

Appendix

30

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT FOR A POLITICAL ALLIANCE TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Background

Following the intervention of the Welsh Ministers, and the appointment of a Recovery Board, it is acknowledged that the Council has made progress in improving its governance arrangements to promote political inclusivity.

However, despite these efforts the Council continues to be dragged backwards by some members who are unable to let go of past feuds and rivalries.

The conflict which this generates wastes time and resources and delivers nothing for the citizens of Anglesey.

Our Key Principles

To marginalise this conduct we wish to :

- work in cooperation with those who have demonstrated a commitment to moving forward to address the challenges facing Anglesey;
- leave behind those who remain motivated by past grievances and personal animosity.

The Creation of an Informal Board

As a clear indication of our good faith we will move immediately to the establishment of an Informal Board, as the mechanism for sharing power in an Alliance of those Groups who we believe have shown a commitment to the Key Principles and are willing to put Anglesey first.

Membership of the Informal Board

- The rules of political balance shall not apply to the Board.
- Members of the Board shall be selected by their Group Leaders in accordance with the numerical distribution agreed among the Group Leaders.
- Members of the Board shall be appointed on merit.
- The allocation of portfolios shall be agreed among the Group Leaders before any appointments are made. However, in the absence of consensus among the Group Leaders, the final decision shall be taken by the Leader of the Council.
- Decisions taken collectively by the Informal Board, or any quorum thereof, shall be taken on the basis of an ordinary majority in accordance with usual principles. However, in the event that agreement cannot be achieved among the Alliance

Group Leaders in relation to any other matters affecting the Informal Board, such as composition, management etc, those decisions shall ultimately be taken by the Leader of the Council. In such circumstances, the Leader of the Council will use his best endeavours to undertake reasonable consultation and to secure consensus wherever possible in relation to any significant or material issue.

- Representatives from any Group not included on the Board may be invited to join at some point in the future if, in the unanimous opinion of the Alliance Group Leaders, any new Member has, by then, demonstrated a sustained commitment to the Key Principles.
- The Members of the Informal Board agree to concentrate their collective efforts in pursuing a largely strategic agenda to be reflected in comprehensive Forward Work Programmes. The Work Programmes will include budgetary and efficiency issues, schools rationalisation, the future provision of leisure services, residential care for the elderly, Social Services, and matters relating to the economy of the Island. In prioritising these, and other similar high level issues, by implication we agree to streamline the process of decision making and endorse the principle that Executive decisions falling outside strategic areas shall be delegated to individual Portfolio Holders to be taken in consultation with their Corporate Directors and Heads of Service.

Terms of the Alliance

- The Alliance fully supports the Council's commitment to becoming an exemplar in corporate governance and does not wish to see the Council encumbered with any member who does not support this principle. Accordingly, the Leaders of each Group represented on the Board shall give a personal, public, written undertaking to :-
 1. Make no reference, verbally or in writing, in public or in private, to any issues relating to past conduct, allegations or grievances in relation to other Alliance members.
 2. Commit unequivocal support to the Recovery Programme to include ongoing governance improvements to develop structures and processes which will avoid any return to the "winner takes all" culture.
 3. Create a unified and unifying vision for the Island of Anglesey, through the establishment of a sub-group with input from external stakeholders.
 4. Agree that a major objective of the Alliance will be to isolate those who have consistently blocked progress and, by their actions, have refused to embrace new ways of working. This will include publicly identifying those individuals.

Any member of the Groups within the Alliance who does not publicly support this stance, and refuses to "sign up" to the principle described in the paragraph above, or whom their Group Leader considers has failed to demonstrate sufficient ongoing commitment to the recovery, shall be ejected from their Group.

5. Agree not to admit to their Group, or work with, or support in any way those individuals identified by paragraph 4 above.
6. Collectively take steps to robustly "name and shame" anyone who obstructs the recovery.
7. Reform and modernise the agreement reached among the Groups with regard to Group Leaders' meetings and to the allocation of chairs, vice-chairs, and allowances in relation to those identified by the actions described in paragraphs 4 and 6 above .
8. Publicly and robustly condemn Councillor Schofield and Councillor Durkin in a clear statement supporting the Council's position in reporting these individuals to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct.
9. Take any and all opportunities to expose and marginalise those identified by paragraphs 4 and 6 above and to highlight the damage which their actions and conduct have caused, and continue to cause, to the Council.
10. To support every appropriate effort to ensure that only members of the Alliance, and those unaffiliated members who have demonstrated their commitment to the recovery, shall be nominated to the role of chair or vice-chair of any committee, or to serve on any outside body, or receive any special responsibility allowance.
11. If those Members identified by paragraphs 4 and 6 above seek to disrupt the business of the Council, for example by call-in, or calling extraordinary meetings of the Council then, wherever possible, the rules will be changed to limit such disruptive conduct.
12. Any member of those Groups comprising the Alliance who fails to publicly support these undertakings, or undermines the Leader of their Group in discharging these undertakings, shall be disciplined collectively by the Group Leaders of the Alliance.
13. It shall be an aspiration of those Alliance Groups composed of independent members, to develop sufficient common ground and positive working relationships that, in due course, they shall be in a position to consider the merits of merging into a single, unified, independent group.

- The Alliance shall appoint a "whip" whose primary functions shall be: to ensure successful and timely communication across all Groups represented on the Alliance; and to secure and monitor adherence to the Terms of the Alliance as outlined in paragraphs 1 to 13 above. Anyone so appointed shall be drawn from among the Groups whose members does not include the Council's Leader or Deputy Leader, from time to time.

- The Alliance will seek positive and meaningful support for their proposals from the Minister on the basis that they are intended to secure a stable period of strong political leadership leading up to, and beyond, the local elections in May 2012.

Signed by Councillor Clive McGregor
on behalf of Llais I Fôn



Dated

8/6/10

Signed by Councillor R G Parry OBE
on behalf of Plaid Cymru



Dated

8/6/10

Signed by Councillor W John Chorlton
on behalf of The Labour Party



Dated

8-6-2010

Signed by Councillor Hefin Wyn Thomas
on behalf of The Menai Group



Dated

8-6-2010

Witnessed by



David Bowles
Interim Managing Director



Lynn Ball
Director of Legal Services / Monitoring
Officer

Dated 8/6/10

Dated 8/6/2010