

# SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillor G.O.Jones – Chairman  
Councillor R.Ll.Jones - Vice-Chair;

Councillors E.G.Davies; Barrie Durkin; Lewis Davies; Jim Evans; R.A.Dew; R.Ll.Hughes; T.Ll.Hughes; K.P..Hughes; W.I.Hughes;; W.T.Hughes; Raymond Jones; R.Dylan Jones; T.H.Jones; Rhian Medi; C.McGregor; Bryan Owen; R.L.Owen; Bob Parry OBE;  
G.O. Parry MBE; G.W.Roberts,OBE; P.S. Rogers; E.Schofield;  
H.W.Thomas; J.P. Williams;

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive;  
Director of Sustainable Development;  
Interim S.151 Officer  
Head of Function Legal & Administration/Monitoring Officer  
Head of Service (Highways & Waste Management);  
Head of Service (Education);  
Solicitor (RB);  
Head of Service (Policy)  
Procurement Officer;  
Committee Officer(JMA).

Commissioners M.Giannasi and Gareth Jones

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Keith Evans; D.R.Hughes; Fflur Hughes;  
Eric Jones; Aled Morris Jones, O.Glyn Jones;  
Eric Roberts; Ieuan Williams; Selwyn Williams;

### 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None to declare

### 2. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

At the request of five Members of the County Council (as per 4.1.3.1 of the Council's Constitution) (Councillors D.Rees Hughes, W.T.Hughes; Aled Morris Jones, H.W.Thomas, and G.W.Roberts OBE) consideration was given to the Grass Cutting Contract which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

A report by the Head of Service (Highways and Waste Management) on behalf of Highways and Waste Management Service and Education Service was submitted. The report clarified the background to the issue, the current situation, the prequalification tender process, the tender process and the outcome.

Councillor G.W.Roberts OBE as the Lead Member emphasised there was no criticism of the way the contract had been awarded, however, he was anxious to ensure, for the future, that small businesses on the Island should be in a position to tender successfully for contracts with the Council thus securing employment for local Council Tax payers.

The Head of Service (Highways & Waste Management) explained the process involved in tendering for contracts and added he was surprised at the number of companies from outside the island who had tendered. He gave details of companies who had been awarded contracts from outside the island but who were employing local people.

Councillor John Penri Williams proposed that the Principal Scrutiny Committee established a Task and Finish Group to consider various aspects of contract setting and how the Council could assist in developing local companies to enable them to tender successfully for contracts. Councillor R.Dylan Jones seconded the proposal.

Following further consideration and discussion on the various concerns regarding tendering and the award of contracts, including :-

- Ensuring information is sent to all schools outlining their responsibilities;
- Encouraging small businesses on the Island to work together as a consortium which would enable them to tender for contracts on a competitive basis;
- Monitoring the work being undertaken by the contractors to ensure value for money;

Councillor Elwyn Schofield proposed an amendment that the Shadow Executive should be asked to undertake the work. The findings could then be referred to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for Scrutiny and thereafter to the County Council. Councillor Gareth Winston Roberts OBE seconded the amendment.

The Chief Executive informed Members the Council is currently examining the procurement process at a corporate level. A number of Seminars will be arranged for both Members and Officers. This is as part of the Recovery Plan and emphasis will be placed on high risk areas. He believed it important that whoever undertook the work of scrutinizing the tendering process should be given a clear mandate as to the expectations on the outcomes. The Monitoring Officer advised that the Principal Scrutiny Committee would be the appropriate Committee to undertake the task and this would be the best use of resources as the Scrutiny Team have the manpower, the research skills and resources. Their findings could be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners and any decision made by the Board would be open to Scrutiny.

The amendment was approved by Members by 14 votes to 6 (with 3 abstentions) therefore it was:

**RESOLVED to endorse the amendment as outlined above.**

**ACTIONS arising from the Resolution :-**

- to request the Shadow Executive to:-
- With regards to contracts in general – to consider all aspects of the tendering processes, procedures and conditions;
- To consider any legitimate means available to assist small local businesses to enable them to be in a position to tender on a competitive basis;
- to commence discussions with local companies so as to identify current barriers;
- to refer the Shadow Executive’s findings to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in the first instance and thereafter to the County Council/Commissioners;

**COUNCILLOR GWILYM O JONES  
CHAIR**