

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 8 December 2020

- PRESENT:** Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Haynes (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors R Dew, John Griffith, Richard Griffiths, K P Hughes, T LI Hughes MBE, Vaughan Hughes, Llinos Medi Huws, A M Jones, Carwyn Jones, Eric Wyn Jones, Richard Owain Jones, G O Jones, R LI Jones, R Meirion Jones, Alun W Mummery, Bryan Owen, Bob Parry OBE FRAgS, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, J A Roberts, Nicola Roberts, P S Rogers, Dafydd Rhys Thomas and Robin Williams
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Interim Director of Social Services,
Head of Highways, Waste and Property,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation,
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Democratic Services,
Interim Head of Regulation and Economic Development,
Solicitor (Corporate Governance and Contracts) (MY),
Scrutiny Manager (AD),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- ALSO PRESENT:** None
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Ieuan Williams

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings of the County Council were confirmed as correct:-

- 8 September 2020 (Ordinary Meeting)
- 8 September 2020 (Annual Meeting)
- 27 October 2020 (Extraordinary)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- The Chair wished to thank the staff for the tireless work due the difficult year which has seen many challenges and it is sincerely hoped that things will improve in the coming months.
- Congratulations to the Anglesey Young Farmers who have recently received an award for their Welsh youth work in the Youth Work Excellence Awards as a result of arranging Eisteddfod Môn 2019.

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Condolences were extended to any Member of the Council or staff who had suffered a bereavement.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted – the following Notice of Motion by Councillor Bryan Owen and endorsed by Councillor Aled Morris Jones :-

'We, the Anglesey Independent Group, request that Anglesey takes all measures to ensure the economic well-being of Ynys Môn in the post Brexit economic climate after the 1st of January, 2021.'

Councillor Bryan Owen said that as many other local authorities Anglesey has benefited from EU funding over the years. He questioned as to the measures the Authority is undertaking to secure the prosperity funding that both Welsh Government and UK Government are predicting following Brexit. Councillor Owen said that Anglesey needs to secure financial support as has been previously been received before the post Brexit period.

Councillor Aled M Jones seconded the Motion and gave an overview of projects that has been supported on the Island. He further expressed that :-

- A review of the Joint Local Development Plan needs to be undertaken as a matter of urgency as the Plan is not sustainable to develop the local communities of Anglesey;
- The outcome of the Wylfa Newydd DCO is anticipated by the end of this year;
- Free Port status is paramount to the future of Holyhead;
- The links between this Authority and Pembrokeshire and Dun Laoghaire needs to be strengthen.

The Leader said that she would address the Motion that has been presented before the Council. She said that it must be recognised that the Authority has shown resilience in facing the Covid-19 pandemic which also coincides with Brexit. The

Authority has collaborated with WLGA and their consultants Grant Thornton UK LLP to inform and influence a review of potentially economic impacts that would influence well-being on Anglesey. The paper published is Wales based and assesses two scenarios related to the UK's withdrawal leaving a broad agreement with leaving without a Deal under WTO rules. The paper will assist to inform local authorities financial planning processes to hopefully minimise any negative future economic well-being impacts. The Transition Exposure Boards being prepared by the consultants Grant Thornton UK LLP define key areas of concerns for local authorities' areas. The Authority's Brexit risk register has informed key service provision risks and mitigation where necessary to protect the Island's well-being and is updated and reviewed weekly. The County Council's EU Co-Ordinator continues to work with all services to review new guidance and information and to ensure that necessary steps are undertaken. Particular focus has been placed on Social Services and Education to assess impacts on heating fuel, food; IT in respect of data; Regulation and Economic Development in respect of Public Protection and local businesses. The Leader further said that considerable focus is made around the multi-agency collaboration to manage the impact on traffic at the Port of Holyhead due to potential delays caused by HGV's. The Council continues to monitor the effects on agriculture and contribute to Welsh Government consultations as regards to this matter. The Authority also contribute to the Regional Investment Framework which is developed by Welsh Government to seek clarification of the proposed shared prosperity fund and would support the economy and businesses on the Island. She further referred to the North Wales Growth Bid which will bring needed business and employment opportunities to the Island.

Councillor R LI Jones expressed deep concerns as regards to the future of Port of Holyhead with a possibility of a No Deal Brexit withdrawal. He said that an Office be established in Holyhead to give guidance to local residents and to put pressure on ferry operators.

The Leader of the Council proposed an amendment to the Motion as follows:-

'That the County Council seeks assurances from both Governments that the economy of the Island is safeguarded following Brexit and Covid-19 pandemic. '

Councillor Carwyn Jones seconded the amendment to the Motion.

The Chair took a vote to include the amendment to the Motion and following the vote the amendment was approved.

The amendment to the motion was carried.

5. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

No petitions received.

6. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL DELIVERY DOCUMENT 2020-22

The report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation incorporating the Annual Delivery Document for the 18 month period from October, 2020 to March, 2022 was

presented for Council's acceptance. The Annual Delivery Document focuses on the work which the Authority will undertake to accomplish aspirations set in the County Council Plan 2017-22.

The Portfolio Member for Council Business introduced the report highlighting that the Delivery Document covers a period of 18 month rather than the customary 12 months. Although drafting the document in a time of change and uncertainty has been challenging due to the pandemic and Brexit in the New Year the aim has been to develop a programme of work that is realistic and achievable. Giving his personal perspective, the Portfolio Member cited promoting the economy of the Island through the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, increasing housing supply, modernising schools and developing a climate change action plan as key areas. The Delivery Document also includes four themed recovery programmes which will provide a steer out of the pandemic for economic recovery, destination recovery, social and community recovery and organisational recovery; the detailed programmes will be made available in the New Year.

Councillor Aled M Jones expressed that if circumstances allow in future months, whilst accepting that difficult months are ahead due to the pandemic, that meetings of the Council are convened in May, 2021 in the Council Chamber in the Council Offices and that a service of thanks be arranged at the appropriate time for those who has safeguarded and supported their communities during the pandemic. The Leader of the Council responded that the Emergency Resilience Team meeting is held each week and these matters have been discussed; when appropriate meetings will be convened in the Council Offices and also the service of thanks will also need to be considered.

The Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development highlighted numerous achievements within his portfolio to the Council.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Annual Delivery Document for 2020/2022.

(Councillors A M Jones, R LI Jones, Bryan Owen and P S Rogers abstained from voting).

7. FINAL GROWTH DEAL

The report of the Chief Executive as presented to the Executive on 30th November, 2020 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Leader of the Council said that a significant milestone has been reached in the North Wales Growth Deal Bid which has resulted in the culmination of a long process to which the Isle of Anglesey County Council has contributed fully along the way. She that thanks are due to Officers who have served on the range of boards developing the Growth Bid which has brought it to the point of this historic occasion; it is hoped that this programme of much needed economic investment in the North Wales region will quickly produce results and employment opportunities at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the economy.

Councillor Carwyn Jones gave his perspective as Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development and welcomed the regional collaboration which underpinned the Growth Deal Bid and had made it possible, and he acknowledged also the work of Officers in progressing the Deal through various stages. The Deal Agreement offers opportunities on a scale that would not be available to the authorities working on their own and offers the prospect of economic regeneration for the Isle of Anglesey as well as the region at a critical time.

It was RESOLVED to:-

- Approve the Overarching Business Plan as the document that sets out the arrangements to deliver the North Wales Growth Deal as the basis for entering into the Final Deal Agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding Letter with the UK and Welsh Governments;
- Approve the provisions of GA2 relating to non-executive functions, specifically adopting the arrangements for Scrutiny set out in Schedule 3 thereof, as the basis for completing the final deal agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding Letter with the UK and Welsh Governments;
- Authorise the accountable body, Gwynedd Council, to sign the Grant Funding Offer letter on behalf of the Partners;
- Approve the method used to calculate the cost of borrowing notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow for the Growth Deal, and to include a provision within the Council's budget to pay this contribution and the established core and supplementary contributions as set out in GA2 (paragraphs 2.5 - 2.7 within the report).
- Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to agree minor changes to the documents with the Partners as necessary to complete the agreement.

8. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL TIMETABLE IN RELATION TO THE SETTING OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET

The report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer as presented to the Executive on 30th November, 2020 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

It was RESOLVED that:-

- **the Council's Constitution is amended as noted in the table in paragraph 9 of the report, and**
- **the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to reflect the amendments approved in 10.1 of the report.**

9. REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

The report of the Head of Democratic Services as presented to the Democratic Services Committee on 23 November, 2020 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Electoral Arrangements for the Isle of Anglesey County Council by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

(Councillors A M Jones, Bryan Owen and Peter Rogers abstained from voting).

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET M ROBERTS
CHAIR**