

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 23 November 2022

PRESENT: Councillor Dylan Rees (Chair)
Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Non Dafydd, Paul Ellis, Jeff Evans, T LI Hughes MBE, Euryr Morris, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Margaret M Roberts and Ken Taylor.

Portfolio Members

Councillor Llinos Medi (Leader of the Council); Councillor Carwyn Jones (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Economic Development, Leisure and Tourism); Councillor Alun Mummery (Portfolio Member for Housing and Community Safety); Councillor Dafydd R Thomas (Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property); Councillor Ieuan Williams (Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language).

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Head of Adults' Services,
Head of Regulation and Economic Development,
Head of Housing Services,
Scrutiny Manager,
Committee Officer (MEH).

APOLOGIES: Councillor John I Jones.
Mr John Tierney (The Roman Catholic Church).

Councillor Robin Williams (Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience),
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People

ALSO PRESENT: Ms Daron Owens – Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey (for item 4);
Ms Catrin Roberts – Head of Regional Collaboration (North Wales Regional Partnership Board) (for item 5);
Mr Hedd Vaughan Evans (Head of Operations) North Wales Economic Ambition Board (for item 6);
Mr David Mathews (Land & Property Programme Manager) North Wales Economic Ambition Board (for item 6);
Mr Stuart Whitfield (Digital Programme Manager) North Wales Economic Ambition Board (for item 6).

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Euryrn Morris declared a personal interest in respect of Item 6 – North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

Councillor T LI Hughes MBE declared a personal interest in respect of Item 4 – Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership – Annual Report : 2021/2022.

Councillor Dafydd R Thomas declared a personal interest in respect of Item 4 – Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership – Annual Report : 2021/2022.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October, 2022 were confirmed as correct, subject to the name of Councillor Ken Taylor being included in the list of members present.

4 GWYNEDD AND YNYS MÔN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT: 2021/2022

Submitted - the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership Annual Report for 2021/2022.

The Portfolio Member for Housing & Community Safety said that the Community Safety Partnership is required to formally report to this committee each year to present an overview of activities. He noted that virtual meetings has improved the attendance at these meetings.

The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey reported that there is a statutory duty on local authorities, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and subsequent amendments due to the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006, to work in partnership with the Police, Health Service, Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service, to address the local community safety agenda. There is also a requirement to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence following the amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act as a result of the new Serious Violence Duty expected next year. She further referred that some of the main challenges the partnership has and currently faces is the loss of local grants – all the grants, which the partnership once received have now either ended, or have moved to a regional grant position, managed on a North Wales basis. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer referred to the recent crime data for Anglesey for November 2022 as noted within the report that is received from the Partnership Analyst within North Wales Police. She further noted that due to the collaboration between the Police, Local

Authority and the Holyhead Town Council, a successful bid for Holyhead was submitted in May under the Home Office's Safer Streets 4 Fund.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main points:-

- Whilst welcoming the successful bid for the Safer Streets 4 Fund in Holyhead, members raised that rural communities are unable to benefit from such a project and questions were raised to the availability of mobile CCTV cameras within rural communities. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that the eligibility criteria of the Safer Streets 4 Fund is specific as to the level of crime cases reported within a specific area to qualify for funding. She noted that discussions have taken place with the Police regarding funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund for rural communities. With regards to mobile CCTV cameras she noted that the Town Councils have taken over the operation of CCTV cameras, however she assured the members that she would make enquiries as to possible availability of mobile CCTV cameras. The Deputy Chief Executive noted that as Chair of the Partnership he would raise the matter at the next meeting of the Partnership. The Chief Executive said that rural crime concerns could be an appropriate issue to raise at the WLGA Rural Forum;
- Reference was made to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and questions were raised as to how the partnership works in an effective and efficient manner in accordance with expectations of the Act. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that partner organisations within the Community Safety Partnership are able to create links and share expertise to assure that crime and disorder issues are addressed;
- Questions were raised as to the effect of the pandemic on crime figures on the Island. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that crime figures fell over the pandemic due to shops and pubs closed and people working from home. However, hate crime figure increased due to people travelling over the boarder to rural areas and on-line fraud saw a significant increase with more people purchasing goods on-line. The Chief Executive said that due to the cost of living crisis discussions have undertaken within the Partnership as regards to the potential increase in crime i.e. shop lifting and burglaries;
- Questions were raised as to what extent is the action plan sufficiently robust to deal with aspects of the priority areas for the benefit of Anglesey's communities. Members expressed that they would prefer to see Police Officers presence within the local communities and speaking to residents to ascertain their concerns. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that it is important for the Partnership to be able to bid for funding as the Safer Street 4 Fund. She noted that resources could be made available through the Shared Prosperity Fund for rural communities. Members considered that an invitation needs to be given to a representative from North Wales Police to attend this meeting when the item regarding Community Safety is on the agenda.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To note the contents of the report and attached documents and to support the priorities and future direction of the work;**

- To ascertain whether mobile CCTV cameras can be made available through the Community Safety Partnership within rural communities;
- To ensure that rural communities are able to take advantage of any funding resources available so as to protect their communities.

ACTION : As noted above.

5 NORTH WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT (PART 9) : 2021/2022

Submitted – the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Annual Report for 2021/2022.

The Leader of the Council said that it is a requirement within the Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 that each Regional Partnership Board prepares, publishes and submits its Annual Report to Welsh Government. The Act requires that local authorities make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children. It also places a duty on relevant partners to co-operate with, and provide information to, the local authorities for the purposes of their social services function.

The Head of Regional Collaboration (North Wales Regional Partnership Board) reported that the role of the Regional Partnership Board is to bring together partner organisations i.e. Health, Social Services, Housing, the third sector and other partners to integrate services. The Regional Team manages and supports the foundation and resources available so as to allow the partner organisations to carry out the work. The Regional Partnership Board meet on a monthly basis and sets out a clear direction to the partner organisations as regards to the remit of the Partnerships work that is expected as part of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Board has no dedicated funding streams and its activity currently funded from a mix of local authority pooling of funding and Welsh Government capital and revenue funding through the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and the Transformation Programme Fund. She highlighted the work undertaken by the Regional Partnership Board over the last twelve months which was included within the report. She further said that there is a national social care recruitment and retention crisis at present and the Partnership Board is supporting a national recruitment package through its partner organisations. The Head of Regional Collaboration said that a Children’s Sub-Group has been established so as to highlight the work of the Children’s Services across the region which was also highlighted within the report. She further said that the Regional Partnership Board is now entering a new phase with the 5 year Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund to drive change and transformation across the health and social care system, as well as a 4 year Housing and Care Capital Fund and a 3 year Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main points:-

- Questions were raised as to what the key priorities that will be the focus of the Regional Partnership Board from 2022/2023 onwards. The Head of

Collaboration responded that the Partnership Board has been concentrating on the work involved with the Regional Integration Fund together with the other two capital funds received and establishing a work programme in consultation with the partner organisations. A review of the population needs assessment has also been undertaken together with the market stability report. The priorities of the Partnership Board from next year onwards will be addressing the principles of the Regional Integration Funding and building on the programme that has been put in place by the Board together with the Area Plan;

- In response to a question as to what extent has the Board accomplished its key priorities during 2021/2022, the Head of Collaboration said that the Partnership Board has achieved its priorities that was set out within the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and the Transformation Programme Fund. Work was undertaken as regards to the Population Needs Assessment and the Market Stability Report and both priorities were achieved within the timescale. Members sought clarification as regards to the Community Services Transformation Programme and the changes implemented have been limited and less progress has been made than anticipated. The Head of Collaboration responded that the approach undertaken as regards to the Community Services Transformation Programme was not as expected and there are some analytical tools and documents that have been produced and these need to be properly identified and made available for further development work. There is a need to have better connection between the different elements of the programme, with a more regional approach rather than an area one taken to roll out of models which have been demonstrably effective;
- Reference was made to the national crisis as regards to recruitment and retention of social care workers and questions were raised as to the situation on Anglesey. The Head of Adults' Services responded that the recruitment and retention of social care workers is a national problem and difficulties are faced when advertising and filling of posts within the care sector;
- The Committee made reference to the 'i CAN' programme and to the survey of service users together with a summary of the evaluation of the programme included within the Annual Report. Questions were raised as to how effectiveness of the 'i CAN' programme as the statistics within the report is not as positive. The Head of Adult's Services responded that the 'i CAN' programme is a new provision and there are challenges in engaging with some service users. He further said that he anticipated that there will be an opportunity to further developed the programme in due course.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To confirm the work that is required to be undertaken by the Regional Partnership Board;**
- **To note the progress in 2021/2022 on the work areas that are being taken forward regionally through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.**

ACTION : As noted above.

6 NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

Submitted – the following reports by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board:-

- **North Wales Economic Ambition Board – Annual Report : 2021/2022**
- **North Wales Economic Ambition Board – Progress Report Q1 : 2022/2023**

The Leader of the Council said that the Annual Report highlights the progress made over the last year by the North Wales Ambition Board. The report also provides an overview of the Growth Deal and the progress made in delivering the projects together with other key milestones achieved during the year. She said that the Quarter 1 Progress Report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.

The Head of Operations from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board gave a summary of the progress of the work of the Ambition Board to deliver the identified project within the Growth Deal. He reported on the objectives of the Ambition Board to create up to 4,200 job opportunities and to generate up to £2.4 billion additional GVA. The Land & Property Programme Manager and Digital Programme Manager from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board reported on the highlights from April 2021 to March 2022 as follows:-

April 2021 – A funding of £500k was secured from Welsh Government’s Whole System Business Research Innovation for Decarbonisation scheme to help farmers decarbonise;

May 2021 – A grant of £200k was secured through the OFGEM Green Recovery scheme to develop low carbon technologies for homes such as EV charging points and heating systems;

June 2021 – A focus group was conducted with the public and private sector to help identify the priorities for mobile connectivity across the region’s transport networks;

July 2021 – A visit was hosted from UK Government and Welsh Government Ministers;

August 2021 – The Outline Business Case of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project was approved;

September 2021 – An Energy Strategy for North Wales was launched with Welsh Government, to transform how energy is used across the region;

October 2021 - £2,300 was raised for Mind, with donations being split across the North Wales branches;

November 2021 – A grant of £387,600 was secured from the Community Renewal Fund to conduct feasibility studies for Smart Local Energy Systems;

December 2021 – The first Full Business Case was approved for the Digital Signal Processing Centre at Bangor University;

January 2022 – An upgrade to the broadband services at 300 sites through the Local Full Fibre Network Scheme;

February 2022 – Support was given to three organisations to launch new agricultural systems that will help farmers decarbonise;

March 2022 – Morlais, the tidal energy stream project ran by Menter Môn, became ready to start construction.

The Head of Operations reported on the progress since April 2022 with the approval of the Outline Business Case for the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre with Glyndwr University and an Optics Centre and Last Few % Project. In

July 2022 the Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP) project was launched with representation from both UK and Welsh Governments. He referred to recent decisions to withdraw the Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site project and the Llysfasi Net Zero Farm project from the Growth Bid. He further said that the North Wales Ambition Board has agreed to a joint venture with Welsh Government for the proposed delivery of advanced build employment provision at Bryn Gegin, Bangor which is a growth bid project.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main points:-

- Reference was made to the key priorities of the North Wales Ambition Board and to develop the strategy for attracting investment by the private sector towards the Growth Bid. Questions were raised as to whether the third bridge across the Menai Straits is within the remits of the Ambition Board as it is essential to attract businesses to the Island and to create employment opportunities. The Head of Operations responded that the third bridge across the Menai Straits is not part of the Growth Bid as the Bid initially included 20 projects which have been agreed between both UK and Welsh Governments. The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Economic Development, Leisure and Tourism said that the third bridge across the Menai Straits has been continuously raised with Welsh Government over the years and especially recently due to the closure of the Menai Suspension Bridge which also create additional pressure on the Port of Holyhead due to the traffic delays. The costs of building a third bridge amounts to over £400m at present and could affect the Ambition Boards projects if the third bridge will not materialise. The Chief Executive said that there is a statutory responsibility as a region through the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC's) to create a strategic transport plan. He noted the importance of recognising the need for a new third bridge as a priority in the new strategic transport plan and to work with the CJC to highlight this as a priority for the region;
- With reference to the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC's) it was expressed that the authority had to take part in the process of establishing a Corporate Joint Committee which is a costly process with local authorities across Wales facing challenging financial situation at present. Questions were raised as to difficulties in establishing such a provision without duplication of work that is currently happening already. The Chief Executive responded that the CJC's are a new body that has statutory responsibilities and the current Portfolio Director of the Ambition Boards has been seconded to the CJC's Chief Executive role (part-time) and is considering how to combine structures, decrease duplication, and keep the additional costs associated with the CJC's to a minimal. He noted that there are currently 3 programmes that needs to be addressed, namely, the Strategic Transport Plan, Strategic Planning Strategy for the Region and the Economic Development Programme;
- Questions were raised as to the status of the Low Carbon Centre of Excellence at Bangor University and whether there is any slippages in developing the project. The Head of Operations responded that the Egni Project - Low Carbon Centre of Excellence is reporting red and is currently in the early stages of the process and is facing high cost inflation issues as is similar with other projects. The Egni Project is part of a wider estates strategy at Bangor University. The Ambition Boards is working with the project sponsors;

- Reference was made that the report does not highlight the number of employment opportunities that are likely to be created from the projects especially on Anglesey. It was expressed that young people need to have the security and vision that there will be employment opportunities available for them to enable them to be able to stay on the Island. It was emphasised that training opportunities and apprenticeship scheme also needs to be created and supported. Questions were raised as to whether the Ambition Board is actively promoting that job opportunities will be available for young people and especially within the 5 secondary schools on the Island. The Head of Operations responded that the Ambition Board sought financial revenue resources towards a skills programme from both the UK and Welsh Governments but the request was not supported as it was only capital funding towards the Growth Bids that was available. However, he noted that two Officers have been appointed by the Skills Partnership to work with Careers Wales, STEM North Wales and other employers to ensure that young people within the local schools are aware of the employment opportunities. He further said that there is an intention to bid for resources from the Shared Prosperity Fund to develop the STEM North Wales programme together with skills and learning programme within secondary schools. Representatives from the Skills Partnership are willing to attend this meeting to discuss the work undertaken;
- Questions were raised as to the current situation as regards to the 3 Holyhead projects, namely, Morlais, Breakwater restoration and the Port expansion. The Head of Operations said that the only project that is active at present is the Morlais project and work is currently been undertaken to create the infrastructure needed to progress with the work. The Land & Property Programme Manager reported on the Port expansion project and said that there is a draft business case prepared by Stena's consultants in respect of the Port land reclamation. The role of the Ambition Board has been to support and assist as regards to the Growth Bid funding, however the Ambition Board is constrained due to restrictions as regards to subsidy support rules. He further noted that resources as part of the Growth Deal can be utilised towards the Holyhead Gateway project and to help to support the Breakwater refurbishment project. He said that it is anticipated that the Breakwater and the Port expansion works will commence in 2023 with a two year time-frame for construction activity;
- Reference was made to the current cost of living crisis and questions were raised as to the effect on the projects within the Growth Deal. The Head of Operations responded that the cost of living crisis is the challenge faced by the Ambition Board as to inflation costs and building projects costing over 30% to 40% higher than anticipated which puts significant challenges especially for the most mature projects that are ready to proceed. It is anticipated that some of the projects with the Growth Deal may now not proceed.

It was RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for 2021/2022 and to note the progress made during Quarter 1 – 2022/2023.

ACTION : As noted above.

7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Scrutiny Manager setting out the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's indicative Forward Work Programme for 2022/23 was presented for consideration.

It was RESOLED:-

- **To agree the current version of the Forward Work Programme for 2022/23.**
- **To note the progress thus far in implementing the Forward Work Programme.**

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
CHAIR**