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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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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DYDD MAWRTH 27 CHWEFROR am 2:00 y. p.	TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024 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

Ieuan Williams

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)

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

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A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 14)

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

- 16 January 2024 (morning meeting)
- 16 January 2024 (afternoon meeting)

3 BUDGET SETTING 2024/25 - FINAL DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS (Pages 15 - 44)

To present the report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer and the Scrutiny Manager.

4 BUDGET SETTING 2024/25 - CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS (Pages 45 - 60)

To present the report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer and the Scrutiny Manager.

5 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

The Chair of the Panel to provide an oral report.

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 61 - 68)

To present the report of the Scrutiny Manager.

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 16 January, 2024 (A.M.)

PRESENT: Councillor Douglas Fowlie (Chair)
Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Aled M. Jones, R. Llewelyn Jones, Llio A. Owen, Keith Roberts, Ieuan Williams, Sonia Williams, Arfon Wyn.

Co-Opted Members: Wenda Owen (The Church in Wales), Gillian Thompson (Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector)

Portfolio Members

Councillors Llinos Medi (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development), Neville Evans (Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime), Carwyn Jones (Corporate Business and Customer Experience), Gary Pritchard (Portfolio Member for Children – Youth and Housing Services), Alun Roberts (Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety), Dafydd Roberts (Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language), Nicola Roberts (Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change), Robin Williams (Portfolio Member for Finance).

Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Other Members of the Council (by invitation)

Councillors Jeff Evans, Trefor Lloyd Hughes, MBE, Glyn Haynes, Gwilym O. Jones, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Dylan Rees, Ken Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Director of Social Services
Director of Learning, Skills, and Young People
Head of Adults' Services
Head of Highways, Waste and Property
Head of Housing Services
Head of Regulation and Economic Development
Head of Democracy (DS)
Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation
Legal Services Manager (RJ)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)
Webcasting Officer (FT)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jackie Lewis, Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property), Councillor Euryn Morris (invitee)

ALSO PRESENT: Bethan H. Owen (Accountancy Services Manager)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and he extended a particular welcome to Mrs Wenda Owen to her first meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee as the representative of the Church in Wales.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Sonia Williams declared a personal interest only as the wife of the Portfolio Member for Finance.

Councillor Jeff Evans (not a member of the Committee) declared a personal interest with regard to the Fire Service Levy as a Council representative and member of the North Wales Fire Service Authority.

Councillor Dylan Rees (not a member of the Committee) declared a personal interest only with regard to the Fire Service Levy as a Council representative and Chair of the North Wales Fire Service Authority.

2 BUDGET SETTING 2024/25 – INITIAL DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS

The report of the Scrutiny Manager was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report outlined the context to the 2024/25 Budget setting process along with the key issues and questions for Scrutiny in evaluating the Executive's initial revenue budget proposals. The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to be presented to the 23 January, 2024 meeting of the Executive setting out the provisional revenue budget for 2024/25 was attached at Appendix 1.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance provided an overview of the budget process and implications of the provisional Local Government Settlement for 2024/25 which was issued by Welsh Government on 20 December 2023. The provisional settlement showed an increase of £169.8m in the overall level of funding for Wales equivalent to a 3.1% increase in cash terms. The draft settlement had resulted in a 2.5% increase for Anglesey (0.6% below the Welsh average and the 17th highest increase from the 22 authorities) which after the main budget changes have been taken into account leaves a funding deficit of £14.391m before any change in Council Tax. Bridging this gap through Council Tax alone would mean raising Council Tax by 30% which the Executive believes is unacceptable and unrealistic. The Executive is therefore proposing that the shortfall be made up by a combination of budget savings of £4.773m (funding of schools at 2.5% below inflation, workforce reductions, other budget savings as per Table 4 and Appendix 3 of the report and use of Council Tax Premium to support service costs), the use of £4.425m of reserves (£1.6m from General Balances and £2.825m from Earmarked Reserves) and a Council Tax increase of 9.78% plus an additional 1.12% to fund the increase in the Fire Service Levy (noting that based on the latest information, this could change) making a total rise of 10.9%. This would take the Band D charge (excluding Police and Town/Community Council precepts) to £1,592.37, an increase of £156.51 or £3.01 per week.

Councillor Robin Williams whilst emphasising that the level of increase in the Council Tax is not something the Executive is comfortable with referred to the difficult financial context and uncertain financial climate which has made preparing the provisional revenue budget for 2024/25 a challenging task. The Council is legally required to deliver a balanced budget and despite the proposed Council Tax increase which is at a similar level to indicative increases by other authorities, Anglesey remains one of the lowest Council tax charging authorities in Wales having exercised prudent financial management in previous years which has strengthened its financial position and is helping it deal in the short-term with the challenges it is facing.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer provided additional context saying that the financial challenges described in the report are not unique to Anglesey. Several local authorities in England have issued Section 114 notices whereby the Chief Financial Officer gives notice that in the financial year, it is expected that the expenditure incurred by the Authority is likely to exceed the resources available to fund that expenditure. Although no council in Wales has issued a Section 114 notice, the financial pressures faced by Welsh councils are similar to those in England. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) estimates that Welsh councils are facing budget pressures of £720m in 2024/25 and further pressures of £516m in 2025/26 and £524m in 2026/27. If the position in Anglesey reflected the WLGA estimate, the Council's budget would have to rise by £16m in 2024/25 followed by increases of £12m in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

The Section 151 Officer elaborated on the pressures and consequently financial risks facing the Council many of which including service demand, inflation, pension costs, levies set by other bodies and new or changing service requirements imposed by Welsh and/or UK Government are outside the Council's control. Some of those risks have been allowed for in the budget proposal whilst others would have to be covered by the Council's general balances and reserves should the risk materialise into a financial cost in 2024/25. The main budget changes are detailed in section 4 of the report and the budget risks are outlined in section 6. All these have contributed to the pressure on the Council's budgets and have created the need for a Council Tax increase so that a balanced budget for 2024/25 can be achieved. Services which have come under particular pressure due to rising demand and referrals, cost of provision and complexity of cases are Adults' and Children's social care. Grants provided in 2023/24 which have helped mitigate the overspend in these services are unlikely to be repeated in 2024/25 and therefore a budget correction (in addition to inflation) of £2.9m for Adults' social care and £0.9m for Children's Services has been made in the 2024/25 standstill budget.

Looking forward to 2025/26 and beyond it is not envisaged that Welsh Government funding for the Council will increase by much more than 1% or slightly over £1m (if at all). However, the Council will likely be facing the same financial pressures in the form of rising demand and costs which it is estimated will add in the region of £5m to the Council's budget in 2025/26 leaving a funding shortfall of £4m from the outset. Additionally the Council will have used approximately £8m of its reserves in balancing the 2023/24 (£3.78m) and 2024/25 (£4.225m) budgets, a position which is unsustainable in the long-term. The use of reserves allows the Council to review its budget requirement in the long-term where the services provided must be re-aligned to the core funding available. The proposed budget for 2024/25 begins the process of reducing service provision, but further significant reductions in services will have to be implemented in 2025/26 and subsequent years to enable the Council to set a balanced budget and to keep Council Tax rises to a reasonable and affordable level. Failure to do so increases the risk of the Council becoming financially unsustainable by 2026/27 or 2027/28.

The Committee thanked the Section 151 Officer for the report and presentation acknowledging that the draft budget process had been difficult but recognising also that Anglesey is in a better financial position than many other authorities. During consideration of the report attention was given to the Fire Service Levy with it being noted that the North Wales Fire Authority is planning an increase in its levy on the six North Wales constituent authorities of 10.8% which increases the budget by £4.8m. Due to the change in population, Anglesey's contribution to the levy rises from 9.92% to 10.03% of the total levy resulting in an increase to the levy on the Council of £533k which is equivalent to a 1.12% rise in Council Tax and taking the levy which is funded by the Council to £4.936m. The Committee wanted to know whether highlighting the levy was something new as it had not been singled out in this way as part of previous budget discussions. Councillor Ieuan Williams pointed out that he had asked the Chief Fire Officer at a meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration

Scrutiny Committee recently whether she could make available a copy of the Service's corporate structure for members to scrutinise for any possible savings. He requested that the Chief Fire Officer be invited to attend next year to allow members to undertake such scrutiny although it was also noted by Committee that this Council as with the five other North Wales councils have elected member representation on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority and that the Authority also has an Executive Panel and Audit Committee to scrutinise and determine these matters.

The Chief Executive advised that he understood that considerable work had been carried out by the Fire Service Authority to look at reductions in central overhead costs in order to protect frontline services and that a panel had been established for that purpose. Extensive discussions have taken place around this subject and it might be possible to request that the output from those discussions be made available to be considered outside of this meeting but also with a view to next year's budget setting. Because of the challenging financial situation in which Anglesey and the other North Wales councils find themselves it was discussed and was decided that council tax increases in connection with council services and council tax increases in connection with the Fire Service levy should be differentiated and clearly communicated. While some authorities have been doing this for some time, it was deemed important that there should be a consistent approach by the North Wales authorities. There is also some engagement with Welsh Government about fire service authorities becoming precepting authorities themselves so that the discourse between the Fire Authority and the public happens separately from county council processes. Notwithstanding the Council's elected member representation on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority it is appropriate that Officers and other Elected Members should have the opportunity to consider and to challenge the levy if they so wish since it is specified on Council Tax billing documentation. Also, given the serious financial situation, councils have to look at every possible means of keeping expenditure within budget to avoid Council Tax increases and service reductions.

In response to further questions by the Committee, the Director of Function (Resources)/ Section 151 Officer confirmed that the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority has the right to ask for an additional levy as well as the right to carry reserves which could cover any overspend in the year.

Councillor Dylan Rees speaking as Chair of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority confirmed that the Authority's budget for 2024/25 had been scrutinised carefully and in detail. While originally the planned increase in the levy had been 10.8% the proposal that will now be put to the Authority at a meeting on 22 January 2024 is for a rise of 8.85% following an increased use of reserves. While the Fire and Rescue Service is facing the same financial challenges as local authorities, he could assure the Committee that the Authority has conducted extensive work to reduce the increase in the levy as far as possible.

In response to other issues raised on the budget proposals, the Portfolio Member and Officers responded as follows –

- With regard to the Council's reserves position and whether it has sufficient "rainy day money" or room in its budget to avoid going into difficulties, the Committee was advised that the Council's current level of unallocated general balances is forecasted to stand at £11.1m by the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The proposed use of £1.6m of those balances in 2024/25 would leave a total of £9.5m which is equivalent to 5% of the net revenue budget which is the minimum general balance as set by the Executive. These balances are available should the Council incur any unexpected or unplanned for expenditure in 2024/25. Councils which have issued Section 114 notices have effectively run out of balances and are unable to fund over expenditure which highlights the

- importance of maintaining a healthy level of reserves. Should the Council have to draw significantly on its balances in 2024/25 then it will have to put in place a strategy to replenish those balances in the following years.
- With regard to commencing the budget setting process sooner especially if implementing savings or reduction in services are part of that process, the Committee was advised that the savings that form part of the 2024/25 Budget proposals have been put forward because their impact is deemed negligible and because it is considered that the Council can manage the reduction in capacity in the forthcoming year. Informal discussions in relation to the 2025/26 budget have already begun with the Leadership Team and Executive including the kind of choices that will have to be made and processes followed to be able to deliver a balanced budget for that year given that that is expected to be even more of a challenge than setting the 2024/25 budget.
- Noting that the Council is no longer able to protect education and schools from a reduction in their budgets, it was asked whether it was feasible in instances where cuts might affect the quality of teaching and/or the number of pupils for the Service to work with the school to form a plan to allow it to go into the red for a year or two. The Committee was advised that this is the first year the Council has had to implement a significant cut in the schools budget with it being unavoidable as the financial challenges are too great for the Council's other services to bear on their own. A situation is approaching whereby it will be difficult to meet statutory responsibilities as the pressures are becoming greater than capacity and the funding which the Council receives. There needs to be a discourse with Welsh Government about lowering the thresholds in some areas in order to reduce costs even though that could lead to a deterioration in the level of service or to "managed decline." Not having this conversation runs the risk of councils in Wales becoming insolvent because of the growing gulf between demand and resources.

The Section 151 Officer advised regarding schools with a budget deficit that the Council works with those schools individually to help them balance their budget, and whilst it is accepted that some schools are able to recover from a position of deficit within a year or two, the Council will not permit a school to run a deficit year on year without it being able to demonstrate that it has a plan to rectify that position.

- With regard to concern that the 3.5% provision made in the 2024/25 standstill budget for non-teaching pay inflation and the 2% provision for teaching pay inflation may be insufficient and the implications for the budget if that proves to be the case, the Committee was advised that this has been identified as a budget risk. There may be more clarity on the situation before the final budget for 2024/25 is approved and the budget may have to be adjusted accordingly. The challenge is to achieve a balance and to avoid over providing for pay inflation as that would mean a higher Council Tax increase whilst also having regard to the expectation that the budget reflects as accurately as possible the estimated costs of operating the Council's services in 2024/25.
- With regard to supporting practitioners in schools to access other sources of funding and/or grants which they may not be aware of or may not have the time to pursue, the Committee was advised that aside from the large Welsh Government grants for education, the Learning Service seeks to bring the availability of various, usually small pots of funding to the attention of schools through weekly bulletins. The Learning Service would be happy to look at the funding sources available with a view to focusing on a few main sources and will consider the matter of assisting schools access this funding as time and capacity allows.

The Section 151 Officer advised that schools receive a significant amount of funding through grants and must adjust their budgets as those grants increase or reduce. This is not ideal as it makes financial planning and management more difficult, and if those grants involve a bidding process, then that means that time and resources must be spent on preparing a bid. It would be preferable if a greater proportion of grant funding for schools and other Council services was incorporated within the settlement as that would reduce the administrative burden linked to grants.

- With regard to the shortage of funding driving changes in the way council services are planned and delivered with the direction of travel being towards merger and sharing services, the Committee was advised that currently there are no discussions about restructuring local government there being two key factors namely the time restructuring would take and the extent of the savings that restructuring would yield with larger structures not always leading to a reduction in costs. The Council already works in partnership with other authorities and sectors with partnership working being one of its core values. Where it does engage with others the Council does so well and effectively with Officers looking to see where joint working can lead to better, and more cost-effective outcomes.

The Chair opened the discussion to the invitees to the meeting. Councillor Ken Taylor spoke about having confidence in the Council's officers and staff and Councillor Jeff Evans, having concerns about the impact of funding and service cuts on community morale wanted to be able to give the public cause for optimism for the future and he referred specifically to the opportunities and benefits that could result from the Anglesey Freeport and Levelling Up for example.

The Chief Executive advised that there is a difference between the Council's financial position and its ability to maintain existing service levels and the overall direction of travel of the Island. Changing the economy takes time and requires Welsh and UK Government support and interventions with the impact of job losses over the past 10 to 20 years now being felt as the reduction in the number of working age people on the Island is reflected in the settlement hence the need to deliver on the Anglesey Freeport and Energy Island as ways of reversing managed decline. The creation of quality jobs is key to that endeavour and while the Council as an enabler can play its part in that process there is concern that the funding outlook for the next few years could undermine the Council's enabling capability as it focuses on its statutory responsibilities. There is cause for hope as well as intention and a commitment to attracting investment to the Island and to create employment growth. The Outline Business Case for the Anglesey Freeport was submitted to Welsh Government prior to Christmas and a decision on that is now expected after March 2024 which means that the potential benefits of Freeport status will have to be considered when setting the 2025/26 budget. Although there is optimism for the long-term it cannot be factored into the Council's budget setting process as that deals with the here and now.

Councillor Geraint Bebb, Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel presented the Panel's feedback from its three meetings the previous week to scrutinise the 2024/25 initial draft Budget proposals. As well as being presented with the report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer on those proposals, the Panel received verbal reports by the Portfolio Members and Heads of Service in relation to Learning and Schools, Leisure, Children and Families and Adults' Services. Having considered the documentation presented and the clarifications provided by Officers and Portfolio Members regarding the details and effects of the proposals, the Panel had resolved to support the budget proposals as presented and to recommend the following to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee –

- A proposed net Revenue Budget for 2024/25 of £184.219m
- Budget savings of £4.773m
- An increase in the Second Homes Premium from 75% to 100%

- The release of £4.425m from the Council's General Balances and earmarked reserves to balance the 2024/25 Revenue Budget
- An increase in Council Tax of 9.78% plus 1.12% to cover the Fire Service Levy.
-

Having scrutinised the initial draft Revenue Budget proposals for 2024/25 and having regard to the points raised in discussion and the Officer and Portfolio Member responses as well as feedback from the Finance Scrutiny Panel, it was resolved to support and recommend the 2024/25 draft Revenue Budget proposals as presented to the Executive comprising of the following –

- **A proposed net Revenue Budget for 2024/25 of £184.219m**
- **Budget savings of £4.773m**
- **An increase in the Second Homes Premium from 75% to 100%**
- **The release of £4.425m from the Council's General Balances and earmarked reserves to balance the 2024/25 Revenue Budget**
- **An increase in Council Tax of 9.78% plus 1.12% to cover the Fire Service Levy.**

(Councillor Aled Morris Jones wished it to be noted that he had only voted for the proposals to go out to public consultation and not for the proposals themselves).

3 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor Geraint Bebb, Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel reported on the outcome of the Panel's three meetings in the week commencing 8 January 2024 to consider the 2024/25 initial draft Revenue Budget proposals as referred to in the narrative on item 2 above.

**Councillor Douglas Fowlie
Chair**

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CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 16 January, 2024 (P.M.)

PRESENT: Councillor Douglas Fowlie (Chair)
Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Aled M. Jones, R. Llewelyn Jones, Llio A. Owen, Keith Roberts, Ieuan Williams, Sonia Williams.

Co-opted Member: Wenda Owen (The Church in Wales)

Portfolio Members

Councillors Llinos Medi (Leader and Portfolio Member for Economic Development), Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience), Gary Pritchard (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Children, Youth and Housing Services), Nicola Roberts (Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change), Alun Roberts (Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety), Dafydd Roberts (Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language), Robin Williams (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance).

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Head of Housing Services
Head of Democracy (DS)
Housing Technical Services Manager (DR)
Community Housing Service Manager (LIW)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)
Webcasting Officer (FT)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jackie Lewis.

ALSO PRESENT: Elin Allsopp (Scrutiny Officer)

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 21 November, 2023 were presented and were confirmed as correct.

3 TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-29

The report of the Head of Housing incorporating the Tenant Participation Strategic Plan for 2024 -29 was presented for the Committee's consideration and scrutiny. The Plan was developed to ensure that Housing Services works in partnership with tenants to develop and deliver first rate housing services for the people of Anglesey and is the successor to the 2018-2023 Local Tenants Participation Strategy. The Housing Wales Act (2014) requires all Social Landlords in Wales to have a tenant participation strategy with the long-term goal of achieving continuous improvement in landlords' performance in supporting and enabling tenants to participate so they can influence decisions and contribute towards improving service delivery.

The report was presented by Councillor Gary Pritchard, Portfolio Member for Children, Youth and Housing Services who emphasised the importance of involving tenants in the way decisions about their homes are made and of obtaining their views and ideas about how the Council's housing services, homes and estates can be further improved and the challenges of WHQS Phase II met. The Tenant Participation Strategic Plan sets out how the Council will continue to develop tenant participation and increase participation levels during the life of the Plan.

The Community Housing Services Manager outlined the legislative background and principles behind the Plan and she provided an overview of the Plan including the priority areas as agreed with current participating tenants. Those related to ensuring effective engagement and information sharing, empowering tenants to influence and shape services, continually improving services to meet customer needs, and ensuring tenants have the skills and confidence to become involved in tenant participation opportunities. In delivering the Plan, Housing Services will develop a range of participation and engagement methods that will allow people to participate flexibly and as little or as often as they wish; continue to develop appropriate and innovative means of communicating with tenants and keeping them informed of progress; support tenants to build their skills and knowledge so they have the capacity and confidence to participate, and take a proactive approach to developing services utilising good practice from others. The Housing Service's approach will be regularly reviewed over the course of the five-year plan and a twelve-month Action Plan will be co-developed and monitored quarterly by the Tenant Participation monitoring group.

The Head of Housing Services said that the Strategic Plan builds on the achievements already made in tenant participation. The views of Housing Services users are important as levels of tenant satisfaction are reflected in the STAR survey conducted annually and benchmarked against other authorities in Wales.

In scrutinising the Tenant Participation Strategic Plan the Committee discussed a range of issues including the robustness of the process for putting the Plan in place and the challenges involved in ensuring that there are no barriers to participation arising from age or location and that everyone has the opportunity to contribute recognising also that some people may be more reticent than others in putting their views across. The approach to complaints was raised including how those and the Service's interventions in response fit in with the Plan. The appropriateness of Elected members advocating on behalf of tenants was also discussed as was the availability of resources to be able to realise the Plan and the risks to that endeavour.

In responding to those matters the Portfolio Member and Housing Services Officers confirmed the following –

- That the process of developing the Plan has been conducted over many months with the input of the existing Tenant Participation group and was comprehensive and varied in terms of the methods of engagement used. Tenant involvement has been encouraged throughout the process. The Service has also been closely involved with TPAS Cymru

which is an organisation that helps promote good practice in tenant participation to ensure that the Plan meets with statutory requirements.

- That the main risks and challenges are in ensuring that everybody whatever their background or experience, have the opportunity to participate and that there is fair representation especially as regards hard to reach groups including those who might be digitally excluded. The Service is committed to recruiting new members through a variety of means and to upskilling and improving the confidence levels of tenants to ensure they can participate effectively. Tenant engagement is taking place all the time and is a continuous process whereby views are exchanged, information shared and issues raised and resolved. It is accepted that good tenant participation is a two-way conversation and many tenants know who their Housing Services staff are and are comfortable in having that conversation with them.

The Chief Executive advised that evidencing how the Service has listened to tenants' views and how those views have influenced decisions is equally important. Whilst the Tenant Participation Strategic Plan is a reflection of how the Housing Service is leading on this matter, consideration needs to be given to how to obtain input into the Council's wider decision-making processes and whether the mechanisms used by the Housing Service can be applied by other services within the Council.

- That Elected Members may advocate on behalf of tenants by letter if authorised to do so by the tenant otherwise any verbal representations by a Member have to be made in the presence of the tenant.
- That Housing Services activity is financed through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is funded from rental income. The HRA is ring-fenced and cannot be used for any other purpose and being well-resourced is able to support the delivery of the Tenant Participation Plan.
- That a central record of issues/complaints is kept and analysed, and the Service is aware of the challenges and is able to identify any pattern of issues within groups or communities. The last annual STAR survey as well as reflecting areas of achievements also highlighted areas where improvements needed to be made which the Service has addressed e.g. simplifying communication about rent arrears so that tenants understand and are clear about the situation. The Service recognises that it is important to listen to what tenants have to say and to that end has introduced a survey/questionnaire to which tenants can contribute on an ongoing basis either online or by other means.
- That the Tenant Participation Strategic Plan will be monitored via the Tenant Participation monitoring group, the Housing Service Senior Management Team and by Scrutiny via the quarterly Corporate Scorecard report.

Having scrutinised the documentation presented and having considered the points raised during the discussion along with the Portfolio Member and Officers' responses, it was resolved to recommend the Tenant Participation Strategic Plan 2024-29 to the Executive for its approval.

4 HOUSING SERVICES ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-29

The report of the Head of Housing Services incorporating the Asset Management Strategic Plan for 2022-29 was presented for the Committee's consideration and scrutiny. The Plan sets out how the Council will manage, maintain, and invest in its housing stock over the Plan period.

The report and Strategic Plan were presented by Councillor Gary Pritchard, Portfolio Member for Children, Youth and Housing Services who referred to the Plan's purpose as ensuring that the Council makes informed decisions about the investment in individual properties based on an understanding of their performance on a social, economic and

environmental basis and that the Council's housing stock provides safe and suitable homes for its tenants, complies with Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) 2023 and wherever possible, meets decarbonisation targets.

The Housing Technical Services Manager summarised the priority areas of the Asset Management Strategic Plan which includes meeting new challenges in relation to decarbonisation and energy efficiency improvements contained in WHQS 2023. The Service completed a housing stock condition survey in 2022/23 which provides the basis for future planning including meeting the investment requirements of the service's 30-year business plan and achieving WHQS 2023. Among the areas of investment will be the replacement of key components such as boilers and kitchens in accordance with the expected life cycles as well as the installation of renewable energy measures such as Solar PV and Battery Storage.

The main points of discussion arising from the Committee's scrutiny of the Asset Management Strategic Plan were as follows –

- The effectiveness of asset management software applications and systems and the impact which technical issues could have on the realisation of the Strategic Plan.
- The financial implications of the Plan as well as the certainty of funding sources to enable its implementation.
- The monitoring, governance, and evaluation arrangements to ensure the plan is realised.
- The ways in which the plan aligns with and contributes to achieving the objectives of the Council Plan 2023-28
- The risks to the achievement of the Plan and how it is proposed those risks are mitigated.

The Portfolio Member and Officers responded as follows –

- Provided assurances regarding the information held by the Service and the effectiveness of the systems used to manage it. Stock condition data is key in ensuring that future costs are robust and provide a sound base for planning. The recently independently completed stock condition survey provides new baseline data which is supplemented by historical information about the housing estate.
- Confirmed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as the principal source of funding where the income from tenants' weekly rents on homes and garages is ring-fenced for expenditure and investment in the Council's housing stock. As such the HRA provides a robust financial foundation for the next 5 years and the life of the Plan. Where there is an element of uncertainty is in relation to the overall cost of meeting the requirements of WHQS including completing Targeted Energy Pathways for each Council owned property, once those costs are known they can be factored into the HRA Business Plan. The Welsh Government also provides a major repairs allowance to help councils with their housing stock. There are competing priorities that will have to be addressed in meeting the challenges set by WHQS 2023 including achieving a balance between developing new properties and investing in current homes.
- Confirmed the governance and evaluation arrangements for the Plan including the reporting mechanisms to enable progress to be monitored effectively via Asset Project review meetings, the Housing Senior Leadership Team, Corporate Senior Leadership Team and the Executive. A Tenant Monitoring group has already been established for WHQS 2023.
- Clarified how the Strategic Plan contributes to the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities through the development of a Welsh speaking Housing services workforce and deployment of local contractors, making best use of the housing stock through timely investment thereby contributing also to the local economy and by supporting education

through the service's links with Coleg Menai and apprenticeship schemes. The journey towards net zero which includes the decarbonisation of the Council's housing stock and the technologies associated with it are also expected to create opportunities in terms of skills, training, and employment.

- Confirmed that the main risks relate to knowing the total cost of delivering WHQS 2023 as well as factors in the labour market and the availability of contractors especially as other social landlords will be competing for the same resources and expertise at the same time to undertake the same work. A further challenge relates to the rent setting regime and the rent increases approved by Welsh Government which in turn affects the amount of revenue/income into the HRA and subsequently the level of investment which the Housing Service is able to make in its housing stock. The Service is fortunate in being among the first to complete a stock condition survey which is key to generating planned maintenance and improvement programmes and enables the Council to get ahead with regard to piloting the Targeted Energy pathways and maintain an advantage as regards securing the resources to carry out the work. The Council has over a number of years been proactive in installing solar energy measures with up to 20% of its housing stock having had those measures already installed and 28% of its stock has reached SAP75 EPC C.

Noting the availability of contractors as a challenge and potential risk to the delivery of the Plan, the Committee proposed, and it was agreed that the feasibility of establishing an in-house team or teams to deliver planned work programmes such as kitchen replacement and renewable energy measures over the course of the next five years be examined.

Having scrutinised the Asset Management Strategic Plan 2024-29 and noted the response of the Portfolio Member and Officers to the issues raised, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee resolved –

- **To recommend the Asset Management Strategic Plan 2024-29 to the Executive for its approval**
- **In light of the shortage of contractors, to ask the Housing Service to explore the feasibility of establishing an in-house team(s) to undertake planned work programmes such as kitchen replacement and renewable energy measures and/or other improvement work as required.**

5 LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: HOUSING SERVICES

The report of the Scrutiny Manager outlining progress to date with regard to the actions agreed by the Committee at its November 2023 meeting in relation to Housing Services Performance Indicators 28 and 29 was presented for the Committee's consideration.

Councillor Gary Prichard and the Head of Housing Services reported on progress in respect of the Housing Service review of Performance Indicator 28 (the average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant).

With regard to the Scrutiny review of Performance Indicator 29 (the time taken to let lettable units of accommodation excluding DTLs) the Committee was presented with proposed terms of reference, scope and governance arrangements for the Scrutiny Task and Finish group which it was agreed be established at the last meeting to undertake the review and was invited to nominate members to represent the Committee on the group.

The following points were made during the subsequent discussion –

- That the Task and Finish group should comprise of six members of the Committee
- That it is a matter for the Task and Finish group to invite the Portfolio Member for Housing to its discussions as it deems appropriate.
- In relation to the Terms of Reference, -

- To replace the reference to “Head of Service” in the second bullet point under section 2 (Role, Purpose, and Scope) with “Task and Finish group”
- To replace the first line under Desired Outcomes with “To implement the actions”

It was resolved –

- **To note progress to date with the Housing Services review of Performance Indicator 28 (Disabled Facilities Grants)**
- **To note the intention to submit the review findings and recommendations for consideration by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in March, 2024.**
- **To approve the terms of reference and scope for the Scrutiny review of Performance Indicator 29 (letting of units of accommodation) as presented with the two amendments as outlined.**
- **To approve the governance arrangements in support of the scrutiny process and timeline for reporting on the review findings and recommendations to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.**
- **To nominate Councillors Geraint Bebb, Dyfed Wyn Jones, Keith Roberts, Ieuan Williams, Sonia Williams and Arfon Wyn to serve on the Task and Finish group.**

7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Scrutiny Manager incorporating the Committee’s Forward Work Programme to April, 2024 was presented for consideration.

It was resolved –

- **To agree the current version of the Forward Work Programme for 2023/24.**
- **To note the progress thus far in implementing the Forward Work Programme.**

**Councillor Douglas Fowlie
Chair**

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 th February, 2024
Subject:	2024/25 Budget Setting (Revenue)
Purpose of Report:	Scrutiny consideration of final draft budget proposals for 2024/25
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Douglas Fowlie
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Robin Williams
Head of Service:	Marc Jones, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
Tel:	07971167198
Email:	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Applicable to all Elected Members

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1 - Recommendation/s
Agree a formal response to the Executive on the Council’s final draft proposed revenue budget for 2024/25 (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 below).

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities
Direct link with the Council Plan and strategic priorities. The Committee’s consideration of the budget proposals for next year will include how the proposals enable the Council to deliver on the Council Plan as well as any specific risks.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

The following key questions are proposed to underpin the Committee's consideration of the 2024/25 budget proposals:

- i. Using the information available to the Committee about Council services, observations received in light of the recent public consultation process and the final draft funding settlement for 2024/25, to what extent do the proposals respond adequately to Service pressures and challenges?
- ii. To what degree does the Committee consider that any of the budget proposals will have a detrimental effect on the citizens of Anglesey or any protected groups? Does the Committee consider that any further action should be taken to mitigate the impact of the proposals on Anglesey citizens or protected groups?
- iii. How does the Executive proposal to reduce the cap on inflation from 2.5% to 1.5% respond to schools' concerns?
- iv. To what degree does the Committee support a Council Tax increase of 9.5% in order to realise the proposals of the Executive for 2024/25? How does the proposal to reduce the increase in the level of the Council Tax create a financial risk for the Council to the future?
- v. What are the Scrutiny Committee's final views on the savings proposals for 2024/25 detailed in Appendix 1 to the report of the Section 151 Officer?
- vi. What steps should the Executive take to plug the financial gap in 2025/26 and 2026/27 and thereby reduce the financial risk faced by the Council?

5 – Background / Context

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Scrutiny of the budget setting process has developed and matured over recent years, laying the foundations for a better, more systematic process based on outcomes and good practice. In fact, the process allows for a more systematic approach to financial scrutiny, as an essential building block of sound financial management and governance.

1.2 Members will be aware that finance is critical to the services the Council delivers and that there are far reaching implications to financial issues facing us as a local authority – both in terms of the services being received by our citizens and also the level of Council Tax or fees and charges being levied¹. This will inevitably require us to ask challenging questions about which services to offer to the future and which services to invest in and also the degree to which current methods of service delivery

¹ Raising the Stakes: financial scrutiny in challenging times. A guide for Welsh local authorities (Centre for Public Scrutiny June, 2014)

remain appropriate. Another consideration is also how best to manage expectations of local people in making the necessary changes. In the current economic climate, Members therefore need to be assured that the Council is making the most effective use of resources, in particular finances.

1.3 In considering their response to the final draft budget proposals, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will need to consider the proposals in terms of the longer term financial position of the Council (our Medium Term Financial Plan) and the Council's objectives and priorities as set out in the Transitional Plan.

2. SETTING THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2023/24

2.1 Attached is the report of the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer on the final draft proposals for the 2023/24 budget (**APPENDIX 1**) which will be submitted to a meeting of the Executive on 29th February, 2024. The paper provides a position statement on the following issues:

- The Executive's budget proposals
- Local Government settlement (Welsh Government)
- Initial budget position for 2024/25
- Budget pressures which must be allowed for in the 2024/25 budget
- The financial risks which the Council faces during 2024/25
- The level of Council Tax increase required to set a balanced budget
- Impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan

Details of the Final Settlement for the 2024/25 budget are expected from Welsh Government on 27th February, 2024.

3. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY – SETTING THE 2024/25 BUDGET

3.1 Financial scrutiny is much more than adding value to decisions taken by the Executive. It is about ensuring that there is proper scrutiny in the effective planning, delivery and follow up of key decisions impacting on taxpayers and local communities. Scrutiny should therefore:

- Provide effective challenge
- Hold decision makers to account; and
- Assist the Executive to develop a robust budget for the coming year.

4. FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

4.1 The Finance Scrutiny Panel has been established to ensure the following key outcomes:

- Develop a model of working on finance matters focusing on a smaller group to enable Members to become more involved, develop a level of subject expertise, encourage good attendance and teamwork
- Forum to develop a group of members with the expertise and ownership to lead financial discussions at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

4.2 The Panel gave further consideration to the budget proposals at its last meeting (15th February, 2024). A summary of the Panel's deliberations will be presented verbally at the meeting by Cllr Geraint ap Bebb, chair of the Panel.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

5.1 The Council recently sought views on the revenue budget proposals: 2024/25 through a public consultation process. The process built upon the foundations set over recent years under the supervision of the Engagement and Consultation Board (established with 3rd sector partners)

5.2 To that end and because of the timing of the Initial Settlement announcement, the consultation process consisted of the following steps:

- i. Consultation with the public via an online questionnaire which was also available at Leisure Centres and Libraries
- ii. Conversations at the following standing fora – Town and Community Councils' Forum, Young People's Forum, Older People's Forum and the Schools' Funding Forum.

This public consultation period ran from 24 January until 9th February, 2024. Attached is a resume of the main messages from the consultation (**Appendix 3 to the report of the Section 151 Officer**). A verbal report on the discussion in the Schools' Funding Forum will be provided at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

6. KEY SCRUTINY ISSUES

6.1 The 2024/25 budget setting process provides an opportunity for Elected Members to consider and challenge the implications of the draft budget and any additional investment proposals. Input has also been received via the Finance Scrutiny Panel who have given detailed consideration to the budget proposals. At this stage in the process, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is now requested to agree a formal response to the Executive² on the Council's proposals for the 2024/25 revenue budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 above).

6.2 In light of the 2024/25 budget setting process to date, it is therefore proposed that the Committee should:

- i. Consider the Executive's final draft budget proposals and provide comments which the Executive can consider before agreeing its final draft budget proposals on 29th February, 2024.
- ii. Examine in detail the likely impacts on citizens of the initial proposals
- iii. Come to a view about the level of the Council Tax for 2024/25.

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

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2024/25 budget setting process.

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2024/25 budget setting process.

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2024/25 budget setting process.

7 – Financial Implications

This report discusses the process for setting the Council's 2024/25 budget, which includes consideration of the final draft proposals for the revenue budgets.

² Meeting of the Executive to be convened on 29th February, 2024

8 – Appendices:

APPENDIX 1: report of the Director of Function (Resources) on the proposed revenue budgets for 2024/25.

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

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DATE:	29 FEBRUARY 2024
SUBJECT:	MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2024/25
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	COUNCILLOR R WILLIAMS – DEPUTY LEADER & PORTFOLIO HOLDER – FINANCE
HEAD OF SERVICE:	MARC JONES – DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES / SECTION 151 OFFICER
REPORT AUTHOR:	MARC JONES
TEL:	01248 752601
E-MAIL:	rmjfi@ynysmon.gov.wales
LOCAL MEMBERS:	n/a

A - Recommendation/s and reason/s

1. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND 2024/25 REVENUE BUDGET

1.1 Purpose

The Executive is required to agree a number of key matters in respect of the 2024/25 budget. This will then allow the final recommendations to be presented to the full Council at its meeting on 7 March 2024. The matters requiring agreement are:-

- The Council's Revenue Budget and resulting Council Tax for 2024/25;
- The Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- The use of any one-off funds to support the budget.

1.2 Summary

This paper shows the detailed revenue budget proposals requiring final review and agreement for 2024/25, and the resulting impact on the Isle of Anglesey County Council's revenue budget. These are matters for the Council to agree, and the Executive is asked to make final recommendations to the Council.

The paper also updates the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which provides a context for work on the Council's future budgets. However, it should be noted that a further report on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy will be presented to the Executive later in the year, when further information on the economy and the proposed future local government financial settlement may be clearer.

2. 2024/25 REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is requested :-

- To agree the final details of the Council's proposed budget, as shown in Section 4 of Appendix 1 and Appendix 2;
- To note the Section 151 Officer's recommendation that the Council should maintain a minimum of £9.2m general balances;
- To note the comments made by the Section 151 Officer on the robustness of the estimates made, as set out in Section 5 of Appendix 1;
- to recommend a net budget for the County Council of £184.165m and resulting increase in the level of Council Tax of 9.50% (8.6% for Council Services and 0.9% for the Fire Levy) (£136.44 – Band D) to the full Council, noting that a formal resolution, including the North Wales Police and Town / Community Council precepts, will be presented to the Council on the 7 March 2024;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That any minor differences between the provisional settlement and the final settlement will be adjusted for by using the general contingency which is included in the 2024/25 budget, or by making a contribution to / from the Council's general reserves in order to set a balanced budget; • To authorise the Section 151 Officer to make such changes as may be necessary before the submission of the final proposals to the Council; • To agree that any unforeseen pressures on demand led budgets during the financial year will be able to draw upon funding from the general contingencies budget; • To request the Council to authorise the Executive to release up to £250k from general balances if the general contingencies budget is fully committed during the year; • To delegate to the Section 151 Officer the power to release funding from the general contingency up to £50k for any single item. Any item in excess of £50k not to be approved without the prior consent of the Executive; • To confirm that the level of Council Tax Premium for second homes increases to 100% and for empty homes remains at 100%. 		
B - What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?		
A number of options were considered following the issue of the initial budget proposals. The final budget proposals take account of the final local government settlement, views expressed during the consultation process and the views of the Scrutiny Committee.		
C - Why is this a decision for the Executive?		
The Council's Constitution requires the Executive to publish its final budget proposal prior to its consideration by the Council.		
CH - Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?		
Yes. The final decision on the 2024/25 revenue budget will be taken by the full Council at its meeting on 7 March 2024.		
D - Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?		
N/A		
Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	In drawing up the budget proposal, the Executive has considered its statutory duties and the objectives set out in its Corporate Plan.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	The details of any savings proposals are set out in the report.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	The Council has been working with other Councils and the WLGA to press the Welsh Government for the best financial settlement possible.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	The budget proposals have been subject to a consultation process, the details of which are included in the report. The Executive has considered the results of the consultation before agreeing the final budget proposal.
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	Any proposals included in the final budget for 2024/25 will take into account the impact on any protected groups

6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	The budget will result in an increase in the Council Tax payable by the taxpayers of Anglesey. Those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage are more likely to qualify for help through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which should result in no financial impact / limited financial impact to those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact identified.
DD - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory)	The Chief Executive and Leadership Team have been part of the budget setting process throughout and are in agreement with the report and support the final budget proposal.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	N/A – this is the Section 151 Officer's report.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	The Monitoring Officer is part of the LT and, as such, the Officer's comments have been taken into account.
4	Human Resources (HR)	-
5	Property	-
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	-
7	Scrutiny	Final budget proposals were considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 February 2024. A verbal update on the outcome of the meeting will be provided to the Executive.
8	Local Members	The Council's budget is applicable to all Members and consultation has taken place throughout the budget setting process.
9	Any external bodies / other/s	See Section 2 of the report.
F - Appendices:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Detailed report on the Budget Proposals • Appendix 2 – Summary of the Proposed Revenue Budget 2024/25 by Service • Appendix 3 – Summary of Consultation Responses: Council Budget 2024/25 		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Budget Proposals for 2024/25 – Executive Committee – 23 January 2024 • Initial Budget Proposals for 2024/25 – Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 16 January 2024 • Medium Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 to 2024/25 – Executive Committee – 26 September 2023 		

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The following report sets out the 2024/25 revenue budget proposals and is one of a set of reports which provides an overall picture of the financial position of the Council and ensures that the Council funding is allocated to meet its priorities. The other reports in the set relate to the Council's Capital Programme and Capital Strategy, the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Fees and Charges.
- 1.2. The revenue budget and the continued need to identify revenue savings has been driven by the Medium Term Financial Plan, as approved by the Executive Committee in September 2023, and can be summarised as follows:-

Table 1
Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2025/26

	2024/25 £'m	2025/26 £'m
Net Revenue Budget B/F	174.569	177.710
Budget Pressures and Inflation	13.072	5.368
Revised Standstill Budget	187.641	183.078
Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (assuming 3.0% rise in 2024/25 and 1.0% rise in 2025/26)	127.375	128.649
Council Tax (assuming 5% rise in 2024/25 & 2025/26)	50.335	52.852
Total Funding	177.710	181.501
Additional Funding Requirement / Savings Required	9.931	1.577
Main Assumptions		
Pay Awards – Non Teaching	3.5%	2.0%
Pay Awards – Teaching	5.6%	2.0%
General Inflation	4.9%	1.6%
Note – The figures for 2024/25 allowed for a correction of the base budget due to an under provision for pay and price inflation in 2023/24 budget.		

- 1.3. The figures quoted in the MTFP were based on assumptions and information available at the time the MTFP was drawn up. The purpose of the MTFP was not to provide an accurate assessment of the budget requirement, but to give a high level assessment of the potential budget gap.
- 1.4. In drawing up the initial budget proposal, the 2023/24 pay award had been settled, inflation had begun to fall rapidly and the scope for the inflation assumptions to be inaccurate was reduced, new energy prices for the year October 2023 to September 2024 had been received. This allowed for more certainty around the base budget.
- 1.5. The overall draft settlement figures for Wales received from the Welsh Government were in line with the forecast included in the MTFP, although the figure for Anglesey was slightly lower, due to how the funding formula works, with the Council receiving an increase of 2.5% compared to the 3.0% that was included in the MTFP.
- 1.6. However, despite these changes and that the funding gap was lower than forecast in the MTFP, it is still a challenging financial position for both 2024/25 and 2025/26, with costs still expected to rise due to inflation and increased demand, but little prospect that the funding from Welsh Government will be sufficient to cover all of these increases in costs.

2. THE INITIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

- 2.1.** At its meeting on 23 January 2024, the Executive discussed its original budget proposal and the provisional budget settlement which the Welsh Government had published on 20 December 2023.
- 2.2.** The provisional settlement was slightly lower than anticipated, and would provide the Council with £126.973m, which is an increase in cash terms of £3.308m (2.67%) but, after allowing for grants transferring into the settlement and the effect of the change in the Council's taxbase, the adjusted increase was £3.107m (2.51%).
- 2.3.** The Executive proposed a budget for 2024/25 of £184.219m and, given the provisional AEF of £126.973m, this would require an increase of 10.9% in Council Tax and the use of £4.425m of the Council's general balances to balance the budget.
- 2.4.** In setting the proposed budget, the Executive recognised the need to protect front line services and increasing budgets to meet an increased demand in Adult and Children's services.
- 2.5.** The budget proposal included capping the inflation increase for the delegated schools budget by 2.5%, which reduced the budget by £1.25m, included a savings target of £1m to be generated from workforce reductions, the postponement of the use of the Council Tax premium to fund housing projects for one year, saving £1.2m and other budget savings and income generation projects of £1.327m.
- 2.6.** Although not intended as a measure of what the Council's net revenue budget should be, the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) does give some indication as to whether the Council's budget is at a reasonable level for the Council. The SSA for 2024/25 is £175.877m and the proposed budget is, therefore, 104.7% of the SSA.

3. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 3.1.** Due to the delays in receiving the provisional and final settlement, the budget timetable for 2024/25 has had to be condensed in order to ensure that the Council is in a position to set the Council Tax within the timeframe set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Section 30(6)). The Finance Scrutiny Panel also examined in detail the service investment proposals at its meeting on 11 January 2024, and the Panel's comments were reported to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16 January 2024.
- 3.2.** The 2024/25 initial budget proposal was considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16 January 2024. The Committee resolved to support the Executive's initial budget proposal.
- 3.3.** The final budget proposal was given further consideration by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 27 February 2024, and a verbal report on the Committee's deliberations will be presented to the Executive at the Committee meeting.

4. CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1.** Despite the short timescale between the publishing of the initial budget proposal and the date of the deadline for setting the Council Tax, a short consultation process was undertaken, with residents asked to answer a number of questions on their spending and funding priorities. The short timescale did limit the number and type of questions asked in order to have sufficient time to analyse the responses.
- 4.2.** A summary of the responses received is summarised in Appendix 2. The main points arising from the consultation was that:-
 - Of the responses received 77% made education and schools one of their 5 top priorities, followed by supporting vulnerable adults and children 68%, and waste collection and recycling 66%.

- 61% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the Statement.
“The council’s budget strategy aims to safeguard services for the most vulnerable people in our community, ensure the financial viability of the council, recover the cost of services through fees and charges, where it can continue to invest, and where possible, to modernise and transform the way the council provides its services”.
- 49.3% of respondents were willing to pay more through fees and charges to protect services, whilst 50.7% would not be willing.
- 79% agreed or strongly agreed to use the additional funding generated from the Council Tax premium on second homes and empty homes to support the funding of service sin 2024/25.
- A varied response was received to the question as to whether the respondents agreed or disagreed with the savings proposals, with less support for the proposals which impact on Schools and Adult Services.
- Only 29% supported the proposed rise in Council Tax of 10.9%, with 36% not wishing to see any rise, with 88% supporting a rise of 5% or less.
- To achieve a balanced budget, 36% wanted all of the budget shortfall to be funded from reserves with 84% wanting at least 50% of the shortfall to be funded from reserves.
- In terms of which services the respondents were willing to see reduced, the services which were more discretionary in nature (Archives, Museums, Tourism and Library Services) were top of the list, whilst respondents wanted to see the more essential type services (social care, schools, fire and waste collection) be protected.

5. FINAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

- 5.1. In drawing up the initial budget proposal, the Council was awaiting the final budget decision in respect of levying bodies and other organisations which receive contribution from the Council. The impact on the Council’s budget of the adjustments resulting from a finalisation of the decisions are shown in Table 2 below.
- 5.2. The UK Government announced that Councils in England would receive an additional £600m in funding for 2024/25, and this will be formally confirmed in the Chancellor’s budget on 6 March 2024. This additional funding creates an additional £25m as consequential funding for the Welsh Government and they have confirmed that £10.6m of this additional funding will return the Social Care Workforce Grant to the 2023/24 level. The remaining £14.4m has been allocated through the Local Government settlement formula. The impact of this additional funding is that the Aggregate External Finance increases by £332k.
- 5.3. There is one outstanding point which have not been reflected in the final Local Government settlement, which relates to the increased employers’ contribution rate for teachers and fire service pensions. It is still anticipated that the additional costs will be fully funded by the UK Government and that funding will be made available to Welsh Government to allow the funding to be passed on to Councils. The discussions between the two Governments are ongoing and it may result in the Council receiving additional funding in 2024/25.

5.4. The Welsh Government have also transferred 3 revenue grants into the final settlement

- Implementation of the Performance and Improvement Framework - £40,000
- Delivery of Flood Prevention - £225,000
- Child Burials - £16,240

Given the lateness of the notification, these grants will be incorporated into the budget of the relevant service in 2024/25 and the budget will be reviewed during 2024/25 and adjusted accordingly in 2025/26, if the sum transferred into the budget is not fully required.

5.5. In drawing up the final budget proposal a number of budgets have been reviewed and this has allowed the Executive some flexibility surrounding the final proposal. These changes are as follows:-

- The North Wales Fire Authority have reviewed their final budget proposal which has resulted in a reduction of £87k in the levy that the Council must fund.
- Energy prices for the period October 2023 to September 2024 have now been received and this has shown a fall in prices. The level of inflation for 2024/25 has been reviewed and it is assessed that energy budgets can be reduced by £220k.
- The Welsh Government capped the Non Domestic Rate multiplier and this along with the transitional relief scheme has resulted in a reduction of £84k in the budget requirement.
- In determining the budget to fund the cost of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, there was an anticipation that the number of claimants would increase at the end of the summer 2023 period. The review at the end of quarter 3 of the 2023/24 financial year has identified that the increase in claimants did not occur as expected. This has allowed a reduction of £150k in the budget requirement.
- In the initial budget proposal, £2.88m was included in the budget to meet the cost of additional service demands within Adult Services, where costs were expected to rise higher than inflation and to take account of the Welsh Government's proposed reduction in the Social Care Workforce Grant. The financial position at the end of quarter 3 shows a significant reduction in the forecasted overspend for the service. The majority of the shift is due to one off items including vacant posts and accrued income from previous years which do not impact on the 2024/25 budget, but there were some changes which have reduced the budget requirement for 2024/25. The increase in the Social Care Workforce Grant back to the 2023/24 level (see paragraph 5.2 above) and the other changes has reduced the additional funding required by Adult Services by £500k.

5.6. The impact of all these changes are summarised in Table 2 below:-

Table 2
Revised Council Net Revenue Budget

	£m	£m
Initial Proposed Net Revenue Budget 2024/25		184.219
Adjustments		
Fire Service Levy	(0.087)	
Energy Inflation	(0.220)	
Non Domestic Rates Multiplier	(0.084)	
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(0.150)	
Adult Services Budget Pressures	(0.500)	
Grants Transferring into the Settlement	0.281	
		(0.760)
Revised Net Revenue Budget 2024/25		183.459
Funded by		
Aggregate External Finance - Provisional	126.973	
Additional Aggregate External Finance	0.332	
Grants Transferring into the Settlement	0.281	
		127.586
Council Tax (including 2 nd Home and Empty Home Premium)		52.821
Reserves		4.425
Revised Funding 2024/25		184.832
Excess of Funding over Net Revenue Budget		1.373

5.7. The Executive considered the various options in order to match the revised funding with the net revenue budget:-

- Reduce the rise in Council Tax down to 8.02%, this utilises all of the excess funding over the net revenue budget;
- Reduce the budget saving proposals by £1.373m. This would increase the net revenue budget to £184.832m which matches the level of revised funding;
- Reduce the use of reserves to balance the budget from £4.425m to £3.052m;
- A combination of the 3 options noted above.

5.8. Although the Executive understand the pressure that families are facing due to the cost of living crisis, they also recognise that the level of the rise must not just balance the budget for 2024/25, but they have to consider the impact on the 2025/26 budget. Setting a lower Council Tax does impact on the starting point for 2025/26, and having too low a level of Council Tax will only increase the budget shortfall in 2025/26 and weaken the overall financial position of the Council.

5.9. The majority of the proposed savings are deliverable and the impact on the Council assessed prior to agreeing to the proposals. The savings proposal that has the most impact on service delivery is the capping of the inflationary increase for schools. The financial position of each school varies depending on a number of factors, including the movement in pupil numbers, additional grant funding outside of the core budget and the level of school balances. The current budget setting process has identified that a small number of schools are having great difficulty in setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 and, although reducing the cap would not solve the budget issues for all schools in 2024/25, any reduction would go some way to alleviate the financial difficulties for schools.

- 5.10.** The level of reserves to be used to balance the 2024/25 budget is significant and the highest level proposed for a number of years. Based on current projections, it will not be possible to use reserves again in 2025/26 to contribute to the overall funding. Reducing the contribution in 2024/25 may allow reserves again to be used in 2025/26, but to a lesser extent. This again will reduce the budget shortfall the Council will face in 2025/26 and allow for a more gradual reduction in services rather than having to implement a wide range of service reductions in the year. However, it should be noted, that the use of reserves only delays the need to reduce the Council's overall net revenue budget, and their use are not a permanent solution to the financial position faced by the Council.
- 5.11.** Having considered all of the above factors, the Executive's final proposal amends the initial proposal as follows:-
- The increase in Council Tax is reduced to 9.5%, of which 0.9% relates to the increase in the Fire Authority levy and 8.6% relates to the Council's budget requirement. This increases the Band D Council Tax by £136.44 taking the Band D charge to £1,572.30. This reduces the overall income generated from Council Tax by £667k
 - That the cap on the inflationary increase to schools is reduced from 2.5% to 1.5%. This increases the overall schools budget by £498k compared to budget set in the initial proposal.
 - That the savings proposals for Additional Learning Needs (£100k) are not implemented in 2024/25.
 - That £50k of the proposed savings in respect of non statutory social care support services is retained in order to fund the transitional costs incurred in re-modelling the service.
 - £46k is added to the public conveniences cleaning budget to meet the additional costs following the retendering of the service.
 - That the proposal to reduce the opening hours of Leisure Centres is modified to allow for Amlwch Leisure Centre to remain open until 3pm, rather than close at 1pm, as proposed in the initial budget proposals at an additional cost of £12k.

5.12. These adjustments give a final budget proposal as shown in Table 3 below

Table 3
Final Budget Proposal 2024/25

	£m	£m
Revised Proposed Net Revenue Budget 2024/25 as per Table 2		183.459
Final Adjustments		
Reduce the Inflationary Cap for Schools to 1.5%		0.498
Adjustment to Savings Proposals		0.150
Additional Funding for Public Convenience Cleaning		0.046
Adjustment to Leisure Centre Opening Hours		0.012
Balance of Funding to General Contingency		(0.001)
Revised Net Revenue Budget 2024/25		184.164
Funded by		
Aggregate External Finance	127.586	
Council Tax (including 2 nd Home and Empty Home Premium)	52.153	
Reserves	4.425	
Revised Funding 2024/25		184.164

6. ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES

- 6.1. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Finance Officer to report on the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 6.2. Budget estimates are based on assumptions of future expenditure and income and contain an element of assumption risk. The impact of this risk can be mitigated through contingency plans, contingency budgets and financial reserves.
- 6.3. The robustness of budget estimates is not simply a question of whether they are correctly calculated. In practice, many budgets are based on estimates or forecasts, and there may be an element of risk as to whether plans will be delivered or targets achieved. Different risks to the budget are considered in turn below:-
- **Pay Inflation Risk** – When inflation levels are low and the overall movement in the inflation rate is small, then the inflation risk is low, as has been the case for a number of years. Given that there is no pay offer made for NJC staff for 2024/25 and that the Welsh Government have yet to indicate what the Teacher’s pay award will be from September 2024, there is still considerable uncertainty in respect of pay inflation and, with a pay bill in excess of £100m, a 1% error in the pay inflation assumption could result in a £1m under funding position in 2024/25. This risk is mitigated by the fact that the Council holds an earmarked reserve to fund any inflationary pressures. This would be released to fund any additional pay budget requirement, with the long term budget then being corrected in 2025/26.

- **Price Inflation Risk** - The general measure of inflation (CPI) peaked in December 2022, and begun to fall significantly during 2023, and is forecast to fall to on or around 2% by the mid to late summer. When setting the initial budget, the expectation was that the fall of CPI to 2% would be slower and, therefore, if inflation falls at a slower rate than predicted, then sufficient budget provision has been allowed to cover this risk. However, it is noted that the inflation for some types of expenditure may remain higher than this (food, energy, building materials) and the actual inflation faced by the Council may differ greatly from the CPI figure. To some extent, the Council is protected from this risk because a majority of our larger contracts (school meals, highway maintenance, refuse collection etc.) use inflation indices from September, October or November 2023 to determine the inflation for 2024/25. Given that these figures are known, they have been built into the proposed budget for 2024/25.
- **Interest Rate Risk** - Interest rates affect a single year's revenue budget through the interest earned - i.e. an interest rate rise is beneficial. The Authority's Treasury Management Strategy requires investments to be made on the grounds of security and liquidity of the investment as the first consideration, with investment returns being a lower priority, therefore, the budget is not reliant on high investment returns. Interest rates have remained high, with the Council achieving over 5% returns on investments. In setting the budget, an estimate of the interest receivable has been factored into the budget, but there is a risk that the budget will not be achieved if interest rates begin to fall quickly, or if the funds available to be invested are lower than forecast. The majority of the interest paid by the Council relates to fixed rate loans which will not change should the interest rate rise. Therefore, the interest rate risk is considered low and, as in previous years, this is a compensating risk for inflation risk, because if one increases, the other is likely to increase also.
- **Grants Risk** - These are risks attached to the large number of specific grants from Welsh Government (WG), or other bodies, which provide in excess of £25m additional funding. The final settlement indicates that the majority of the grants received from WG will remain at the 2023/24 level or will be reduced on an all Wales basis. What is not clear for all grants is the specific grant funding for Anglesey. Initial indications are that the grant funding to schools will be 8% to 10% lower than in 2023/24. Whilst the immediate response is to say that when the grant ceases, so must the associated expenditure, there is a risk that this may not always be possible. It may not be possible when contract terms mean the expenditure cannot be cut as quickly as the income, or it involves unfunded severance costs. It may not be possible if the activity funded turns out to be so important to the delivery of the Council's own priorities that the Council decided it must continue the expenditure. Efforts to mitigate this risk are to ensure we have the best information available on each grant, but significant changes during the year cannot be entirely ruled out.
- **Income Risks** – The budget is based on securing an overall 5% increase in fees, and a number of services have assumed rises up to 5%. If the elasticity of demand for Council Services is such that volume falls, and income targets are not achieved, that may cause overspending on net budgets. The cost of living crisis may have an impact on the income generated from services such as leisure, car parking, planning and building regulations, where users may choose to reduce their expenditure on these non-essential services. This will require close monitoring of the net budget position and, if necessary, cutting back on spending to match reduced income.

- **Demand Risk** – A number of services can experience a change in the demand for its services. Some can be predicted and taken into account when setting the budget, e.g. changes in pupil numbers. Others are more difficult to predict and a small increase in numbers can have a significant impact on costs. The budget allows for providing the service at current levels, with increases in demand covered by the Council's general balances or, in some cases, earmarked reserves. Allowance has been made in the 2024/25 budget for the current level of service demand for social care and homelessness prevention, although there is a risk of the increase in demand continuing in 2024/25 above what has been allowed for in the budget. This would result in an overspend in those services affected, which would have to be funded from the Council's general reserves and balances.
- **Optimism Risk** – In previous years, probably the greatest risk in current circumstances is that the Authority, Members and Officers have been over-optimistic in the savings that will be achieved, or that demand for services, particularly social care, will not increase significantly. For 2024/25, the budget does include over £2.3m of savings that have to be delivered, which includes a savings target of £1m from staff reductions which will be found as posts become vacant. Failure to achieve the savings target will result in an overspend at the end of the 2024/25 financial year, which would be funded from Council reserves.
- **Over-caution Risk** – This is the opposite of optimum risk: the danger that our budgets have been drawn up with too much caution and, so, are more than is required, and this would result in the Council Tax being set at a level that is higher than required, which is something that Members are keen to avoid. The Section 151 Officer is satisfied with the budget setting process and that the budget set is a fair assessment of the resources required by each service, based on the relevant factors as they stand at the moment.
- **Council Tax Premium** – In setting the taxbase, it is accepted that the number of empty properties and second homes can change during the year and, as such, only 80% of eligible properties are included in the taxbase. This protects the Council's budget should there be a significant drop in numbers. However, it should be noted that the number of empty properties used in the taxbase calculation rose from 417 properties in October 2022 to 431 properties in October 2023, and the number of second homes fell from 2,724 to 2,443. Many factors influence the number of second homes, but the increase in the second home premium from 50% to 75% in April 2023 may be a contributory factor and, as a result, the change in the level of the second home premium from 75% to 100% presents a significant risk in 2024/25. The increase may encourage second home owners to sell or let their property, i.e. one of the intended purposes of increasing the premium, however, it may encourage a greater amount of non payment or avoidance by transferring to business rates or by other avoidance means. To mitigate the risk, additional staff will be employed to identify tax avoidance and minimise the amount of the premium lost as a result. As the Executive has committed to using all of the additional premium to address the issues caused by high numbers of second homes on Anglesey, any significant reduction in income would result in a reduction in the funding available for these initiatives in future years.

Council Tax Income – The Council Tax income budget is based on the taxbase calculation as at November of the previous financial year. The taxbase changes constantly during the year, as new properties are included and exemptions and single person discounts are granted. These changes cannot be estimated and, invariably, lead to a difference between the actual debit raised and the budget.

The cost of living crisis may also impact on the Council's collection rate, as more households struggle financially with rising costs. This may result in a financial loss in 2024/25, or future years, when uncollectable debts are eventually written off.

- 6.4. Having considered all the risks noted above, and the mitigating actions, the Section 151 Officer is of the view that the budgets are robust and deliverable, and the Council's current healthy level of general balances and earmarked reserves provides sufficient mitigation against the risks identified.

7. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC RESERVES

- 7.1. The proposed budget incorporates a number of assumptions in terms of likely levels of income and expenditure in future years. There are, therefore, inevitably a number of financial risks inherent in the proposed budget, which are set out in paragraph 5 above.
- 7.2. In terms of any contingencies and reserves, the Section 151 Officer needs to review these in their totality, in conjunction with the base budget itself and the financial risks which face the Authority. In addition, the review should incorporate a medium term view, where needed, and should take into account key developments that may impact on the need and use of one off resources.
- 7.3. A robust view is being taken on managing budget risks and protecting the financial health of the Council at this time. This is particularly the case when one off funds need to be adequately protected to fund future strategic / transformational changes, as opposed to funding significant overspends on the base budget itself.
- 7.4. Account has been taken of the need to keep the immediate reductions in spending, and the resulting impact on services, to a minimum, but this must be balanced against the need to ensure the medium and long term financial stability of the Council, and for savings to be implemented over the coming years in a phased and structured way. In addition, there is always some risk of unforeseen items of expenditure or overspending because of a more general pressure on a service budget, and reserves must also be adequate to absorb these pressures.
- 7.5. As at 31 March 2023, the Council's general reserves stood at £14.039m, which is equivalent to 8.04% of the Council's net revenue budget for 2023/24, 11.29% if the delegated schools' budget is excluded. During the year, £3.78m was allocated as funding for the 2023/24 budget and, after taking into account the financial position for 2023/24 and allowing for earmarked reserves of £2.825m transferring back to general balances, it is forecast that the balance will stand at £15.219m. After allowing for the use of £4.425m as funding for the 2024/25 revenue budget, the revised balance would fall to £10.79m, or 5.88% of the 2024/25 net revenue budget.
- 7.6. The transfer of earmarked reserves back to general balances, and the use of these reserves during the year, has reduced the balance from £19.637m at the beginning of 2023/24 down to a forecasted level of £14.038m at the end of the financial year.
- 7.7. School balances began the 2023/24 financial year at £6.751m, but are forecast to fall to £3.799m by the end of 2023/24. It is expected that schools will use the majority of these balances in order to fund the 2024/25 budget.
- 7.8. The level of general balances is a matter for the Council to decide, based on the recommendation of the Council's Section 151 Officer but, as a general rule, 5% of the net revenue budget is considered to be an acceptable level. It is a matter for debate whether the net revenue budget should exclude the delegated schools budget, as schools hold their own balances to meet unexpected costs. Based on the current financial situation, there is a high degree of confidence that the level of general balances will exceed 5% of the net revenue budget at the beginning of the 2024/25 financial year.
- 7.9. Having taken into consideration the level of the Council's general balances, school balances, earmarked reserves and contingency budgets, the Section 151 Officer is content that the Council's financial position is sufficiently robust to withstand any difficulties that may arise during 2024/25 if the proposed revenue budget is insufficient to meet the actual costs incurred by the Council during 2024/25.

8. COUNCIL TAX

- 8.1. The Council's Band D Council Tax charge for 2023/24 was £1,435.86, which was 18th from the 22 Authorities in Wales, and is lower than the Welsh Average of £1,541. More importantly for Anglesey is the comparison to the 5 other North Wales authorities. This is shown in Table 4 below:-

Table 4
Comparison of Council Tax Band Charges for North Wales Authorities

Authority	Band D Charge 2023/24 £	Amount Above / Below Anglesey £	Percentage Above / Below Anglesey %
Anglesey	1,435		
Gwynedd	1,603	+ 168	11.65
Conwy	1,580	+ 145	10.10
Denbighshire	1,535	+ 100	6.96
Flintshire	1,522	+ 87	6.02
Wrexham	1,454	+ 19	1.32

- 8.2. The Council Tax budget for 2024/25 (prior to an increase in the Council Tax but after adjusting for the change in the Council Tax Base and premium) is £47.63m. Therefore, each 1% increase generates an additional £476k.
- 8.3. After taking into account the anticipated final settlement figure of £127.305m, the revised budget requirement of £183.551m (see Appendix 2) and the use of £4.093m of reserves, it would require £52.153m in Council Tax funding. To fund the revised budget requirement, the increase in the level of Council Tax would be 9.50%, taking the Band D charge to £1,572.30, an increase of £136.44, or £2.62 per week.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. In delivering its services, the Council has to be mindful of its duties under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to assess the impact of key financial decisions on protected groups, and have due regard to the result of such assessments.
- 9.2. The proposed budget will not impact on any of the protected groups set out in the Regulations and, as a result, no Equality Impact Assessments are considered necessary.

10. UPDATING THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

- 10.1. As stated in paragraph 1, the economic situation has changed considerably since the Council approved the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in September 2023.
- 10.2. The main area of uncertainty for the MTFP moving forward is inflation and its impact on future pay awards, whilst the cost of living crisis and its impact on the demand for Council services is also a major factor.

10.3. The updated MTFP for 2025/26 and 2026/27 is shown in Table 5 below:-

Table 5
Summary Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 & 2026/27

	2025/26 £'m	2026/27 £'m
Net Revenue Budget B/F	184.164	183.619
Budget Pressures and Inflation	6.820	5.500
Revised Standstill Budget	190.984	189.119
Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (assuming 1.0% rise in 2025/26 and 2.0% rise in 2026/27)	(128.862)	(131.439)
Council Tax (assuming 5% rise in 2025/26 & 4% rise in 2026/27)	(54.757)	(56.947)
Total Funding	(183.619)	188.386
Additional Funding Requirement / Savings Required	7.365	0.733
Main Assumptions		
Pay Awards – Non Teaching	2.0%	2.0%
Pay Awards - Teaching	2.4%	2.0%
General Inflation	1.7%	2.0%

10.4. The MTFP estimate above is based on a number of assumptions which may change as we move towards 2025/26, but the plan indicates that there will be a need to make significant reductions in the net revenue expenditure budget in 2025/26 in the region of £7m. This again could be partly offset by the further use of reserves but again this only postpones the need to make budget reductions until 2026/27.

10.5. The capital funding situation also has an impact on the revenue budget moving forward, with the current level of funding being insufficient to maintain the Council's buildings and roads to their current standard and to invest in new vehicles and I.T. hardware. This lack of funding will increase repair and maintenance costs of all the Council's assets as their useful lives are extended. Investment and asset rationalisation will have to be considered in order to ensure that services can be maintained, whilst minimising the additional costs that will fall on the revenue budget moving forward.

10.6. The situation does improve in 2026/27 with the expectation that inflation will have fallen back to the Bank of England's target of 2% and that the funding increase from Welsh Government will match inflation. The unknown variable will be demand for social care and homelessness services, which can place a significant pressure on budgets should they increase. Any significant increase in demand will impact on the forecasted figures shown in table 5.

10.7. An updated MTFP will be presented to the Executive in September 2025.

11. CONCLUSIONS

11.1. It is important that the budget set is achievable and reflects the demands faced by services currently, although it is noted that the continuation of the cost of living crisis would have a significant impact on the Council's budget. The financial position faced by the Council is not unique to Anglesey but it is a situation that all 22 Welsh Councils are facing along with the vast majority of English Councils.

- 11.2.** The local government settlement is in line with the forecast and is insufficient to meet the rising costs as a result of high inflation, pay awards and increased demand for services. As anticipated the only way open to the Council to set a balanced budget, whilst maintaining services and catering for increased demand is to make budget reductions, combined with an increase in Council Tax and the controlled use of reserves.
- 11.3.** The Council's general financial position is still fairly strong, although the level of balances and earmarked reserves have diminished during 2023/24 and, although the use of reserves to balance the 2024/25 budget is a fairly safe strategy, it is not a strategy that can be used long term. There is a potential to use reserves to a lesser extent to balance the 2025/26 budget but this position can change during 2024/25.
- 11.4.** The position in 2025/26 appears to be more difficult with only a limited increase in Welsh Government funding expecting which will be lower than the level of inflation, pay awards etc. The Council will be unable to rely on reserves to provide funding to the same level and therefore it will require reductions in services and / or an above inflation increase to enable the Council to set a balanced budget in 2025/26.
- 11.5.** Therefore, in the professional opinion of the Section 151 Officer, the proposed revenue budget for 2024/25 achieves the following objectives:-
- Ensures that the financial resources allocated to each service is sufficient to meet the current budget pressures and fulfil the demand for the statutory functions which the services must provide.
 - Uses a combination of budget reductions, reserves and a rise in Council Tax to set a balanced budget.
 - Sets a level of Council Tax which is comparable with the Welsh Government's assessment of where Anglesey's Council Tax should be, and is in line with the Council Tax set by other Welsh authorities of a similar size and type.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1.** The Executive is recommended to approve the final budget proposal, as set out in Paragraph 4, to the full Council meeting on 7 March 2024.

FINAL BUDGET PROPOSAL 2024/25 BY SERVICE

	Final Proposed Budget 2024/25 £'m
Education and Culture	67.919
Adult Services	39.212
Children's Services	14.437
Housing Services	1.661
Highways, Waste and Property	20.357
Regulation and Economic Development	6.137
Corporate Transformation	7.626
Resources	4.021
Council Business	2.128
Corporate Management	0.802
Total Service Budgets	164.300
Corporate and Democratic Costs	2.143
Recharges to HRA	(0.800)
Support for Local Housing Help to Buy Schemes	0.000
Levies	4.931
Capital Financing	5.753
Benefits Granted	0.109
Discretionary Rate Relief	0.105
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	7.283
Unallocated Staffing Savings	(1.000)
Total Allocated Budgets	182.824
General & Other Contingencies	1.340
Total Budget 2024/25	184.164
Funded By	
Revenue Support Grant	102.245
Non Domestic Rates	25.341
Council Tax (Including Council Tax Premium)	52.153
Council Reserves	4.425
Total Funding	184.164
Difference Budget to Funding	0.000



Council Budget 2024 / 2025

Summary of consultation responses

12 February 2024

1. Introduction

The consultation opened on 24 January 2024 until 8 February 2024. The consultation was published on the Council website and promoted via our social media channels. Paper copies of the survey was also shared amongst Anglesey's public buildings.

Purpose of the consultation was to gather feedback from Anglesey residents on the proposed budget for 2024/25.

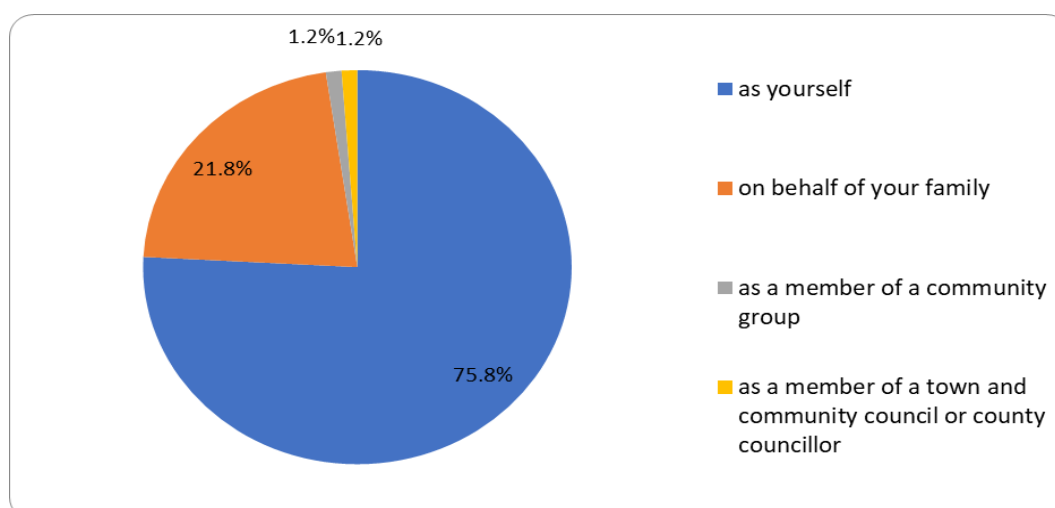
We received a total of 864 fully completed responses, including;

- 734 completed an online survey
- 120 completed a paper copy of the survey
- 10 responses via email
- We received a further eight written responses by letter.

This report is a summary of the consultation survey results and the main themes identified from feedback. The results are based on the 854 fully completed surveys. A summary of the responses from the 10 e-mails and 8 letters is included in section 3 below.

2. Summary of Results

2.1.1. Question 1 asked - We would like to hear from everyone about the communities in which they live. Please tell us if you are filling out this questionnaire:



2.1.2. Question 3 asked - Which services are most important to you?

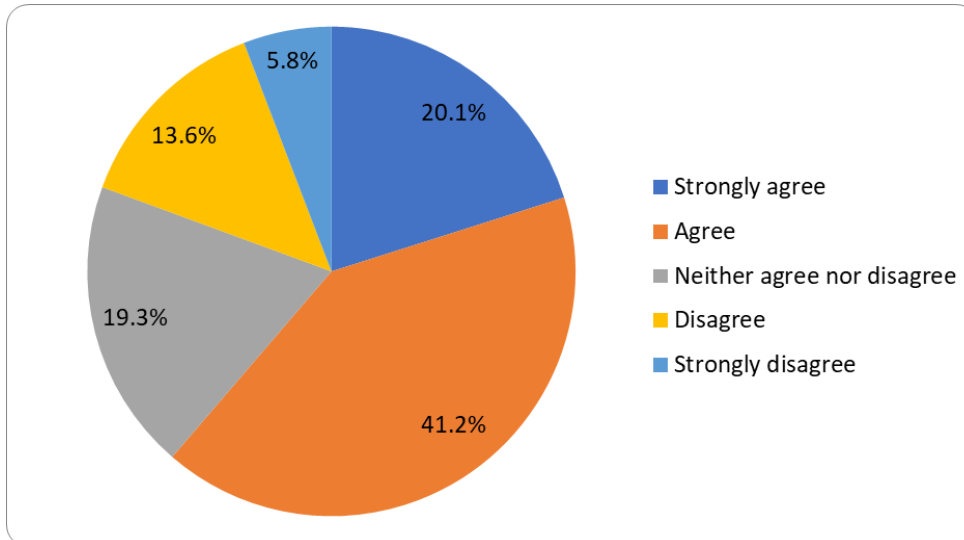
Results showed that the top five priorities are (respondents were asked to select 5):

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
Education and schools: £61.2m	77%	651
Supporting vulnerable children, families, adults and older people: £47.3m	68%	572
Waste collection, disposal and recycling: £10.3m	66%	555
Roads and infrastructure: £7.9m	56%	474
Leisure centres: £1.2m	42%	352

2.1.3. **Question 4 asked - The council's budget strategy aims to safeguard services for the most vulnerable people in our community ensure the financial viability of the council recover the cost of services through fees and charges where it can continue to invest, where possible, to modernise and transform the way the council provides its services**

Do you agree with these aims?

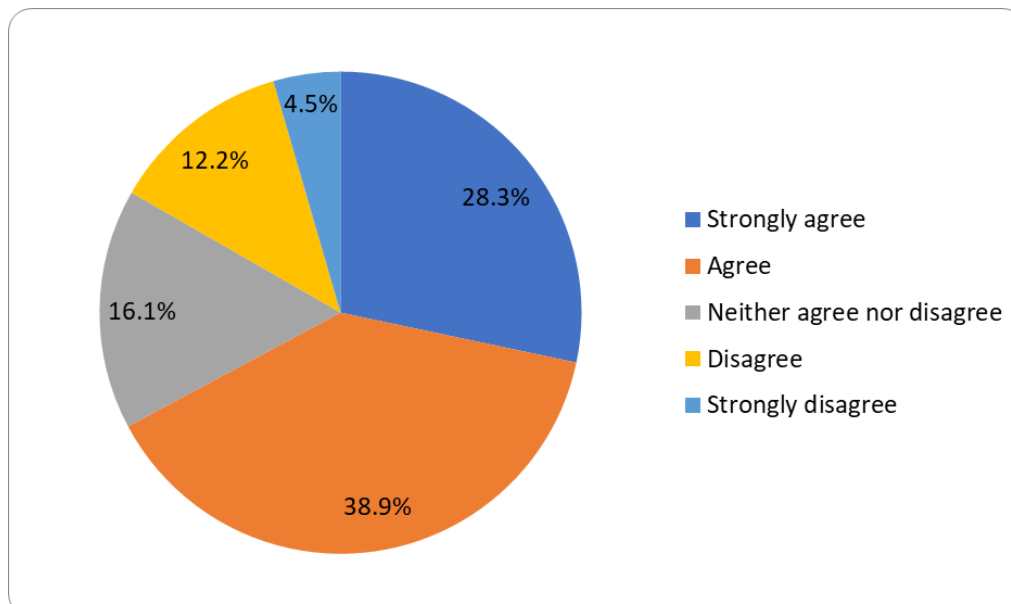
61% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed.



2.1.4. **Question 5 asked - The budget proposals for 2024 to 2025 allow for significant continued investment in social care budgets in order to continue to provide services to the most vulnerable people in our communities?**

Do you agree with this proposal?

67% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed.



- 2.1.5. **Question 6 asked - The budget proposals allow for a general increase of 5% in discretionary fees and charges. These are fees and charges for services that we provide, such as: leisure centres, school meals personal watercraft launching fees, pest control charges, admission to museums, waste collection services (including green garden waste).**

Would you be willing to pay more to protect services from budget reductions?

Yes 49.3% No 50.7%

- 2.1.6. **Question 7 asked – For which services would you pay more? (Please choose as many services as you want).**

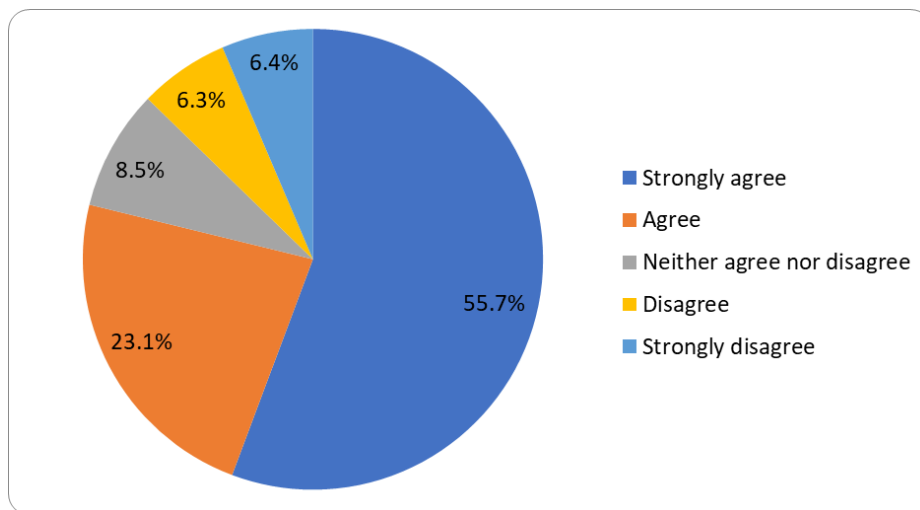
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
Leisure centres	54.6%	358
Personal watercraft launching fees	48.8%	320
Admission to museum	41.2%	270
Pest control charges	39.8%	261
Waste collection services (including green garden waste)	37.0%	243
School meals	35.8%	235

This question also had a free text section, asking respondents which other services for which they would pay more for. 164 provided further suggestions, these can be broken down into the following seven categories (also highlighted in the word cloud below):

- None (55) – respondents commented that they “already pay enough council tax”
- Car parking and highways (26) – respondents suggested increase parking fees and parking enforcements, as well as improvements to highway services
- Education (18) – respondents suggested paying more for education provision, including meals, school clubs and school trips
- Libraries and Culture (10) – respondents willing to pay to visit Oriel Môn and pay late fees on books
- Social Services (9) – respondents willing to pay more for social service related services, including blue badges, adaptations and care fees
- Planning and Environment (9) – respondents willing to pay more for planning fees, including building control, and any services linked with improving the environment.
- Leisure Activities (4) – respondents willing to pay more for leisure centre embership and maritime

- 2.1.7. **Question 8 asked – Do you agree with the proposal to use the additional funding generated from the Council Tax premium on second homes and empty homes to support the funding of services in 2024 to 2025?**

79% Strongly agreed or agreed



2.1.8. Question 9 asked - Do you agree or disagree with our major savings proposals?

Answer Choice	Agree	Disagree
Increase the Môm Actif package monthly fee by £1: Potential saving £62,000	673	153
Increase car parking fees for coastal car parks and for town centre car parks for fees for more than 4 hours but freeze the charge for 1 and 2 hour parking in town centres: Potential saving £100,000	644	190
Where possible, reduce the overall staffing costs by reviewing staffing structures and responsibilities when posts become vacant : Potential saving £1,000,000	632	197
Rationalise administrative support for the Youth Service: Potential saving £50,000	531	274
Remodel the provision of adult day care to a more community based model: Potential saving £102,000	529	281
Reduce opening times of the 4 leisure centres to reflect the current usage of the centres: Potential saving £39,500	458	366
Reduce road safety budget: Potential saving £10,000	409	399
Reduce the budget to support pupils with additional learning needs by 5%: Potential saving £87,000	181	641
Reduce the budget for the repair and maintenance of Council owned residential care homes: Potential saving £70,000	226	596
Cap the cash increase to schools to 2.5% below the inflationary pressure: Potential saving £1,246,000	289	528
Reduce out of hours non statutory care support services: Potential saving £96,500	289	525
Reduce the budget to integrate pupils into mainstream education: Potential saving £100,000	303	513

2.1.9. **Question 10 asked – Do you agree with the proposed level of rise in Council Tax of 9.78% (plus 1.12% to cover fire levy)?**

A rise of 9.78% would increase council funding by £5.2 million.

No	28.8%
Yes	71.2%

2.1.10. **Question 11 asked – By how much should Council Tax rise? (A rise of 9.78% would increase council funding by £5.2 million)**

Answer Choice	Response %	Response Total
No rise - this would leave a funding shortfall of £5.2m	35.6%	212
Rise between 3% and 5% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £2.7m and £3.7m	30.4%	181
Rise between 0% and 3% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £3.7m and £5.2m	22.5%	134
Rise between 5% and 7.5% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £1.6m and £2.7m	10.1%	60
Rise between 7.5% and 10% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £0.4m and £1.6m	1.5%	9

2.1.11. **Question 12 asked – How would you make up the funding shortfall noted in the previous question?**

Answer Choice	Response %	Response Total
Option 5: No cut in service budgets. All funded in the use of council reserves	30.9%	180
Option 3: Fund 50% with a cut to service budgets. Fund 50% by using council reserves	27.7%	161
Option 4: Some cut to service budgets. Fund majority with the use of council reserves	25.4%	148
Option 2: Majority cut to the service budgets. Some use of council reserves	12.0%	70
Option 1: All funded by a cut in service budgets. No use of council reserves	4.0%	23

2.1.12. Question 13 asked - Which service budgets would you be willing to see reduced? (Please choose as many services as you want).

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
Archives and museums	63.9%	493
Tourism and Maritime	63.2%	488
Libraries	49.9%	385
Public protection, planning, licensing and environmental health	40.7%	314
Environment and countryside management	33.4%	258
Economic development	32.3%	249
Leisure centres	31.2%	241
Housing advice and welfare support	29.5%	228
Homelessness prevention	23.7%	183
Youth Services	21.9%	169
Roads and infrastructure	18.9%	146
Waste collection, disposal and recycling	15.7%	121
Fire services	13.1%	101
Education and schools	12.6%	97
Supporting vulnerable children, families, adults and older people	8.7%	67

3 Written Responses

Six letters specifically related to education were received representing a total of 13 primary schools and school leaders (1 letter on behalf of head teachers within a catchment area / 2 letters from a school governor / 2 letters from school head teachers / 1 letter from a trade union).

All were very concerned about the funding available to undertake the provision before the proposed 2.5% reduction and are now extremely worried. Some of the main points from the letters include:

- Re-looking at the current funding formula for schools on the island
- Suggestion for secondary schools to take a 60%/ 40% split with primary schools on the school budget reduction
- Schools are having to stop provision of swimming lessons, library, culture visits, music lessons and sports activities
- Many schools are having to increase classroom sizes above the recommended 30 pupils
- Some schools are seeing numbers decrease significantly and are concerned for the schools future
- The current budget does not reflect the school requirement as it is and schools are concerned that they won't be able to meet the curriculum requirements
- Many schools can't afford paper, books and school resources

- Many headteachers and staff are working extra hours on their good will and there are real concerns for staff welfare
- There isn't enough budget to employ classroom assistants / one-to-one assistants
- The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) budget received from the Council do not meet the costs for one-to-one assistants
- The 2.5% cut in budget doesn't take into account the increase in teachers salary already taken from schools - Only 24% of trade union represented members stated that they could afford the 2023/24 pay award from existing budgets and would have to make cuts
- There is a real concern for health and safety of some sites
- Many are unsure of some of the partnership agreements and if they are getting value for money for the provision
- Allow schools to set a licensed deficit and urge those who have not to rethink position
- Schools simply do not have the resources they need at the moment, further cuts will be devastating to schools and their learners, with implications for the wider communities for generations to come

The final two letters received represented a Town & Community Council and their main comments are noted below:

- Dissatisfaction with the proposed council tax increase as initial reports from 2023 budget was that an increase in the region of 6% was expected
- The road network needs further investment due to many road closures throughout the year
- There has been many consultations held by the council over the year but nothing to say what happened as a result of the consultations
- Concerns about the future existence of the tourism department

Further comments relating to other potential savings were also provided in the open-ended responses to question 7 (2.1.6 above) alongside 10 email responses. Some of the suggestions are listed below:

- Reduce the number of councillors
- Undertake a staff restructure
- Work with other councils / amalgamate with other councils
- Change building suppliers
- Reduce the number of green bin collections during winter
- Close the half empty schools
- Ensure staff are working and efficient
- Introduce Parking Permits to densely populated areas
- Introduce a holiday tax
- Work with more voluntary organisations

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 th February, 2024
Subject:	2024/25 Budget Setting (Capital)
Purpose of Report:	Scrutiny consideration of final draft budget proposals for 2024/25
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Douglas Fowle
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Robin Williams
Head of Service:	Marc Jones, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
Tel:	07971167198
Email:	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Applicable to all Elected Members

25

1 - Recommendation/s
The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to agree a formal response to the Executive on the Council’s final proposals for the 2024/25 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 below), taking into account views from the Finance Scrutiny Panel.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities
Direct link with the Council Plan and strategic priorities. The Committee’s consideration of the capital proposals for next year will include how the proposals enable the Council to deliver on the Council Plan as well as any specific risks.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

The following key questions are proposed to underpin the Committee's consideration of the 2024/25 capital budget proposals:

- To what degree does the Committee support the proposed capital programme and the proposed schemes given the limited capital funding available for the general fund?
- How do the 2024/25 capital proposals enable delivery on the Council's medium term priorities whilst balancing short term pressures and do the principles of the Council's Capital Strategy (Section 5 paragraph 1.3 below) allow the Council to meet its corporate objectives?
- The Council's capital budgets include expenditure funded by the Housing Revenue Account. What impact does this investment have on the Council's housing stock, our current tenants and individuals on the housing waiting list?

5 – Background / Context

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Scrutiny of the budget setting process has developed and matured over recent years, laying the foundations for a better, more systematic process based on outcomes and good practice. In fact, the process allows for a more systematic approach to financial scrutiny, as an essential building block of sound financial management and governance.

1.2 Capital Strategy 2024/25

The revised CIPFA Prudential Code¹ requires local authorities to produce a capital strategy in order to:

- Set out the long term context within which capital expenditure and investment decisions should be made
- As a means of ensuring that Councils take capital and investment decisions in line with service objectives and priorities
- Ensure that local authorities properly take into account stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability when setting its capital programme.

The Authority's capital strategy and capital programme for 2024/25 are currently being considered by the Executive². It sets out the objectives, principles and governance framework to ensure that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with the Council Plan and local strategic priorities. A fundamental principle of the Strategy is to focus capital expenditure on projects which assist the Council meet the following key objectives and help the Council meet its statutory responsibilities:

¹ Revised Prudential Code (CIPFA) dated September, 2017

² Meetings of the Executive on 20th February, 2024 (Capital Strategy) and 29th February, 2024 (proposals for the 2024/25 capital budget)

- i. **Welsh Language** – increasing opportunities to learn and use the language
- ii. **Social Care and Wellbeing** – providing the right support at the right time
- iii. **Education** – ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations
- iv. **Housing** – ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home
- v. **Economy** – promoting opportunities to develop the Island's economy
- vi. **Climate change** – responding to the crisis, tackling and working towards becoming a net zero organisation by 2030.

The Strategy also identifies the potential future capital expenditure, assesses the impact on the capital financing element of the revenue account and determines the funding available to finance new capital schemes for the period 2024/25. Also, the strategy sets out the long term principles underpinning capital planning to the future.

1.3 Principles of the Capital Strategy

The Capital Strategy discusses a number of long term principles which should underpin the Council's capital programme:

- The annual capital programme should focus capital expenditure on projects which contribute most to the key priorities of the Council during the period up to 2024/25.
- Capital funding should be allocated each year to ensure investment in existing assets to protect them into the future
- The Council will maximise external capital funding wherever possible and affordable
- Capital funding will also be prioritised on assets required to help the Council deliver its statutory responsibilities
- Continued commitment to the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and to fully utilise any available external funding.

1.4 Capital Budget Funding Sources

The Council's annual capital programme is funded through a number of funding sources:

- Capital Receipts
- Contribution from Revenue / Reserves
- Supported Borrowing
- Unsupported Borrowing
- General Capital Grant
- External Grants
- Major Repair Allowance

1.5 In considering their response to the final draft capital budget proposals, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will need to consider the proposals in terms of the longer term financial position of the Council (our Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy & Capital Programme 2024/25) and the Council's long term objectives and priorities.

2. SETTING THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2024/25

2.1 Attached is the report of the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer on the final draft capital proposals for the 2023/24 budget (**APPENDIX 1**) which will be submitted to a meeting of the Executive on 29th February, 2024.

The paper provides a position statement on the following issues:

- The principles of the capital strategy;
- The proposed capital programme for 2024/25 including the general capital programme, the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and the Housing Revenue Account capital programme;
- How the capital programme will be funded in 2024/25;
- Impact on general balances and earmarked reserves.

Details of the Final Settlement for the 2024/25 budget are expected from Welsh Government on 27th February, 2024.

3. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY – SETTING THE 2024/25 BUDGET

3.1 Financial scrutiny is much more than adding value to decisions taken by the Executive. It is about ensuring that there is proper scrutiny in the effective planning, delivery and follow up of key decisions impacting on taxpayers and local communities. Scrutiny should therefore:

- Provide effective challenge
- Hold decision makers to account; and
- Assist the Executive to develop a robust capital budget for the coming year.

4. FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

4.1 The Finance Scrutiny Panel considered the latest details of the budget proposals at its meeting of 15th February, 2024. The Panel's deliberations will be presented verbally at the meeting by Cllr Geraint ap Bebb, Chair of the Panel.

5. KEY SCRUTINY ISSUES

5.1 The 2024/25 budget setting process provides an opportunity for Elected Members to consider and challenge the implications of the final draft capital budget and any risks. Input has also been received via the Finance Scrutiny Panel who have given detailed consideration to the draft budget proposals. At this stage in the process, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is now requested to agree a formal response to the Executive³ on the Council's final capital budget proposals for the 2024/25 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 above).

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

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2024/25 budget setting process.

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2024/25 budget setting process.

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2024/25 budget setting process.

7 – Financial Implications

³ Meeting of the Executive to be convened on 29th February, 2024

This report discusses the process for setting the Council's 2024/25 budget, which includes consideration of the initial capital budget proposals

8 – Appendices:

APPENDIX 1: report of the Director of Function (Resources) on the proposed capital budgets for 2024/25

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

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL		
Report to:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
Date:	29 FEBRUARY 2024	
Subject:	CAPITAL BUDGET 2024/25	
Portfolio Holder(s):	ROBIN WILLIAMS – DEPUTY LEADER & PORTFOLIO HOLDER – FINANCE	
Head of Service / Director:	MARC JONES – DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER	
Report Author:	MARC JONES – DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER	
Tel:	01248 762601	
E-mail:	rmjfi@ynysmon.gov.wales	
Local Members:	n/a	
A –Recommendation/s and reason/s		
<p>The Executive is required to propose a capital budget for 2024/25, which will be presented to the full Council for approval at its meeting on 7 March 2024.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>To recommend to the full Council the following capital programme for 2024/25:-</p>		
	Ref	£'000
2023/24 Schemes Brought Forward		6,102
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets		4,856
Communities for Learning Programme		2,878
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)		30,002
Total Recommended Capital Programme 2024/25		43,838
Funded By:-		
General Capital Grant		2,222
Supported Borrowing General Fund		2,164
Decommitted Scheme Funding b/f from 2023/24		470
Communities for Learning – Unsupported Borrowing		2,700
Capital receipts Reserve		178
HRA Reserve and In Year Surplus		17,315
HRA External Grants		11,751
HRA Unsupported Borrowing		936
2023/24 Funding Brought Forward		6,102
2024/25 Total Capital Funding		43,838
B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?		
<p>A number of additional schemes are to be considered in the capital programme, with the main driving factor in funding being affordability and the maximisation of external grant funding.</p>		
C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?		
<p>It is a matter for the Executive to propose the annual capital budget.</p>		

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?		
Yes		
D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?		
Not applicable		
Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	The capital budget ensures funding to maintain the Council's assets, and forms part of the strategy to meet the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	Continued maintenance of the Council's assets will prevent larger costs in the future.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	Capital projects in respect of Communities for Learning and the HRA are aligned to priorities set out by the Welsh Government.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	As part of the consultation process on the Council's Corporate Plan for 2023 – 2028, citizens were asked a number of questions relating to capital expenditure and their priorities.
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	The capital budget ensures funding to maintain the Council's assets and, forms part of the strategy to meet the objectives set out in the Council's corporate plan.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	None Identified.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact identified.
E - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory)	Options were considered by the Leadership Team at its meeting on 24 January 2024.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Author of the report.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	The Director of Function - Council Business attended the Leadership Team meeting on 24 January 2024.
4	Human Resources (HR)	The Head of Profession – HR and Transformation attended the Leadership Team meeting on 24 January 2024.

5	Property	The Head of Service – Highways, Waste and Property attended the Leadership Team meeting on 24 January 2024.
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	The comments of the Head of ICT have been incorporated into the report.
7	Scrutiny	TBC
8	Local Members	Proposals applicable to all Members.
9	Any external bodies / other/s	Not applicable
F - Appendices:		
Appendix 1 – Report on the Capital Budget 2024/25 Appendix 2 – Final Proposed Capital Budget 2024/25		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
Capital Strategy Report – full Council 9 March 2023 Capital Budget 2023/24 – full Council 9 March 2023 Quarterly Capital Monitoring Reports 2023/24 – Executive 26 September 2023, 28 November 2023		

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Capital Budget for 2024/25, set out below, takes into account the principles set out in the Capital Strategy which was approved by the Executive and the full Council in March 2023. The Capital Strategy has been updated to reflect the proposed capital budget for 2024/25, but the principles of the strategy remain unchanged.

2. PRINCIPLES OF THE CAPITAL STRATEGY

2.1. The Capital Strategy for 2023/24 was approved by the Executive and full Council and will be updated for 2024/25 to reflect the new funding levels, any changes in the Council's priorities and any changes set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, which will be approved by the Executive and full Council in March 2024.

2.2. The current Capital Strategy sets out the following principles for the Council in determining its capital programme:-

- Each year, capital funding will be allocated to ensure an investment in existing assets to protect them into the future.
- The Council will maximise external capital funding wherever possible and affordable.
- Capital funding will also be prioritised on assets required to help the Council deliver its statutory responsibilities.
- The Council remains committed to the Communities for Learning Programme and will continue to fully utilise Communities for Learning external funding.

2.3. The strategy then went on to provide a little more information on how these principles would be delivered, and included the following key points:-

- That the Communities for Learning programme is considered separately from the remainder of the general capital programme.
- That the replacement of existing and obsolete assets has the benefit of reducing revenue costs, and that the capital programme will allocate funding to replace or improve existing IT equipment, vehicles and Council buildings.
- It is a statutory requirement to offer disabled facilities grants, and that the capital programme will allocate funding annually to comply with this requirement.
- A sum will be allocated annually to fund road improvement works. The sum will depend on the amount required to achieve any minimum contract values, the level of external and internal funding available and an assessment of the state of repair of the Authority's roads.
- Projects that require match funding will be assessed on a case by case basis, with any decision to allocate funding being based on how the project fits into the Council's corporate priorities, any ongoing revenue implications and the ratio of Council funding to external funding.
- Projects funded from unsupported borrowing will only be undertaken if the reduction in revenue costs or increased income generated is sufficient to meet any additional capital financing costs.

2.4. The Capital Strategy also sets out how any new bid should be assessed, as follows:-

- How closely the project will contribute to the priorities of the Corporate Plan;
- Whether the project attracts significant external funding;
- Whether the project will lead to revenue savings;
- Whether the project will help mitigate a corporate risk.

3. FUNDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25

3.1. The funds available to finance the capital programme for 2024/25 are shown in Table 1 below. It should be noted that the figure for the General Capital Grant and Supported Borrowing are based on the provisional Local Government settlement figures. The final figure will not be known until the final settlement figures are announced on 28 February 2024. The level of funding under both headings have remained fairly constant over a number of years and are not anticipated to change significantly between the provisional and final settlement.

Table 1
Anticipated Capital Funding Available for 2024/25

Source of Funding	£'000	£'000
General Fund Capital Programme		
Schemes / Funding brought forward from 2023/24	6,102	
General Capital Grant 2024/25	2,222	
Decommitted Scheme Funding b/f from 2023/24	470	
Supported Borrowing	2,164	
Funding for the General Capital Programme (Council Fund)		10,958
Communities for Learning		
Unsupported Borrowing	2,700	
Capital Receipts Reserve	178	
Funding for Communities for Learning		2,878
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)		
HRA Reserve	8,160	
HRA - In-year Surplus	9,155	
Welsh Government Major Repairs Allowance & Other external grants	11,751	
HRA Unsupported Borrowing	936	
Funding for HRA		30,002
Total Capital Funding 2024/25		43,838

3.2. The General Capital Funding received from Welsh Government for 2024/25 is £12k higher than the allocation for 2023/24 and is in line with the funding levels seen over the past 12 years. There has been no significant increase in the funding, despite the fact that the value of the funding has been significantly eroded by inflation over this period.

- 3.3. Although the Council does have unsold schools, the capital receipts generated has been allocated to fund the replacement school. The Council does hold a small number of assets which it wishes to dispose of, but they are not considered to be very marketable properties and no sales are anticipated in 2024/25. If any sales occur, and they generate a capital receipt, the capital receipt would be available as an additional source of funding in 2025/26.
- 3.4. In previous years, sums have also been held as earmarked reserves to fund individual projects. The Council has used £3.78m of reserves to balance the 2023/24 revenue budget, with a further planned use of £4.4m in 2024/25. This has diminished the Council's reserves to the minimum level and does not allow for the use of reserves as capital funding in 2024/25.
- 3.5. The HRA funding is earmarked for HRA projects and cannot be used for any other purpose. It is forecast that the balance of the HRA reserve will be in the region of £9.3m by the end of this financial year. The HRA Business Plan sets a target of 5% of income receivable (circa £1.2m) as the minimum HRA reserve balance, which allows the remainder to be used as capital funding in 2024/25.

4. PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25

4.1. 2023/24 Schemes Carried Forward

The capital budget monitoring report to the end of quarter 3 of 2023/24 estimates that the capital programme will underspend by £9.236m, although the final position may change during the final quarter. Once the final position in respect of 2023/24 is known, this will be reported to the Executive alongside a request to approve the carrying forward of funding from 2023/24 to 2024/25.

Committed schemes that are due to run for a number of years from the current year and beyond have been factored into this programme due to new budgets being required.

Table 2
2023/24 Schemes Brought Forward

2023/24 Schemes Brought Forward	2024/25 £'000
Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II)	1,207
Levelling Up Funding (various projects)	4,895
Total Schemes Brought Forward	6,102

4.2. Refurbishment / Replacing Existing Assets

Each year, it is necessary to invest in the Council's assets to prolong their life and ensure that they are fit for purpose, or to replace obsolete assets. The following sums are proposed:-

- **Refurbishment of Schools** – The cost of clearing the backlog maintenance in the Council's 46 schools is considerable and cannot be fully funded in the short to medium term. The Council's school modernisation programme may reduce some of this cost, but a large number of the existing schools will remain in use in the long term. A sum of £1m is to be allocated in order to undertake the most urgent works which the Council's Property Team have identified and prioritised. The funding will also provide a source for match funding for Low Carbon Heat grants which the Council has applied for.

- **Refurbishment of Non School Buildings** – Again, a backlog of work has been identified in the Council’s offices, residential homes, day care facilities, libraries and leisure centres and there is insufficient funding to undertake this work in any one year. £600k has been proposed, and this level of funding will be sufficient to meet the cost of the majority of the priority work required to be undertaken.
- **Highways Resurfacing** – The Annual Status and Option Report confirms that an annual budget of £2m is required in order to sustain the Steady State (Preventative) condition of our roads. A budget below this required amount would inevitably result in less efficiency and reduced value for money, with additional costs to the Highway Authority with more money being spent on emergency works and also the risk of increased third party claims being made against the Authority. The budget allocation of £2m will also be utilised to provide match funding for small scale flooding relief schemes where required, as these schemes do not only help to prevent flooding but they also protect the road network from damage when flooding occurs.
- **Vehicles** – The Council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and, in order to achieve that commitment, the Council needs to reduce the number of petrol and diesel powered vehicles. However, achieving this within the current funding limitations will be challenging and the Council will be reliant on additional grant funding or will have to change from direct purchase to leasing in order to achieve the change. The Service has identified a new gritter and replacement minibuses for Môn Community Transport as the priority. £206k is allocated in the proposed budget to purchase one new gritter and to begin the MCT minibus replacement programme.
- **IT Assets** – Continued investment is required to maintain the Council’s core infrastructure and to replace devices used by staff to access systems. £300k has been identified as the sum required to maintain the core infrastructure and to replace desktop devices.

4.3. Disabled Facilities Grants

The demand for major adaptations to enable disabled residents to continue to live at home continues to be high. Funding of £500k for adapting Council houses is included in the HRA planned maintenance budget, however, the Council must also fund work to private homes as well. It is anticipated that around £600k of commitments exist in 2024/25 in addition to any new applications that will be received during 2024/25. The proposal is to maintain the annual budget allocation of £750k for 2024/25.

5. OTHER BIDS FOR ADDITIONAL ONE-OFF FUNDING

- 5.1. Services were invited to submit bids for capital funding for 2024/25 to fund the cost of one-off projects. A total of 13 bids, amounting to £1.793m were received. Having considered the bids, and given the limited funding available, none of the bids were considered to be necessary to prevent the risk of service failure at this point. However, this may change in future years.
- 5.2. A small number of the bids could be funded through unsupported borrowing, as they have the potential to generate sufficient revenue savings or additional income that would be sufficient to meet the additional annual capital financing costs. Services may present a business case for consideration in 2024/25 which will be considered by the Executive as and when the cases are presented.

6. COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME

- 6.1. The Council's modernisation of the school estate, through the Welsh Government's Communities for Learning programme continues, although currently the programme only includes the completion of the Ysgol Y Graig extension.
- 6.2. A bid for the next tranche of funding will be submitted in due course but, for 2024/25, only the Ysgol Y Graig scheme is included in the budget for 2024/25. It is estimated that the remainder of the scheme will cost £3.030m (2024/25 £2.878m and 2025/26 £0.152m) and this will be funded in 2024/25 through unsupported borrowing £2.7m and the use of capital receipts from the sale of Ysgol Talwrn, £0.178m.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 7.1. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced account in terms of both revenue and capital expenditure. The proposed programme for 2024/25 will see the continued investment in the existing stock to ensure continued compliance with the WHQS standards, with £13m being invested. A further £17.002m will be spent on developing new properties and in re-purchasing former right to buy properties.
- 7.2. The programme will be funded from: the HRA Reserve (£8.160m), the revenue surplus generated in 2024/25 (£9.155m), Unsupported Borrowing (£0.936m) and Welsh Government grants (£11.751m).
- 7.3. The long term investment programme, and how it will be funded over the next 30 years, will be set out in the Housing Revenue Account business plan, which will be presented to the Executive in due course.

8. SUMMARY RECOMMENDED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25

- 8.1. The recommended capital programme for 2024/25 is summarised in Table 3 below, and analysed in further detail in Appendix 2:-

Table 3
Summary Recommended Capital Programme 2024/25

	Ref	£'000
2023/24 Schemes Brought Forward	Para 4.1	6,102
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	Para 4.2 & 4.3	4,856
Communities for Learning	Para 6	2,878
Housing Revenue Account	Para 7	30,002
Total Recommended Capital Programme 2024/25		43,838
Funded By:		
General Capital Grant		2,222
Supported Borrowing General		2,164
Decommitted Scheme Funding b/f from 2023/24		470
Communities for Learning Unsupported Borrowing		2,700
Capital receipts Reserve		178
HRA Reserve & In Year Surplus		17,315
HRA External Grants		11,751
HRA Unsupported Borrowing		936
2023/24 Funding Brought Forward		6,102
2024/25 Total Capital Funding		43,838

FINAL PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET 2024/25

Scheme	Budget £'000	External Grants £'000	General Capital Grant £'000	Supported Borrowing £'000	Unsupported Borrowing £'000	HRA Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000
2023/24 Committed schemes b/f							
Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II)	1,207	1,207					
Levelling Up Funding (various projects)	4,895	4,895					
Total 2023/24 Committed Schemes	6,102	6,102	0	0	0	0	0
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets							
Disabled Facilities Grant	750		750				
Refurbishment of Schools	1,000			1,000			
Refurbishment of Non School Buildings	600			600			
Highways Resurfacing	2,000		1,472	528			
Vehicles	206			206			
IT Assets	300			300			
Total Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	4,856		2,222	2,634	0	0	0
Communities for Learning Programme							
Ysgol y Graig	2,878				2,700		178
Total Communities for Learning Programme	2,878				2,700		178
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	13,836	6,102	2,222	2,634	2,700	0	178

Scheme	Budget £'000	External Grants £'000	General Capital Grant £'000	Supported Borrowing £'000	Unsupported Borrowing £'000	HRA Reserve £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000
Housing Revenue Account							
WHQS Planned Maintenance Programme	13,000	3,646				9,354	
New Developments & Re-Purchase of Right to Buy Properties	17,002	8,105			936	7,961	
TOTAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	30,002	11,751			936	17,315	
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25	43,838	17,853	2,222	2,634	3,636	17,315	178

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 th February, 2024
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.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	Applicable to all Scrutiny Members

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 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 and includes changes made to the work programme since the Committee last considered the document.³

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:

³ Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 18th January, 2024

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 21/02/24]

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	
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Qtr4: 2022/23	June, 2023 (21/06/23) 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 Strategic 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	
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Q1: 2023/24	September, 2023 (19/09/23) - Education Consultation on the Future of Fire and Rescue Services in North Wales – Isle of Anglesey County Council comments
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	GwE Annual Report for the Isle of Anglesey: 2022/23
Annual Performance Report: 2022/23	Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
Nomination of Committee Member on the Finance Scrutiny Panel	Education Scrutiny Charter

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24
October, 2023 (18/10/23) - meeting cancelled	
	October, 2023 (17/10/23)
	Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report: 2022-23
	Annual Report North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9): 2022/23
	Public Participation Strategic Plan: 2023/2028
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24
November, 2023 (13/11/23) – Additional Meeting	
	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
November, 2023 (21/11/23) - Q2	
November, 2023 (22/11/23) – Crime and Disorder	
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2023/24	Waste and Recycling Strategic Plan: 2023/2028
Empty Homes Strategic Plan: 2023/28	Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership Annual Report: 2022/23
Social Scrutiny Journey Progress Report	Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress
Nomination of Committee Member on the Social Services Scrutiny Panel / Corporate Parenting Panel	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24
January, 2024 (16/01/24) – 2024/25 Budget (morning)	
January, 2024 (18/01/24)	
2024/25 Budget Setting (Revenue Budget) – initial budget proposals	Modernising Day Opportunities: Learning Opportunities (Holyhead area)
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 2: 2023/24 Progress Report
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24
January, 2024 (16/01/24) (afternoon)	
Tenant Participation Strategic Plan	
Asset Management Strategic Plan (Housing)	
Local Performance Indicators: Housing Services – Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24	
February, 2024 (13/02/24) – additional meeting	
Proposal Paper: Transfer Pupils from Ysgol Carreglefn to Ysgol Llanfechell and Close Ysgol Carreglefn	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
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	Equalities Strategic Plan: 2024/2028
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	Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan
Local Performance Indicators: Housing Services – Progress Report	Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress
Asset Management Strategic Plan:2024/2029	Corporate Safeguarding
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2024/2054	Annual Report on Equalities: 2022/23
	North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 3: 2023/24 Progress Report
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2023/24
April, 2024 (16/04/24)	April, 2024 (17/04/24)
Local Housing Market Assessment	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	Modernising Day Opportunities: Learning Disabilities (June, 2024)
Census 2021	Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress (November, 2024 and January, 2025)
Transformation and Modernisation of Adults' Services	North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner
Modernisation of Learning Communities and Strengthen the Welsh Language Programme	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
	Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
	Medrwn Môn
	Scrutiny of Partnerships
	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)
	Improving Reliability and Resilience across the Menai Straits
	Anglesey Free Port
	Anglesey Local Development Plan
	Impact of Tourism on Anglesey Local Communities (resolution of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 21/06/2023)