last year and had yet to show fully the progress made in a number of areas since then. The identification of progress, especially against the Commissioner's 10 improvement areas, would be an important part of the review process and would hopefully produce a more positive report than the attached initial draft.

The Sustainability Board noted the contents of the report.

The meeting concluded at 2:40 p.m.

**COMMISSIONER MARGARET FOSTER
CHAIR**

Draft