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CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive
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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI PARTNERIAETH AC ADFYWIO	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DYDD MAWRTH, 17 TACHWEDD, 2015 am 2 o'r gloch yp	TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2015 at 2.00 pm
SIAMBR Y CYNGOR, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR, LLANGFNI	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, LLANGFNI
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Mrs. Mairwen Hughes 01248 752516 Committee Officer

AELODAU / MEMBERS

Cynghorwyr / Councillors:-

Annibynnol / Independent

D R Hughes (Cadeirydd/Chair), W T Hughes, Richard Owain Jones and Dafydd Rhys Thomas

Plaid Cymru / The Party of Wales

John Griffith, Carwyn Jones, Alun W Mummery (Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair) and Dylan Rees

Heb Ymuno / Unaffiliated

R.Ll.Jones

Plaid Lafur Cymru/Wales Labour Party

Sedd Wag/Vacant Seat

Aelodau Ychwanegol/Additional Members (gyda hawl pleidleisio ar faterion addysg/with voting rights in respect of educational matters)

Parch./Rev. Robert Townsend (Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru/The Church in Wales) and Mr. Keith Roberts (Yr Eglwys Babyddol Rufeinig/The Roman Catholic Church)

**Aelod Cyfetholedig/Co-opted Member (Dim Hawl Pleidleisio/No Voting Rights)
Mr Gerallt Llewelyn Jones (Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr/Managing Director - Mentor Môn)**

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declaration of interest by any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

2 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To submit, for confirmation, the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September, 2015.

3 BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD (Pages 9 - 12)

To receive a presentation by representatives from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board on Area Structure and thereafter questions on health services provision.

(AN INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THIS ITEM)

4 NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (Pages 13 - 32)

(ITEM START TIME IS AT 3.45 p.m.)

To discuss the consultation on how to maintain the Fire and Rescue Services in North Wales and thereafter questions on local coverage.

(AN INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THIS ITEM)

5 WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 33 - 36)

To submit a report by the Scrutiny Officer.

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015

- PRESENT:** Councillor Derlwyn Rees Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Alun Wyn Mummery (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors John Griffith, W T Hughes, Carwyn Jones, R LI Jones, Richard Owain Jones and Dylan Rees
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Corporate Director (Community),
Head of Housing Services (In respect of Item 5),
Head of Adult's Services (In respect of Items 6 & 7),
Head of Democratic Services,
Housing Strategy & Development Manager (LR) (In respect of Item 5);
Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator (OD) (In respect of Item 6),
Customer Care Development and Complaints Officer (SS) (In respect of Item 7),
Senior Partnerships Manager (Gwynedd and Ynys Môn) (In respect of Item 9),
Principal Development Officer (Housing Services) (AJ) (In respect of Item 13),
Scrutiny Officer (GR),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Administrative Assistant/Committee Officer (SC).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Aled Morris Jones (Portfolio Holder – Housing & Social Services)
- Leader of the Council (In respect of Item 9).

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive to his first meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies as noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Dylan Rees declared a personal interest in respect of Items 5 and 13. He took part in the discussions but did not vote.

3 MINUTES

- The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May, 2015 were confirmed as correct.
- The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May, 2015 were confirmed as correct.

4 NOMINATION OF A MEMBER ON THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

Submitted – a report by the Scrutiny Officer inviting the Committee to nominate one Committee Member to serve on the Corporate Parenting Panel from May 2015 to May 2016. The report gave summary of the remit and purpose of the Corporate Parenting Panel and recommended that Councillor Dylan Rees as the present member be re-nominated.

RESOLVED to re-nominate Councillor Dylan Rees as a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

5 ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANGLESEY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Submitted – a report by the Head of Housing Services in relation to the Annual review of Anglesey Housing Partnership.

The Housing Strategy & Development Manager stated that this is the first annual report on the work of the Anglesey Housing Partnership which will enable the progress of the Partnership to be scrutinised by this Scrutiny Committee. The report summarised the work undertaken by the Partnership in its first year of operation. The Anglesey Housing Partnership was established as partnership working is essential in delivering the homes and housing services that the island needs. The Partnership also assists the Council in meeting its corporate objectives including :-

- Transforming Older Adult Social Care
- Regenerating our Communities and Developing the Economy
- Increasing our Housing Options and Reducing Poverty
- Becoming Customer, Citizen and Community Focused

Five meetings of the Partnership have taken place to date with meeting scheduled to take place every quarter. Presentations have been made to the Partnership regarding issues of major importance or impact on housing in Anglesey, which are :-

- Wylfa Newydd and workers accommodation
- Extra Care housing on Anglesey
- Empty Homes strategy
- Part II of the Housing (Wales) – prevention of homelessness

The key achievements of the Partnership during the first year were highlighted within the report.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following issues :-

- Questions raised if the issue of potential resettlement of refugees into Wales would be a matter for the Anglesey Housing Partnership. The Head of Housing Services responded that the matter would be a Local Authority consideration;
- Questions raised if the Partnership had discussed the issue of identifying potential Travellers Sites on the Island. The Head of Housing Services responded that a Group of Officers of the County Council meet on a regular basis to discuss the issue of potential Travellers Sites.
- Questions raised as to the status of the Welsh language within the Partnership and how the language is incorporated within their strategy and whether it influences the Housing Policy. The Head of Housing Services responded that the new Welsh Language Commissioner and the Welsh Government has brought out guidelines for Housing Association which required them to provide bilingual services. She stated that 3 Housing Associations works with the County Council and their internal administration is bilingual.
- Questions were raised as to how many people are on the housing waiting list. The Head of Housing Services responded that she would provide details within a report to the next meeting of this Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** :-

- **To note the contents of the report;**
- **That an analysis of people on the housing waiting list be incorporated within a report to a future meeting of this Committee.**

ACTION : As noted above.

6 ANNUAL UPDATE - SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS IN ANGLESEY

Submitted – an Annual update report by the Head of Adult’s Services in relation to Safeguarding Arrangements for Vulnerable Adults in Anglesey.

The Head of Adult’s Services highlighted the main issues within the report. He noted that the Wales Policy and Procedure for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from abuse is intended to guide the safeguarding work of all those concerned with the welfare of vulnerable adults employed in the statutory, third and independent sectors in health, social care, the police and other services. A summary of the POVA referrals were highlighted within the report.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following issues :-

- Questions raised with regard to how many cases had been proven against NHS, Independent Sector and Social Care Staff. The Officers responded that figures can be obtained and noted that they will be afforded to the Committee in due course.
- Questions raised regarding the time taken to deal with cases of alleged assault. The Officers responded that when dealing with independent cases initial enquiries occur within 1/2 weeks. Cases that are referred to the Police or cases that need in-depth research can take 3/4 months. The Head of Adult’s

Services stated that he will prepare a report on the procedure for dealing with alleged abuse to the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED to note the report and to agree the developments highlighted within Section 4 of the report.

ACTION :

- **That figures of proven cases of abuse to Vulnerable Adults be afforded to the Committee.**
- **That the procedure for dealing with alleged abuse to Vulnerable Adults be submitted to the Committee in due course.**

7 ANNUAL REPORT - 'LISTENING AND LEARNING FROM COMPLAINTS'

Submitted – the Annual Report – ‘Listening and Learning from Complaints’ by the Head of Adult’s Services.

The Head of Adult’s Service reported that there is an obligation to produce an Annual Report on the operation of the Representations and Complaints Procedure and present it to the relevant Local Authority Scrutiny Committee to monitor the arrangements for dealing effectively with complaints received from service users and their representatives. It is considered vital that a record is kept of comments and complaints in order for the Social Services Department to learn lessons from them, as part of improving service delivery. The Head of Adult’s Service gave an in-depth analysis of the number of complaints received by the Social Service Department to the Committee.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following issues :-

- Questions raised regarding the procedure for elderly residents of care homes if they wish to complain. The Head of Adult’s Services responded that staff of the Social Services Department do visit the care homes on a regular basis. He also noted that department are at present employing independent persons to assess any complaint residents of care homes may have; this complies with the Commissioner for Older People criteria.

The Corporate Director (Community) wished to record her appreciation to the Customer Care Development and Complaints Officer (Social Services Department) for her work in respect of dealing with complaints for the Social Services Department in a competent manner at all times.

RESOLVED :-

- **To note the nature of the complaints received during 2014/15 regarding the services provided by the Social Services Department;**
- **To note the performance of the Social Services Department in implementing the Representations and Complaints Procedure and dealing with complaints;**

- **To note the Action Plan for developing the arrangements for dealing effectively with representations and complaints received from service users and their representatives.**

ACTION : None

8 SCRUTINY OUTCOME PANELS - UPDATE

Submitted – a report by the Interim Scrutiny Manager in relation to the Scrutiny Outcome Panels established by the Local Authority’s Scrutiny Committees.

The Scrutiny Officer gave an overview of the Scrutiny Outcome Panels established by the two Scrutiny Committees of which there are currently 7 Panels.

RESOLVED :-

- **To note the current position with regards to work of the seven Scrutiny Outcome Panels;**
- **That the Support Officer’s endeavours to submit quarterly update reports on the work of the Scrutiny Outcome Panels to both Scrutiny Committees, Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs Working Group and the Senior Leadership Team;**
- **To further strengthen the synergy and alignment between the Scrutiny Function and the Council’s Strategic Priorities as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.**

ACTION : That update reports be submitted to this Committee on a quarterly basis on the work of the Scrutiny Outcome Panels.

9 UPDATE ON PROPOSED JOINT LOCAL SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY

Submitted – an updated report with regard to the proposed joint scrutiny arrangements of the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Local Services Board.

The Scrutiny Officer highlighted the main issues contained within the report and stated that further guidance in respect of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is due in the Autumn of 2015 and should provide greater clarity on how to proceed with scrutinising the Public Services Board when it becomes operational in April 2016. At this stage, the legislation is clear that the Public Services Board membership for the area will include Gwynedd Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The Senior Partnerships Manager Gwynedd and Ynys Môn said that statutory guidance in respect of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – Implications for Scrutiny is at present out for consultation until 16 November, 2015. She noted that the scrutiny element of the guidance needs to be enhanced and the Welsh Government has identified this matter already.

The Leader of the Council stated that the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is an important legislation and he hoped that the Senior Partnerships Manager will give an update report following the National Conference to be held on the 26 November in respect of this matter.

RESOLVED to note the update report

ACTION : That an update report be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in respect of the above.

10 UPDATE BY THE CHAIR OR VICE-CHAIR

The Vice-Chair stated that the School Progress Review Group he has attended has been very informative and was looking forward to participate in the next stage of the consultation process.

11 WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – the draft Work Programme.

The Scrutiny Officer highlighted that 3 new items will need to be considered by the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee :-

- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board – update – To be discussed at the 17 November, 2015 meeting;
- Weekly Waste Collection Option Appraisal – Special meeting to be arranged;
- North Wales Fire & Rescue Service – response to the recent fire incident in Llangefni – To be discussed at the 17 November, 2015 meeting

Councillor Carwyn Jones said that he wished to receive an update report on a regular basis from the Task and Finish Group which deals with identifying sites for Travellers. He noted that the Wales Housing Act stipulates that each local authority must identify traveller's site within their constituency.

Concillor R.O. Jones said that he wished to see an item on the Committee Work Programme on the Ambulance Service.

RESOLVED to note the draft Work Programme and to incorporate the items raised for discussion at future meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee as noted above.

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to adopt the following :-

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

13 MODERNISATION OF WARDENS SERVICES WITHIN COUNCIL OWNED SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

Submitted – a report by the Head of Housing Services in relation to the modernisation of Wardens Services within Council owned Sheltered Accommodation.

The Principal Development Officer (Housing Services) gave an in-depth report on the two options in respect of modernising the Wardens Services of the County Council.

Following a question and answer session it was **RESOLVED :-**

- **To note the position and to favour Option 1 within the report.**
- **To note that the matter be discussed by the Executive for decision.**

ACTION : That decision in respect of modernisation of Wardens Services within Council owned Sheltered Accommodation be taken by The Executive.

(Councillor Carwyn Jones wished it to be minuted that he voted against the decision).

(Councillor John Griffith abstained from voting).

(Having declared a personal interest Councillor Dylan Rees abstained from voting in respect of this item).

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm

**COUNCILLOR D.R. HUGHES
CHAIR**

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MEETING:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	17 November 2015
LOCATION:	Council Chamber, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Llangefni.
START TIME:	2pm
SUBJECT:	Issues / Questions to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

<u>Number:</u>	<u>Question by:</u>	<u>Question:</u>
<u>Women's Maternity Services and other Health Services</u>		
1.	Councillor Carwyn Jones	Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board (BCUHB) recently undertook a consultation on "Temporary Changes to Women's and Maternity Services in North Wales". There is concern on Anglesey that a specialist maternity service at Ysbyty Gwynedd is in jeopardy. Can you provide information on the Board's current position and what is going to happen?
2.	Councillor Derlwyn Hughes	What is BCUHB medium term strategic plan for the two community hospital sites (Ysbyty Penrhos- Holyhead and Ysbyty Cefni - Llangefni) on Anglesey?
<u>Financial Pressures on Public Services</u>		
3.	Councillor Derlwyn Hughes	It has been reported in the press that the BCUHB overspend is projected to be approximately £14 million pounds by the end of the 2015/2016 financial year, and may need to be revised upwards. Will you be able to maintain or enhance the current level of partnership with North Wales Councils, or will you be seeking to reduce your projected overspend by curtailing joint initiatives and/or reducing your financial contribution to community services next year?
<u>Services for Older People</u>		
4.	Councillor Derlwyn Hughes	What is the amount of community spend by BCUHB on adult social care and what steps is it taking to strengthen community support and nursing care in the community ?
<u>Services to Children and Young People (including CAHMS)</u>		
5.	Councillor Derlwyn Hughes	The CSSIW national report, published in January 2015, and entitled "Inspection of Safeguarding and Care Planning of Looked after Children and Care Leavers who exhibit vulnerable or risky behavior" is critical of the suitability of mental health services for children in care. What has been BCUHB response to this report locally on the Island?

<u>Number:</u>	<u>Question by:</u>	<u>Question:</u>
6.	Councillor Derlwyn Hughes	School counselling and access thresholds to CAMHS services. It is clear from the regional fora held recently between government officials, CAMHS and school counselling services that there is significant scope to harmonise the types of support services offered by CAMHS across the region and the support that can be offered to schools, teachers and other support workers. What plans do the Health Board to ensure harmonising the 'offer' across the region to ensure equal access and opportunities for our young people?
7.	Councillor Derlwyn Hughes	Concern about the lack of communication regarding decisions to place young people out of the North Wales area for treatment in hospitals / specialist units in England without raising the Authority's awareness regarding the likelihood that significant additional costs can be expected as a result. How can the existing mechanism via the monthly joint commissioning panel be strengthened to improve communication between the Health Board and the Local Authority?
8.	Councillor Derlwyn Hughes	Concerns have been raised about a lack of consistency of shared provision across the region with regard to communication and language therapy support services for young people in our schools. The Council is is eager to move the agenda forward by negotiating a common written understanding about what can be expected in terms of the intervention levels and support packages available for children and young people in mainstream education, particularly in the secondary sector where there has been a shortfall in provision North West Wales. Does BCUHB have plans to introduce a regional common protocol outlining its service offer?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

9.	Councillor Carwyn Jones	The Authority, through its Transformation Programme for Adult Social Care, is committed to developing Extra Care provision across Anglesey supporting the Authority's vision of a fundamental shift away from traditional residential care in favour of alternative care models. A recent consultation took place with regard to "Haulfre" residential home at Llangoed. Has BCUHB been consulted with regard to the future of the residential home and, if so, what is its view on this matter, such as loss of bed capacity?
10.	Councillor Dylan Rees	A recent survey was held amongst North Wales G.P.'s in respect of their work life balance. It was evident from the survey that a considerable number of G.P.'s felt over-worked and some drew attention to the failures of the Board to reduce the pressure they are under. Here are some quotes: "We have too much pressure to provide care which we do not have the staffing levels to provide with no support from the BCUHB, the expectations are too great." "I love helping my patients but am getting increasingly frustrated by

<u>Number:</u>	<u>Question by:</u>	<u>Question:</u>
		<p>the inability of the Health Board to provide adequate secondary care services."</p> <p>"I still enjoy my job as a GP and feel that it is the best job in the world. However, I feel we are burdened with paperwork. I feel there is a lack of understanding from secondary care and the BCUHB about the pressures we are under. There is a constant shortage of beds to admit ill patients to. Long waiting lists impact upon us and patients come back repeatedly whilst they sit on the lists."</p> <p>Given the fact that the media have reported that North Wales GP Practices "are facing closure by the score without help" what exactly are the Board doing to help and support GP Practices?</p>
11.	Councillor Ann Griffith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As I understand, only women over the age of fifty are being called for cervical screening every 5 years and not every of 3 years. Is this being driven by clinical evidence or the need to save money? • In respect of breast care and cancer diagnosis, what is the current waiting time for women to see a consultant following referral from their General Practitioner?
12.	Councillor Ann Griffith	<p>In respect of the Hergest Psychiatric Unit at Ysbyty Gwynedd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many complaints concerning level of care and issues of safety have been received from patients about the Unit in 2015, and does historical data reflect any trend ? • Have there been many incidents of whistle blowing received from staff in 2015, and does historical data reflect any trend ?
13.	Councillor Ann Griffith	<p>I understand that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has become a criminal offence in the UK since 1985 but the level of prosecution appears to be very low in the UK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does BCUHB provide a training framework for its staff in order to help identify cases of FGM ? • On Anglesey, how many cases of FGM have been reported by BCUHB to North Wales Police ?
14.	Councillor Ann Griffith	<p>Does BCUB know the level of drug abuse on Anglesey and how many people on the Island receive residential rehabilitation for their problem?</p>
15.	Councillor Ann Griffith	<p>What is the average waiting time for talking therapies on Anglesey ? (By talking therapies reference is made to help offered by BCUHB to people suffering with depression or anxiety based problems).</p>

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Your Services Your Choices

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON HOW TO
MAINTAIN EXCELLENT, AFFORDABLE FIRE
AND RESCUE SERVICES IN NORTH WALES
IN 2016-17 AND BEYOND.**

Autumn 2015

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INTRODUCTION

This public consultation is about the fire and rescue services provided in North Wales. North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is inviting anyone with an interest to give their views on how fire and rescue services should be developed in North Wales in the next few years.

We all understand that there is less money for public services to use than we would like, but accept that the situation is unlikely to improve for a number of years. Anyone involved in public services will know how hard it is to continue to provide the services that people expect when the money isn't available.

At North Wales Fire and Rescue we have gone beyond the phase of reducing internal costs, finding ways of economising and cutting waste. Our revenue budget is made up of county council contributions. Making savings has meant that our services now cost the equivalent of £46 per head of population – the same as they did in 2010-11. But we still have to think about how many more years we can continue with the same level of contributions. And if our costs were to rise, where would the money come from?

The fire and rescue service has done a remarkable job on reducing demand for its services by focussing on fire prevention. People are much better now at avoiding fires than they were even ten years ago. But what should that mean for the future size and shape and purpose of the fire and rescue service? People expect an emergency response when they are in need, but providing a service 'just in case' costs money.

People can start to think about fires in their own geographical area, forgetting that they might also need fire and rescue services while they are visiting other areas, or travelling. As an Authority for the whole of North Wales our concern is for the whole area and the whole population. Similarly, as an Authority working alongside other public service providers we recognise that we have to play our part in reducing costs. It's a very difficult balance to make, but we think that we have come up with a way of doing just that – looking after the whole population of North Wales without costing the earth.

We hope you agree with us, but we want to know if there is anything else we haven't considered that would make a difference. Obviously, we would also welcome your comments if you support our plans.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is one of three fire and rescue authorities in Wales. It was established in 1996 to provide fire and rescue services in Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

The Authority is made up of 28 elected county councillors who are nominated by their own county council to serve as members of the Authority. In this capacity Members are expected to act in the best interests of the whole of North Wales, not just their own county area.

The Authority makes decisions about the level of fire and rescue services that will be provided in North Wales, and sets its annual budget to match that level of service.

What services does North Wales Fire and Rescue provide?

- Fire prevention and community safety education
- “Blue light” response to fires and non-fire emergencies
- Enforcement of fire safety in non-domestic premises
- Planning and response to large scale and serious emergency situations

How much does North Wales Fire and Rescue cost to run?

Around £32million per year - the equivalent of £46 per year for every North Wales resident.

Who pays for North Wales Fire and Rescue?

The six county councils in North Wales all contribute towards a central fund that is used to provide fire and rescue services.

How do I take part in this Public Consultation?

Think about what the impact of what we are proposing to do, and let us know your views **BEFORE 11th December 2015**.

THE PROPOSED OBJECTIVES FOR 2016-17

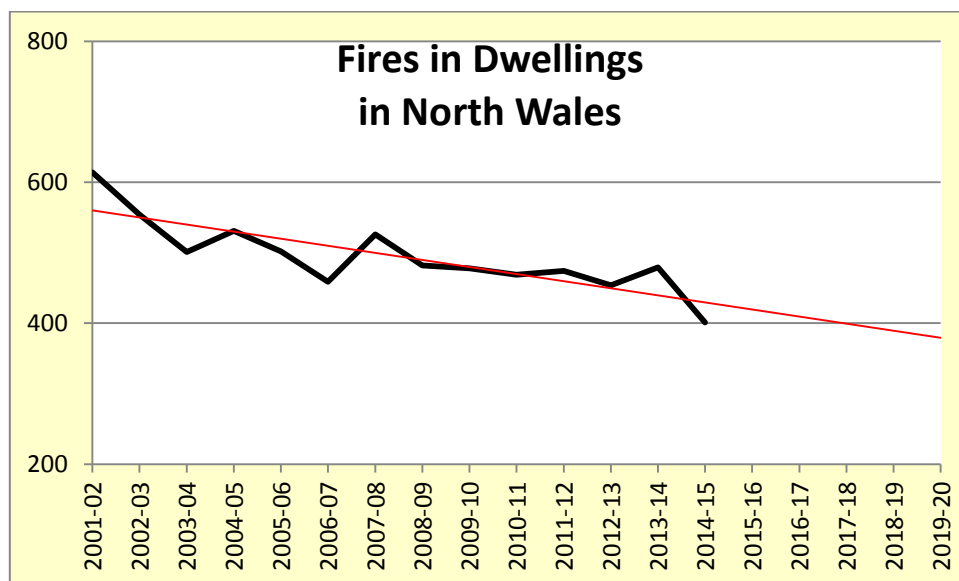
Draft Objective 1 – Carry on helping to keep people safe from fire in their homes

This is not the first time that we have adopted this as our first objective, but by doing so it reflects the importance that we place on this aspect of our service delivery.

The place where people are most likely to be killed or injured by fire is in the home. It is where people are most relaxed and least alert to danger, where they worry least about their own safety from fire. They fall sleep, get distracted and forget to check. In workplaces and public buildings there are laws that require the people responsible for those places to formally plan and reduce risk from fires. But people don't tend to think in the same way about their fire safety measures when they are at home.

So although we have made significant in-roads and seen a remarkable reduction in the number of dwelling fires that occur, there is still more to do. We would not want to see financial constraints preventing us from continuing to focus on helping to keep people safe in their own homes.

In 2016-17, therefore, we will continue to keep fire safety in the home as our first and most important objective.



Draft Objective 2 – Working hard to make our budget go further so that we don't have to ask the county councils for any higher contributions

We know that money is in short supply for running public services, and the forecasts are that things are unlikely to get better for a number of years. We have worked hard to cut our spending by economising where that's possible and becoming more efficient in the way we do things.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is financed mainly by contributions from the six unitary authorities in North Wales in proportion to their population. Its annual revenue budget is currently set at just under £32million.

£	Contribution 2011/12	Contribution 2012/13	Contribution 2013/14	Contribution 2014/15	Contribution 2015/16
Anglesey	3,236,545	3,219,270	3,216,231	3,198,669	3,200,523
Gwynedd	5,588,685	5,525,827	5,507,985	5,588,255	5,602,787
Conwy	5,240,568	5,206,959	5,198,570	5,283,704	5,289,891
Denbighshire	4,549,039	4,569,316	4,593,630	4,342,155	4,360,740
Flintshire	7,051,716	6,981,590	6,955,089	7,018,721	7,033,548
Wrexham	6,266,101	6,269,049	6,300,506	6,340,507	6,398,354
TOTAL	31,932,654	31,772,011	31,772,011	31,772,011	31,885,843
Cost per head of population	£47	£46	£46	£46	£46

After freezing our annual budget for three years, we realised last year that we would have to increase it slightly. However, we gave an undertaking to the North Wales county councils that we would aim to limit any increase in the money that we would ask them to contribute towards our running costs to a maximum equivalent of £1 per head of population.

That undertaking remains, but because we recognise the financial pressures facing the county councils, we propose to do even better than that. We intend, through careful planning, to freeze our annual budget at this year's level for another three years. Potentially, that could reduce county council contributions for fire and rescue services to as low as the equivalent of £45 per head of population per year – the same as it was in 2008-09.

We do not expect this to be easy to achieve. Having already cut £3million from our annual running costs, our capacity to absorb unavoidable cost increases for the next three years is limited. We estimate that these unavoidable increases

could be in the region of another £2million. However, we recognise the value of supporting the delivery of a broad range of excellent public services in North Wales and therefore we wish to collaborate as much as possible to ensure the safety of people in North Wales.

Draft Objective 3 – Still protecting ALL our communities, but with better planning

Back in 2012 as part of our annual consultation we asked you whether you would prefer to:

- a) keep a fire station open because it was close to your home, but accepting that it was not available for several hours a week, or
- b) have a fire station that is always ready to respond, but accepting that it is several miles further away from your home.

What we were starting to tackle was the problem of an outdated duty system that makes it difficult to attract and keep enough retained (part time) firefighters to provide cover, particularly at certain times of day. This is partly because the level of commitment required (to stay within 4 or 5 minutes of a fire station for up to 120 hours a week or more) is becoming less realistic at a time when people tend to work and socialise away from where they live.

We were also concerned about the cost, time and effort it takes to maintain and manage a problematic duty system that has a high turnover of staff who realise that their primary employment has to come first, or that the pressure of the work commitment is too great on their personal or family life.

Although only a few people responded in 2012, your responses were useful. The majority favoured the second option – having a fire station further away, but definitely available – but there was a sense of nervousness about what ‘several miles further away’ might mean and no appetite for closing any fire stations. The idea of being ‘definitely available’ was appealing, but people seemed to need more information before being able to support us on the ‘further away’ aspect.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW IF I RING 999?

Your call is passed to a fire control operator who takes the details of the incident. Using mapping and mobilising computer programs, the control operator will identify the nearest available fire engine and send the details of the incident to the crew of that fire engine.

If the responding crew members are wholetime firefighters on a wholetime shift station, they will mobilise immediately. There are wholetime shift stations in Wrexham, Deeside and Rhyl.

If the responding crew members are wholetime firefighters on a wholetime day crewed station and the call comes in between the hours of midday and 10pm, they will mobilise immediately. There are wholetime day crewed stations in Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Caernarfon, Bangor and Holyhead.

If the responding crew members are retained firefighters or day crewing firefighters between 10pm and midday, they will make their way to the fire station (aiming to do so in under 5 minutes) and mobilise from there. There are retained fire stations in 36 locations around North Wales, and a further 8 fire engines mainly crewed by retained personnel located at the 8 wholetime stations listed above.

WHERE DOES THE FIRE ENGINE COME FROM NOW?

There are 44 fire stations in North Wales, and 54 fire engines. How many of those fire engines are actually available, however, fluctuates from hour to hour according to the availability of firefighters.

For safety reasons, we insist on a minimum of four firefighters to crew a fire engine. If we don't have four available with the necessary skills and command experience, then that fire engine is said to be 'off the run', or unavailable. If we know in advance that we don't have a crew of four retained firefighters available, we might send a wholetime firefighter to make up a mixed crew if a call does come in, but there are limits to how often that can happen.

The 9 fire engines in North Wales that are crewed by wholetime firefighters are always available because wholetime firefighters work set shifts and their availability is known in advance. It can happen, though, that they are attending another incident when a call comes in.

The remaining 45 fire engines may or may not be available. We cannot guarantee how many will be available at any one time. It is not unusual for half of them to be unavailable, and availability can actually dip for a short while to as low as 15 fire engines to cover the whole area.

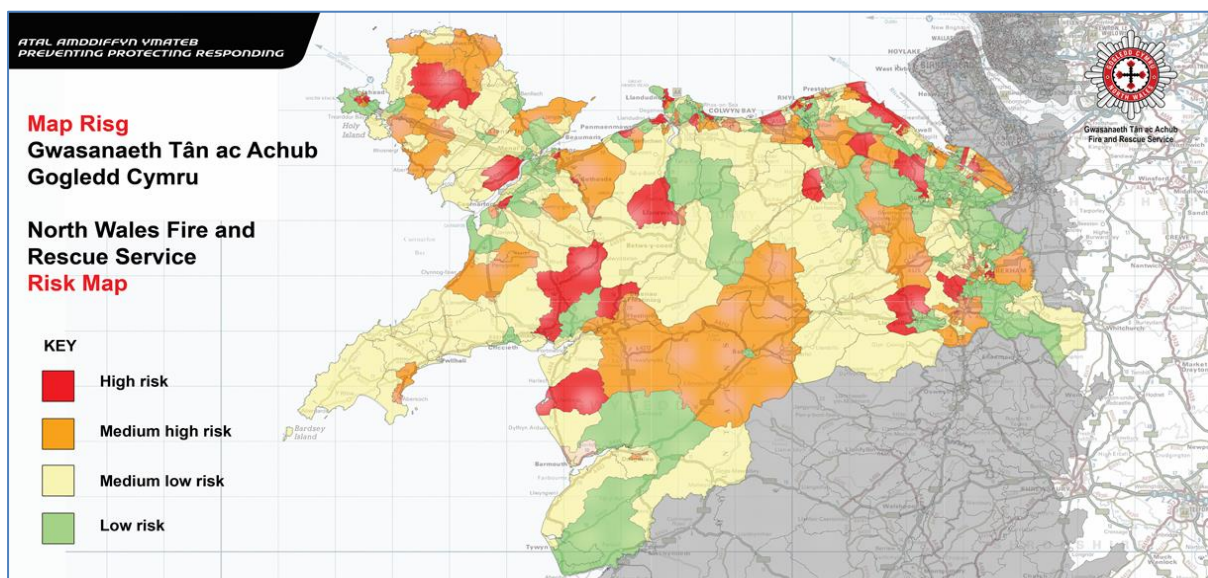
Why? Because we rely on retained firefighters being available to crew them, and because of the 'retained' nature of their employment contract with us they have to fit their availability to attend an emergency incident around their primary employment and other aspects of their daily life.

If individual retained firefighters know they are not going to be available and within 4 or 5 minutes of the fire station, they let us know so that the control mobilising system can be kept updated. So if the first choice of fire engine is unavailable or already out on another call, the control operator selects the next available fire engine to send.

So as things stand now, although a member of the public would know where their nearest fire station is, they would not know where the nearest available fire engine was at the time of their call.

We listened to the comments we received in 2012, and developed our thinking further. We analysed the distribution of risk across North Wales, both in terms of particular times and in terms of locations, and then tried to match that distribution.

We knew already that the majority of incidents happen in areas with higher populations - that's no surprise. However, when we analysed the *likelihood* of something happening – the risk – we saw a very different pattern of distribution. If we were to locate our resources only in areas of higher population density, then that would be to disregard the risk for anyone living, working, visiting or travelling in the other parts of North Wales.



So based on the principle of needing to protect the whole of North Wales at all times, not just the areas with a higher resident population, we looked at how to distribute our fire and rescue crews to best effect.

We realised that the answer did not lie with the fire stations (i.e. the actual buildings) but with the planning and management of our fire crews. We were also thinking about how we could address the problem of availability of retained crews and saw that there was an opportunity to keep fire stations open but to group together the crews that work from them so that we could be more certain about the availability of at least one fire crew in an area.

We also wanted to make sure that we took account of the differences in risk profile at different times. Many people are out at school or work during the

day, and those who are at home are usually awake and alert. At other times, there are more people at home, and they tend to be more relaxed and less alert. As we described for Objective 1, this time of being at home and relaxed is when the risk increases. So we worked out that while 20 'crewing groups' could cover the area during times of relatively lower risk, 38 'crewing groups' would be a much better level of provision for those times of relatively higher risk.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN FUTURE IF I RANG 999?

Your call would still be passed to a fire control operator who would take the details of the incident. The control operator would still identify the nearest available fire engine(s) and send details of the incident to the crew members.

The availability of individual retained firefighters would still fluctuate, but by using the 'crewing groups' we would have much better control over ensuring that at least 20 fully-crewed fire engines would be available and strategically distributed across North Wales during times of lower risk, and at least 38 fully crewed fire engines at times of higher risk. This would be a very big improvement.

Individual retained firefighters would still need to let us know when they were going to be unavailable or out of reach of a fire station so that we could keep an eye on which fire engines could be mobilised. But by being part of the new 'crewing groups' they should find that they can find a better balance between their fire service commitment and their other commitments.

With the introduction of new, modern alerters, we have the ability to allow firefighters to work more flexibly so that they would not be limited to only responding from one particular fire station. Wholtime and retained firefighters regularly work together as part of the same crew. We would continue to insist on having an absolute minimum of four firefighters to take out a fire engine (for safety reasons), but there would be more opportunities to allocate any additional firefighters to crew other fire engines – probably in the same crewing group but potentially in a neighbouring one. At the moment the process can be quite wasteful of available resources. For example, if nine retained firefighters happen to be available, the last four or five to reach the fire station might only arrive in time to see the fire engine driving away. If this happens repeatedly firefighters can become frustrated and disillusioned by missed opportunities to put all their training into practice.

In future, a member of the public would know that at least twenty fire engines would be available at times of lower risk and at least thirty-eight would be available at times of higher risk.

Fire engines may not necessarily come from their nearest fire station, but that would be no different from now. The additional certainty is what makes this proposal so much better than the current arrangements.

Objective 4 – Exploring the possibility of doing more things for our communities

Over the years, the fire and rescue service has very successfully transformed itself into an organisation that does a lot more fire prevention work alongside its fire and rescue emergency response work. But it could do more. Some fire and rescue authorities in other parts of Britain have already started to diversify their work, by, for example, taking on co-responding with the ambulance service and broadening out their work to help people stay safe in their own homes beyond just advising on fire safety.

Given our success in driving down demand for extinguishing fires, we think that the time is right to review what else we can add to the list of services that we provide. We want to make sure that we remain available to respond to any fire or rescue emergency, but we would like to explore the possibility of using the resources we have available as productively as we can by helping to keep our communities safe from more than just fire. At a time when public services are under strain, it seems the right thing to do. It also makes good sense for us to at least explore how we could support other parts of the public sector as we all collectively aspire to help look after our local communities.



WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT?

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority will be submitting an estimate of its required level of funding for 2016-17 to the county councils in North Wales in December 2015, and confirming the final figure by the middle of February 2016.

We would like to have our plans ready for the start of the 2016-17 year, but before we make our final decisions we want to know what people think about our proposals. Is the Authority right to keep the prevention of fire deaths and injuries as its first objective? Is it realistic to expect it to keep its budget low AND to broaden out the range of services that it offers? Would you support the new crewing groups that we are proposing to introduce? If not, why not?

Please send your comments before 11th December 2015:

By post to:

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Ffordd Salesbury
St Asaph Business Park
St Asaph
Denbighshire, LL17 0JJ

By e-mail to:

futurefire@nwales-fireservice.org.uk

You can also visit

www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk

Twitter @northwalesfire

www.facebook.com/northwalesfireservice

By completing the questionnaire:

<http://goo.gl/kK5iwZ>

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. Where will my nearest fire station be?

We are not proposing to close any fire stations, so your nearest fire station will still be where it is now.

As happens already, the nearest available crew(s) will be mobilised to incidents, but what we are proposing is a more closely managed system based on having a minimum of 20 fire crews strategically placed and available during times of lower risk, and 38 fire crews strategically placed and available at times of higher risk.

Compared to what is available now, that represents a significant improvement.

Q. Why don't you just close some fire stations?

There are several reasons why we have not taken this route. Firstly, keeping the building is not the main expense – the main costs are to do with employing staff. So closing fire stations would not save very much at all in terms of revenue costs. Secondly, we see the fire stations themselves as community assets that could potentially be developed so that other public or voluntary sector organisations could share the space with us. And thirdly, the existing fire stations provide us with the flexibility to move our crews around according to changing risk profiles. In time we may be forced to reconsider, but for now it makes good sense to keep all 44 fire stations open.

Q. If the fire engine has to come from further away, how can you say that that is an improvement?

It has always been the case that if the fire engine in the nearest fire station is “off the run” (unavailable) or already out on another call, then the next nearest available one would be mobilised. People have been able to see the fire station and the fire engine and may have wrongly assumed that there would be a crew of firefighters available to crew it if needed.

How far away the next available fire engine is would depend on a number of factors including the current distribution of fire stations, the local road network, simultaneous demand in the area, and the availability of individual firefighters with the right combination of skills and command experience to make up a safe, functioning fire crew.

The improvement would come from having better control over the availability of fire crews. Under these new proposals we would be able to keep 20 strategically placed fire crews available at times of lower risk and 38 available at times of higher risk.

Q. Other services are centralising their resources as a way of cutting costs – why doesn't the fire and rescue service do the same?

We know that we attend more incidents in areas where the population is highest, but we want to protect the whole of North Wales, not just the larger towns. When we undertook an assessment of risk across the whole area it showed that there are areas of relatively higher risk distributed throughout North Wales, and that the risk profile of different areas do change. For this reason, we want to retain the flexibility to respond to varying levels of risk, and as far as possible to organise our fire crews to match the level of risk.

Q. Why don't you just employ more retained firefighters?

Simply employing more does not solve the problem if those additional firefighters are not available either. In some areas people travel miles from home to go to work, so putting them too far from their allocated fire station to remain 'on the run'. In some areas, the profile of the local population means that despite our repeated attempts at recruiting people as retained firefighters we have not managed to attract sufficient interest from people who can pass the stringent fitness and other entry tests. Also, all too often firefighters leave because there have been changes in their primary employment which means that they can no longer be available when we need them to be. So even when we have been able to recruit and train people we see a high turnover of staff.

Q. Why don't you employ more wholetime firefighters?

Employing more wholetime firefighters would solve the problem of availability, but it would be extremely hard to justify the cost of increasing the total number employed at a time when the public services are under financial pressure.

We have been trialling some new part-time wholetime duty contracts as an alternative to the retained duty contracts and we hope to continue to explore more sustainable and affordable contracts in future.

Q. Isn't this just a reduction in the standard of service that I receive?

No. The four proposals should give reassurance to the public that we will:

1. continue to put the emphasis on their safety by helping to prevent fire deaths and injuries;
2. play our part in helping the county councils in their financial planning at this time of tight public sector budgets;
3. keep fire stations open and improve the availability of fire crews;
4. find ways of doing even more, different things to improve public safety.

In addition to that, we will continue to abide by the seven commitments that we have already made in our Dwelling Fires Response Charter to:

1. Take the lead in driving down the number of dwelling fires that occur and in reducing their impact on people.
2. React quickly and efficiently every time we receive an emergency 999 call to attend a dwelling fire.
3. Attend dwelling fires swiftly and properly equipped to deal with them.
4. Deal with dwelling fires effectively, efficiently and professionally.
5. Help to restore normality to communities in the aftermath of dwelling fires.
6. Investigate the causes of dwelling fires and hold relevant people to account when appropriate to do so.
7. Strive to maintain high standards and improve aspects of what we do.

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CYNGOR SIR
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ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL



PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Chair: Councillor Derlwyn Hughes
Vice- Chair: Councillor Alun Mummery

The table below is the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Work Programme from May 2015 to May 2016. The Work Programme will be reported to each meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for the purpose of reviewing its content, consideration of new items or adjournment / withdrawal of items.

Contact: Geraint Wyn Roberts (Scrutiny Officer)
Tel: 01248 752039
E-mail: gwrce@anglesey.gov.uk

Date of Meeting	Item	Purpose	Location /Start Time
Standing items on all Committee Agendas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apology • Minutes • Chair and Vice-Chair Announcement • Work Programme 			
15 September 2015	Committee nomination to the Corporate Parenting Panel	Nomination of one Member to the Panel that ensures services to children and young people in care are of a high standard	Committee Room 1/ 3pm
	Transformation of the Sheltered Housing Accommodation Service	Pre-decision scrutiny	
	Annual Report Anglesey Housing Partnership	Monitoring	
	Safeguarding Arrangements for Vulnerable Adults	Monitoring	
	Annual Complaints Report - Social Services	Monitoring	
	Scrutiny Outcome Panels – Update	Update	
	Local Service Board- Joint Scrutiny Panel	Update	
12 November 2015	Weekly Waste Collection Option Appraisal	Pre-decision scrutiny	Council Chamber / 2 pm
	Care Connect – North Wales Regional Call Monitoring Service	Monitoring	
	Children’s Transformation Programme Board	Information regarding nomination	
17 November 2015	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	Question and Answer Session	Council Chamber / 2 pm
	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Question and Answer Session	
2 February 2016	Youth Services Review	Pre-decision scrutiny	Committee Room / 2pm
	Cultural Services Review	Pre-decision scrutiny	
	Housing List Analysis	Scrutiny	
	Gypsy Travellers Plan	Scrutiny	

Date of Meeting	Item	Purpose	Location /Start Time
Standing items on all Committee Agendas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apology • Minutes • Chair and Vice-Chair Announcement • Work Programme 			
	Vulnerable Adults – Procedure and Complaint Data regarding Care professionals.	Scrutiny	
	Regional Economic Engagement	Update	
12 April 2016	Annual Community Safety Partnership Report	Monitoring	Committee Room / 3pm

Additional items to be included in the Work Programme:

- Attendance by Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Scrutiny Outcome Panel – School Progress Review Group (Update)

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