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CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Dylan J. Williams
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive
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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
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| | |
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| RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD | NOTICE OF MEETING |
| PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL | CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| DYDD MAWRTH, 20 MEHEFIN, 2023 am 2:00 y. p. | TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2023 at 2.00 pm |
| YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR 1, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR AC YN RHITHIOL DRWY ZOOM | COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNCIL OFFICES AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM |
| Swyddog Pwyllgor | Ann Holmes 01248 752518 Committee Officer |

AELODAU/MEMBERS

Cynghorydd/Councillor:

PLAID CYMRU / THE PARTY OF WALES

Geraint Bebb, Dyfed Wyn Jones (**Vice-Chair**), Jackie Lewis, Llio A. Owen, Alwen Watkin, Sonia Williams, Arfon Wyn

Y GRWP ANNIBYNNOL / THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

Dafydd Roberts

LLAFUR CYMRU/ WELSH LABOUR

Keith Roberts

ANNIBYNNWYR MÔN / ANGLESEY INDEPENDENTS

Douglas M. Fowlie (**Chair**), Aled Morris Jones (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrats) R. Llewelyn Jones

AELODAU CYFETHOLEDIG (Gyda hawl pleidleisio ar faterion Addysg) / CO-OPTED MEMBERS (With voting rights when dealing with Educational matters)

Mr John Tierney (Yr Eglwys Gatholig / The Catholic Church),
Gwag/Vacant (Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru/The Church in Wales)
Gwag/Vacant (Rhiant Llywodraethwr – Sector Ysgolion Cynradd/Parent Governor- Primary Schools Sector)
Llio Johnson (Rhiant Llywodraethwr – Sector Ysgolion Uwchradd ac ADY/Parent Governor- Secondary Schools Sector and ALN)

Please note that meetings of the Committee are streamed for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The Authority is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act and data collected during this live stream will be retained in accordance with the Authority's published policy

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 OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 8)

To present the minutes of the previous meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on the following dates –

- 19 April, 2023
- 23 May, 2023 (election of Chair/Vice-Chair)

3 MONITORING PERFORMANCE: CORPORATE SCORECARD QUARTER 4 2022/23 (Pages 9 - 24)

To present the report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation.

4 MODERNISING LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPING THE WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY - CONSULTATION REPORT (Pages 25 - 114)

To present the report of the Director of Education, Skills and Young People.

5 AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN (Pages 115 - 234)

To present the report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development.

6 ANNUAL DELIVERY DOCUMENT 2023/24 (Pages 235 - 246)

To present the report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation.

7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 247 - 254)

To present the report of the Scrutiny Manager.

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 19 April 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Robert Ll Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Douglas M Fowle, A M Jones, Llio A Owen, Dafydd Roberts, Keith Roberts, Sonia Williams and Arfon Wyn

Co-opted Member : Mr John Tierney (The Catholic Church)

Portfolio Members

Councillor Llinos Medi (Leader and Portfolio Member for Economic Development);
Councillor Robin Williams (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance);
Councillor Ieuan Williams (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Education and Welsh Language);
Councillor Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience);
Councillor Gary Pritchard (Portfolio Member for Children, Youth & Housing Services);
Councillor Alun Roberts (Portfolio Member for Adult's Services and Community Safety);
Councillor Nicola Roberts (Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change);
Councillor Neville Evans (Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime).

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation),
Head of Democracy,
Head of Housing Services,
Interim Service Manager (Social Services) (SA),
Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager (GM),
Scrutiny Manager (AGD),
Committee Officer (MEH).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Pip O'Neill (Member of the Partnership & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee) (in respect of Item 3).

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jackie Lewis;
Councillor Dafydd R Thomas (Portfolio Member for Highways,
Property & Waste);
Deputy Chief Executive;
Director of Social Services;
Head of Adult's Services.

The Chair welcomed the newly elected member Councillor Sonia Williams to the meeting.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the following previous meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee were confirmed as correct:-

- 28 February, 2023
- 14 March, 2023

3 CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2023-28

The report of the Director of Social Services incorporating the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028 was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Children, Youth & Housing Services in presenting the report said that the role as corporate parenting is one of the most important role of an Elected Members. He noted that the corporate parenting refers to the shared responsibility across the Council to ensure that children and young people in the care or leaving care of the Council are supported to thrive. A good corporate parent should have the same aspirations for a child/young person in care, as a good parent would have for their own child. It is also means supporting them to gain the skills and confidence to live independently, whilst letting them know they have someone to call on for help if required. He further said that this is the first Corporate Parenting Strategy as the internal audit within the service identified the need for such strategy to be produced which will be for the next five years.

The Interim Service Manager reported that as part of the consultation process on the Corporate Parenting Strategy work was undertaken with the 'Voices from Care Cymru' who were in partnership with the Council at the time. He noted that the young people in care therefore have had input into the Strategy. He further said that a 'workshop' was undertaken in February with Elected Members and relevant Officers which enabled input into the Strategy. The Interim Service Manager further said that the Strategy sets out the aspirations of the Council for children and young people in care or leaving care.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the following:-

- Questions raised as to how does the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy link to the Council Plan – 2023-2028? The Committee was advised that the Corporate Parenting Strategy has been produced in accordance with the priorities of the Council Plan and especially that the residence of Anglesey are healthy, prosperous and where people can thrive.
- Questions raised as to what are the resource implications of implementing the proposed Strategy and how affordable is this in the current climate? The Committee was advised that currently 150 children and young people are in care of the Authority with 70 young people to be leaving care. However, if there was a significant increase in the number of children and young people coming into care this would have an effect on the staffing of the service. The Interim Service Manager said that at present the number of children and young people in care is stable and this was reflected within the Care Inspectorate Wales inspection recently. The Portfolio Member for Children, Youth & Housing Services said that the Strategy strengthens that children and young people in care receive the same opportunities and able to thrive as other children and young people.
- Questions raised as to the risks faced by the Authority and what mitigation measures are proposed to minimise impact on the looked after children and young people? The Committee were advised that the increase in the number of children and young people into care would have an effect on the resources of the service. The Corporate Parenting Strategy is a tool to set out the aspirations of the service to improve the positive outcomes for the children and young people in care together with care leavers.
- Questions raised as to what impact will the strategy have upon the people of the Island? The Committee were advised that it will have a limited impact upon the people of the Island as it is primarily focused on the children and young people who are in care. The Interim Service Manager said that whilst outcomes are improving for young people, they are more likely to engage within the communities and economy of the Island.
- Reference was made as to the difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff within the care sector. Questions were raised as to how the challenges in recruiting and retention staff have an effect on the local authority to fully realise the Strategy. The Committee were advised that the recruitment and retention of staff within the care sector is one of the national challenges faced by local authorities in delivering services for children, young people and adults. The development, training and investment in the staff within the Social Services department has seen an increase in Qualified Social Workers. However, staffing within care sector is more of a challenge and work is currently being undertaken to address the issue to make a career in the care sector more attractive. The Portfolio Member for Children, Youth & Housing Services said that the Social Services Department is actively promoting career opportunities within the care sector with attending schools and video presentations to encourage young people to consider job opportunities within the care sector.

- Questions were raised as to whether children in care are performing as well in their education. The Committee was advised that historically, children in care tended not to perform as well academically as their peer. The Authority aims to reverse that trend; the Isle of Anglesey County Council has been identified as one of six pilot authorities which enables to offer a 'virtual school' to improve educational attainment and participation of the looked after children and this is having a positive impact. A Support Officer has been recently recruited to support young people to achieve to their best of their ability. It is also important to measure individual progress for children and young people who may not have had 'good enough' access to educational opportunities in the past.
- Reference made that the Corporate Parenting Strategy highlights 11 priorities, as shown within the report, Corporate Parents should be aware of a responsible parents. Questions were raised as to how these priorities can be achieved as especially priorities 2 and 3. The Committee was advised that the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel entails Elected Members, Officers together with Officers from partnership organisations. It was noted that it is essential that the members of the Panel needs to be aware of the needs of children and young people in the care of the local authority and to have an understanding of the issues that they face on a daily basis. The Corporate Parenting Panel meet on a quarterly basis and received reports for scrutiny on educational attainment, fostering service and from the independent reviewing officers. Members of the Panel are able to requests reports on any themed issue they consider relevant for discussion.
- Questions were raised as to the provision for young people when they leave care? The Committee was advised that the Leaving Care Act 2000 identified the vulnerability of young people leaving care post 18 and sets out a host of responsibilities on local authorities to ensure that they receive support to become independent adults. Support is given to young people up to 25, however, support can be provided thereafter by the Adult's Services within local authorities. The Children & Families Service works in partnership with Adult Services in respect of some young people to promote smooth transition into adulthood.
- Questions were raised as to how the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Strategy will be monitored? The Committee was advised that the Corporate Parenting Panel will be monitoring the effectiveness of the Strategy.
- Reference was made to the Universal Basic Income pilot scheme in Wales. Questions were raised as to the entitlement of the Universal Basic Income for young people leaving care. The Committee was advised that the pilot scheme has worked well on Anglesey with young people being able to pay for educational courses and accommodation. However, the scheme will come to an end in June 2023 and it is anticipated that national discussions will be undertaken to evaluate the success of the scheme.

It was RESOLVED:-

- To confirm that the Committee is satisfied with the contents of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028;
- To recommend to the Executive that the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-2028 be approved.

4 SELF-ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS 2022

The report of the Head of Profession (Human Resources and Transformation incorporating the Self-Assessment Improvement Actions 2022 was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience said that this is the first report of its kind recognising accomplishments against the self-assessment improvement actions for 2022. It provides an update against the relevant improvement actions agreed by the County Council at its meeting in October 2022. He noted that 2022 has been a challenging year with the Council having a new administration, a new leadership team and a new Strategic Plan for 2023-2028. Despite all the changes and development over the past 12 months, the Council continues to perform consistently, is meeting its expectations against the majority of the 2022 self-assessment improvement actions and is fulfilling its duties under the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. He noted that the indicators within the Corporate Scorecard are also performing well. Staff compliance with the Authority's policies have improved together with e-learning training and the annual appraisal have been undertaken with staff. The Corporate Safeguarding Board has received the outcomes of the service reviews and expected improvements. The main meetings of the Council are now hybrid meetings which are webcasted on the Council's website. The Portfolio Member further said that the work streams noted in the report at 1.4 will be considered by the Executive and should be included in the Corporate Self-Assessment for 2023.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the following:-

- Questions raised as what role does the self-assessment play as part of the governance arrangements? The Committee was advised that the Self-Assessment fills its duties under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and states that public bodies should continuously reviews its performance effectively. The expectations of the Act is that an annual Self-Assessment report is created which addresses the matters that need to be improved. It was noted that over the last twelve months work has been undertaken to develop the Self-Assessment by submitting the document to the full Council on 30 September 2022 before inviting further comments by the Governance and Audit Committee on 20 October, 2022 and the final version was adopted by the County Council at its meeting held in October 2022.
- Questions raised as to whether amendments will need to be made by the Council to the Quarterly Monitoring Performance Scorecard to ensure it is aligned with the Self-Assessment? The Committee was advised that it is important that the Corporate Scorecard is developed continuously and a plan is in place to revise the Scorecard and comments will be sought from the Senior Leadership Team and Elected Members through the Group Leaders' meetings together with Elected Members Briefing Sessions. It was noted that there will be

a need to identify the requirements for self-assessment and it is important to recognise that the Scorecard will need to include how the Council is meeting its expectations which arises from the Act.

- Reference was made that the self-assessment referred to a number of areas that need to be further developed. Questions raised as to how will these streams be prioritised? The Committee was advised that the performance streams are monitored on a quarterly basis through the Programme Boards, Senior Leadership Team and the Executive. It was noted that this Committee has also a scrutiny role in measuring continuous performance within the work streams identified.

It was RESOLVED that the work streams at 1.4.1 – 1.4.8 within the report are still valid and should be included in the Corporate Self-Assessment for 2023.

5 NOMINATION TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

The report of the Scrutiny Manager was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Scrutiny Manager reported that one vacancy has arisen on the Social Services Scrutiny Panel/Corporate Parenting Panel as a result of Councillor Neville Evans recent appointment to the Executive.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Sonia Williams to serve on the Social Services Scrutiny Panel/Corporate Parenting Panel.

**COUNCILLOR ROBERT LLEWELYN JONES
CHAIR**

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 23 May 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Geraint Bebb, Douglas M Fowlie, Aled M Jones, Dyfed W Jones, Robert Ll Jones, Jackie Lewis, Llio Angharad Owen, Dafydd Roberts, Keith Roberts, Arfon Wyn and Sonia Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer, Head of Democracy, Committee Officer (MEH).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Margaret M Roberts – Chair of the Isle of Anglesey County Council

APOLOGIES: Councillor Alwen Watkin

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Councillor Douglas M Fowlie was elected Chairperson of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Councillor Dyfed W Jones was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET M ROBERTS
AS CHAIR OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
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| Committee: | CORPORATE SCRUTINY |
| Date: | 20 JUNE 2023 |
| Subject: | SCORECARD MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 4 (2022/23) |
| Purpose of Report: | TO CHALLENGE PERFORMANCE |
| Scrutiny Chair: | COUNCILLOR DOUGLAS FOWLIE |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | COUNCILLOR CARWYN E JONES |
| Head of Service: | CARYS EDWARDS |
| Report Author: | GETHIN MORGAN |
| Tel: | 01248 752111 |
| Email: | GethinMorgan@anglesey.gov.uk |
| Local Members: | n/a |

| 1 - Recommendation/s | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.1 | This is the fourth and final scorecard report of 2022/23. It portrays the position of the Council against its wellbeing objectives. |
| 1.2 | The report highlights some of the positive stories with respect to the annual performance of 2022/23. Some of these highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2.1 The percentage of households (with children) prevented from becoming homeless 1.2.2 The Adult Services indicators all being above target for the year 1.2.3 The planning applications determined within timescale 1.2.4 The number of empty homes brought back into use 1.2.5 The percentage of roads in poor condition seeing an improvement across A, B and C roads 1.2.6 The number of visits to leisure centers increasing to levels last seen pre pandemic 1.2.7 The percentage of streets that are clean |
| 1.3 | The Committee is requested to scrutinize the scorecard and note the areas of improvement together with the areas which the Leadership Team are exploring and investigating to manage and secure further improvements into the future. |
| 1.4 | These areas can be noted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4.1 Percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests responded to within timescale 1.4.2 Average number of days to deliver Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) 1.4.3 Percentage of Planning Appeals Dismissed |

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Used as part of the monitoring of the Council Plan

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities **[focus on customer/citizen]**

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality **[focus on value]**

3.3 A look at any risks **[focus on risk]**

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role **[focus on performance & quality]**

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. The Council's performance during 2022/23 was positive. What arrangements are in hand to raise awareness of this?
2. A number of Service areas experienced increased demands and pressures during the year. How are these considered as part of the performance management process?
3. How are actions identified and pursued for the performance indicators that continue to underperform?
4. The report discusses a forecasted underspend for the year ending 31 March 2023. How will this position assist the Council's response to additional Service pressures anticipated during 2023/24?
5. What arrangements are in hand to introduce amendments to the current scorecard to ensure alignment the Council Plan: 2023/2028?

5 – Background / Context

5.1 The Isle of Anglesey County Council have arrangements in place which allow us to effectively understand local needs and priorities, and to make the best use of our resources and capacity to meet them and evaluate the impact of our actions.

5.2 Our Transitional Plan for 2022/23 identified the local needs and wellbeing priorities and set out our aims for the period up until the end of March 2023 and this scorecard monitoring report is used to monitor the performance of our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) up until such time.

5.3 It highlights how we are delivering the Councils' day to day activities. It provides the intelligence which enables a proactive approach to be adopted regarding performance management and as such, the report identifies any mitigating actions agreed by the Leadership Team to drive and secure improvements into the future.

5.4 The scorecard (appendix 1) portrays the end of year position and will (together with this report) be considered further by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Executive during June 2023.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

n/a

7 – Financial Implications

The end of Q4 financial position is noted in the report.

8 – Appendices:

Appendix A - Scorecard Quarter 4

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

- 2022/23 Scorecard Monitoring Report - Quarter 3 (as presented to, and accepted by the Executive Committee in March 2023).

SCORECARD MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 4 (2022/23)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Isle of Anglesey County Council have arrangements in place which allow us to effectively understand local needs and priorities, and to make the best use of our resources and capacity to meet them and evaluate the impact of our actions.
- 1.2 Our Transitional Plan for 2022/23 identified the local needs and wellbeing priorities and set out our aims for the period up until the end of March 2023 and this scorecard monitoring report is used to monitor the performance of our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) up until such time.
- 1.3 It highlights how we are delivering the Councils' day to day activities. It provides the intelligence which enables a proactive approach to be adopted regarding performance management and as such, the report identifies any mitigating actions agreed by the Leadership Team to drive and secure improvements into the future.
- 1.4 The scorecard (appendix 1) portrays the end of year position and will (together with this report) be considered further by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Executive during June 2023.

2. CONTEXT

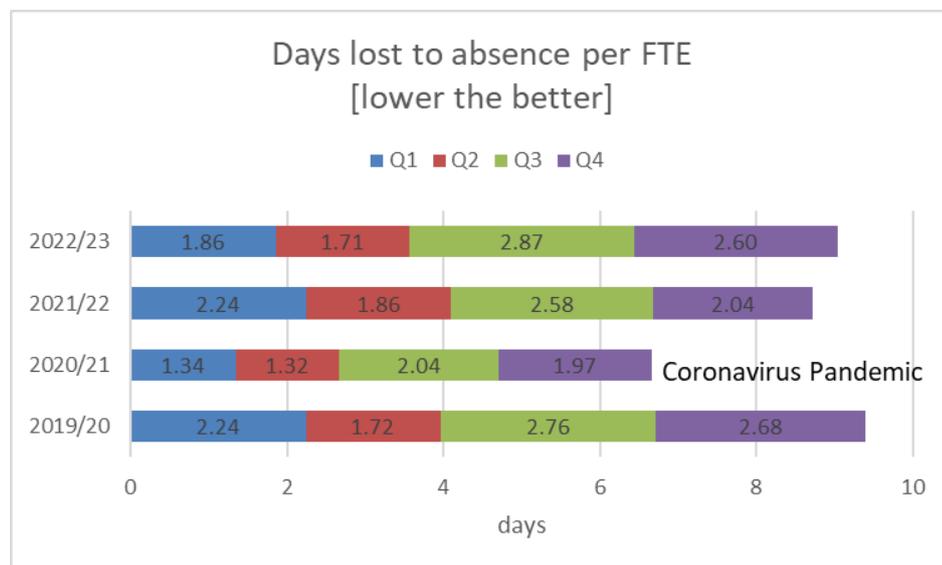
- 2.1 The report itself, together with the scorecard depicts the end of year position against matters related to –
 - 2.1.1 customer service,
 - 2.1.2 people and financial management
 - 2.1.3 performance management.
- 2.2 Any targets within the report were reviewed and agreed upon with each service, including differing quarterly targets where required based on historical performance and trends.
- 2.3 The results within the scorecard are all cumulative and as such the trends column will inform the performance trends from quarter to quarter throughout the year.
- 2.4 The RAG status for each section of the scorecard, with the exception of financial management which is done from a professional opinion perspective, can be found below:
 - Red - more than 10% below target and/or needing significant intervention
 - Amber - between 5% & 10% below target and/or requiring some intervention
 - Yellow - within 5% of target
 - Green - on or above target

3. CORPORATE HEALTH PERFORMANCE

3.1 It is encouraging to note that the majority (80%) of the indicators with targets monitored in this section performed well against targets (Green or Yellow RAG). Some of the highlights are noted below.

3.2 At the end of the year the Council is yellow against its staff attendance KPI with 9.15 days lost to absence per FTE against a target of 8.75 days lost to absence per FTE.

The performance for the year also includes 0.49 days absence per FTE which were coronavirus related absences since October 2022. Removing coronavirus related absences, as was done since March 2020, would result in a performance of 8.66 days lost to absence per FTE. This compares favourably against previous year-s monitored (with the exception of 2020/21). This is encouraging and demonstrates the commitment of staff..



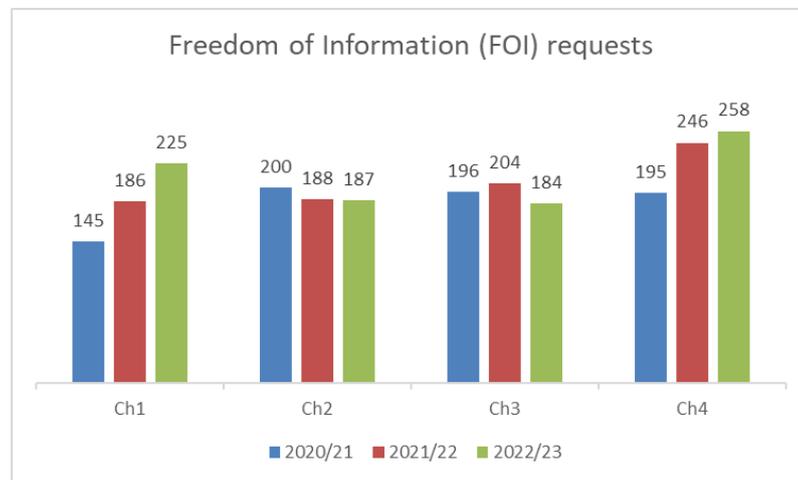
3.3 The indicators monitored within the Customer Service section did not highlight any great cause for concern with the indicators performing well against targets on the whole with the exceptions of indicators 04b and indicator 09. . A story is evolving which is encouraging to note when it can be evidenced that a greater number of people used web-based applications to pay for services whilst the number of people paying via touchtone payments decreased.

3.3.1 Indicator 04b which is known and recognised to be challenging due to the complicated nature of the complaints and the multi-agency response often required. The total % of written responses to complaints within 15 days (Social Services) was Red with a performance of 70% against a target of 80%. 19 of the 27 complaints received were discussed with the complainant within 5 working days, and 6 of the 8 late written responses were agreed with the complainant in advance of being identified late as

noted in the complaint protocol. The overall performance of 70% is however a slight improvement on the 66% as seen at the end of 2021/22.

- 3.3.2 It is acknowledged that further work is needed with regards to indicator 09 – the % of FOI requests responded to within timescale – which demonstrates that 72% of the responses were within timescale against a target of 80%. This performance is similar to the performance demonstrated in the Q3 scorecard report.

In total there were 854 FOI requests during the year and 843 of those required a response. The challenge from 2023/24 onwards is that the target is set to increase to at least 90% and it is recommended that further work is required to identify the types of requests that are late, why there is an increase in requests particularly during Q4 and where responses can be improved so that the Council are in a better position to achieve the target.



- 3.4 The financial management section currently forecasts an underspend of £1.212m for the year ending 31 March 2023.
- 3.5 This result is welcomed and improves the Council's financial position.
- 3.6 The net underspend has contributed to an increase in the Council's General Balances with an underlying available sum of £10.2m, which is £1.4m above the minimum recommended value moving forward (5% of the 202324 net revenue budget).
- 3.7 The outturn financial position shows a continued demand for services however, particularly in Social Care and Homelessness. Given the current cost of living crisis it is anticipated that these pressures will remain in 2023/24.
- 3.8 The forecast underspend on the Capital Programme 2022/23 is £13.477m, with this being slippage into the 2023/24 Capital Programme. The funding for this slippage will also slip into 2023/24 and this has been factored into the

Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Capital Strategy and Capital Programme for 2023/24.

- 3.9 The revenue and capital accounts are considered by the Finance Scrutiny Panel where any underspends are scrutinised thoroughly before a progress report is presented to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 3.10 Further information on financial management can be seen in the 'Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for Q4', the 'Capital Budget Monitoring for Q4' and the 'Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring for Q4' reports which are to be discussed in The Executive meeting on the 27th June.
- 3.11 The overall performance within this section demonstrates that reasonable assurance can be provided that the Council's day to day activities in managing its
- people
 - finances and
 - serving its customers

are delivering against their expectation to a standard which is appropriate.

It also provides the basis and the evidence of a good performance management ethos which is reflected in the fact that the indicators from that perspective are also demonstrating satisfactory performance.

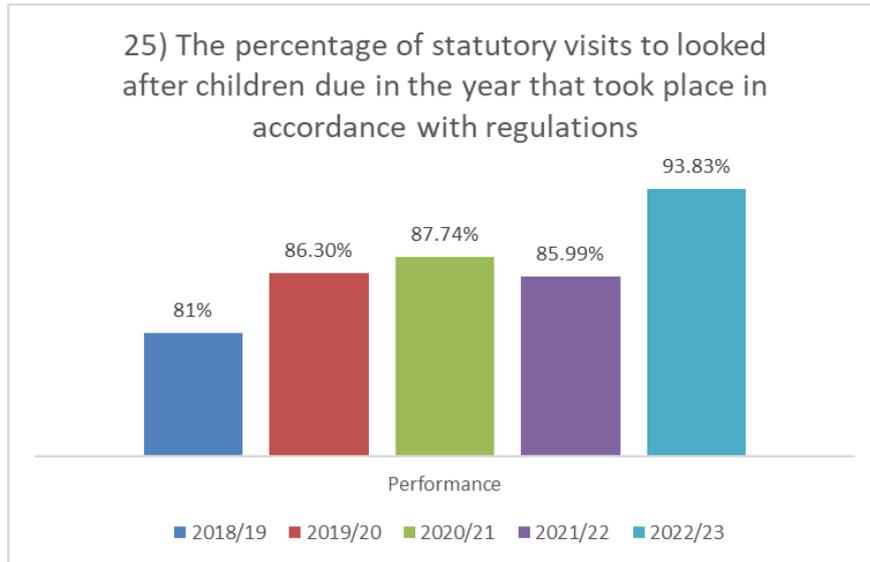
4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 At the end of the year it is encouraging to note that a high majority (91%) of the performance indicators in this section are performing above target or within 5% tolerance of their targets. This is identical to the performance seen at the end of 2021/22.
- 4.2 Indicators related to our wellbeing **Objective 1** where we are working to ensure that the people of Anglesey can thrive and realise their long-term potential, all performing well with all indicators being either green or yellow against their targets.
- 4.3 Some examples of the good performance within this objective seen during the year include:
- 4.3.1 100% of pupils have been assessed in Welsh at the end of the Foundation Phase (indicator 4). This is encouraging and meets the expectations from the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
 - 4.3.2 80 properties have been brought back into use against a target of 50 (indicator 11). Once again the use of the Council Tax Premium has proved fruitful here and it's positive that there are 80 less empty properties within our communities.

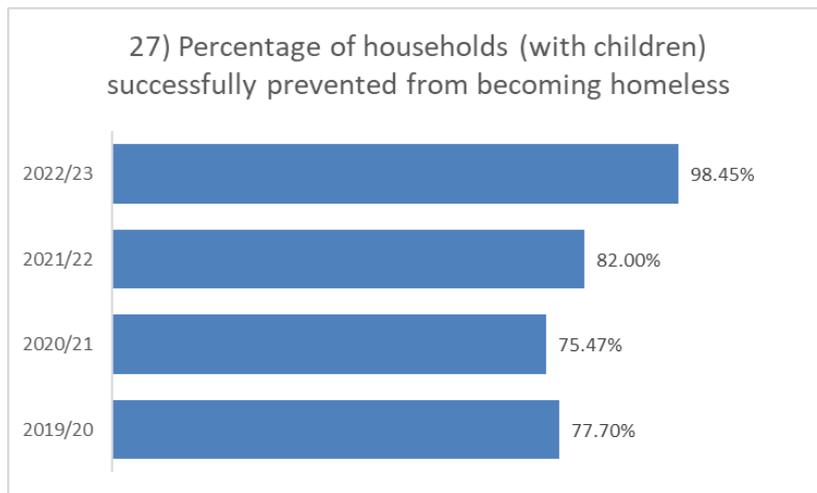


Number of empty homes brought back into use

- 4.3.3 72% of clients attending the NERS programme completed the course and 78% believed that the programme has made a positive impact on their health (indicators 9 and 10).
- 4.3.4 There were 514k visits to Leisure Centres during the year, an increase of 151k on 2021/22 and the highest total since 2018/19. This demonstrates that the improved facilities and activities available to residents are desirable in an ever-increasing competitive industry.
- 4.4 There was no information available for the following indicators –
- 4.4.1 Indicator 6 – The percentage of Quality Indicators (with targets) achieved by the library service – due to the assessment being adapted for the year to ensure services reported on what was delivered rather than assessed against targets. At the time of writing, the library standards report for 2022/23 has yet to be received from Welsh Government.
- 4.4.2 Indicator 14 – The percentage of tenants satisfied with responsive repairs (annual) – this was not reported due to issues around the implementation of the Accuserve system and the difficulty of collecting survey data. The service is developing a work around for obtaining customer satisfaction until the issues with the system are resolved
- 4.5 Performance against the indicators for **Wellbeing Objective 2** where we are supporting vulnerable adults and families to keep them safe, healthy and as independent as possible demonstrates a good performance once again. 11 indicators (73%) are Green whilst 2 indicators (13%) are Yellow against their targets for the year.
- 4.6 Examples of some of the good performance seen during the year include:
- 4.6.1 The Adult Services indicators (Indicators 16 to 19) are all Green against targets.
- 4.6.2 All but one of the Children and Families Service indicators (indicators 20 – 25) are above or within 5% of targets for the year. The number of statutory visits to looked after children was a particularly good performance at 93.83% compared to previous years –



4.6.3 The Homelessness indicators (Indicators 26 + 27) for the Housing Service have also demonstrated good performance with both green against targets. The targeted funding for homelessness has made a great difference where 98.45% of households with children were prevented this year compared to previous performance



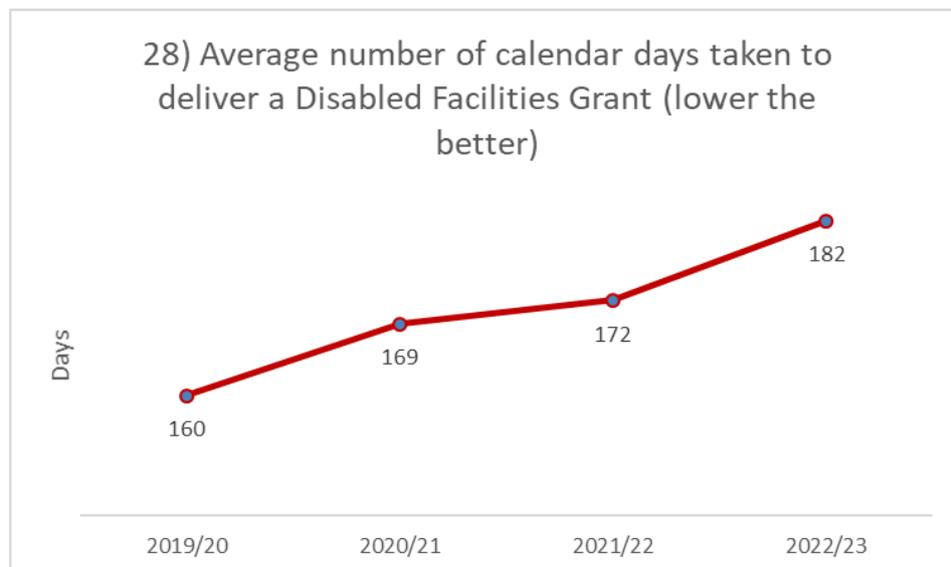
- 4.7 There was no information available for indicator 15 – the rate of people kept in hospital while waiting for social care per 1000 population aged 75+. Unfortunately, the local health board have not provided this information since March 2020.
- 4.8 We do however note that two indicators have underperformed during the year against wellbeing objective 2, with both being red against targets. The indicators in question have been discussed in previous quarterly reports throughout the year.
- 4.9 Indicator 23 - The average length of time for all children who were on the CPR during the year, and who were de-registered during the year – is Red with a performance of 303 days against a target of 270 days.

The performance is a decline on the 287 days seen at the end of Q3, although it is a slight improvement on the 318 days reported at the end of 2021/22.

This indicator calculates those children who have been removed from the child protection register within the last twelve months on a rolling basis. An alternative indicator to measure the average length of time for all children spent on the child protection register (CPR) demonstrates a healthy performance of 166 days. The monitoring of this indicator will improve the performance against indicator 23 into the future and will ensure that the children on the CPR are only on it for the necessary time to make a decision.

- 4.10 Indicator 28 – The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant – is Red with a performance of 193 days against a target of 170 days.

This performance is a decline on the 182 days seen at the end of Q3, and a decline on previous year's performances



The reasons for the decline in performance for this indicator include:

- Difficulties in gaining access to some properties due to client's concerns and anxieties following the coronavirus pandemic.
- Difficulties finding contractors to undertake the work. Currently there are only 6 contractors on the Island that install the adaptations.

It's likely that the target days will need to be increased in 2023/24 as a result of these difficulties.

The DFG Policy will be reviewed during Q1 2023/24 which will include drawing up a service level agreement and agreeing key performance indicators for the delivery of DFG adaptations.

- 4.11 The performance of indicators to monitor our wellbeing **Objective 3** where we work in partnership with our communities to ensure that they can cope

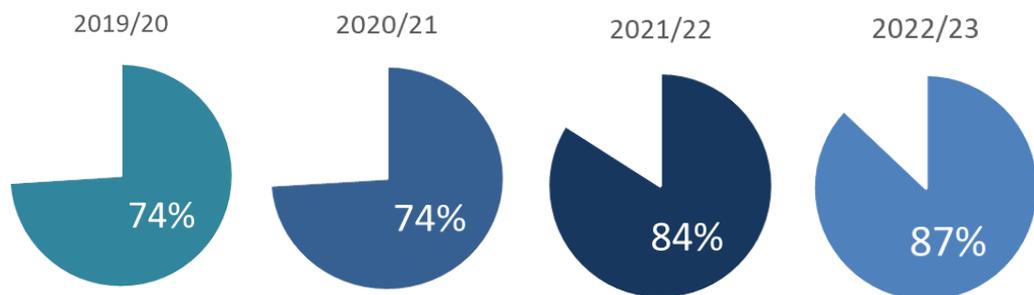
effectively with change and developments whilst protecting our natural environment has also been good at 90% above or within 5% of their targets for the year.

4.12 The indicators that have performed well in the year include:

4.12.1 A number of waste management indicators (Indicator 31, 33 and 34) are Green against targets during the year. 96% of our streets surveyed in the year were clean of any waste and this was the best performance of the last four years (95.5% in 2021/22, 92% in 2020/21 and 93.79% in 2019/20).

4.12.2 Planning applications determined within timescale is Green against target at 91%. This is also the best performance for this indicator in the last four years (79% in 2021/22, 79% in 2020/21 and 90% in 2019/20).

4.12.3 The percentage of planning enforcement cases investigated within 84 days has also demonstrated an improved performance (87%) compared to previous years (84% in 2021/22, 74% in 2020/21 and 74% in 2019/20). This is encouraging and demonstrates that improvements implemented by the Regulation and Economic Development service staff are making a difference to performance.

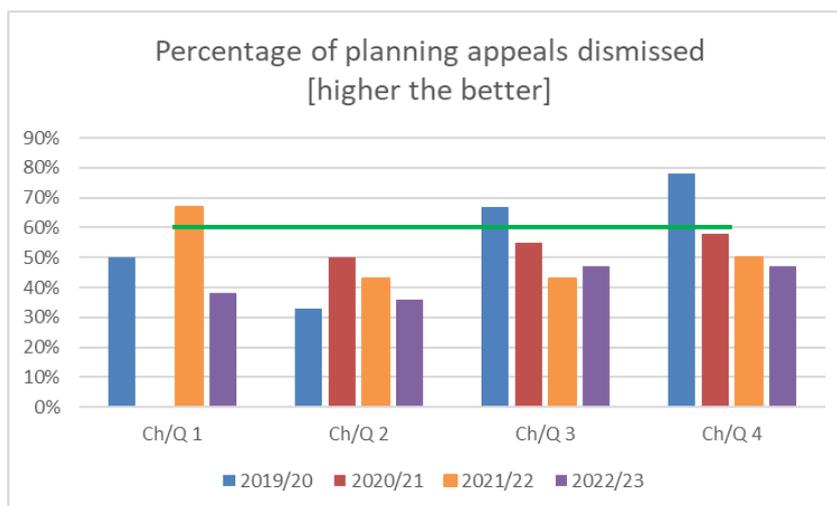


The percentage of planning enforcement cases investigated within 84 days

4.12.4 The three highways indicators related to the Islands' A, B and C road condition surveys (indicators 38 – 40) are Green against targets and have improved compared to 2021/22. The largest improvement can be seen in the condition of our A roads where only 2.6% were of a poor condition in 2022/23 compared to 3% in 2020/21 and 4.6% in 2019/20. The additional funding received, a combination of both capital funding and a Welsh Government grant, was a contributing factor to the improvements.

4.13 The only indicator underperformed against target for the year:

4.13.1 Indicator 36 – the percentage of planning appeals dismissed – with a performance of 47% against a target of 65%. This is a slight decline on the performance demonstrated in 2021/22 (50%).



This indicator relates to a small number of planning appeals, the number of which can fluctuate greatly from one quarter to the next. Three of the five appeals during Q4 were dismissed resulting in a total of nine out of the nineteen appeals being dismissed for the year.

The Council continues to ensure that planning decisions are 'robust' and well-founded, however the Council has no influence over an appeal decision. We will continue to monitor appeal decisions on similar applications to identify if a pattern is developing that would require a different interpretation of our policies.

4.13.2 Our year on year performance for all comparable indicators (37 in total) demonstrates that 17 (46%) have improved during the year, 17 (46%) have declined and 3 (8%) have maintained on their performance levels.

4.13.3 Overall it is encouraging to report that 71% of the indicators that are used to monitor the Wellbeing Objectives were Green against target for the year.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The report highlights some of the positive stories with respect to the performance over the year. Some of these highlights include:

- The percentage of households (with children) prevented from becoming homeless
- The Adult Services indicators all being above target for the year
- The planning applications determined within timescale
- The number of empty homes brought back into use
- The percentage of roads in poor condition seeing an improvement across A, B and C roads
- The number of visits to leisure centres increasing to levels last seen pre pandemic
- The percentage of streets that are clean

- 5.2 The Committee is requested to scrutinise the scorecard and note the areas of improvement together with the areas which the Leadership Team are exploring and investigating to manage and secure further improvements into the future.

These areas can be noted as follows:

- 5.2.1 Percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests responded to within timescale
- 5.2.2 Average number of days to deliver Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)
- 5.2.3 Percentage of Planning Appeals Dismissed

6. GLOSSARY

- 6.1 Below is a list of acronyms used within the report and Scorecard

- 6.1.1 KPI – Key Performance Indicator
- 6.1.2 Q1 – Quarter 1
- 6.1.3 Q2 – Quarter 2
- 6.1.4 Q3 – Quarter 3
- 6.1.5 Q4 – Quarter 4
- 6.1.6 RAG Status - Red - more than 10% below target and/or needing significant intervention
Amber - between 5% & 10% below target and/or requiring some intervention
Yellow - within 5% of target
Green - on or above target
- 6.1.7 Trend - Trend arrows represent quarter on quarter performance
- 6.1.8 FTE – Full Time Equivalent
- 6.1.9 FOI – Freedom of information
- 6.1.10 HRA – Housing Revenue Account
- 6.1.11 NEET – Not in Education, Employment or Training
- 6.1.12 DTL – Difficult to Let
- 6.1.13 NERS – National Exercise Referral Scheme
- 6.1.14 CPR – Child Protection Register
- 6.1.15 IOACC – Isle of Anglesey County Council

Appendix A - Cerdyn Sgorio Corfforaethol - Corporate Scorecard Ch-Q4 2022/23

| Rheoli Perfformiad / Performance Management | CAG / RAG | Tuedd / Trend | Canlyniad / Actual | Targed / Target | Bl ar FI / Yr on Yr Trend | Canlyniad 21/22 Result | Canlyniad 20/21 Result |
|---|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Objective 1 - Ensure that the people of Anglesey can thrive and realise their long-term potential | | | | | | | |
| 1) Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools (tymhorol) (Q3) | | ↑ | 91.69% | | | - | - |
| 2) Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools (termly) (Q3) | | ↓ | 85.22% | | | - | - |
| 3) Percentage of Year 11 leavers not in Education, Training or Employment [NEET] (annual) (Q4) | Melyn / Yellow | | 3.20% | 3% | ↓ | 2.60% | 4.2% |
| 4) Percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh at the end of the Foundation Phase (annual) (Q3) | Gwyrdd / Green | | 100% | 100% | - | - | - |
| 5) Percentage of year 11 pupils studying Welsh [first language] (annual) (Q3) | Gwyrdd / Green | | 68% | 67.5% | ↑ | 67.8% | 65% |
| 6) Percentage of Quality Indicators (with targets) achieved by the library service (annual) (Q4) | | | - | - | - | - | - |
| 7) Number of visits to leisure centres | Melyn / Yellow | ↑ | 539k | 546k | ↑ | 388k | 189k |
| 8) Percentage of food establishments that meet food hygiene standards | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 98% | 98% | ⇒ | 98% | 98% |
| 9) Percentage of NERS clients who completed the exercise programme | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 72% | 50% | ↑ | 47.5% | - |
| 10) Percentage of NERS clients whose health had improved on completion of the exercise programme | Melyn / Yellow | ↓ | 78% | 80% | ↓ | 84% | - |
| 11) Number of empty private properties brought back into use | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 80 | 50 | ↓ | 91 | 94 |
| 12) Number of new homes created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use | Melyn / Yellow | ⇒ | 1 | 3 | ⇒ | 1 | 9 |
| 13) Landlord Services: Average number of days to complete repairs | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 16.61 | 18 | ↓ | 13.89 | 8.1 |
| 14) Percentage of tenants satisfied with responsive repairs (annual) (Q4) | | | | | | - | - |
| Objective 2 - Support vulnerable adults and families to keep them safe, healthy and as independent as possible | | | | | | | |
| 15) Rate of people kept in hospital while waiting for social care per 1,000 population aged 75+ (Q4) | | | | | | - | - |
| 16) The percentage of adult protection enquiries completed within statutory timescales | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 91.69% | 90% | ↓ | 94.78% | 92.31% |
| 17) The percentage of adults who completed a period of reablement and have no package of care and support 6 months later | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 64.71% | 62% | ⇒ | 64.85% | 60.36% |
| 18) The rate of older people (aged 65 or over) whom the authority supports in care homes per 1,000 population aged 65 or over at 31 March [Local Indicator] | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 16.74 | 19 | ↓ | 14.33 | 15.36 |
| 19) The percentage of carers of adults who requested an assessment or review that had an assessment or review in their own right during the year | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 98.10% | 93% | ↑ | 96.10% | 98.20% |
| 20) Percentage of child assessments completed in time | Melyn / Yellow | ↓ | 86.75% | 90% | ↓ | 87.15% | 86.87% |
| 21) Percentage of children in care who had to move 3 or more times | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 6.15% | 10% | ↑ | 9.79% | 12.34% |
| 22) The percentage of referrals of children that are re-referrals within 12 months [Local Indicator] | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 14.35% | 15% | ↓ | 5.74% | 32.00% |
| 23) The average length of time for all children who were on the CPR during the year, and who were de-registered during the year (days) | Coch / Red | ↓ | 306 | 270 | ↑ | 318 | 258 |
| 24) The percentage of referrals during the year on which a decision was made within 1 working day | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 98.31% | 95% | ↓ | 99.10% | 99.56% |
| 25) The percentage of statutory visits to looked after children due in the year that took place in accordance with regulations | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 93.83% | 90% | ↑ | 85.99% | 87.74% |
| 26) Percentage of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 89.53% | 80% | ↑ | 80.95% | 74.74% |
| 27) Percentage of households (with children) successfully prevented from becoming homeless | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 98.45% | 85% | ↑ | 92.00% | 75.47% |
| 28) Average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant | Coch / Red | ↓ | 193 | 170 | ↓ | 172.3 | 169 |
| 29) The average number of calendar days to let lettable units of accommodation (excluding DTLs) | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 35.8 | 40 | ↓ | 28.7 | 45.6 |
| 30) Landlord Services: Percentage of rent lost due to properties being empty | Melyn / Yellow | ↑ | 1.83% | 1.70% | ↓ | 1.66% | 1.98% |
| Objective 3 - Work in partnership with our communities to ensure that they can cope effectively with change and developments whilst protecting our natural environment | | | | | | | |
| 31) Percentage of streets that are clean | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 96% | 95% | ↑ | 95.50% | 92.00% |
| 32) Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted | Melyn / Yellow | ↓ | 63.47% | 64% | ↑ | 62.39% | 62.96% |
| 33) Average number of working days taken to clear fly-tipping incidents | Gwyrdd / Green | ⇒ | 1 | 1 | ↓ | 0.25 | 0.95 |
| 34) Kilograms of residual waste generated per person | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 207kg | 220kg | ↑ | 223kg | 214kg |
| 35) Percentage of all planning applications determined in time | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 91% | 90% | ↑ | 79% | 79% |
| 36) Percentage of planning appeals dismissed | Coch / Red | ⇒ | 47% | 65% | ↓ | 50% | 58% |
| 37) Percentage of planning enforcement cases investigated within 84 days | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 87% | 80% | ↓ | 92% | 74% |
| 38) Percentage of A roads in poor condition (annual) | Gwyrdd / Green | | 2.6% | 3% | ↑ | 3% | 4.60% |
| 39) Percentage of B roads in poor condition (annual) | Gwyrdd / Green | | 2.6% | 4% | ↑ | 2.80% | 3.80% |
| 40) Percentage of C roads in poor condition (annual) | Gwyrdd / Green | | 7.6% | 9% | ↑ | 8.20% | 8.50% |
| 41) Council fleet approx. consumption of fossil fuels (tCO2e) | | ↓ | 515.07 | | ↓ | 486.85 | 385 |
| 42) The number of miles travelled by the Council fleet (miles) | | ↓ | 1,728,920 | | ↓ | 1,524,961 | 1,254,419 |
| 43) The number of miles travelled by the Council Gray/Employee fleet (miles) | | | 790,899 | | ↓ | 786,247 | - |
| 44) Net change in Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tCO2e) - Council fleet (Annual) (%) | | | +6% | | ↑ | +26% | - |

Red - more than 10% below target and/or needing significant intervention Amber - between 5% & 10% below target and/or requiring some intervention
 Yellow - within 5% of target Green - on or above target Trend arrows represent quarter on quarter performance

Appendix A - Cerdyn Sgorio Corfforaethol - Corporate Scorecard Ch-Q4 2022/23

| Gofal Cwsmer / Customer Service | CAG / RAG | Tuedd / Trend | Canlyniad / Actual | Targed / Target | Canlyniad 21/22 Result | Canlyniad 20/21 Result |
|---|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Siarter Gofal Cwsmer / Customer Service Charter | | | | | | |
| 01) No of Complaints received (excluding Social Services) | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | 40 | 67 | 55 | 43 |
| 02) No of Stage 2 Complaints received for Social Services | | | 4 | - | 9 | 6 |
| 03) Total number of complaints upheld / partially upheld | | | 13 | - | 20 | 8 |
| 04) Total % of written responses to complaints within 20 days (Corporate) | Gwyrdd / Green | ↓ | 82% | 80% | 80% | 88% |
| 05) Total % of written responses to complaints within 15 days (Social Services) | Coch / Red | ↑ | 70% | 80% | 66% | 75% |
| 06) Number of Stage 1 Complaints for Social Services | | ↑ | 27 | - | 41 | 24 |
| 07) Number of concerns (excluding Social Services) | | ↓ | 321 | - | 189 | 104 |
| 08) Number of Compliments | | ↑ | 495 | - | 658 | 662 |
| 09) % of FOI requests responded to within timescale | Ambr / Amber | ↑ | 72% | 80% | 79% | 79.4% |
| Newid Cyfrwng Digidol / Digital Service Shift | | | | | | |
| 10) No of Registered Users on AppMôn / Website | | ↓ | 59.5k | - | 51k | 33.5k |
| 11) No of reports received by AppMôn / Website | | ↓ | 36k | - | 66k | 58k |
| 12) No of web payments | | ↑ | 26k | - | 21k | 18.5k |
| 13) No of telephone payments | | ↑ | 9.5k | - | 11k | 7k |
| 14) No of 'followers' of IOACC Social Media | | ↑ | 100k | - | 92k | 42k |
| 15) No of visitors to the Council Website | | ↑ | 327k | - | 634k | 1.03M |

| Rheoli Pobl / People Management | CAG / RAG | Tuedd / Trend | Canlyniad / Actual | Targed / Target | Canlyniad 21/22 Result | Canlyniad 20/21 Result |
|---|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 01) Number of staff authority wide, including teachers and school based staff (FTE) | | | 2288 | - | 2202 | 2180 |
| 02) Sickness absence - average working days/shifts lost | Melyn / Yellow | ↑ | 9.15 | 8.75 | 8.73 | 6.68 |
| 03) Short Term sickness - average working days/shifts lost per FTE | | | 4.54 | - | 3.70 | 1.94 |
| 04) Long Term sickness - average working days/shifts lost per FTE | | | 4.61 | - | 5.03 | 4.74 |
| 05) Local Authority employees leaving (%) (Turnover) (Annual) (Q4) | | | 8% | - | 10% | 6% |

| Rheolaeth Ariannol / Financial Management | CAG / RAG | Tuedd / Trend | Cyllideb / Budget | Canlyniad / Actual | Amrywiant / Variance (%) | Rhagolygon o'r Gwariant / Forcasted Actual | Amrywiant a Ragwelir / Forcasted Variance (%) |
|---|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| 01) Budget v Actuals (Controllable Budget Lines) | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | £158,120,000 | £156,017,000 | -1.33% | | |
| 02) End of year outturn (Revenue) | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | £158,367,000 | £156,813,000 | -0.98% | | |
| 03) End of year outturn (Capital) | | ↑ | £39,530,000 | £29,510,000 | -25.35% | | |
| 04) Income v Targets (excluding grants) | Gwyrdd / Green | ↑ | £13,318,044 | £15,978,167 | 19.97% | | |
| 05) Amount borrowed | | ↑ | £12,052,000 | £1,549,000 | -112.85% | | |
| 06) Cost of borrowing | | ↑ | £4,151,734 | £4,048,339 | -2.49% | | |
| 07) % of Council Tax collected (for last 3 years) | | ↑ | | 98.50% | | | |
| 08) % of Business Rates collected (for last 3 years) | | → | | 99.20% | | | |
| 09) % Housing Rent collected (for the last 3 years) | Melyn / Yellow | ↑ | | 100.2% | | | |
| 10) % Housing Rent collected excl benefit payments (for the last 3 years) | Melyn / Yellow | ↑ | | 100.5% | | | |

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| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL | |
|---|---|
| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny |
| Date: | 20 June 2023 |
| Subject: | Consultation Report on the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy' |
| Purpose of Report: | To present findings from the public consultation relating to the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy', and to seek the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the proposed amendments to the updated strategy, prior to the Executive considering them to decide on whether to adopt the revised strategy. |
| Scrutiny Chair: | Councillor Douglas Massie Fowlie |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | |
| Director: | Marc B Hughes - Director of Education, Skills and Young People |
| Report Author: Tel: Email: | Arwyn Hughes 01248 751894 ArwynHughes3@ynysmon.gov.uk |
| Local Members: | Relevant to all elected members |

| 1 - Recommendation/s |
|--|
| <p>The Council undertook a public consultation on the draft 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy' from 31 March 2023 – 18 May 2023. Nearly 300 responses were received, and a summary of the feedback has been included within the consultation report (Appendix 1).</p> <p>In response to feedback received during the consultation process, Council officers have considered the points raised, and it is recommended to make the following changes to the draft strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Re: Implementation Timetable – Stage 3 – 2025 Onwards. The draft strategy stated: “Post-16 provision in its new form is operational.” This is to be amended to: “Decisions made in relation to post-16 provision on Anglesey” b. Re: Sources requested - A new section is to be added at the end of the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy' to recognise the sources of information used to populate the data within the strategy. This section is titled 'Information Sources'. |

- c. Re: Governance model - The 'Monitoring, Management and Governance' section will be **updated to reflect governance changes.**

The above changes do not impact the vision of the strategy.

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is therefore asked to forward its views on the recommendation of the consultation report including the amendments proposed to the strategy to the Executive.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

The Authority's strategies linked to the Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language are as follows:

2.1 Council Plan 2023/28:

One of the six key objectives identified within the Council Plan is:

- Education – ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations.

A key workstream related to achieving this objective is noted as follows:

- Adopt and deliver a new strategy for Modernising Communities for Learning and Developing the Welsh Language.

The work undertaken to date has been commenced in order to meet the above workstream.

2.2 Welsh Language Policy

The Council has adopted the principles that the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than the English language and that persons in Wales should be able to live their lives through the medium of the Welsh language if they choose to do so.

2.3 Towards Net Zero Plan (March 2022 – March 2025)

The aim of the strategy is to:

“Modernise and adapt to become a Net Zero Council by 2030”.

The plan states that one way this will be achieved, is by delivering the following objective:

“Reduce and decarbonise the energy use of the Council’s buildings and assets.”

The school estate contributes significantly to the Authority’s emissions. Primary schools are the largest producers of carbon of all Council buildings, with secondary schools the second highest. Primary school carbon emissions in 2021/22 were equivalent to 30% of the emissions of all assets managed by the Council, whilst secondary schools were equivalent to 23% of the assets managed by the Council in the same period.

2.4 Medium Term Financial Plan

The Council is required to put in place a robust system to monitor and control its revenue budget and a key element of that system is a Medium Term Financial Plan. The plan sets out the Council’s budget strategy over the next three-year period and sets out the assumptions which will be taken forward to the annual budget setting process. The plan will identify the projected budget challenges (savings requirement) for the next 3 years.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities **[focus on customer/citizen]**
See Impact Assessment – Appendix 9.

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality **[focus on value]**

Details in the ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’ – See ‘Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives’.

3.3 A look at any risks **[focus on risk]**

Not applicable at the moment as no specific proposal is made.

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role **[focus on performance & quality]**

Not applicable at the moment as this is a consultation report on the draft ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’.

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

Not applicable at the moment as no specific proposal is made.

If the Strategy is adopted by the Council, and Council officers are instructed to progress with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, by developing specific proposals, a separate impact assessment will be undertaken for each proposal, which will address these aspects.

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. The report discusses a public consultation which was undertaken recently. To what extent was the process comprehensive, appropriate and robust?
2. In what ways have the outputs of the consultation process influenced the revised document?
3. How does the revised strategy allow the Council to realise the strategic objectives within the 2023 – 2028 Council Plan?
4. To what extent does the ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’ seek to address the objective of education provision and educational buildings of the highest possible standards for Anglesey learners?
5. What challenges and risks face the council in trying to make the proposed Strategy a reality?
6. How will implementation of the strategy be monitored?

7. How does this consultation period compare in terms of stakeholder engagement compared to last time in 2018?

5 – Background / Context

In March 2023, The Executive resolved to approve the draft ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’ for consultation.

A public consultation was undertaken between 31st of March 2023, and 18th of May 2023. Nearly 300 responses were received during the consultation period.

This Consultation Report summarises the main points raised by stakeholders during the consultation period, before making a recommendation as to how to progress.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

Impact assessments on equality, the Welsh language and the community are included as part of the consultation report (Appendix 9).

If the Strategy is adopted by the Council, and Council officers are instructed to progress with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, by developing specific proposals, a separate impact assessment will be undertaken for each proposal. These impact assessments will analyse the effect of that specific proposal on equality, the community and the Welsh language. These will be working documents and will be revised on a regular basis. There will be an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to these assessments during the next consultation stages.

7 – Financial Implications

7 – Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at this stage, as no specific proposals are made.

Specific future proposals, could be financed by means of:

- Welsh Government grant funding via the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme
- Capital Receipts from sale of surplus sites
- Unsupported Borrowing
- Undertaking developments via Welsh Governments Mutual Investment Model
- Revenue Savings

8 – Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Consultation Report

Appendix 2 – Examples of comments made via the online survey

Appendix 3 - Examples of comments made via the online survey

Appendix 4 - Examples of comments made via the online survey

Appendix 5 – Consultation with children and young people

Appendix 6 – Response from the Welsh Language Society

Appendix 7 – Response from Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Appendix 8 – Response from Mudiad Meithrin

Appendix 9 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 10 – Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

School Organisation Code (11/2018)

Council Plan 2023-2028

Equality Monitoring Form

Pupil Level Annual Census

Estyn inspection report on Anglesey Council Learning Service (2022)

Census

Stats Wales

Data from Property Services on Building Condition

Responses to the Public Consultation on the draft strategy



CONSULTATION REPORT

MODERNISING LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPING THE WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY

**Outcome of the consultation undertaken between
31 March 2023 to 18 May 2023**

MAY 2023

**Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in
Welsh.**

**Hard copies of this report are available on request by sending an email to
angleseyschools@ynysmon.gov.wales**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Isle of Anglesey County Council in its recently adopted Council Plan 2023-28 identified 6 strategic objectives towards which they are working. One of these key objectives is entitled –

- Education – ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations

A key workstream related to achieving this objective is noted as follows –

- Adopt and deliver a new strategy for Modernising Communities for Learning and Developing the Welsh Language

The work undertaken to date has been commenced in order to meet the above workstream and in doing so shows the Council's commitment to seeking the views of its residents and any other interested parties on matters such as the draft 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy'.

From 31 March 2023 to 18 May 2023 the Council held a formal consultation process on the 'draft strategy'

When adopted, the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy', will replace the existing 'Isle of Anglesey Education Strategy (Schools Modernisation)'.

The purpose of undertaking the consultation was to seek the views of stakeholders/ interested parties on the draft strategy.

The purpose of this consultation report is to inform stakeholders/ interested parties of the outcome of the consultation by means of:

- Summarising the issues raised by stakeholders/ interested parties inclusive of children and young people's views and coming to a conclusion whether the draft strategy is fit for purpose and ready or not for adoption.

2. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

On 21 March 2023 the Council's Executive approved the draft Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language strategy for public consultation.

The Consultation was held between 31 March 2023 and 18 May 2023. During this period stakeholders / interested parties were invited to express their views on the draft strategy.

The consultation document itself was circulated to stakeholders / interested parties (including but not limited to Headteachers, School Governors, Parents, Pupils, Town / Community Councils, Estyn, Gwe etc) and the consultation document was published on the Council's website www.anglesey.gov.wales

Consultees were advised of the following opportunities to respond to the consultation by:

- Completing the on-line response form or
- Completing a paper response form, and send by email to angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk

Or posted to:
Arwyn Hughes
Human Resource and Transformation Service
Council Offices,
Llangefni,
LL77 7TW

Hard copies of the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy' was also available on request.

Briefing sessions were held to present the consultation documents and explain the consultation process to Headteachers, and School Governors. Attendees were advised of the importance of responding to the consultation as no formal minutes were taken at the briefing sessions themselves.

| Date | Location /Method | Stakeholders | Time |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 28 April 2023 | Llangefni Town Hall | Primary Headteachers | 9 am – 10 am |
| 2 May 2023 | Online (Zoom) | School Governors | 6 pm – 7pm |
| 11 May 2023 | Council HQ | Secondary Headteachers | 9 am – 10 am |

The views of Children and Young People were deemed imperative as part of the process and Council officers arranged five consultation meetings with pupils from the primary sector (one for schools within each secondary catchment area), where each school was asked to nominate three pupils to participate.

Officers from the Council also conducted one consultation meeting with pupils from the secondary sector, and one meeting with pupils from Canolfan Addysg Y Bont.

The information provided was presented to the participants in such a way that was relevant to their age and level of understanding and in accordance with practice agreed with Headteachers beforehand.

A summary of the feedback received from children and young people can be found at Appendix 5.

In comparison with the consultation on the 2018 'Isle of Anglesey Education Strategy', this consultation process has been more concentrated, with more focus on consultation with children and young people.

3. RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

3.1 Summary of respondents

The Council during the 6 week consultation period received 293 responses from the on-line survey and 5 responses in the form of letters and e-mails, which is higher than the number of responses received during the 2018 consultation process. The 298 responses were categorised as follows:

| Respondent category | Number of responses | Percentage of responses |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| School Governor | 26 | 9% |
| Staff (School) | 51 | 17% |
| Staff (Other) | 11 | 4% |
| Parent / Guardian | 126 | 42% |
| Elected Member | 4 | 1% |
| Town / Community Councillor | 16 | 5% |
| Resident | 50 | 17% |
| Other | 14 | 5% |
| Total | 298 | 100% |

*Of the 14 responses categorised as 'Other' in the table above, these included:

- Interested Parties
- Individuals who fell into more than one of the above categories, e.g Teacher and Parent.
- Student
- Grandparents
- Teachers Union – The respondent did not state which Teachers Union they were responding on behalf of.
- Welsh Language Society (Grwp Ymgyrch Addysg – Cymdeithas yr Iaith)
- Grwp Llandrillo Menai
- Mudiad Meithrin

The table above shows that 298 people responded to at least one question relating to the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy' and that the majority of responses (126 or 42%) came from Parents / Guardians, whereas (51 or 17%) of responses were from School based staff.

65% of respondents (who answered the optional equalities question regarding 'age' were between 35 and 54 years old and the majority were female.

The full responses received on behalf of The Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith), Grwp Llandrillo Menai, and Mudiad Meithrin can be found at Appendixes, 6, 7 and 8 respectively.

3.2 Summary of Responses

The questionnaire was structured in a way which engendered specific answers through closed questions whilst also allowing for more of an open and free response to other questions. This was drafted in order to allow individuals the opportunity to raise issues and inform the Council of concerns related to the implementation of the developing strategy.

In considering the answers to those of a closed nature, it is apparent that the majority agree with the reasons behind why continuous change is needed (55%), the vision and leading principles (58%), and the drivers for change and strategic objectives (53%) of the current draft strategy.

There was a two sided response regarding developing the Welsh Language, with some in agreement to further develop the Welsh Language as part of the strategy, whereas others believing that there is already too much focus on developing the Welsh Language at schools.

In response to the open-ended questions there appears to be 4 themes emanating from those responses. The themes relate to –

- The number and sufficiency of schools and school buildings

- The Welsh Language

- Clarity and Detail

- The Net Zero Agenda

There is a close link between these themes, and the strategic aims identified within the Council Plan

3.2.1 Theme 1 - The number and sufficiency of schools and school buildings

This theme emanated from a number of respondents querying or questioning the validity of different sized schools (the small through to the large) and the perceived benefits and misgivings associated with those of differing types of schools.

There was a clear split response from comments falling under this theme, with some of the respondents wanting to see the education provision centralised and modernised, whereas others stating that they did not want to see education centralised and were opposed to the potential closure of schools.

The reasons given for some respondents wanting to see schools modernised / rationalised included:

- For more of the education budget to be spent on teaching, rather than on running / maintaining buildings.

- To give pupils access to updated facilities, resources and technologies.

To address some of the challenges facing smaller schools

To improve the condition of the school building estate, as some schools (particularly in the secondary sector) were in poor condition or were not fit for purpose.

It was also noted that some felt that it's disappointing for some pupils to move from new 21st Century Primary Schools to a Secondary School which was not of the same standard.

Of the responses which fell within the category of not wanting to see education centralised / schools closed, these were due to reasons such as:

Did not believe that moving to a larger school would lead to better performance

The closure of schools would be a loss to many close communities. This was a key point raised within the response from the Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith), who stated that local schools which are open to communities can play a part in social economic regeneration.

The closure of schools could lead to less opportunities to participate in extra curricular activities – especially within deprived areas.

The possibility of pupil numbers increasing – potentially as a result of the freeport or more affordable housing being provided.

The council should do more to address young people moving off the island to live and believe schools had a role to play.

The Teachers Union also responded the consultation. They stated that creating cross-sector schools would not address the challenges facing teachers. There will still need to be the same number of subject specific experts. Having pupils aged 3-11 as part of the school will not help attract subject specific teachers for the secondary sector. They also stressed the importance that the post 16 provision does not deteriorate as a result of any review, and questioned how the condition of secondary schools have been allowed to deteriorate to such a poor condition, compared to the condition of primary schools.

These comments demonstrate that there was no over-riding specific agreement as to people's opinions re: the strategy and indeed this view can be further evidenced in the responses gained by pupils who took part in the consultation meetings.

Pupils from some schools stated that they prefer attending a small school, and were more comfortable attending a smaller school, whereas others felt there were benefits of attending larger schools. Some pupils added that everyone should be treated equally and given the same opportunities. Some wish they had more space or wanted to see school buildings modernised.

Mudiad Meithrin stated as part of their response, that they could understand the reasoning behind the strategy, after seeing the fall in the number of children – 2021 census. However, they believed that the Council need to consider the impact of combining schools on the Nursery Groups and if this was realised that they outlined the need to consider providing transport for non-statutory age (2-3 year olds), to ensure nursery provision is accessible to all.

The Mudiad Meithrin could see benefits of having larger locations, due to being able to offer longer hours, and more development opportunities for staff, however they felt that nursery groups should be kept in some local communities.

Grwp Llandrillo Menai also provided feedback on the Consultation, stating that they welcomed the consultation, and agreed with the drivers for change identified, along with ensuring that the education provision is sustainable on the island for the future.

Further examples of the types of comments made can be seen at Appendix 2.

3.2.2 Theme 2 – The Welsh Language

There were also conflicting opinions regarding the development of the Welsh Language, with some eager to see the Welsh Language further developed and promoted via the strategy, whereas others felt there was already too much focus on the Welsh Language at schools.

Of the responses who were opposed to further development of the Welsh Language via the strategy, their reasoning included:

- It can be difficult for pupils from non-Welsh speaking household to follow the learning through the medium of Welsh, when they only have a basic understanding of the language. There were concerns that this could prevent pupils from achieving their potential.
- Both English and Welsh should be treated equally. The Welsh language is already treated equally / favourably.
- There should be a separate strategy for developing the Welsh Language and Modernising Learning Communities. Some felt that it was important to develop the Welsh language, but disagreed that this should be done at schools. It should be done in communities or by possibly using school buildings as community resource in the evenings to promote and facilitate Welsh Language activities.
- Pupils need to be developed for future career opportunities, with more and more opportunities for local people to follow careers and gain employment outside of Wales, particularly given the movement towards more remote working.

Of the respondents that wanted to further develop the Welsh Language, some were of the opinion that the strategy as it is would further develop the Welsh language, whereas others had concerns that the strategy could be detrimental to the development of the Welsh Language. By far the most common reason for these concerns, was the perceived impression that the strategy would lead to the closure of smaller schools. A number of respondents stated that they believe that the closure of schools would be detrimental to the Welsh Language. The Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith) shared this concern. They stated that small community schools are the link between the community and the Welsh language, and are the means to the assimilation of immigrants. The Teachers Union also commented that joining a school with a high percentage of Welsh speakers with another school which has less Welsh speakers could have a detrimental effect on the Welsh Language.

The Welsh Language Society also had concerns due to the loose commitment of “Welsh and Bilingual education”. They feel it is important that schools are recognised as Welsh schools in the highest Welsh category to avoid any uncertainty.

The Teachers Union stressed the importance of ensuring that all post 16 choices are bilingual.

The Mudiad Meithrin recognised the need to increase the number of children who can speak Welsh across Wales, and believe that the Education, Care and Early Years sector have a role to play. The Mudiad Meithrin believe that immersion in the Welsh Language is important at the early years, to establish a sound foundation for children to progress from during their statutory education.

Many suggestions were made as to how the Welsh Language could be further developed, both from the on line responses, and from the feedback from consultation meetings with children and young people. Examples have been included at appendix 3 and appendix 4 respectively and as the strategy notes that the aim is to “develop and strengthen the Welsh-medium and bilingual provision in the classroom and in informal contexts”, then these factors will need to be taken into account when it’s implementation stage begins.

3.2.3 Theme 3 - Clarity and Detail

There were some comments made within the theme ‘Clarity and Detail’. Comments made have been listed in Appendix 2. The most common feedback, was that the Strategy does not include enough detail on proposed plans.

The purpose of this strategy is to agree on the Council’s vision, strategic objectives and drivers for change. Once the strategy has been adopted, the Council will consider, and carefully evaluate area specific options, before making a proposal. This will provide the required detail and clarity sought by respondents on that specific proposal and include the necessary data.

Feedback was also received via the on line survey, and from the consultation sessions with Children and Young People, stating that the strategy does not back its data up by providing the sources of information. This has been noted, and will be given further consideration before the strategy is presented for adoption.

As part of the on-line responses, it was also noted that it was too ambitious to have a new Anglesey wide Post 16 provision operational by 2025 and that this part of the strategy should be re-considered.

3.2.4 Theme 4 -The Net Zero Agenda

Some of the feedback received during the consultation period has been categorised under the ‘Net Zero Agenda’ theme.

The comments included:

- Many small schools result in high carbon emissions .
- Closing schools will result in further travelling distances. This will result in increased carbon footprint.
- Retrofitting existing buildings would be better than building new schools.

These comments were received via the on line survey, and via the consultation sessions with children and young people.

The Welsh language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith) also stated that closing community schools will lead to more travelling thereby outlining an issue which would need careful attention and consideration in developing future proposals.

4. CONCLUSION

During the 6 weeks consultation period, a total of 298 responses were received, with the majority of respondents agreeing with the reasons ‘why continuous change is required’, the ‘vision and leading principles’ and the ‘drivers for change’.

As part of the consultation survey, there was an opportunity for respondents to leave comments regarding the strategy, as well as to express their opinion on how the strategy will effect the Welsh language, and specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on

treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. There was also an opportunity for respondents to make suggestions as to how the strategy could be changed to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

The responses to these open questions as evidenced above could be categorised into 4 themes:

1. The number of and sufficiency of schools and school buildings
2. The Welsh Language
3. Clarity and Detail
4. The Net Zero Agenda

Within these themes a number of valid points were raised, and will need to be considered further as proposals are developed. Not all these valid points would result in the need to revise or adapt the strategy.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to feedback received during the consultation process, Council Officers have considered the points raised, and it is recommended to make the following changes to the draft strategy-

- a. Re: Implementation Timetable – Stage 3 – 2025 Onwards.
The draft strategy stated:
“Post-16 provision in its new form is **operational**.”
This is to be amended to:
“**Decisions made** in relation to Post 16 provision on Anglesey”
- b. Re: sources requested - A new section is to be added at the end of the ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’ to recognise the sources of information used to populate the data within the strategy. This section is titled ‘**Information Sources**’
- c. Re: governance model - The ‘Monitoring, Management and Governance’ section has been **updated to reflect governance changes**

The above changes do not impact on the vision of the strategy.

Following the above amendments to the strategy as a result of the feedback received during the consultation period, it is recommended that the Executive approve and adopt the revised ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’, and instruct officers to progress with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, in accordance with the revised strategy.

APPENDIX 2 – Further examples of comments made via the online survey in response to the question:

“Do you have any further comments on the draft ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’?”

| THEME 1: THE NUMBER AND SUFFICIENCY OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS | |
|--|---|
| Ref. | Examples / Summary of the type of comments made |
| 1 | The push to close small schools does not take account of the fantastic provision they provide |
| 2 | The potential closure of schools will be a loss to many close communities |
| 3 | There is no evidence that performance is better in larger schools than in small schools. Some also stated that some of the challenges facing smaller schools also face larger schools e.g recruitment. |
| 4 | Were supportive of area schools / centralisation of Education. Reasons for which included: Education budget should be spent on teaching, not maintaining / running buildings. To respond to the decrease in pupil numbers To address the challenges facing smaller schools. |
| 5 | Possibility for the number of children to increase in the future, particularly if the Freeport lives up to expectations, or if new affordable houses are developed |
| 6 | Wanted to see investment in the secondary sector. Reasons for which included: Money has already been invested in the Primary Sector Secondary buildings and resources are not fit for purpose. It's disappointing to see pupils move from new modern schools to secondary schools which are not fit for purpose and are in poor quality. |
| 7 | Supportive of modernising learning communities, and giving pupils access to updated facilities and technologies |
| 8 | The push to close schools is driven by economic factors |
| 9 | Questioned the cost of maintaining certain aspects of new school buildings |
| 10 | Need to ensure there is a quality offer for post-16 pupils that is suitable for the future needs of Anglesey |
| 11 | There needs to be one less secondary school |
| 12 | Anxious regarding the development of a 3-16 / 3-18 school. Some secondary pupils don't always behave appropriately. This could lead to safety concerns, and younger pupils not wanting to go to school. |
| 13 | It is important to give attention to welfare in the workplace |
| 14 | It's important to develop schools as community hubs |

| THEME 2: THE WELSH LANGUAGE | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Ref. | Examples / Summary of the type of comments made |
| 1 | There is too much focus on the Welsh Language, rather than on skills for future careers. This can prevent pupils from achieving their potential. Both languages should be taught equally |
| 2 | Closing schools will have a detrimental effect on the Welsh Language |
| 3 | Too many young Welsh people are leaving the island to find work. Non-Welsh speakers moving onto the island to retire contribute towards this problem, by pushing up the price of houses on Anglesey. Investment is required to attract companies to Anglesey. This would provide jobs for local people to stay on Anglesey, and would protect the Welsh Language. |
| 4 | There should be a separate Strategy for 'Modernising Learning Communities' and 'Developing the Welsh Language', as they are two separate matters. |

| THEME 3: CLARITY AND DETAIL | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Ref. | Examples / Summary of the type of comments made |
| 1 | The Strategy does not include enough detail / would like more clarity on proposed plan |
| 2 | Feel as if the decision has already been made |
| 3 | Survey has been worded so that you can only agree with the statement |
| 4 | It is too ambitious to have a new Anglesey wide Post 16 provision operational by 2025 |

| THEME 4: THE NET ZERO AGENDA | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Ref. | Examples / Summary of the type of comments made |
| 1 | Retrofitting existing buildings would be more efficient and cheaper than closing schools and creating new buildings. |
| 2 | Closing schools will result in further travelling distances and the need for buses – particularly in rural areas. This will lead to increased carbon footprint. |

APPENDIX 3 - Further examples of comments made via the on line survey in response to the question:

“We would like to know your views on the effects that the ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’ would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be?

How can positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?”

| Ref. | Examples / Summary of the type of comments made |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | Closing schools will have a detrimental effect on the Welsh Language |
| 2 | The Welsh Language is already treated equally / favourably |
| 3 | There is already too much focus on developing the Welsh language in schools |
| 4 | All schools should be equally responsible for developing the Welsh language, by providing education through the medium of Welsh |
| 5 | No support is offered to non-Welsh-speaking parents to be able to support their children in their learning |
| 6 | Schools should work more with third party companies and the community to develop the Welsh language |
| 7 | There should be a review to see if the Welsh language centres provide value for money. |
| 8 | More use should be made of the language centres |
| 9 | All teaching staff should be fluently bilingual, and there should be a minimum number of school governors that should be Welsh speakers on each governing body. Governing bodies should conduct meetings in Welsh. |
| 10 | Parents need to be encouraged to use the Welsh language at home |
| 11 | Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language should be two separate strategies |
| 12 | If implemented effectively the strategy should have a positive effect on the Welsh language |
| 13 | Schools need more budget to allow more resources to develop the Welsh Language |
| 14 | Nurseries within communities contribute towards developing the Welsh language |
| 15 | Removing post 16 provision will have a detrimental effect on the Welsh language |
| 16 | Student language skills should be assessed independently |
| 17 | 3-16 / 3-18 schools will have a detrimental effect on language skills of younger pupils |

| Ref. | Examples / Summary of the type of comments made |
|------|---|
| 18 | There is not enough detail within the strategy stating how development of the Welsh language will be measured |
| 19 | There needs to be more opportunities for young people to stay on Anglesey |
| 20 | There needs to be more Welsh content on social media |
| 21 | There is a need to simplify written communication in Welsh – to be more similar to how it is spoken |

APPENDIX 4 - Further examples of comments made via the on line survey in response to the STATEMENT:

“Please also explain how you believe the ‘Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy’ could be used or changed to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.”

| Ref. | Examples / Summary of the type of comments made |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | Closing small / rural schools will have a detrimental effect on the Welsh Language |
| 2 | Extra Curriculum activities should be undertaken in Welsh from school sites |
| 3 | Welsh language should be promoted in schools – some added that this should include parents as well |
| 4 | There needs to be more opportunities for young people to stay on Anglesey |
| 5 | Welsh lessons should be available locally – possibly from school sites |
| 6 | The Welsh Language is already treated equally / favourably |
| 7 | There is already too much focus on developing the Welsh language in schools |
| 8 | Welsh should be developed in homes and communities as well as at schools |
| 9 | Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language should be two separate strategies |
| 10 | If implemented effectively the strategy should have a positive effect on the Welsh language |
| 11 | Schools need more budget to allow more resources to develop the Welsh Language |
| 12 | Nurseries within communities contribute towards developing the Welsh language |
| 13 | All post 16 provision should be bilingual |
| 14 | Combining and reducing the number of schools |
| 15 | Need to address the tendency to use English on corridors / school yard at secondary schools |
| 16 | Need to monitor how other developments have effected the Welsh language |
| 17 | Policies need to be more favourable towards the Welsh language |
| 18 | There needs to be more Welsh content on social media |

APPENDIX 5 – CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Arrangements

Council officers conducted consultation meetings with pupils of primary and secondary school age to hear their views on the draft strategy.

For the primary sector, five consultations meetings were held via Zoom. There was one session for primary schools within each of the secondary school catchment areas.

Each primary school was asked to nominate 3 pupils from their school to participate.

A separate meeting was held for secondary school pupils. This meeting was also held via Zoom. Each Secondary School was asked to nominate 3 pupils to participate in the consultation session.

A face to face session was held with 3 pupils from Canolfan Addysg Y Bont.

We also undertook an additional session to allow a second chance for anyone who was unable to attend their allocated session.

A presentation was prepared for each group, and was presented in a way which was relevant to their age and learning ability. The contents of the presentations had been agreed with Headteachers beforehand.

The children were reminded of Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

'Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account'.

Primary Consultation Sessions

The Primary children were asked the following questions:

Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'?

Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'?

Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'?

Do you have anything else you would like to say about the plan / strategy?

Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language?

Pupils from 23 primary schools participated in the consultation sessions. There was a mixture of Girls and Boys, and a good representation from schools of small, medium and large sizes.

Pupils from 16/23 (70%) of the primary schools which participated agreed with the reasons 'Why Change is Needed'.

There was strong support amongst pupils to the question 'Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'?' - pupils from 91% of the schools which participated agreed, 9% were not sure, and no-one disagreed.

The response to the question 'Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'?', was similar to the response to the first question, with pupils from 68% of the schools which participated in agreement,

Comments made by children and young people have been included in part 3 of this report, with agreed minutes shown below.

Secondary Consultation Sessions

The Secondary Pupils were asked the following questions:

Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'?

Do you disagree or agree with the Council's vision?

Do you disagree or agree with the 'Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives'?

Do you have anything else you would like to say about the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy'?

Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language?

Pupils from 4 Secondary schools participated in the consultation session.

Pupils from all 4 schools agreed with:

The reasons 'Why Change is Needed'

'The Council's Vision'

'Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives'

There were again similarities between the messages received from pupils, and the feedback to the survey, such as:

Spending needs to be more equal / Pupils should be given equal opportunities

Schools should help communities

Pupils would welcome investment in the school buildings.

The strategy does not include enough information / evidence to support statements.

Support to develop the Welsh Language

More detail can be found within the agreed minutes below.

Canolfan Addysg Y Bont Consultation Session

Pupils from Canolfan Addysg Y Bont were asked the following questions:

Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'?

Do you disagree or agree with the Council's vision?

Do you disagree or agree with the 'Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives'?

Do you have anything else you would like to say about the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy'?

Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language?

Three pupils from Canolfan Addysg Y Bont attended the consultation session (2 Males and one female, all aged 16 – 18 years old).

All participants agreed with the questions:

Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'?

Do you disagree or agree with the Council's vision?

Two of the Three Participants agreed with the question "Do you disagree or agree with the 'Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives'?", whereas one pupil was unsure.

Their comments can be found within the agreed minutes below.

Agreed Minutes from consultation sessions with children and young people

| Primary Schools within Ysgol David Hughes Catchment Area | |
|---|---|
| How many children attended? | Representatives from Ysgol Llanfairpwll, Llangoed and Llandegfan a total of 9 children (9-11 years old) 5 Female / 4 Male, meeting held on the 10-5-23. One full class from Parc Y Bont (Years 5 and 6) meeting held on the 18-5-23. |

| Primary Schools within Ysgol David Hughes Catchment Area | |
|---|---|
| Question | Answers |
| Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'? | <p>Llanfairpwll – not sure, school's need to be modernized but we don't want them to close.</p> <p>Llangoed – not sure, don't want to see schools closing.</p> <p>Llandegfan – agree, but the money needs to be spent equally.</p> <p>Parc y Bont – agree because of the climate/environment.</p> |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'? | <p>Llanfairpwll – agree, the Welsh language is important.</p> <p>Llangoed – agree, important that everyone is confident speaking the Welsh language.</p> <p>Llandegfan – agree, well-being is important.</p> <p>Parc y Bont – agree, we think it's important for children to be fluent in both English & Welsh so if that we move away we'll have the same opportunities as everyone else. We have a lot of space outside of the school but inside the school is quite small. Classrooms not big enough for everyone.</p> |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'? | <p>Llangoed – not sure, need to improve the school's technology, internet not the best. Need to spend on buildings to improve them.</p> <p>Llandegfan – not sure how it would affect our school.</p> <p>Llanfairpwll – not sure, need to improve buildings</p> <p>Parc y Bont – agree, Headteachers should be in the classrooms as well, so that they can get to know the pupils. Every headteacher has qualified to teach therefore would be a waste of a qualification if they didn't teach. More friends in smaller schools.</p> |
| Do you have anything else you would like to say about the plan / strategy? | <p>Llanfairpwll – houses are expensive which means people have to move away and therefore less children in our school.</p> <p>Parc y Bont – how is this plan going to affect smaller schools like ours?</p> |
| Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language? | <p>Llangoed – Welsh club in school and outside of school.</p> <p>Llanfairpwll – visit other school's and hold Welsh activities.</p> <p>Llandegfan – increase how much Welsh is spoken, need more Welsh celebrations. Urdd improves the Welsh language</p> <p>Parc y Bont – more Welsh posters about, around the community promoting the Welsh language</p> |

| Primary Schools within Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni Catchment Area | |
|--|---|
| Who Attended? | Representatives from Ysgol Corn Hir, Esceifiog, Talwrn, Santes Dwynwen, Y Graig, Llanbedrgoch and Henblas totalling approximately 30 children together with a full class from Ysgol Bodffordd (Years 4,5,6), meeting held on the 10 -5-23. |
| Question | Answers |
| Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'? | Corn Hir – agree Bodffordd – agree Esceifiog – agree Talwrn – not sure, you get more of a community feel in a smaller school Santes Dwynwen – not sure, we have a new school but a lot of empty spaces Graig – agree Llanbedrgoch – not sure, we enjoy having a small school, everyone knows each other Henblas - agree |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'? | Santes Dwynwen – agree Graig – agree Llanbedrgoch – agree Corn Hir – agree Bodffordd – agree Talwrn – agree Esceifiog – agree Henblas – agree, to speak more Welsh |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'? | Henblas – agree Esceifiog – agree Santes Dwynwen – agree Graig – unsure, money seems to be going to bigger schools, needs to be distributed evenly Bodffordd – agree & share everything equally Llanbedrgoch – agree, small schools are important Corn Hir - agree |
| Do you have anything else you would like to say about the plan / strategy? | Esceifiog – more Welsh, maybe the use of technology to promote the Welsh language. Staff need to be paid better so that they stay in their jobs. We also need new windows and doors to keep the heat in the building. Need a new arts room and more space in general. Henblas – Welsh lessons in the village Corn Hir – more Welsh books in the school Graig – a green screen or more technological devices, and for it to be used less for bullying Bodffordd – more visits from people outside the school to talk about different things, different activities Santes Dwynwen – too many holiday homes in the area, no houses for local people Llanbedrgoch – more activities |
| Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and | Graig – stickers for whoever speaks more Welsh, also need more Welsh television programmes Santes Dwynwen – more Welsh being used in this new school than there was in the old school (before they joined together) |

| Primary Schools within Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni Catchment Area | |
|--|--|
| increases the use of the Welsh Language? | Llanbedrgoch – make more use of the Language Centres so that children can be educated Henblas – more Welsh software Esceifiog – we need to hear more Welsh rock bands Bodffordd – award the Welsh |

| Primary Schools within Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern Catchment Area | |
|---|--|
| How many children? | Representatives from Ysgol Y Ffridd, Llanerchymedd, Bodedern and Rhyd y Llan totalling 14 children (9-11 years old) 5 Female / 9 Male, meeting held on the 10-5-23 |
| Question | Answers |
| Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'? | Ffridd – agree Llanerchymedd – agree Bodedern – agree but some school's don't need to change everything Rhyd y Llan – agree |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'? | Rhyd y Llan – agree, need more Welsh in the community Llanerchymedd – agree Bodedern – agree, important to understand Welsh, need English people to learn Welsh Ffridd – agree with Rhyd y Llan. Lots of friends who don't speak Welsh in Holyhead. |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'? | Bodedern – agree, the building is suitable, but we could use more space. Lots of children but not enough space Llanerchymedd – agree, our school needs to be modernised, it's an old building, and it needs new windows and doors. Ffridd – unsure, receive less attention in big schools because of larger pupil numbers in large schools. Children do not get the same opportunities, attention, and experiences that children in smaller schools get.) In small schools we can all play football, more opportunities in smaller schools. |
| Do you have anything else you would like to say about the plan / strategy? | Bodedern – nothing to add Ffridd – smaller schools don't get as much money as bigger schools Rhyd Y Llan – will there be school closures? Llanerchymedd – nothing to add |
| Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language? | Ffridd – important to have 2 languages, potential for a better job in the future. Seems to be more English spoken since Covid. Suggests separate classes for Welsh and English students. Bodedern – Welsh club in the Village Hall and language charts. Lots of Welsh activities happening in Adran Bro Alaw on the weekend. Band of the week, (Welsh bands) |

Primary Schools within Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern Catchment Area

| | |
|--|--|
| | Ffridd – parents need to learn Welsh, Welsh app maybe? |
|--|--|

| Primary Schools within Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones Catchment Area | |
|--|--|
| How many children? | Representatives from Ysgol Amlwch , Cemaes, Garreglefn totalling 9 children (10-11 years old) 6 Female / 3 Male , meeting held on the 15-5-23 . School Council from Ysgol Rhosybol meeting held 18-5-23 |
| Question | Answers |
| Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'? | Amlwch – agree, we need to change to improve. Our school is like a big school, trying to improve our Welsh. Cemaes – disagree, a bigger school wouldn't make a different with the education Garreglefn – disagree, prefer a smaller school Rhosybol – agree but need more information. If small schools closed no one would want to live in Rhosybol without a school |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'? | Cemaes – unsure Amlwch – important to have potential and to speak bilingually so we have better job opportunities. Schools also need to be eco-friendly Garreglefn – unsure Rhosybol – agree, everyone needs the same opportunities. We need bigger classrooms. Need fairness for everyone. |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'? | Garreglefn – disagree, feel more comfortable in a smaller school Amlwch – agree, we're quite lucky as we have a Sports Centre nearby. Our headteacher can manage instead of teaching. Lot of smaller schools cause carbon. Cemaes – if we had a new school we might have to drive there which would cause more carbon. Rhosybol–we need more details, not enough information on the slides, what is the better offer? |
| Do you have anything else you would like to say about the plan / strategy? | Amlwch – change doesn't always mean closures. Garreglefn – what will happen to the old schools if the schools start merging? Rhosybol – if there were more jobs on the island more people would stay here |
| Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and | Cemaes – this school always speaks Welsh, during lunchtimes also. Everyone's friendly. Amlwch – more people need to speak Welsh, maybe create posters or badges. 'Sgwad Safonau', might be a good idea for other schools. If they speak Welsh give them an award. |

| Primary Schools within Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones Catchment Area | |
|--|---|
| increases the use of the Welsh Language? | Garreglefn – no ideas as of yet Rhosybol – make use of the Language Centres. |

| Primary Schools within Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi Catchment Area | |
|---|--|
| Who Attended? | Representatives from Ysgol Cybi, Llanfawr and Tywyn, totaling 9 children (10-11 years old) 5 Female / 4 Male, meeting held 10-5-23 |
| Question | Answers |
| Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'? | Cybi – agree Llanfawr – agree Tywyn - agree |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'? | Cybi – agree Llanfawr – agree, we need more companies/businesses to come to the school to give talks, more work experience Tywyn - agree |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'? | Llanfawr – agree Tywyn – agree, but don't want to travel far to go to school Cybi – agree, enjoy the new school. Make work equal and ensure every subject gets equally taught. Maybe teach parents to speak Welsh at home more. |
| Do you have anything else you would like to say about the plan / strategy? | |
| Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language? | Llanfawr – parents to work on their Welsh, children to teach adults? Cook through Welsh? Make it enjoyable? Tywyn-more lessons for parents so that they can learn to speak Welsh at home with the children Cybi – shops and maybe fast food restaurants to talk more Welsh, give free food if you speak Welsh. Download more Welsh apps. |

| Secondary Schools | |
|---|---|
| How many children? | <p>Representatives from :</p> <p>Ysgol Uwchradd Caerbybi (YUC) meeting held 18-5-23</p> <p>Uwchradd Bodedern, David Hughes(YDH) a Syr Thomas Jones(YSTJ) meeting held 15-5-23</p> <p>In total 10 pupils and Criw Cyngor YSTJ (13-18 years old)</p> <p>7 Female / 3 Male</p> |
| Question | Answers |
| Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'? | <p>Bodedern – too much difference between each schools with regards to spending, the spending needs to be more equal</p> <p>YSTJ – agree that change needs to be done but unsure what kind of change</p> <p>YDH – agree, we understand some schools are quite old but we have a new Sports Hall</p> <p>YUC – agree, but one small school closed in Holyhead to combine multiple schools together, about 150 houses were built so has the carbon really decreased?</p> |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'What we want to achieve'? | <p>YSTJ – agree with the vision, happy with some things but also need to change some aspects</p> <p>Bodedern – agree but the school could also help the community, the money needs to also service the community</p> <p>YDH – agree but not sure</p> <p>YUC – agree, if we have new buildings students tend to respect them more. Need more activities in the school. We don't have a playing field to play basketball/netball, the gyms are old, ceiling falling down. H&S risk.</p> |
| Do you disagree or agree with 'How we suggest to do this'? | <p>YDH – agree with the change reasons, would like to know how. Will pupils be able to give their opinions?</p> <p>YSTJ – agree, all need to improve on certain parts that need more improvement. Don't need to add anything new, need to enhance what we already have.</p> <p>Bodedern – agree, how would you help each pupil bilingually? Our school is quite small, does everyone get the same standard of Education?</p> |

| Secondary Schools | |
|---|--|
| | YUC – good ideas but the consequences for students are not clear and what effect this is going to have on us. The document needs to be clearer therefore overall unsure. |
| Do you have anything else you would like to say about the plan / strategy? | <p>Bodedern – no additional comments</p> <p>YDH – no comments to add</p> <p>YSTJ – no</p> <p>YUC – we again feel there's no evidence backing up these questions, we need more information</p> |
| Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language? | <p>Bodedern – is it possible to have a Language Unit this side of the Island? Aware there's one in Moelfre.</p> <p>YDH – aware that the Language Unit works, would it be possible to have something like that in the school instead of having to physically go to the Units?</p> <p>YUC – we feel that there is a emphasis in Primary schools on the Welsh language therefore beneficial when students go to Secondary school it's a positive.</p> |

| Canolfan Addysg Y Bont | |
|--|---|
| How many children? | 3 pupils (16-18 years old) 1 Female / 2 Male, meeting held 16-5-23 |
| Question | Answers |
| Do you disagree or agree with the reasons 'Why change is needed'? | Agree – life would be boring without change |
| Do you disagree or agree with the Council's vision? | Agree – the changes will help more people |
| Do you disagree or agree with the 'Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives'? | 2 pupils agreed and 1 pupil wasn't sure |
| Do you have anything else you would like to say about the 'Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy'? | Have different menus for food and bigger portions. Would like more space for play. |
| Do you have any ideas about how we can ensure the plan / strategy supports and increases the use of the Welsh Language? | Read more Welsh books in school, have more reading books in Welsh, speak more Welsh with pupils |

APPENDIX 6 – Response from the Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith)

It is difficult to accept that the document is a serious attempt to evaluate options to "modernise" learning communities or to develop the Welsh language. Instead, the Council's officers have returned to the ongoing obsession that has been highlighted over the last two decades of closing Welsh village schools as the only option. In this regard, the culture of the Council has not changed whatsoever, it has not learnt anything from the Commissioners' intervention – and particularly the Education Commissioner Gareth Jones – in 2013, nor has it learnt from the Minister for Education's intervention three years ago.

The attempt to dress an old obsession and prejudice in the new clothes of an anti-poverty agenda, or to reduce the carbon footprint, is not convincing either. It is clear that closing schools in village communities means that more people have to travel, and it would be poor families that are most affected by this. It is argued that the demographics of the county have changed and that there is a smaller proportion of young people in our communities. But if a school in a village closes, young families will be even less likely to settle in them.

The first lesson from the past comes from the period of the Education Commissioner, Gareth Jones, in 2013 <https://golwg.360.cymru/newyddion/cymru/79132-cynqor-ynys-mon-am-ail-ymgyngori-ar-ddyfodol-tair-ysgol>.

At the time, Mr Jones proposed a more superior strategy to modernise learning communities, coordinate education provision and ensure financial savings. His plan was to provide education based on secondary school catchment areas, with one governing board for the catchment area as a representative council to take decisions in terms of sharing resources between schools, planning joint activities, promoting the transition from primary to secondary, centralised administration and purchasing arrangements, and therefore freeing up individual school headteachers to focus on educational leadership and teaching with local community liaison committees. The savings would then be made within the administrative arrangements rather than by depriving communities of educational provision. 3-16 Schools in town areas could be part of such a reorganisation. The document does not discuss or evaluate this approach, or any other alternative option.

This strategy completely misunderstands the Welsh Government's policy and guidance. It is said that the Minister for Education is seeking to promote "Community Focused Schools". But the meaning of the phrase is not to centralise schools (having closed village schools), but rather to have schools that are open to their communities, and that can contribute to socio-economic regeneration. In centralising educational provision, the Council would by definition move education further away from the participation of communities - in terms of supporting their children's education and using their own resources.

The interpretation of community education is too simplistic. Of course, there is a need to develop particular resources in central locations. They would serve the pupils of the centralised school and those of surrounding schools and also adults outside of school hours. But there are other activities in terms of community education - mainly informal ones - where it is more suitable to provide the community education in the village school (sometimes with the help of voluntary organisations) e.g., Literacy, family learning, pre-school groups and the assimilation of incomers with Welsh lessons and community education so that they take

ownership of their learning. Community education needs to be planned on a catchment area basis.

It is beyond belief that this strategy suggests that the way to "develop the Welsh language" is to remove Welsh village schools from communities. These are the establishments that ensure the link between the community and the Welsh language and are a means of assimilating incomers. We are also concerned about what is loosely implied by the use of expressions such as "Welsh and bilingual education". It is important for the Council to respond to the Government's new linguistic categorisation system by designating the schools as Welsh schools in the highest category to avoid any uncertainty.

The School Organisation Code - even before the publication of the revised 2018 version, and now even in the context of schools that were not put on the official list of Rural Schools - requires that options be considered and evaluated rather than adopting a strategy of closing schools as the main option.

Particular reference is made to Federation, the plan favoured by the Member of the Senedd Rhun ap Iorwerth, namely multi-site community schools, and there is also the more ambitious plan by Gareth Jones that was referred to. This document does not evaluate any alternative options.

In terms of the cost of maintaining buildings, discussions have been held in other counties about the possibility of transferring a school building to a community trust (which could attract funding from various sources to improve the building) and then renting only the required space for the organisation of a school. It will not be sufficient to state that the alternative options will be considered (in classic "cut & paste" mode) when individual proposals are received to close schools. This document will form the Authority's initial position when entering into any statutory process, and therefore in practice represents a presumption against keeping a rural school open, which is entirely contrary to the School Organisation Code 2018.

By adopting this draft strategy, the Council would leave itself open to either expensive legal challenges or intervention from central Government. The Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith) does not wish to see one or the other of these scenarios happen as we believe passionately in local democracy, and therefore we now implore the Council to pursue a course of collaboration with local communities.

Section 3.1 of the School Organisation Code highlights that the information given in this draft strategy is factually incorrect. It is clearly stated "Case law has established that the consultation process should be undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage". In other words, the Council is initially obliged to hold informal discussions "with an open mind" with governors and the local community, before formulating any proposal. But this Draft Strategy clearly states under "Legislative Process" that stage 1 will involve officers preparing a Proposal Paper and then seeking councillors' permission to consult on their plan - rather than forming a proposal in collaboration with the local community.

A culture of "In our professional opinion" and contempt for the views of local communities runs throughout this draft strategy. Even if the exact wording is changed now - as opposed to a complete reconsideration of the strategy - in any individual disputes, it will be possible to refer to this document as proof that the Authority has formed a presumption AGAINST keeping village schools.

The statutory obligation to hold informal and non-statutory discussions with local communities before formulating proposals, and the necessity to completely review this draft strategy means that the proposed implementation timetable is completely impractical. BUT that should not mean delaying applications for funding from the Communities for Learning Fund - there was a delay in the case of Ysgol Corn Hir during futile attempts to close Ysgol Bodffordd. A letter from the current Minister for Education to the Welsh Language Society highlights that an application for funding from the Fund must not be dependent on the closure of other schools, and that it is also possible to apply for funding to upgrade small schools. This strategy should clearly state that rural communities also have a right to investment, following decades of neglect.

"Government guidelines for formulating applications for funding from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme fund" (formerly the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Fund) state quite clearly:

"In an application there should also be a commitment to improving public services and community use. These considerations include –

- * Are the options socially/politically acceptable?*
- * Do they support learners walking and cycling to school?*
- * An application for funding of less than £5million is more straightforward and requires only one single document, the "Business Justification Case"*
- * Key words indicating Revenue expenditure - "Repair, Maintenance, Change, Like for Like, Restoration or Renewal "*

These are very clear guidelines which advise against an attempt to force bureaucratic changes on dissatisfied communities and to invite moderate applications to improve small schools' existing buildings. It is not necessary to focus exclusively on major applications for new schools that attract attention.

There is considerable emphasis in the document on unused space in village schools. But the School Organisation Code (2018) encourages Authorities to look for an alternative use of surplus space, for community or Council purposes, rather than being a reason to close a school. A space could also be decommissioned, or an Art Space could be created within it for use by local school pupils and the community.

There is also a considerable emphasis on the "Cost Per Pupil" of educating pupils. This is a mathematical formula, as the real cost of running the school is the same and, once again, the School Organisation Code warns against overemphasising this argument when determining the future of rural schools. Of course, all public services cost more to deliver in a rural area than in a populated urban area, but there are fewer public services overall in rural areas and therefore the total expenditure per pupil is likely to be less. We acknowledge that there is genuine concern here that there is insufficient funding for the additional costs of providing education in rural areas. But the situation should be redressed through political pressure on central government rather than by depriving rural communities of even more services so that only wealthier incomers can afford to live in them.

It can only be concluded that this is a depressing and unimaginative strategy, a continuation of a bureaucratic culture of organising education, and lacking in any attempt to harness community energy to improve our education and regenerate our communities. We call on the

Elected Members of the Council to demand an entirely new approach, but to proceed without delay in terms of funding applications where a case has already been prepared. Positive requests for funding where improvements and new resources are greatly needed must not be dependent on negative decisions to deprive other communities of their schools.

The Welsh Language Society Education Group
May 2023

APPENDIX 7 – Response from Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

“We very much welcome the consultation taking place and agree with the drivers for change identified in the paper together with the need to ensure that the education provision, primary and secondary and post-16, is sustainable on the island for the future.

As an important educational establishment on the island, we very much look forward to working with the authority to realise its vision and to play a central role in the developments. We believe that we have a significant contribution to make to the process as an organisation that has an excellent strategic relationship with the authority, this is demonstrated by the Partnership Memorandum we recently signed. We strongly believe that we can be a full and valuable partner in future negotiations.”

APPENDIX 8 – Response from Mudiad Meithrin

Do you disagree or agree with the reasons '[why continuous change is required](#)' (as noted in the '**Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy**')

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Do you disagree or agree with the '[Vision and Leading Principles](#)'? (as noted in the '**Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy**')

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Do you disagree or agree with the '[Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives](#)' (as noted in the '**Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy**')

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Do you have any further comments on the draft '**Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy**'?

It is disappointing to see the extent to which the numbers of children have fallen and the prospects in terms of future numbers of children. In that respect, it is possible to understand the motivation behind the modernisation plans.

In order to plan for the future, attention must be paid to the county's wider policy plans which will create opportunities for families and young people to remain on the island rather than moving to urban / city areas. It is important that departments work together in order to respond to the depopulation challenge. Equally, it is necessary to take into account the implications of the changes on language transmission within families.

Although we recognise the need to plan for the future, we must also consider what impact developments in other policy areas have on care and educational provisions across the island. Is ensuring and planning for adequate care and educational provision being

addressed in local development plans, housing planning policies and other economic developments on the island?

Merging schools - what effect will this have on the ability of 'Cylchoedd Meithrin' playgroups to provide a pre-school service in the communities? It is important to include the early years sector and the non-maintained sector in planning to modernise education on the island. In the CM groups, a large number of children start there and then move on to the schools. We believe that some small rural CM groups should be maintained within some communities, and that some groups can be merged to create larger ones in other locations, but we must work together with MM to plan appropriately in the early stages. Merging CM groups can also contribute to the challenge within our sector in recruiting a qualified Welsh-speaking workforce. Similarly, the same principle applies in having to recruit a fewer number of management committee members, as in the case of School Governors, but the opportunity should be used to strengthen individuals' expertise and skills.

What effect will community schools have on the Cylchoedd Meithrin's ability to provide a Flying Start service to families within pram-pushing distance of their homes - we argue that there is role for small Cylchoedd Meithrin groups in some places in ensuring access to Welsh medium early years care and education provision for all children.

The implications of merging/relocating for Cylchoedd Meithrin groups, e.g., re-registering the provision with CIW, redundancies, or merging staff (TUPE, consultation etc.), closing charities and creating new structures, relocation costs, together with administrative work. Investment should be considered to support those provisions that will need to close/merge/move to school sites.

Will transport be provided to transport 2 – 4-year-old children from their communities to the larger provisions? There is a considerable risk that families who do not drive will miss out because they cannot get to the provision. Early Years transport is essential if small schools are to be closed. It is not acceptable to offer transport only to children of statutory age. We know that a large number of parents choose schools or childcare that are easy to get to rather than on the basis of language. Public transport is not sustainable for young children nor is it affordable on a daily basis, and therefore the impact of this on parents and carers must be considered.

You must be able to create a sense of belonging to the community provisions if there is no Cylch Meithrin or school in every village.

Does co-locating a service mean that there will be sufficient space from the outset for pre-school care and education? We feel that it is of key importance for Mudiad Meithrin to be involved in the planning process from the beginning.

We feel that joint-working and joint-planning is important, and the Mudiad Meithrin Set Up and Succeed Plan can be beneficial in expanding existing settings and working to open new provisions.

Cylchoedd Meithrin have developed expertise in the care and education of children aged 2 - 4 over the past 50 years, we need to hold on to this expertise and continue to use and develop it. There are excellent examples across Wales of CM groups working closely with schools, providing a service on school sites, and of staff from the Cylchoedd and the schools sharing expertise. These plans are also in line with the Welsh Government's vision for ECEC. Equally, a range of supplementary activities such as the Cymraeg for Kids scheme and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi groups play a key role in creating new speakers, and it is crucially important in terms of the viability of the Welsh language that these are also

allowed to continue. The Cymraeg for Kids and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi groups play a key role in small communities in creating a sense of belonging, and are a means of transition to CM groups and early education provision. The county should invest in these groups.

We can see the advantage of larger settings as they could offer longer hours and a better career development path for staff. Providing full day care can contribute to the local economy, allowing parents to return to work. Offering longer hours/full time will attract practitioners to the workforce. However, it is important to ensure that arrangements to develop and build a highly qualified workforce are prioritised, consideration should be given to investing in the Cam Wrth Gam training plan and the MM schools plan.

Training expertise is available through the Cam Wrth Cam scheme to ensure a qualified workforce that can work through the medium of Welsh.

In terms of the cost per pupil, would having fewer small provisions mean that more funding would be available to fund education for 3-year-old children in larger provisions? Is this an opportunity to harmonise the rate per head whether it is the Childcare Offer or DD?

Welsh is the only language medium used within Cylchoedd Meithrin education and care provision. When becoming a member, the Cylchoedd commit to the Language Policy, and cannot operate under the Cylch Meithrin name unless they commit to this. In modernising education on the Island, is this an opportunity to develop Early Years care and education to be Immersion services only? Since the vision is to create purely bilingual speakers by the end of their time at school, then couldn't Cylchoedd Meithrin provide the solid foundation required for that journey? You would get the support and language plans from MM and Cwlwm, and it can help the English medium sector to progress along the language continuum in childcare provisions.

Losing schools and Cylchoedd Meithrin from the communities means losing the heart of a community, when a school closes in a village the effect is far-reaching, people become strangers, shops close.... What about the roles of other organisations such as the Urdd, the 'Aelwydydd', and the Language Initiative? This is an opportunity to ensure input that can continue to support communities.

What will the implications be in terms of funding CM if it is necessary to merge, or if some decide to continue within their communities? Local jobs need to be protected.

What are the implications of this for children with ALN? How do we ensure access for those children to GP or school provision if it is not within the community?

Families from various ethnic communities must be considered, is moving the community school an obstacle for them, especially those who wish to have Welsh-medium education or care for their children?

We would like to know your views on the effects that the '**Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy**' would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be?

How can positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

We note that the results of the 2021 Census have highlighted the need for deliberate action to increase the numbers who can speak Welsh throughout Wales, and that the education system and the early years care and education sector have an integral role to play in moving towards this goal.

There is a strong relationship between the availability of Welsh medium early years care and education in the non-maintained sector and the start of the child's statutory education journey in the statutory sector. We cannot over-emphasise the importance of working with Mudiad Meithrin and Cwlwm in order to plan to ensure the provision of Welsh-medium early years care and education, within easy reach of every community on Anglesey, to realise the aim of creating and increasing the demand for Welsh-medium statutory education in its communities.

It is very important to recognise the role of schemes such as Cymraeg for Kids which support parents through their community support groups to learn and pass on the Welsh language to their children at home, as well as raising awareness of the benefits of Welsh language education.

We must also consider linguistic support for the workforce and how we can develop a young workforce to take over in the future.

Pre-statutory sector transport is essential to ensure that all children have access to Welsh medium early years care and education.

Please also explain how you believe the '**Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy**' could be used or changed to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Ensuring that all children and young people are fully bilingual, and can use Welsh and English equally at the end of their time at school, is one of the guiding principles. In order to achieve this goal, the plans must ensure that the Welsh language, and Welsh-medium early years care and education provisions are visible in all of Anglesey's communities. Immersion, which is important in the Early Years, will lay a solid foundation for children when moving on to their statutory education. Cwlwm's partners are committed to developing the linguistic skills of childcare provisions (excluding CM) in order to support the English / bilingual sector workforce to progress along the language continuum. Mudiad Meithrin is prepared to meet with Anglesey County Council to discuss how we can work together to ensure the continuity of Welsh-medium early years provisions and services across the island in the future.

In implementing any modernisation strategy, it will be necessary to develop a joint timetable with partners, including Mudiad Meithrin and Cwlwm's other partners, in order to ensure continuity and development for these services.

It will also be necessary to consider the impact of the Welsh Government's childcare policy for 2 and 3-year-olds in any developments and changes that affect (intentionally or unintentionally) the availability and demand for early years care and education services for these families.

It must also be remembered that providing services such as Cymraeg for Kids groups and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi is an important part of ensuring the presence of the Welsh language and fostering a sense of community among young families. It will also be necessary to consider how the proposals affect the ability of less formal groups to continue to serve communities, in the case of where the closure of a school will lead to the closure of the only suitable facilities in the area.

How can we ensure access to Welsh language education for communities from different ethnic backgrounds if the local school closes? How can we avoid this obstacle for them? The cost of living challenge and the impact of having to travel to the nearest Welsh school for disadvantaged families must be considered. Travel costs can be challenging if there is no transport, and if there is transport, how can parents be persuaded to allow their 3-year-old children to travel by school bus? It is necessary to think about holding parents' hands through this process so that they can see the value in the effort to choose a Welsh medium education.



Equality Impact Assessment Template (including the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Duty)

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh.

| Version | Date | Summary of changes |
|---------|----------|--------------------|
| 1 | 05/06/23 | First Version |
| | | |
| | | |

| Step 1: Background | |
|---|---|
| 1 - What are you assessing? | Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy |
| 2 - Is this a new or existing proposal? | This is a new Strategy, based on the 'Education Modernisation Strategy' adopted by the Executive Committee on 15 October 2018. |
| 3 - What are the aims and purpose of this proposal? | Identifying the current challenges which require attention. To agree on the 'Vision and Leading Principles' and the 'Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives'. When the strategy is adopted, the above considerations will be used to assess different options when progressing with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (WG) |

| Step 1: Background | | |
|--|---|---|
| 4 - Who is responsible for the proposal you are assessing? | Marc B Hughes Director of Education, Skills and Young People | |
| 5 - Who is the lead officer for this assessment? | Arwyn Hughes – Corporate Programme Manager | |
| 6 - Who else is involved in undertaking this assessment? | Aaron Evans – Senior Manager – Secondary Sector Gethin Morgan – Programme Manager, Business Planning and Performance Alun Roberts – Corporate Programme Manager Emrys Bebb – Corporate Programme Manager Carol Sorahan – Corporate Programme Manager | |
| 7 - Is the proposal related to other areas of work? For example, are there other proposals of policies that should be taken into consideration as part of this assessment? | Yes – This proposal is in line with the objectives / the need that has been identified within the Council Plan. It is also based on the ‘Education Modernisation Strategy’ adopted by The Executive Committee on 15 October 2018. The Strategy will also conform with the ‘Towards Net Zero Plan (March 2022 – March 2025)’ | |
| 8 - Is the proposal relevant to how the Authority complies with the public sector general duty relating to people who are protected by the Equality Act 2010? | The elimination of discrimination and harassment | ✓ |
| | The advancement of equality of opportunity | ✓ |
| | The fostering of good relations | ✓ |

| Step 1: Background | | |
|---|--|---|
| As a general rule, any policy that affects people is likely to be relevant across all protected groups. | The protection and promotion of human rights | ✓ |
| 9 – Is the proposal a strategic decision? If so, the Socio-Economic Duty is relevant - see appendix 1. | Yes | |
| <p>10 - Who would be affected by the proposal(s) (adversely or positively, directly or indirectly)?</p> <p>If this is a strategic proposal, ensure that you give specific consideration to whether the proposal would affect more on people living in less favourable social and economic circumstances than others in the same society (see appendix 1)</p> | <p>No specific proposal is being made at this stage, however the strategy does highlight drivers for change. If the strategy is adopted, future proposals would be based on these principles. Future proposals to modernise learning communities will consider the drivers for change highlighted within this strategy.</p> <p>When new and specific proposals are made, an individual Impact Assessment will be conducted for each proposal.</p> <p>As the Strategy influences specific proposals for the future, it can be concluded that it could affect a considerable number of stakeholders, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils - Parents - School staff - Governors - Local Neighbors etc. <p>This can include people who live in less favorable socio-economic circumstances, and individuals belonging to the groups protected under the 2010 equalities act.</p> | |

| Step 2.1: Information Gathering – Welsh Language Standards and the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 | |
|---|--|
| 11 - Does this proposal ensure that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language, in accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Policy? | <p>Developing the Welsh Language is a key part of this strategy.</p> <p>If the strategy is adopted, we will seek to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language when developing specific proposals. Specific proposals will be subject to a more comprehensive review of the effect on the Welsh Language.</p> |
| 12 - Is there an opportunity here to offer more opportunities for people to learn and / or use the Welsh language on a day-to-day basis? | <p>It is emphasised again that no specific proposal is being made at this stage. However, if the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, the Strategy states that there will be:</p> <p>"Opportunities to develop and strengthen the Welsh-medium and bilingual provision in the classroom and in informal contexts." (including at community level).</p> <p>Further consideration will be given to this when developing specific proposals.</p> |
| 13 – Will this area of work proactively offer services in Welsh for users? | As above |
| 14 – Is this proposal likely to protect and promote the Welsh language within communities? | <p>There were mixed views from stakeholders who responded to the consultation on this point. Some expressed their opinion that the strategy as it is would have a favorable effect on promoting the Welsh language, however others expressed concern. The main reason for this concern was the perception amongst some respondents that the strategy could mean the closure of small / rural schools. Several respondents expressed that this would have a detrimental effect on the use of the Welsh language within a community. This was also noted as part of the response of the Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith) Education Campaign Group. See examples of comments made as part of the consultation report.</p> <p>It is emphasised again that no specific proposal is being made at this stage. However, if the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, the Strategy states that there will be:</p> <p>"Opportunities to develop and strengthen the Welsh-medium and bilingual provision in the classroom and in informal contexts." (including at community level).</p> |

Step 2.1: Information Gathering – Welsh Language Standards and the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011

To help you to answer the questions above, the corporate **Impact Assessment Guidance** lists a series of questions which should be considered when assessing how proposals impact on the Welsh language in general. The extent to which these questions are relevant will depend on the proposal in question. However:

- If you are looking at how the implementation of the Council's key policies, strategies or guidance would affect the Welsh language; or
- If your initial response to the above questions raises any concerns or evidence to suggest that the proposal would treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language, or would have a detrimental impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language;

a more comprehensive impact assessment on the Welsh language should be carried out. A separate template is available on MonITor. The **Welsh Language Commissioner's good practice advice document** is also available on MonITor to assist you further.

Step 2.2: Information Gathering – Human Rights Act 1998

15 - Are there any Human Rights issues? If so, what are they? For example, could this proposal result in the failure to safeguard the right to privacy?

(The 16 basic rights are listed at Appendix 2).
The Strategy will conform with all human rights.

Step 2.3: Information Gathering – Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

16 – Does this proposal meet any of the seven national well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?

(Descriptions of the wellbeing goals are listed at Appendix 3)

| | |
|--|---|
| A prosperous Wales | ✓ |
| A resilient Wales | ✓ |
| A healthier Wales | ✓ |
| A more equal Wales | ✓ |
| A Wales of cohesive communities | ✓ |
| A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language | ✓ |

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| | A globally responsible Wales | ✓ |
|--|------------------------------|---|

| Step 2.4: Information Gathering – Engagement / Consultation / Evidence / Filling gaps in information | |
|---|---|
| Please see the pre-consultation and pre-engagement checklist, which is available on MonITor | |
| 17 - What has been done to date in terms of involvement and consultation with regard to this proposal? | <p>The Council consulted on the draft strategy from 31 March 2023 until 18 May 2023.</p> <p>It wrote directly to Schools and stakeholders (including Headteachers, Governors, Town and Community Councils, Menter Môn, GwE, Estyn, Trade Unions, the local Member of Parliament, Regional Members of Parliament, the local and regional Members of the Senedd, and others) informing them of the consultation period.</p> <p>The school Heads were also asked to share the message with their school’s parents, through their usual method of communication. The consultation was also advertised through our social media and on the Council's website.</p> <p>Briefing sessions were held with all the Members, Headteachers, and Governors, and a series of consultation sessions were held with children and young people.</p> <p>Almost 300 responses to the consultation were received. All the responses have been considered before presenting this Strategy. Overall, the majority of responses agreed with the reasons as to 'why continuous change is required', the 'Vision and Leading Principles' and the 'Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives'. However, some noted their concerns about aspects of the strategy. The main concern was that closing small / rural schools could have a negative impact on the Welsh language and on communities.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Drafting and reaching an agreement on the strategy was also an integral part of the work which is recognised as an action in the new Council Plan which was consulted on extensively. All citizens, businesses and partners were asked to participate in the consultation on the Council Plan, and over 2,500 responses to the consultation were received. |
| 18 – What other information have you used to inform your assessment? Please list any reports, websites, links used etc here and include the relevant evidence in the table in Step 3 below | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council Plan - PLASC – Numbers Data - Estyn Inspection Report on Anglesey County Council - Census Data - Stats Wales - Building Condition Data – Property Department - Responses to the consultation on the strategy |
| 19 - Are there any gaps in the information collected to date? If so, how will these be addressed? | No - The information collected to date is complete for the purpose of presenting the Strategy. |

Step 3: Considering the potential impact and identifying mitigating action

20 – Note below any likely impact on equality for each individual group, and identify what action could be taken to reduce or improve the impact. *For determining potential impact, please choose from the following: **Negative / Positive / No impact**

| Protected group | *Potential Impact | Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings) | Actions to mitigate negative impact |
|-----------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Age | No specific proposal is being made at this stage. If the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, we will consider the impact of the proposal on this group as part of the Impact Assessment on that proposal. | | |
| Disability | | Note that one of the Strategic Objectives and Vision of the strategy will be to ensure that the | |

| Protected group | *Potential Impact | Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings) | Actions to mitigate negative impact |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | wellbeing and inclusion of learners is a priority and a core consideration in any educational matter. | |
| Sex | | No specific proposal is being made at this stage. If the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, we will consider the impact of the proposal on this group as part of the Impact Assessment on that proposal. There is no visible evidence that gender discrimination occurs. If problems arise, they will be dealt with sensitively. | |
| Gender Reassignment | | No specific proposal is being made at this stage. If the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, we will consider the impact of the proposal on this group as part of the Impact Assessment on that proposal. There is no visible evidence that gender reassignment discrimination occurs. If problems arise, they will be dealt with sensitively. | |
| Pregnancy & Maternity | | There is no visible evidence that pregnancy and maternity discrimination will occur. If problems arise, they will be dealt with sensitively. | |
| Race / Ethnicity / Nationality | | No specific proposal is being made at this stage. If the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, we will consider the impact of the proposal on this group as part of the Impact Assessment on that proposal. | |

| Protected group | *Potential Impact | Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings) | Actions to mitigate negative impact |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | If problems arise, they will be dealt with sensitively. | |
| Religion or Belief | | No specific proposal is being made at this stage. If the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, we will consider the impact of the proposal on this group as part of the Impact Assessment on that proposal. | |
| Sexual Orientation | | No specific proposal is being made at this stage. If the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, we will consider the impact of the proposal on this group as part of the Impact Assessment on that proposal. There is no visible evidence that sexual orientation discrimination occurs. If problems arise, they will be dealt with sensitively. | |
| Marriage or Civil Partnership | | No specific proposal is being made at this stage. If the Strategy is adopted, and as we move forward to look at new proposals, we will consider the impact of the proposal on this group as part of the Impact Assessment on that proposal. There is no visible evidence that marriage or civil partnership discrimination occurs. If problems arise, they will be dealt with sensitively. | |
| Welsh language | | Ensuring that all children and young people are fully bilingual and able to use Welsh and English equally at the end of their time at school. | |

| Protected group | *Potential Impact | Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings) | Actions to mitigate negative impact |
|--|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Human Rights | | There is no evidence of any human rights discrimination taking place. If problems arise, they are dealt with sensitively. | |
| Any other relevant issue. | | | |
| There are clear links between equality and socio-economic issues. Discrimination against protected groups can be a direct cause of socio-economic disadvantage. If any such issues become apparent when assessing non-strategic matters, they should be given due regard and recorded under the relevant protected group, or under 'any other relevant issue' above. | | | |

| Please complete this section if the proposal is a strategic matter (see appendix 1) | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| The Socio-Economic Duty | Potential impact | Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings) | Actions to mitigate negative impact |
| Is the proposal likely to cause any inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage? | | <p>In the Strategic Objectives / Vision section, the strategy refers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools that are focused on their communities (community-focused schools), with stakeholders and partnerships contributing to this role. ▪ Ensuring that the wellbeing and inclusion of learners is a priority. <p>The two points above can help to reduce the impact on some of the groups experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, for example: By ensuring that schools focus on communities, this can lead to activities and resources becoming available to groups that would not otherwise have access to them, for example due to poverty, living costs, or living in rural locations where there is no public transport.</p> | |

| | | | |
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Step 4 – Outcome of the assessment

There are four possible outcomes – bear these in mind when completing the next section:

- **No major change** - The assessment demonstrates the proposal is robust; there is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken.
- **Adjust the proposal** - The assessment identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. Adjust the proposal to remove barriers or better promote equality.
- **Continue the proposal** - The assessment identifies the potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality. Clearly set out the justifications for continuing with it. The justification should be included in the assessment and must be in line with the duty to have due regard. For the most important relevant proposals, compelling reasons will be needed.
- **Stop and remove the proposal** - The proposal shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped and removed or changed. (The codes of practice and guidance on each of the public sector duties on the Commission’s website provide information about what constitutes unlawful discrimination.)

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| Step 4: Outcome of the assessment | |
|---|---|
| <p>21 - Note the impacts identified and how it is intended to mitigate any negative impact in terms of equality, the Welsh language and, if relevant, socio-economic disadvantage (ie a summary of the table/s in step 3)</p> | <p>It is anticipated that the proposal will have a neutral, if not positive, impact in terms of equality, the Welsh language and those who are at a socio-economic disadvantage.</p> <p>The Strategy can lead to a positive impact in terms of equality, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Ensuring that the wellbeing and inclusion of learners is a priority” <p>The Strategy can lead to a positive impact in terms of the Welsh language, through:</p> <p>“Ensuring that all children and young people are fully bilingual and able to use Welsh and English equally at the end of their time at school”</p> <p>However, some of the responses to the consultation (including Cymdeithas yr Iaith’s response) indicated their concern that closing schools in communities could</p> |

| Step 4: Outcome of the assessment | |
|---|--|
| | <p>have a negative impact on the use of the Welsh language within the community, as the school plays an important role in terms of ensuring a link between the community and the Welsh language and as a means of assimilating incomers. Cymdeithas yr Iaith was also concerned about loose commitment of terms such as "Welsh and bilingual education". They felt that the Council should designate schools as Welsh schools in the highest category to avoid any uncertainty.</p> <p>Should the strategy be adopted, these points will receive further consideration when developing specific proposals.</p> <p>The Strategy can lead to a positive impact on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, through:</p> <p>“Ensuring that the wellbeing and inclusion of learners is a priority”, and through having</p> <p>“More community focus – more facilities (multi-purpose that can be used by the community in addition to the school), extended hours for use, more use by the community, community hub”. When developing specific proposals, we will also consider if the proposal will lead to more travel.</p> |
| <p>22 - Describe any actions taken to maximise the opportunity to promote equality and the Welsh language, the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (sustainability) and, if relevant, ensure better outcomes for those facing economic disadvantage.</p> | <p>If the Executive Committee adopts the Strategy, individual proposals will be made for each area for the purpose of progressing the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. Individual Impact Assessments will be made for each proposal. As part of the assessments, further consideration will be given in terms of promoting equality and the Welsh language, the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and to ensure better outcomes for those facing economic disadvantage.</p> <p>We would expect the adoption of the strategy to have a neutral or positive effect on the promotion of Equality, the Welsh language, and those who experience a socio-economic disadvantage, as described above.</p> |

| Step 4: Outcome of the assessment | |
|--|--|
| | <p>The Strategy also refers to:</p> <p>"Ensuring that decisions made today effectively contribute towards environmental and climate change matters." We would expect this to contribute towards achieving the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p> |
| 23 - Would any aspect of the proposal contravene the wellbeing goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015? | No |
| <p>24 – Is there a need to look at what could be done differently, or to reconsider the entire proposal as a result of conducting this assessment?</p> <p>(Evidence of negative impact could render the proposal or decision unlawful. If you have identified negative impact, you should consider at this stage whether it is possible to proceed with the proposal).</p> | No |
| 25 - Is there a strategy for dealing with any unavoidable but not unlawful negative impacts that cannot be mitigated? | <p>At present, no negative impact has been identified, however some concerns have been raised as part of the responses to the consultation. Mainly, the effect that closing village schools could have on the Community, the Welsh language and travel distance.</p> <p>Should a proposal to close a school be made, the Council will consider how these effects can be mitigated, and a specific Impact Assessment would be carried out for that specific proposal.</p> |
| 26 - Will the proposal be adopted / forwarded for approval? Who will be the decision-maker? | The Strategy will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee on the 20th of June 2023, and by the Executive Committee on the 18th of July 2023. If the Executive Committee decides to adopt the strategy, individual proposals will be developed and presented to the Executive Committee for the purpose of progressing the |

| Step 4: Outcome of the assessment | |
|---|--|
| | Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, in accordance with the expectations of the School Organisation Code 2018. |
| 27 - Are there monitoring arrangements in place? What are they? | <p>Governance arrangements are being put in place to realise the strategy. The governance arrangements will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernising Learning Communities Delivery Group – the groups role includes contributing towards, challenging, and ensuring conformity with the School Organisation Code, and monitoring the progress of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. • Modernising Communities for Learning Operational Group – the groups role includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving guidance to officers on different operational matters relating to the modernisation programme. - Identifying and managing risks - Prioritising resources. <p>As any specific proposals are formulated, an individual Impact Assessment will also be developed. These will be living documents, which will be updated regularly as the proposal develops. We would assess the impact of the proposal from an equality, community, and Welsh language perspective. If a negative impact is anticipated, we will carefully consider how it will be possible to mitigate the negative impact.</p> <p>As projects develop (where a financial contribution from the Welsh Government is required), business cases will need to be prepared to be presented to the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Welsh Government investment panel. The investment panel will assess the proposals carefully, considering the benefits and impact of the proposals before deciding if they will support the proposal.</p> |

Step 5: Action Plan

Please detail any actions that are planned following completion of your assessment. You should include any changes that have been made to reduce or eliminate the effects of potential or actual negative impact, as well as any arrangements to collect data or to carry out further research.

| Ref | Proposed actions | Lead officer | Timescale |
|------------|---|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Present the Strategy and the Impact Assessment to the Scrutiny Committee | Marc B Hughes | 20 June |
| 2 | Present the Strategy to the Executive Committee | Marc B Hughes | 18 July |
| 3 | Consider different types of education provision, e.g., 3-16 or 3-18 Schools | Marc B Hughes | 2023 onwards |
| 4 | Look to improve the efficiency of schools, and ensure fair funding. | Marc B Hughes | 2023 onwards |
| 5 | Investigate the possibilities of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of post-16 provision. | Marc B Hughes | 2023 onwards |

**Appendix 1 – A More Equal Wales – The Socio-Economic Duty
(Commencement date of the Duty: 31 March 2021)**

What is the Duty?

The general aim of the duty is to ensure better outcomes for those suffering socio-economic disadvantage. When making strategic decisions such as deciding priorities and setting objectives, due regard must be given to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.

Who is likely to experience socio-economic disadvantage?

Socio-economic disadvantage can be disproportionate in both ‘communities of interest’ and ‘communities of place’, leading to inequality of outcome, which can be further exasperated when considering ‘intersectionality’:

Communities of interest – groups who share an experience, eg homelessness; or people who share an identity, eg lone parents, carers. Also those who share one or more of the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.

Communities of place – people who are linked together because of where they live, work, visit or spend a substantial portion of their time there.

Intersectionality - crucially, this is about understanding the way in which a combination of characteristics such as gender, race or class, can produce unique and often multiple experiences of disadvantage in certain situations. One form of discrimination cannot and should not be understood in isolation from other forms. A truly intersectional approach ensures that this does not happen.

When will the Duty be relevant?

When making **strategic decisions**. The Welsh Government has provided some examples of strategic decisions (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Strategic directive and intent.
- Strategies developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards which impact on public bodies’ functions.
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans).
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy).
- Changes to and development of public services.
- Strategic financial planning.
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions.
- Strategic policy development

Further details can be found in the corporate equality impact assessment guidance.

Appendix 2 – Human Rights

Human rights are rights and freedoms that belong to all individuals, regardless of their nationality and citizenship. There are 16 basic rights in the Human Rights Act – all taken from the European Convention on Human Rights. For the purposes of the Act, they are known as ‘the Convention Rights’. They are listed below:

(Article 1 is introductory and is not incorporated into the Human Rights Act)

Article 2: The right to life

Article 3: Prohibition of torture

Article 4: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

Article 5: Right to liberty and security

Article 6: Right to a fair trial

Article 7: No punishment without law

Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life

Article 9: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 10: Freedom of expression

Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association

Article 12: Right to marry

Article 14: Prohibition of discrimination

Article 1 of Protocol 1: Protection of property

Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education

Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to free elections

Article 1 of Protocol 13: Abolition of the death penalty

Appendix 3 - Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals:

A prosperous Wales:

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

A resilient Wales:

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

A healthier Wales:

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

A more equal Wales:

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

A Wales of cohesive communities:

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

A globally responsible Wales:

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.



MODERNISING LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPING THE WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY

March 2023

Status – OFFICIAL

Prepared by:

Marc Berw Hughes, Director of Education, Skills and
Young People

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DRAFT

Introduction

In March 2022, Jeremy Miles, Minister for Education for Wales said:

“Tackling the impact of poverty on attainment is essential if we are to achieve high standards and aspirations for all. We know that the life chances of children and young people are hugely influenced by their home and community and that teachers need more support in addressing the issues some children and young people face. By investing in Community Focused schools, we are ensuring that learners have the support they need to reach their full potential.”

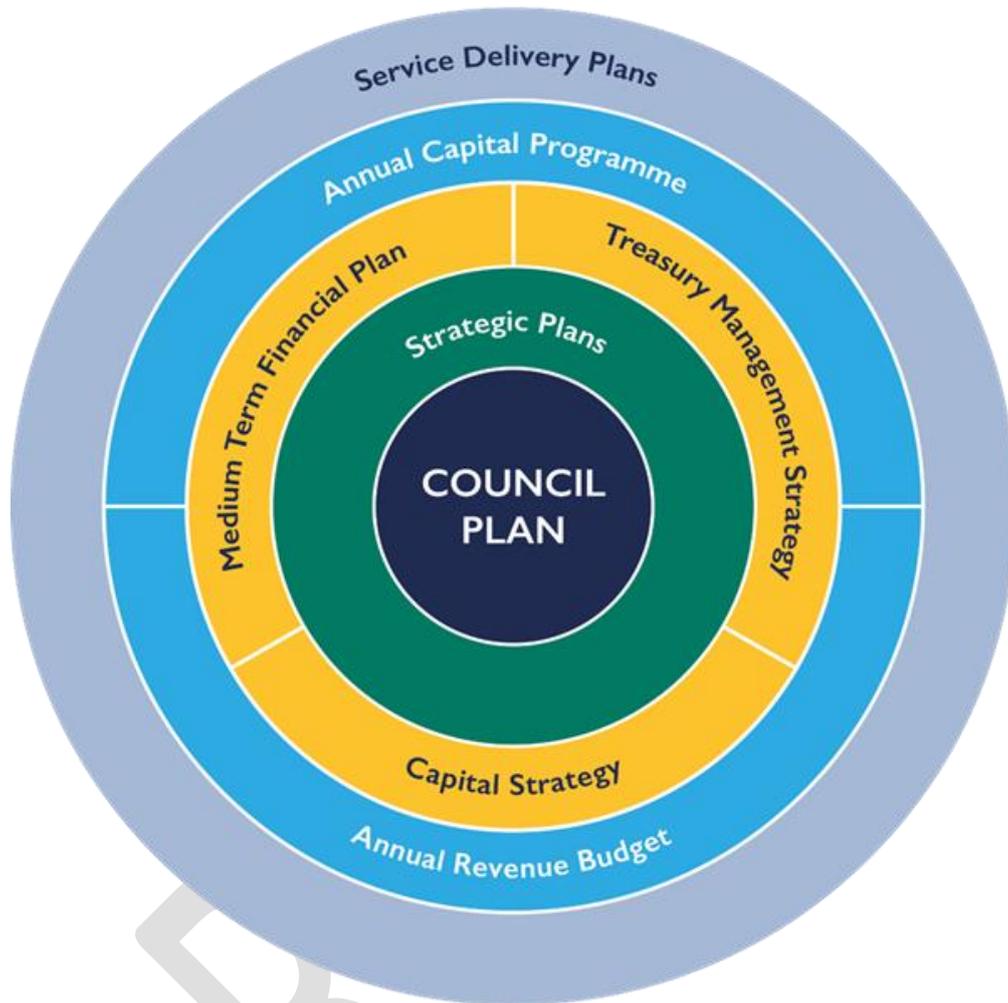
Community Focused schools develop partnerships with a range of organisations, and make services accessible locally to families and the wider community. They use their facilities and resources to benefit the communities they serve, improve the lives of the children, strengthen families and build stronger communities.

Above all else, our national mission is to tackle the impact of poverty on educational attainment and to set high standards for all. I want all young people to have high aspirations for their education and future careers and that means using every lever we have to support them.”

In order to respond to this and to ensure that learners across Anglesey receive the education they deserve, the Isle of Anglesey County Council has reviewed its Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language strategy. Positive attention was given to this in Estyn’s inspection report of the Isle of Anglesey County Council in 2022:

“There is a clear vision on the reorganisation and modernisation of schools, based on ensuring that schools are suitable for the 21st century and making the best use of modern technology. Prominent attention is given to developing provision for Welsh-medium and bilingual education within the modernisation strategy. Some elements of the vision are in place and having a positive effect, for example the expansion of provision of language centres and reducing surplus places in schools. Some aspects of the vision, for example the modernisation of post-16 education on the island, are in their early days.”

Council Plan – The Strategic Circle



The strategic circle identifies the plans the Council has in place to ensure we can achieve our priorities and objectives and they identify what needs to be achieved, how we will achieve it, and why. The Council Plan and the strategic plans declare the Council's vision, alongside the general principles and key priority areas. This strategy is one of the Council's strategic plans and it will be an integral plan to support the vision and key objectives within the Council Plan.

What has been Accomplished

Since publishing the original strategy in 2013, the Authority has worked with headteachers and elected members to modernise the school stock on the island by combining 10 smaller primary schools and building 21st century schools in three areas. Two other projects are currently underway, where decisions have been made to extend one school, relocate one school to a new building, and to close one school. By the time of completing these two projects, the Council will have closed 11 small schools, updated and extended two schools, and opened five 21st century buildings in four areas, including the Isle of Anglesey County Council's first net zero carbon building.

The projects completed thus far have:

- Had a positive impact on surplus primary school places on the island, with the current situation showing that 13% of surplus places belong to the primary sector in September 2022 (compared to 28% in 2011).
- Led to revenue savings via the school funding formula of close to £350k, and led to a reduction in current and projected maintenance costs of over £1.6m.

Both projects currently underway will lead to a further saving in current and projected maintenance costs of approximately an additional £1m.

By the time of completion for both projects underway (2024), it is estimated that around 25% of primary learners in Anglesey will be receiving their education in 21st century buildings.

The Estyn Report (June 2022) recognises that the Council is making good progress in modernising the organisation of schools:

“The authority has invested in a range of capital projects during the first stages of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme. They are making good progress in ensuring suitable schools of the appropriate type in the appropriate locations to meet learners' needs.”

The Current Situation – Why Continuous Change is Required?

A High Percentage of Small Schools

Welsh Government, through the *Education (Schools) (Wales) Order 2014* defines small schools as schools with less than 91 pupils. Although the number of schools meeting the definition has decreased substantially over the past decade in Anglesey (based on September 22 numbers), there are still 17 (43%) schools on Anglesey considered to be small schools according to Welsh Government's definition.

The challenges that face small schools are:

- Teaching mixed age classes, including more than 2 or 3 age groups;
- A limited number of peers and sufficient challenge;
- Limited opportunities for social interaction;
- Challenges with recruiting and retaining staff;
- Excessive workload for staff with higher expertise who are required to support pupils with additional learning needs.

Whilst these challenges face schools, it is important to note that it is getting more difficult to balance the corporate budget each year.

Change in Demographic

It is clear from census data that the population of Anglesey has and continues to age. According to the 1981 census, 23% of the island's population was within the under 15 age group, with only 15% of the population aged 65 or older. By the 2021 census, the percentage of the population aged 15 and under had decreased to 16%, and the percentage of the population aged 65+ had increased to 26%. It is estimated by 2031 that the percentage of children under the age of 15 will have decreased to 13% with the percentage of people over the age of 65 increasing to 28%.

In January 2021, 5,177 pupils (Reception – Yr 6) attended Anglesey's primary schools, whilst 3,908 pupils (Yr 7 – Yr 12) attended Anglesey's secondary schools.

Based on the change in demographic noted above, it is estimated that these numbers will decrease to 4,264 primary pupils, and 3,219 secondary pupils by 2031. This amounts to a decrease of 913 primary pupils, and 689 secondary pupils. This corresponds to the need for approximately 7 less primary schools (based on the average of 130 pupils in each school), and one less secondary school (not considering the current surplus places).

The data also shows that less school-aged children between the ages of 3 and 15 in Anglesey speak Welsh compared to a decade ago. There was a decrease of 3.5% between 2011 and 2021. Usually, the ability to speak Welsh in this age group is higher than for every other age group.

Pupil Numbers

Whilst the percentage of surplus places at the primary schools has decreased substantially, the forecasts received from school headteachers estimate that primary numbers could decrease by a further 419 pupils by 2027. It will therefore be important that the number of surplus places continue to be assessed. Welsh Government defines 'a substantial number of surplus places' as 25% or more of the school's capacity. There are still 13 primary schools on Anglesey that meet this definition.

In the secondary, the percentage of surplus places (21%) is a concern ("relatively high" as noted in the Estyn Report). As a result of this, consideration will need to be given to reducing the number of secondary schools or changing the nature of the schools if to ensure the future of secondary schools in some parts of the county.

Financial Pressure

Global matters, including the war in Ukraine, an increase in energy costs and problems pertaining to supply chains have and continue to have a substantial impact on inflation. As a result, it is foreseen that the Council's budget would need to be increased of around £18m by 2023/24 for the same level of service to be offered. The Learning Service's budget accounts for circa 36% of the Council's net budget.

There is a substantial difference in schools' cost per pupil, with a range of £3,313 to £11,846 in the primary, and £5,148 to £6,440 in the secondary.

It could be argued that the fact that smaller primary schools receive what corresponds to additional funds to maintain the minimum staffing levels means that the largest schools that often serve the most disadvantaged areas receive less funds. This isn't sustainable for the future, especially if costs continue to rise. With the presumption calculated above regarding the change in demographic, pupil numbers will decrease again by 2031. The result of this is that it will be likely that more small schools will be protected, and as a result, there will be less funds to share between the remainder of the schools. This means that the variety in cost per pupil will increase.

Moving forward with the programme, it will need to be ensured that resources are used in a fair and efficient manner, and that the opportunity is utilised to ensure that the school funding formula is suitable considering the changes that arise through modernisation, as noted by Estyn.

Condition of Buildings

Welsh Government categorises the condition of school buildings on an A-D scale.

See below a definition of the different categories.

A – As new

B – Functionally safe and shows only minor deterioration

C – Operational but major repair or replacement needed in the short to medium term

D – A severe risk of failure

Whilst all of Anglesey's primary school stock has been assessed as condition grade 'A' or 'B' in exception to one school, 4/5 of Anglesey's secondary schools have been assessed as condition grade 'C'. This highlights the need for attention to the condition of our secondary school buildings.

Current and projected maintenance costs of schools are rising from one year to another. Costs of £22.3m were foreseen when the last assessment was completed in December 2021, with £9.3m in relation to the 40 primary schools and £13m in relation to the 5 secondary schools. The Council doesn't have the budget to undertake this work. This highlights the need to rationalise our stock of buildings, so that there are means to invest more in the remaining buildings.

Decarbonisation

In response to the climate change emergency, the Council is committed to being a net zero carbon establishment by 2030. In order to reach this target, the Council (and the whole public sector) faces multiple challenges and decisions to reduce carbon emissions and to respond to climate change.

At least 12/40 (30%) of Anglesey's primary schools are performing worse than normal in terms of energy efficiency, with three schools in the worst possible category.

Energy efficiency will need to be substantially improved in our stock of schools if to reach the target of being a net zero carbon establishment.

In light of the above, please note that this Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy has been constructed to:

- Establish school organisation that is suitable for the next thirty years to ensure the best opportunities for our children and young people to thrive and to utilise the world of work opportunities that are on the horizon;
- Continue to act to ensure that standards and provision at our schools are amongst the best;
- Ensure that the Council's resources are used effectively and efficiently by developing more equal organisation in terms of cost per pupil across schools and establishing a suitable pattern for post-16 education;

- Ensure that all schools set robust foundations to ensure that each learner reaches a level of proficiency in both languages that is relevant to their ability;
- Create the circumstances for leaders to succeed by ensuring sufficient time and support for them to lead and manage;
- Establish a system that ensures appropriate succession of school leaders;
- Ensure that the strategy contributes to the aims of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and contributes to 'Place Shaping'.

The Vision and Leading Principles

'A Learning Island with Learning Communities, a Learning Service and Schools as Learning Organisations'.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council has the ambition of ensuring that all our children and young people, despite their background and circumstances, achieve their full potential, enabling all learners to develop towards the four purposes of the curriculum, the aspiration for each child and young person in Anglesey.

The Learning Service's main principles are:

- Ensuring that all children in Anglesey achieve their full potential and have the best possible experiences.
- Ensuring that each child and young person is completely bilingual and can use Welsh and English equally at the end of their period at school.
- Community-focused schools, with stakeholders and partnerships contributing to this role. Preparing young people for future workforce needs by developing skills and digital experiences.
- Attracting the best staff to our schools to give the best experiences to our children.
- Operating in the most cost-effective, efficient, supportive and eco-friendly manner.
- Ensuring that the wellbeing and inclusion of learners is a priority and is core to any educational matter.
- Ensuring that decisions made today effectively contribute towards environmental and climate change matters.
- Ensuring a quality offer for post-16 pupils that is suitable for the future needs of Anglesey.

This will mean that all our children, young people and learners are:

- **Ambitious, capable learners**
- **Venturous, creative contributors**

- **Principled, knowledgeable citizens**
- **Healthy, confident individuals.**

The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme will be key to realising the ambitious vision above by ensuring effective schools of the right size, in the right locations, with a suitable teaching environment and led by inspirational leaders. To achieve this aim, the current situation will need to be reviewed and the best way forward considered, based on the requirements and nature of the needs.

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Drivers for Change / Strategic Objectives

Standards – Providing the best education for young people in the financial climate we are in so that education can thrive following Covid-19 and respond to the future needs of Anglesey’s citizens.

The Authority wants to ensure the best possible outcomes for learners by ensuring that the system is suitable for this generation and future generations.

This strategy will address this, looking at creating the conditions so that headteachers, teachers and pupils succeed. The Authority’s experiences with smaller schools have confirmed that higher support than expected is required for some smaller schools, and this is clearer where there are concerns regarding the quality of leadership and/or quality of teaching in individual classes.

In smaller-sized secondary schools, it is a challenge to maintain the quality and breadth of the curriculum. In addition to this, the ability to retain specialist staff, especially in the core subjects and on a managerial level, is challenging.

As the new curriculum is embedding, golden opportunities are arising to establish cross-sector schools [3-16 or 3-18] that make the most of staff expertise and the opportunities to teach and learn across subjects. Cross-sector schools also provide opportunities to avoid the ‘decline in performance’ seen amongst learners as they transfer from primary to secondary.

Leadership and Management – Increasing capacity to develop effective leadership at our schools and to plan succession.

Effective schools are led well. Our successful schools have strong leadership on all levels, including governors.

The challenges attached to leading and managing a school have increased substantially, and the expectations continue to rise. Currently, many primary headteachers have a substantial specific teaching commitment, especially in the small schools. The headteachers of smaller schools also fulfil a variety of administrative tasks. Recruiting headteachers under these conditions is challenging.

Primary schools need to be of suitable size to have a headteacher who doesn’t teach for a substantial percentage of the time. This would give the necessary time to the headteacher to undertake key leadership functions within the school or federation, offering leadership experiences to members of staff and contributing towards succession planning.

Pupil Numbers / Surplus Places – Providing education that corresponds to the requirements of the island’s population. A reduction in surplus places to make efficient use of resources.

The island’s population is ageing. A fall was seen in the percentage of school-aged children (0-15) in the most recent census. If this continues to fall, a further decrease of 3% is forecasted in the percentage of the population ‘under the age of 15’ by 2031. As a result of this change in demographic, and the proven fall in the number of school-aged children living on the island, in addition to the further fall seen in headteacher forecasts for the next 5 years, it is important that the Council continues to monitor the number of surplus places, to ensure efficient use of resources.

In September 2022, nearly half of all of Anglesey’s primary schools met the Welsh Government’s definition of a small school (less than 91 pupils), whilst 33% of our primary schools met the definition of having a substantial number of surplus places (25% or higher of the school’s capacity). There was also one secondary school that met the definition of having a substantial number of surplus places, with 44% (427) surplus places.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme will address this by reviewing the future of each school based on area.

Wellbeing, Care and Health – Improving access to ensure wellbeing, care and health at our schools.

The Authority effectively engages with stakeholders including teachers, governors and parents to gather their views. As a result, wellbeing, care and health in our schools receives high and continuous priority.

Effective schools have safe environments for learners and staff, which also promote respect and diversity.

A well-designed school environment can improve the physical and mental health of children, in addition to improving the wellbeing of staff and making them feel that they are appreciated. There are currently 4 primary schools and one special school in an ‘A’ grade condition. It is anticipated that one further primary school will reach this category in 2023.

Well-designed and thoughtfully developed school grounds enrich opportunities to learn and play. Connection and contact with nature create more positive emotions and feelings of vitality, and less negative emotions; it also offers a release from mental fatigue, and the ability to concentrate for longer.

The Authority is committed to investing in a Community Focused Schools learning environment, by co-locating key services, and ensuring a stronger engagement with parents and carers outside traditional hours. The Council’s Community Focused Schools programme will address child poverty and mitigate its effects, including educational inequalities children experience as a result of living in poverty.

By investing in school buildings, we hope to create better facilities that learners and the wider community can use. This includes access to continuous adult learning, childcare and sport and leisure activities.

Post-16 Provision – Strengthening learner entitlement and experience for post-16 learners.

The Council operates the Post-16 Learning Partnership with Gwynedd and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, and the Learning Partnership is responsible for commissioning post-16 provision to meet locally agreed curriculum requirements for education and training.

Although the Post-16 Learning Partnership has succeeded to rationalise provision, the current system isn't sustainable in terms of travel costs and small class sizes. Many classes currently have small pupil numbers. In the current financial climate, this isn't viable, cost-effective or sustainable. Additionally, as schools have already rationalised the number of non-viable courses, pupils spend regular intervals traveling from one school to another. The county's secondary school headteachers acknowledge the need to review the current situation.

As a result, consideration will need to be given to the future of post-16 provision in the county.

Buildings and Resources – Ensuring high quality and fit for purpose buildings and learning environments.

An inspection of school buildings denotes that severe deficiencies continue in many sites and buildings, especially in the secondary sector, which raises immediate questions regarding the long-term viability of some buildings. It isn't sustainable or possible to maintain a large number of ageing school buildings.

The number of school buildings will need to be rationalised in some areas where it is possible to combine two or more neighbouring primary schools because the space is available already at one of those schools. This would lead to financial savings, despite the need to transport the learners to another school. This will ensure that shrinking resources are used to improve the learning experiences of children rather than to maintain a building.

Anglesey is committed to ensuring that all school buildings meet the expectations of the 21st century, are fit for purpose, are in the right location, meet the needs of learners and are a resource for the community.

Curriculum for Wales – Ensuring that schools have the resources and the capacity to drive Curriculum for Wales forward successfully.

As the new curriculum continues to be developed and introduced from September 2022, it will be all important that schools have the resources to drive the new curriculum forward successfully, to meet the four main purposes of developing:

1. Ambitious, capable learners
2. Enterprising, creative contributors
3. Ethical, informed citizens
4. Healthy, confident individuals

The new curriculum is designed by teachers, responds to the needs of all young people, and constructed for a fast-changing world. It focuses on progress-based learning (rather than age-based), has a clear purpose of what needs to be achieved. Pupils learn about things that will help them every day and moves them forward in their learning when they are ready to do so, not because of their age.

This is more relevant than ever due to the different effects the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the learning of young people. There will be close collaboration between teachers and pupils to gain a good understanding of the progress levels of individual pupils.

Community Use – Expanding use of school buildings and facilities by parents, the community and older inhabitants.

The Council is eager to optimise use of resources and infrastructure to provide services to our communities. This means having flexible assets so that there are means for the community (including children, adults, and older people) to use the asset and the resources. This will support the resilience of communities and help avoid poverty. This is currently very important in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.

It is foreseen that a key aspect of the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme will be ensuring care provision for pre-school children on new school sites or on sites being adapted (to be managed with a partner in the local childcare sector) to provide care between 8:00am and 6:00pm for families, alongside nursery education, wraparound care and after school/holiday care clubs.

Decarbonisation – Ensuring that our schools are sustainable and contribute to the Council’s Net Zero agenda.

The Council is committed to being a net zero carbon service by 2030.

A key part of the journey to achieve net zero carbon will be to review the use and performance of all Council assets, ensuring the smallest possible carbon footprint whilst continuing to provide services to our communities.

Primary schools are the largest producers of carbon of all Council buildings, with secondary schools the second highest. Primary school carbon emissions in 2021/22 were equivalent to 30% of the emissions of all assets managed by the Council, whilst secondary schools were equivalent to 23% of the assets managed by the Council in the same period.

There is a substantial range in carbon emissions per pupil, with the highest being 2,079kgCo2e per pupil, and the lowest being 65kgCo2e per pupil. In this context, the smallest schools tend to be at top of the cohort.

The Council has already made a substantial saving in terms of carbon emissions via the plans of the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, e.g., by combining four schools into one in the Rhosyr area. In 2018/19, altogether the carbon emissions of Bodorgan, Dwyran, Niwbwrch and Llangaffo schools were 100tCo2e. In 2021/22, Ysgol Santes Dwynwen’s carbon emissions were 26tCo2e.

Anglesey’s first net zero carbon building, via the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, will open in 2024, when the new Foundation Phase Unit of Ysgol y Graig is complete.

Any new building via the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme will be a net zero carbon building, and carbon emission implications will be an important consideration in assessing different options through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

Financial – Ensuring that schools can operate effectively within the available budget. Aiming towards reducing the range in expenditure per pupil, ensuring more equal opportunity across schools.

A substantial range is acknowledged in funds per pupil the schools receive via the Delegated Schools Funding Formula. Some primary schools receive over double the average Anglesey primary school budget per pupil, and over three times more than some of the largest schools. This doesn’t make fair or efficient use of the funds available, and fairness and efficiency will need to be ensured in proceeding with the programme.

Inflation is likely to have a substantial impact on the Council’s finances for the coming years, and a raise in energy costs is also likely to substantially increase costs. This places substantial pressure on the finances available to provide services, and therefore it is more important than ever that funds are used efficiently and fairly.

As building maintenance and running costs increase, options will need to be considered to rationalise or close some buildings, so that a higher share of the funds is spent on learning, rather than on running and maintaining buildings.

The Welsh Language – Offering Welsh-medium and bilingual provision to all our learners.

The Authority operates a bilingual policy throughout all the county's schools. The aim is to develop pupils' abilities as bilingual learners by the end of formal education. Each of the county's educational establishments is expected to follow the Welsh language policy for schools that has adopted the principle that the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than English, and that the island's inhabitants should be able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they wish to do so.

In light of this, any new scheme presented, such as projects deriving from the Sustainable Communities for Learning, are subject to the requirements of the language policy.

Our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan refers to the aim of increasing the proportion of pupils who receive their education in Welsh as a First Language up to the end of their time at secondary school. It is also intended to use childcare models to increase Welsh-medium childcare capacity on Anglesey. The childcare partnership model has the potential to be a key contributor towards Welsh Government's ambition of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. It will also be important on a local level to meet the objectives of our Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2021-26.

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Designing the Workforce

The education workforce must evolve to keep pace with the rapidly changing world and embrace the new opportunities these changes bring. The future is one in which learners will experience a wide range of interactions with adults, peers and with technology to support their individual learning needs.

International research demonstrates that leadership is second only to classroom teaching as an influence on learning and outcomes. All practitioners are leaders whether they lead learners, other practitioners or schools. We are committed to building leadership capacity by encouraging and supporting all practitioners to develop their own leadership potential and the leadership potential of others.

A progressive, practice-based, career-long development of leadership for all can be seen in the leadership development pathway. The pathway reflects national principles and strategies for leadership development and is consistent with the Professional Learning Model.



Quality teachers are the most important determinant of learner progress in schools. Teachers need to be supported in their own professional learning and have opportunities to collaborate with each other, have strong leadership support and have access to a range of experts to enable them to grow and provide the very best for all the learners in their care.

Modernisation of the workforce includes diversifying the workforce: teaching, learning, welfare, health and inclusion professionals, with different skill sets and experience levels, working together in teams to provide differentiated teaching and welfare support tailored to each child's individual needs. This, along with excellent school leaders and teachers, drawing from other sectors and the community, would provide learners with a greater connection to the world outside to ensure that there is alignment between the skills that children are learning and their relevance in the real world.

The role of the teaching assistant is key in schools. They are responsible for supporting children, ensuring that they get the most out of their school life and personal development in the classroom. They work one-to-one with pupils, as well as in groups, whilst also supporting the teacher in delivering lessons and activities. Through the Teaching Assistants' Learning Pathway, teaching assistants can develop their skills through a series of progressive, practice-based programmes, underpinned by the professional standards for teaching assistants.



Strong school leadership supports high impact approaches such as teacher collaborative learning. There should be a shift away from leaders focusing on administrative tasks. School leaders support a concept where the collective capacity of a group of people is the way forward as opposed to focusing on developing the skills of individuals to do their work better. By working collaboratively in learning teams, school professionals are encouraged to provide effective teaching through targeting of specialist expertise, on the job learning and support, increased instructional time, workforce motivation and support for inclusion.

School leaders are becoming more externally facing as teacher capacity grows to lead peer professional development. They increasingly look outward to draw in resources and expertise from wider sectors and networks, including other schools, community and external organisations. Successful school leaders are system leaders, providing peer school evaluation, acting as a critical friend, and coaching peers in their school improvement journey.

A learning community thrives in a diversified workforce - including networks of schools, education professionals and cross-sectoral partnerships. School staff directly involved in innovating and applying evidence of what works, and the resulting knowledge, data and evidence shared, create a system that cultivates learning, is able to learn itself, and adapts to change. A school with a community focus, and a workforce made up of a wide range of expertise, provides learners with a connection to the external world outside school, including work and the community, drawing support from increasingly professionalised specialists and vibrant school networks to improve teaching and learning. School professionals working together in a wide variety of teams providing greater opportunities for differentiated teaching around the individual needs of the learner.

Recruitment and retention of teaching and non-teaching staff is a challenge, especially in certain subjects, areas of expertise and those who are bilingual. We are committed to supporting the development of school staff and those interested in working in our schools. This includes working closely with universities and Initial Teacher Education partnerships to ensure that we are being proactive in responding to these challenges and are thus able to answer the needs of our children and young people.

Related Challenges

The need for capital investment

The cost of building new schools is expensive. Three new schools have been completed thus far through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, with the cost ranging between £5.6m and £10.352m. Additionally, building costs have increased substantially over recent months as a result of global events.

Whilst Welsh Government has contributed towards 50% of Band A projects, and 65% of Band B projects, it is required for the Council to contribute towards the remainder of the cost.

It is important that the Council takes advantage of the opportunity to attract external funds (grant) to improve the condition of our educational building estate. However, considering the financial challenge the Council is likely to face over the coming years, the Council will need to prioritise the related work.

In regards to prioritisation, it is foreseen that secondary provision will need to be remodelled over the coming years, whilst also operating other difficult decisions.

Difficult Decisions

Whilst implementing the strategy, it is likely that the Council will need to make difficult, often unpopular, decisions when considering the future of school organisation.

Where the Council proposes to make a regulated alteration, a consultation and an objection period will follow, which allows stakeholders to give their views on the proposal, and to make a new proposal. The Council will consider this feedback carefully before deciding on whether to change or to proceed with the original proposal. In addition to this, an Impact Assessment will be held, which will specifically consider how any proposal would have an impact on communities, equality, and the Welsh language.

Implementation Timetable

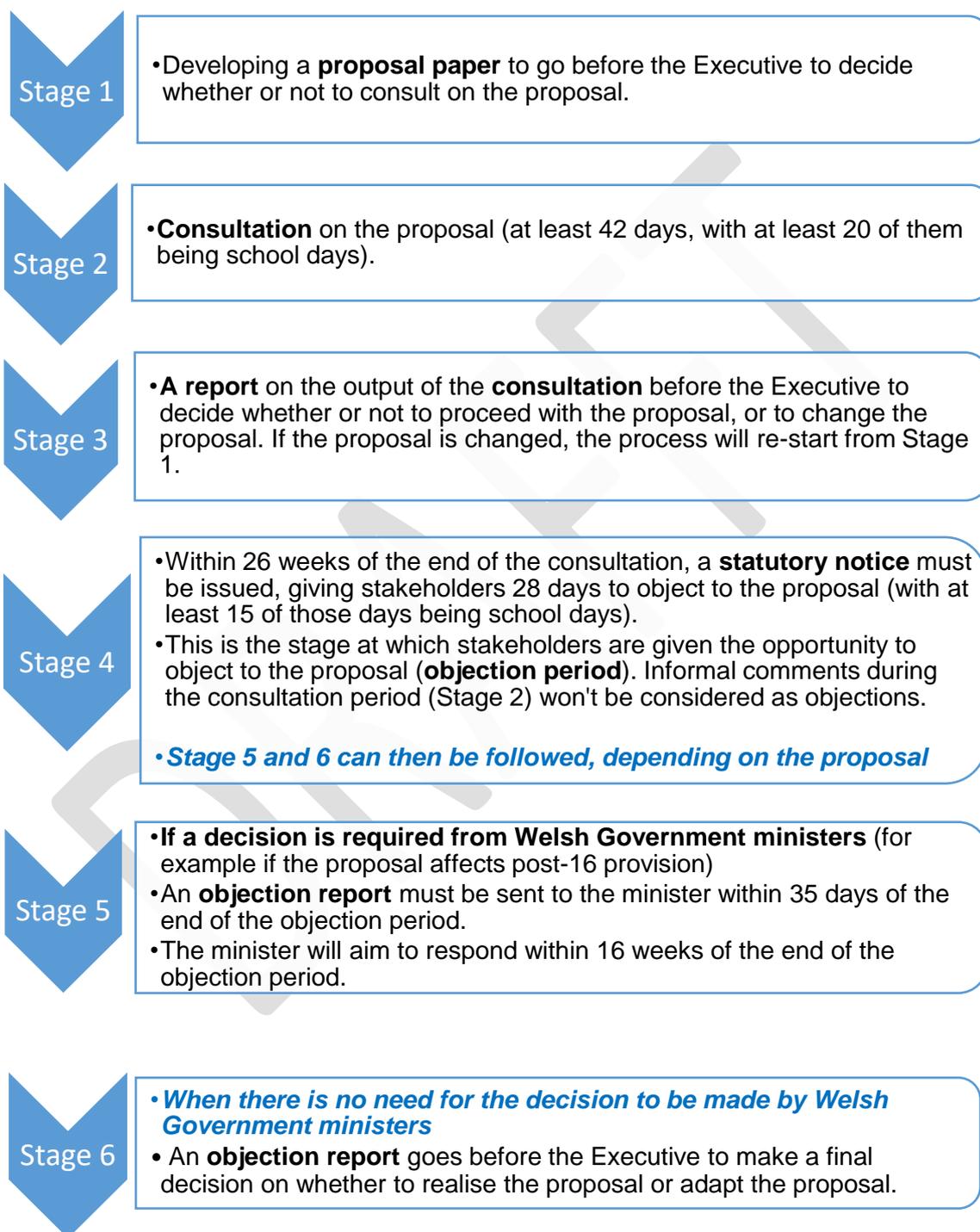
| Implementation Period | | |
|--|--|---|
| Stage 1 – 2023 onwards | Stage 2 – 2024 onwards | Stage 3 – 2025 onwards |
| <p>Continue to address the condition of our school buildings through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, considering different types of education provision, e.g. 3-16 or 3-18 schools.</p> <p>Look at improving the effectiveness of schools and ensure fair funding. Prioritising schools in areas with the highest number of surplus places and the highest cost per pupil.</p> <p>Research the possibilities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of post-16 provision.</p> | <p>Continue to address the condition of our school buildings through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, considering different types of education provision, e.g. 3-16 or 3-18 schools.</p> <p>Continue to look at improving the effectiveness of schools, reducing the variation in cost per pupil, and reducing the number of surplus places (primary and secondary), whilst also considering options for federalisation of schools.</p> <p>Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of post-16 provision.</p> | <p>Sustainable Communities for Learning programme plans are realised.</p> <p>Plans are realised to respond to the challenge regarding the variation in cost per pupil and reducing the number of surplus places.</p> <p>Post-16 provision in its new form is operational.</p> |

How will the Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy affect the experience of users?

- More community focus – more facilities (multi-purpose that can be used by the community in addition to the school), extended hours for use, more use by the community, community hub.
- Leadership – easier to appoint school leaders, more effective training, and more efficient meetings due to less participants.
- Staff collaboration – more opportunities due to being on the same site, e.g. co-planning, co-training, learning from each other, resource pooling opportunities, extra-curricular opportunities, catchment area working opportunities.
- Collaboration between children and young people – as part of teaching and learning, wider opportunities through a variety of teachers.
- Effective transition – strengthening familiarity with the children transferring, 3-16/18 opportunities, easy to swap primary and secondary teachers.
- Opportunities to develop and strengthen the Welsh-medium and bilingual provision in the classroom and in informal contexts.
- Opportunities to be more financially efficient – the Learning Service and individual schools.
- Governors are easier to appoint as there are less of them, and training and collaboration is more effective.
- Opportunities for more effective school administration and to develop catchment area business managers.
- More opportunities to develop technological systems and use of Hwb funds.
- Opportunities to develop buildings, including more effective maintenance.
- Environmental opportunities and less energy waste – net zero opportunities.

Legislative Process

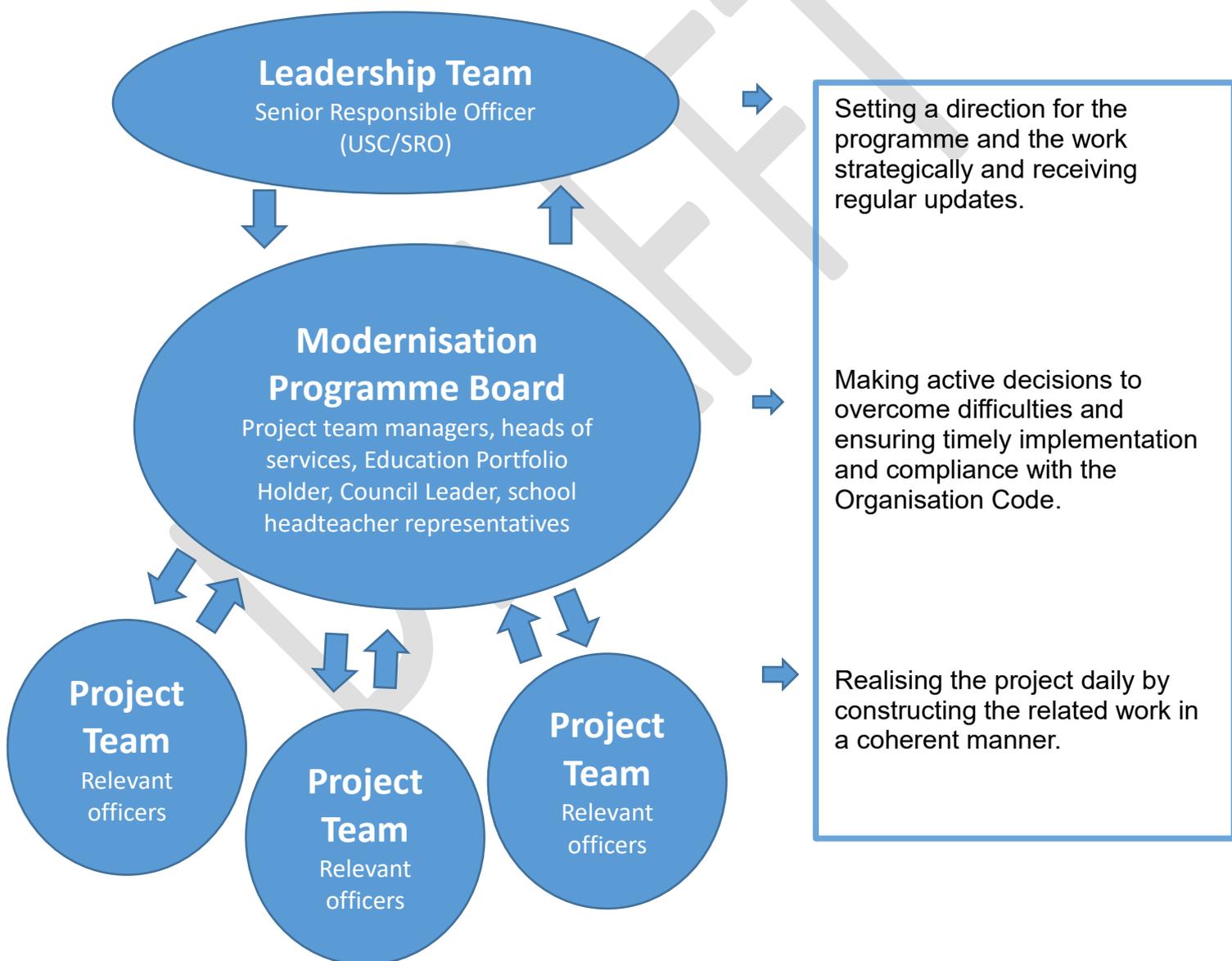
In line with the *School Organisation Code 2018*, the Council will follow the process below before implementing any plan considered to be a controlled change in line with the code's definition. There will be a simpler process to follow for any proposal that doesn't meet this definition.



Monitoring, Management and Governance

The principles of openness, integrity and accountability are relevant on all levels of governance. In the context of Learning Community modernisation and developing the Welsh language, this will include:

- Setting a clear purpose when funding the modernisation programme;
- Noting a suitable financial procedure;
- Monitoring the financial performance and the service of the modernisation board;
- Carefully considering the representation on the modernisation board;
- Maintaining audit access to support accountability.



The Principles of the Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy

The programme will:

- Clearly express its vision and purpose, ensuring clear alignment between the programme's vision and the general strategic objective and direction of the organisation
- Adopt and use professional programme management methodology
- Have a clear overview and appropriate governance arrangements in place
- Have clear criteria for how councillors and officers are involved in the programme
- Work closely with the community and other stakeholders in the process
- Ensure that benefits are clearly linked to better outcomes for the community
- Thoroughly consider and evaluate alternative options
- Develop robust business cases, with clear reasons for its decisions and will not base them only on financial advantage which could be subject to change
- Be clear regarding the risks concerned, with scrutiny proportionate to the risk
- Clearly show how the programme ensures value for money.

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| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
|---|--|
| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 20 th June 2023 |
| Subject: | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan |
| Purpose of Report: | To review the outcome of the recent consultation process on the draft AONB Management Plan |
| Scrutiny Chair: | Cllr Douglas Fowle |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Cllr Neville Evans |
| Head of Service: | Christian Branch – Head of Regulation and Economic Development |
| Report Author: | Andy Godber – Visitor Economy and Coastal Areas Manager |
| Tel: | (01248) 750 057 |
| Email: | andygodber@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Local Members: | Applicable to all Elected Members |

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| 1 – Recommendation/s |
|--|
| <p>The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:</p> <p>R1 Review the scope and content of the draft Management Plan</p> <p>R2 Recommend the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan to the Executive for approval and adoption</p> |

| 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities |
|--|
| <p>The AONB Management Plan aligns with the relevant objectives and priorities as set out within the Council Plan.</p> <p>Given the designations broad remit it has links to all 6 key priorities of the Council Plan which are-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Care and Well-being – providing the right support at the right time 2. Education – ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations 3. Housing – ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home 4. Economy – promoting opportunities to develop the Island’s economy 5. Climate Change – responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards becoming a net zero 1organization by 2030 6. The Welsh Language - increasing opportunities to learn and use the language |

| 3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members |
|--|
| <p>To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-</p> <p>3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]</p> <p>3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]</p> <p>3.3 A look at any risks [focus on risk]</p> |

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

3.6 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. The report discusses a recent public consultation process. To what degree was the process appropriate, comprehensive and robust?
2. How have the outcomes of the consultation process influenced the final document?
3. Why does the Local Authority prepare an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan and how does the Plan align with the Council Plan: 2023/2028?
4. What are the key opportunities, challenges and risks?
5. How will the Local Authority monitor implementation of the delivery plan over the next 5 years?

5 – Background / Context

AONBs were established by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949). They are special landscapes that have protection through the planning system to help conserve their natural beauty. Subsequent legislation – the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 – required all local authorities which administer AONBs to prepare and publish management plans for their area, and to review these plans every 5 years. This is a statutory duty of the local authority.

An AONB Management Plan's purpose is to evaluate and determine the special qualities of the AONB, and identifies what actions are required to make sure these qualities are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

The AONB management Plan is a statutory document, required to be endorsed by the local authority under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It should align with the guidelines as set out by Natural Resources Wales.

The previous AONB Management Plan was endorsed by Executive Committee and County Council in 2015.

There is a statutory duty on the local authority to formally review the Management Plan every 5 years, and for the process to follow set guidelines. The Management Plan review is 3 years behind schedule as a consequence of the Covid pandemic.

The full plan will be augmented by the writing of a condensed 'user friendly' version once the consultation period is completed and changes made. This document will follow the council's new

guidelines on document presentation and will link with the Destination Management Plan (2023-28). This will be put before the executive as a non-statutory document.

The draft AONB Plan has been subject to a 6 week public consultation (28th April to 9th June) and has been subsequently updated to reflect the comments received (where applicable and appropriate). The comments received are confirmed in the consultation report.

- In total 71 responses have been received from stakeholders through the online formal consultation process which has lasted the statutory 6 week period.
- In general the response has been a positive one, with the overall vision and key priorities widely accepted.
- The comments in the main where observations, and although giving a very useful insight into the feelings of the respondents in terms of issues and opportunities, did not result in significant changes to the document.
- The new 'lighter' feel to the document was well received, with many highlighting its accessibility and clarity. We will work on a further streamlined version to ensure that the aims of the plan are more broadly known about.
- It is interesting that in excess of 70% of the respondents highlight tackling the Nature and Climate crisis as the primary challenge for the AONB.
- Sustaining the rural economy, community well being and other social challenges are not widely regarded as being of priority in relation to the AONB.
- This gives concern that the widespread view is that the AONB is a nature focussed designation, rather than having its far wider ranging protected landscape priorities. This is backed up further by the fact that few comments alluded to the existing issues surrounding visitor management.
- There is an evident interest in educational opportunities linked to the AONB.
- Development control also featured in comments with an expectation that the importance of protecting the AONB from inappropriate development should be strengthened.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

- Positive impact on children and young people through educational work
- Positive impact on those with disabilities through improvement to access opportunities to the countryside

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

- Opportunities for improvements in health and well being, and social interaction coming from increased awareness of the opportunities to access the countryside are widely accepted. The plan has this aim at its core.

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

- The IOACC Welsh language Policy will be adhered to, and more over the plan will actively promote the use of Welsh within the AONB. The language is seen and highlighted as a fundamental quality of the Island,

7 – Financial Implications

- Funding provided by NRW to develop and implement the Management Plan (which complements existing core funding)

8 – Appendices:

- Draft AONB Management Plan
- Draft Consultation Report
-

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):



**CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan Consultation 28th April – 9th June 2023

Responses

May/June 2023

Status: Official

Prepared by:

| Original Author | Version | Amendments Made | Dated |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Andy Godber | 1 | Responses to date | 23.05.2023 |
| Andy Godber | 2 | Officer Responses | 27/5/23 |
| Alun Morgan Owen | 3 | Responses to date | 8/6/23 |
| Andy Godber | 4 | Officer Responses | 8/6/23 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Introduction

The AONB Management Plan is a statutory document requiring a public consultation process of a minimum of 6 weeks.

Time constraints meant that the consultation for this plan is 6 weeks starting on the 28th April and concluding on the 9th of June.

The online only consultation has been advertised through the media and on social media platforms, and emails have been sent to known stakeholders, Town and Community Councils, County Councilors, and members of the existing Joint Advisory Committee.

Summary Overview

73 fully completed responses have been received and assessed to form the basis of this interim report. The sample size is small and as such statistically invalid, although they do give insight into trends.

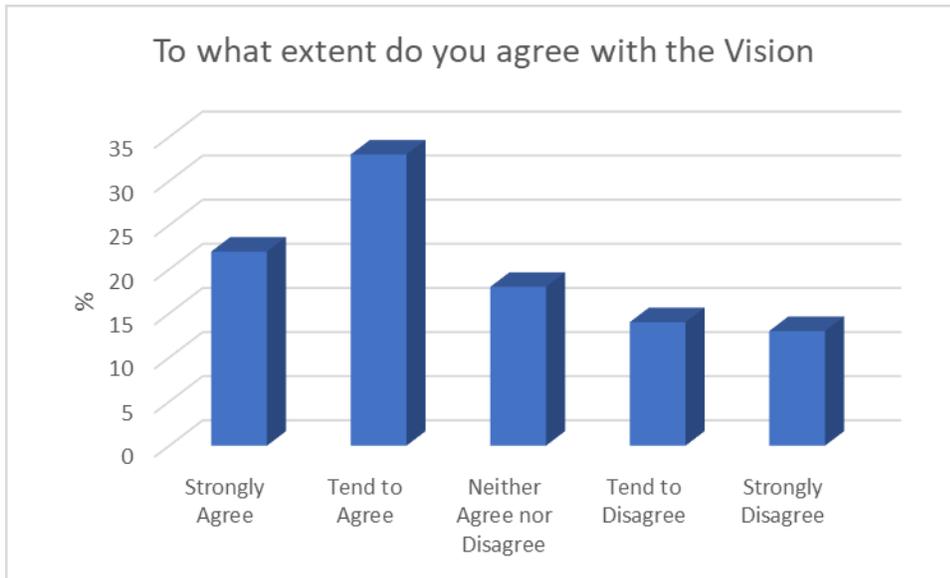
The responses to date have given an indication as to what key actions need to be developed, and where focus should lie. It is evident from responses that the major risks to the integrity of the AONB lies in the existing Nature Crisis and the impact of Climate Change, but interestingly Community and Social and Economic impacts do not feature heavily in priority listings.

It is postulated that this is for one of two reasons. Either they are the issues which the AONB should concentrate on, or the AONB is not well understood, and people think of it more as a nature conservation designation rather than it being a multi-faceted landscape designation.

Given the above, it is important that we consider ways of communicating the aims and objectives of the AONB, and making it better understood and more relevant through a focus on communicating our work, educational links, and further work with the communities of Anglesey.

A significant percentage of respondents have referenced the issue surrounding the Penrhos development as being a major factor in responding, and as such will have to some degree impacted the response

Q4 & Q5 – Vision



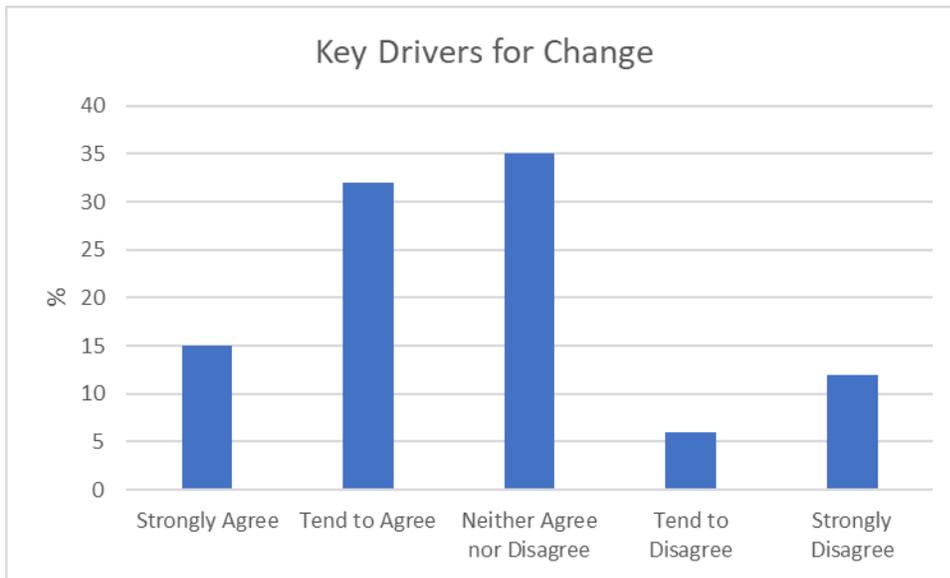
Observations

The responses to date indicate that 55% of respondents are in agreement that the Vision is in line with expectations. Given the number of respondents who have remarked upon the Penrhos situation and their unhappiness with the council's position, this is seen as a positive figure.

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| 1 | Comment | The focus seems to be on maintaining the status quo with small incremental changes to benefit mainly local communities. This has been the approach taken in the 30 years since I came to the island and frankly, hasn't worked very well. A stronger vision of the future is needed. |
| | Officer Response | The Vision needs to be backed up by an ambitious action plan which will include clear milestones to reach longer term targets. This will be actioned. |
| | Suggested Modification | Give clearer reference to the yearly action plan and goals |
| 2 | Comment | When the council themselves declare a 'climate emergency' but allow planning for the destruction of an ancient and biodiversity woodland (Penrhos) |
| | Officer Response | The Land and Lakes planning application for Penrhos followed the due planning process. The AONB is a landscape designation and balances to needs of landscape and seascape, nature, communities, and economic development. |

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| | Suggested Modification | No change |
| 3 | Comment | The idea behind the plan is a good sound vision BUT the damage has already been done to our island and were playing catchup AGAIN , Anglesey has become a playground for the rich , villages have bee taken over by 2nd homes and holiday lets , locals cant enjoy their island for months on end due to the volume of tourists dumping their cars all over the place , the whole plan seems to be "how do we give the visitors a better experience and sod the locals " , you say "tourism " emYou say ployes 4,000 on the island , how many of them are full time yearly jobs and not minimum wage, zero hour jobs for 5 months of the year ?also how many of the 4,000 are having to claim benefits just to survive ? .You say your going to protect our NNR, SSI and other areas for nature to flourish ,you can do that NOW Llanddwyn beach and island are within a NNR with restrictions in place and your doing sod all to protect the place or enforce the restrictions so dont hold much hope of an improvement , Its going to be another committee sat around a table with tea and biscuits for the next 10 years trying to look important |
| | Officer Response | The plan highlights the need to act quickly on a number of major threats to the AONB including the Nature Crisis and Climate Change, and has these at its heart. The DMP also highlights the need to tackle many of the issues highlighted in this comment and aims to address many including employment within the tourism sector, and an increase in training and skills and an increase in year round well paid employment. Community well being is a key part of the AONB management plan. |
| | Suggested Modifications | None |

Q6 & Q7 – Key Drivers for Change



Observations

A high percentage of Neither Agree nor Disagree gives concern that the wide remit of the AONB is not fully understood by the public. Q7 asks that the Key Drivers for change are ranked in terms of risk and results show that 74% of respondents believe the Nature Crisis and Climate Change are the highest risk factors with impacts on Community and Economy very low. This potentially highlights that the public primarily think of the AONB as a Nature designation akin to a SAC, or it simply means that these two issues are the most critical threats which need addressing.

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| 4 | Comment | Looks like at last you are taking visitors and attractions in to consideration |
| | Officer Response | The AONB Plan considers public enjoyment and sustainable economic development as fundamental aspects. It also works in conjunction with the DMP. |
| | Modifications | None |
| 5 | Comment | Unwillingness of Cyngor Môn to keep Penrhos Nature park as it is and to stop Land and Lakes from redeveloping the site. |
| | Officer Response | The Land and Lakes planning application for Penrhos followed the due planning process. The AONB is a landscape designation and balances to needs of landscape and seascape, nature, communities, and economic development. |

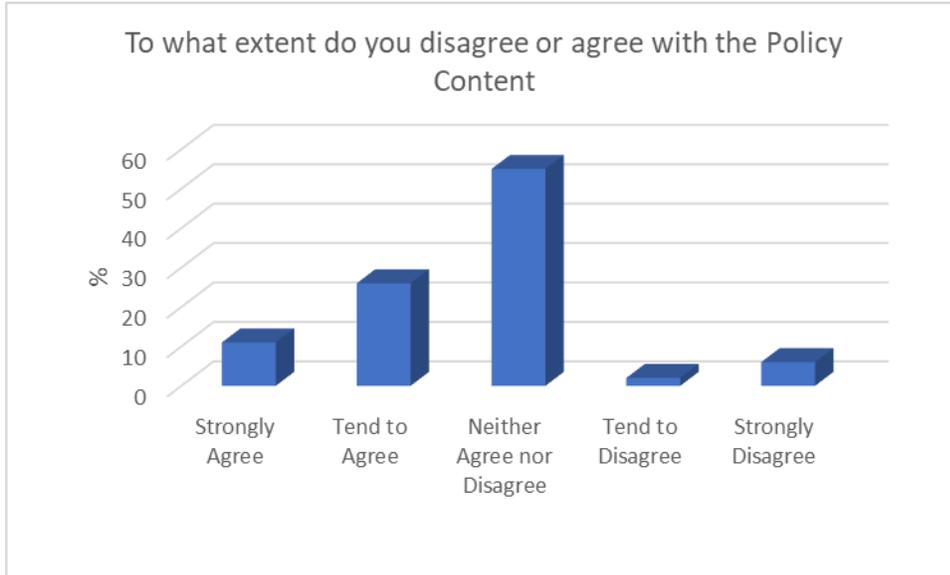
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| | Modifications | None |
| 6 | Comment | I have put 'Climate change' and 'Restoring nature and biodiversity' in equal first place - they both go hand in hand. Part of the answer in terms of reducing the extreme effects of climate change is to restore nature and biodiversity. I have to put 'Rights and leisure' and 'Communities and the coastal and countryside economy' in equal second place as well, as they also go hand in hand. It is very important that communities feel the need to restore our natural habitat, by including the island's residents in this essential work. |
| | Officer Response | The opportunities for community involvement and education as to importance of tackling Nature Crisis and Climate change should be noted more strongly. |
| | Modifications | Include additional action on developing educational portfolio in conjunction with Education Department. |
| 7 | Comment | Strongly believe protecting nature should be priority, for long term benefits to locals and visitors and minimising carbon output. |
| | Officer Response | Both are key themes within the plan, and the consultation indicates that both should be a priority for future actions. |
| | Modifications | None for Plan – need to consider ambitious targets for Action Plan. |
| 8 | Comment | <p>Have seen a big increase in visitors to the island since the pandemic and the need to accommodate more people who visit occasionally in caravans or camping (as opposed to second home owners), especially in terms of infrastructure, toilets, parking, etc is absolutely essential.</p> <p>Living in the North of the Island, I feel tourism and local people alike would benefit from safe off-road cycling and walking eg - turning the old Llangefni to Amlwch railway into a multi-use path. This would be a VERY worthwhile project.</p> <p>Although not born in Anglesey, my connection to the Island goes back to the 1970's and I have lived here now for over 20 years- the longest I have lived anywhere in my life. I will probably always consider myself a Welsh learner, not a Welsh speaker, but I</p> |

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| | | am passionate about protection of the Welsh language and culture. This is very much at the heart of the new plan and I am very glad about that. |
| | Officer Response | We are always looking for opportunities to work with other council departments and partners to improve access to the AONB and Anglesey's countryside. This is pivotal to achieving our goals for well being as well as appreciation for the value of nature to the lives of locals and visitors. Heartened to receive the comment about Welsh language. |
| | Modifications | None |
| 9 | Comment | Strongly believe protecting nature should be priority, for long term benefits to locals and visitors and minimising carbon output. |
| | Officer Response | Noted and will help guide action plan and targets. |
| | Modification | None |
| 10 | Comment | Have seen a big increase in visitors to the island since the pandemic and the need to accommodate more people who visit occasionally in caravans or camping (as opposed to second home owners), especially in terms of infrastructure, toilets, parking, etc is absolutely essential. |
| | Officer Response | Visitor Infrastructure is a key building block upon which we can build a robust and sustainable offer focused on the unique qualities of Anglesey. |
| | Modification | None (DMP Covers) |
| 11 | Comment | They're woolly, duplicative and ill-defined. Consequently hard to manage, monitor and report on "successes" or "failures". Perhaps that's the objective... |
| | Officer response | The Key Drivers for Change have influenced the Key Themes and the Actions. These are measurable in terms of delivering change |
| | Modification | None |
| 12 | Comment | In these days of "mental well being" being at one with nature is the best there is, to walk amongst trees, see wild life and just contemplate things is the best feeling ever. Trees are also the lungs of the |

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| | | <p>world and help so much with our atmosphere/air and a God send for climate change, to see a tree in full bloom is magnificent and lifts the spirit. Having easy access to these simple pleasures are a must and the more people come the more they spend which in turn boosts the local economies.</p> |
| | Officer Response | <p>We see the benefits of landscape and nature as being crucial to the health and well being of residents and visitors alike as being a fundamental part of both the AONB and DMP actions.</p> |
| | Modification | <p>None but definitely needs strong presence in action plan.</p> |
| 13 | Comment | <p>I like the emphasis on biodiversity conservation, through habitat and species conservation.</p> <p>Your understanding of recreation is missing a huge factor - sea kayaking. Anglesey is one of the premier sea kayaking destinations in the World, due to it producing some of the best sea kayaks and having some of the best training locations. We frequently have visitors from North America and Europe (particularly Scandinavia), who come specifically to sea kayak.</p> <p>Anglesey factories produce in excess of 3,000 sea kayaks per year. My sea kayak coaching/guiding business turns over £110,000 per year and brings 600+ kayaking visitors to the island. There are many more sea kayak coaching businesses.</p> |
| | Officer Comment | <p>Sea kayaking is certainly one of the best ways of appreciating the coast of Anglesey, and the draw of Anglesey to those involved in this activity is undeniable.</p> <p>This form of recreation when undertaken in a sensitive manner fits with the AONB goals. The local manufacturing of highly</p> |

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| | | regarded sea kayaks is also in line with our efforts to support local industries. |
| | Modification | Add reference to sea kayaking in Recreation section |

Q8 – Policy



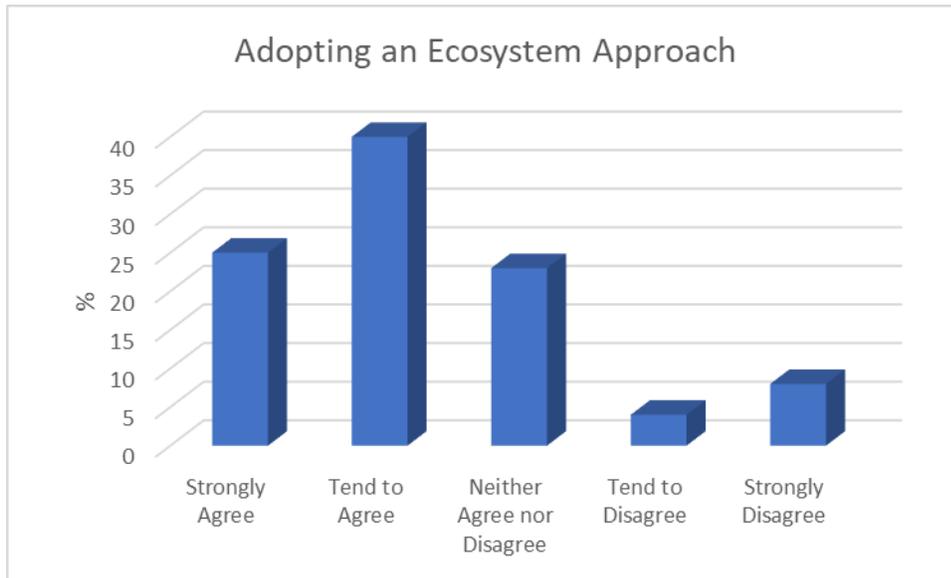
Observations

This section is rather ‘heavy’ for the general public and the result seen above is not unexpected. Policy is referenced as it is within the guiding principles of the requirements of the plan as set out by NRW.

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| 14 | Comment | Seems like these are statutory strategic / policy items that have to be considered / complied with. |
| | Officer Response | Noted |
| | Modification | None |
| 15 | Comment | It seems irrelevant whether I agree or disagree with the Policy context, because it is what it is and you have defined it as such. However, on the whole, the content of this section would seem to make sense. I would say that the legislative context does make for uncomfortable reading in the light of the proposed development at Penrhos, Holyhead. Despite the fact that outline planning permission was granted, I cannot see how the Land and Lakes Proposal can be anything other than unlawful in the current (never mind future) policy context and I hope that IoACC will reconsider it as soon as possible. The development can no longer be seen as 'in the National Interest' (if it ever was). |

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| | Officer Response | The Land and Lakes planning application for Penrhos followed the due planning process. The AONB is a landscape designation and balances to needs of landscape and seascape, nature, communities, and economic development. |
| | Modification | None |
| 16 | Comment | I prefer to see what "Plans" you have for the area before passing any judgement. |
| | Officer Response | The 5 key Themes section illustrates the actions we intend undertaking during the period of the plan. An annually updated action plan will be undertaken to complement these. |
| | Modification | None |
| 17 | Comment | As usual, you ask ridiculous questions. I don't have the time to read all that and trust the compilers of the document gave done their homework. Are you trying to put stakeholders off filling in this questionnaire? |
| | Officer Response | How the plan fits into international, national and local policy forms part of the requirements as a statutory document. We appreciate that this results in a rather heavy section. |
| | Modifications | None – to reduce content would serve little purpose. |

Q9 – Ecosystem approach



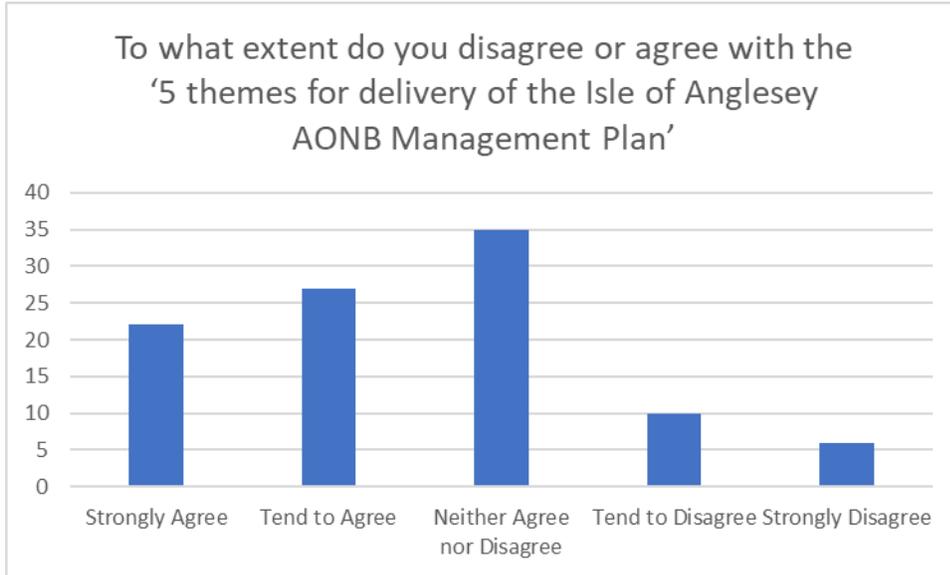
Observations

It is clear that respondents in the main understand the concept of an Ecosystem Approach as a consequence of either prior knowledge of the text within the plan. It is also clear that they feel such an approach is appropriate.

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| 18 | Comment | Although this plan is focused on the AONB, it is important to consider its impact on the wider area. I do not live inside the AONB, but am approx 3 miles inland - in a very rural and beautiful place, with dark skies and abundant wildlife, but with a 'sheep-grazed tree-less wilderness' around us. We are planting trees and trying to re-wild some of our 5 acres of land, trying to become self-sufficient and manage the land for biodiversity as best we can, without farming subsidies or grants. The issues that apply to the AONB would surely apply to other parts of the island so to consider it in isolation would be irresponsible, in my opinion. |
| | Officer Response | To work on a landscape scale you cannot use the boundary of the AONB as the determining factor as to appropriate management. Rivers are a good example where the impacts of nutrification happen inland and impact habitats within the AONB. We note the comment, but already work beyond the boundary. |
| | Modification | Will include reference to working beyond the boundary. |

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| 19 | Comment | It's super hard to read that grid and understand what is being put forward. As a "grower" I would like to point out that it's not just "farmers" who produce food...I would never consider myself a farmer, but I produce lots of good food, as do many of the other growers on anglesey. |
| | Officer Response | Will look to find a graphical illustration to simplify augment the grid. |
| | Modification | Include graphical illustration if one is available. |
| 20 | Comment | I think what is in place is working |
| | Officer Response | Working to an Ecosystem approach and educating other departments and partners will only make further improvements. |
| | Modification | None |

Q10 – Key Themes



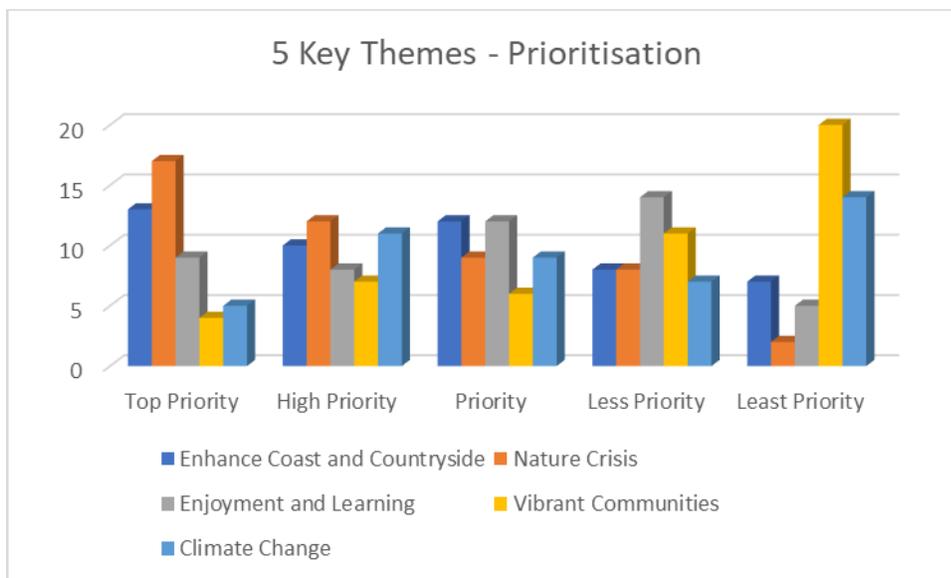
Observations

48% of the responses give a positive response to the 5 key themes being prioritised over the plans lifespan. These key themes fit with both the AONB purpose and link directly to other local and national policy. It is again postulated that the broadness of the AONB’s remit is not fully understood.

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| 21 | Comment | <p>- I find it hard to separate out the 'tackling nature decline' and 'climate change' goals, but I accept that they do have slightly different focus.</p> <p>It would be good to see the Council committing to employing people to ACTIVELY promote wildlife and nature conservation, not simply 'working with partners' and in particular not just volunteer groups or charities to do this work. The council might lead by example in creation of more jobs in this regard. There is huge scope for creation of paid employment here for local people with lots of local knowledge and experience.</p> <p>I would also like to see a commitment to enforcing, not just 'working with partners' to tackle invasive species, including the invasive species that exist in Penrhos at present. In that regard, I see no evidence that Land and Lakes have managed, never mind, 'tackled' the invasive species - rhododendron in particular, but there are several other species mentioned in their extensive environmental survey which was carried out for the planning application. It might be seen as though they appear to be waiting for the full</p> |
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| | | <p>go-ahead of their planning permission before they start any work whatsoever - even that which could be considered essential maintenance for the benefit of nature.</p> <p>Anglesey is very heavily infested with ragwort, too, which has always shocked me in the 20 years I have lived here. Some form of island-wide campaign to tackle ragwort would be of benefit. I appreciate that it is necessary to allow some to grow for cinnabar moths and other forms of insects - indeed we get it growing on our land and it seems impossible to eradicate without spraying - but it is particularly abundant in this county and it seems to grow out of control year on year.</p> |
| | Officer Response | Where failure to properly deal with INNS is evident or when cross compliance breaches are evident we will always inform the relevant body or department who have enforcement powers. |
| | Modification | None but noted. |
| 22 | Comment | It is super hard to get to grips with what is actually being proposed. This document should have been summarised succinctly for the consultation |
| | Officer Response | It is our intension to deliver a shortened version of the plan in due course. |
| | Modification | None but noted. |
| 23 | Comment | The AONB is mainly located along the coastline. Some parts of the AONB have already been destroyed by injudicious locating of caravans. Caravan sites are still being developed, without planning permission, within the AONB. I believe planning policy forbids such development but it is still going ahead. I would welcome a stronger reaction to any such developments. |
| | Officer Response | The AONB designation is taken into consideration in the planning process. Caravan parks for which no planning has been given should be tackled by planning enforcement. |
| | Modification | None but noted |

Q11 – Prioritisation of Key Themes



Observations

It is very interesting to see that clearly respondents identify two key themes as being of paramount importance. These being Enhancing Coast and Countryside and tackling the Nature Crisis. The sample size is very small, but it gives again an insight into that either the remit of the AONB is not fully understood, or that they simply are in peoples minds of priority.

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| 24 | Comment | <p>These issues are all so interlinked it was hard to rank in order of importance, but for me personally, tackling the nature crisis and climate change are top because without these, there is no point in any of the others. These must be prioritised, no matter the financial cost.</p> <p>If it was necessary to balance the needs of the natural environment with that of human 'enjoyment' then I would not object to limiting (and 'policing') visitor numbers to certain areas, eg the Tern colony at Cemlyn. I would not mind. I feel that as humans, we do not have a 'right' to enjoyment of the area, although I recognise the need to balance this with the benefit of tourist income.</p> <p>Since I live here, in a rural part of the island where neighbours are few and far between - I</p> |
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| | | feel there is a lack of community at times and it is necessary to actively seek out groups and connections, which involve driving to a town. It is possible to feel very isolated, especially since Covid (although ironically it probably felt that there was MORE community then, as people walked past the house and said hello, checked on neighbours, etc - there was a sense that we were all in it together) and so I feel 'vibrant communities' in a working landscape is also very important. |
| | Officer Response | The value of the AONB and its ability to connect people should not be underestimated in terms of rural isolation. Our action plan clearly sets out the priorities in terms of alignment with community well being goals |
| | Modification | None. |
| 25 | Comment | I feel strongly that the status quo on the island is "local shop for local people" thinking, and the management plan is not addressing this problem. The local economy - and the local culture - has to adapt to the new reality, that there is no industry on the island and arguably, no place for industry other than tourism. |
| | Officer Response | Response Noted |
| | Modification | None |
| 26 | Comment | The climate emergency is the most important and urgent issue. It is increasingly becoming a potential extinction level event and authorities have a responsibility to the environment |
| | Officer Response | The climate emergency transcends all local policy and addressing the challenge forms a significant part in our action planning. |
| | Modification | None |
| 27 | Comment | As a teacher, these areas are extremely important as a resource, but we also have to protect these areas as the climate is changing. If the Council cuts down old forests, planting new trees will not have the |

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| | | same effect. By looking after the areas, the Council is sending a strong message to others that our parks and areas are vital in a world of climate change. |
| | Officer Response | The plan has a clear aim of addressing these issues, and the action plan highlights the need for a multi organizational/landowner response to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The corporate plan echoes this challenge. |
| | Modification | None – but noted |

Q12 – Governance and Management



Observations

The survey suggests a significant level of apathy towards the governance and management, but likely as a consequence of limited knowledge, or disenchantment as a consequence of Penrhos or other issues which people perceive as a failure to protect the AONB.

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| 28 | Comment | More needs to be done. Areas need to be protected and managed rather than hoping that the community will do it for you. People have to be inspired to plant trees and to look after the areas. Not 'pass the buck' to the community. |
| | Officer Response | Communities play an important role and need to have a sense of ownership of the AONB, and feel able to directly contribute to actions for improvement. But this needs to be backed up by a strong commitment to deliver the positive change needed to tackle major challenges. The staff structure is currently comparatively strong, and through a more holistically thinking mindset within the LA, support can be gained by other departments. |
| | Modification | Add text related to this issue. |
| 29 | Comment | On Anglesey councils past record where they have destroyed vast swathes of our countryside to accommodate large caravan parks that look like POW camps (just look at Google earth along the east coast of the island its a huge blot on the |

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| | | landscape) I hold out very little hope for the future under their management |
| | Officer Response | The AONB should not be a blocker for appropriate development, but through ensuring a better understanding of its importance development should be more appropriate and mitigation measures stronger. Where proposals are deemed inappropriate, the existing planning system should act to protect the important assets of Anglesey. |
| | Modification | None but noted |
| 30 | Comment | There is nothing inherently good about staff "retention"; nor about making temporary positions permanent. The best staff for the job should be the staff doing the job. If they're not good, they should go. New ideas and input are generally a good thing. YMCC has a tendency to be a rather stagnant environment (speaking from experience). It might be more beneficial to seek more external inputs and evaluations from a diverse range of contractors rather than continuing to stagnate. |
| | Officer Response | Noted |
| | Modification | None |
| 31 | Comment | This section is quite vague. I feel confused by the term 'interpret and promote the AONB' - I am not sure what 'interpret' means in this context, however in principle it seems to be a good set of objectives. I wonder if 'stakeholders and partners' might also include health and wellbeing-related organisations (including the NHS) and whether better links to the NHS might be created, including collaborations with the NHS Forest and other initiatives that exist to promote the benefits to health. |
| | Officer Response | Communication Plan needed – reference to this needed in this section. |
| | Modification | Add text |
| 32 | Comment | The failure of the county council and the Welsh Government to ensure the future of Parc |

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| | | Penrhos as a vital place for the local community is painful. |
| | Officer Response | The Land and Lakes planning application for Penrhos followed the due planning process. The AONB is a landscape designation and balances to needs of landscape and seascape, nature, communities, and economic development. |
| | Modification | None |
| 33 | Comment | I strongly disagree because Anglesey Council are not managing the governance of Penrhos they are pandering to land and lakes and haven't even met with any of the campaigners so they can show Anglesey Council that land and lakes have lied when they say they have began working in Penrhos they have accepted photographic evidence despite counsellors saying they were willing to visit the site and see for themselves and despite the fact in the interest of transparency that the planning committee have not seen those photos the legal team strongly deny that work has begun as have the locals and some councillors so please visit this site and check this out and produce the photos for all the planning committee to see for themselves please start to Govern this disaster |
| | Officer Response | The Land and Lakes planning application for Penrhos followed the due planning process. The AONB is a landscape designation and balances to needs of landscape and seascape, nature, communities, and economic development. |
| | Modification | None |

Q13 – Action Plan



Observations

The actions as set out in the plan are predominantly accepted although nearly 50% of the respondents had no strong opinion.

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| 34 | Comment | Great ideas, action needed to implement |
| | Officer Response | It is imperative that we deliver the actions, and equally importantly pass on the stories of our work to the communities and visitors who will gain from them, understand the area better, and raise the profile of the AONB. |
| | Modification | Include information on comms plan |
| 35 | Comment | All are good words but need to be acted upon. I refer again to destruction on woodland habitat at Penrhos to the detriment of nature and the community. Daytime access for at most a couple of hours by locals and visitors has far less damaging impact on nature than over 1000 people living there 24/7. There is a mention of tranquility yet the Trac is allowed to exist in an AONB. I appreciate it has been there for some years but the number of events has increased dramatically causing significant traffic issues locally and constant noise particularly when there are motorbike events, This adversely affects the enjoyment of the tranquility by residents and visitors. As an 'Energy island' can't |

| | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| | | council insist they move to use non-fossil fuel, quiet technology for racing, not least given climate change?! |
| | Officer Response | The Land and Lakes planning application for Penrhos followed the due planning process. The AONB is a landscape designation and balances to needs of landscape and seascape, nature, communities, and economic development. It is important that individuals, and all sectors including the private sector collectively seek solutions to the impact of climate change. This is a common thread both in the AONB Plan and the DMP. |
| | Modification | None – felt we have this covered already |
| 36 | Comment | I'd love you to do everything you have said but I think this is just a box ticking exercise |
| | Officer Response | It is imperative that we deliver the actions, and equally importantly pass on the stories of our work to the communities and visitors who will gain from them, understand the area better, and raise the profile of the AONB. |
| | Modification | Include information on comms plan |
| 37 | Comment | Theme 1 - inappropriate development ! Penrhos (This is starting to feel like a joke) how can you propose this document, when you don't follow its content CC 1.4 Well-being of future generations act Objective 3 - development! CCC 3.3 - implement it now |
| | Officer Response | The Land and Lakes planning application for Penrhos followed the due planning process. The AONB is a landscape designation and balances to needs of landscape and seascape, nature, communities, and economic development. |
| | Modification | None |
| 38 | Comment | As I said earlier, I feel some actions need to be bolder. |

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| | Officer Response | It is important that in a time where action is needed to combat many of the challenges that we are seen to lead from the front. This will require a collective response from partners and communities. The plan and associated action plan is a working document and we will look to being as ambitious as is possible moving forward. |
| | Modification | None – will be taken into consideration when delivering action plan. |

Ynys Môn

THE ISLE OF

Anglesey

DRAFT

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan

2023-2028



www.ynysmon.gov.uk

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Section 1

Introducing the AONB



Introduction to the AONB

The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) encompasses large parts of Anglesey's dramatic coastline. It includes most of the island's cliffs and beaches, and much of the farmland and forests that form the backdrop to the island's coast. Anglesey maintains its status as a popular holiday destination for its expansive beaches and hidden coves. But it is also, crucially, a working landscape of farms and villages, with a varied and thriving rural and coastal economy.

- Anglesey AONB has one of the most distinctive, attractive and varied landscapes in the British Isles. It was designated as an AONB in 1966 to protect the aesthetic appeal and variety of the island's coastal landscape and habitats from inappropriate development. In the nineteenth report of the National Parks Commission and the first report of the Countryside Commission published in 1968 the Anglesey AONB has the following description:
- The areas designated in Anglesey are approximately 83 square miles in extent and lie along the coast of the island with breaks around the urban areas and in the vicinity of Wylfa. The coastline of Anglesey, many stretches of which are isolated, contributes much to the island's appeal. Rugged cliffs, sandy bays, marshes, dunes, the sheltered shores of Menai Strait and the windswept slopes of Holyhead and Bodafon mountains give great variety of scene.
- The AONB is predominantly a coastal designation, covering most of Anglesey's 201 kilometre coastline. It includes Holyhead Mountain and Mynydd Bodafon, along with substantial areas of land which form the essential backdrop to the coast. The total coverage of the AONB is approximately 221sq kms (22,100 hectares).a

About this Management Plan



Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were established by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949). They are special landscapes that have protection through the planning system to help conserve their natural beauty. Subsequent legislation – the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 – required all local authorities which administer AONBs to prepare and publish management plans for their area, and to review these plans every 5 years.

An AONB Management Plan's purpose is to evaluate and determine the special qualities of the AONB, and identifies what actions are required to make sure these qualities are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

The original Isle of Anglesey AONB management plan, from 2004, was prepared with the participation of all the AONB partners, local landowners and the community. Subsequent reviews, including this one, have updated critical information and assessed the relevance of objectives, policies and actions crucial to managing the AONB effectively and sustainably.

This management plan is for everyone who is interested in the protection and management of the Anglesey AONB. It is a plan for the landscape and seascape of the AONB, for the businesses and communities within its area, for the visitors who enjoy its views, dark skies and its tranquillity, and for everyone in the whole of the island who values its special qualities.

Key Features of the AONB

Features of the Anglesey AONB which define its designation status

- Coastal landscape / seascape features
- Traditional agricultural landscape features
- Geological and geomorphological features

The special qualities of the Anglesey AONB which define its designation status

- Expansive views / seascapes
- Peace and tranquillity
- Islands around Anglesey
- Broadleaved woodlands
- Lowland coastal heath
- Species-rich roadside verges
- Ecologically important coastal and wetland habitats (including rocky shores, mudflats and estuaries, saltmarshes, beaches and dunes)
- Built environment including conservation areas and listed buildings
- Archaeology and ancient monuments / historic landscapes, parks and gardens
- Rural agricultural / coastal communities
- Welsh language
- Soil, air and water quality
- Public rights of way network
- Accessible land and water

About the AONB

Designations

The AONB contains many habitats which have statutory protection because of their nature conservation value. These designations include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- North Anglesey Marine SAC
- Marine Character Areas (MCA)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- A National Nature Reserve (Newborough Warren NNR)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
- Regionally Important Geological sites (RIGs)

Three sections of open, undeveloped coastline have also been designated as Heritage Coasts:

- North Anglesey
- Holyhead Mountain
- Aberffraw Bay

Key Facts

| | |
|--|--|
| Size | 221 sq kms |
| Population | ONS 2021 census data to be 'cut' for AONB boundary |
| Date of Designation | 20 December 1966 |
| Date of Confirmation | 13 November 1967 |
| SACs | 5 |
| SPAs | 3 |
| NNRs | 1 |
| SSSIs | 32 |
| LNRs | 3 |
| Unesco Geopark | 1 |
| World Heritage Site | 1 |
| Scheduled Ancient Monuments | 75 |
| Outstanding Historic Landscapes | 2 |
| Historic Parks and Gardens | 7 |
| Conservation Areas | 4 |
| Grade I Listed Buildings | 32 |
| Grade II* Listed Buildings | 42 |
| Grade II Listed Buildings | 491 |
| Heritage Coast | 50 kms |
| Public Rights of Way | 370 kms & 120kms permissive coastal path |
| Common Land | 504 hectares |

Vision

The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is recognised as a local and national asset, critical to Anglesey's economy, environment, culture and the well-being of its communities and those who visit. There is an increased connection to the special qualities, and these are conserved, enhanced, appreciated, understood and able to be at the heart of the community, and a visitor industry which is both environmentally responsible and economically sustainable. The continuation and reinforcement of customs and traditions, and use of the Welsh language has added to the unique identity and sense of place. Anglesey's AONB has been able to redress the decline in biodiversity, and is managed in a way that adapts to, and mitigates against the impacts of climate change to protect its natural beauty whilst supporting the needs of local communities and rural businesses.



5 Key Themes for the 2023-28 Management Plan

The Management Plan highlights the need to address 5 key themes which will enable our vision to be realized.

These are :

- **Enhancing countryside and coastal character**
- **Tackling the Nature Crisis**
- **The AONB as a Place for Enjoyment, Learning and Wellbeing**
- **Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape**
- **Managing the AONB in a changing climate**

The mechanism for delivery of these themes is highlighted in Section 3

Key Feature – Landscape

- The landscape of the AONB reflects the varied underlying geology and is a diverse mixture of marine and terrestrial habitats, including rugged cliffs, heathland, sand dunes, salt marshes and mud flats. The island contains some of the oldest rocks in Britain south of the Scottish Highlands as a whole. These are clearly illustrated in the topography of the island, which falls from the north east to the south west.
- The Holyhead Mountain, the cliffs of North and South Stack and rocky coves are the dominant features of the island's ancient Precambrian and Cambrian northern coastline. The east coast is characterised by vertical limestone cliffs and sandy beaches, while the west coast is less rugged and consists of stretches of sand dunes and beaches between rocky headlands. The Menai Strait can be considered in two parts, eastern and western. The eastern section from Beaumaris to Menai Bridge is well wooded with relatively large settlements.
- The character of the landscape has been influenced by centuries of farming, and by traditional industries such as quarrying. Agriculture is the main land use in the AONB, and stone walls, cloddiau, hedgerows and field patterns are an integral part of the landscape. There are also areas of heathland, semi natural woodland, intertidal wetlands and lakes.
- A number of the Estates located in the AONB maintain significant areas of broadleaved woodlands. These include Baron Hill, Bodior, Bodorgan, Dulas, Penrhos and Plas Newydd. The AONB also includes two extensive conifer plantations at Newborough and Pentraeth.
- The island shows a rich cultural history with evidence of man's actions extending over some 8000 years. There are over 200 Scheduled Ancient Monuments ranging from Bronze Age burial chambers to later medieval features. More recent landscape features include the planned landscapes of large estates, such as Plas Newydd. The UNESCO world heritage site of Beaumaris Castle is also located within the designated area.
- A detailed description of the Anglesey coastal landscape is contained in the National Landscape Character Assessment NLCA01 Anglesey Coast.



Key Feature - Seascape

- Seascapes are a highly valued part of the Welsh scenery. They can also be some of our last 'wild' landscape areas and support a wealth of natural heritage. Seascapes can loosely be defined as "An area of sea, coastline and land as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land and sea, by natural and/or human factors" (CCW 2010).
- This definition clearly implies that seascapes relate to more than just the view as it also embraces the ecological and cultural resources in the marine and coastal environment. Coastal protected landscapes are clearly key components of nationally important seascapes.
- Around the Anglesey AONB there is a great diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine environments. These stem from the varied geology, geomorphology and coastal processes within the area, and also from thousands of years of human activity on land and sea. Combinations of natural and cultural processes continue to shape the evolution of the area's seascapes.
- The Anglesey seascape also has high commercial significance. Most of Anglesey's tourism and recreation is based on the coast where there are also other commercial interests such as ports and fishing. Any changes in coastal commercial infrastructure may affect both the character of the seascape and the commercial interests of recreation.
- A detailed description of the Anglesey seascape is contained in the 2013 Isle of Anglesey Seascape Assessment www.anglesey.gov.uk/aonb



Key Feature – Recreation and Tourism

- Anglesey is the county most reliant in the UK on this industry, generating upwards of £360m per annum in the local economy, and directly supporting ~3,698 jobs.
- The main visitor draws are the opportunities for active recreation such as walking, and traditional beach activities.
- The 125 mile Coast Path remains one of the most popular sections of the Wales Coast Path, and offers locals and visitors alike a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the special qualities of the AONB.
- Other than walking, the most popular forms of recreation include family visits to the beach, sailing, angling from the shore or boats, cycling, wind surfing, motorised leisure boating, personal water craft use (jet skis), diving, bird watching, horse riding, wild swimming and climbing.
- Water based activities including kayaking and paddle boarding are increasingly popular, with Anglesey's sea kayaking opportunities being particularly well regarded. (13)
- These all place pressures and demands on the AONB. At the same time, the AONB's popularity for such activities provides a significant and positive contribution to the local economy, and a vehicle to bring about greater understanding of the unique qualities of the AONB.



Key Feature - Communities

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 census data has recorded the population size on the Isle of Anglesey decreasing by 1.2%, from around 69,800 in 2011 to 68,900 in 2021. It is estimated that over a quarter of the island's population live within Anglesey's AONB (Data being sought and 'cut' to the AONB boundary and included within the State of the AONB Report (2022).
- Sizeable settlements within the AONB include Beaumaris, Valley, Newborough and Moelfre. Areas of large-scale development, in particular Holyhead, Amlwch, Benllech, Menai Bridge, Wylfa and RAF Valley are not included in the designation.
- Employment within the AONB is mainly based upon tourism and agriculture. Anglesey is a popular area for recreation for the people of North Wales and from the North West of England. The majority are attracted to the island by the quality and number of sandy beaches and the beauty of the coastal landscape.
- Anglesey is a stronghold of the Welsh language, which is spoken by approximately 60% of its residents. There has been an overall increase of residents with full Welsh language skills since the 2001 census. The Welsh language is the strongest of the Celtic languages in the British Isles.



Key Feature - Economic Development

Employment within the Anglesey AONB is principally in agricultural business and businesses and activities linked to the tourism and hospitality sector – the latter driven by the quality and number of sandy beaches, the beauty of the coastal landscape, natural and heritage assets along the coast and the accessibility to them provided by the Anglesey / Wales Coastal Path

No major industrial development is situated within the AONB – the boundaries having been drawn in order to, for example, exclude the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and the fast fighter-jet training base at RAF Valley. This is not to say, however, that their operation and possible future development will not potentially affect views into and out of the AONB and the quality and experience of those living in and visiting the designated area.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council has, for several years, prioritised energy generation, and in particular ‘green’, low carbon energy, as a key economic driver – this, in the form of the Anglesey Energy Island Programme, remains a key corporate strategic priority for the Council.

Off-shore renewable energy also remains high on the agenda with the recent consenting of Menter Mon’s Morlais development, activities of the private sector in this respect such as that of Minesto’s world first low-flow tidal stream project off Holyhead Deeps, aspirations to develop centres for manufacturing and servicing for future new rounds of off-shore wind in the Irish Sea as well as a Hydrogen Hub development in Holyhead.



- **Section 2**
- **Key Drivers for Change**

Key Drivers for Change

Policy Context

Much has changed in terms of International, National and Local Policy since the last management plan was published.

Refer to Annex 1 for Policy Context

Key Drivers for Change Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

- The AONB contains many habitats that have statutory protection because of their nature conservation value. These designations include: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Special Protection Areas (SPAs); a National Nature Reserve (NNR); Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs); Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).
- The area supports a wealth of habitats and wildlife. Habitats of note include: lowland heath, sea cliffs, sand dunes, and rocky shores. Flora of note include: the spotted rock rose (Anglesey's County flower; the largest colonies in the UK lie on Anglesey's Holy Island), South Stack fleawort (found only on the cliffs of Holy Island) and shore dock (which is at its northern limit). Fauna of note include: chough, curlew, lapwing, grey seals, harbour porpoises, water vole, red squirrels, great crested newt, silver studded blue butterflies and other invertebrate species. There are risks from invasive species, pests and diseases spreading within the AONB, such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, and some of the aquatic invasive species.
- NRW's. The State of the Natural Resources Report 2020 is an assessment of the extent to which Wales is achieving the sustainable management of natural resources. The report concludes that Wales is not maintaining stocks of natural resources and predicts that iconic species like curlews will become extinct in Wales within a couple of decades.
- The resilience of ecosystems is declining in line, with global trends. The Welsh well-being goal of securing 'A resilient Wales' is about building healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change). To secure this resilience, there is a need to focus on building healthy, regenerating systems, and for farming systems to become more sustainable both in terms of farm economics and in becoming more nature friendly.



Key Drivers for Change

Access, Recreation and Well Being

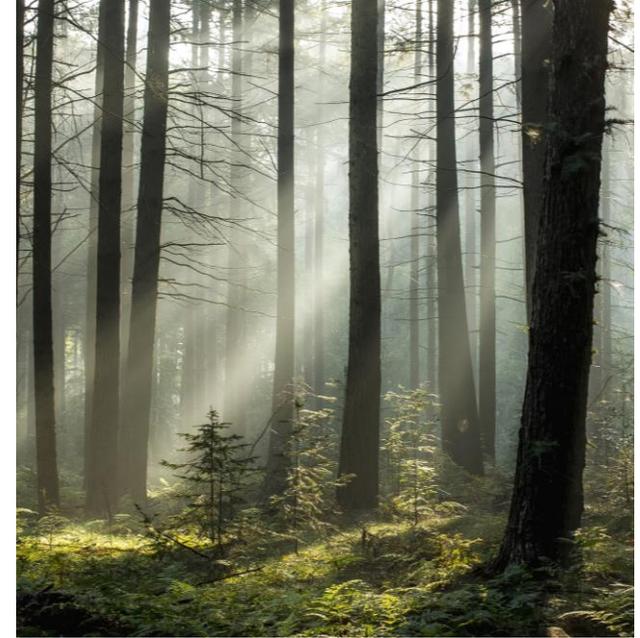
- **Tourism** is the main industry on Anglesey generating over £360 million annually, employing over 4,000 people and welcoming over 1.7 million visitors. Challenges include the impact of post covid on visitor behaviors and associated pressures on the AONB, the introduction of a tourism levy, and promoting / implementing sustainable tourism. Initiatives to enhance the natural environment can create new green jobs, secure local food and water supplies, and support public health.
- **Recreational use**, particularly in the period immediately post-Covid 19, has grown considerably (with greater numbers of people deciding to 'stay-cation' and undertake day-visit more locally in order to reduce the need to travel), thus increasing pressure upon biodiversity, ecosystems and heritage assets
- **Campervan, caravan and camping sites.** and the need for such, grows as a consequence of the above – with growing issues around 'anti-social' uses and problem campervan parking and camping in areas and communities with no formal services or provision to accommodate these.
- **Traffic congestion** is becoming and increasing issue as more and more visitors seek to access and use coast and countryside – again resulting in 'anti-social' parking, congestion in small communities within the AONB and standing traffic queuing to reach some of the better known hot-spots such as Llanddwyn Beach
- Whilst the promotion of recreation is not a statutory purpose of the AONB designation, managing the impacts of these recreational activities will become increasingly important to conserve and enhance the outstanding landscape features and special qualities of the AONB. Social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being align closely to the recreational activities carried out on the island. Accessible routes, parks, gardens, beaches, sea fronts and the wider countryside can all play an important role for the people in supporting health and wellbeing. There should be equitable access to green and blue spaces for people of all ages and abilities.



Key Drivers for Change

Climate Change

- Climate change is now a defining issue. Isle of Anglesey County Council declared a climate emergency in September 2020, making a commitment to become a carbon neutral council by 2030. Consequently, the council have agreed a 'Towards Net Zero Plan 2022 to 2025' which outlines its commitment to the climate emergency and how it intends to transform to become a net zero organisation.
- From an Anglesey AONB perspective, climate change impacts are likely to be wide-ranging: higher temperatures, higher rainfall, and rising sea levels resulting in an increase in storm events and a higher risk of flooding affecting habitats, species and vulnerable communities and infrastructure along the coastline. There will be a loss of agricultural land / crops, soil erosion, bio-diversity losses [and gains], loss of native species, threat of bio-security due to increased pests and diseases and damage to cultural and historic assets. Periods of drought will lead to greater demands for water resources, including an increase in competition between households, agriculture, industry and the natural environment.
- The Flood Risk Management Plan identifies the communities of Dwyran, Llangefni, Malltraeth and Y Fali /Valley as areas at risk of flooding from rivers; and the Communities at Risk Register identifies the area as at risk of flooding from the sea.
- There are opportunities to develop partnership working between people, communities and businesses to raise awareness, understanding and action with adaptation and mitigation measures. These will include adopting nature-based solutions and taking action to reduce the need to travel, making transport sustainable, providing opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy technologies, and by promoting low carbon design methods to reduce energy consumption.



Key Drivers for Change Development and Transport

Current land use development plan policies and possible changes to the landscape which the next land use development plan for Anglesey will need to face includes:

- Protection of open, undeveloped coastline
- Diversification of the rural economy giving rise to new demands on the resources of the AONB
- Protection of sites designated for their nature conservation importance
- Protection and restoration of connectivity between habitats
- Sustaining rural communities
- Promoting the use of the Welsh language
- The challenges of changing form of energy generation
- Promoting a high quality and diverse tourism product
- Changes induced by climate change
- Reducing light pollution

The local population relies on cars as a means of transport and there is a seasonal increase in traffic during the summer. This can lead to parking difficulties and congestion in the most popular areas of the AONB. In addition, infrastructure needs are changing; there is a need to plan for electric car charging points and alternative modes of travel to and around the area. This will require links to active travel plans.

Key Driver for Change

Rural and coastal economy and communities

There is uncertainty due to the post- Covid recovery, cost of living crisis and a slowing down of the economy. This impacts on increased poverty, health inequalities, lack of housing [general and affordable], potential reduction in employment and growth, climate change adaptation and mitigation requirements and an eroding of cohesive communities.

The visitor economy is fundamental to the sustainable economic position of Anglesey, and the Destination Management Plan highlights our commitment to further enhancing this. However, it has become increasingly evident over the past 3 years that unchecked tourism can adversely impact the lives of people and the unique qualities which make the island so synonymous and drive the vast majority of tourist activities.

The Destination Management Plan which aligns with this plan will redress this imbalance and ensure through a new multi organisational/interests group that the benefits of a vibrant and diverse offer is able to enhance the key qualities of language, culture, environment and heritage.

Following the exit of the UK from the European Union, the resulting legislative changes are likely to have significant implications on agricultural practice, the rural and coastal economy within and adjoining the AONB. Farming is fundamental to the rural community and its economy, and the current uncertainty in how new subsidy schemes will work is a cause for concern. However, the outline proposals set out in the Sustainable Farming Scheme could deliver significant environmental gains and farming systems which are less dependent on inputs and as such are more economically viable. There needs to be innovation within the rural economy and routes to employment for local people of all ages. This can be supported through the production of local sustainable goods and services and local procurement policies.

The Welsh language is an integral part of Welsh identity and central to its culture. The recent 2021 census found the number of Welsh speakers in the country had decreased by 1.2% since the previous 2011 census, from 19% to 17.8%. Despite the introduction of the Welsh Government's language strategy, the number of Welsh speakers in Wales has continued a downward trajectory begun in 2001.



Section 3

Delivering the Vision and 5 Key Themes

Adopting an Ecosystem Approach

The qualities of the AONB are deemed special for their own intrinsic value, but it is important also to consider the natural, cultural and social benefits they provide for society. These benefits are called 'ecosystem services'. They are the benefits people gain from the 'natural capital' of an area – the forests, farmland, rivers, lakes and coast of our landscape. These benefits may be:

- **Provisioning services** – such as food, timber and fuel
- **Regulating services** – such as clean water, air and fertile soils
- **Cultural services** – such as recreation, spiritual values and sense of place
- **Supporting services** – such as soil formation, the cycle of water and nutrients and the fixing of carbon

Understanding the value of both the natural capital of the AONB and the ecosystem services they provide allows us to more fully recognise the AONB's special qualities. It also allows us to understand the potential impacts, and the full costs, of damaging these qualities. It is the aim of this management plan to strive towards a better understanding of the natural capital of the AONB, to ensure management that sustains and enhances the range and quality of public benefits (the ecosystem services) that the Isle of Anglesey AONB provides.

A Full Breakdown of the Ecosystem Services provided by the AONB are referred to in Annex 2



5 Key Themes for the 2023-28 Management Plan

- **Enhancing countryside and coastal character**
- **Tackling the Nature Crisis**
- **The AONB as a Place for Enjoyment and Learning**
- **Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape**
- **Managing the AONB in a changing climate**

The next five pages will introduce these themes which will underpin the work of the Destination team, other departments and partners.

Please refer to Annex 3 for a full list of Objectives, Policies and Actions

A rolling yearly project planner will be developed to deliver the objectives of this plan and monitor progress.



Enhancing countryside and coastal character

Why is this important ?

The character of the AONB is one of its defining features and crucial to the identity of the island, its visitor economy and public enjoyment.

What are we going to do?

- The coastal landscape and seascape are actively conserved through appropriate management.
- Historic, archaeological and cultural sites are protected from development that degrades the special qualities of the AONB and interpreted to increase people's understanding of their value.
- Planning Policies protect the special qualities of the landscape, ensuring that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.
- Unspoilt panoramic views and tranquillity are safeguarded from development that would degrade the special qualities of the AONB.
- A model is agreed among partners and key stakeholders for applying an ecosystem approach to the management of the natural environment.

How are we going to do it?

- Undertake and maintain character assessments
- Ensure that developments take account of the importance of the landscape and seascape.
- Directly deliver and work with partners on habitat and landscape enhancement projects.
- Continue to assist in the delivery of the Dark Skies project through to designation.
- Undertake an ecosystem services provision assessment to guide delivery of projects.
- Ensure that traditional landscape features such as dry stone walls are maintained and enhanced.
- Historical, cultural and archaeological sites at threat from coastal change will be understood and recorded, and where possible protected.



Tackling the Nature Crisis

Why is this important ?

Anglesey has an abundance of important designated and non designated sites supporting rare flora and fauna. This is a key feature of the AONB. The habitats on Anglesey are under ever increasing pressure with a significant majority having a declining condition and becoming increasingly isolated. This theme addresses this issue.

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What are we going to do?

- The coast and countryside are managed sensitively to maintain the diversity of habitats and species in a favourable condition and to improve connectivity between sites.
- The quality of the soil, air and water – both freshwater and seawater – is regularly monitored to maintain standards that exceed UK and European standards.
- Both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites are managed for their biodiversity, aesthetic and amenity value.

How are we going to do it?

- We will work with partners to make the most of existing and future environmental and agricultural support schemes.
- We will work with partners to deliver action to tackle impacts of invasive species on land, aquatic, and marine habitats.
- We will develop a 'landscape scale habitat connectivity opportunity plan' in conjunction with partners, and seek implementation funds. **This will include land not within the AONB boundary.(18)**
- Work with partners on a catchment scale to improve water and soil quality and as a consequence land and marine habitats.
- Influence and work with partners and the agricultural sector to deliver a step change for nature within the AONB.



The AONB as a place for enjoyment and learning

Why is this important ?

Tourism is the largest economic contributor to the Island economy, and the special qualities held within the AONB remain the single largest draw for both locals and visitors. The landscape provides adventure, solitude and learning opportunities key to the well being of all.

What are we going to do?

- Partnerships are developed that secure sustainable recreation activities, supporting rural services and employment, and contributing to the local economy.
- Ensure the AONB continues to be a popular location for sustainable recreation with both residents and visitors, and the risk of damage to the AONB's special qualities and features is lessened.
- The access network is managed to a high standard, providing access opportunities appropriate to the purposes of the designation.
- The whole community is aware of the benefits of AONB designation through the regular promotion of the special qualities and features of the AONB and its management needs
- The meanings of the AONB's special qualities and features are revealed through effective interpretation.

How are we going to do it?

- Ensure the tourism industry makes a vital and sustainable contribution to the Anglesey AONB economy.
- Work with partners and education providers to enhance knowledge of the AONB and its unique features.
- Deliver new and meaningful interpretation to increase understanding and inspire exploration.
- Improve access provision **and other visitor facilities at key coastal and countryside sites** and enhance the Coastal Path experience.
- Work with partners to consider improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure
- Work with local education sector to align the work of the AONB with the new Welsh curriculum, **including the development of an educational strategy(6)**
- Exploring the opportunities of developing a regenerative tourism model
- Continue to deliver engagement and community/schools participation opportunities.



Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

Why is this important ?

Anglesey's AONB is a living and working landscape with community at its core. The designation must be seen as being of benefit to these communities rather than stifling its needs.

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What are we going to do?

- Land managers safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the AONB's special qualities and features and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services.
- Local culture and rural services, products and activities are maintained, securing affordable homes for local people and supporting the Welsh language.
- The communities of the AONB are engaged through meaningful consultation and empowerment to improve participation, inclusivity, active lifestyles and to take pride in their AONB community.
- Businesses in the AONB contribute positively to a healthy rural economy providing employment opportunities for people who live on Anglesey.
- An increased proportion of the resident population of the AONB adopts sustainable lifestyles.

How are we going to do it?

- Play an active role in the formulation and roll out of the emerging SFS scheme.
- Work with other council departments to embed a holistic working ethos.
- By understanding community needs through ongoing partnerships and engagement
- Improving community service infrastructure through collaborative work with internal partners.
- Support land managers in both protecting landscape and habitats while enhancing farm economics through adoption of sustainable farming methods.
- Support land managers in both protecting landscape and habitats while enhancing farm economics through adoption of sustainable farming methods.
- Link with wider destination management work to ensure services within the rural communities are enhanced.
- Support local produce initiatives



Managing the AONB in a changing climate

Why is this important ?

Climate change will impact all aspects of the AONB, from coastal change through to impact on agriculture and will exasperate the nature crisis We must plan ahead to make the AONB and the communities within it more resilient and able to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

What are we going to do?

- Ensure partner organisations and communities are more aware of the impacts of climate change on the natural beauty and economy of the AONB
- Work with landowners and communities are involved in activities that help to ameliorate the impacts of climate change on the AONB.
- Embed an ecosystems service approach to our work and that of our partners.

How are we going to do it?

- Gather evidence to assist landowners to make sound decisions to adapt to climate change impacts.
- Embrace natural flood management and coastal adaptation options and link these to habitat gain and visitor experience
- Work with coastal erosion and flood risk management teams to deliver innovative adaptation projects.
- Work with the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre on education and citizen science projects focused on coastal change
- Plant trees with local provenance appropriate to location to mitigate climate change, and improve water quality in our streams and rivers.
- Community engagement and knowledge

Management and Governance

Joint Advisory Committee

The administration of the AONB is overseen by a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). This committee consists of elected members and co-opted representatives of organisations that wish to participate in the work of conserving, enhancing and promoting the AONB.

Membership spans the broad range of interests needed for effective management, and includes the public, private and third sector.

The JAC supports and oversees the statutory requirement on the Isle of Anglesey County Council to prepare, publish and review the AONB Management Plan. The IACC through the Countryside and AONB Unit, administers and co-ordinates the JAC to enable monitoring, recording and reporting of the Management Plan's action plan, provide updates and share knowledge and foster joint working.

Management and Governance Staffing

Central to the delivery of the AONB Management Plan's Action Plan is developing a professional and effective AONB Team through IACC's Countryside and AONB Unit by:

- creating recruitment opportunities
- creating an environment for retention
- transfer of temporary contracts to permanent contracts
- the introduction of an annual programme for student placements
- the delivery of training and development
- developing pathways for career advancement
- succession planning
- maintaining and developing collaborative working with Partners and stakeholders

Management and Governance

Core Activities

The Countryside and AONB Unit's core activities include:

- Supporting the preparation and delivery of the AONB Management Plan and Statutory AONB purpose
- The administration and promotion of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) and Natural Resources Wales's AONB Partnership Fund
- Interpreting and promoting the AONB **including communication and marketing plan(31)**
- Engagement with communities and schools (primary and secondary)
- Administrating and co-ordinating the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)
- Co-ordinating the AONB Volunteers
- Co-ordination and leading on events and activities related to AONB objectives

Management and Governance

Finance

The costs of managing the AONB are funded by the Isle of Anglesey County Council [IACC], supported by grant funding from Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government. IACC's Regulation and Economic Development's Service Delivery Plan [SDP] provides the platform for quarterly monitoring, recording and reporting of agreed outputs aligned to the AONB Management Plan.

Sections of the 2022-27 AONB Management Plan's Action Plan are currently supported and funded through the following:

- Welsh Government's 'Resilient AONBs' (revenue) 2022-25
- Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) 2022-25
- Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) 2022-25
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 2022-24
- Isle of Anglesey County Council (Capital) 2022-24
- Countryside and AONB Unit's annual budget
- Future funding
- Partners' funding

Once the 2022-27 AONB Management Plan has been through stakeholder and partner consultation, scrutiny, amendments and adoption, a detailed 5 year funding matrix will be developed within the first two quarters of the Plan being adopted. This will involve initial discussions with the above funding partners on future funding beyond 2024-25 and discussions with JAC partners on their funding priorities aligned to the AONB. All other available funding which is compatible to the AONB Management Plan will be explored.

Management and Governance Monitoring

The Anglesey's AONB Management Plan's Action Plan will be implemented through a five-year delivery plan which identifies the key themes, aims, objectives, policies, actions, delivery partners and timescales.

Once the 2032-28 AONB Management Plan has been through stakeholder and partner consultation, scrutiny, amendments and adoption, an annual project plan will be produced which will further expand the action points from the main action plan of the AONB Management Plan to more detailed actions. This project plan will be reviewed quarterly and have sufficient flexibility to take account of new funding opportunities and new joint working opportunities with partners. An annual report will be prepared and distributed to the JAC at the end of each financial year to report on progress, successes and the main issues requiring further work and attention. Quarterly reporting will be done through IACC's Regulation and Economic Development's Service Delivery Plan (SDP)

Anglesey AONB Management Plan – Annex1

Policy Content

International

International Union for Conservation of Nature Category V Landscape

The AONBs of Wales, alongside those in England and Northern Ireland, together with the UK's national parks, are part of a family of protected areas defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as Category V – protected landscapes. These are known as cultural landscapes, formed by a close interaction between nature and the actions of human populations. Category V landscapes are defined by IUCN as landscapes where:

'...the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.'

Through this categorisation the management of an AONB can become an exemplar in area-based sustainable development which can highlight opportunities of other area-based management schemes.

The European Landscape Convention (ELC)

The ELC is a Europe-wide concept centred on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning. It was adopted by the Council of Europe in 2000 and ratified by the UK government in 2006. The signatory states have declared that they are:

'...concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment.'

It defines landscape as:

'...a part of the land, as perceived by local people or visitors, which evolves through time as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and human beings.'

Identifying and assessing landscapes should be a collaboration between field research by professionals and the perceptions of local inhabitants. It covers all landscapes, from the ordinary to the outstanding, that determine the quality of people's living environment.

People should be at the heart of landscape management policy, embodying their aspirations for the landscape features of their surroundings. The public is encouraged to take an active part in the landscape's protection, conservation and management, helping to influence changes and in planning its

management. AONBs and their partnership members can make a valuable contribution to delivering the aims of the ELC.

National (UK)

A Green Future – 25-year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)

The UK Government’s 25-year Environment Plan, published in 2018, set out a long-term approach to help the natural world regain and retain good health. The key points in the plan are:

‘We will conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment, and make sure it can be enjoyed, used by and cared for by everyone. We will do this by:

- Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.
- Making sure that there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas, and encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing.
- Focusing on increasing action to improve the environment from all sectors of society.’

Key proposals include the government seeking to embed a ‘net environmental gain’ principle for development to deliver environmental improvements locally and nationally, and developing a Nature Recovery Network that will provide 500,000 hectares of additional wildlife habitat to link existing protected sites and landscapes. Its aims are that recovering wildlife will require more habitat in better condition in bigger patches that are more closely connected.

The Environment Act 2021

The Act is the new government framework of environmental protection following the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union. New laws relate to natural protection, water quality, clean air and environmental protections that originally came from the EU. It sets long-term, legally binding targets for environmental improvement and strengthens the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including introducing a net gain for biodiversity through the planning system.

The CRoW Act and the significance of AONBs

The purposes of AONBs are set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.

Section 82 of the Act defines the primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Two other purposes were also defined:

- In pursuing the primary purpose account should be taken of the needs of agriculture forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular

regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

- Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Section 85 places a duty on all public bodies to have regard to the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area... It is not the purpose of designation to stop development but the planning authorities will consider any development proposal to ensure that it does not unduly harm the character and appearance of the AONB.

Section 89 requires local authorities in whose area an AONB lies to produce AONB management plans and then review and adopt these plans at intervals of no more than five years.

National (Wales)

Future Wales – The National Plan for Wales (2021)

The National Plan for Wales sets out the direction for development for Wales to 2040. Its strategy addresses key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities. It forms the highest tier of development planning in Wales.

The Environment (Wales) Act (2016)

The Environment Act provides the legislation needed to plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way. It aims to make Wales a low carbon, green economy able to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Act promotes sustainable uses of natural resources; provides targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases; makes changes to the law about land drainage and byelaws by Natural Resources Wales and makes various provisions for waste collection and disposal, fisheries and marine licences, and establishes a Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee.

The Act requires Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to produce a State of Natural Resources Report that assesses how well resources are being managed sustainably, it enables the Welsh Government to produce a national policy for sustainable management and requires NRW to produce a local evidence base to help with the implementation of priorities.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This Act provides a legally-binding common purpose to all levels of government and specified public bodies to improve the well-being of Wales. The Act requires the specified organisations to carry out sustainable development, making it their core principle to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being aimed at achieving seven well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales – recognising the limits of the global environment, using resources efficiently and proportionately, and developing a skilled and well-educated population in an economy that generates wealth and provides employment opportunities.
- A resilient Wales – a natural environment with healthy ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience.
- A healthier Wales – people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised.
- A more equal Wales – enabling people to fulfil their potential regardless of their background or circumstances.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
- A Wales of vibrant and thriving Welsh language – promoting and protecting culture, heritage and the Welsh language.
- A globally responsible Wales – taking account of the global impact of improving economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.

The Act emphasises the importance of considering the well-being of people alongside the well-being of Wales, connecting sustainable development to people and their quality of life.

Public Services Boards have been established throughout Wales to ensure that public bodies work together to create a better future for the people of Wales. Key points from the 2022 five-yearly report by the Anglesey Board found that for environmental issues:

- Anglesey’s diverse natural environment is an important resource that has a positive impact on social, cultural and economic well-being.
- Climate change is a global challenge that is having an impact on well-being in Anglesey, as some communities are at high risk of flooding, extreme weather conditions and landslides and putting the area’s nature and habitats under increasing pressure.
- Protecting nature and biodiversity is important for decarbonisation.
- Anglesey is under relatively high agricultural pressure and unsustainable farming is damaging the environment.

Many of the objectives and actions in this management plan will help to achieve the seven well-being goals.

The Historic Environment Act 2016

The Act makes improvements on previous legislation, providing a legal framework for the designation, protection and management of scheduled monuments in Wales. The Act gives more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments and enhancing existing mechanisms for the sustainable management of the historic environment.

It will make it is easier for owners or developers to create sustainable new uses for unlisted historic buildings and enable authorities to act quickly if a listed building is under threat from unauthorised works.

Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018)

This Welsh Government report provides a statement on the future of AONBs and National Parks in Wales. The statement has four goals:

- That they are Valued Places which reach out beyond traditional audiences and engage a more diverse cross-section of Welsh society to feel they have a stake in these national landscapes.
- That they contain Resilient Environments where the value of nature is enhanced and the decline in biodiversity is reversed.
- That they support Resilient Communities where the relationship between people and the environment has shaped these landscapes and their communities.
- That AONB partnerships and National Park authorities must adopt Resilient Ways of Working where they champion collaborative approaches to maximise the benefits and tackle the challenges faced in these landscapes.

The statement emphasised that AONBs and National Parks should exemplify approaches to reconciling tensions around competing demands for natural resources, which will be aided in AONBs by the management plan.

Welsh National Marine Plan (2018)

6.3.13 This is the first marine plan for Wales and is aimed at guiding the sustainable development of the marine area to support economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives. The visions for the plan are that the Welsh seas are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse:

- Natural resources are sustainably managed, and seas are healthy and resilient, supporting a sustainable and thriving economy
- Health and wellbeing are improved
- More jobs and wealth are created, helping coastal communities become more resilient, prosperous and equitable with a vibrant culture
- The Welsh marine area is making a strong contribution to energy security and climate change emissions targets.

The plan's objectives align closely with the objectives of this management plan by guiding the sustainable management and development of the coast and coastal communities.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2017)

The WFD is a Europe-wide initiative developed by the European Commission to enhance river and water quality. It provides a single framework that would align water management policy throughout Europe.

The framework's key aims are:

- Expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater.
- Achieving 'good status' for all waters by a set deadline
- Water management based on river basins
- Combined approach of emission limit values and quality standards
- Getting the price right
- Getting the citizen involved more closely
- Streamlining legislation

The Framework obliges Great Britain to meet targets for the ecological and chemical status of waterbodies. Any works that could affect the hydrology, ecology or water quality of any classified waterbody needs to be assessed under the WFD to demonstrate how impacts will be mitigated or the waterbody enhanced to achieve good status. Groundwater is also assessed for its quantitative and chemical status.

West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2012)

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution. It presents policies to tackle these risks to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment, in a sustainable manner. It does not set policy for anything other than food and coastal erosion risk management. However, it aims to provide a context for management decisions in other sectors of coastal management.

The coast of the Isle of Anglesey is considered within the West of Wales SMP under coastal areas F and G. These take into account predictions for sea level rise and climate change for 50-year and 100-year periods. Policies range from doing nothing to holding the coastal line in order to protect land and property, and will influence AONB management.

North West Wales Area Statement

This area statement, produced by Natural Resources Wales with extensive community participation, provides an overview of the landscape of north west Wales from the perspective of the people who live and work there. The outcomes of the process to produce the statement include identification of a wide range of issues that impact on the environment of the area, a wealth of actions that can help to mitigate

the issues and a commitment to working collaboratively between organisations and communities. The ethic of this approach resonates well with the process of developing and implementing this management plan. The key themes of the statement are:

- Tackling the climate and environment emergency
- Encouraging a sustainable economy
- Reconnecting people with nature
- Seeking opportunities for a resilient ecosystem
- Supporting sustainable land management

Local

Council Plan

The Council Plan sets out the local authorities' priorities for the period 2023-28, with a clear vision to create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.

It sets out 6 key objectives against which its progress will be measured. They are :

1. Social Care and Well-being – providing the right support at the right time
2. Education – ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations
3. Housing – ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home
4. Economy – promoting opportunities to develop the Island's economy
5. Climate Change – responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards becoming a net zero organisation by 2030
6. The Welsh Language - increasing opportunities to learn and use the language

The plan recognises the importance of the AONB in delivering these key objectives, and in particular the role it plays in tackling the nature and climate crisis, and economic and social benefits to the island.

Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011-2026

This plan is the statutory development plan for Anglesey, providing a framework for local decision-making and determination of development issues in relation to conservation interests.

The plan recognises that Anglesey has a distinctive and diverse landscape, incorporating both the Isle of Anglesey AONB and entire island as an UNESCO Global Geopark. It appreciates that the character and

beauty of the landscape significantly improves the quality of life of residents and has major social and health benefits.

Strategic Policy PS19 of the plan determines that development will be managed in a way that conserves and, where appropriate, enhances the distinctive natural environment, countryside and coastline, and proposals that have an adverse effect on them will be refused unless the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the value of the site.

Policy AMG1 is a requirement to refer to the aims and objectives of the management plan when considering planning proposals.

Proposals within or affecting the setting and / or significant views into and out of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty must, where appropriate, have regard to the relevant Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.

Anglesey Energy Island

The Energy Island Programme was established in 2010 and is part of the Isle of Anglesey Council's approach to socio-economic development. The programme is working in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure Anglesey is an exemplar in the transition to a prosperous and resilient low carbon economy.

The Programme is engaging with a wide range of low carbon technology, research and development which includes wind, hydrogen, tidal, solar and nuclear as well as the associated grid infrastructure.

The Programme seeks to ensure that all development and projects provide high quality local jobs, education and supply chain opportunities, while protecting and enhancing the natural environment and enabling the Welsh Language and culture to thrive in vibrant communities.

Anglesey Energy Island vision

Theme 1: 'Growth in new technology, research and development, and innovation'

A place that enables growth in new low carbon technology, research and development, and innovation, while safeguarding and building on existing sectoral strengths such as the visitor economy.

Theme 2: 'Creating local jobs, building skills, thriving businesses'

An inclusive place providing access to employment, education and new high quality local jobs supporting the economic recovery of the island and North Wales post pandemic.

Theme 3: 'Resilient and cohesive communities, supporting a strong sense of place'

A place to be proud of, where the Welsh language and culture are thriving and vibrant, fostering community pride and the spirit of entrepreneurship, enabling a better quality of life for our people.

Theme 4: 'Responsible, pioneering, and timely climate action'

At the forefront of the low carbon energy transition, maximising local jobs and supply chain opportunities.

Theme 5: 'A balanced environment'

Support the wellbeing of current and future generations through building long-term working partnerships and community collaboration, with a need to preserve, enhance, and improve biodiversity, the natural environment and unique island heritage.

From the perspective of Anglesey's AONB, the Programme is seeking for all low carbon technology development proposals to have regard to the AONB designation and its primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

Destination Management Plan

The visitor economy is fundamental to the sustainable economic position of Anglesey, and the strategy highlights the commitment to further enhancing this. However, it has become increasingly evident over the past 3 years that unchecked tourism can adversely impact the lives of people and the unique qualities which make the Island so synonymous and drive the vast majority of tourist activities.

The Plan will redress this imbalance and ensure through a new multi organisational/interests group that the benefits of a vibrant and diverse offer is able to enhance the key qualities of language, culture, environment and heritage.

A drive for improvements to infrastructure such as car parking, toilets and access provision is a key part of the strategy, and by ensuring these critical building blocks are in place, we will have greater opportunities to release the potential of enhanced sustainable tourism offers which will bring about economic, social, health and wellbeing benefits to visitors and the people of Anglesey.

The Plan draws together all responsibilities and priorities of Destination and will act as template for a more collaborative and holistically minded approach to destination management moving forward.

We have developed 4 key principles to guide the direction of our work, and that of partners and stakeholders.

These are:

1. Celebrate, Respect and Protect our Communities, History, Language, Culture and Heritage
 - A visitor economy where the local communities feel ownership and empowered to drive forward the regenerative tourism model.
 - A visitor economy which embraces and sustainably utilises the existing strengths of our language and culture and brings our heritage to a wider audience.
 - A visitor economy where the culture is embraced, and at the heart of all product and promotional activities
2. Enhance the Visitor Experience Offer and Economic Sustainability

- A visitor economy which can grow sustainably based around a high-quality offer where visitors value and respect Anglesey's culture, heritage and environment.
- A visitor economy which is based around activities and experiences which take advantage of, but do not degrade the culture, heritage and environment.
- A visitor economy where quality visitor infrastructure and access provision offer enhanced recreational opportunities and with this improved health and wellbeing.

3. Maintain, Enhance and Respect our Environment, and plan to mitigate impacts of Climate Change

- A visitor economy where the natural environment is understood and enhancements to natural capital bring about benefits in terms of wellbeing to all.
- A visitor economy where activities are in harmony with the natural environment, and enhance both the offer and the land and sea upon which they take place.
- A visitor economy which becomes more 'climate change ready' and is increasingly carbon neutral.
- A visitor economy where users are empowered to directly contribute to tackling both the nature and climate crises.

4. Ensure that the advantages to Anglesey communities outweigh any disadvantages, and as a result social and well being benefits are seen.

- A visitor economy whose infrastructure and resources are enhanced to the benefit of local communities, and adapts to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- A visitor economy where local people are given the opportunities to be at the heart of the offer, taking advantage of new skilled roles and local supply chains.
- A visitor economy with sustainability at its core and able to grow in economic and social value and provide health and wellbeing opportunities for all.

Anglesey Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013

This strategy is an important step towards understanding and managing flood risk in Anglesey. It highlights how the Council can work better with organisations and communities towards reducing flood risk while balancing the needs of communities, the economy and the environment. The Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, will focus on tackling local flood risk, including flooding from surface water, groundwater and watercourses such as rivers and streams. Main river flooding is the responsibility of Natural Resources Wales, guided by a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

AONB Management Plan – Annex 2

Anglesey AONB’s public benefits

| Provisioning services | Regulating services | Cultural services | Supporting services |
|--|---|---|---|
| Products of ecosystems such as water, food and the supply of raw materials | The results of natural processes such as water purification and air quality | Non-material benefits that result from our interaction with the natural environment | Functions provided by ecosystems that underpin all the other services |
| Water supply | Air quality | Cultural heritage values | Soil formation |
| Clean water is essential for life. The fenlands and reedbeds in the river catchments of Anglesey perform an important cleansing function in the provision of drinking water | Plants and trees are central to the cycle of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. They have an important role to play in regulating levels of air pollution | Human influence and settlement can be traced back to the Mesolithic hunter gatherers and early agriculture. The AONB has a rich historic heritage in terms of its art, culture, ancient monuments historic buildings and industry. This has great social, as well as economic value. Regional character and sense of place enhances local identity and provides distinctiveness through sustaining Welsh communities. | Soil is formed by the interaction between plants, micro-organisms and the underlying geology. We depend on healthy soils for growing food. Soils are slow to form but can be quickly degraded by poor land management, erosion and the impacts of weather and climate |
| Food production | Climate regulation and carbon storage | Recreation and tourism | Primary production |
| Farmers in the Anglesey AONB produce food and other raw materials. The farmed environment is a major producer of sheep and cattle as well as other local produce such as cheeses and vegetables. Food production in the AONB contributes to direct and ancillary employment. | The range of habitats within and adjacent to the AONB have an influence on climate at both local and global scales through the capture and storage of carbon from the atmosphere. The fens found on Anglesey are large areas of peat that help store approximately 750,000 tonnes of carbon | Recreation and tourism are an important element in the economy of Anglesey and the varied coastline, rich wildlife, coastal path and other visitor attractions of the AONB contribute significantly to this industry. All year round and seasonal employment are major contributors to the tourism and recreation industry | We rely greatly on processes such as photosynthesis where plants use solar energy to convert water, carbon dioxide and nutrients into oxygen and biological growth which provides food and other raw materials |
| Timber | Water flow and flood regulation | Health and wellbeing | Nutrient cycling |
| Broadleaved woodland and coniferous forest, cover around 13.4% of the total area of the AONB. Many estate woodlands are under sound management. There is great potential | The water catchments, rivers, streams, marshes, bogs and fens help regulate the flow of water and drainage of the land through storage and reducing surface run-off. If properly managed they | The landscape and seascape of the Anglesey AONB provides opportunities for a range of activities that help contribute to the health and well-being of local communities, health care | Plants, animals and micro-organisms are essential to the natural cycle of nutrients and help maintain soil and water quality. Increased levels of nutrients such as nitrates and |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| for bringing other areas of woodland into active management through community participation | can help reduce flooding at times of high rainfall and sustain river flows and surface water levels during droughts | groups and visitors | phosphates from sewage and fertilisers can result in poor water quality and loss of biodiversity |
| Energy | Erosion regulation | Tranquillity | Water cycling |
| The AONB has the potential to accommodate a range of renewable energy schemes that are compatible with its special qualities. There is scope for developing small scale and village energy schemes | The coastline of Anglesey is prone to erosion in a certain number of locations due to tidal action and increasingly, storm events. This can be both positive and negative. Areas of saltmarsh absorb wave energy in storms that might otherwise erode the coastline. Inland, the risk of erosion can be managed through tree and vegetation cover and by taking care over cultivation over large areas or on slopes | Relative tranquillity is recognised as a special quality of the AONB. It provides a resource and a benefit that is greatly valued. Tranquillity is also important at night and the dark skies of Anglesey are increasingly recognised as being of high importance | We rely on the natural environment and its functions to provide us with fresh water |
| Genetic diversity | Soil quality | Spiritual and inspirational values | Biodiversity |
| The biodiversity and seed bank within the AONB are a resource for the future. Local breeds help maintain important genetic diversity and contribute to both our cultural heritage and local distinctiveness | Varying soil types provide a mosaic of habitats and various crops | Anglesey is renowned for its coastal landscape and its sense of place. The area has provided inspiration for artists and writers. It continues to provide people with the opportunity to understand and enjoy its special qualities. The area enables people to escape, be inspired, and find spiritual renewal. | Plants and animals drive many of the processes that result in a healthy ecosystem and the benefits we get from it. It is vital to conserve the diversity of species and habitats, as they underpin the processes we rely on to sustain our lives |
| | Water quality | | |
| | Disease and pest regulation Natural processes such as predation and climatic conditions help to control the spread of disease and pests | | |
| | Pollination | | |
| | The effective pollination of crops by bees and other pollinators is vital to the life cycle of many plants. The AONB relies on this 'natural service' for growing food crops as well as other plants and wildflowers | | |

AONB Management Plan

Annex 3 – Policy Objectives and Actions

THEME 1

Enhancing countryside and coastal character

7.1.2 The association between Anglesey AONB’s landscape and seascape is one of its key defining features. Its cliffs, beaches, dunes and estuaries contrast and complement the heaths and grasslands forming the backdrop to the coast. Communities over centuries have shaped the land and traded from its coastal communities forming a rich blend of the natural and the man-made. It has a natural beauty and sense of tranquillity that provides it with special qualities that set it apart from mainland Wales.

7.1.3 The Anglesey coastline with its beaches has been a popular tourist destination for generations. Pressures for development and the need to protect its natural and historic features are challenges for the AONB’s management.

AIM

The natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features, will be maintained, conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|--|--|
| Increased woodland planting | Scrub development |
| Changes to agricultural policy and practices | Conifer planting |
| Income diversification on farms | Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) |
| Economic pressures and threats | Climate change |
| Second homes, and their impact on culture, community and language Note – IACC / internal advice required on how to include second homes as part of objectives, policies and actions | Inappropriate development |
| Sea level rise, and the subsequent need for sea defences tied into managed retreat | Neglect and lack of management of cultural heritage sites |
| Recreation pressures | Marine pollution |
| Pollution | Lack of public awareness |
| Decline in traditional light grazing | Government policy, including post-Brexit environmental legislation |

Who are the key partners?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natural Resources Wales | Countryside and AONB Unit |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Welsh Government |
| Cadw | Bangor University |
| Landowners, communities | JAC |
| Local authority staff | |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|---|--|
| European Landscape Convention | Water Framework Directive |
| UK Government 25-year Environment Plan | Local Development Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | Post-Brexit agri-environment and rural development schemes |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | Wales National Marine Plan |
| Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | |

Objective 1: Landscape/Seascape

The coastal landscape and seascape are actively conserved through appropriate management.

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Policies

CCC 1.1 LANDMAP is used as the process by which the landscape character of the AONB is valued and assessed.

CCC 1.2 The Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment is used to help determine the likely impacts of marine developments on the special qualities and features of the AONB.

CCC 1.3 There is a need to maintain the accessibility and conservation interest of sites of geological and geomorphological importance.

CCC 1.4 Elements of the landscape that have been degraded and lost their character will be restored and enhanced to safeguard the quality of the landscape.

CCC 1.5

Objective 2: Historic Landscape and Culture

Historic, archaeological and cultural sites are protected from development that degrades the special qualities of the AONB and interpreted to increase people's understanding of their value.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

CCC 2.1 Encourage relevant agencies to work together to identify, protect and actively conserve the historic, archaeological and cultural resources of the AONB.

CCC 2.2 Support the use of traditional skills and practices during restoration of the AONB's special qualities.

CCC 2.3 Ensure that high quality, co-ordinated and consistent interpretation material is provided to inform people about the rich history and culture of the AONB.

Objective 3: Development

Planning Policies protect the special qualities of the landscape, ensuring that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

CCC 3.1 All development proposals within and up to 2Km adjacent to the AONB will be rigorously assessed to minimise inappropriate development which might damage the special qualities and features of the AONB or the integrity of European designated sites.

CCC 3.2 All new developments and re-developments within and up to 2Km adjacent to the AONB will be expected to adopt the highest standard of design, materials and landscaping in order to enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB and to be respectful of the local context. Proposals of an appropriate scale and nature, embodying the principles of sustainable development, will be supported.

CCC 3.3 Ensure that planning policies reflect the statutory duty of the Council to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB.

CCC 3.4 Continue to encourage the under-grounding of existing and proposed power and telephone lines.

CCC 3.5 Continue to encourage the highest standards of equipment design for telecommunication masts to minimise their visual impact on the special qualities and features of the AONB.

Objective 4: Peace and Tranquillity

Unspoilt panoramic views and tranquillity are safeguarded from development that would degrade the special qualities of the AONB.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

CCC 4.1 Work to maintain the solitude and natural beauty of the AONB.

CCC 4.2 Work towards securing Dark Skies status for Anglesey.

CCC 4.3 Ensure noise intrusion into the AONB is within acceptable limits.

Objective 5: The Ecosystem Approach

A model is agreed among partners and key stakeholders for applying an ecosystem approach to the management of the natural environment.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

CCC 5.1 Promote the role that the Ecosystem Approach has in relation to integrated sustainable land management and the wider landscape of the AONB and the range of goods and services this delivers.

CCC 5.2 Ensure that the impacts of climate change on the Anglesey AONB are recognised and understood and that mitigation and adaptation to climate change are established within the Ecosystem Approach.

CCC 5.3 Encourage and support research into the role various ecosystems provide within the AONB, ensuring all data sources are identified and accessible so that informed choices can be made.

CCC 5.4 Encourage partners to assign values to the various ecosystem services, recognising the non-use value that some services provide, and create

opportunity maps where land management changes could provide enhanced ecosystem services.

THEME 2

Tackling the Nature Crisis

7.1.4 Anglesey AONB has a wealth of habitats, supporting a wide and varied biodiversity. Its cliffs, sand dunes and salt marshes are internationally renowned, while its heaths, wetlands, reedbeds and woodlands support species such as otter, red squirrel, varied orchids and the rare marsh fritillary.

7.1.5 Anglesey's LBAP and the Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan set out a framework for protecting and managing its natural resources and promoting resilience in its ecosystems. It provides a firm basis for this management plan, in conserving the island's biodiversity and recognising the role that local people and visitors can play in its protection and management

Aim

The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the special qualities of the AONB environment. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|---|--|
| Increased isolation between woodlands | Pollution, including that originating from industries and activities not located in the AONB |
| General neglect of woodlands | Development pressure |
| Overgrazing leading to loss of dwarf shrubs | Changes in local government, legislation and regulations |
| Abandonment of cliff top grazing due to recreational pressure | Tourism and economic pressures |
| Scrub development on heathland | Energy production |
| Changes in land management policy and practices | Cumulative effects of the transport network |

| | |
|---|--|
| Abandonment of commons | Increased demand for fresh water |
| Decline in appropriate burning regimes of heathland | Lack of public awareness |
| Competition from invasive non-native species | Government policy, including post-Brexit environmental legislation |
| Climate change | Funding (increase and decrease) |
| An increase in fly tipping | Grubbing out native hedges |

Who are the key partners?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Natural Resources Wales | AONB Volunteers |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Utilities |
| Landowners, communities, | North Wales Rivers Trust |
| IACC Countryside and AONB Unit | JAC / Partners |
| IACC Council Planning Function | Local Nature Partnership |
| North Wales Wildlife Trust | RSPB |

What are the key policy influences?

| | |
|---|--|
| UK Government 25-year Environment Plan | Local Development Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | Isle of Anglesey Corporate Biodiversity Plan 2022-2023 |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | Post-Brexit agri-environment and rural development schemes |
| Water Framework Directive | Wales National Marine Plan |

Objective 1: Habitat and Species Conservation

The coast and countryside are managed sensitively to maintain the diversity of habitats and species in a favourable condition and to improve connectivity between sites.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

NE 1.1 Continue to deliver the priorities of the Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action plan and the actions of IACC's Biodiversity Action Plan.

NE 1.2 Maintain, restore and enhance priority habitats and biodiversity in the AONB.

Particular attention will be paid to sites with International and National

designations such as SPAs, SACs, NNRs and SSSIs.

NE 1.3 Promote open sharing of information collected in research with those organisations having an interest in the AONB.

NE 1.4 Continued use and the resources available at the Local Biological Records Centre (COFNOD).

NE 1.5 Identify, locate, catalogue and remove invasive non-native species.

Objective 2: Soil, Air and Water

The quality of the soil, air and water – both freshwater and seawater – is regularly monitored to maintain standards that exceed UK and European standards.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

NE 2.1 Communities, NRW and Welsh Water to work collaboratively to protect soils, air and water from pollution.

NE 2.2 Monitor soil, air and water quality regularly to ensure that the AONB meets or exceeds the expected standards.

NE 2.3 Reduce wastage by actively promoting and implementing water efficiency measures and more sustainable patterns of domestic, industrial, agricultural and leisure water use.

Objective 3: Designated Areas and Other Important Sites

Both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites are managed for their biodiversity, aesthetic and amenity value.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

NE 3.1 AONB Unit, site managers and other organisations to work collaboratively to maintain, restore, expand and sometimes create wildlife habitats.

NE 3.2 Ensure that non-statutory local wildlife sites are recognised as fundamental components of the AONB and the wider Anglesey countryside.

NE 3.3 Ensure that high quality interpretative material is readily available to both residents and visitors so that they are informed about the interest and value of the AONB's natural environment and wildlife.

THEME 3

The AONB as a place for enjoyment, learning and health benefits

7.1.6 Anglesey has long been a popular destination for both domestic and international visitors. Various studies and evidence also highlights Anglesey as the UK county that is most dependent on tourism, with the industry contributing significantly to Anglesey's prosperity and quality of life. The challenge is to ensure that the advantages to Anglesey communities outweigh any disadvantages, and as a result social and well being benefits are seen.

7.1.7 Tourism, by its very nature, can have both positive and negative effects if not managed appropriately. It can result in inappropriate development, congestion on roads and erosion of the natural beauty and tranquillity that are Anglesey's primary attractions. But it can also contribute positively through increased revenues, year-round sustainability and an increase in environmental holidays and visitor giving breaks, such as traditional skills' events and courses and nature conservation holidays.

Aim

People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate its special qualities and features in a sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

| What are the key forces for change? | |
|--|--|
| Increase in fly tipping | Tourism policy and promotion |
| Limited availability of waste transfer stations | Awareness of health and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation |
| Increasing cost of disposing waste | Local authority and partner funding (increase and decrease) |
| Use of rights of way | The selection criteria for award beaches |
| Legal issues of common land | Negotiations on permissive paths |
| External funding | Community involvement and support |
| Welsh Government protected landscape policy | Emerging recreation activities, such as e-biking |
| Changes in local government | Ferry use, with transient visitors |
| Changes in legislation, such as the Wales National Marine Plan | |

| Who are the key partners? | |
|---|--|
| Natural Resources Wales | Tourism providers |
| Local authorities – IACC, Town and Community Councils | Local schools, societies and interest groups |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Voluntary services |
| Landowners, communities | Menter Môn |
| Tourism authority – national regional local | Visit Wales |
| Tourism partnership | Bangor University |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|---|--|
| UK and Wales tourism policy | Local Development Plan |
| UK and Wales access legislation and policy | Anglesey Destination Management Plan |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | Anglesey Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan |
| North West Wales Area Statement | Maritime statutory plan – marine operational plan (Marine and coastguard agency) |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | |

Objective 1: Tourism

Partnerships are developed that secure sustainable recreation activities, supporting rural services and employment, and contributing to the local economy.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

EU 1.1 Ensure the tourism industry makes a vital and sustainable contribution to the
Anglesey AONB economy.

EU 1.2 Raise awareness of the special qualities and features of the AONB that are key
assets to the tourism sector.

EU 1.3 Ensure that the Destination Management Plan supports the conservation and
enhancement of the AONB's special qualities and features.

Objective 2: Recreation

The AONB continues to be a popular location for sustainable recreation with both residents and visitors, and the risk of damage to the AONB's special qualities and features is lessened.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

EU 2.1 Promote sustainable terrestrial and maritime recreational activities and facilities
that complement the special qualities and features of the AONB.

EU 2.2 Promote terrestrial and maritime enjoyment of the AONB for residents and
visitors by encouraging recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with
the conservation of the area's special qualities and features.

Objective 3: A welcoming AONB

The impacts of pollution and recreation upon the special qualities and features of the AONB are regularly monitored to ensure that any incidents are within acceptable limits.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

EU 3.1 Promote understanding and awareness between recreation, conservation and local interest groups.

EU 3.2 Work to improve people's enjoyment of the AONB by reducing incidents of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping and associated antisocial behaviour.

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Objective 4: Access

The access network is managed to a high standard, providing access opportunities appropriate to the purposes of the designation.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

EU 4.1 Promote access for all (where appropriate), whilst also protecting the AONB's special qualities and features and the integrity of the European sites, ensuring there is a coordinated approach to the appropriate management and promotion of public access and quiet recreational activities.

EU 4.2 Ensure that the PROW network is maintained at a high standard and that appropriate information and clear signage conserves and enhances the special qualities and features of the AONB and the integrity of the European sites.

EU 4.3 Ensure the All-Wales Coastal Path complements the PROW network and where deemed appropriate provides opportunities for recreation that are accessible to all. Monitor the impacts of Coastal Footpath use on the special qualities and features of the AONB.

Objective 5: Understanding and Lifelong Learning

The whole community is aware of the benefits of AONB designation through the regular promotion of the special qualities and features of the AONB and its management needs.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

EU 5.1 Support initiatives for children and young people to understand more about the Anglesey AONB's changing landscape and its special qualities and features through outdoor learning aligned to the new national curriculum.

EU 5.2 Work with schools to improve connections between the special qualities and

and Features of the Anglesey AONB, landscape change and their curricular extra-curricular activities aligned to the new national curriculum.

EU 5.3 Work with partners to provide opportunities for outdoor learning for all ages and abilities in keeping with the goals of lifelong learning and social well-being.

EU 5.4 Work with partners to ensure there is greater awareness and appreciation of the Anglesey AONB by those who live, work or visit the AONB.

Objective 6: Interpretation and Information

The meanings of the AONB's special qualities and features are revealed through effective interpretation.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

EU 6.1 Increase the profile of the AONB through effective and consistent interpretation and information for both residents and visitors.

THEME 4

Vibrant Communities

Aim

Communities within, and adjacent to, the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

7.1.8 The AONB is home to over 16,000 people. They are distributed in sizeable settlements such as Beaumaris and Newborough and in dispersed communities throughout the area. The AONB is therefore both a protected landscape and a living and working community. While many people commute to other employment centres on the island or on the mainland employment within the AONB is mainly in tourism and agriculture. The natural resources of the island are therefore a significant foundation for people's livelihoods.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|---|---|
| Demise of family succession and ownership in agriculture and small business | Funding (increase and decrease) |
| Lack of affordable housing | Tourism traffic and increasing interest in off-road cycling |
| Increase in the number of second homes | Changes in local government |
| Lack of employment opportunities | Demand for local products |
| Migration patterns and population structures | Awareness of health and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation |
| Loss of community patterns and traditions | Community involvement and support |
| Demise in local traditions and skills | Home working and broadband provision, enabling more people to use virtual working practices |
| Government policy, including post-Brexit environmental legislation | Climate change |
| Rural development programmes post-Brexit | Impact of other infrastructure projects |

Who are the key partners?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Natural Resources Wales | Local Authority Departments |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Business associations |
| Farming Unions | Menter Môn |
| Landowners, communities | Welsh Government |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|--|---|
| Post-Brexit agri-environment and rural development schemes | Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 |
| UK Government 25-year Environment Plan | Local Development Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | Anglesey Destination Management Plan |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | |

Objective 1: Land Management

Land managers safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the AONB's special qualities and features and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 1.1 Support farming so that it remains one of the principal land uses within the Anglesey AONB and contributes to maintaining the quality of the landscape and the AONB's special qualities and features.

LWL 1.2 Ensure the continued viability of agriculture and its allied businesses in ways which conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB.

LWL 1.3 Influence policy, plans and funding streams which support farmers and other rural landowners.

LWL 1.4 Support the sound management and appropriate expansion of woodlands within the AONB for both their commercial and social value.

LWL 1.5 Support opportunities for farmers and landowners to identify and develop environmentally sustainable diversification enterprises that conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB.

LWL 1.6 Encourage and support measures, including financial initiatives under agri-environment schemes which are targeted towards the enhancement of the

special qualities and features of the AONB.

Objective 2: Viable Communities

Local culture and rural services, products and activities are maintained, securing affordable homes for local people and supporting the Welsh language.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 2.1 Promote local employment and local business opportunities which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's special qualities and features; support local communities within the AONB and increase the ability of people to live and work locally.

LWL 2.2 Recognise a proven need for affordable housing within the AONB in Accordance with relevant planning and housing policies. **Second homes, and their impact on culture, community and language** Note – IACC / **internal advice required on how to include second homes as part of objectives, policies and actions**

LWL 2.3 Encourage and enhance the retention and provision of local services within the AONB's communities whilst reducing the move towards urbanisation.

Objective 3: Community Involvement

The communities of the AONB are engaged through meaningful consultation and empowerment to improve participation, inclusivity, active lifestyles and to take pride in their AONB community.

(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 3.1 Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high quality, community-led initiatives that contribute to the understanding, conservation, and enhancement of the special qualities and features of the AONB.

LWL 3.2 Work with others to help develop and deliver the health and well-being agenda

In the AONB.

LWL 3.3 Continue to build and maintain the volunteering capacity, and diversity of volunteer roles and the range of opportunities that deliver AONB purposes.

Objective 4: Business

Businesses in the AONB contribute positively to a healthy rural economy providing employment opportunities for people who live on Anglesey.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 4.1 Work with partners to increase the availability and speed of broadband and the coverage of the mobile phone network, to facilitate business growth, encourage home working and hybrid lifestyles, and improve the quality of rural life.

LWL 4.2 Promote a profitable, high quality local food processing economy as a way of revitalising rural incomes, and to raise awareness among local residents, organisations and visitors about the benefits to the landscape/seascape, economy and social fabric of purchasing locally sourced foods.

LWL 4.3 Support opportunities that encourage local businesses in the AONB to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that conserve the special qualities and features of the AONB.

Objective 5: Sustainability

An increased proportion of the resident population of the AONB adopts sustainable lifestyles.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

- LWL 5.1** Ensure that the sustainability concept is recognised and understood as a basic requirement underlying all policies.
- LWL 5.2** Ensure that the landscape and the special qualities and features of the AONB are recognised and valued as an economic asset, providing information about projects and examples of best practice.
- LWL 5.3** Promote the efficient, sustainable use of the AONB's natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB.
- LWL 5.4** Promote the objectives of the Waste Hierarchy in the AONB, which are to reduce, reuse and recycle, thus ensuring the sustainable management of waste.

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Objective 6: Transport

National and local transport agencies have put in place policies, guidance and decisions to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, maintain local distinctiveness, provide services and support a buoyant rural economy.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 6.1 Promote the integration and use of more sustainable public transport systems as part of a multi-modal approach in the AONB.

LWL 6.2 Encourage cycling for both commuting and leisure purposes through the development and promotion of a seamless and safer network and by exploring opportunities for future off-road cycling infrastructure.

LWL 6.3 Ensure that the special qualities and features of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport schemes.

LWL 6.4 Promote the AONB as a model for high standards of design in highway schemes, infrastructure and associated landscaping which complement the special qualities of the AONB.

Objective 7: Partnership working

The JAC will continuously seek opportunities to promote joint working with and between stakeholders to secure the purposes of designation and maximise funds.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 7.1 Foster effective partnership and administrative arrangements to lead and co-ordinate the management of the AONB via the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC).

LWL 7.2 Share knowledge, best practice and skills in protected landscape management through the JAC and the Protected Landscape network.

THEME 5

Adapting to Climate Change

Aim

Aim

The AONB partners and communities are working positively to reduce carbon emissions, renewable and sustainable energy initiatives are pursued, and the principles of adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change are adopted to protect the natural beauty and landscape / seascape character of the AONB.

7.1.9 Climate change is likely to have a significant impact on the Anglesey environment. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, increased frequency of storms and predicted rising sea levels will affect the landscape, its habitats and its species. These impacts will have a detrimental effect on individuals, communities, businesses, health and well-being.

7.1.10 The impacts on habitats include soil erosion of fens from increased rainfall, erosion and habitat change of sand dunes, and erosion of soft sediment cliffs and coastlines. There will be impacts too on the interdependency and range of species, on populations of rare and endangered species that are characteristic of the island and on communities within the AONB and the whole of Anglesey.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|---|--|
| Cumulative effects of carbon emissions | Public engagement |
| The need to respond to a changing climate – such as flood management and coastal protection | Government policy |
| Increased demand for fresh water | Government funding (increase and decrease) |
| Lack of public awareness | |

| Who are the key partners? | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natural Resources Wales | Countryside and AONB unit |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Welsh Government |
| Landowners, communities, | UK Government |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|---|--|
| UK Government 25-year Environment Plan | The IACC Towards Net Zero Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | UK Climate Change Committee risk assessment report – Wales |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | Local Development Plan |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan |
| Water Framework Directive | Wales National Marine Plan |
| The IACC Council Plan | |

Objective 1: Understanding about climate change

Partner organisations and communities are more aware of the impacts of climate change on the natural beauty and economy of the AONB
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

- CLCH 1.1** Ensure that the vision and policies of the Anglesey Energy Island Programme are promoted within AONB communities.
- CLCH 1.2** Provide easily accessible information and interpretation, and education programmes, on the changes that are likely to happen in the AONB as a result of a changing climate.

Objective 2: Action on climate change

Landowners and communities are involved in activities that help to ameliorate the impacts of climate change on the AONB.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

CLCH 2.1 Empower communities to explore ways they can help to take action on climate change.

CLCH 2.2 Ensure landowners and land managers understand best practice in approaches to carbon sequestration and land management that reduces carbon emissions and manages water catchment and flow and take action wherever appropriate.

CLCH 2.3 Encourage destination managers and tourism operators to develop approaches to sustainable tourism that reduces carbon emissions and mitigates against, or adapts to, the effects of climate change.

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THEME: Managing the AONB in a changing climate

AIM: The AONB partners and communities are working positively to reduce carbon emissions, renewable and sustainable energy initiatives are pursued, and the principles of adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change are adopted to protect the natural beauty and landscape / seascape character of the AONB.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|-----------|
| CLCH 1.1 - 1.2 Page 124 | Understanding about climate change Partner organisations and communities are more aware of the impacts of climate change on the natural beauty and economy of the AONB | 1. Collaborate with partners organisations and academic institutions to better understand the implications of climate change on the AONB and implement measures to mitigate and adapt | IACC AONB Unit | JAC NRW/WG Bangor University | 2023-25 |
| | | 2. The AONB Unit in association with partners, to provide and implement an annual programme of events and activities for schools to raise awareness and understanding of climate change | AONB Unit IACC | Schools | Annual |
| CLCH 2.1 - 2.3 | Action on climate change Landowners and communities are involved in activities that help to ameliorate the impacts of climate change on the AONB. | 1. Work with landowners, tenants and land managers to promote best practice and identify opportunities for carbon sequestration, water catchment and climate adaptation through agricultural practices | Farming Unions AONB Unit IACC | JAC Landowners / Land managers | Annual |
| | | 2. Assist with preparing a Sustainable Tourism Strategy aligned to the IACC's Destination Management Plan | Tourism Unit AONB Unit | DAP JAC | tbc |
| | | 3. Promote and administer Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places [SLSP] and Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for decarbonisation and nature recovery projects | AONB Unit IACC | JAC Landowners / Land managers | 2022-25 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

AIM: The natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features, will be maintained, conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| CCC 1.1 - 1.4 Page 126 | <u>Landscape/Seascape</u> The coastal landscape and seascape are actively conserved through appropriate management. | 1. Continued use of Landmap when assessing new and proposed developments. | IACC | NRW | Ongoing |
| | | 2. Equip officers with Landmap and GIS training including familiarisation of new mapping and modelling technology linked to climate change. | IACC | NRW | 2023/24 |
| | | 3. Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment utilised when assessing new and proposed marine developments | IACC | NRW | Ongoing |
| | | 4. Continued IACC co-opted membership of the GeoMôn Board to influence and advise on funding, collaborative working and retaining UNESCO Geopark status. | IACC | GeoMôn NRW | Quarterly |
| CCC 2.1 - 2.3 | <u>Historic Landscape and Culture</u> Historic, archaeological and cultural sites are protected from development that degrades the special qualities of the AONB and interpreted to increase | 1. Promote the management and conservation of the AONB's historical and archaeological features 2. Outline key historic and archaeological locations within the AONB that can be used for education purposes aligned to the new school curriculum 3. Provide training in traditional and rural skills activities through the AONB Volunteer Programme | GAT GAT / AONB Unit AONB Unit | AONB Unit / IACC IACC Schools | 2023-24/ Ongoing 2023-24 / ongoing |

THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

AIM: The natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features, will be maintained, conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | people's understanding of their value. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Identify key messages and themes and appropriate methods and materials for interpretation 5. Develop a project to research, catalogue, protect and promote Anglesey AONB's Welsh language place names, beaches and coves, rivers / streams and agricultural field names | AONB Unit / Oriel - Archives | NRW, WG SPF Menter Iaith Schools | 2023-24 / ongoing 2023-25 |
| <p style="text-align: center;">CCC 3.1 - 3.5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p> | <p>Development Planning Policies protect the special qualities of the landscape, ensuring that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate the new AONB Management Plan as policy within relevant sections of the new Local Development Plan for Anglesey. | AONB Unit / Planning Policy Unit | IACC JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Production and publication of a series of relevant AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to support the AONB Management Plan and Local Development Plan. | AONB Unit / Planning Policy Unit | IACC JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The AONB Unit to receive all Planning applications within and 2km adjacent to the AONB and respond accordingly. | IACC Development Management | AONB Unit | Weekly |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Create closer working practices and reciprocal training between the AONB Unit and Planning and Policy Service. | AONB Unit | Planning and Policy Service | Bi-annual |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Improve and develop the dialogue with Section 85 organisations undertaking work in the AONB aligned to the AONB Management Plan's policies culminating in an annual report with recommendations. | AONB Unit | Utilities JAC | Bi-annual |

THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

AIM: The natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features, will be maintained, conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| Page 128 | <p>CCC 4.1 – 4.3</p> <p><u>Peace and Tranquillity</u> Unspoilt panoramic views and tranquillity are safeguarded from development that would degrade the special qualities of the AONB.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application to the International Dark-sky Association (IDA) to accredit an area within the AONB as dark sky status. 2. IACC (Officer and Member) and JAC training to raise awareness and understanding of lighting /dark skies from an environmental, economic, health / well-being and cultural perspective. 3. Production and publication of a lighting AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) support the AONB Management Plan and Local Development Plan. 4. Continued support and implementation for retrofitting of outdoor dark sky friendly lighting on public and private buildings via Welsh Government’s Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) Fund 5. Engage with the relevant stakeholders to reduce the prevalence of noisy marine activities along some parts of the coast | <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>Planning Policy Unit</p> <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>Maritime Unit</p> | <p>IACC NRW Landowners / Communities</p> <p>IACC JAC</p> <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>Businesses General public IACC</p> <p>IACC</p> | <p>2023-24</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>2023-24</p> <p>2022-25</p> <p>Seasonal</p> |

THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

AIM: The natural beauty, special qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape of the Isle of Anglesey AONB, including its natural, cultural and historical features, will be maintained, conserved and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| <p>CCC 5.1 - 5.3</p> <p>Page 129</p> | <p><u>The Ecosystem Approach</u> A model is agreed among partners and key stakeholders for applying an ecosystem approach to the management of the natural environment.</p> | <p>1. Establish targeted climate change research projects with partners and education bodies.</p> | <p>AONB Unit IACC</p> | <p>NRW/WG JAC Bangor University Coleg Menai</p> | <p>2023-25</p> |
| | | <p>2. Undertake a series of workshops with stakeholders to identify the goods and services delivered by the Ecosystems on Anglesey and their impact on the special qualities and features of the AONB.</p> | <p>AONB Unit IACC</p> | <p>JAC NRW/WG</p> | <p>Annual</p> |
| | | <p>3. Collate all relevant sources of data and mapping and make available to partners</p> | <p>AONB Unit IACC</p> | <p>NRW/WG JAC</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

THEME: Supporting and developing opportunities for enjoying and understanding the AONB

AIM: People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate the special qualities and features in a sensitive and sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|--------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| EU 1.1 - 1.3 Page 130 | Tourism Partnerships are developed that secure sustainable recreation activities, supporting rural services and employment, and contributing to the local economy | 1. Ensure close alignment of the AONB Management Plan and the Destination Management Plan | AONB Unit Tourism Unit | JAC DAP | 2023-24 |
| | | 2. Closer working practices and collaboration between the AONB's Joint Advisory Committee and the Destination Anglesey Partnership (DAP) | AONB Unit | JAC DAP | 2023-24 / Ongoing |
| EU 2.1 - 2.2 | Recreation The AONB continues to be a popular location for sustainable recreation with both residents and visitors, and the risk of damage to the AONB's special qualities and features is lessened. | 1. The AONB Unit working with relevant partners to provide an annual events and activities programme 2. Promote and administer Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) funding for sustainable recreation | AONB Unit AONB Unit | Event suppliers Businesses Event suppliers | 2022-25 2022-25 |
| EU 3.1 - 3.2 | A welcoming AONB The impacts of pollution and recreation upon the special qualities and features of the AONB are regularly monitored to ensure that any | 1. Raise awareness and trial new / innovative methods of controlling littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and associated anti-social behaviour within and adjacent to the AONB | IACC Waste Mgmt AONB Unit | JAC | Ongoing |

THEME: Supporting and developing opportunities for enjoying and understanding the AONB

AIM: People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate the special qualities and features in a sensitive and sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

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|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | incidents are within acceptable limits. | 2. AONB Volunteers working with partners, schools and community groups to arrange beach cleans and segregate the marine waste for recycling | | | |
| EU 4.1 - 4.2 Page 131 | Access The access network is managed to a high standard, providing access opportunities appropriate to the purposes of the designation. | 1. Review and improve signage between villages, towns, other promoted routes, countryside sites, car parks and visitor facilities within the AONB | Coastal Path and PROW Units | JAC | 2023-25 |
| | | 2. AONB Volunteers to assist the Coastal Path Unit with improving and maintenance of the coastal path network | AONB Unit | Coastal Path Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 3. Review, re-invest and reposition data monitoring equipment within the AONB. Collate and analyse at quarterly intervals and disseminate to relevant partners. | AONB Unit | Coastal Path /PROW Unit JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 4. Production of a heathland strategy and action plan to enable the conservation and enhancement of lowland heath / common land for access and conservation purposes. | AONB Unit | Coastal Path /PROW Unit JAC | 2023-24 |
| EU 5.1 - 5.4 | Understanding and Lifelong Learning The whole community is aware of the benefits of the AONB designation through the regular promotion of the special qualities and features | 1. The AONB Unit and Partners to provide an annual programme of educational activities and events | AONB Unit IACC | Schools | Weekly – Monthly |
| | | 2. AONB Unit to continue supporting and participating in the work of Outdoor Learning Wales on Anglesey | AONB Unit | | Bi-annual |
| | | | AONB Unit | Schools JAC | Weekly – Monthly |

THEME: Supporting and developing opportunities for enjoying and understanding the AONB

AIM: People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate the special qualities and features in a sensitive and sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| | of the AONB and its management needs. | 3. Raise awareness of the education resources available from the AONB and utilise the Breakwater Country Park as a centre for schools' activities and events linked to the new curriculum. | | | |
| EU 6.1 Page 132 | <u>Interpretation and Information</u> The meanings of the AONB's special qualities and features are revealed through effective interpretation. | 1. Work with the IACC's Tourism Unit to review and report on all outdoor interpretation in the AONB to evaluate condition, relevance, location, compliance etc (include digital technology as part of review) | Tourism Unit AONB Unit | DAP JAC | 2023-25 |
| | | 2. Develop an interpretation and information plan for the AONB linked to the recommendations of the above review. | Tourism Unit AONB Unit | DAP JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 3. Prepare a year long programme of events and activities to celebrate the 60 th anniversary since Anglesey's AONB being designated (1966-2026) | AONB Unit IACC | JAC NRW WG | 2025 |

THEME: Supporting and developing the living and working landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------|--|-----------|
| LWL 1.1 - 1.6 Page 133 | Land Management Land managers safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the special qualities and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services | 1. Influence and promote the Sustainable Farming Scheme (Welsh Government's emerging agri-environment initiative) | Farming Unions | AONB Unit WG JAC | 2023-25 |
| | | 2. Support and promote local food supply chains and local food producers aligned to conserving and enhancing the AONB's special qualities | Farming Unions | Menter Môn AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 3. Develop tree / woodland planting schemes proportionate to land availability and suitability | AONB Unit | JAC Landowners / Land Managers | Annual |
| | | 4. Development of IACC Tree Nursery to supply trees for planting schemes [farmland, communities and landscaping commercial developments] | AONB Unit | Volunteers | 2023-24 |
| | | 5. Continuation of Anglesey Rivers' Project (River Wygyr) to improve water quality [river and bathing waters] improve public access, tree planting and increase bio-diversity | AONB Unit | NWRT WG Landowners / Land Managers | 2022-25 |
| | | 6. Promote and administer Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) funding for nature recovery and decarbonisation projects | AONB Unit | JAC Landowners / | 2022-25 |

THEME: Supporting and developing the living and working landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

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| | | | | Land Managers WG | |
| LWL 2.1 - 2.3 | <p><u>Viable Communities</u> Local culture and rural services, products and activities are maintained, securing affordable homes for local people and supporting the Welsh language</p> <p>Second homes, and their impact on culture, community and language Note – IACC / internal advice required on how to include second homes as part of objectives, policies and actions</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve dialogue with internal departments of IACC relevant to affordable housing in the AONB as well as external agencies 2. Support and alignment with the North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan 3. Promote and initiate volunteering opportunities through the AONB Volunteer Group with relevant community groups and employment agencies. | IACC | AONB Unit | 2023-24 |
| | | | IACC Economic Development | Destination Management Local Community | 2023-25 |
| | | | AONB Unit | IACC JAC DWP | 2023-27 |
| LWL 3.1 - 3.3 | <p><u>Community Involvement</u> The communities of the AONB are engaged through meaningful consultation and</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The AONB Unit's AONB Community Wardens to maintain and promote links with communities to develop projects and initiatives. 2. The AONB Unit's AONB Community Wardens to actively encourage membership of the AONB Volunteer Group. | AONB Unit | Communities | Weekly – Monthly |
| | | | AONB Unit | Communities | Monthly |

THEME: Supporting and developing the living and working landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

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|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Page 135 | empowerment to improve participation, inclusivity, active lifestyles and to take pride in their AONB community. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The AONB Unit to provide and implement an annual programme of events and activities. 4. The AONB Unit to foster closer ties with relevant IACC Sections, Medrwn Môn and Menter Môn to deliver on key community objectives and initiatives. 5. Promote and administer Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) and Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). | AONB Unit | JAC Events providers | Weekly – Monthly |
| | | | AONB Unit | IACC Medrwn Môn Menter Môn | 2023-24 / ongoing |
| | | | AONB Unit | JAC Communities | 2022-25 |
| LWL 4.1 - 4.3 | Business Businesses in the AONB contribute positively to a healthy rural economy providing employment opportunities for people who live on Anglesey | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint working with multiple partners to enable more effective, efficient and sustainable working practices 2. Support and promote local food supply chains and local food producers aligned to conserving and enhancing the AONB's special qualities 3. Promote Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund as a catalyst for joint funding of projects | IACC Economic Development | AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | | Menter Môn | AONB Unit Suppliers | Ongoing |
| | | | AONB Unit | Businesses | 2022-25 |

THEME: Supporting and developing the living and working landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

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|---|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Page 136 | LWL 5.1 - 5.4 Sustainability An increased proportion of the resident population of the AONB adopts sustainable lifestyles. | 1. The AONB Unit to continue to adopt and implement sustainable working principles and practices | AONB Unit | IACC | Ongoing |
| | | 2. Identify important landscape/seascape elements and explore the links between the AONB's special qualities and the ecosystem approach | AONB Unit | JAC NRW Bangor University | 2023-24 / Ongoing |
| | | 3. Identify current and future uses of the AONB's natural resources and explore the links to the ecosystems approach | AONB Unit | JAC NRW Bangor University | 2023-24 / Ongoing |
| | | 4. Support the Welsh Government and IACC's Waste Management principles and strategies | IACC Waste Management | AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 5. Promote Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund as a catalyst for joint funding of projects | AONB Unit | Communities Businesses | Ongoing |
| LWL 6.1 - 6.4 Transport National and local transport agencies have put in place policies, guidance and decisions to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, | 1. Ensure the AONB Unit has an opportunity to contribute to any transport plans and programmes | IACC Transport Unit | AONB Unit | Ongoing | |
| | 2. Ensure transport and PROW strategies support the AONB Management Plan's objectives and policies | Transport and PROW Units | AONB Unit | Ongoing | |

THEME: Supporting and developing the living and working landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

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|--|--|---|--|--------------------|-----------|
| | maintain local distinctiveness, provide services and support a buoyant rural economy. | 3. Production and publication of relevant AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance [SPG] to support the AONB Management Plan and Local Development Plan | Planning Policy Unit Transport Unit | AONB Unit | 2024-25 |
| LWL 7.1 - 7.2 Page 137 | <u>Partnership working</u> The JAC will continuously seek opportunities to promote joint working with and between stakeholders to secure the purposes of designation and maximise funds. | 1. Extension of contracts for the 2№ AONB Community Wardens and Assistant AONB project Officer to enable effective implementation of the AONB Management Plan's Action Plan | AONB Unit IACC | WG | 2024 |
| | | 2. Review and strengthen the role of the JAC including governance and training | AONB Unit IACC | JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 3. Seek new and additional resources to implement the AONB Management Plan's Action Plan | AONB Unit | WG NRW | Ongoing |
| | | 4. Arrange 4№ JAC meetings annually [of which 1№ site / project visits. | AONB Unit | JAC | Quarterly |
| | | 5. Attend and contribute to the National Designated Landscapes Wales Partnership (NDLWP) | AONB Unit | NDLWP WG NRW | Quarterly |
| | | 6. Continued membership, participation and contribution to the NAAONB & Europarc: attend meetings, seminars, workshops, training events and conferences when appropriate | AONB Unit | NAAONB | Ongoing |

THEME: Conservation of nature and the environment

AIM: The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the special qualities of the AONB environment. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|---------------------------------|---|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| NE 1.1 - 1.5 Page 138 | Habitat and Species Conservation The coast and countryside are managed sensitively to maintain the diversity of habitats and species in a favourable condition and to improve connectivity between sites. | 1. The AONB Unit to assist and contribute to the priorities of the LBAP for Anglesey and actions within IACC's Corporate Biodiversity Plan | PBNE | LNP AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 2. The AONB Unit to forge closer working with IACC's Planning, Built and Natural Environment (PBNE) Unit to share resources, exchange knowledge and prepare joint funding bids. | AONB Unit | PBNE | Ongoing |
| | | 3. The AONB Unit working collaboratively with Partners to lead and administer Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales' funding programmes on heathland, wildflower meadows, roadside verges / roundabouts conservation and management. | AONB Unit | IACC JAC Landowners / Land Managers Community Councils | 2022-25 |
| | | 4. The AONB Unit to lead and co-ordinate the Himalayan Balsam Partnership and expand it to an Invasive Non-Native Species [INNS] Partnership | AONB Unit | JAC NRW | Bi-annual |
| | | 5. Via the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), agree a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between IACC and Cofnod | AONB Unit | PBNE Development Management | 2023-25 |

THEME: Conservation of nature and the environment

AIM: The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the special qualities of the AONB environment. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

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|----------|-------------------------------|--|---|------|-----------|
| Page 139 | | | | IACC | |
| | NE 2.1 - 2.3 | <u>Soil, Air and Water</u> The quality of the soil, air and water – both | 1. Collate relevant data which can be incorporated and updated into the State of the AONB Report and help determine the values associated with the ecosystem approach | IACC | NRW WG |

THEME: Conservation of nature and the environment

AIM: The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the special qualities of the AONB environment. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

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|---------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | freshwater and seawater – is regularly monitored to maintain standards that exceed UK and European standards. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support the work of IACC and agencies monitoring and reporting on soil, air and water quality 3. Work with NRW and the Farming Unions to gather relevant data and better understand the links to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) | IACC IACC | NRW WG Dwr Cymru Farming Unions | Annual 2022-25 |
| NE 1 - 3.3 Page 140 | <p><u>Designated Areas and Other Important Sites</u> Both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites are managed for their biodiversity, aesthetic and amenity value.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the JAC and partners to identify suitable sites for joint working, joint funding bids and volunteering opportunities | LNP | AONB Unit JAC | 2023-24 / ongoing |

| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
|---|--|
| Committee: | CORPORATE SCRUTINY |
| Date: | 20 JUNE 2023 |
| Subject: | ANNUAL DELIVERY DOCUMENT 2023/24 |
| Purpose of Report: | To challenge content and deliverability |
| Scrutiny Chair: | COUNCILLOR DOUGLAS FOWLIE |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | COUNCILLOR CARWYN E JONES |
| Head of Service: | CARYS EDWARDS |
| Report Author: | GETHIN MORGAN |
| Tel: | 01248 752111 |
| Email: | GethinMorgan@anglesey.gov.uk |
| Local Members: | n/a |

| 1 - Recommendation/s |
|--|
| <p>The Annual Delivery Document outlines the Council's annual work programmes which are designed to deliver the expectations of the Council Plan. It provides greater operational detail related to specific aspects of annual delivery.</p> <p>This is a decision for the Executive as it outlines the main areas for delivery within the council's strategic objectives during 2023/24.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee is asked to recommend the Annual Delivery Document to the Executive for the purpose of adoption for 2023/24.</p> |

| 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities |
|--|
| Used as part of articulating annual delivery of the Council Plan 2023-2028 |

| 3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members |
|--|
| <p>To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-</p> <p>3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]</p> <p>3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]</p> <p>3.3 A look at any risks [focus on risk]</p> <p>3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]</p> <p>3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration |

- Involvement
[focus on wellbeing]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. How does the proposed Annual Delivery Document align with the Council Plan: 2023/2028?
2. The draft Plan discusses Council priorities for delivery during 2023/24. To what extent does it comply with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?
3. The Annual Delivery Plan offers an ambitious programme for 2023/24. What are the main challenges and risks facing the Council in endeavouring to fully realise the priorities for the current municipal year?
4. What are the financial uncertainties for the Council in delivering its priorities during 2023/24?
5. How will the Local Authority ensure that front line and support staff are integral to the successful delivery of the Plan?

5 – Background / Context

This document details the work that the Council will be undertaking during 2023/24 to achieve the ambitious aspirations set in the Council Plan 2023-2028. This will be undertaken and delivered in a collaborative manner whilst also acknowledging that the Council's day-to-day activities will also be realised.

All front line and support staff will be integral to its successful delivery.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

Not applicable - Impact Assessments will be undertaken on associated work-streams of the Annual Delivery Document in order to assess the impact of changes on equality and the welsh language.

7 – Financial Implications

The financial implications related to the delivery of the Annual Delivery Document are noted in the yearly budget setting process.

8 – Appendices:

Annual Delivery Document 2023/24

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Council Plan 2023-2028



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Delivery Document – 2023/2024

DRAFT

Prepared by – Transformation Service

Publication date – June 2023

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh

Foreword

We are honoured to introduce our Annual Delivery Document, outlining the work the Council will be undertaking to achieve the ambitious aspirations set in the newly adopted Council Plan 2023-2028. This plan serves as our roadmap, guiding us towards specific targets that the Council aim to accomplish throughout the upcoming year of 2023/24.

As we look back on the past year, it is hard to believe how quickly time has passed since the new administration took office. It has been a year filled with challenges, triumphs, and the tireless dedication of our council members and staff.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in ensuring the success of the Council. It is your commitment and unwavering spirit that not only improves the quality of life on our beloved island but also epitomizes our ethos as the "land of the can do."

The past year has not been without its share of hardships, economic challenges and uncertainty. It is during such challenging times that the true strength and capability of a community shine through, and we are immensely grateful for the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our team.

The release of the Census results has shed light on the changing demographic of our island, particularly with the increasing number of older adults. This demographic shift emphasizes the importance of creating high-standard adult services and promoting independence within our communities.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to social care and well-being, striving to provide the right services at the right time. We'll work towards increasing opportunities to learn the Welsh language whilst ensuring an effective education provision for current and future generations. We'll promote opportunities to develop the Island's economy whilst ensuring everyone has a right to call somewhere home and respond to the climate challenges by working towards becoming net zero by 2030.

The 2023/24 budget has been agreed but it is important to note that this was not an easy process as the financial pressure on the Council is greater than ever again this year. The Council Tax levels continue to be amongst the lowest in Wales and the agreed budget has resulted in the Council's ability to deliver this Annual Delivery Document.

Finally, we wish to thank all the residents and partners who have collaborated with the Council to ensure the best services for the people of Anglesey during the last year and we look forward to your continued support into 2023/24.



Cllr. Llinos Medi
Council Leader



Dylan Williams
Chief Executive

The Council Plan 2023-28

The Council Plan 2023-28 was agreed and adopted by the Isle of Anglesey County Council in March 2023. It outlines our vision and strategic objectives for the next 5 years.

Council Vision

The Council's vision is to –

“Create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.”

Strategic Objectives

Our six strategic objectives are –



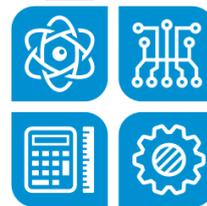
The Welsh Language

Increasing opportunities to learn and use the language



Social Care and Wellbeing

Providing the right support at the right time



Education

Ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations



Housing

Ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home



Economy

Promoting opportunities to develop the island's economy



Climate Change

Responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards becoming a net zero organisation by 2030

This document details the work that the Council will be undertaking during 2023/24 to achieve the ambitious aspirations set in the Council Plan 2023-2028. This will be undertaken and delivered in a collaborative manner whilst also acknowledging that the Council's day-to-day activities will also be realised.

All front line and support staff will be integral to its successful delivery.

The Welsh Language

Increasing opportunities to learn and use the language



Thriving heritage and Welsh language

The Council will:

- a) Implement a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) work plan, taking an integrated approach and reporting on its delivery
- b) Working together to promote the OgiOgi app as a useful resource to help parents and carers improve their confidence and use more Welsh with their children
- c) Ensure that more opportunities to speak Welsh are available to staff and work with Bangor University to pilot the ARFer programme, which seeks to change language practices to enable colleagues who can speak Welsh (but who have developed the habit of using English) to use more Welsh at work
- d) Ensure, by way of an annual assessment and secret shopper surveys, that we comply with the Welsh language standards
- e) Work with the Anglesey Language Forum to provide community based Welsh classes and identify sources to fund community activities
- f) Promote Welsh lessons amongst parents, newcomers and refugees and ensure that materials for learning the Welsh language are available on our website
- g) Provide resources for Schools and Placements on Caru Iath
- h) Libraries will work with teaching and learning providers to offer opportunities to residents to learn and develop Welsh language skills in their communities
- i) Establish and deliver the new Arfor Enterprising Communities grant on Anglesey, and ensure sufficient capacity for effective delivery
- j) Participate in regional Arfor 2 schemes and programmes and maximise the benefits for Anglesey.

Social Care and Well-being

Providing the right service at the right time



Protecting and supporting the vulnerable

The Council will:

- a) Undertake a public consultation on the future of Day Opportunities on the island with the aim to strengthen community opportunities by working and integrating with our Community Hubs
- b) Map all activities and improve local data intelligence to tackle poverty on the island focusing on food and fuel poverty as well as reducing homelessness and debt
- c) Launch the implementation of the Right Door Strategy by developing and expanding the early hub arrangements as a live referral process working in a multi-disciplinary forum
- d) Develop opportunities for people with mental health needs
- e) Increasing participation by enhancing the service offer within the Integrated Community Hubs including developing and delivering training that focuses on integration and accessibility
- f) Increase opportunities for public engagement with the Local Authority through the Older People's and Local forums so that individuals can positively influence policies and service delivery
- g) Establish and Develop an Age Friendly Network and become members of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age friendly Global Network
- h) Review the options available for modernising external supported living services and work with housing providers to secure suitable accommodation options
- i) Open our third Cartref Clyd (Small Group Homes) provision
- j) Work towards becoming a Trauma informed Island by ensuring the accreditation of 5 schools as Trauma Informed Schools (TIS)
- k) Invest £1m in our leisure centre buildings and manage the installation of a new 3G pitch at Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern
- l) Provide free swimming opportunities for young carers and work towards increasing the number of children having swimming lessons, whilst maintaining 500,000 visits to our leisure centres annually

Education

Ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations

Raising educational attainment and achievement

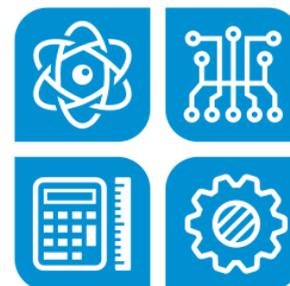
The Council will:

- a) Ensure that the Curriculum for Wales is in place in all schools and that systems have been developed to measure the impact of work relating to well-being, inclusion and welfare on children, young people and the workforce.
- b) Ensure that all schools are able to offer free school meals to all primary pupils as part of the Welsh Government's scheme to provide free school meals to all primary school children
- c) Strengthen integrated collaboration arrangements with services / external agencies to offer support and guidance to the children, young people and youth of Anglesey, in an inclusive and innovative manner
- d) Provide opportunities to develop leadership across the Island, in collaboration with GwE
- e) Deliver the plan to attract teaching assistants to the profession, including working with the college and providing local training opportunities
- f) Implement the Adult Community Education Service Delivery Plan

Providing sustainable communities for learning

The Council will:

- a) Consult and adopt the new strategy for Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh language and implement the associated work programme
- b) Investigate methods of modernising and developing post-16 provision and learning opportunities in order to set a direction and adopt a post-16 strategy
- c) Increase the number of schools that are able to run the SHEP Scheme (School Holiday Enrichment Programme) during the summer holidays
- d) Adopt and begin to deliver a new strategy for the provision of Library Services
 - a. support families by providing a programme of activities that will inspire an interest in literature and reading
 - b. Promoting a love of reading by raising awareness of our local libraries and highlighting the types of different materials available e.g. E-books, E-zines, E-comics, books on prescription (mental health)
- e) Ensure that our children and young people are given opportunities to voice their opinions during the year when the Council engages and consults on different issues relating to education
- f) Review and align the Archives and Oriel Môn Strategy to support the continued retention of our accreditation status

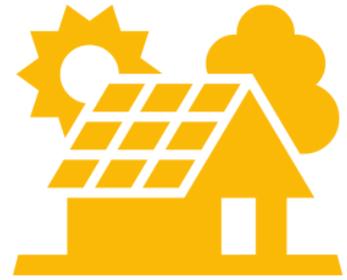


Housing

Ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home

Quality, affordable and accessible homes

The Council will:



- a) Continue to develop plans for an Extra Care Housing Development at Tyddyn Mostyn, Menai Bridge
- b) Ensure that any new build developments are built through Modern Methods of Construction to a minimum A rated Energy Performance Certificate
- c) Contribute to implementing the Council's Local Housing Strategy by developing 30 new homes and purchasing 15 former Council Houses
- d) Make use of the Council Tax Premium to facilitate the restoration of 70 empty homes, aid up to 20 first time buyers entering the property market, and provide support to local households seeking rental affordability on the open market within their communities
- e) Utilise data gathered in the 2022 Stock Condition Survey to identify the future investment required to ensure that Council Housing Stock can meet the new Welsh Housing Quality Standards
- f) Launch our new Digital tenants portal in order to improve means of contact for our tenants
- g) Prepare for the digital switchover in 2025 by assessing our Council Housing Stock door entry systems and re-modelling our hard wired telecare solutions to be portable solutions which are based on individual needs
- h) Prepare, adopt and implement a new Empty Homes Strategy for 2023-2028
- i) Work in partnership with the UK and Welsh Governments to support people coming to live on Anglesey as a result of asylum through implementing the WLGA Asylum Dispersal Toolkit

Economy

Promoting opportunities to develop the Island's economy



Regeneration and Economic Development

The Council will:

- a) Complete additional business units in Llangefni and Holyhead as well as secure full planning consents on proposals to build business units in Amlwch.
- b) Undertake consultation on the new Town Centre Strategy and Place Making Plans for the five Anglesey towns, and secure funding to deliver improvements to our Town Centres
- c) Provide NDA grants to the north of Anglesey as well as working in collaboration with partners to progress the development of Urban Parkland
- d) Work with Stena, the UK and Welsh Governments and the North Wales Ambition Board to ensure investment opportunities for Holyhead Port
- e) Collaborate with key stakeholders to establish a secure customs zone at Holyhead and other sites on Anglesey
- f) Collaborate and influence North Wales' Growth Programmes to ensure the best possible local benefits
- g) Successfully implement the UK Government Levelling Up Fund (LUF), and the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)
- h) Ensure that the road network is safe to use and maintained

The Visitor Economy

The Council will:

- a) Manage the Council's maritime and countryside assets safely and effectively including the management of Ynys Llanddwyn, Dingle Local Nature Reserve and the Holyhead Breakwater County Park.
- b) Install new landing pontoons at Amlwch Port and St George's Pier as well as improve footpaths, cycling facilities, recycling facilities, EV charging points, and access and signage throughout the island.
- c) Adopt and deliver a new AONB Management Plan, and Destination Plan, in consultation with partners and residents
- d) Follow Welsh Government guidelines and change 30mph zones to 20mph zones and consult with specific communities (exempted from the 20mph rule) to introduce 20mph areas in populated areas (built up)
- e) Deliver tourism infrastructure improvements as part of the Brilliant Basics 2 Funding Programme
- f) Welcome 50 cruise ships to the island and work with the Welsh Government on Cruise Ship on-shore activities
- g) Increase the monitoring of council owned car parks and streets to encourage good visitor behaviours with regards to car parking
- h) Implement the Menai Strait Code of Conduct to ensure adequate and effective management of the Menai Strait

Climate Change

Responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards
Becoming a net zero organisation by 2030



Key Infrastructure & Planning for Climate Change

The Council will:

- a) Invest in our buildings to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy use, and reduce the Council's carbon emissions
- b) Deliver our fleet transformation plan by increasing the number of electric vehicles in our fleet and increase their use when delivering our services
- c) Change how we work to reduce our energy use and carbon emissions e.g. by moving to cloud based IT solutions
- d) Work towards the Welsh Government target of 70% recycling by 2025
 - By collaborating with WRAP Cymru to review the options available to the Council to help increase the recycling rate on the Island
 - Work with a new commercial waste contractor to improve recycling rates across all of the Council's buildings
- e) Seek to establish a Circular Economy Strategy in partnership with Menter Môn to contribute to improve recycling rates and waste reduction across Ynys Môn
- f) Enable sustainable travel by implementing active travel plans at Lôn Graig to Lôn Refail, Llanfairpwll, and other smaller improvements to the active travel network
- g) Utilise Welsh Government funding and continue to implement the Charging Point Plan by installing EV charging points at -
 - Llanfairpwllgwyngyll
 - Rhosneigr
 - Cemaes
 - Benllech
 - Valley
 - Holyhead, Plas Arthur and Amlwch (Leisure Centres)
- h) Continue with the work of maintaining the public path network and coastal path
- i) Deliver projects to enhance biodiversity and tree cover across Ynys Môn and map out suitable areas for the replanting of trees
- j) Develop a 'Local flood risk management' strategy to identify & prioritise long-term interventions across Ynys Môn.
- k) Deliver small-scale flood management schemes across the island and develop funding proposals for large flood risk interventions at
 - Menai Bridge
 - Brynsiencyn
 - Gwalchmai
 - Holyhead and others
- l) Establish an internal policy team to support and prepare the Local Development Plan

Energy Island Programme

- a) We will engage with developers of major energy projects and other stakeholders to promote opportunities for transformational socio-economic benefits for the island, adopting the proximity principle and ensuring community benefits and local ownership
- b) We will fully participate in the statutory consenting processes for any low carbon energy projects

Further Information

For more information on any element of this document or if you have any comments, please contact:

Human Resources and Transformation

Anglesey County Council

Council Offices

Llangefni,

Anglesey

LL77 7TW

Phone - 01248 752111

E-mail:–

CarysEdwards@ynysmon.gov.uk

GethinMorgan@ynysmon.gov.uk

This document is available in Welsh and can be made available in other formats and is available on the Council's website along with the Council Plan for 2023-28:

<http://www.anglesey.gov.wales/council-plan-2023-2028>

Further information may also be obtained as follows: Policies, plans and strategies published by the Council and can be accessed at: <http://www.anglesey.gov.wales>

Audit and Inspection Reports produced by the Council's Regulators are available from their respective websites, as follows:

- Wales Audit Office: www.audit.wales
- Care Inspectorate Wales: <https://careinspectorate.wales>
- Estyn: www.estyn.wales

If you do not have access to the internet or would like to obtain a document that is not listed above, please contact the Council via the contact details outlined at the top of this page.

| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template | |
|---|---|
| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 20 th June, 2023 |
| Subject: | Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme |
| Purpose of Report: | Assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering, agreeing and reviewing its forward work programme for 2023/24 |
| Scrutiny Chair: | Cllr Douglas Fowle |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Not applicable |
| Head of Service: | Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer |
| Report Author: | Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager |
| Tel: | 07971167198 |
| Email: | AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk |
| Local Members: | Applicable to all Scrutiny Members |

25

| 1 - Recommendation/s |
|---|
| The Committee is requested to: R1 agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2023/24 R2 note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme. |

| 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities |
|--|
| Effective work programming is the foundation of effective local government scrutiny. Our Scrutiny rolling forward work programmes are aligned with the corporate priorities of the Council and corporate transformation programmes – ensuring the role of Member scrutiny makes a tangible contribution to the Council’s improvement priorities. |

| 3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members |
|--|
| To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:- |
| 3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen] |
| 3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value] |
| 3.3 A look at any risks [focus on risk] |
| 3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality] |
| 3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement [focus on wellbeing] |

3.6 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

5 – Background / Context

1. Background

1.1 Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective local government scrutiny function¹. Done well, work programming can help lay the foundations for targeted and timely work on issues of local importance demonstrating where Member scrutiny can add value. Good practice advocates two key issues at the heart of the scrutiny forward work programme:

- i. Challenge around prioritising work streams
- ii. Need for a member-led approach and interface with officers.

1.2 Basic principles of good work programming²

- Work programming should not be a “start-stop” process
- Complementary work programmes for separate scrutiny committees
- Balance between different methods of work
- An effective process for reporting / escalating issues to the Executive
- Input and views of internal stakeholders
- Close working with the Executive
- Links with the Annual Scrutiny Report (evaluation and improvement tool).

2. Local context

2.1 There is now a well-established practice of forward work programming which are now rolling programmes focusing on the quality of scrutiny with fewer items, to add value. They are an important tool to assist Members in prioritising their work and are discussed with the Strategic Leadership Team and Heads of Service. Both committees review the content of their work programmes on a regular basis, to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements now ensure greater focus on:

- Strategic aspects
- Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
- Priorities of the Council Plan and transformation projects
- Risks and the work of inspection and regulation
- Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.

¹ A Cuning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

² A Cuning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

Outcome: rolling work programmes for scrutiny committees which are aligned with corporate priorities.

2.2 Committee chairs lead on developing the forward work programmes and are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum and for approval at each ordinary meeting of the scrutiny committees. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee these programmes and jointly negotiate priorities.

2.3 **“Whole council” approach to Scrutiny:** our work programmes provide a strong foundation for our improvement programme, ensuring the role that Scrutiny plays in the Authority’s governance arrangements:

- i. Supports robust and effective decision-making
- ii. Makes a tangible contribution to the Council’s improvement priorities
- iii. Continues to evolve.

3. Issues for consideration

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee receives regular update reports on the implementation of its forward work programme. A copy of the current 2023/24 work programme is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report for reference.

3.2 Where appropriate, items may be added to the Committee’s forward work programme during the municipal year. Requests for additional matters to be considered for inclusion on the work programme can be submitted via the Members Request Form for an item to be considered for Scrutiny. Requests are initially considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum, using the following criteria:

- the Council’s strategic objectives and priorities (as outlined in the Council Plan)
- the ability of the Committee to have influence and/or add value on the subject (A Scrutiny Test of Significance Form will be completed).

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

Not applicable for this overarching issue but will be considered as an integral part of preparing for specific proposals to be submitted for consideration by the Committee.

7 – Financial Implications

Not applicable.

8 – Appendices:

Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2023/24

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR SCRUTINY → MAY, 2023 – APRIL, 2024
[Version dated 09/06/23]

Note for Stakeholders and the Public:

A [Protocol for Public Speaking at Scrutiny Committees](#) has been published by the Council.

Should you wish to speak on any specific item at a Scrutiny Committee then you should register your interest by submitting a written request using the form available as soon as possible and at least 3 clear working days prior to the specific Committee meeting. You can access information about the meeting and which items being discussed by reading this Forward Work Programme. Contact the Scrutiny Manager if you have any queries

[\[AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk\]](mailto:AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk)

| CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
|---|--|
| May, 2023 (23/05/23) | May, 2023 (23/05/23) |
| Election of Chair: 2023/24 | Election of Chair: 2023/24 |
| Election of Vice-chair: 2023/24 | Election of Vice-chair: 2023/24 |
| June, 2023 (20/06/23) – Q4 | June, 2023 (21/06/23) |
| Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Qtr4: 2022/23 | Welsh Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report on the Welsh Standards: 2022/23 • Welsh in Education Strategic Plan: 2022/23 → Measure Progress • Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report |
| Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy | Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Public Services Board Annual Report: 2022/23 |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan | Destination Management Plan |
| Annual Delivery Plan: 2023/24 | North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 4: 2022/23 Progress Report |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |
| September, 2023 (19/09/23) – Q1 | September, 2023 (19/09/23) - Education |
| Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Q1: 2023/24 | GwE Annual Report for the Isle of Anglesey: 2022/23 |
| Social Services Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report |
| Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress |
| Annual Performance Report: 2022/23 | Waste and Recycling Strategy: 2023/2028 (to be confirmed) |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Anglesey Town Centres Improvement Strategy |
| | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |

| CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
|--|---|
| October, 2023 (18/10/23) | October, 2023 (17/10/23) |
| | Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report: 2022/23 |
| | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |
| November, 2023 (21/11/23) - Q2 | November, 2023 (22/11/22) – Crime and Disorder |
| Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2023/24 | Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership Annual Report: 2022/23 |
| Corporate Asset Management Plan: 2023/2028 (to be confirmed) | Annual Report North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9): 2022/23 |
| Empty Homes Strategy: 2023/28 | North Wales Economic Ambition Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales Economic Ambition Board Annual Report: 2022/23 • North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 1: 2023/24 Progress Report |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |
| January, 2024 (18/01/24) – 2024/25 Budget | January, 2024 (16/01/24) |
| 2024/25 Budget Setting (Revenue Budget) – initial budget proposals | Corporate Safeguarding |
| Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | |
| Tenant Participation Strategy | North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 2: 2023/24 Progress Report |
| Asset Management Strategy (Housing Service) | |
| Local Housing Market Assessment | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |
| February, 2024 (27/02/24) – 2024/25 Budget | February, 2024 (06/02/24) - Education |
| Final Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25 – revenue & capital | Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report |
| Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | |
| | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |
| March, 2024 (12/03/24) - Q3 | March, 2024 (13/03/24) |
| Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2023/24 | Annual Report on Equalities: 2022/23 |
| Social Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 3: 2023/24 Progress Report |
| Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2024/2054 | Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |

| CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
|--|--|
| April, 2024 (16/04/24) | April, 2024 (17/04/24) |
| | Public Services Board – governance arrangements / scrutiny of delivery of the Wellbeing Plan |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 |

Items to be scheduled:

| Corporate Scrutiny Committee | Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee |
|--|---|
| Service Asset Management Plan 2021/31 – Smallholdings Estate | Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board – Clinical Services Strategy |
| Census 2021 | North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner |
| | North Wales Fire & Rescue Service |
| | Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust |
| | Medrwn Môn |
| | Scrutiny of Partnerships |
| | Transformation of Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities |
| | Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Action Plan |
| | Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Public Services Board – Annual Report 2023/24 (June, 2024) |
| | Communities for Work Plus Programme: Annual Report 2023/24 (June, 2024) |

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