

THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2019

- PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos Medi (Chair)
Councillor Ieuan Williams (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Richard Dew, Carwyn Jones, R. Meirion Jones,
Alun Mummery, R.G. Parry, OBE, FRAGS, Robin Williams
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnership, Community & Service Improvement)
Head of Function (Resources) & Section 151 Officer
Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Head of Learning
Head of Democratic Services (for item 4)
Housing Service Strategy, Policy and Commissioning Manager (ELI)(for item 7)
Solicitor (Social Care and Education) (SW)
Committee Officer (ATH)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors Lewis Davies, Bryan Owen, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Dylan Rees

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Richard Dew declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6 on the agenda.

Councillor Carwyn Jones declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6 on the agenda but referred to the dispensation which he had been granted by the Standards Committee in June, 2017 which allowed him to make representations as a Local Member but not to vote on the matter.

Councillor Ieuan Williams declared a personal interest in item 5 on the agenda.

2 URGENT MATTERS CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS APPOINTED OFFICER

None to report.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 29 April, 2019 were presented for the Executive's consideration.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 29 April, be confirmed as correct.

4 THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Democratic Services incorporating the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period from June, 2019 to January, 2020 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Head of Democratic Services updated the Executive on items that were new to the Work Programme as presented to the meeting (items 7 and 14) or had been re-scheduled, (item 22 from September, 2019 to October, 2019) and in addition, advised that it was intended to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Executive on 10 June, 2019 to consider Council Business matters.

It was resolved to confirm the updated Forward Work Programme for June, 2019 to January, 2020 as presented.

5 FORMALISING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN YSGOL GORONWY OWEN AND YSGOL MOELFRE THROUGH THE PROCESS OF FEDERALISATION

The report of the Head of Learning regarding a request made by the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Goronwy Owen and Ysgol Moelfre to formalise the partnership between the two schools by federalising the two Governing Bodies was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Head of Learning confirmed that Officers are supportive of the request and recommend moving forward to consult on the proposal in accordance with process. The Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth commended the recommendation to the Executive.

It was resolved to authorise Officers to proceed with the process of consulting on formalising the partnership between Ysgol Goronwy Owen and Ysgol Moelfre by federalising the two Governing Bodies.

6 MODERNISATION STRATEGY - LLANGEFNI AND SEIRIOL AREAS

The report of the Head of Learning requesting the Executive to rescind its previous decisions on the future of education provision in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas was presented for the Executive's consideration.

As he had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter, Councillor Richard Dew withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination thereof.

The Chief Executive reported that as a result of a number of comments and concerns about the consultation process in relation to the modernisation of schools in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas and the submission of a complaint regarding non-compliance with the Schools' Organisation Code (006/2013), Officers conducted an internal review of the statutory consultation process held in both areas. Findings from the internal review highlighted technical concerns regarding compliance with the School Organisation Code (006/2013) specific instances of which are set out in the report. Due to those concerns, the risks associated with the process and the need to be able to demonstrate that the process has been wholly thorough and transparent, and because of the Council's respect for the communities involved, Officers recommend that the Executive's previous decisions on the future of education in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas are rescinded.

The Chief Executive said that this slip is not the responsibility of the Executive nor Elected Members who have acted on the advice of Officers; it has arisen as a result of specific points where the Council's consultation process did not comply with the requirements of the Code which were not identified at the time. As Chief Executive and as the Officer who had overall responsibility for the programme at that time, he regretted and was very disappointed that this had occurred especially as the Schools' Modernisation process is among the most challenging of the Council's programmes requiring at times very difficult decisions to be made. He apologised for the slippage particularly to all the stakeholders who had taken the time to participate in the consultation processes held in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas. The objective of the Schools' Modernisation Programme remains the provision of a first rate learning environment for the Island's pupils, teachers and Head Teachers thereby creating the circumstances in which they can achieve and succeed. The Chief Executive said that both he and the Executive regard the success of the Island's school children and the success of education on the Island as a matter of paramount importance.

The Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth said that he shared the Chief Executive's disappointment by this development because of all the work that has been undertaken on behalf of the Council and everyone associated with the schools in the two areas and particularly as it is due to a slip in process. Although the relevant matters were given attention and were debated in scrutiny and other meetings, this did not take place in strict conformance with the Code. Whilst the lapse is a lapse in process, the Council including its elected members, apologise to all those connected with the schools in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas. In light of the details in the report, he proposed the Officers' recommendation that the previous decisions on education provision in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas be rescinded. He also proposed that the Officers be asked to look afresh at the various issues in relation to schools' modernisation and the requirements under the Schools' Organisation Code 2018 in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas and bring an appropriate report back to the Executive in due course.

The Executive concurred with the Portfolio Member's proposals.

It was resolved –

- **To rescind the previous decisions made by the Executive with regard to the future of education in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas.**
- **To ask the Officers to look afresh at the various issues in relation to schools' modernisation and the requirements under the Schools' Organisation Code 2018 in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas and to bring an appropriate report back to the Executive in due course.**

(Councillor Carwyn Jones did not vote on the matter)

7 LETTINGS POLICY - CONSULTATION ON INCLUDING LOCAL CONNECTION WITHIN THE BANDING SYSTEM

The report of the Head of Housing Services requesting the Executive's approval to consult on including local connection within the housing allocation banding system was presented for consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Housing and Supporting Communities commended the report and recommendations therein to the Executive.

The Housing Service Strategy, Policy and Commissioning Manager said that the Service is keen to examine the implications of including local connection within the Common

Allocations Policy. The current policy requires that an applicant has a minimum of 5 years' connection with the Island; the further research proposed as well as the consultation would look at the implications of introducing a connection with a particular parish, village or town. A work programme and engagement plan have been prepared to be implemented with the Executive's approval.

The Executive was supportive of the proposal recognising local connection as a factor in building sustainable communities.

It was resolved –

- **That following further research, a period of consultation takes place on including local connection within the current Common Allocations Policy and,**
- **That the consultation period provides an opportunity to improve the administration of the Register.**

**Councillor Llinos Medi
Chair**