



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

GŴYS A RHAGLEN

SUMMONS AND AGENDA

ar gyfer

for a

**CYFARFOD O GYNGOR
SIR YNYS MÔN**

**MEETING OF THE ISLE OF
ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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on

DDYDD MAWRTH, 12 MEDI, 2023

TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

→ am 2.00 o'r gloch yp ←

→ at 2.00 pm ←

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A G E N D A

1. MINUTES

To submit for confirmation, the draft minutes of the meetings of the County Council held on the following date: -

- 23 May 2023 (Ordinary Meeting) - 10:30 am
- 23 May 2023 (Annual Meeting) - 2:00 pm

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

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

4. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

To receive any petition in accordance with Paragraph 4.1.11 of the Constitution.

5. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

To submit a report by the Director of Social Services, as presented to the Executive on 27 June 2023.

6. CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT 2023

To submit a report by the Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation.

7. EXTENDING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

To submit a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer, as presented to the Democratic Services Committee on 28 June, and the Executive on 18 July 2023.

8. AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN (AONB) – FINAL DRAFT

To submit a report by the Head of Regulation and Economic Development, as presented to the Executive on 18 July 2023.

9. ADOPTION OF DRAFT PETITIONS SCHEME

To submit a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer, as presented to the Executive on 18 July 2023.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF A COUNTY COUNCILLOR TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

To submit a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer.

11. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE 2022-23 - CHAIR'S REPORT**

To submit a report by the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, as presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 29 June 2023.

12. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

To submit a report by the Chair of the Standards Committee.

13. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

To submit a report by the Chairs of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 23 May 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Dafydd Roberts (Chair)
Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Non Dafydd, Paul Ellis, Jeff M Evans, Neville Evans, Douglas Massie Fowlie, Glyn Haynes, T LI Hughes MBE, Carwyn Jones, John Ifan Jones, R LI Jones, A M Jones, G O Jones, Dyfed Wyn Jones, Jackie Lewis, Llinos Medi, Eyrn Morris, Pip O'Neill, Llio Angharad Owen, Derek Owen, Gary Pritchard, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Keith Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Ken Taylor, Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Ieuan Williams, Sonia Williams, Liz Wood and Arfon Wyn

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation,
Head of Highways, Property and Waste,
Head of Adults' Services,
Head of Regulation and Economic Development,
Head of Democracy,
Programme, Business Planning & Performance Manager (for item 8),
Committee Officer (MEH).

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs Sandra Thomas – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager (for item 7)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Alwen P Watkin and Robin Williams.

Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the County Council held on 9 March, 2023 were confirmed as correct.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

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

None received. It was explained that the Chairperson's announcements would be made in the Annual Council meeting in the afternoon.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1.13.1 OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Submitted – the following Notice of Motion by Councillor Llinos Medi:-

‘We as Anglesey County Council wish, in principle, to invite the URDD National Eisteddfod to Anglesey in 2026. The Eisteddfod is one of the main youth events throughout Europe and there is no better place than Anglesey to stage a Welsh event for the young people of Wales.’

Councillor Aled M Jones seconded the Motion as he welcomed the invitation for the URDD National Eisteddfod to Anglesey.

Members of the County Council unanimously supported the Motion to invite the URDD National Eisteddfod to Anglesey in 2026 as it is a national youth event of international significance and will also promote the Welsh language.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Llinos Medi expressed her appreciation to the full Council for their support and further said that most children and young people of Wales have gained positive experiences through the URDD over the years.

It was RESOLVED that the Motion be unanimously carried.

- Submitted – the following Notice of Motion by Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas:-

‘We are calling on Welsh Government to re-visit the decision to bring the BES3 financial assistance to an end on 24/7/23 for public buses. This funding is of essential importance to safeguard bus services on the Island’

Councillor Gary Pritchard seconded the motion and said the effect of the reduction of rural bus services has an effect on people going to work, elderly and vulnerable persons.

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas said that during the pandemic, Welsh Government realised that a lot of bus services would not be able to be sustained without financial assistance as the funding is of essential importance to safeguard bus services on the island. He noted that public transport is crucial for local communities. He further said that public transport services are different in rural areas of Anglesey compared to the largest cities in Wales. Councillor Thomas said that whilst Welsh Government is reviewing the issue it is essential that funding is secured for it to support bus companies as at present it is impossible to plan ahead with the current system.

Members of the County Council unanimously supported the Motion that Welsh Government should re-visit the decision to bring the BES3 financial assistance to an end on 24/7/23 for public buses.

It was RESOLVED that the Motion be unanimously carried.

5. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

No petitions received.

6. THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23

The Annual Report of the Leader of the Council for 2022/2023 was presented.

The Leader of the Council firstly wished to express her gratitude for the work of the staff of the Council for their commitment to ensure the authority's success and to provide good services to the residents of Anglesey. She expressed that working together shows the strength and capability of a small Island to the whole of Wales.

The Leader of the Council highlighted the progress that has been achieved over the last year as is noted within her report with regard to the Economy, Social Services, Education, Leisure, Housing, Climate and the Environment. She referred that during the year companies on the Island have closed due to the challenging energy costs, high inflation and the general uncertainty in terms of the UK economy. The 2 Sisters food processing factory in Llangefni with the loss of over 700 jobs was devastating news to the workforce and their families together with the economy of the Island. She thanked the partner organisations who supported the workforce during the difficult period.

On a positive note, the Leader was pleased that the Council, having worked closely with Stena Line, has been able to complete the first step in creating a Freeport status on the Island. The Leader further referred to the opening of the new Ysgol Corn Hir, Llangefni which is the result of the Authority's vision to provide the best opportunities for the children and staff of the school. She further said that she has worked on a regional, national and UK level to deliver benefits for the Council and the Island.

The Council was given the opportunity to ask questions of the Leader on the contents of the Annual Report.

Councillor Jeff Evans, whilst welcoming the achievements of the Council, expressed that the Council needs to address facilities for young people as there are problems with anti-social behaviour and recently the use of vaping. Reference was also made to the problems incurred by people who are unable to attain doctors' appointments, lack of dentist and police officers together problems with the recruitment of care workers which all need to be addressed. The Leader of the Council responded that 10 years of financial austerity has had an impact on public services over the years. She noted that the youth service is now within the Social Services Department so as to give more resilience within the youth service. The Leader further said that it is important that communities need to make sure that there are facilities for young people within the local communities. She further referred to the comments about the lack of police officers and noted that work has been undertaken with the police on the Safer Streets programme recently together with collaboration to make communities safer for people.

Members of the County Council welcomed the report and were appreciative of the achievements of the Council over the last year.

7. GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD WELL-BEING PLAN 2023-28

The report of the Chief Executive on the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2023-2028 was submitted for consideration.

The Leader of the Council reported the latest draft of the Well-being Plan outlines how the Public Services Board intends to make a tangible difference to the lives of residents by working together in order to deliver results for the entire area. In using the evidence from the well-being assessments, the Board has identified three Well-being objectives as was noted within the report. She noted that the Welsh language is promoted in all aspects of work within the work of the Board's work, particularly with communities to develop Welsh medium services and activities.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2023-2028.

8. CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT 2023

The report of the Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation on the Corporate Self-Assessment 2023 was submitted for consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Corporate and Customer Experience said that the report reflects the Isle of Anglesey County Council's second self-assessment as expected under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The report reflects the output of the corporate planning and performance management framework and provides an evidence base on how the Council has performed, how the Council is using its available resources and how it is managing and mitigating associated risks.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the document as a 'working draft' and invite further consideration as to its contents by the Governance and Audit Committee at its meeting to be held on 29 June, 2023.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm

**COUNCILLOR DAFYDD ROBERTS
CHAIR**

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of Annual Meeting held on 23 May 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Geraint Bebb, Non Dafydd, Paul Ellis, Jeff M Evans, Neville Evans, Douglas M Fowlie, Glyn Haynes, Llinos Medi, A M Jones, Carwyn Jones, Dyfed Wyn Jones, G O Jones, John Ifan Jones, R LI Jones, Jackie Lewis, Euryrn Morris, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Llio Angharad Owen, Gary Pritchard, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Keith Roberts, Margaret M Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Ken Taylor, Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Ieuan Williams, Sonia Williams, Liz Wood and Arfon Wyn

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Youth and Young People,
Head of Adults' Services,
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Democracy,
Committee Officer (MEH)

ALSO PRESENT: None

APOLOGIES: Councillors Alwen P Watkin and Robin Williams

Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Head of Regulation and Economic Development,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation,
Head of Highways, Property and Waste.

The Chair, Councillor Dafydd Roberts presented a gift to the former Chairs of the Isle of Anglesey County Council – Councillor Margaret M Roberts and Councillor Glyn Haynes as it was not possible to acknowledge their service due to the pandemic.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts be elected as Chairperson of the County Council for 2023/2024.

In accepting the honour of being appointed, Councillor Margaret M Roberts assured the Council that she would endeavour to fulfil her duties as Chairperson to the best of her abilities. She thanked her predecessor Councillor Dafydd Roberts for the

dignified and honourable way in which he carried out his duties as Chair of the County Council and presented him with a gift to acknowledge his service. The outgoing Chairperson, Councillor Dafydd Roberts thanked the electorate of the Bodowyr Ward and all the Members and Officers for their support during his term of office as Vice-Chair and Chair of the County Council. He referred that the Democratic Services support has changed recently and he wished to thank Mrs Carys Bullock for her support. He also wished to thank Mrs Debbie Jones and Miss Chloe Hughes within the Democratic Services for their support and to Mr Dyfan Sion the recently appointed Head of Democracy. He acknowledged the work undertaken by the Officers of the Council during the difficult period of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. Councillor Dafydd Roberts highlighted the main events he undertook as Chair and especially in opening the Isle of Anglesey County Council's marquee at the Anglesey Agricultural Show. He also referred to the honour of been able to present the former Councillor Noel Thomas with a long delayed vote of thanks and acknowledging the miscarriage of justice which he endured.

2. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRPERSON

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Glyn Haynes be elected Vice-Chairperson of the County Council for 2023/2024.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- Congratulations extended to Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol y Borth in reaching the Urdd netball final in Aberystwyth. Ysgol Corn Hir won the competition with Ysgol Borth finishing second.
- Congratulations extended to a number of individuals from Anglesey who completed the 5k 'race for life' in Caernarfon on the 14th May, 2023 and who raised funds for good causes.
- Congratulations extended to Mr Stuart Jewell, from the IT department who ran the London Marathon to raise money for Awyr Las – Penrhos Stanley Hospital.
- Congratulations extended to Mr Martin Roberts from Finance Department who has been chosen to referee in the UEFA Nations Cup tournament in Spain next month.
- Congratulations extended to Thea Scowcroft-Roberts from Ysgol Rhoscolyn who won a competition to create a design that has inspired a logo for the new Holyhead Heritage College – the first college of its kind in Wales.

- Congratulations extended to Mr Alan Carter and Mr John Pritchard who have represented Wales Walking Football over 65's in the International Masters 5 a side World Cup in Zurich. They helped Wales to come second in the competition.
- Congratulations extended to Keith and Rhian from the Foster Wales Anglesey team and Sioned and Ffion from the Resilient Families team for completing the challenge of climbing Snowdon, Cader Idris and Pen y Fan within 21 hours and 40 minutes. Congratulations also to one of the Authority's Foster Carers, Alina Williams for joining the team to climb Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa).
- Congratulations extended to the Children and Families Service and Action for Children for receiving high praise for their work with young carers here in Anglesey at a Social Care Wales prize giving ceremony in Cardiff recently.
- Best wishes extended to the children and young people of Anglesey who will be competing in the Urdd Eisteddfod in Llanymddyfri at the end of the month.
- Best wishes extended to all competitors from Anglesey who will be taking part in the Island Games in Guernsey in July.
- Congratulations extended to all who have a link to Anglesey who will be accepted as members of the Gorsedd at the National Eisteddfod.

* * * * *

Condolences were extended to the family, friends and co-workers of Ms Angela Bennett who worked in the Revenue and Benefits Department.

Condolences were extended to the families of two former County Councillors, Mr Keith Thomas and Mr Eric Roberts.

Condolences were extended to the former Council Leader, Mr Gareth Winston Roberts on the loss of his wife recently.

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

Members and Officers stood as silent tribute.

* * * * *

With the agreement of the Chair, Councillor Robert LI Jones paid tribute to the recently deceased Mr Sean Burns, who was born and bred in Trearddur Bay, Holy Island. Mr Burns was the Administrator of Tristan da Cunha, Ascension Island and Head of the Governor's Office on St. Helena for over the past 12 years. Councillor Jones said that Mr Burns always had the Isle of Anglesey close to his heart and always promoted the Island wherever he visited.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

In accordance with Paragraph 4.1.1.2.7 of the Constitution, the Leader named the following as the Members she had chosen to serve on the Executive along with their Portfolio responsibilities :-

Councillor Llinos Medi (Leader) with Portfolio responsibility for Economic Development;

Councillor Robin Williams (Deputy Leader) with Portfolio responsibility for Finance;

Councillor Ieuan Williams (Deputy Leader) with Portfolio responsibility for Education and the Welsh Language;

Councillor Neville Evans with Portfolio responsibility for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime;

Councillor Carwyn Jones with Portfolio responsibility for Corporate Business and Customer Experience;

Councillor Gary Pritchard with Portfolio responsibility for Children (Social Services), Youth and Housing Services;

Councillor Alun Roberts with Portfolio responsibility for Adults' Services (Social Services) and Community Safety;

Councillor Nicola Roberts with Portfolio responsibility for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change;

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas with Portfolio responsibility for Highways, Waste and Property.

6. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

In accordance with Paragraph 3.4.12.3 of the Constitution it was RESOLVED that Councillor Keith Roberts be elected Chairperson of the Democratic Services Committee.

7. CONFIRMATION OF THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

In accordance with Part 3.2 of the Constitution it was RESOLVED to confirm such part of the Scheme of Delegation as the Constitution determines it is for the Council to agree.

8. CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEES

The Chairperson confirmed the re-appointment of the Committee structure as referred to in Section 3.4 of the Council's Constitution, together with the following :-

- Standards Committee Selection Panel;
- Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE);
- Indemnities Sub-Committee.

9. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR 2023/24

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following programme of ordinary meeting of the County Council for the ensuing year:-

- 12 September, 2023 - 2.00 pm
- 26 October, 2023 - 2.00 pm
- 5 December, 2023 - 2.00 pm
- May 2024 (Annual Meeting) – date to be confirmed

10. POLITICAL BALANCE ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE COUNCIL

The report of the Head of Democracy regarding the Council's political balance arrangements was presented for consideration.

It was **RESOLVED** :-

- To confirm the political balance arrangements and the number of seats allocated to each of the Groups under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- That Group Leaders advise the Head of Democracy as soon as possible if there are any changes to Group Membership on Committees.

11. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The report of the Head of Democracy regarding the appointment to Outside Bodies was presented for consideration.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree and confirm appointments as detailed in the schedule to the report.

12. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023-2024

The report of the Head of Democracy regarding the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual Report for 2023-2024 was presented for consideration.

It was **RESOLVED**:-

- To accept the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for 2023-2024 ;
- To confirm that holders of the same posts as 2022-2023 will be entitled to receive senior salaries in 2023-2024, ie:-

Chair of the Council;
Vice-Chair of the Council;
Leader of the Council;

**Deputy Leader of the Council;
Other Executive Members (7);
Leader of the Largest Opposition Group;
Chairs of Scrutiny Committees (2);
Chair of the Planning and Orders Committee.**

- **To authorise Officers to amend Part 6 of the Council's Constitution (Schedule of Member Remuneration) to reflect the determinations made in the 2023-2024 Annual Report.**

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET M ROBERTS
CHAIR**

| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
|--|--|
| Report to: | County Council Meeting |
| Date: | 12.9.23 |
| Subject: | Childcare Sufficiency Assessment |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Gary Pritchard |
| Head of Service / Director: | Fon Roberts |
| Report Author: | Danielle Thomas |
| Tel: | 01407 767785 / 07971 578100 |
| E-mail: | daniellethomas@anglesey.gov.wales |
| Local Members: | All - a county council statutory responsibility |

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

Section 22 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on all Welsh local authorities to in partnership with other local (statutory, community and private sector) stakeholders, professionals, and providers: secure sufficient, accessible and high-quality childcare for children aged 0-14 years in their local area, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, parents/carers who are studying or training for employment.

The 2016 Statutory Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) Guidance outlines that Welsh local authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of three documents to Welsh Government in June 2022, i.e.: i. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment document; ii. Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan, which must 'detail the actions, priorities and milestones to maintain strengths and address shortcomings identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment' and annual progress report must detail the progress which has been made against the actions, priorities and milestones in the (2022) Action Plan.

Additionally, the Childcare Sufficiency Plan is included in the Council's Constitution (under Policy Framework) as a matter reserved for full Council approval.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

Part of Council Constitution under Policy Framework to present report for full Council Approval.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

An online search doesn't reveal any historical discussion at full Council in relation to previous Plans; but there are some ad-hoc reports to Executive in April 2014, March 2015, April 2017, January 2019 – the Plan and/or update report.

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Yes

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island? | <p>The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 and the 2023 Review and Plan identified the key objectives which will help support the growth and retention of Childcare providers on the Isle of Anglesey. In turn this will ensure a sustainable Childcare sector offering foundational development opportunities for children whilst supporting parents / carers to work.</p> <p>In determining whether the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet requirements, the 2006 Childcare Act was introduced placing a duty on local authorities in Wales to secure sufficient childcare in their area to enable parents to take up or remain in work or to undertake education and training in order to obtain work. By supporting parents / carers to work this supports Welsh Government in tackling poverty, although poverty is still an issue. Additionally, the Welsh Government programme - Childcare Offer for 2 year olds, offers further support for parents / carers to return to work at an earlier stage, combating the cost of living crisis. By undertaking the CSA this provides vital information and identification for the specific development needs of Childcare across Anglesey.</p> |
| 2 | Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how? | Approval sought for the Assessment. There is no assessment of costs to the authority. |
| 3 | Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom. | Yes – all sectors involved in childcare provision and development and a consultation with parents and carers in 2022 |
| 4 | Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how. | Yes, a full and thorough consultation was completed with feedback and outcomes stipulated in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022. |
| 5 | Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. | There are specific considerations that assess impact on children with disabilities ensuring access to childcare and |

| Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant): | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | consultation has been undertaken with specific groups that may be impacted by the Equality Act 2010. |
| 6 | If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. | Approval of Assessment and plan sought and potential impact on social economic cohort derives from insufficient childcare being a barrier to work. |
| 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. | As part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment one of the main objectives is the retention, growth and use of the Welsh Language in settings. As part of the 2006 Childcare Act Welsh local authorities must have regard to: the provision of childcare involving the use of the Welsh language. This naturally requires that local authorities have a central role in the development of Welsh medium and bilingual childcare provision in their areas, in partnership with relevant organisations. Support is provide to all the childcare sector to use the Welsh language and signposted to businesses that provide this additional resource. |

| E – Who did you consult? | | What did they say? |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory) | Approved |
| 2 | Finance / Section 151 (mandatory) | no identified financial implications beyond current scope |
| 3 | Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory) | not applicable save for adhering to statutory responsibility to produce Assessment, approval and publication as final version. |
| 4 | Human Resources (HR) | not applicable |
| 5 | Property | not applicable |
| 6 | Information Communication Technology (ICT) | not applicable save for published on the Council web page |
| 7 | Procurement | not applicable |
| 8 | Scrutiny | Not applicable |
| 9 | Local Members | not applicable as county wide |

| F - Appendices: |
|---|
| See attached Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 and CSA Review / Plan 2023. |
|  <p>Isle of Anglesey Childcare Sufficiency ,</p> |

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

As above.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Form 2022

Name of Local Authority: Isle of Anglesey County Council



Name of Responsible Officer: Danielle Thomas

Job Title: Early Years Manager

Date of Completion: June 2022

DRAFT

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1 Introduction, Context and Background

Section 22 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on all Welsh local authorities to in partnership with other local (statutory, community and private sector) stakeholders, professionals and providers: secure sufficient, accessible and high-quality childcare for children aged 0-14 years in their local area, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, parents/carers who are studying or training for employment.

Additionally, regulations made by the Welsh Government under section 26 of the Act 2, require local authorities to undertake Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSA) for their area. These regulations prescribe the process and planning cycle, the consultation and publication requirements, including details of the information which must be captured in a cyclical (as of 2017, five yearly) assessment.

Accordingly, the Isle of Anglesey County Council has a statutory duty to work with early years and childcare providers within its private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors to create accessible, sustainable, affordable and high-quality childcare sufficient to meet the needs of all parents and carers. The County Council will compare this 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment of parents' demand for childcare with information about the current and planned availability (aka supply) of such childcare places. Therefore, this 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) follows on from the previous 2017 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, the Action Plan of which can be viewed at: <https://democracy.anglesey.gov.uk/documents/s11389/Binder1.pdf?LLL=0>.

The 2016 Statutory CSA Guidance outlines that Welsh local authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of three documents to Welsh Government in June 2022, i.e.: i. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment document; ii. Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan, which must *'detail the actions, priorities and milestones to maintain strengths and address shortcomings identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment'* and; iii. a (subsequent in 2023) annual progress report must detail the progress which has been made against the actions, priorities and milestones in the (2022) Action Plan, including any significant issues or changes which have happened over that year which might have impacted on or have influenced the childcare market in any way - for example a new housing development. The Guidance elaborates that: *'In particular, local authorities will need to liaise with their Family Information Services and the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) to ensure there is an up to date picture of childcare supply and demand'*.

This 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment summarises makes judgements about sufficiency using data about the demand for childcare (post the worst effects of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic) and the amount of childcare available on the island in spring 2022 (i.e. the supply of types of formal childcare).

The 2016 Welsh Government Statutory Guidance for local authorities, also sets out how the Local Authority (and this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment) should continue to have regard for:

- (a) the childcare needs of parents in their area
- (b) the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of working tax credit or universal credit is payable
- (c) the provision of childcare in respect of which employer supported childcare or tax free childcare is payable
- (d) the provision of childcare for children who have special educational needs or require specialist care due to disability
- (e) the provision of childcare involving the use of the Welsh language
- (f) the provision of childcare which enables them/parents to access their foundation phase early education entitlement and
- (g) the provision of childcare which enables them/parents to access their entitlement for free childcare places.

Additional to the 2016 Welsh Government Statutory Guidance, in March 2021, the Welsh Government issued supplementary guidance for local authorities for their Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2022 process. This directed that in their 2022 full assessment, Welsh local authorities would need to report on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the supply of childcare, the demand for childcare and the sustainability of existing childcare providers, as well as how these impacts will be addressed.

That supplementary document also states that: *“Welsh Government acknowledges that, given the timing of the full CSA in 2022, parents may remain uncertain, when asked, about their childcare requirements in the future and that local authorities may need to draw some conclusions based on trends in demand and on the basis of the best information available to them at the time. Local Authorities have the opportunity to take stock of their Action Plan every year as part of their annual reporting on progress and it is recognised that it may be necessary to revisit some of the objectives set out in the 2022 Action Plan in light of further information and developments in respect of the virus”.*

Importantly, this CSA provided an opportunity to determine the extent to which COVID-19 had indeed been a (localised) factor in each of the Isle of Anglesey’s 11 wards – including from the perspective of a reduction in demand for formal childcare businesses. A key question for the all Welsh local authorities has been: *If this change is in parents habits and routines is ongoing, will the Isle of Anglesey’s early years and childcare market be able to adjust to this change in demand and still be sustainable?*

Ultimately, this 2022 CSA has also been an opportunity to:

- Determine the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic indeed affected: (a) the *supply* of early years and childcare (aligned to specific localities); (b) the demand for on-site childcare and (therefore); (c) the sustainability of existing early years and childcare providers
- Establish the views of local parents, carers and guardians on early years and childcare, particularly in relation to (their) future demand and specified need(s). This ambition incorporates: (a) the whole Anglesey area, taking account of trends of (localised) demand and supply and; (b) an identification of specific gaps for particular groups/families from specific circumstances to ensure that there is sufficient childcare - for all families - across the local authority
- Establish the future supply and demand in relation to the Isle of Anglesey Flying Start programme - and therefore **inform relevant future childcare commissioning arrangements**
- Help ensure that local families are able to access childcare locally that meets their needs and enables them to make a real choice about work and their **employability**
- Establish *how much, of what types, at what times, and in which the Anglesey localities'* parents, carers and guardians require childcare, and determine any other specific requirements those parents have including access to the three types of funded early education places
- Provide a further steer for the Isle of Anglesey Council to *be proactive and innovative* in exploring and securing funding to support local and national initiatives and in ensuring families are encouraged to claim the financial support available
- Identify and action plan measures to strengthen, enhance and increase Welsh-medium childcare provision
- Establish the extent to which nannies and alternative home childcare providers are actually employed within the locality

The CSA Action Plan (see page 105) incorporates a vital acknowledgement that:

- **Continued partnership working between relevant local partners and stakeholders will continue to be a way forward that enables childcare needs to be met on the island**
- **COVID-19 may continue to effect the local childcare and early years sector, particularly from the perspective of sustainability**
- **Continued access to grant funding will continue to be a factor within the ambition to sustain existing childcare providers**

The Action Plan also acknowledges that provision for two year olds is now a Welsh Government priority to develop following the Welsh Government pledge in November 2021 to offer free childcare to all two-year-olds and plans to boost Welsh-medium childcare¹. Currently, only two-year-olds in Wales from disadvantaged backgrounds can claim 12.5 hours a week of free childcare under the Flying Start programme, however, the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru unveiled a plan to expand its 'free childcare' offering to all two-year-olds. The roll out of funded childcare will be a phased approach from September 2022.

Finally, and as vital context, in January 2022, the Welsh Parliament published the report: *Minding the future: the childcare barrier facing working parents*². Key recommendations of this report were that:

- The Welsh Government sets out a plan to deliver universal wraparound care, including after-school clubs that can accommodate all those who want to benefit from them
- The Welsh Government sets out how it intends to address the eligibility criteria in the Childcare Offer to make it easier for parents employed in atypical hours, such as insecure work, shift work or on zero-hours contracts, to access provision
- The Welsh Government sets out how it intends to work with local authorities and health boards to improve awareness and understanding of the childcare support available to new parents. Potential approaches could include: writing to new parents or promoting the support available when parents register the birth of their child; and providing information to parents in sufficient time ahead of the end of maternity leave to help them to make informed decisions about childcare
- The Welsh Government sets out plans for addressing the gap in childcare between the end of maternity leave and eligibility for the Childcare Offer. This should include indicative timescales, and an evaluation of the financial and practical factors that would need to be taken into account in addressing this gap
- The Welsh Government sets out plans to place more Welsh-medium childcare on school sites, given that progression from Welsh-medium childcare to Welsh-medium primary education is higher when this occurs
- The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans to work with local authorities to ensure that Family Information Services provide resources in community languages other than, and in addition to, English and Welsh
- In order to address *widespread concerns* around the lack of ethnic diversity in the sector, the Welsh Government sets out plans for their new race disparity unit to build an evidence base around the level of ethnic minority representation in the childcare workforce
- The Welsh Government sets out a plan which requires all childcare providers to undertake cultural and diversity awareness training, such as that being developed by CWLWM, and to ensure that it becomes part of continuous professional development within the sector

¹ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-11/cooperation-agreement-2021.pdf> - page 5.

² <https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s122062/Report.pdf>

- The Welsh Government sets out a plan to develop and strengthen the childcare provision for children with additional learning needs, including increasing the amount of funding available through the Childcare Offer for Wales Additional Support Grant to improve provision for children with disabilities and/or additional or complex needs
- The Welsh Government sets out how it will ensure sufficient funding is available in the expansion of the Childcare Offer under the Co-operation Agreement to allow two year olds with additional or complex needs to fully access provision
- The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plan to deliver a sufficient increase in the hourly payment to providers under the Childcare Offer to enable an increase in staff pay, and a timeframe by which all childcare workers will be paid the Real Living Wage, learning from the Scottish Government's incorporation of this into their childcare expansion
- The Welsh Government sets out a plan to ensure that the upcoming childcare recruitment campaign by Social Care Wales reaches and attracts groups such as ethnic minorities and Welsh speakers who are underrepresented in the childcare workforce.

DRAFT

2 Partnership Working and Consultation

As part of the production of the 2022 Isle of Anglesey Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, structured qualitative and quantitative consultation was undertaken with a broad spectrum of partners, stakeholders, professionals and educators. Consultation was also undertaken with children and young people ³, parents/carers, childcare providers, persons with interest in childcare and their representatives, local employers, and persons representing them and employer organisations, neighbouring local authorities and educational establishments, including the schools located on the island.

Further details about specific partners that were consulted in order to produce a robust and comprehensive CSA, which gathered a broad spectrum of feedback and viewpoints can be read in Section A of this CSA document. In terms of feedback from the local authority and its relevant officers and professionals, consultation was undertaken with:

- Family Information Service: Teulu Mon
- Local Authority Partners
- North Wales Safeguarding Board
- Youth services representatives
- CWLWM partners who include Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club's, Early Years Wales, National Day Nursery Association, PACEY Cymru and Mudiad Meithrin
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) representatives
- Those working with adults on the theme of employability and training
- Schools
- Those that work with disadvantaged families, in particular in areas of Holyhead and including on themes such as the Flying Start programme, parenting and social services

Essentially, the Isle of Anglesey County Council is confident that it has consulted to an extent that ensures a robust 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment – which will help to inform the ongoing work to rejuvenate the early years and childcare sector's presence and standing after the challenges presented by the 2020-2022 COVID-19 pandemic.

³ In 2022 the Isle of Anglesey County Council were also undertaking a Play Sufficiency Assessment and this project co-produced the majority of consultation with children and young people, including on the theme of out of school childcare and activities.

3 Welsh in Education Strategic Plans

The 2006 Childcare Act introduced a duty on local authorities in Wales to secure sufficient childcare in their area to enable parents to take up or remain in work or to undertake education and training in order to obtain work. In determining whether the provision of childcare is sufficient to meet these requirements, Welsh local authorities must have regard to: the provision of childcare involving the use of the Welsh language.

This naturally requires that local authorities have a central role in the development of Welsh medium and bilingual childcare provision in their areas, in partnership with relevant organisations.

This assessment is therefore mindful that the Welsh Government published statutory guidance on Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) on 27 January 2021⁴. That guidance sets out the Welsh Government's expectations in terms of how local authorities, working with key stakeholders, will plan for continuity of Welsh medium education to support the realisation of the vision of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. Local authorities are expected to set an overarching ten year target outlining the expected increase in Year 1 children who are taught through the medium of Welsh in the local authority's area.

In doing so, local authorities should identify and plan measures to strengthen and expand Welsh-medium childcare provision in the area to ensure a seamless route to Welsh-medium education and ensure that the Teulu Mon Service (among other forums and organisations) provides information on the advantages of raising children bilingually and using Welsh in the family home. To support the planning process, the Welsh Government provides local authorities with relevant data.

Figures published by StatsWales in September 2021 indicated that the Isle of Anglesey locality has one of the highest percentages of its population having an ability to speak Welsh language (63.3%). Even given the relative size of that percentage, the Isle of Anglesey County Council is committed to ensuring that the use of the Welsh language is a high profile ambition for its locality.

⁴ The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1194 (W. 271)) ("the 2020 Regulations") which came into force on 1 December 2020 makes changes to the start date of the next WESP cycle. Local authorities are required to prepare and submit the first ten year WESP Plan to the Welsh Ministers for approval no later than 31 January 2022 and the first ten year Plan will commence on 1 September 2022 and expire on 31 August 2032. Childcare and Play leads within local authorities will want to take note of these changes; to ensure that engagement with local authority WESP leads and key stakeholders takes place at an opportune time in the planning cycle and include objectives in their 2022 CSA which are clearly linked to the local authority's plans for growth and continuity in Welsh medium education and the 10 year target in respect of Year 1 children. There is also a requirement that the WESP take account of the local authority's CSA. There will be opportunities for local authorities to update and resubmit their WESPs to the Welsh Government should any issues or opportunities be identified as part of their annual reviews and related changes can be captured in annual CSA updates.

This intention is referenced in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) – which can be viewed at: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/Strategic-Plan-for-Welsh-in-Anglesey-Education-2017-2020.aspx>

The WESP for the Isle of Anglesey County Council outlines a vision that: all Anglesey's children and young people are bilingually proficient and possess the ability to use both languages equally at the end of their educational career by ensuring that not one pupil is deprived of that ability or right.

It also has a supplementary aim to ensure that: every pupil who goes through the Anglesey education system is fully bilingual when reaching 16 years of age, and is equally confident in communicating in both languages in the world of work, culturally and socially. This aim is supplemented by a set of objectives aligned to each cohort and for early years this includes an ambition to ensure, through the organisation and provision of dedicated and appropriate nursery provision (including immersion techniques), that every child is given (whatever their linguistic background) a solid foundation in Welsh as soon as possible.

For the Foundation Phase, the WESP outlines an objective to *“building on the foundation set in the nursery and reception classes by continuing to develop all pupils' grasp of Welsh”* and for Key Stage 2: *“to continue to develop the children's grasp of Welsh by paying attention to promote confidence in their language skills”*.

The WESP for Anglesey also embodies and conforms to the policies and strategies of the Council and Welsh Government, including:

- Welsh Language Strategy 2016 – 2021 Anglesey County Council
- Anglesey Council Lifelong Learning Department's Language Policy
- Welsh Government's draft strategy for 'One million Welsh speakers by 2050'

The Isle of Anglesey County Council has an aspiration that every pupil should be proficiently bilingual, to enable them to communicate, work and play a full part in the island's culture. Essentially each of the island's WESP outcomes contribute to the aim of increasing the use of Welsh.

They include, among other things, increasing the number of pupils being taught in Welsh, more children using the language when moving from nursery to primary school, more pupils studying for Welsh qualifications, and creating more opportunities to use the language in different contexts.

Additionally, the Isle of Anglesey's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2021-2026⁵ sets out that for children and young people, an early proficiency of the Welsh language should be achieved via:

- Language transmission within the family
- The early years up to five years of age
- Compulsory education
- Post-compulsory education and preparing for the world of work

The Strategy states that *“we must focus on creating positive language associations early in children’s lives. We need to reach out to prospective parents during pregnancy and maternity/paternity periods to reinforce positive messages about the benefits of introducing and passing on Welsh to their babies”*.

It further explains how early years’ practitioners have an influential role in many new parents’ lives and that the Local Authority work with Menter Iaith Môn as part of the Anglesey Welsh for Families Partnership to equip them with appropriate information and resources. Flying Start officers also offer targeted support for children under three years of age and their families as part of the Welsh Government’s early years programme. That programme’s primary focus is to promote social, emotional, cognitive and language skills, physical development and the early identification of additional needs – and it aims to ensure that positive messages about the benefits of using Welsh with their children are shared with parents who come into contact with the service.

As well as Flying Start, Menter Iaith, Mudiad Meithrin and schools also work to ensure that early years providers receive the support they need to positively influence the language patterns of the young children in their care. This is ambition is enhanced by the fact that Mudiad Meithrin (the leading provider of language immersion opportunities) has a strong presence on the island. For example, as well as the many Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi that operate on the island, one of that organisation’s day nurseries is located in Llangefni.

It can also be noted that all but two of Anglesey’s primary schools are community schools under the Isle of Anglesey County Council's control.

This means that Welsh is the main medium of instruction for 87% of primary pupils.

⁵ <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Council/Democracy/Welsh-Standards/Welsh-Language-Promotion-Strategy-2021-2026.pdf>

Finally, it can be noted that the bilingual language policy of all of Anglesey's schools and early years childcare settings will be strengthened with the introduction of a new and updated Welsh in Education Strategic Plan in 2022.

As part of the research that was undertaken in order to inform this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, in autumn 2021, Isle of Anglesey County Council invited representatives of *setting-based* early childcare providers to state whether they had any plans to expand the number of Welsh-medium places that they offered. Encouragingly, 41% stated that they had either definite plans in place or that this is something that they would maybe consider.

100% of all early years childcare settings (i.e. full day care providers and sessional care providers) stated that they were happy that they currently had enough ()Welsh language proficient staff.

The Welsh Government parental survey accounted for responses on the theme of Welsh medium childcare: 63% (almost two-thirds) of responding parents/carers stated that they currently accessed childcare through the medium of Welsh, and 5% stated that this was something they would ideally like to do – for example:

“When I finish maternity leave I will use a Welsh medium breakfast club and after school club”.

“When my son goes to the Cylch it will be Welsh medium of course... he will use 10 hours there and 20 hours at a private nursery”.

“I will use Welsh medium childcare when I finish maternity leave” – and similarly:

“I will probably use Welsh medium childcare when I finish maternity leave”.

4 Overview – Childcare Types, Services and Places

4.1 Fundamental Supply of Registered Childcare in the Isle of Anglesey

The following section outlines fundamental metrics aligned to the supply of childcare within the Isle of Anglesey locality – including details focusing on the number of places available/per type and the number of childcare providers situated across the locality.

Table 1 - In summer 2022, the following number of **registered with CIW** childcare providers were accessible in the Isle of Anglesey.
Source: IoACC

| Type of childcare | Number of childcare providers | Number of Registered childcare places |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Full day care/Private Day Nursery | 35 | 1,115 |
| Sessional care | 20 | 417 |
| Childminders | 40 | 352 |
| Out of school care | 15 | 386 |
| Creche | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 110 | 2,270 |

It can be noted that there are 0 known nannies and au-pairs that are operational on the Isle of Anglesey. There are also 0 registered creches operating on the island. Finally, there are 0 open access playschemes located on the island.

4.2 Subsequently, Table 2 below indicates the number of places accessible in each of the locality's 11 wards – aligned to the four main types of registered childcare, i.e.: 1. full day care/private day nursery; 2. sessional care, e.g. playgroups and Cylch Meithrin[s]; 3. registered childminders and; 4. out of school childcare providers.

Table 2 - Fundamental supply of registered (with CIW) childcare places across the Isle of Anglesey locality in summer 2021

Source: IoACC SASS

| Ward name | Number of full day care/private day nurseries providers | Number of full day care/private day nursery places in the ward | Number of sessional care providers | Number of sessional care places in the ward | Number of Registered Childminders located in ward | Number of Registered Childminder Places in the ward | Number of Out of School Childcare Providers located in ward | Number of Out of School Childcare Places in the ward | Total Childcare Places |
|-----------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|------------------------|
| Aethwy | 3 | 137 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 35 | 2 | 70 | 242 |
| Bro Aberffraw | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Bro Rhosyr | 3 | 109 | 5 | 106 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 43 | 268 |
| Caergybi | 2 | 56 | 1 | 26 | 2 | 18 | 1 | 30 | 130 |
| Canolbarth Môn | 5 | 216 | 4 | 86 | 5 | 41 | 4 | 107 | 450 |
| Llifon | 6 | 201 | 1 | 20 | 3 | 24 | 3 | 76 | 321 |
| Lligwy | 1 | 17 | 1 | 16 | 5 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| Seiriol | 4 | 122 | 4 | 73 | 3 | 30 | 2 | 44 | 269 |
| Talybolion | 4 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 93 |
| Twrcelyn | 2 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 117 | 1 | 16 | 180 |
| Ynys Gybi | 5 | 135 | 3 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 209 |
| Total Anglesey | 35 | 1,115 | 20 | 417 | 40 | 352 | 15 | 386 | 2,270 |

4.3 Informal Childcare

Anglesey Family Information Service - Teulu Mon - holds details on informal childcare providers that operate on the island, particularly mother and toddler groups/parent and toddler groups aimed at families that have 0-4 year olds. An example is Mini Rockers is parent and toddler group located in Holyhead where children are encouraged to play and sing.

4.4 Estimated attendance in autumn 2021

Table 3 below indicates the actual number of children who were subsequently accessing/attending a childcare place, aligned to the type(s) of childcare according to the July 2021 SASS responses received.

Table 3 - Number of children attending formal childcare provision(s) across Anglesey in autumn 2021

Source: Source: SASS July 2021

| Area | Number of children evidently attending full day care and sessional care | Number of children attending Childminder places ⁶ | Number of children attending Out of School Childcare places | Number of children attending Creche places |
|----------------|---|--|---|--|
| Anglesey total | 1,462 | 336 | 380 | n/a |

4.5 Teulu Môn (Family Information Service) is a free and inclusive service for families on Anglesey. It is the first point of contact for all children, families and professionals for information, advice and assistance relating to children or the families of children, aged 0-25 years.

The FIS helps to source childcare for parents and carers, tailoring their search to take account of their individual needs.

The FIS also provides regular information to childcare providers on training, grants, schemes, as well as any guidance from Welsh Government.

4.6 **Additional Learning Needs**

The July 2021 SASS data indicated that across all of the Isle of Anglesey’s childcare providers - **who responded to that survey** - a total of 120 children with **additional learning needs** were attending a childcare provision.

- 44 (of the responding 94) providers stated that they had at least one child attending their setting that had a cognition and learning disability
- 48 providers stated that they had at least one child attending their setting that had a behaviour, emotional and social development difficulty
- 54 providers stated that they had at least one child attending their setting that had a communication and Interaction difficulty
- 38 providers stated that they had at least one child attending their setting that had a sensory and/or physical disability.

⁶ In June 2021 there were childminders operating who have since de-registered.

4.7 **Welsh-medium provision**

The July 2021 SASS Self Assessment of Service Statement also indicated that 29 of (the 94 responding) childcare providers delivered childcare through the medium of Welsh, as a *main* language.

The only two evident languages that childcare was delivered via was indeed English and/or Welsh, with 41 settings/providers outlining that their setting accounted for both languages.

However, on the relevant and important theme of Welsh-medium childcare, the survey undertaken with Anglesey-based childcare providers in autumn 2021 highlighted that over the next 18 months (i.e. up to spring 2023), 24% of respondents from settings/group-based childcare had plans in place to expand the number of Welsh-medium places that they offered. A lower percentage of registered childminders, at 15%, stated that they had such an intention.

4.8 The **Flying Start childcare programme** for Anglesey covers the localities list below – which also incorporates the number of 2.5 hours/12.5 hours a week commissioned places:

- Gwalchmai locality = 12 commissioned places
- Newborough locality = 24 commissioned places
- Llangefni locality = 48 commissioned places
- Holyhead locality = 100 commissioned places, covered by 3 settings across that town

4.9 **Tax Free Childcare**

From the perspective of another supposed source of support towards access to quality childcare, In response to the consultation that was undertaken with childcare providers in autumn 2021, 58% of early years childcare providers/settings, i.e. full daycare providers and sessional providers stated that they were registered for facilitating parents/carers to access Tax Free Childcare. Those who were not registered repeatedly stated reasons including:

... most frequently: *“I only offer Flying Start funded places”*.

“I don’t know what it is” (stated by a representative of two settings).

Additionally, in autumn 2021, 81% of registered childminders, stated that they were registered for facilitating parents/carers to access Tax Free Childcare. Those who were not registered repeatedly stated reasons *including*:

“I am in the process of registering”

“I do not know what it is”.

In terms of *promoting* Tax Free Childcare, 78% of registered childminders (also) stated that they did actively do so.

Finally, in autumn 2021, 92% of out of school childcare providers stated that they were registered for facilitating parents/carers to access Tax Free Childcare. One representative of a provider that was not registered stated *“we are not registered because we do not offer enough hours”.*

In terms of *promoting* Tax Free Childcare, all but one of the out of school childcare providers (also) stated that they did actively do so.

Switching to the feedback from the July 2021 SASS responses, (a healthy) 59% of the responding full day care providers and sessional providers stated that (to the best of their knowledge) the parents of the children that they care for were (in July 2021) receiving tax free childcare or using childcare vouchers.

4.10 **Part-Time Early Years Education**

As part of the response to the July 2021 SASS process, 58% of early years childcare providers (i.e. full day care providers and sessional care providers) stated that they received funding to provide early years part time education.

4.11 The 2016 Welsh Government Statutory Guidance directs that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment should summarise the age ranges of children evidently able to attend the range of childcare types – and these metrics are set out in Table 4 below.

Table 4 - Number of **responding** childcare providers that are located in the Anglesey locality which were being accessed by specific age groups of children in July 2021

Source: SASS July 2021

| Type of <i>responding</i> childcare provider | Number of settings that were providing formal childcare to 0-12 months and 1 year olds | Number of settings that were providing formal childcare to 2 year olds | Number of settings that were providing formal childcare to 3-4 year olds | Number of settings that were providing formal childcare to 5-11 year olds | Number of settings that were providing formal childcare to 12-14 year olds |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Full Day Care (32 respondents) | 12 | 31 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| Sessional Care (20 respondents) | 0 | 16 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| Childminder (37 respondents) | 22 | 25 | 31 | 24 | 1 |
| Out of School Childcare (4 respondents) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

4.12 Occupancy

For the survey undertaken in autumn 2021, the Isle of Anglesey County Council invited early years childcare providers to state whether they had a waiting list. (From a demand perspective, only) 10% of early years childcare providers, i.e. full day care providers and sessional providers stated that they had a waiting list (with the most frequent locality/district that a relevant provider was located in Holyhead) and 33% registered childminders stated that they had a waiting list (with the most frequent locality/district that a relevant provider was located in also being the Canolbarth Môn ward).

Table 5 shows the extent to which both types of *relevant* childcare provider stated that their waiting list had changed during the period March 2021 – October 2021.

Table 5 - Extent to which waiting lists had changed during the period March 2021 – October 2021

Source: Anglesey CSA 2021-2022 – structured interviews with childcare providers

| Classification | Percentage of relevant early years childcare providers/settings stating | Percentage of relevant registered childminders stating |
|--|---|--|
| Yes – it has decreased in size | 0 | 11% |
| Yes – it has increased in size | 50% | 33% |
| No – it has more or less stayed the same | 50% | 56% |

4.13 In autumn 2021, the Isle of Anglesey County Council invited each childcare provider to state whether they had vacant places.

- 50% of early years childcare providers, stated that they had vacant places – most frequently in the Canolbarth Môn ward
- (A lower comparable percentage of) 33% of registered childminders stated that they had vacant places – most frequently in the Twrcelyn ward
- 67% of after school clubs, stated that they had (a non-metrically specified incidence of) vacant places – most frequently in the Llifôn ward
- 60% of non-school based breakfast clubs, stated that they had vacant places

For those early years childcare providers/settings that had vacant places, the average number was 4.2 places. For those registered childminders that had vacant places, the average number was 1 place.⁷

Ultimately Table 6 indicates the feedback that the three types of childcare providers provided aligned to their occupancy:

| Type of childcare provider | Stated: Our occupancy has increased for autumn term 2021 | Stated: Our occupancy has decreased for autumn term 2021 | Stated: Our occupancy is back to normal pre-COVID-19 levels | Stated: Hard to classify our occupancy situation | Did not say |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------|
| Early Years Childcare | 15% | 48% | 30% | 7% | 0 |
| Childminder | 22% | 48% | 30% | 0 | 0 |
| Out of School Childcare | 31% | 23% | 46% | 0 | 0 |

⁷ Out of School Childcare Providers did not tend to feedback their vacancy metrics.

4.14 Fees for paid childcare

The Isle of Anglesey County Council's autumn 2021 survey with childcare providers gave clarification of standard day rates.

For the early years childcare providers/settings who responded – with regard to *fee paying* places:

- the average daily fee for children aged 0-12 months and 1 year was £48.00 and the most frequent daily fee was also £48.00
- the average daily fee for 2 year olds was £17.40 (due to the sessional childcare 'factor') and the most frequent daily fee was (a sessional fee of) £8.00
- the average daily fee for 3 and 4 year olds was £17.40 (due to the sessional childcare 'factor') and the most frequent daily fee was once again (a sessional fee of) £8.00

For the registered childminders who responded – for fee paying places:

- the average daily fee for children aged 0-12 month was £32.30 and the most frequent daily fee was £35.00
- the average daily fee for children aged 1 year was £30.70 and the most frequent daily fee was, once again £30.00
- the average daily fee for 2 year olds was £30.40 and the most frequent daily fee was £35.00
- the average daily fee for 3 and 4 year olds was £35.00 and the most frequent daily fee was £35.00
- the average hourly fee for 5-8 year olds the most frequent *sessional* fee was £12.00

For the out of school childcare providers/settings who responded – for fee paying places:

- the average sessional fee for an after school club was £10.10
- the average sessional fee for a breakfast club was £3.70
- the average daily fee for a holiday play scheme was £32.40

4.15 Opening Times and Accessibility

The Isle of Anglesey County Council's autumn 2021 survey with childcare providers ascertained confirmation on opening times. For the responding early years childcare providers the most frequent opening time was 9.00am, and the average opening time was 8.48am.

The most frequent finishing time was 3:00pm, and the average finishing time was 14:48pm.

For the responding registered childminders the most frequent opening time was 8.00am, and the average opening time was 7.22am. The most frequent finishing time was 18:00pm, and the average finishing time was 17:36pm.

For the Anglesey's number after school clubs the most frequent opening time was 15:00pm. The most frequent finishing time was 18:00 pm.

4.16 In autumn 2021, each childcare provider was invited to state whether they had witnessed or experienced any notable (new) trends in terms of the demand for: (a) types of places that they offered or the; (b) types of hours at their setting.

45% of all early years childcare providers stated that they had, and in order of frequency the repeated trends were:

- Parents requesting more flexibility
- An increase in demand for part-time places for 2 year olds
- An increase in demand for wrap-around care

44% of all registered childminders stated that they had, and in order of frequency the repeated trends were:

- A decrease in demand for full-time places and...
- An increase in demand for part-time places
- A decrease in demand for after school pick-ups

46% of all out of school childcare providers stated that they had, and in order of frequency the repeated trends were:

- A general decrease in demand
- Parents requesting an expansion of opening hours and closing times

5 Needs of Parents/Carers – demand for childcare

The narrative below outlines the results of analysis of the Welsh Government parental survey which had a 5-week response window in October 2021 and early November 2021. This survey was designed by Welsh government, as was its ability to ensure coverage of some the demand-themed factors which the 2016 Welsh Government Statutory Guidance directs should be addressed within a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

5.1 The Welsh Government parent survey **286 responses** aligned to Anglesey’s wards as follows.

Table 7 - Area of residence of responding parents/carers

| Ward name | Number of responding parents/carers | Percentage of Total |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Aethwy [EH] | 15 | 5% |
| Bro Aberffraw | 14 | 5% |
| Bro Rhosyr | 22 | 7.5% |
| Caergybi | 20 | 7% |
| Canolbarth Môn | 41 | 14.5% |
| Lliffon | 16 | 5.5% |
| Lligwy | 14 | 5% |
| Seiriol Talybolion | 16 | 5.5% |
| Twrcelyn | 13 | 4.5% |
| Ynys Gybi | 16 | 5.5% |
| Postcode not specified ⁸ | 99 | 35% |

5.2 In terms of the type of household(s), the most frequent response provided by responding parents/carers was that they: share responsibility for my child(ren) with someone that I live with (72% of respondents), followed in frequency by a parent/carers stating that I have sole responsibility for my child(ren) - 21% were in fact, single parents.

⁸ Though these respondents did specify that they lived in Anglesey.

- 5.3 The average number of children evidently being raised by all respondents was 1.8 (0.1) *above* the UK average which is 1.7).
- 5.4 The age cohort which responding parents/carers were evidently most frequently raising was 5-8 years (38% of parents stated they were raising a child of this age), followed by 2 years (28%).
- 5.5 5.5% of responding carers stated that they were caring for/raising at least one child with additional learning needs (ALN) or a long-term illness.
- 5.6 All responding parents/carers to the Welsh Government stated what their employment status currently was.

Table 8 - Employment status of responding parents/carers

| Status | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|---|--|
| Looking for a job – but not working yet | 2.5% |
| Employed | 76% |
| Self-employed | 5% |
| In education or training | 4.5% |
| Not working and not looking for a job | 9.5% |
| Unable to work | 2.5% |

Note: parents were able to provide multiple responses.

79% of responding parents/carers evidently had a partner and their employment status was described by the respondent as follows:

Table 9 - Employment status of partners

| Status | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|---|--|
| Looking for a job – but not working yet | 0 |
| Employed | 67% |
| Self-employed | 8.5% |
| In education or training | 8.5% |
| Not working and not looking for a job | 1% |
| Unable to work | 0 |
| Not relevant (as do not have a partner) | 15% |

5.7 Table 10 indicates the incidence of responding parents/carers stating their gross household income per week (before deductions/tax).

Table 10 - Incidence of gross household income per week (before deductions/tax)

| Weekly household income | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers | Most frequently stated type of formal childcare accessed during term-time |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Up to £100 | 2% | Cylch Meithrin |
| £100 to £149 | 20% | Cylch Meithrin |
| £150 to £249 | 10% | Cylch Meithrin |
| £250 to £349 | 7% | Cylch Meithrin |
| £350 to £500 | 9% | Private Day Nursery |
| £500 to £580 | 9% | Private Day Nursery |
| £581 to £750 | 10% | Private Day Nursery |
| £750 to £999 | 10% | Private Day Nursery |
| More than £1,000 | 15% | Cylch Meithrin |
| Prefer not to say | 8% | Private Day Nursery |

5.8 Table 11 indicates the incidence of responding parents/carers stating specific ethnic backgrounds.

| Stated Ethnicity | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| White | 98.5% |
| Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups | 1.5% |
| Asian/Asian British | 0 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 0 |
| Other ethnic group | 0 |
| Did not say | 0 |

The most frequent type of 'Mixed respondent was evidently: Mixed White and Black Caribbean (three responding parents/carers).

5.9 73% of *all* responding parents/carers (who would have had at least one 3 and/or 4 year old) stated that they were accessing a funded early education place at school or nursery or a sessional playgroup.

21% of all responding parents/carers stated that they were accessing a Childcare Offer place and 4% of responding parents stated that they intended to access the Childcare Offer in forthcoming years.

5.10 10% of parents who responded to the survey stated that they were accessing a Flying Start programme childcare place. Parents and carers who had a 2 and/or 3 year old, who were both eligible - or not eligible - to access a Flying Start childcare place provided feedback, which included (in order of frequency):

"Because I am using the Childcare Offer instead".

"It is evidently not available at the nursery which I use".

*"I am **just** outside a 'qualifying' area".*

5.11 Table 12 below indicates the frequency with which responding parents/carers stated that they used specific types of childcare **during term-times**.

Table 12 - Frequency with which responding parents/carers stated that they used specific types of childcare during term-times

| Type of childcare registered or non-registered childcare | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|--|--|
| Childminder | 4.5% |
| Before School or Breakfast Club | 20% |
| After School Club | 18% |
| Private Day Nursery | 34% |
| School-based Nursery | 8.5% |
| Sessional Playgroup | 4% |
| Cylch Meithrin | 27% |
| Drop-Off Creche | 3% |
| Nanny | 0 |
| Au-Pair | 0 |
| Family/friends (paid) | 0 |
| Family/friends (unpaid) | 45% |
| Stated <i>none during term time</i> | 9% |

5.12 Correspondingly, Table 13 below indicates the frequency with which responding parents/carers stated that they used specific types of childcare **during holiday times**.

Table 13 - Frequency with which responding parents/carers stated that they used specific types of childcare during holiday-times

| Type of childcare registered or non-registered childcare | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers | % difference with term time |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Childminder | 4.5% | No difference |
| Holiday Club or Playscheme | 7% | n/a |
| Private Day Nursery | 29% | -5% |
| Pre-prep Private School | 0 | n/a |
| Sessional Playgroup | 0 | -4% |
| Cylch Meithrin | 6% | -21% |
| Drop-Off Creche | 3% | No difference |
| Nanny/Au-Pair | 0 | No difference |
| Playscheme | 0 | No difference |
| Family/friends (paid) | 0.5% | +0.5% |
| Family/friends (unpaid) | 20% | -25% |
| Stated <i>none during school holidays</i> | 22% | +13% |

- 5.13 Each responding parent/carer was invited to state how much they spent on an average week on (paid, non-funded) childcare. Table 14 indicates that the most frequently stated amount was (marginally) £100.00 - £199.99 week, stated by almost 20% of all responding parents.

Table 14 - Incidence of weekly expenditure on childcare

| Amount spent on average/week[days] | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|------------------------------------|--|
| £0 | 28% |
| Up to £10 | 2% |
| £10-£49 | 16% |
| £50-£99 | 14.5% |
| £100-£199 | 19% |
| £200-£299 | 6% |
| £300 or over | 2% |
| Did not say | 12.5% |

The wards which accounted for the highest frequency of parents stating: £300.00 or over/week was the Bro Rhosyr ward, followed in frequency by the Bro Aberffraw ward.

It can be noted that each parent/carer was requested to state whether they received any help towards meeting the cost of their childcare and...

- 8.5% of responding parents/carers stated: (yes, the) childcare element of the Working Tax/Universal Credit
- 22% of responding parents/carers stated: (yes, the) Childcare vouchers⁹/Tax Free Childcare
- 0 responding parents/carers stated: (yes, the) Childcare Grant for Students and;
- 0 responding parents/carers stated: (yes, a) Employer contribution
-

- 5.14 Each responding parent/carer was invited to state the numbers of hours they used childcare for, on average, on a typical week.

⁹ As distinct from the Childcare Offer – i.e. these are NOT the same programme.

Of those parents who responded to the question:

For term-time:

The average amount of hours stated by Anglesey resident parents/carers was 18 hours and 45 minutes/week. The most frequently stated amount of hours was 30 hours/week, followed in frequency by 10 hours/week.

For holiday-time:

The average amount of hours stated by Anglesey resident parents/carers was 18 hours and 20 minutes/week. The most frequently stated amount of hours was 10 hours/week, and with an equal frequency: 20 hours/week.

5.15 Parents/carers were invited to state how satisfied they currently were with their childcare situation.

Table 15 - Satisfaction levels

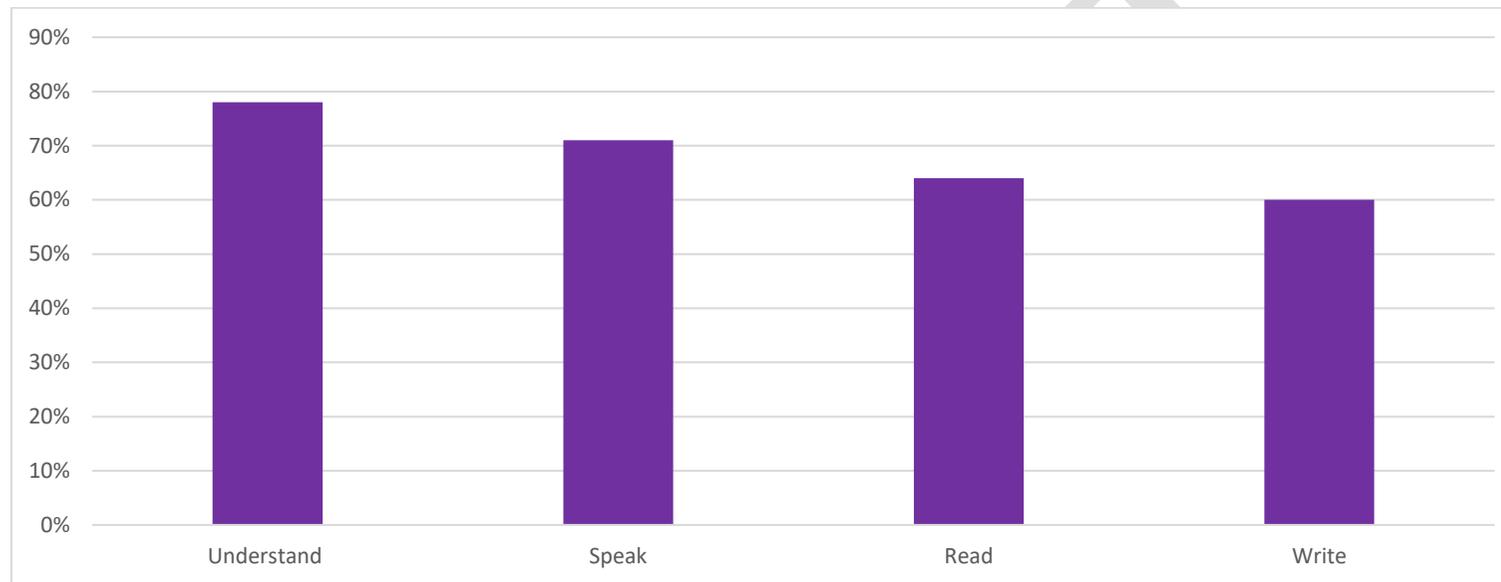
| How satisfied a parent/carer was: | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Very Satisfied | 64% |
| Quite Satisfied | 17% |
| Quite Dissatisfied | 2% |
| Very Dissatisfied | 1% |
| (Said) Not applicable | 9% |
| Did not say | 7% |

Parents/carers who stated:

Quite Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied were (proportionally) most frequently resident in the Western area of the island and Holyhead.

5.16 All responding parents/carers were invited to state whether they could speak, read and/or write the Welsh language.

Diagram 1 - Incidence of proficiency in Welsh language



Ultimately, 62% of responding parents/carers stated that they currently accessed childcare through the medium of Welsh. 5% stated that this was something they would ideally like to do, however there were evidently a small incidence of some factors being experienced by a proportion of respondents, with:

- 0.5% stating that distance to a Welsh-medium childcare setting had acted as a barrier to access
- 2% stating that availability to a Welsh-medium place(s) had acted as a barrier to access
- 0 stating that the Welsh-language capability of staff had acted as a barrier to access
- 0 stating that the cost of Welsh-medium childcare had acted as a barrier to access and;
- 1% stating that they had not been able to locate sufficient hours from a Welsh-medium childcare provider.

- 5.17 All parents/carers who stated that they were not – in autumn 2021 – using any childcare were invited to state why, including via the incidence of barriers. Further details - including qualitative feedback - on this key dynamic and factor can be read in Section 15 of this CSA.

Table 16 - Incidence of reasons stated as to why a parent/carer was not accessing/receiving support with childcare

| Reasons/Barriers | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|--|--|
| Child is on a waiting list for a provider & we are waiting for a place to become available | <0.5% |
| I use informal childcare such as a family member or friend | 8% |
| I choose not to access any childcare | <0.5% |
| I am a stay at home parent and have no need for childcare | 4% |
| My children are old enough to look after themselves | 1.5% |
| There is no childcare with sufficient quality | <0.5% |
| There is no suitable Welsh Language provision | 1% |
| No suitable provision in our language, which is neither Welsh nor English | <0.5% |
| The childcare available is not flexible enough for my needs | 3% |
| The cost of childcare is too expensive | 7.5% |
| Childcare times are unsuitable | 3% |
| There is no childcare available that is suitable for my child's age | 2% |
| There is a problem with transport | 1% |
| There is no childcare where I need it to be | 1% |
| There is no childcare that can cater for my child's specific needs | 0.5% |
| I only use childcare on an ad hoc basis and it is impossible to plan | 2% |
| Other | 1.5% |

'Other'

responses were:

"I am on maternity leave but next term I will be using a childminder and unpaid family childcare".

"There is not enough childcare in the holidays".

- 5.18 On a similar theme, parents/carers were invited to state whether in the past year, issues surrounding childcare had affected themselves or a[ny] partner:

26% stated that the issue of childcare had: caused problems at work

5.5% stated that the issue of childcare had: prevented continuation of work

9% stated that the issue of childcare had: stopped them from working/getting a job

7% stated that the issue of childcare had: stopped them from accessing training

- 5.19 All responding parents/carers were invited to state the degree to which they agreed with or (instead) disagreed with a selection of statements about childcare provision.

Table 17 - Parents general thoughts on aspects of childcare in the Anglesey locality

| Statement | Strongly Agree | Tend to Agree | Tend to Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Not applicable to me |
|--|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| I am satisfied with my childcare in term time | 60% | 19.5% | 2.5% | 0 | 18% |
| I am satisfied with my childcare in school holidays | 47% | 16.5% | 4.5% | 5% | 27% |
| The quality of childcare is high | 61% | 18% | 2% | 0 | 19% |
| There is a good choice of childcare in my area | 26% | 33% | 15% | 9.5% | 16.5% |
| Childcare is well located | 41% | 31% | 10% | 3.5% | 14.5% |
| Childcare caters for my children's needs | 48% | 26.5% | 3% | 1.5% | 21% |
| I would like my child to attend more registered childcare | 16.5% | 18% | 15% | 16% | 34.5% |
| Childcare is too expensive | 48% | 26% | 7.5% | 3% | 14.5% |
| I would prefer to use family/friends for childcare | 14% | 21% | 25% | 17% | 23% |
| I have a problem with childcare arrangements that are unreliable | 4% | 5.5% | 19% | 38.5% | 33% |
| Childcare is a barrier to me accessing employment or training | 12% | 14.5% | 19% | 26% | 28.5% |
| I know where to find out information about childcare | 24% | 44% | 9.5% | 7% | 15.5% |
| I know where to find information on financial assistance | 16.5% | 38% | 18% | 11% | 16.5% |

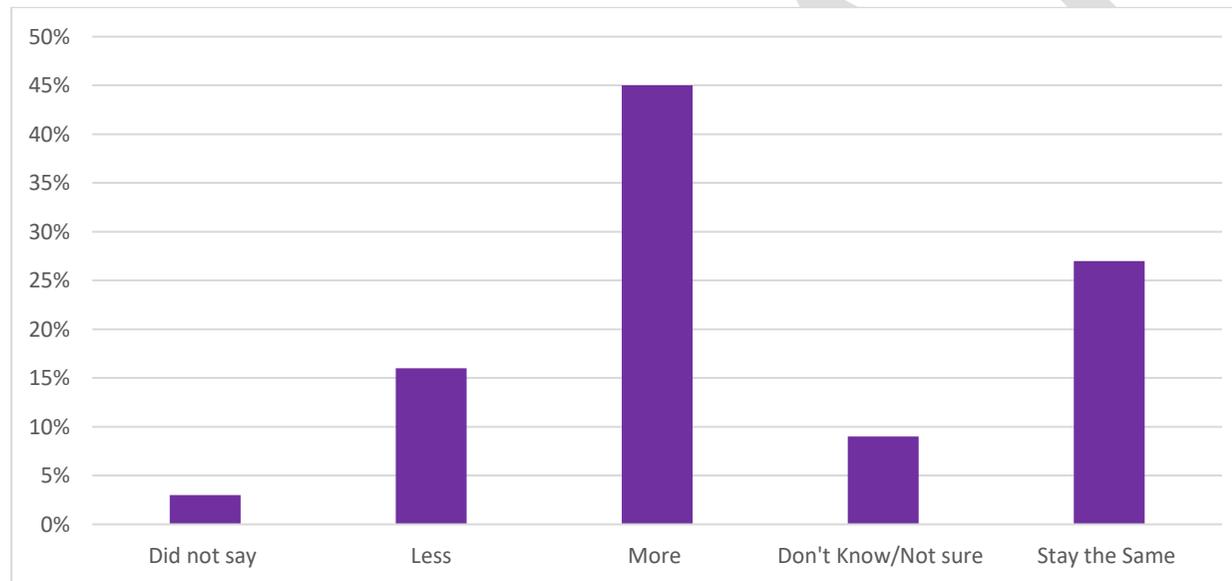
The response *strongly agree*: childcare is too expensive, was most frequently stated by parents/carers who were resident in the Canolbarth Mon ward.

The response - agree: childcare is a barrier to me accessing employment or training, was most frequently stated by parents/carers who were resident in the Bro Aberffraw ward.

The response strongly disagree and tend to disagree with regard to: there is a good choice of childcare in my area was most frequently stated again by parents who resident in the Canolbarth Mon ward, followed in frequency by the Llifon ward.

5.20 An ultimate key response from parents/carers was to the question: Do you anticipate you will need more or less childcare in the next couple of years?

Diagram 2 - Consideration of whether more or less childcare will be accessed in the next 2 years



Those parents/carers who stated: More, were most frequently resident in the Canolbarth Mon ward.

Those parents who stated 'More' were also requested to state the types of childcare that they would indeed seek to access through that intention, with the three most frequent being:

- After School Club – 20% of relevant parents
- Before School/Breakfast Club – 17% of relevant parents
- Cylch Meithrin – 16.5% of relevant parents

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6 Outcomes of Consultation with Stakeholders

The Welsh Government Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Guidance 2016 directs that Local Authorities should consult with local stakeholders and partner organisations to attain their perspective on priorities aligned to securing a sufficiency of childcare provision in their area. These stakeholders should include national umbrella organisation that make a key contribution to assisting the local authority, i.e.: the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

Therefore Section A of the 2022 Isle of Anglesey Childcare Sufficiency Assessment outlines feedback that was received through a series of virtual e-interviews with key stakeholders, partners and professionals during late 2021 and early 2022 including representatives of:

- North Wales Safeguarding Board
- Isle of Anglesey County Council employability representatives
- Isle of Anglesey County Council Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing Team
- Isle of Anglesey County Council Youth Support Services
- Teulu Mon Families Information Service

6.1 Perceived strengths: childcare in the Anglesey locality

- 6.1.1 Two interviewees described their belief that the work and role of the Family Information Service: Teulu Mon was a particular strength for the Isle of Anglesey, in particular aligned to its evolving parameters of support and its ability to connect families with specific providers and forms of support.
- 6.1.2 A second strength was perceived to be that the Childcare Offer had had a notable beneficial effect, in terms of the support it had provided to the island's working families – although two interviewees highlighted how its forthcoming increase in scope (in terms of eligible families) was going to be welcomed, particularly for parents/carers who were adult learners.
- 6.1.3 A third strength that was highlighted by two interviewees was what they perceived to be (words to the effect) *“an ongoing positivity and enthusiasm by those who remain in Anglesey's early years and childcare workforce”*.

6.2 Perceived areas for improvement: childcare in the Anglesey locality

- 6.2.1 Two interviewees stated that they were aware that certain parents/carers had reported issues and problems in terms of locating and accessing suitable Welsh-medium childcare, with this also evidently being a particular theme (barrier to accessing childcare of a parent/carer's choice) that Teulu Mon regularly received enquiries about. One interviewee believed that this issue was particularly aligned to the childminding sector and that this could be the focus of initial work by the local authority to enhance the ability of families to access Welsh medium childcare provision.
- 6.2.2 Two interviewees outlined their understanding that demand for support from a childminder had also been increasing, including aligned to a perception that parents/carers were requiring increased flexibility around times and days. Additionally, these interviewees highlighted their perception that this demand was focused on support for children aged 2-3 years – aka Flying Start programme age-relevant.
- 6.2.3 Three interviewees highlighted an issue that a number of schools on the island did not run an after school club and that this was a potential gap, whereby (working) families that lived in rural areas for which the local school was their “*childcare lifeline*” thus experienced challenges in terms of their work routines and their employability. One interviewee believed that if relevant schools were not able or inclined to establish an out of school childcare facet, then the local authority may have to examine an alternative solution of enhancing transport - in partnership with the local voluntary/community sector – support, so that relevant pupils could reach a school at 3.00pm – 3.30pm which did provide an after school club.
- 6.2.4 Two interviewees outlined how the recruitment and retention issue, that was an evolving problem across the country, was also becoming a key issue on the island, with one such interviewee stating “*there is not exactly a queue of people looking for a job in my sector and this is starting to be a real difficulty*”. Both interviewees (both of whom represented the Welsh-medium childcare sector), highlighted how the organisation that they represented was also having challenges in recruiting volunteers and people to be on committees. One interviewee proposed that within a re-energised recruitment strategy, the local authority should continue to work in partnership with Bangor University and the local FE sector, including around the pivotal need for young people who have an interest in the profession to attain Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications.

6.3 Perceived action/strategic priorities: childcare in the Anglesey locality

- 6.3.1 The majority of interviewees provided feedback that could best be encapsulated by a statement that “*working from home has changed everything*” and that the Anglesey childcare and early years sector had to adopt more of a mind-set that was attuned to a fact that flexibility might need to be more inherent within their delivery models.
- 6.3.2 Two interviewees proposed that relevant officers within the local authority should continue their role in terms of strategic “*horizon scanning*” including attuned to the evolving demographics of the Isle of Anglesey and a fact that the number of second-home owners was increasing, and again how this may have a bearing on themes such as flexibility and the prices of childcare options.
- 6.3.3 In terms of feedback from employers – nationally across Wales there has been an increase in the incidence of employees working from home and *not working* in an office space and environment. This increase in the incidence of ‘flexible’ working from home has meant that some parents/carers have (also) been providing (their own) childcare in their home, particularly for pre-school aged children, as opposed to them using a formal childcare providers, such as full daycare nursery or a childminder.

In November 2021, the Isle of Anglesey County Council focused on attaining feedback from its varied employment sector and widely publicised and promoted an online survey. The employers that responded, including the local RAF Air Base – RAF Valley (which employs 1,800 people) outlined a number of factors and points *including*:

- The incidence of employees working shift patterns was increasing
- Blended working at home or in work – at an average percentage of 50% of employees
- Evident plans that employees were thinking about what they termed “wrap-around support”
- That they had a good understanding of the work and role of Teulu Mon

6.4 Outcomes of Consultation and Young People

In early 2022, the Isle of Anglesey County Council undertook both quantitative and qualitative consultation with children and young people that are resident across the county for the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and for an associated project: the production of a Play Sufficiency Assessment, which similarly to the CSA, all Welsh local authorities are directed to produce. The quantitative consultation incorporated specific questions aligned to the theme of out of school childcare.

805 primary and secondary cohort pupils responded to an online survey and gave valuable feedback on the theme of out of school childcare. Their *relevant* feedback is summarised below:

6.4.1 Children and young people were invited to respond to a pivotal question: *When you're not in school, what places do you go to play or hang out in?*

Table 18 - Place that children and young people like to go to and hang out: 5-11 years

| Places and Activities | Percentage of children and young people responding |
|---|--|
| Youth Club | 4% |
| Breakfast Club | 21% |
| After School Club | 14% |
| Holiday Club | 1.5% |
| My house or a friend's house | 58% |
| My garden or a friend's garden | 39% |
| In the streets near my house | 2% |
| On a local grassy and green area | 28% |
| In a play area with swings, slides and equipment to play on | 39% |
| In the woods near my house | 13% |

| Places and Activities | Percentage of children and young people responding |
|--|--|
| On a football field or sports pitch | 2% |
| In my school playground | 16.5% |
| Somewhere with water or sand in it | 20% |
| At the bike or skate park | 22.5% |
| In a hall or leisure centre | 10.5% |
| At an adventure playground or playscheme | 10% |
| At a childminder's | 3.5% |
| Indoor play or soft play centre | 20% |
| Somewhere else | 21% |

Of those 5-11 year olds that stated after school club: 62% stated that this took place at their school

Of those 5-11 year olds that stated breakfast club: 80% stated that this took place at their school

Of those 5-11 year olds that stated holiday club: 70% stated that this took place at their school

Table 19 - Place that children and young people like to go to and hang out: 12-16 years

| Places and Activities | Percentage of children and young people responding |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Youth Club | 13.5% |
| Breakfast Club | 0 |
| After School Club | 14% |
| Holiday Club | 1% |
| My house or a friend's house | 58% |
| My garden or a friend's garden | 10% |
| Places and Activities | Percentage of children and young people responding |

| | |
|--|-----|
| In the streets near my house | 32% |
| On a local grassy and green area | 25% |
| In a play area with swings, slides and other equipment | 19% |
| In the woods near my house | 7% |
| On a football field or sports pitch | 21% |
| In my school playground | 5% |
| Somewhere with water or sand in it | 10% |
| At the bike or skate park | 15% |
| In a hall or leisure centre | 1% |
| At an adventure playground or playscheme | 5% |
| At a childminder's | 0 |
| Indoor play or soft play centre | 0 |
| Somewhere else | 22% |

Of those 12-16 year olds that stated out of school club: 38% stated that this took place at their school

Of those 12-16 year olds that stated breakfast club: 0 stated that this took place at their school

Of those 12-16 year olds that stated holiday club: 0 stated that this took place at their school

6.4.2 Children and young people were invited to respond to the question: *Do any of the following types of people ever look after you when you are not at school?*

Table 20 - Types of people that looked after children and young people when they were not at school: 5-11 years

| Types of people | Percentage of children and young people responding |
|---------------------------|--|
| Grandparent | 53% |
| Older brother/sister | 21% |
| Someone else in my family | 30% |
| Friends of my mum/dad | 18% |
| Neighbours of my mum/dad | 6% |
| None of the above | 10% |

Table 21 - Types of people that looked after children and young people when they were not at school: 12-16 years

| Types of people | Percentage of young people responding |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Grandparent | 33% |
| Older brother/sister | 15.5% |
| Someone else in my family | 26% |
| Friends of my mum/dad | 7% |
| Neighbours of my mum/dad | 0 |
| None of the above | 15% |

6.4.3 Children and young people were invited to respond to an - open ended - question: *is there anything you would like to do during the summer holidays that was not around for you to do this summer?*

Responses that had a theme aligned to what could be considered traditional holiday-time activities that were stated, were, in order of frequency:

“A water park, with water slides”.

“Going swimming”.

“Going to a summer camp”.

“Playing in football tournaments”.

“Going paddle-boarding”.

“Going to the beach”.

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6.4.2 Finally, with relevance to this *Childcare Sufficiency Assessment*: Children and young people were asked: *Thinking about COVID-19, what, if anything, says what you think?*

Table 22 - What children and young people aged 5-11 think about COVID-19

| Response | Percentage of children and young people responding |
|---|--|
| I feel something else different to the below | 5% |
| I don't really think about it! | 28% |
| I do think about it - but it won't stop me from going to clubs and activities | 32% |
| I am worried about it - it might make me think twice about going to clubs | 17% |
| No response | 18% |

Table 23 - What children and young people aged 12-16 think about COVID-19

| Response | Percentage of young people responding |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| I feel something else different to the below | 9% |
| I don't really think about it! | 18% |
| I do think about it - but it won't stop me from going to clubs and activities | 25% |
| I am worried about it - it might make me think twice about going to clubs | 14% |
| No response | 36% |

6.5 Outcomes of Consultation with Schools

The Welsh Government Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Guidance 2016 directs that Local Authorities should consult with their local stakeholders and that this should include local schools.

On the Isle of Anglesey, there are 40 primary schools, 5 secondary schools and one special school, which further lists as follows:

- 1 English-medium primary school
- 38 Welsh-medium primary schools
- 1 Dual-stream primary school
- 1 English-medium primary schools
- 3 Dual-stream secondary school
- 1 Special School: Ysgol Y Bont

In January 2022, all of the schools located on the Isle of Anglesey were invited to complete an online survey which focused on the theme of childcare and views on specific themes associated with the subject. A total of 16 schools (35%) submitted a response to the online and their collective feedback is summarised below.

Table 24 - Identity of responding schools

| School | Ward |
|---|---------------------|
| Ysgol Gymuned Bryngwran | Canolbarth Môn ward |
| Ysgol Gynradd Kingsland | Ynys Gybi |
| Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi | Caergybi |
| Ysgol Gynradd Santes Gwenfaen - Rhoscolyn | Ynys Gybi |
| Ysgol Gynradd Llanbedrgoch | Lligwy |
| Ysgol y Graig | Canolbarth Môn |
| Ysgol Gymuned Y Ffridd | Canolbarth Môn |
| Ysgol Gynradd Llangoed | Seiriol |

| School | Ward |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Ysgol Gynradd Cemaes | Twrcelyn |
| Ysgol Gymuned Bodffordd | Canolbarth Môn |
| Ysgol y Tywyn | Llifôn |
| Ysgol Gynradd Amlwch | Twrcelyn |
| Ysgol Corn Hir | Canolbarth Môn |
| Ysgol Santes Dwynwen | Bro Aberffraw |
| Ysgol Esceifiog | Bro Rhosyr |
| Ysgol Gynradd Llandegfan | Seiriol |

6.5.1 All (representatives of) schools were invited to state if they had childcare situated at their site. 94% stated that they did and Table 25 presents the frequency with which specific types of childcare were stated.

Table 25 - Frequency with which specific types of formal childcare were situated at schools

| Type of childcare | Percentage of schools with this childcare on site |
|--------------------------------|---|
| After School Club (school run) | 25% |
| After School (privately run) | 25% |
| Nursery Wrap Around | 25% |
| Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin | 56% |
| Holiday Childcare | 19% |
| Free Breakfast Club | 94% |
| Fee Payable Breakfast Club | 81% |
| Flying Start childcare places | 19% |
| Other ¹⁰ | 19% |

Table 25 outlines that a free (of charge) breakfast club is the most frequent type of formal childcare that is situated *at a school* on the Isle of Anglesey. This was followed in frequency by a fee payable breakfast club.

¹⁰ Other responses were - A *quarter-hour* club for Foundation Phase children; After school Medra care club; a *facilitation club*.

6.5.2 All representatives of *relevant* schools were invited to state whether they believed it was beneficial (for their school) to have childcare on-site: Approximately 81% of schools said that this was the case¹¹, with just one stating that they *did not* find it beneficial, and that is a reason why they had worked with local childcare providers to initiate their services off site. Other specific feedback on the subject of having childcare on-site *included*:

“We find that children familiarise themselves with the location and settle in more easily”.

“Having everything on the same site makes things much easier. Our school staff work at the club, so there is a continuous service after the school closes”.

“Having care provision allows parents to go to work. We find that grandparents often work now too - so this option is not available”.

“We find that it comes down to parental convenience – and they will choose a school based on this”.

6.5.3 Half of the representatives of schools asked stated that COVID-19 had, to a significant extent, affected the ability of their childcare to operate, with the most frequent reason being that clubs had to close down during the lockdowns.

6.5.4 Returning to the theme of school drop-offs and pick-ups, Table 26 indicates the frequency with which specific providers worked with a school to action this.

¹¹ Two schools did not answer this question

Table 26 - Frequency with which specific types of formal childcare providers actioned drop-offs and or pick-ups

| Type of childcare | Percentage of schools that denoted they worked with such a provider to action a drop-off or a pick-up |
|--------------------------|---|
| Childminder(s) | 50% |
| Day Nursery(s) | 38% |
| Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin | 31% |

6.5.5 All representatives of schools were invited to state whether – in their personal opinion/experience – whether there was need for more of specific types of childcare places in their local/immediate area. Table 27 presents their collective responses.

Table 27 - Frequency with representatives personally believed that there was a ‘need’ for more types of childcare in their school’s local area

| Type of childcare | Percentage of representatives of schools that stated Yes | Percentage of representatives of schools that stated No | Percentage of representatives of schools that stated Don’t Know |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| After School Club | 38% | 31% | 6% |
| Nursery Wraparound | 44% | 13% | 13% |
| Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin | 19% | 38% | 6% |
| Holiday Childcare (No Playscheme) | 69% | 13% | 0 |
| Free Breakfast Club | 6% | 56% | 0 |
| Flying Start childcare places | 25% | 13% | 25% |

Table 27 indicates that holiday childcare is what representatives of schools believed (in their personal opinion) there was most need for further places.

6.5.6 All representatives of schools were invited to state whether – to the best of their knowledge – their school site may have an[y] available space at which a new childcare provision could potentially be established: 44% answered that it did (with two of these schools also being located in the Seiriol Talybolion ward) and qualifications to this response, *included*:

“The nursery class has recently been modernized and extended. It is a lovely space with a toilet and cooking facilities as well as a safe outdoor area for children to play and hang out”.

“We have classrooms that could provide childcare facilities after school, including clubs and play areas...”.

“We have two community rooms available for three days a week. We have a Flying Start room (which caters for the children of Newborough) which is empty from 11:30 every day”.

Six of the seven respondents that answered in the affirmative, confirmed that they would be pleased to receive advice and support with such a potential development.

6.5.7 All representatives of schools were invited to state whether they were aware of the existence of the Family Information Service. 44% stated they were aware of the Isle of Anglesey Family Information Service - and 56% evidently were not.¹²

¹² Two schools did not respond to this question.

7 Geographical Distribution

7.1 Image 1 - Location of Full Day Care Providers on the Isle of Anglesey



7.2 Image 2 - Location of Sessional Care Providers on the Isle of Anglesey



7.3 Image 3 - Location of Registered Childminders on the Isle of Anglesey



7.4 Image 4 - Location of Out of School Childcare Providers on the Isle of Anglesey



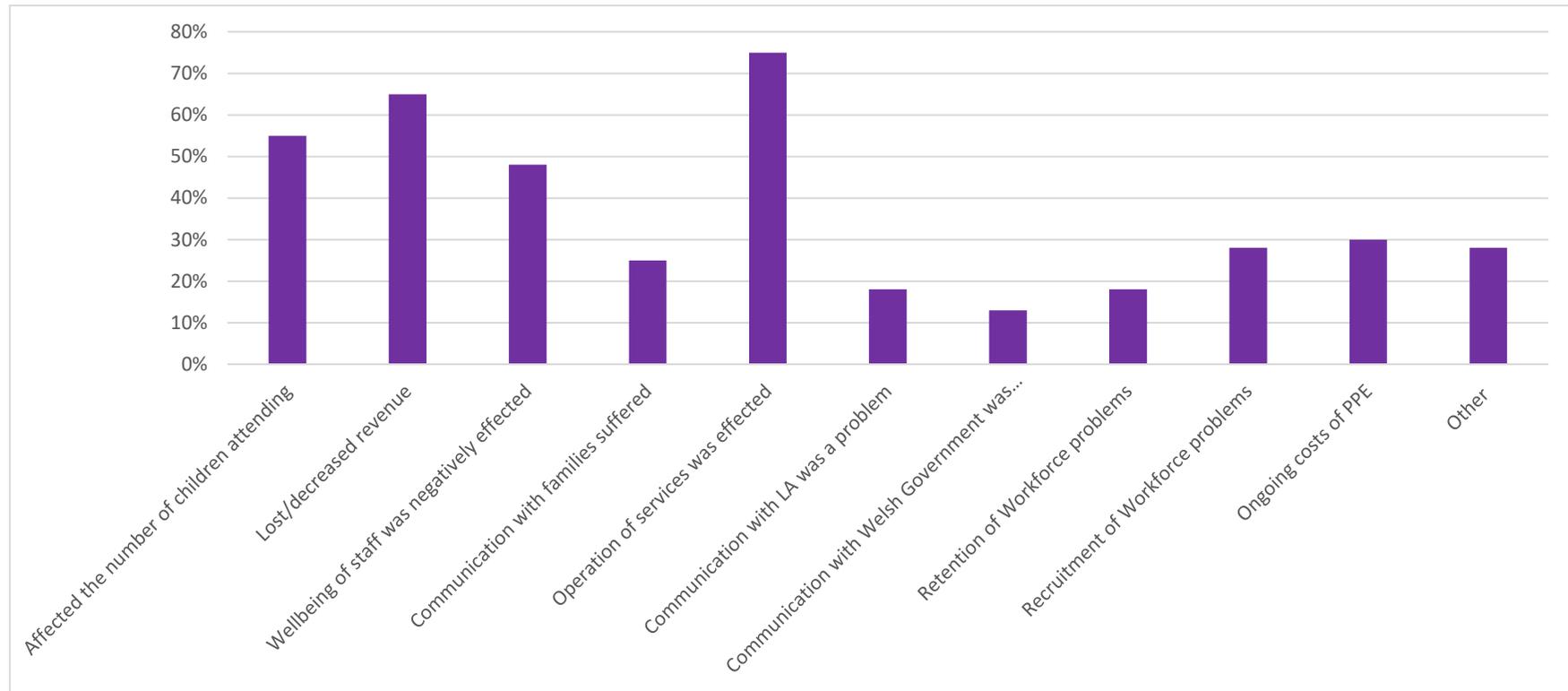
8 Sustainability

The narrative and analysis below presents outcomes of the autumn 2021 structured survey with Anglesey's number childcare providers across the Anglesey locality which focus on the theme of sustainability, including a review of how sustainability funding evidently supported the sector.

- 8.1 As part of County Council's survey with early years childcare providers/settings in autumn 2021, each setting was invited to state if their business experienced (or continues to experience) issues as an outcome of COVID-19.

Diagram 3 - Incidence of issues being experienced by early years childcare providers/settings as an outcome of COVID-19

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The ward that accounted for the highest incidence of a provider stating 'lost/decreased revenue' was: Canolbarth Môn
 The ward that accounted for the highest incidence of a provider stating 'affected the number of children' was also Canolbarth Môn.

Diagram 4 - Incidence of issues being experienced by registered childminders as an outcome of COVID-19

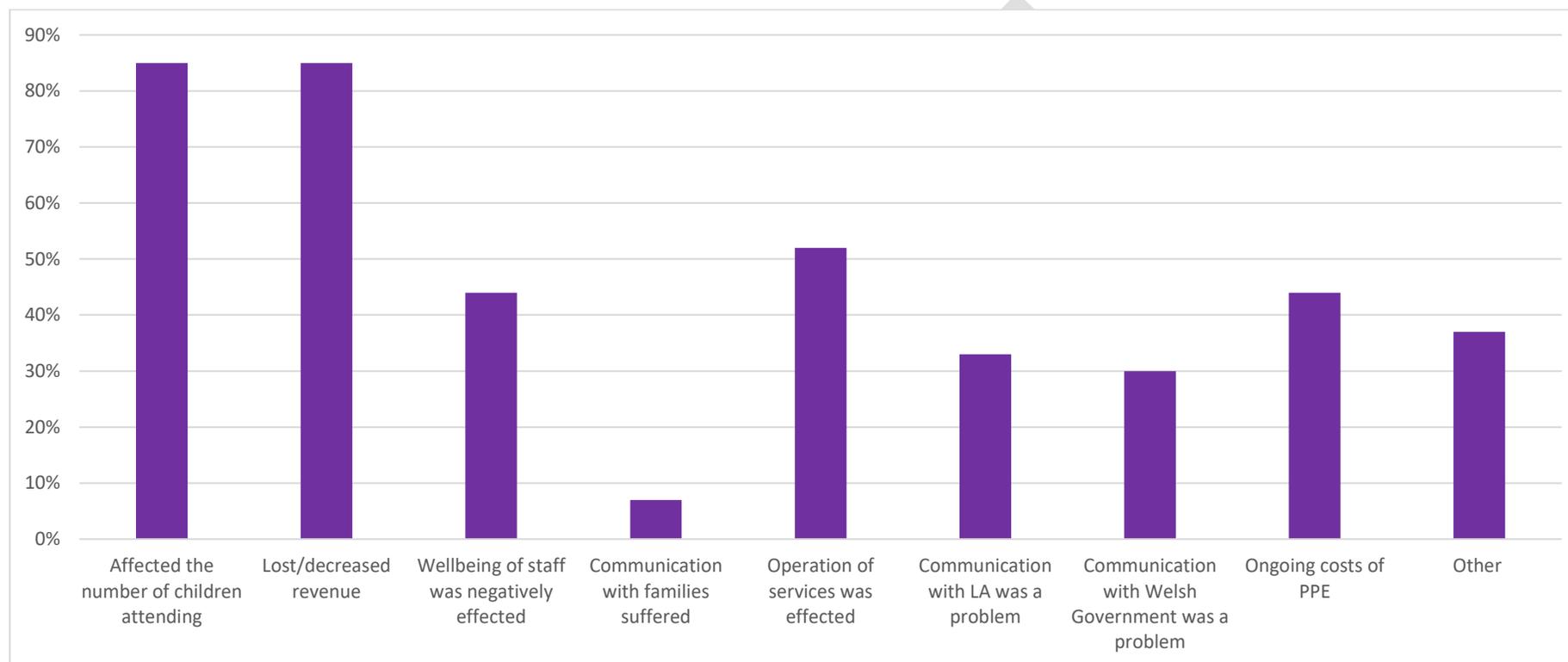


Diagram 4 shows registered childminders most frequently outlined how they had 'lost/decreased revenue' as an outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic – and with an equal frequency it affected their number of attendees.

- 8.2 Only 25% of early years childcare providers/settings stated in autumn 2021 that they had to change their business model as an outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic – with the most frequent response being that they had “*decided to be open for a fewer hours*”, followed in frequency by a decision to not be open on a certain mornings.

Finally, 15% of registered childminders stated in autumn 2021 that they had to change their business model as an outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic, with repeated adaptations being:

- Childminder started to take less children
- Childminder introduced greater flexibility aligned to their hours and sometimes reduced their hours
- Childminder decided to increase fee levels

All of Anglesey's childcare providers were subsequently invited to state whether they/their setting would benefit from advice, support and/or training with short and/or medium term business modelling. 20% stated that they would and:

- 7.5% (of all responding childcare providers) stated that they would welcome support, training and advice with business modelling and sustainability strategies
- 7.5% also stated that they would welcome support, training and advice with traditional marketing
- 9% stated that they would welcome support, training and advice with virtual marketing.

8.3 15% of Anglesey's early years childcare providers stated that they had some type of plan(s) to continue to energise income generation - other than via getting back to a pre-COVID-19 occupancy levels. *Repeated* plans were:

- Undertaking fundraising campaigns such as "discos" and "fundraising"
- Undertaking a flyer/leafletting campaign
- Extend session times.

8.4 Each of the Isle of Anglesey locality's formal early years setting/group-based childcare providers – i.e. full day care providers and sessional care providers – were also asked in autumn 2021 whether they had any plans/intentions to increase their capacity/develop new provision over the forthcoming two years. Six early years childcare providers stated that they did have.

- Four of these providers were situated in the Canolbarth Mon ward and between them had an ambition to develop 90 new places
- One provider was situated in the Llifon ward and had an ambition to develop 5 new places and;
- One provider was situated in the Ynys Gybi ward and had an ambition to develop 12 new places

8.5 In autumn 2021, (only) 7.5% of Anglesey's formal: (a) early years childcare providers and (b) out of school childcare providers stated that they had accessed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Business Interruption Loan Scheme.

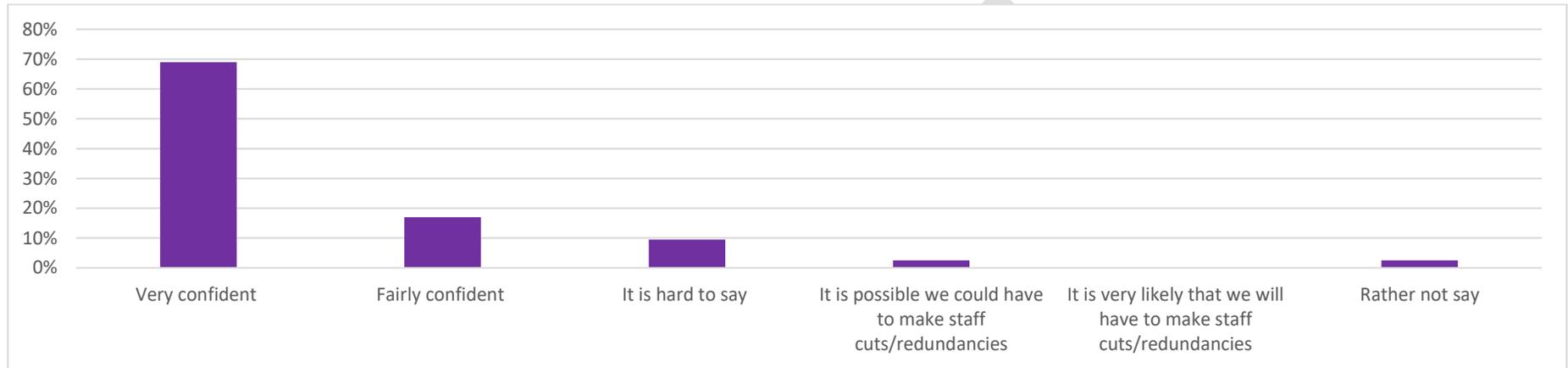
(A slightly higher percentage at) 13% of Anglesey's formal (a) early years childcare providers and (b) out of school childcare providers also stated that they had accessed the Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme.

8.6 However (significantly more), 79% of Anglesey's formal: (a) early years childcare providers and (b) out of school childcare providers stated that they had accessed the (pivotal) Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS).

8.7 ...All *relevant* (see 8.6 above): a) early years childcare providers and (b) out of school childcare providers were requested to state how confident they were in autumn 2021 that they would be able to retain their current staff team as an outcome of the conclusion of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

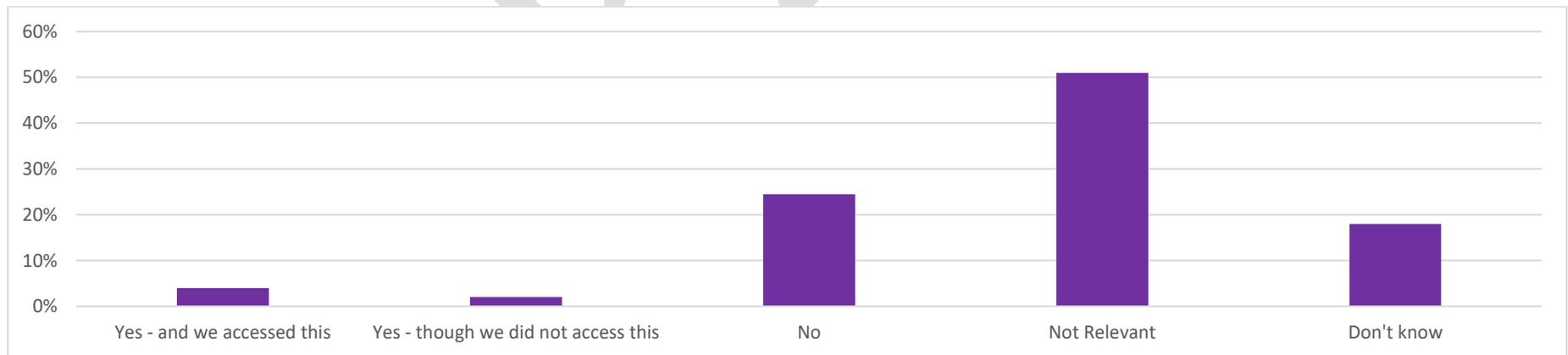
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Diagram 5 - Levels of confidence in retaining staff



8.8 Subsequently, Diagram 6 below indicates responses that were received from: (a) early years childcare providers and (b) out of school childcare providers about (their understanding about) eligibility for the Business Rates Relief/Holiday due to COVID-19.

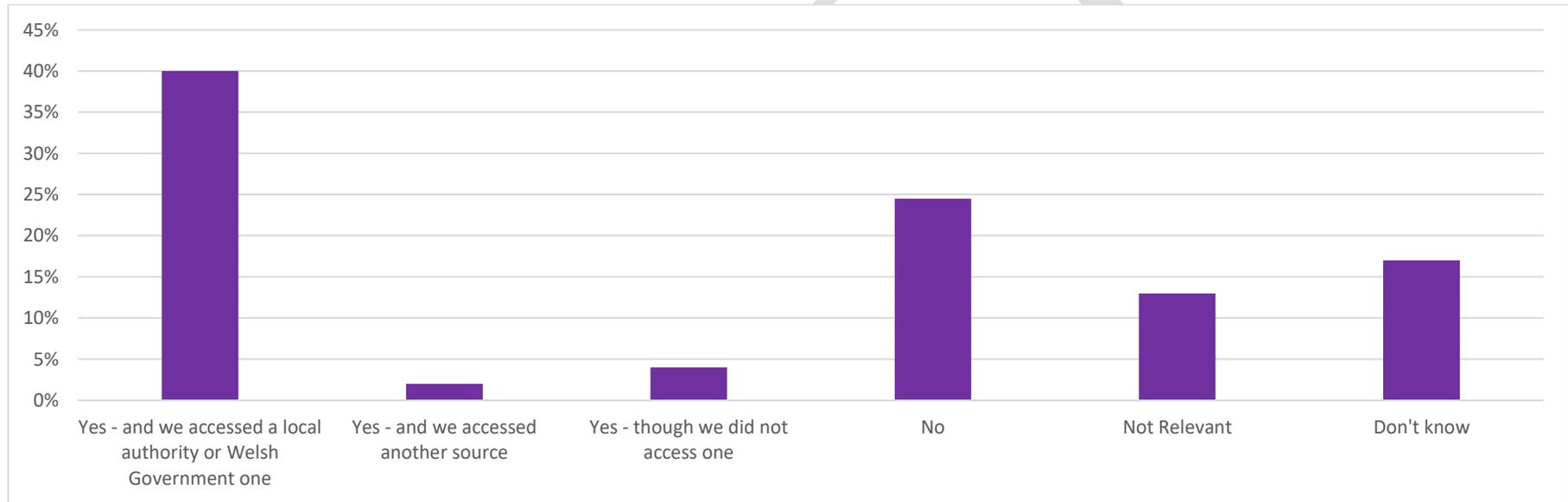
Diagram 6 - Responses from Anglesey’s settings and groups about eligibility for the Business Rates Relief



It can also be noted that (only) 9.5% of responding (relevant) early years childcare providers and out of school childcare providers stated that they were aware that the Business Rates Relief scheme was extended for 3 years until March 2025. The other 90.5% stated that they were not aware of this fact.

8.9 Setting-based childcare providers were asked if they had received a sustainability grant.

Diagram 7 - Feedback on sustainability grants



In order of frequency the origins of the grants that were accessed were:

- Isle of Anglesey County Council – Childcare Sustainability Grant
- Childcare Offer Capital Grant
- <https://moondancefoundation.org.uk/>

Feedback about grants from settings/groups was positive and included:

“I used the payment for PPE and extra cleaning costs”.

“We would not have survived without that grant from the Local Authority – it was essential”.

“The payment was helpful in sustaining our business”

8.10 In autumn 2021, all childcare providers were invited to confirm a length of time aligned to how long they expected to continue to be providing childcare:

Diagram 8 - Responses from : (a) early years childcare providers and (b) out of school childcare providers on length of time they expected to continue in business

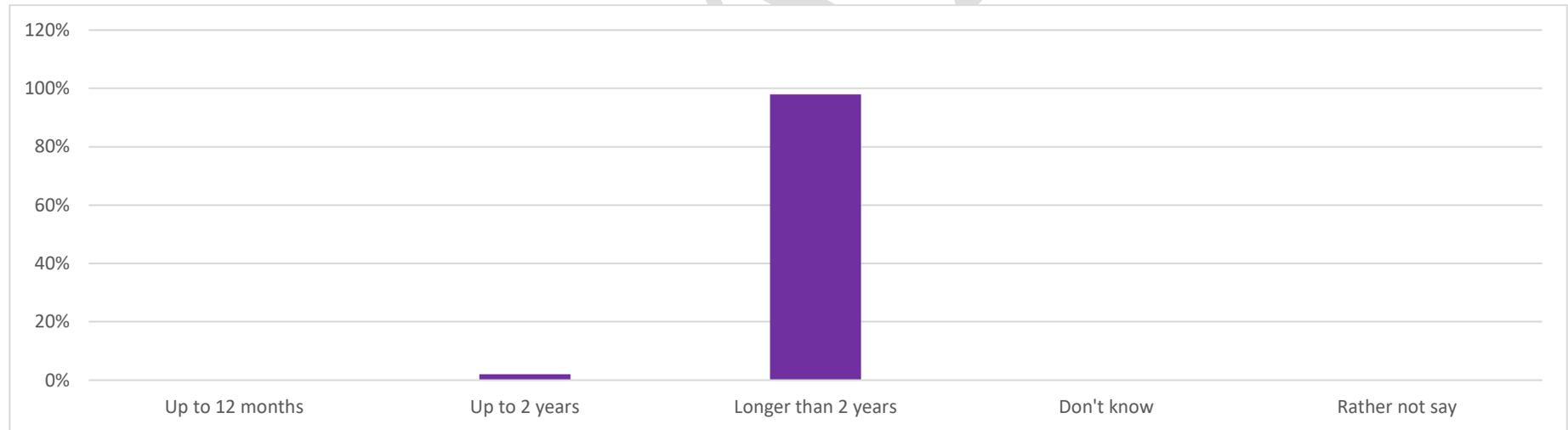
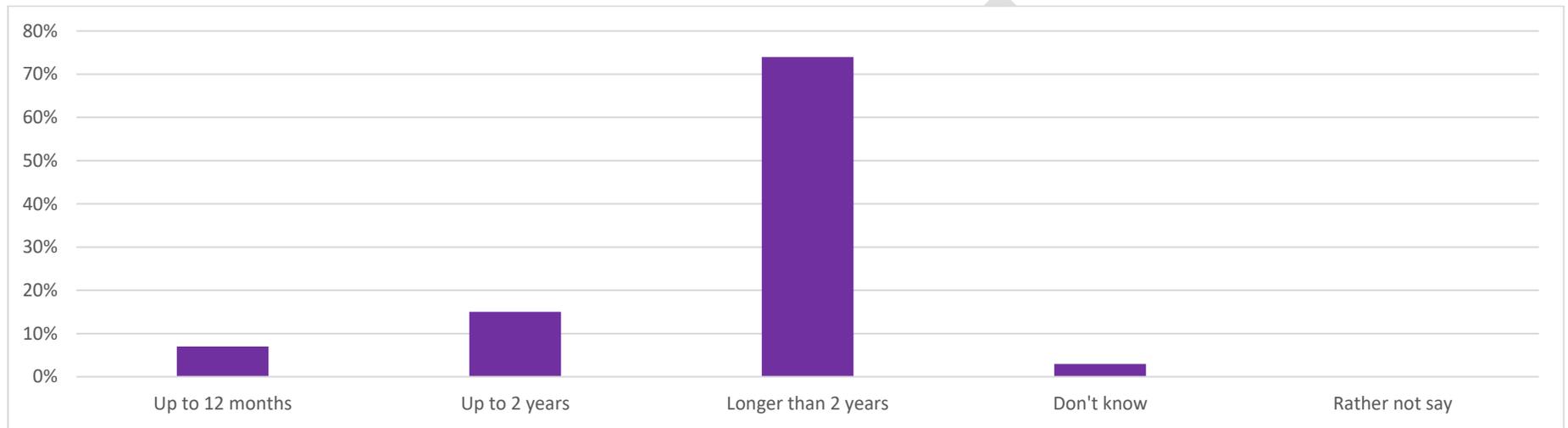


Diagram 9 - Responses from registered childminders on the length of time they expected to continue in business



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8.11 Early years childcare providers and out of school childcare providers were invited to summarise details on plans aligned to **sustainability** over the next 18 months (up to spring 2023).

Table 30 - Incidence of plans aligned to the theme of ongoing sustainability and support to families, up to spring 2023 (early years childcare providers and out of school childcare providers)

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| Increase your fees for paid places/provision? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 41% | No plans, but maybe = 36% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 23% |
| Further enhance provision for children with additional learning needs? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 49% | No plans, but maybe = 43% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 8% |
| Extend your opening hours? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 19% | No plans, but maybe = 11% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 70% |
| Expand the number of Welsh-medium places that are offered? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 24% | No plans, but maybe = 17% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 59% |
| Help better meet the needs of shift workers/those who work outside typical office hours? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 7.5% | No plans, but maybe = 7.5% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 85% |

Table 31 - Incidence of plans aligned to the theme of ongoing sustainability and support to families, up to spring 2023 (childminders)

| Increase your fees for paid places/provision? | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Yes plans in place = 33% | No plans, but maybe = 48% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 19% |
| Further enhance provision for children with additional learning needs? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 15% | No plans, but maybe = 63% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 22% |
| Extend your opening hours? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 4% | No plans, but maybe = 15% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 81% |
| Expand the number of Welsh-medium places that are offered? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 19% | No plans, but maybe = 19% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 62% |
| Help better meet the needs of shift workers/those who work outside typical office hours? | | |
| Yes plans in place = 22% | No plans, but maybe = 15% | No plans – will not happen/ No Response = 63% |

8.12 Essentially, all (representatives of) Anglesey-based childcare settings/group providers were invited to state what their setting would most welcome as **continued** support, advice and guidance from the Council during 2022. The two repeated types of feedback were (in order of frequency):

1. Continuing to keep providers aware about *financial support and sustainability grants*
2. Help with staff recruitment

Additionally all childminders were invited to state what their setting would most welcome as **continued** support, advice and guidance from the Council over the year 2022. The three repeated types of feedback were (in order of frequency):

1. Keeping childminders aware about *financial support and sustainability grants*
2. Help and advice about enhancing their provision of outside play
3. Continued advice about the availability of training courses – on themes including

“Supporting children with ALN”.

“Supporting the transition to primary school”.

8.13 Finally, with regard to theme of sustainability, it can be noted that during the period March 2020 – March 2022:

- In terms of **early years childcare provisions**, there were *insert* new CIW registrations and *insert* CIW de-registrations within the Anglesey locality
- In terms of **registered childminders**, there were *insert* new CIW registrations and CIW *insert* de-registrations within the Anglesey locality and;
- In terms of **out of school childcare provisions**, there were *insert* new CIW registrations and CIW *insert* de-registrations within the Anglesey locality.

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9 Cross Border analysis

- 9.1 It should be noted that the Isle of Anglesey only shares a border with one other local authority – which is of course Gwynedd. The Isle of Anglesey County Council and Cyngor Gwynedd liaise closely, including on the development of joint strategic plans.
- 9.2 In response to the Welsh government parental survey in October 2021: (only) two responding parents that were evidently resident on the Isle of Anglesey stated that they accessed a funded early education place in a different local authority area: which was Gwynedd.
- 9.3 Anglesey Family Information Services (Teulu Mon) continues to hold details of childcare providers and service providers based within their Local Authority area and to work very closely with neighbouring FIS's and has signposted families to their counterparts in other areas.

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10 COVID-19

The Isle of Anglesey witnessed COVID-19 presenting huge challenges for the locality's early years and childcare sector.

Pertinently, the report, National Conversations with the Childcare, Play and Early Years Sector in Wales, published in September 2021 outlined how

childcare, play and early years workers felt undervalued and underappreciated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report – which focused on a number of themes that affected the early years and childcare sector, including staff well-being and morale, the support available to businesses, staffing, and training and qualifications – outlined how the sector felt the communication they received from Welsh Government during the pandemic wasn't always clear and they didn't always feel their voices had been heard. Essentially the report concluded that *“communication with the sector was frequent, but due to the ever-changing COVID-19 landscape not all the messages were heard”*.

Essentially, a number of Wales-based early years and childcare providers told researchers they had experienced some issues with staffing and had concerns about sustainability...

- 10.1 National research undertaken during the period 2020 – early 2022 showed that the mental health and wellbeing of: (a) proprietors and
(b) staff at all levels within the childcare businesses was being affected by the challenges created by COVID-19.

As part of the autumn 2021 survey with Isle of Anglesey locality-based childcare providers, the local authority asked whether respondents had seen any examples of COVID-19 related mental health problems, including aligned to stress and anxiety about (COVID-themed) sustainability?

39% of actual respondents representing childcare providers (typically childminders, proprietors and managers) stated that they had personally experienced mental health challenges and/or anxiety.

40% of relevant respondents stated that there had been examples of team members experiencing mental health challenges and/or anxiety.

Feedback from childminders and representatives of such early years childcare and out of school childcare providers *included*:

“A resource where we knew we could get help would have been good, but the Council did offer very good support”.

“I attended mind and wellbeing training and this was helpful”.

“Childminding is often lonely and buddying schemes may have helped”.

10.2 All childcare providers were invited to state how they would broadly classify how their parents/families were feeling in terms of their child(ren) (re)attending your setting, aligned to COVID-19.

98% of respondents stated that: The majority seem to be happy now, with the remaining (only) 2% stating: it is a fairly even split between those in favour, and those with continuing concerns.

10.3 Additionally, the July 2021 SASS Self Assessment of Service Statement responses highlighted how:

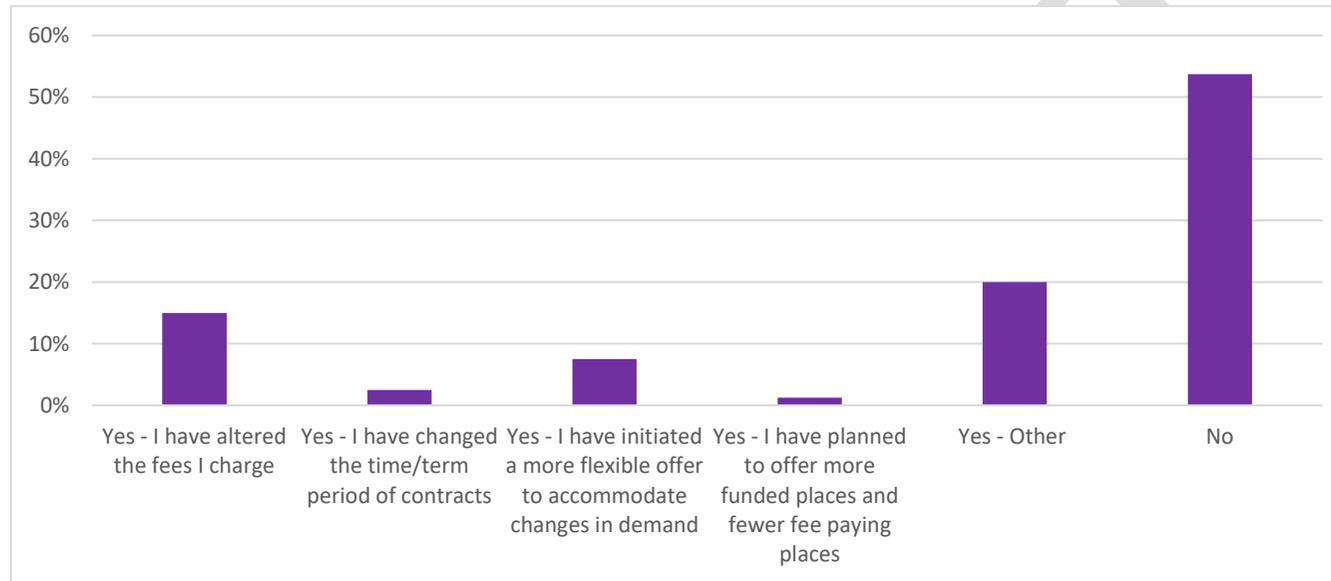
19. 96% of responding childcare providers stated that they had had to close at some point in time – up to that date – as a result of COVID-19.

11% of responding childcare providers stated that they had seen positive case(s) of COVID-19 before July 2021, with 36% of such providers stating that they had had at least one staff member that had contracted COVID-19 (too, as well as the[ir] children).

10.4 70% of all childcare providers stated that, in July 2021, they were not operating at full capacity as a result of COVID-19.

- 10.5 All childcare providers that responded to the autumn 2021 survey were requested to state whether they made any contractual changes with any parents/carers as a result of COVID-19?

Diagram 10 - Incidence of contractual changes made by Anglesey childcare providers aligned to COVID-19



- 10.6 All childcare providers that responded to the autumn 2021 survey were requested to state whether they would welcome any further advice or support in terms of a COVID-19 'protect your setting' policy/risk assessment, or a staff and parent policy/protocol. (Only) 6% stated that they would - and the requests from these childcare providers included:

"Continued advice on undertaking a risk assessment".

"If COVID-19 happens again to have a checklist, like I think schools receive?"

11 Population, Demographics and Socio-Economic Profile

11.1 Table 32 outlines the population of 0-14 year olds aligned to each LSOA in the Anglesey locality as forecast by the ONS Mid-2020 Population Estimates for 2020 Wards and 2021 LAs in Wales.

Table 32 - Population of 0-14 year olds in Anglesey LSOAs
Mid-2020 Population Estimates for 2020 Wards (ONS)

| LSOA Code & Name | 0-12m | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years | 6 years | 7 years | 8 years | 9 years | 10 years | 11 years | 12 years | 13 years | 14 years | 15 years | 16 years | 17 years | 18 years |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| W01000001 Aberffraw & Rhosneigr 1 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 8 | 15 |
| W01000002 Aberffraw & Rhosneigr 2 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 16 | 12 | 23 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| W01000003 Amlwch Port | 26 | 21 | 28 | 32 | 23 | 22 | 36 | 27 | 36 | 37 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 31 | 27 | 20 | 22 | 26 | 27 |
| W01000004 Amlwch Rural | 11 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 8 | 17 | 13 | 15 | 8 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 |
| W01000005 Beaumaris | 10 | 17 | 12 | 20 | 14 | 25 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 15 | 21 | 20 | 16 | 13 |
| W01000006 Bodffordd | 15 | 8 | 10 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 19 | 19 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 17 | 14 | 14 | 17 | 16 |
| W01000007 Bodorgan | 14 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 13 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 25 | 13 | 18 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 19 | 25 | 16 | 19 |
| W01000008 Braint | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 22 | 10 | 25 | 24 | 14 | 22 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 19 | 14 | 12 | 17 |
| W01000009 Bryngwran | 12 | 21 | 26 | 21 | 31 | 24 | 28 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 23 | 25 |
| W01000010 Brynteg | 13 | 14 | 12 | 18 | 13 | 17 | 20 | 9 | 17 | 16 | 11 | 17 | 16 | 28 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 15 |
| W01000011 Cadnant | 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 13 | 5 |
| W01000012 Cefni | 10 | 11 | 18 | 19 | 14 | 18 | 30 | 17 | 28 | 20 | 26 | 23 | 29 | 17 | 26 | 23 | 21 | 18 | 13 |
| W01000013 Cwm Cadnant | 23 | 17 | 24 | 14 | 28 | 19 | 24 | 26 | 24 | 25 | 34 | 28 | 18 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 28 | 27 | 25 |
| W01000014 Cyngar | 25 | 25 | 26 | 29 | 27 | 30 | 33 | 31 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 22 | 26 | 28 | 14 | 16 | 28 | 19 | 22 |
| W01000015 Gwyngyll | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 12 | 17 | 32 | 19 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 19 |
| W01000016 Holyhead Town | 17 | 15 | 22 | 13 | 24 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 10 | 21 | 22 | 12 | 21 | 12 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 13 | 17 |
| W01000017 Kingsland | 8 | 10 | 21 | 20 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 29 | 28 | 30 | 31 | 25 | 26 | 29 | 27 | 16 | 15 | 20 | 16 |
| W01000018 Llanbadrig | 12 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 5 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 15 | 10 |
| W01000019 Llanbedrgoch | 6 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 |
| W01000020 Llanddyfnan | 15 | 8 | 11 | 15 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 19 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 15 | 14 |
| W01000021 Llanellian | 12 | 21 | 23 | 15 | 29 | 23 | 26 | 25 | 29 | 29 | 16 | 19 | 16 | 20 | 11 | 15 | 11 | 15 | 15 |
| W01000022 Llanfaethlu | 8 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 15 | 9 | 22 | 9 | 20 | 14 | 20 | 22 | 18 | 20 | 16 | 16 | 19 | 17 |
| W01000023 Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 1 | 9 | 25 | 18 | 28 | 27 | 19 | 27 | 24 | 27 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 19 | 14 | 20 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 21 |
| W01000024 Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 2 | 18 | 22 | 28 | 21 | 32 | 17 | 25 | 28 | 15 | 22 | 31 | 22 | 25 | 18 | 17 | 20 | 14 | 8 | 5 |
| W01000025 Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog | 23 | 19 | 19 | 15 | 20 | 27 | 27 | 30 | 29 | 18 | 17 | 33 | 27 | 18 | 22 | 30 | 32 | 25 | 27 |
| W01000026 Llangoed | 7 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 6 |
| W01000027 Llanidan | 20 | 10 | 18 | 20 | 23 | 12 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 28 | 24 | 21 | 17 | 16 | 12 |
| LSOA Code & Name | 0-12m | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years | 6 years | 7 years | 8 years | 9 years | 10 years | 11 years | 12 years | 13 years | 14 years | 15 years | 16 years | 17 years | 18 years |
| W01000028 Llannerch-y-medd | 24 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 28 | 31 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 37 | 27 | 33 | 33 | 17 | 29 | 15 | 22 | 23 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| W01000029 London Road | 12 | 21 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 26 | 16 | 28 | 32 | 27 | 14 | 36 | 26 | 18 | 34 | 16 | 22 | 18 | 13 |
| W01000030 Maeshyfyrd | 34 | 22 | 30 | 27 | 30 | 29 | 31 | 29 | 32 | 38 | 35 | 40 | 28 | 27 | 35 | 18 | 27 | 20 | 23 |
| W01000031 Mechell | 4 | 16 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 12 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 18 | 13 | 9 | 22 | 12 | 13 | 18 | 13 | 14 | 20 |
| W01000032 Moelfre | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 9 | 15 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| W01000033 Morawelon | 21 | 15 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 17 | 30 | 22 | 21 | 25 | 32 | 25 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 22 | 21 | 22 |
| W01000034 Parc a'r Mynydd | 11 | 11 | 11 | 16 | 18 | 13 | 13 | 28 | 24 | 16 | 10 | 23 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 11 | 12 |
| W01000035 Pentraeth | 17 | 16 | 18 | 23 | 22 | 19 | 24 | 24 | 21 | 29 | 19 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 20 | 16 | 14 |
| W01000036 Porthyfelin 1 | 12 | 11 | 16 | 20 | 17 | 8 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 16 | 11 |
| W01000037 Porthyfelin 2 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 18 | 13 | 17 | 17 | 23 | 14 | 24 | 12 | 13 |
| W01000038 Rhosyr | 16 | 15 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 26 | 19 | 19 | 25 | 25 | 32 | 21 | 26 | 10 | 26 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 18 |
| W01000039 Trearddur 1 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 13 | 11 | 15 |
| W01000040 Trearddur 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 8 |
| W01000041 Tudur | 22 | 31 | 27 | 32 | 30 | 26 | 30 | 23 | 40 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 27 | 32 | 27 | 24 | 24 | 30 | 23 |
| W01000042 Tysilio | 20 | 21 | 27 | 25 | 23 | 19 | 25 | 27 | 21 | 21 | 39 | 21 | 21 | 32 | 20 | 17 | 29 | 23 | 20 |
| W01000043 Valley 1 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 19 | 11 | 18 | 10 | 18 | 16 | 9 | 17 | 7 | 16 | 13 | 11 |
| W01000044 Valley 2 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 6 | 8 |

Table 33 indicates that the three LSOAs which have the **highest population levels of children aged 0-4 years** are:

1. Maeshyfyrd
2. Tudur
3. Cyngar

The three LSOAs which have the **highest population levels of children aged 5-7 years** are:

1. Cyngar
2. Llannerch-y-medd
3. Maeshyfyrd

The three LSOAs which have the **highest population levels of children aged 8-11 years** are:

1. Maeshyfyrd
2. Amlwch Port
3. Llannerch-y-medd

Finally, the three LSOAs which have the **highest population levels of children aged 12-14 years** are:

1. Llannerch-y-medd
2. Amlwch Port
3. Tudur

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11.2 Additionally Table 34 below indicates, from a Flying Start programme perspective, that the LSOAs accounting for the highest number of resident 2-3 year olds is Amlwch Port LSOA, followed in frequency by the Tudur LSOA.

Table 34 - Population of 2-3 year olds in Anglesey's LSOAs

Source: 2020 ONS

| LSOA | Population of 2 year olds | Population of 3 years olds | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| W01000001 Aberffraw & Rhosneigr 1 | 11 | 10 | 21 |
| W01000002 Aberffraw & Rhosneigr 2 | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| W01000003 Amlwch Port | 28 | 32 | 60 |
| W01000004 Amlwch Rural | 13 | 10 | 23 |
| W01000005 Beaumaris | 12 | 20 | 32 |
| W01000006 Bodffordd | 10 | 20 | 30 |
| W01000007 Bodorgan | 11 | 14 | 25 |
| W01000008 Brint | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| W01000009 Bryngwran | 26 | 21 | 47 |
| W01000010 Brynteg | 12 | 18 | 30 |
| W01000011 Cadnant | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| W01000012 Cefni | 18 | 19 | 37 |
| W01000013 Cwm Cadnant | 24 | 14 | 38 |
| W01000014 Cyngar | 26 | 29 | 55 |
| W01000015 Gwyngyll | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| W01000016 Holyhead Town | 22 | 13 | 35 |
| W01000017 Kingsland | 21 | 20 | 41 |
| W01000018 Llanbadrig | 11 | 10 | 21 |
| W01000019 Llanbedrgoch | 9 | 16 | 25 |
| W01000020 Llanddyfnan | 11 | 15 | 26 |
| W01000021 Llaneilian | 23 | 15 | 38 |

| LSOA | Population of 2 year olds | Population of 3 years olds | Total |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| W01000022 Llanfaethlu | 12 | 8 | 20 |
| W01000023 Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 1 | 18 | 28 | 46 |
| W01000024 Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 2 | 28 | 21 | 49 |
| W01000025 Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog | 19 | 15 | 34 |
| W01000026 Llangoed | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| W01000027 Llanidan | 18 | 20 | 38 |
| W01000028 Llannerch-y-medd | 25 | 25 | 50 |
| W01000029 London Road | 16 | 19 | 35 |
| W01000030 Maeshyfryd | 30 | 27 | 57 |
| W01000031 Mechell | 6 | 15 | 21 |
| W01000032 Moelfre | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| W01000033 Morawelon | 25 | 22 | 47 |
| W01000034 Parc a'r Mynydd | 11 | 16 | 27 |
| W01000035 Pentraeth | 18 | 23 | 41 |
| W01000036 Porthyfelin 1 | 16 | 20 | 36 |
| W01000037 Porthyfelin 2 | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| W01000038 Rhosyr | 16 | 18 | 34 |
| W01000039 Trearddur 1 | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| W01000040 Trearddur 2 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| W01000041 Tudur | 27 | 32 | 59 |
| W01000042 Tysilio | 27 | 25 | 52 |
| W01000043 Valley 1 | 14 | 16 | 30 |
| W01000044 Valley 2 | 7 | 5 | 12 |

11.2 **Population projections published by the Welsh Government in 2018¹³ reported that the population of the Isle of Anglesey is forecast to insert during the period 2018-2028.**

The 2018 ONS Local Authority Population Estimates indicated that Anglesey had a population of 69,800 (34,400 males and 35,400 females) at that time. Although the Island's population has grown by some 3.1% since the 2001 Census, **Welsh Government population projections anticipate that, between 2022-2039, an overall net decrease of almost 2,000 people or 2.6% of the island's population will occur.**

The Welsh Government 2018 document: *Local authority population projections for Wales*, also forecast a population decrease: in this case a decrease of 0.4% between the period 2018-2043.

11.3 In terms of birth rates for the locality , Table 35 details metrics in each of the localities wards for the year 2019 – i.e., children who will now be of (or approaching) Flying Start programme age.

Table 35 – Year 2019 birth rates for the Anglesey locality

Source: ONS 2020

| Ward name | 2019 Birth rate/number |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Aethwy | 40 |
| Bro Aberffraw | 26 |
| Bro Rhosyr | 43 |
| Caergybi | 81 |
| Canolbarth Môn | 103 |
| Llifôn | 45 |
| Lligwy | 39 |
| Seiriol | 35 |
| Talybolion | 39 |
| Twrcelyn | 57 |
| Ynys Gybi | 49 |

¹³ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-08/subnational-population-projections-2018-based-280.pdf>

Table 35 indicates that the ward with the highest number of new births pre-pandemic was Canolbarth Môn, followed in frequency by the ward of Caergybi.

11.4 Table 36 shows inflow migration and outflow migration aligned to the locality for the period 2018-2020. The Table indicates that inflow, in particular international inflow was higher than outflow of people. Previous years had shown an identical incidence and the proportion of inflow in comparison to outflow had been increasing year-to-year.

Source: ONS 2019

| | | Mid 2018 – Mid 2020 | | | | |
|----------|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Anglesey | Mid-2019 | Pop Estimate = | Long-term International Migration | | Internal Migration (within UK) | |
| | 70,043 | | Inflow | Outflow | Inflow | Outflow |
| | Mid-2020 | Pop Estimate = | Long-term International Migration | | Internal Migration (within UK) | |
| | 70,440 | | Inflow | Outflow | Inflow | Outflow |
| | | | 116 | 53 | 2,517 | 2,293 |
| | | | 102 | 42 | 2,350 | 1,800 |

11.5 In terms of ethnicity, Table 37 indicates that number of children who were resident in the locality in 2019 from specific backgrounds.

Table 37 - number of children and young people resident in the Anglesey locality in 2019 from specific ethnic backgrounds

Source: ONS 2019

| Age | White | White British | Mixed | Asian | Black | Other |
|-----|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 0 | 573 | 562 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 | 658 | 645 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 689 | 675 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | 718 | 703 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 669 | 656 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 | 757 | 741 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 806 | 790 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 7 | 802 | 785 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 8 | 794 | 777 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Age | White | White British | Mixed | Asian | Black | Other |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|----|----|---|---|
| 9 | 777 | 765 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 2 |
| 10 | 783 | 777 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 4 |
| 11 | 790 | 782 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 4 |
| 12 | 728 | 716 | 8 | 11 | 1 | 4 |
| 13 | 745 | 738 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 14 | 662 | 653 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 |

In terms of ethnicity of young people resident in the Isle of Anglesey, Table 37 indicates that number of children who were resident in the locality in 2019 from specific backgrounds who were aged up to 14 years. It indicates that the majority of children and young people resident on the island are White British, however there is a notable population of children and young people representing other ethnicities and backgrounds, and this is likely to increase during the period 2022-2025, including aligned to the contemporary refugee crisis.

- 11.6 The Isle of Anglesey has a relatively high number of Welsh speakers, with approximately 63% of residents being able to speak Welsh – the second highest percentage, for a Local Authority area, in Wales. In terms of the incidence of Welsh speakers in the Isle of Anglesey locality the repository StatsWales indicates that in 2019, almost 2:3 of the Isle of Anglesey population were able to speak Welsh – [Table 38](#):

Source: Stats Wales:

| Area | All aged 3 years or over | Yes, can speak Welsh | No, cannot speak Welsh | Percentage of people who say that they can speak Welsh |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Wales | 3,022,900 | 892,200 | 2,128,700 | 29.5% |
| Anglesey | 67,500 | 42,600 | 24,700 | 63.3% |

A report published by Menter Iaith Môn in spring 2021, indicated that 78% of Welsh-born 'islanders' can speak the language, with another 11% able to understand it. Welsh-born speakers varied from 58.8% around Holyhead to 90.4% in central Anglesey. However, outward migration of younger Welsh speakers coupled with the inward migration of non-Welsh speaking older people is said to be 'Anglicising' areas and affecting its sustainability. The report outlined how Anglesey school pupils are being taught mostly

through the medium of Welsh at school (86.8%), but only 49.1% of children were speaking Cymraeg regularly at home. The report concluded that *“looking at the trends of the last 50 years, an increase in the population is leading to a decrease in the percentages of Welsh speakers”*.

11.7 Table 39 indicates the incidence of children with ALN being resident on the Isle of Anglesey.

Table 39 - Incidence of children with ALN on the Isle of Anglesey in 2020-2021 (before the ALN Code came into being in September 2021)

Source: StatsWales

| Location | All Special Educational Needs | | | | All Special Educational Needs/ALN |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Statemented | Total: Special Educational Needs but no Statement of SEN | | Total: Special Educational Needs but no Statement of SEN | |
| | | School Action | School Action Plus | | |
| Wales | 14,082 | 46,790 | 31,816 | 78,606 | 92,688 |
| Anglesey | 300 | 1,322 | 659 | 1,981 | 2,281 |

Ynys Mon Specialist Children’s Service is an integrated team with members from Health and Social Services being co-located in local authority premises. The team works with ALN children and young people between the ages 0-17 years and their families who have multiple complex needs that cannot be met by universal or targeted services. The range of needs include children and young people who have a learning disability, physical impairments and lifelong chronic illness/medical conditions. The team is made up of Social Workers, Community Paediatric Learning Disability Nurses, Nursing Assistants, Paediatric Learning Disability Clinical Psychology, Occupational Therapist, Transition Co-ordinator, Inclusion and Wellbeing Officer, Social Services Support Worker Manager and Team of Support Workers, Service Administrator.

In September 2021, the service was working with 194 children and young people of 0-18 years. Of these, 116 had a learning disability including those with ASD, ADHD. Other children and young people open to the service include 32 with physical impairments and 22 with chronic illness and complex health needs.

11.8 Table 40 shows the incidence of Looked After Children resident on the Isle of Anglesey in 2021.

Table 40 - Incidence of LACs on the Isle of Anglesey in 2021

Source: StatsWales

| Area | Under 1 year | 1-4 years | 5-9 years | 10-15 years | 16-17 years | 18 years and over |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Anglesey number | 0 | 35 | 40 | 55 | 25 | 0 |

11.9 The 2016-2017 report: Anglesey & Gwynedd Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment reported how:

- In the 2011 census there were 65 people on Anglesey who declared their ethnic origin to be Gypsy or Irish Traveller. This total included all age groups and therefore included children
- When this information was further broken down across the 40 ward areas of Anglesey, the 65 were found to be dispersed widely across Anglesey with only one ward area where there are more than 10 people who had identified as Gypsies or Irish Traveller in the census.

11.10 In terms of the 2019 Welsh Index for Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)¹⁴, the Isle of Anglesey was one of 12 Local Authorities with no small areas/LSOAs of deep-rooted deprivation (Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Flintshire, Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Vale of Glamorgan, Torfaen, Newport, and Monmouthshire). This does not mean that there aren't currently any very deprived areas in these Local Authorities.

In terms of the indicator of physical environment, the Isle of Anglesey had no areas in the most deprived 10%.
 In terms of the indicator of education, the Isle of Anglesey had no areas in the most deprived 10%.

The LSOA within the Isle of Anglesey which evidently accounts for the highest levels of relative disadvantage is the Holyhead Town locality – see Table 41 overleaf.

Table 41 - Rankings of Anglesey LSOA areas with regard to overall indicators of deprivation (out of 1,909 Welsh LSOAs)

¹⁴ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-11/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-2019-results-report-024.pdf>

Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019

| LSOA code | LSOA name (Eng) | WIMD 2019 ranking (out of 1,909) |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| W01000001 | Aberffraw & Rhosneigr 1 | 885 |
| W01000002 | Aberffraw & Rhosneigr 2 | 1,324 |
| W01000003 | Amlwch Port | 550 |
| W01000004 | Amlwch Rural | 1,100 |
| W01000005 | Beaumaris | 1,065 |
| W01000006 | Bodffordd | 1,116 |
| W01000007 | Bodorgan | 1,036 |
| W01000008 | Braint | 1,820 |
| W01000009 | Bryngwran | 819 |
| W01000010 | Brynteg | 1,624 |
| W01000011 | Cadnant (Isle of Anglesey) | 1,377 |
| W01000012 | Cefni | 1,494 |
| W01000013 | Cwm Cadnant | 1,777 |
| W01000014 | Cyngar | 1,194 |
| W01000015 | Gwyngyll | 1,704 |
| W01000016 | Holyhead Town | 168 |
| W01000017 | Kingsland | 486 |
| W01000018 | Llanbadrig | 1,145 |
| W01000019 | Llanbedrgoch | 1,233 |
| W01000020 | Llanddyfnan | 1,424 |
| W01000021 | Llaneilian | 1,044 |
| W01000022 | Llanfaethlu | 857 |
| W01000023 | Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 1 | 985 |
| LSOA code | LSOA name (Eng) | WIMD 2019 ranking (out of 1,909) |

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-------|
| W01000024 | Llanfair-yn-Neubwll 2 | 1,050 |
| W01000025 | Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog | 1,300 |
| W01000026 | Llangoed | 946 |
| W01000027 | Llanidan | 954 |
| W01000028 | Llannerch-y-medd | 727 |
| W01000029 | London Road | 366 |
| W01000030 | Maeshyfryd | 353 |
| W01000031 | Mechell | 864 |
| W01000032 | Moelfre | 1,053 |
| W01000033 | Morawelon | 224 |
| W01000034 | Parc a'r Mynydd | 1,196 |
| W01000035 | Pentraeth | 1,087 |
| W01000036 | Porthyfelin 1 | 316 |
| W01000037 | Porthyfelin 2 | 974 |
| W01000038 | Rhosyr | 764 |
| W01000039 | Trearddur 1 | 1,409 |
| W01000040 | Trearddur 2 | 1,325 |
| W01000041 | Tudur | 308 |
| W01000042 | Tysilio | 1,442 |
| W01000043 | Valley 1 | 915 |
| W01000044 | Valley 2 | 1,716 |

11.11 In terms of employment and unemployment rates across the Anglesey locality, in September 2021, 73.6% of the adult population were classified as economically active and in employment. This was 2.8% lower than the average across all of Wales. Data published by NOMIS, in autumn 2021 also indicated that the five types of occupation which adults were most frequently employed in were (in order of frequency):

1. Accommodation and Food Services (3,500 employees)
2. Wholesale and Retail (3,000 employees)
3. Human Health And Social Work Activities (2,500 employees)
4. Manufacturing sector (2,000 employees)
5. Education (1,500 employees)

Throughout Wales there has been a growing trend with regard to the incidence of shift working. For example the Wales TUC Cymru published a report in late 2019 that highlighted how: ¹⁵

- There were 17,000 more night workers in Wales than there were in 2014
- There were 165,000 people regularly working nights in Wales - 13% of the workforce
- In the UK, care workers (432,000) accounted for the majority of night workers, followed by nurses and midwives (232,000)
- The next most common profession for night workers was road transport drivers (208,000)
- Wales has the third highest share of workers doing night work, compared with the other eleven UK regions.

11.12 Data published by NOMIS in autumn 2021, indicates that the average weekly wage for a full-time employee who is resident in the locality was £549.50, which (is lower than and) can be contrasted with the average for Wales which £562.80 per week.

¹⁵ <https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/17000-more-night-workers-wales-over-last-five-years-tuc-analysis-shows>

Table 42 - Annual household incomes of families in specific Isle of Anglesey localities

Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019

| Location of Anglesey | Annual Household Income [£] |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Holyhead | 25,700 |
| Amlwch & Llannerch-y-medd | 29,600 |
| Llangefni | 33,200 |
| Bodedern & Rhosneigr | 35,200 |
| Rhos-y-bol, Marian-glas & Moelfre | 35,900 |
| Newborough | 36,000 |
| Llain-goch & Valley | 40,200 |
| Beaumaris & Benllech | 41,300 |
| Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll | 45,500 |

- 11.13 Additionally, the 2018 Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin reported that the locality accounted for the 11th highest percentage (compared with other local authorities) of children that were resident in workless households – at 17.8% of all households.
- 11.14 The 2018 Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin reported that 8.3% of households in the Anglesey locality (1,800) were lone parent families. This was 0.4% above the average for Wales as a whole – and the 8th highest in comparison to all Welsh local authorities.
- 11.15 In 2022, the Isle of Anglesey County Council outlined a five-year strategy to meet a local housing ‘challenge’. The strategy outlined that the Local Authority is targeting an increase in its council housing stock of 176 homes over the next three years, up to 2025, and - working with social landlords the it was also planning to build an additional 144 houses.

The Housing Strategy 2022-2027 also outlines an ambition for 321 new homes to be provided by partner Registered Social Landlords (including social housing, intermediate rent, home buy, rent to own and extra care) and for 439 number of empty homes bought back into use.

Additionally localised housing developments have continued to be approved in 2022, which will be occupied, in part, by families moving *onto* the island – including at sites such as the Llangefni’s Coleg Menai campus and at the village of Valley (where, for example, 50 new homes are planned).

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12.1 The live Anglesey Local Wellbeing Plan for the can be viewed at: <https://www.llesiantgwyneddaron.org/Uploads/Pages/Documents/3-5-3-94-1-Gwynedd-and-Anglesey-Well-being-plan.pdf> .

The Assessment of Local Well-being for Gwynedd and Anglesey was published in May 2017. Having considered the data and the views of local people, the Board concluded that the key messages of the assessment were as follows:

- 1. The need to maintain a healthy community spirit**
2. The importance of protecting the natural environment
- 3. Understanding the effect of demographic changes**
- 4. Protecting and promoting the Welsh language**
5. Promoting the use of natural resources to improve health and well-being in the long-term
6. Improving transport links to enable access to services and facilities
7. The need for good quality jobs and affordable homes for local people
- 8. The effect of poverty on well-being**
- 9. Ensuring an opportunity for every child to succeed**

The plan outlines how *“a lack of educational attainment can have an impact on the well-being of individuals throughout their lives, so we need to ensure that every pupil has an opportunity to succeed”* and that *“the Plan will give priority to supporting families to try to ensure that every child has the best start in life. We will also work with key partners to deliver the best possible results for children and young people”*.

Childcare and early years planners within the local authority and local partners therefore remain aware that the 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment represents another strategy - particularly through its gaps analysis – of helping to encourage healthy communities on the Isle of Anglesey.

Additionally, it can be noted that the 2020-2021 Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board report described how a children’s sub-group was exploring the theme of *early support for children and families in local communities* and that it was (and continues in 2022, to be) working with the third sector with the aim of helping families to reintegrate into their communities after lockdown and to provide early help and support to those families.

13 Gaps Analysis

The following, pivotal, section outlines gaps in childcare provision which the 2022 Isle of Anglesey Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has evidenced and identified. Each of the gaps that have been included below align to a particular classification – i.e. one of the following:

A Gap aligned to:

- **Times** at which childcare is available, including the need for flexible childcare that caters for irregular patterns of usage across the day, the week and the year
 - the **Types** of childcare available
 - the **Age** of children for whom childcare is available
 - the **Affordability** of childcare
 - the specific needs for children with **ALN**
 - the specific needs for **Welsh Medium** childcare provision
 - **Geographical location** of childcare in relation to population, ward and school catchment
-

Times at which childcare is available

- 1 19% of the parents/carers who responded to the October 2021 Welsh Government parental survey about whether childcare acted as a barrier to them taking up employment or training denoted: *Tend to Agree*. Additionally, 26% of the responding parents/carers also stated: *Strongly Agree*.

This indicates that 45% of responding parents/carers believed that – to an extent – childcare had, at some recent point, been acting as a barrier to them accessing employment or training.

Supplementing this feedback, 9% of responding parents/carers stated that in the last year, issues surrounding childcare had affected themselves being able to ‘take on new a job’ - and 7% of parents/carers stated that in the last year, issues surrounding childcare had affected themselves or a partner being able to ‘access training’.

Therefore, it can be concluded that to an extent, on the Island, suitable childcare continues to represent a challenge for certain parents when it comes to supporting their employability.

- 2 A repeated trend experienced in the past two years, reported by setting-based providers and childminders was that certain parents were requesting more flexibility, including as an outcome of an increased incidence of working from home.

A second repeated (and associated) trend was that there had been an increase in the numbers of parents requesting extended/longer opening hours. However, in response to the autumn 2021 survey, only 19% of responding setting-based childcare providers stated that they had plans to extend their opening hours. It is evident that an evident (though not significant) gap exists in terms of certain working parents ideally requiring earlier opening hours and later closing hours, and being unable to locate and access such provision.

Types of childcare that are available

- 3 Related to 2. above, only 7.5% of responding setting-based childcare providers stated that they had plans in place over the next 18 months to 'better meet the needs of shift workers/those who work outside typical office hours'. However, there was a notable quantity of qualitative feedback as an outcome of the Welsh Government parental survey that (possibly as an outcome of COVID-19) demonstrated that the incidence of a requirement for shift working and working outside of traditional 8am-6pm hours was increasing.

It is important to note that the childminding sector (as well as the wider registered childcare sector) will quite possibly be essential to address this need, given its traditional ability to offer more flexibility aligned to opening times - and that in 2022, there are 45 childminders compared to 50 in 2019 (as reported in the 2019 CSA update).

- 4 1 : 4 of all responding settings/groups stated that they had seen members of their workforce exit because of the pandemic, which was representative of a theme that is becoming evident throughout Wales: that retention and recruitment is proving to be an increasing problem issue. Indeed at the other end of the 'pipeline' it can be observed that as an outcome of the autumn 2021 consultation with early years childcare providers, the majority -60% stated -that they had no plans, in late 2021 to recruit any apprentices.

(It should also be noted that, with regard to issues effecting the island's childcare workforce, approximately 40% of all representatives of childcare providers who were consulted in autumn 2021 stated that either themselves (including as a childminder) or members of their team/workforce/an assistant had experienced mental health difficulties and problems during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic or may be continuing to do so. This was commonly associated with anxiety about the ongoing sustainability of their business/livelihood).

Age of children for whom childcare is available

- 5 In early 2022, the Welsh Government announced plans to enhance the ability of parents and families who have two-year olds to access universal funded childcare provision (i.e., effectively) to extend the Flying Start programme). In order to meet a potential forthcoming demand for such provision, the Isle of Anglesey County Council should be mindful that: 1. 10% of early years childcare providers/settings said they had a waiting list in autumn 2021 – most frequently for 2 year old places; 2. a repeated trend stated by relevant childcare providers was an increase in demand for places for 2 year olds.

Therefore, there *may* be a 2 year old places sufficiency gap that emerges as the (admittedly, phased) universal 2 year olds places programme begins to be rolled out in September 2022.

It can also be similarly conjectured that there may also be an increased in demand for 30 hours places for 3 and 4 year olds as an outcome of the extension to the 30 hours childcare offer.

- 6 Almost 50% of parents who responded to the Welsh Government parental survey stated that they intended to access *more* childcare in the forthcoming years – and this was most frequently a type of out of school childcare. Indeed the two types of childcare that were highlighted with the highest frequency by relevant parents were:
- After School Club – 20% of relevant parents
 - Before School/Breakfast Club – 17% of relevant parents

However, a number of parents that responded to the October 2021 Welsh Government parental survey consistently and repeatedly stated how they were experiencing challenges and difficulties accessing out of school childcare-themed wraparound care, that *best suited their working patterns*. Therefore, this suggests a sufficiency gap could be evident or may grow, particularly as the working population of Anglesey continues to return to a physical workplace/office and continues to require suitable out of school childcare opening times (including through breakfast clubs) and closing times (principally through after school clubs).

Specific needs for children with ALN

- 7 5.5% of parents/carers who responded to the October 2021 parental demand survey outlined that they had at least one child with diagnosed and/or undiagnosed additional learning needs. Qualitative feedback from the survey incorporated a repeated incidence of certain parents outlining their challenges to identify and/or secure suitable and affordable formal childcare. For example, feedback included:

“My daughter is ‘disabled’ and there is nowhere that meets her requirements. She cannot be left on her own so I have had to give up work to be there for her”.

[In my experience] *It really hard to find childcare for secondary aged children with SEN”.*

Additionally, in response to the autumn 2021 consultation with childcare providers, 68% of early years childcare providers/settings and almost 48% registered childminders stated that COVID-19 had had an impact on the early years development of children attending their provision, with the such respondents frequently stating that children’s speech and language had been negatively affected and/or that they had seen issues around some children not socialising with other children/had seen an increased incidence of separation anxiety.

Although 50% of early years childcare providers/settings stated that they had plans in place to further enhance provision for children with additional learning needs, only 15% of childminders state that they had such plans.

It can therefore be considered that as the incidence of ALN children continues to grow, there needs to be a corresponding frequency of childcare providers having the ability to provide suitable and affordable places for these children, to mitigate a potential ALN-provision sufficiency gap.

Welsh Medium childcare provision

- 8 Encouragingly, 20% of all childcare providers stated in autumn 2021 that they had either definite plans in place to create more Welsh-speaking/medium places or that this is something that they would maybe consider, however the local authority needs to continue to monitor the incidence of accessibility to Welsh-medium childcare places aligned to the ambitions of specific families. The local authority should also be mindful of the fact that when parents/carers gave qualitative feedback about the theme of Welsh medium-childcare, this included:

“I have not been able to find a Welsh speaking childminder” – and similarly:

“There are not many Welsh childminders around Llanerchymedd” – and again similarly:

*“**[In my experience]** there is a lack of Welsh speaking childminders; also the after school club finishes too early at 5.00pm. I need a later pick up”.*

“The Welsh language provision is not good in our local area, which is important for us as a Welsh speaking family”.

“There is not a lot of Welsh providers. My area didn’t have a lot of options”.

“It would be good to see more information and support for non-Welsh speaking parents to access Welsh language childcare for nursery age children. We use a Cylch Meithrin and a day nursery but it was tricky to work out which sessions would be most beneficial and arrange a day nursery around that. More provision of bilingual or Welsh speaking day nurseries would be helpful, or increased financial support for Cylch's to open longer hours and during the school holidays”.

Affordability of childcare

- 9 The most recurrent barrier to accessing formal childcare that was highlighted by parents/carers who responded to the Welsh Government parental survey was that the cost of childcare had prevented them from accessing a formal provision. The Family Information Service, therefore, needs to **continue to** communicate and disseminate information about existing funded childcare initiatives and forthcoming *new initiatives* such as: (a) the extension of the Childcare Offer to parents in education and training and parents who are on adoption leave and: (b) the offer of free childcare to all two-year-olds within the next three years, given how logical it is that these two initiatives will benefit specific families.

The local authority should also be mindful of the fact that 43% of early years childcare providers/settings that responded to the autumn 2021 CSA survey stated that they did not take any actions to market the existence of Tax Free Childcare.

Location of childcare

- 10 The Isle of Anglesey Housing Strategy 2022-2027 outlines an ambition for 321 new homes to be provided by partner Registered Social Landlords and for 439 number of empty homes bought back into use.

Additionally localised housing developments have continued to be approved in 2022, which will be occupied, in part, by families moving *onto* the island – including at sites such as the Llangefni's Coleg Menai campus and at the village of Valley (where, for example, 50 new homes are planned).

In this context, it can also be noted that (only) 15% of early years childcare providers/settings stated that they had plans to increase the number of places they offered, over the next two years. Collectively this was an ambitious 107 places being considered by these relevant childcare providers, although 70 of these potential places were attributable to a response from one provider situated in the Canolbarth Môn ward.

- 14 Summary of Unmet Need

The 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for the Isle of Anglesey does not suggest that there is a particular ward or LSOA or locality where, at the present time, there is a stark or evident lack of childcare places for parents and carers who require them – and this is in large part undoubtedly attributable to the impressive resilience that the island’s early years and childcare sector showed during the challenges that the pandemic brought, especially during the period 2020-2021.

However, the previous Gaps Analysis section has demonstrated that there quite feasibly could be a number of issues that will challenge sufficiency of childcare provision on the island over the forthcoming years – not least what is an evident problem: the ability of setting-based childcare providers to recruit and/or retain well qualified professionals. As has been stated in this CSA, this is an issue which is pan-Wales and not isolated to the Isle of Anglesey or North Wales, however it can be considered a particular concern for childcare planners on the island due to the fact that it has a degree of physical isolation (and rurality), where the mobility of a localised workforce is not as viable as it may be in the other Welsh local authority areas.

Aligned to this recruitment issue, is an associated theme which this CSA has identified and which can, to an extent, be considered an unmet need: this is that certain parents have reported that they are experiencing difficulties with accessing suitable Welsh-medium childcare. These parents evidently believe that the level of proficiency in the Welsh language, with regard to staff at settings, and childminders, could be better and that a perception of some childcare providers that they are Welsh-medium providers, does not necessarily match a reality. Given that the Isle of Anglesey accounts for a relatively high percentage of (North) Welsh speakers, this can be considered a shortfall which childcare and early years professionals need to retain an awareness of - and prioritise a focus on enhancing.

Some of these parents who have raised this issue, as part of the October 2021 Welsh government parental demand survey, were evidently working parents – or were parents that were seeking to access employment and/or training. Almost 50% of all respondents to that survey stated that a lack of suitable childcare had affected their ability to attain employment or training - or to continue in such a role. This is a notable percentage and although affordability certainly plays a part, other factors – such as a lack of suitable Welsh medium childcare and an absence of suitable wraparound start and finish times – are also affecting employability on the island. It can be recalled that qualitative responses to the survey also indicated that some working parents – who may have been working from home during 2020 and 2021 and who were gradually returning to their office/physical location of work – were experiencing difficulties whereby a breakfast club was not opening at a time that best suited them – i.e. it was not opening early enough, or an after school club (registered and/or unregistered) was not finishing at a time that best suited them – i.e. – it was closing/concluding too early. This is an issue which the local authority will continue to actively monitor, including via its first CSA update in 2023.

Another related theme, which could be maybe considered as the beginnings of an unmet need, was that a number of parents fed back as part of that survey how they were working shift hours, outside of a traditional 8.00am-6.00pm day, and that the childcare support that was evidently available to them was not accessible at relevant times. There is a recognition that increasing an accessibility to formal childcare,

outside of the 8am-6pm weekday core hours, is in reality going to be a challenging course of action – and if this is to be realised the island’s childminding sector will play a vital role. However, there has been 11% decrease in the number of registered childminders operating on the island during the period 2019-2022 and that is a trend which the local authority has pro-active plans to reverse, including through structured outreach and workshop sessions, commencing in summer 2022.

Reverting back to the pan-Wales recruitment and retention challenges, the local authority is enthused about the extension to the Childcare Offer and the forthcoming expansion of the Flying Start programme, as it (on a phased basis) brings about universal childcare for two-year olds.

However, in order, to ensure that the potential increased demand for early years childcare places that both extended programmes will instigate, the local authority recognises that a requisite workforce (size) will be necessary and therefore it plans to work in further and continued close partnership with the likes of Cwlwm Wales and Coleg Mena Llangefni to help ensure that young people resident on the island can feel that a career in childcare represents a profession and represents a way of supporting their community.

A final consideration continues to focus on the theme of affordability. Once again, the most frequent barrier that was highlighted by parents who responded to the October 2021 Welsh government parental demand survey was that of affordability and struggling to be able to pay childcare fees. The fact that funded childcare provision continues to be accessible and is being expanded is, of course, welcome – however the present cost of living crisis may exacerbate the ability of families to consider accessing formal childcare, and this leads back to concerns with the sustainability of the sector.

15.1 The 2021 Welsh Government parental survey invited its target audience to give feedback about any barriers that they had encountered with regard to them accessing childcare *of their choice*. The collective feedback of the parents/carers is summarised in Table 43 below.

Table 43 - frequency of reasons stated as to why a parent/carer was not accessing/receiving support with childcare in autumn 2021

| Reasons/Barriers | Percentage of relevant responding parents/carers |
|--|--|
| Child is on a waiting list for a provider & we are waiting for a place to become available | <0.5% |
| There is no childcare with sufficient quality | <0.5% |
| There is no suitable Welsh Language provision | 1% |
| No suitable provision in our language, which is neither Welsh nor English | <0.5% |
| The childcare available is not flexible enough for my needs | 3% |
| The cost of childcare is too expensive | 7.5% |
| Childcare times are unsuitable | 3% |
| There is no childcare available that is suitable for my child's age | 2% |
| There is a problem with transport | 1% |
| There is no childcare where I need it to be | 1% |
| There is no childcare that can cater for my child's specific needs | 0.5% |
| I only use childcare on an ad hoc basis and it is impossible to plan | 2% |
| Other | 1.5% |

A broad analysis of Table 43 was outlined in Section 6 of this CSA. It indicated that when a barrier was highlighted it was only ever, at most, stated by approximately 1:12 parents or carers – which concerned the fact that in the opinion of these parents, the cost of childcare is (or had been) too expensive. Further scrutiny of the quantitative data generated by the Welsh Government parental survey indicates that:

The three most frequent barriers that were reported by working parents were (in order of frequency):

1. The cost of childcare is too expensive (stated by 8% relevant parents)

2. Childcare times are unsuitable (4%)
3. The childcare available is not flexible enough to meet my needs (3%)

The three most frequent barriers that were reported by parents evidently seeking work or training were:

1. Childcare times are unsuitable (16%)
2. There is no childcare that can cater for my child's specific needs (16% of relevant parents)
3. The cost of childcare is too expensive (stated by 8% relevant parents)

Finally, the three most frequent barriers that were reported by carers of a child with additional learning needs were:

1. The cost of childcare is too expensive (stated by 22% relevant parents)
2. There is no childcare that can cater for my child's specific needs (10% of relevant parents)
3. There have been problems with transport (stated by 10% relevant parents)

15.2 The Welsh Government parental survey also invited parents and carers to provide *qualitative* feedback about their childcare experiences, satisfaction levels and any barriers that they had experienced, or that they continued to experience.

In terms of the theme of barriers to accessing formal childcare in October 2021 - the most frequent type of feedback was (words to the effect)

“Local out of school childcare options do not work for me”.

Specific feedback on this theme - including the opening times of this type of provision - in October 2021, *included:*

[In my experience] *There is no childcare facilities for secondary age children. All the council run clubs in holidays are geared up to children in primary school and are not suitable for full time workers or shift workers. A lot of the clubs are aimed at children of parents with benefits, some of whom don't need childcare for work. There should be childcare and clubs available for secondary age children especially during school holidays where parents find it difficult to look after their children. Parents working full-time/front-line only get a certain amount of hours/days per year annual leave which doesn't cover all the school holidays, even if both parents alternate taking time off. The summer holidays is especially demanding with secondary age children as there is no facilities at suitable times. I work 12 hour shifts 8.00am-8.00pm and nowhere caters for this kind of childcare for secondary age children. When they were in primary [school] I was able to find suitable childcare, but when one went up to secondary and the other was still in primary, they wasn't able to use the childcare, and I only had provision for the secondary age child”.*

[In my opinion] *There are no childcare/Kids Clubs for children ages 11 years+ on Anglesey/Gwynedd. If there are clubs, they run 10am-12pm or don't offer a full day. It's the same for under 11 year olds. The club times are not useful for working parents. I have to use a nursery that charges. £35 per day for each child. I have a daughter who is epileptic, so I am limited to where she can go... I am lucky that my husband is working from home. I don't know what would happen to my 11 year old and my 13 year old if he wasn't home. There are so many young kids that have been left on their own because there is nothing for them during school holidays”.*

“My school stopped having its after school club, so we now have to use the after school club at the nursery which is very good but more expensive than the school's one used to be. We have no option as we both work shifts. The nursery picks-up from the school and brings the children to their after school club” – and similarly:

“The school closed its after school club, and now we have to use the after school club at a nursery. It is a shame that it's not in the same complex as the school – as it is more expensive”.

“There is no space in after school club at my school”.

[In my experience] *all after school childcare ‘facilities’ finish at 6.00pm. I work until 6.00pm in Bangor which is half an hour away from home. I cannot use childcare facilities as they finish too early for me to be able to pick up my children in time, so I have to heavily rely on family and friends to help me”.*

The second most frequent type of feedback was (words to the effect) *“there is a lack of Welsh-medium childcare options”*. Specific feedback on this theme, in October 2021, *included:*

“I have not been able to find a Welsh speaking childminder” – and similarly:

“There are not many Welsh childminders around Llanerchymedd” – and again similarly:

[In my experience] *there is a lack of Welsh speaking childminders; also the after school club finishes too early at 5.00pm. I need a later pick up”.*

“The Welsh language provision is not good in our local area, which is important for us as a Welsh speaking family”.

“There is not a lot of Welsh providers. My area didn’t have a lot of options”.

“It would be good to see more information and support for non-Welsh speaking parents to access Welsh language childcare for nursery age children. We use a Cylch Meithrin and a day nursery but it was tricky to work out which sessions would be most beneficial and arrange a day nursery around that. More provision of bilingual or Welsh speaking day nurseries would be helpful, or increased financial support for Cylch's to open longer hours and during the school holidays”.

The third most frequent type of feedback was (words to the effect) *“the cost of childcare is too expensive”*.

Specific feedback on this theme, in October 2021, included:

“Finding good Welsh childcare was very ‘limited’ and we ended up at the most expensive establishment going!”

“Basically, childcare is too expensive”.

“I haven't looked into childcare as I can't afford it. I didn't know there was help”.

“The cost of childcare compared to how much I was earning when employed was ridiculous”.

“I have an ongoing issue. I am looking for work and trying to write job applications with a 2 year old at home. There is no childcare provision if you're looking for work and I've struggled with that. I don't have the money to pay for childcare but I need the childcare to spend time applying for jobs. It is a chicken and egg situation”.

“The facilities of some nurseries in the [unspecified] area are poor, especially considering the cost”.

“It is not cost effective for us to pay for more childcare... it's cheaper because of childcare, for one of us to go part-time”.

A fourth repeated type of feedback was (words to the effect) *“I have problems finding childcare due to my shift hours”.*

Specific feedback on this theme, in October 2021, included:

“When I am working shifts, childcare isn't open early enough, or late enough”.

“I work shifts, and childcare doesn't start early enough, and my partner works Monday to Friday... so when we both work during the day we have to rely on family, and this gets difficult...”.

“I have difficulty getting childcare for the shift hours I work, as I start early or finish late. I also have unpredictable finish times”.

“I have not returned to work as a GP since having children, as the hours provided by childcare ‘services’ in my area are too short. Everything finishes at 5.30pm”.

“Not everyone works a regular 9am-5pm job, or has family that could provide wrap around care”.

A fifth repeated type of feedback was (words to the effect) *“I have had issues with accessibility”.*

Specific feedback on this theme, in October 2021, *included:*

“I think that there are very few childminders on the island. There are some that are grouped in bigger villages or in towns which are far from me. There is none close to me, so my daughter has to be taken to a childminder and attend a school that is 25 minutes from where we live. In my experience - most are full

“There was not any childcare available when my son left Flying Start. There is not a nursery at my school and no alternative, so my son will be at home until he goes to school”.

“In my opinion, there is a lack of childcare providers. There are very few after school placements locally. I had to move my son’s school so he could access after school care”.

16 Workforce Development and Training

The following section outlines feedback that was received via the July 2021 SASS Self Assessment of Service Statement responses from childcare providers situated in the locality and the outcomes of the winter 2021 survey with the same stakeholders/providers.

It focuses on the: (a) locality's childcare and early years workforce and; (b) their perceived training needs, including those that align to the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare (NMS) and which focus on themes including opportunities for play and learning, nurturing and well-being, behaviour, conduct and management of the service, equal opportunities and child protection.

16.1 As part of the autumn 2021 survey with early years childcare and out of school childcare settings, representatives were invited to feedback how many staff were currently employed?

- The average number of full-time currently employed by early years childcare settings was 4.
- The average number of full-time currently employed by out of school childcare settings was 3.
- The average number of part-time currently employed by early years childcare settings was 3.
- The average number of part-time currently employed by out of school childcare settings was 4.

Table 44 indicates the number of workforce members in the Anglesey locality that held particular qualifications in each of the three main sectors in summer 2021

Source: SASS July 2021

| Type of Qualification | Total number holding the qualification in the Early Years Childcare sector | Total number holding the qualification in the Childminding sector | Total number holding the qualification in the Out of School Childcare sector |
|--|--|---|--|
| Children's, Care, Learning and Development qualification at level 2 | 60 | 2 | 2 |
| Children's, Care, Learning and Development qualification at level 3 | 166 | 21 | 6 |
| Children's, Care, Learning and Development qualification at level 5 | 70 | 3 | 1 |
| Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice (L2APP) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Level 2 Diploma in Playwork | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Level 2 Diploma Playwork; Principles into Practice (P3) - comprises award, certificate and diploma | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Level 3 Award in Managing a Holiday Play Scheme | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork from Early Years | 17 | 1 | 5 |
| Level 3 Diploma Playwork | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| Level 5 Diploma in Playwork | 2 | 1 | 0 |

- 16.2 The winter 2021 survey with setting-based childcare providers requested feedback on how COVID-19 had affected the recruitment and retention of staff/professionals including (as would be expected) with regard to their own setting.

25% of all early years childcare and out of school childcare providers outlined that they had seen a number of their staff decide to leave their setting in the past 12 months, **as a direct result of COVID-19.**

In total, across all relevant respondents, this totalled 29 members of staff/childcare professionals that had exited the profession evidently *due to COVID-19.*

Respondents feedback on the sectors that they had such 'lost staff' too included:

(Most frequently, words to the effect) *"To another childcare provider in the sector"*

"To the elderly adult care sector".

"They just decided to stop working for the time being".

"The member of staff in question left for an office job".

- 16.3 The autumn 2021 survey with early years childcare and out of school childcare settings/providers invited respondents to state how well aware and advanced they felt that their setting was in terms of the ALN transformation programme and (it helping with) creating a unified system for supporting learners from 0-25 years with additional learning needs?

- 8% of early years childcare providers stated: that they had made 0 progress in this area
- 33% of early years childcare providers stated: we have made excellent progress in this area
- 58% of early years childcare providers stated: we are making progress, but still have work to do
- 3% of early years childcare providers stated: I do not know what the ALN transformation programme is

- 0 out of school childcare providers stated: that they had made 0 progress in this area
- 31% of out of school childcare providers stated: we have made excellent progress in this area
- 69% of out of school childcare providers stated: we are making progress, but still have work to do
- 0 of out of school childcare providers stated: I do not know what the ALN transformation programme is

- 16.4 The autumn 2021 survey with early years childcare, out of school childcare settings/providers and childminders sought to ascertain where/which providers/organisations that they had accessed and received training from in the past 3 years?

The ten most recurrent sources stated were:

1. Mudiad Meithrin
2. High Speed Training: <https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/>
3. PACEY (Health and Safety) training stated by childminders
4. National Day Nurseries Training
5. Flying Start originating training
6. Makaton training
7. Open University
8. Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs
9. ADT Training (Arfon Dwyfor training)
10. Training via a Virtual College

- 16.5 Also on the theme of training, the July 2021 SASS Self Assessment of Service Statement responses highlighted how:

- 7.5% of (all type of) childcare providers stated that they had offered/organised less training for their staff as a result of COVID-19
(of these respondents, four stated that this was also affected by a lack of staff cover)
- 0 childcare providers stated that they had offered/organised *more* training for their staff as a result of COVID-19.

Plus the SASS Self Assessment of Service Statement invited childcare providers to respond to the following question: *Do you currently have access to the training that you need?* 79% of responding childcare providers stated: Yes.

Finally, as part of the SASS Self Assessment of Service Statement process, childcare providers were asked: *Have you been able to access specific Infection Prevention Control (IPC) training?* The responses saw 64% of childcare providers stating yes and 36% stating no.

16.6 The autumn 2021 survey with early years childcare and out of school childcare settings ascertained the number of childcare career apprentices that were currently being employed throughout the locality.

34% of responding early years childcare providers/settings and out of school childcare providers/settings stated that they did employ at least one apprentice at their setting - and across all relevant settings this totalled 25 apprentices.

6% responding early years childcare providers and out of school childcare providers stated that they currently did not employ any childcare apprentices **but were** looking to recruit to such role(s) in the near future and; 60% of responding early years childcare providers and out of school childcare providers stated that they had **no immediate plans to recruit any apprentices**.

16.7 As part of the autumn 2021 survey with childcare providers, the theme of potential gaps in training was addressed.

15% of responding early years childcare settings/providers – i.e. full day care providers and sessional care providers – considered that there was training/experience gaps aligned to their setting – and in order of frequency with which they were, the repeated ones were:

- Gap(s) associated with the Curriculum for Wales – stated by 6 respondents
- First Aid training – stated by 5 respondents
- Speech and language themed training – stated by 3 respondents

The same percentage, 15% of responding out of school childcare providers considered that there was training/experience gaps aligned to their setting – and the one repeated subject was first Aid training – stated by 3 respondents.

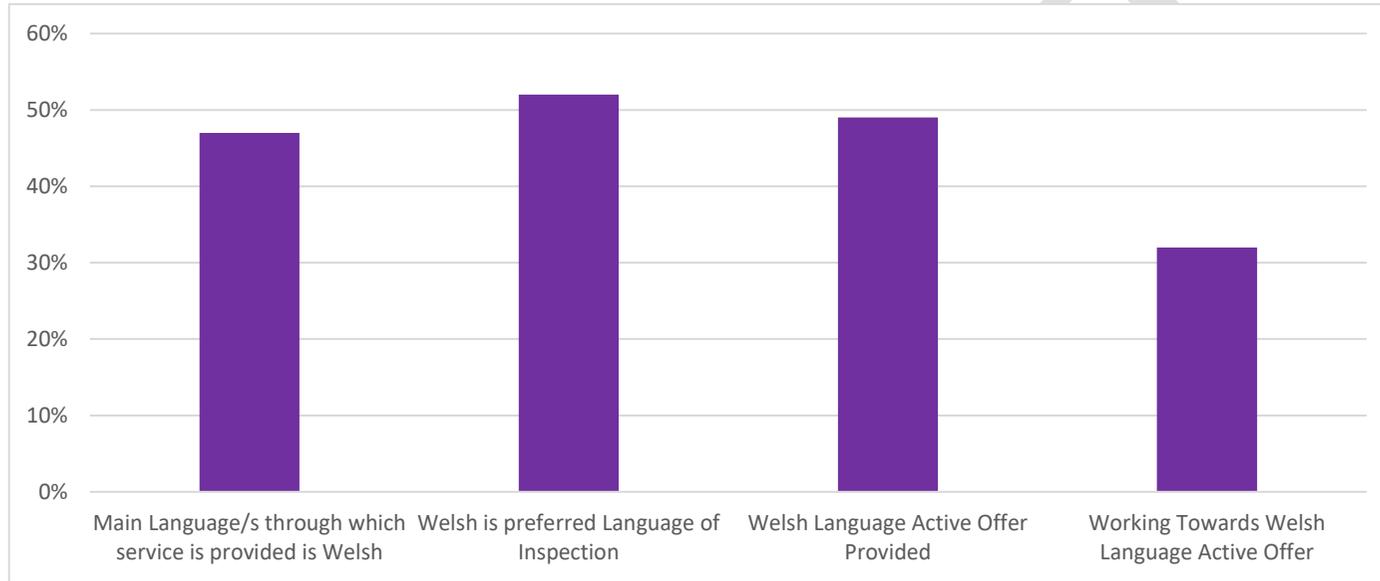
28% of responding childminders considered that they, or an assistant, had a training/experience gap, with the repeated ones being

- First Aid training – stated by 3 childminders
- Gap(s) associated with the Curriculum for Wales – stated by 2 childminders
- Early Years Training focusing on 3 months to 3 years – stated by 2 childminders

16.8 All childcare providers/settings were invited to state whether they took a Welsh language immersion approach for their curriculum? 66% stated that they did.

Table 45 indicates further detail from the SASS response of July 2021, about how the Welsh language featured in terms of the dynamics of responding Full Day Care settings and Session Care providers.

Incidence of Welsh language being incorporated into facets of early years childcare provision with Anglesey



17 Appendix 1 - Action Plan

Recommendation 1: Access to childcare, affordability and flexibility of childcare provision

| Action | Responsible Officer from the Isle of Anglesey | Key Timescale | Target Outcomes | Status (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW) |
|--|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| <p>The Local Authority will continue to work with partners in the early years and childcare sector to support the number of registered places which are available, to include engagement with the sector on the feasibility of flexible childcare provision and the barriers.</p> <p>The Local Authority continues to work with partners in the early years and childcare sector to ensure that the sector is confident to develop their services to provide childcare for 2 years olds. and continue to provide the Childcare</p> | <p>Flying Start Childcare and Play Coordinator.</p> <p>Childcare and Play Strategic Officer</p> | <p>June 2022 onwards.</p> | <p>That parents/carers have access to childcare operating outside current hours</p> <p>Current number of providers is maintained and additional providers supported to develop their business and new providers, such as childminders is encouraged to provide parents with a choice of childcare.</p> <p>Number of providers providing 2 and 3 year old childcare placements is 80% of the sector.</p> | <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Offer as it is redesigned to an on line application format.</p> <p>Local Authority and all umbrella organisations and childcare providers provide consistent support and information to parents / carers to access childcare that is grant supported or subsidised through schemes such as Tax Free Childcare</p> <p>The local authority and umbrella bodies to scope gaps in childcare provision especially with after school and holiday provision and develop such provisions along side new providers or existing providers. The local authority to consider a childcare setting essential as part of its School Modernisation Programme.</p> | | | <p>An increase in the number of parents/carers making application for subsidised childcare . More parents/carers reporting childcare more affordable/ not a barrier to work/ training.</p> <p>Parents/carers have access to childcare all year round within a reasonable distance of home or work.</p> <p>Increase in childcare provision on school sites</p> <p>Increase in number of childcare places in Canolbarth Mon</p> <p>An increase in childminders across the county</p> | <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> |
|---|--|--|--|---|

Recommendation 2: The local authority and umbrella bodies continue to support childcare providers to be of a high quality

| Action | Responsible Officer from the Isle of Anglesey | Key Timescale | Target Outcomes | Status (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW) |
|---|--|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <p>The Local Authority and umbrella bodies will continue to support as much as possible the provision of training to ensure high quality childcare settings.</p> <p>The local authority and umbrella bodies will ensure that childcare providers are informed of Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn standards.</p> | <p>Flying Start Childcare and Play Coordinator</p> <p>Childcare and Play Strategic Officer</p> | <p>June 2022 ongoing</p> | <p>Increase in attendance at training opportunities across the childcare sector.</p> <p>Childcare settings rated as good by CIW and Estyn or demonstrate sector-leading practice.</p> | <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p> |

Recommendation 3: The Local Authority and partners will continue to support the provision of childcare for children with additional learning needs.

| Action | Responsible Officer from the Isle of Anglesey | Key Timescale | Target Outcomes | Status (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW) |
|--|---|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| The Local Authority will continue to ensure that its early years childcare sector is supported and committed to the Additional Learning Needs transformation programme | Flying Start Childcare and Play Coordinator Childcare and Play Strategic Officer | June 2022-March 2025 | The early years and childcare sector will be inclusive and accessible to all children Childcare providers will be confident in meeting a child's needs. | HIGH |

Recommendation 4: The Local Authority and partners will continue to develop and support Welsh-medium childcare.

| Action | Responsible Officer from the Isle of Anglesey | Key Timescale | Target Outcomes | Status (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW) |
|--|--|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <p>The Local Authority will continue to work in partnership with its early years and childcare sector partners, to ensure that all parents/carers and children have access Welsh-medium childcare provision</p> <p>the local authority and partners in Cwlwm and Menter Iaith will signpost staff and parents to Welsh Language classes to support the confidence of the workforce to work through the medium of Welsh .</p> | <p>Flying Start Childcare and Play Coordinator</p> <p>Childcare and Play Strategic Officer</p> | June 2022-March 2025 | <p>Increase in childcare providers providing through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>The workforce is confident in providing care through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>Parents/ Carers report that Welsh medium childcare is readily available</p> | ALL HIGH |

Recommendation 5: The Local Authority, Cwlwm partners and others will support childcare as a well-paid and respected career.

| Action | Responsible Officer from the Isle of Anglesey | Key Timescale | Target Outcomes | Status (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW) |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <p>To review fees charged across the sector to enable a review of salaries paid across the sector</p> <p>To work regionally with the childcare sector to review recruitment and retention policies and procedures.</p> <p>To review career pathways available from young people to adults already in employment in the sector. Promoting childminding and work in the sector as a fulfilling career that reflects commitment and qualifications with a fair wage.</p> | <p>Flying Start Childcare and Play Coordinator</p> <p>Childcare and Play Strategic Officer</p> | <p>June 2022-March 2027.</p> | <p>Childcare fees are reflective of the business needs and sustain the sector and its staff to support salaries on a par with other professions in the early years</p> <p>Careers pathways created, an increase in number choosing to work in the sector , sustainable childcare provision.</p> <p>Staff in the sector are confident in their career pathways and opportunities and report improved pay and conditions.</p> | <p>MEDIUM</p> |

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| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
|--|--|
| Report to: | COUNTY COUNCIL |
| Date: | 12th SEPTEMBER 2023 |
| Subject: | CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT 2023 |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | COUNCILLOR CARWYN E. JONES |
| Head of Service / Director: | CARYS EDWARDS, HEAD OF PROFESSION HR & TRANSFORMATION |
| Report Author: | GETHIN MORGAN |
| Tel: | 01248 752111 |
| E-mail: | GethinMorgan@anglesey.gov.wales |
| Local Members: | n/a |

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

As part of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the following duty is recognized on Anglesey County Council –

... to keep its performance under review

- 1) must keep under review the extent to which -
- (a) it is exercising its functions effectively,
 - (b) it is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively, and
 - (c) its governance is effective for securing the matters set out in paragraphs (a) and (b)

and, in connection with all financial years,

make a report setting out its conclusions as to the extent to which it met the performance requirements (a, b and c above) during that financial year.

To meet the expectation above, the County Council’s draft Self-Assessment (SA) for 2023 was prepared. The report evidences the output of the Councils corporate planning and performance management framework and is the end of a process that merges several different aspects together.

The draft was considered by the Governance and Audit Committee on the 29th June. The committee made the following comments and suggestions –

- Including comparative information about the previous year’s performance
- Providing examples to support and illustrate assertions about performance
- Putting dates to Regulators’ reports.
- Providing an explanation of all acronyms
- Including more quantitative data where that would help understanding
- The Committee also sought assurance that the elements of the service position statement which had been self-assessed as “Adequate” are covered by the list of improvement actions to be implemented in 2023/24

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

It is therefore recommended that the County Council –

- 1. Agrees to the adaptations suggested above and authorises officers to amend the final draft;**
- 2. Formally adopts the Corporate Self-Assessment 2023; and**
- 3. Agrees that it is sent to the following list of recipients within the period of four weeks following this meeting as is required under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 –**
 - a. The Auditor General for Wales**
 - b. Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales, and**
 - c. The Welsh Ministers**

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

Other options were not considered as this expectation is one of the core changes of the new legislation - the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

This process is to elicit the attention and comments of the Executive and Governance & Audit Committee before the final Self-Assessment is considered by the full County Council in September this year.

It is a process which is in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes - an ordinance different from what the full Council approved in April last year when changes to the Constitution were adopted on how the Council is to deal with the Self-Assessment will create a governance risk.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

It is anticipated that the associated work program (depicted at tail-end of the SA and inclusive of those areas rolled over into 2023/24) and its realisation is placed under the leadership and ownership of the Leadership Team (LT) within time in accordance with the County Council’s financial year 2023/24.

| Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant): | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 | How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island? | Affects our long-term needs by recognizing related areas that require further attention as a council. |
| 2 | Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how? | In part - yes, regarding the expected improvements that are needed in the performance of some areas etc. |
| 3 | Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom. | A specific part of the self-assessment recognizes all the collaborative work that takes place across the range of the Services |
| 4 | Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how. | <p>The citizens of Anglesey through the corporate scrutiny committees have a quarterly opportunity to express their opinion and challenge the corporation on its performance. The content also states how the different services involve citizens in its decisions.</p> <p>Following a consultation period over the summer with the Union, a response was received on behalf of Unison.</p> <p>It was felt and appreciated that the Assessment was balanced, certain issues had been raised and identified, and it was acknowledged that the council benefits from an excellent workforce who have pride in their community and work to the best of their ability.</p> <p>Identified issues or concerns are dealt with via regular channels of communication with Senior Management.</p> |
| 5 | Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. | It is not anticipated that the work program will have an impact on the groups protected under the equality act 2010. |
| 6 | If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those | N/A |

| Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant): | |
|--|--|
| | 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. |
| | N/A |

| E – Who did you consult? | | What did they say? |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Chief Executive / Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory) | This was considered by the Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) and their comments are reflected in the report |
| 2 | Finance / Section 151 (mandatory) | The comments of the Section 151 Officer as a member of the LT have also been included |
| 3 | Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory) | Monitoring Officer's comments as a member of the LT have been included |
| 4 | Human Resources (HR) | Comments are reflected in the report |
| 5 | Property | |
| 6 | Information Communication Technology (ICT) | |
| 7 | Procurement | |
| 8 | Scrutiny | |
| 9 | Local Members | Not applicable |

| F - Appendices: |
|--|
| Anglesey County Council Draft Self-Assessment – 2023 |

| Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information): |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 • Self-Assessment Improvement Actions 2022 • Record of an Executive Decision taken by the Leader, 12 May 2023 |



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Self Assessment - 2023

The County Council's annual self-assessment as expected under
Local Government and Elections Act 2021

DRAFT

Prepared by – Transformation Service

Publication date: April 2023

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

The Council's Annual Self-Assessment as a result of –

**Service Performance Reviews (SPR's) / Performance Reports /
Annual Governance Statement (AGS) / External Reviews /
Stakeholder Engagement**

| Self-Assessment Category | Performance | Reasoning |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| Performance Management | Good | <p>Good performance against key indicators highlighted within the quarterly Corporate Scorecard Report</p> <p>An ever improving and modernised customer service provision through a newly installed CRM</p> |
| Use of Resources | Good | <p>Lower than inflation Council Tax increase, balanced budget and healthy balances during the current cost of living crisis</p> <p>Collaboration improved on an already excellent rating during the previous year</p> |
| Risk Management | Good | <p>Many positive external audit reports throughout Council provision including from Estyn, Care Inspectorate Wales and Audit Wales</p> <p>New risk management strategy in place</p> |

Introduction

This report reflects the Isle of Anglesey County Council's second self-assessment as expected under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

It reflects the output of the corporate planning and performance management framework and provides an evidential basis of -

- how the Council has performed
- using its available resources whilst
- managing and mitigating associated risks

during a challenging and changing time for local government.

The new national performance and governance framework aims to support a cultural and organisational change within local government. The aim is to build on existing strengths and create a more innovative, open, honest, transparent and ambitious sector, which challenges and assesses itself and collectively drives up service delivery outcomes and standards across Wales. The Isle of Anglesey County Council recognises and adheres to such expectations and the following report is drafted as such.

The Local Government and Elections Act requires each council to keep under review the extent to which it is fulfilling the 'performance requirements', that is the extent to which it is:

- exercising its functions effectively;
- using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
- has effective governance in place for securing the above.

Last year's assessment was the first of its kind, the realisation of associated improvements has taken great strides during 2022. This is encouraging and shows the maturity of the political and operational discussion which continued apace in a year that saw the establishment of a revised Leadership Team within the Council together with a new (coalition) administration led by Plaid Cymru. The associated improvements can be demonstrated through our recent report considered by the [Corporate Scrutiny committee in April 2023](#).

Following the consideration of this report it is acknowledged that the following work-streams will continue to be progressed and developed as part of this Self-Assessment into 2023 –

Performance Management -

- Improve the indicator in terms of the percentage of Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted indicator and meet Welsh Government targets as soon as possible
- Utilise software to become more data aware and informed to make even more effective evidence-based decisions.
- Modernising our approach from customer service to a more rounded customer experience
- Develop a means by which Council performance can be communicated to a wider audience of staff

Use of Resources -

- Minimise future housing subsidy with-holds by agreeing a suitable timetable with external auditors and reviewing staffing capacity;
- Increase the opportunity for residents and stakeholders to ensure their voice is heard, through the adoption of a revised, revamped and post pandemic public participation strategy

Risk Management -

- Implement the 'three lines of assurance' model as one method to collect information to assist with assurance mapping for the Council;

In coming to the conclusions of the assessment this year the Council once again used the core elements of the Corporate Planning & Performance Management Framework (CPPMF) and the function and purpose of the service review process were an essential element of the strong corporate governance arrangements adopted.

Self-evaluation is an integral part of any organisation's improvement process and its primary purpose is for self-assurance; however, it is recognised within the Isle of Anglesey County Council that if self-evaluation is done well, it can also provide assurances to external audiences, including partners, regulators and indeed residents.

Each Service (of which Anglesey County Council has 9) was asked to complete a self-evaluation - scoring their performance on identified areas deemed important as to measure the general performance of services. They were asked to evaluate their performance against one of the 4 criteria listed below and were thereafter challenged as to their findings by a group of officers and elected members:

1. **Excellent** – Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice
2. **Good** – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
3. **Adequate** – Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
4. **Unsatisfactory** – Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

The Council have been continuously improving and maturing it's evolvement of the performance management framework throughout the last 9 years.

This self-assessment summarises the conclusion of that work for 2023 and evaluates the overall performance of the Council, answering at the simplest level, the following questions –

- How well are we doing?
- How do we know?
- What and how can we do better?

A. Performance Management

How well are we doing?

To have a thorough, fair and rounded view of performance management within the Council, this section of the self-assessment will bring together information on Performance Reporting, Customer Service and Governance & Compliance. By bringing these together as evidenced in 2022, our organisational performance, our appetite for change management and the culture of improvement adopted demonstrates the overall conclusion that the County Council is performing well and at a level which staff, councillors and residents should be proud.

How do we know?

Evidence from the following reports and activities throughout the year demonstrates positive outputs and emphasises an achieving culture which is embedded across a workforce which has faced increasing demands and expectations:

- [Annual Performance Report](#)
- [Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Governance](#)
- Service Reviews (output)
- [Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board Annual Report 2021/22](#)
- [Annual Directors Report on the effectiveness of Social Services 2021-22](#)
- [Scrutiny Social Services Progress Report](#)
- [STAR survey results 2021](#)
- [Quarterly Scorecard Reporting](#)
- Staff attendance levels

From these reports we can demonstrate that key performance indicators are operating at an appropriately robust level. Staff compliance rate with updated policies and procedures has improved. Staff compliance with mandatory e-learning training has also improved whilst formal Council meetings are broadcast and the 'annual conversation' amongst staff has been embedded further. We can also evidence that the customer experience is improving across a range of services.

We can also confirm that the Scrutiny committee and Executive are satisfied with the pace of progress and improvements made to date in Social Services, together with the current performance of the Council following a positive reports from Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The report itself noted that the robust quality and effectiveness of the Learning Service leaders within Isle of Anglesey Authority contribute very effectively towards ensuring high quality education services.

It is also evidenced that the County Council has a revised and new Council Plan to guide direction of the organisation for the five-year period 2023-2028 inclusive. This was developed and adopted after a very comprehensive engagement and consultation exercise which gained feedback and input from residents, partners, staff and newly elected members.

What and how can we do better?

Whilst this a positive story and encapsulates a developing ethos under a newly structured Leadership Team and political dynamic, improvements as recognised by the Council are always required. The improvements noted for 23/24 are as follows:

1. Review and revise the corporate scorecard provision to identify relevant and prioritised indicators to be tracked and managed through the life-course of the current administration.

2. Improve the indicator in terms of the percentage of Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted to meet Welsh Government targets as soon as possible, whilst also reviewing and revising the Planning Improvement Plan to ensure sustainability of change into the future
3. Utilise software to become more data aware and informed to make even more effective evidence-based decisions and by using such data, effectively communicate performance levels across the Authority to staff.
4. Continue to modernise our approach from customer service to a more rounded customer experience
5. Review and revise the service review process to ensure that it remains current and aligns with the expectations of the Corporate Self-Assessment

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B. Use of Resources

How well are we doing?

To fulfil its responsibility of utilizing its resources economically and efficiently, the Council shares details on its management of personnel, finances, and partnerships aimed at accomplishing its goals. The information presented showcases the Council's strong and successful performance, particularly in navigating a challenging cost of living crisis.

How do we know?

The coronavirus pandemic, which brought extreme sadness throughout the world, provided an opportunity for organisations to come together for the good of the people. The current cost of living crisis has also meant that costs for all including the Council have increased recently. In response the Council has undoubtedly improved partnership working, planned well for workforce challenges and implemented many cost saving initiatives over a number of years which has meant that whilst there is a financial hit, the Council are in a much better situation than many others at this current time. Evidence for these can be found in the following:

- Staff attendance – benchmarked to be amongst the best for Local Authorities in Wales
- Staff retention – turnover is lower than the industry standard at 8%
- Workforce Development Plans – plans in place for all services
- [Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2023/24](#) – “The Council’s general financial position is still fairly strong”
- [Statement of Accounts](#) – Final accounts for 2021/22 published before deadline
- [Annual Governance Statement \(AGS\) and Local Code of Governance](#) – AGS published in accordance with CIPFA requirements alongside the statement of accounts, and the Local Code of Governance is in place
- [Welsh Housing Awards 2021 - Individualised Environmental Projects and First Time Buyers Empty Homes Grants](#), [Construction Excellence Wales Awards](#) - Housing national recognition for 2021/22
- [Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board Annual Report 2021/22](#) – the report outlines many collaborative projects the Council have contributed to during the year
- [Annual Directors Report on the effectiveness of Social Services 2021-22](#) the report notes many key findings and examples of good work carried out by Social Services
- [Estyn Inspection of the Isle of Anglesey County Council](#) – many examples of good or better work being undertaken by the Council as noted by Estyn
- [Care Inspectorate Wales – Performance evaluation inspection](#) – many positive examples are highlighted throughout the report by CIW

Services clearly felt that their collaborative and integrated way of working and providing services for the benefit of Anglesey residents was excellent as demonstrated in the [matrix below](#). In addition, some of the comments within the reports above which support the conclusion include –

“The robust quality and effectiveness of the Learning Service leaders within Isle of Anglesey authority contribute very effectively towards ensuring high quality education services. They set high expectations, lead teams effectively and co-operate well to drive strategic priorities.

The way in which the authority’s leaders, officers and different departments consider the long term and work very closely with schools and external partners and each other is a strong feature.

There is a clear vision in terms of improving the quality of education, and education budgets have been protected from cuts compared with other departments within the authority.” [Estyn Inspection of the Isle of Anglesey County Council](#)

“Reducing the need for formal care and support is clearly a priority for IACC and we found successful joint working at a strategic level to drive forward the prevention agenda.

IACC demonstrates a strong enthusiasm and readiness to work with partners. We heard examples of successful joint working with partners at a strategic level with plans then implemented on an operational level for the benefit of people. We saw good examples of joint working on an operational level” [Care Inspectorate Wales – Performance evaluation inspection](#)

“A number of local authorities are similarly focusing their efforts on mobilising community capacity and empowering communities to identify their own needs and priorities and produce workable solutions. A good example of this is the work of Isle of Anglesey Council with Medrwn Môn, an independent agency providing support and advice to voluntary organisations and community groups. Under the ‘network of alliances’ initiative, Medrwn Môn is helping to create a system of local coalitions across the island which are empowered to identify the problems in their area, the assets that are available to help tackle these problems and the solutions needed to address them.” [Audit Wales, ‘Together we can’ Community Resilience and self-reliance](#)

“The Council recognises that it is ‘unable to change the world on its own’ and actively seeks to partner with organisations that can help it to deliver real benefits, but it recognises that some partnerships provide more added value than others.” [Audit Wales, Springing Forward](#)

Some of the comments that support the [overall good](#) use of our resources can also be seen below -

“We heard a consistent, positive message from the workforce regarding the quality of leadership and the culture across children and adult services. Feedback included managers being visible, approachable, providing regular and dependable support, with access and opportunities for professional development...Retention of social workers and occupational therapists across services remains positive... IACC’s commitment to provide a Welsh language service is positive. We saw consistent and encouraging evidence that people were receiving the “Active Offer” to speak Welsh, and people’s wishes were considered regarding language choice.” [Care Inspectorate Wales – Performance evaluation inspection](#)

“The Council has a vision and key delivery themes for its workforce which can be strengthened by more prominent consideration of applying the sustainable development principle and further embedding the lessons learnt from the pandemic...The Council is of the view that effective workforce management is more important than ever, especially during and after the pandemic and ensuring business continuity is an essential part of designing resilient services.” [Audit Wales, Springing Forward](#)

What and how can we do better?

Whilst the above are positive examples of the good performance in the way the Council uses its resources and works in partnership, improvements identified for 2023/24 can be noted as follows:

1. Working together with partners to reduce the effects of the cost of living crisis and protect those in poverty

2. Reduce electricity and energy costs across the Council thereby consequently reducing carbon emissions to aid the Council's drive to become net zero by 2030
3. Identify opportunities to reduce costs/level of service and increase income by raising prices, improving services and the use of grants where appropriate
4. Develop the Council's Asset Management Strategy that demonstrates consideration of the sustainable development principle
5. Minimise future housing subsidy with-holds by agreeing a suitable timetable with external auditors and reviewing staffing capacity
6. Increase the opportunity for residents and stakeholders to ensure their voice is heard, through the adoption of a revised, revamped and post pandemic public participation strategy

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C. Risk Management

How well are we doing?

Effective implementation of risk management is crucial for a complex organization like a County Council to ensure that decision-making, performance, and service delivery are carried out in the most efficient and effective way possible. This section combines findings from completed Internal Audits, External Auditors and Peers which highlight risks needed to be mitigated as well as the Council's Risk Management and Corporate Safeguarding arrangements. The evidence available points towards a solid performing council in respect to its risk management arrangements.

How do we know?

In recent years, the Council has made improvements to its use of risk management and its Corporate Safeguarding arrangements and the evidence available in the following reports provides assurance of this:

- [Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report](#)
- Medium Term Financial Plan
- Statement of Accounts
- [Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Governance](#)
- Service Reviews (output)
- [National reviews and their related recommendations update December 2022](#)
- Internal Audit Updates (reported to the Governance and Audit Committee throughout the year) – [Up to 31 March 2023](#)
- Internal Audit Annual Report – [June 2022](#)
- Outstanding Issues and Risks – [Up to March 2023](#)
- [Audit Wales Annual Audit Summary 2022](#)
- [Estyn Inspection of the Isle of Anglesey County Council](#)
- [Care Inspectorate Wales – Performance evaluation inspection](#)
- [Review of Risk Management Framework](#)
- [Annual Report of the Standards Committee](#)

Services felt that the management of risks, corporate safeguarding and responding to audit reports was good. Some comments from the various reports listed above which supports the [overall good rating](#) can be found below -

“For the 12 months ended 31 March 2022, the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s Head of Audit and Risk’s opinion is that the organisation has an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control. While I do not consider any areas of significant corporate concern, some areas require the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives, and these are the subject of monitoring. There are no qualifications to this opinion.” [Head of Internal Audit, Annual Governance Statement 2021/22](#)

“IACC actively promotes a reflective learning culture with quality audit approaches throughout. We saw examples of good practice in audit work to identify practice which was good and where improvements are required. Corporate scrutiny and support is strong and helps to challenge performance across the local authority.” [Care Inspectorate Wales – Performance evaluation inspection](#)

“The Council is making good progress developing its arrangements to meet the requirements

of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.” [Audit Wales, The Local Government and Elections Act \(Wales\) 2021 \(letter\)](#)

“The Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council’s financial statements on 31 January 2023.” [Audit Wales, Audit of Isle of Anglesey County Council’s 2021-22 Accounts](#)

Through open, regular and thorough self-evaluation processes, they have a good understanding of the education provision and identify sensibly the strengths and areas for improvement. Leaders, including elected members, are prepared to make difficult and timely decisions by changing and refining plans and priorities as circumstances require. For example, when making decisions about school modernisation or when responding to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.” [Estyn Inspection of the Isle of Anglesey County Council](#)

What and how can we do better?

To continue on the improvement journey and the positive arrangements already in place, improvements can be noted as follows:

1. Implementing post-inspection action plans for Estyn, Care Inspectorate Wales and Audit Wales reports when and where they arise
2. Implement the ‘three lines of assurance’ model as one method to collect information to assist with assurance mapping for the Council
3. Adopt a new risk management framework and ensure that new procedures are implemented and adhered to by services
4. Extend the understanding and use of the Trauma Informed model throughout the island
5. Prepare for the arrival of the Liberty Protection Standards
6. Provide training and guidance to officers on the General Power of Competence

The Council's Service Position Statement – 2023

Please note below the response of each service against the categories of evidence for 2023:

| Self-Assessment Category | Evidence Categories | Adults | Children | Council Business | Regulation & Econ Dev | Highways, Waste & Property | Housing | Learning | Resources | Transformation |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Performance Management | Performance Reporting | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Excellent |
| | Customer Service | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Excellent | Adequate | Good |
| | Governance and Compliance | Good | Good | Good | Good | Adequate | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| Use of Resources | Workforce Development and People Management | Good | Good | Adequate | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Excellent |
| | Financial Health | Good | Good | Good | Good | Excellent | Good | Excellent | Good | Excellent |
| | Collaboration and Integration | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Excellent |
| Risk Management | External regulatory reports / peer input | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Excellent | Adequate | Good |
| | Internal Audit | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good |
| | Corporate Safeguarding | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good | Good |

Identified Areas for Improvement

Below are all of the areas identified as needing improvement and monitoring throughout 2023/24

| Area of improvement | Leading Service |
|--|---|
| 1. Review and revise the corporate scorecard provision to identify relevant and prioritised indicators to be tracked and managed through the life-course of the current administration. | Transformation |
| 2. Improve the indicator in terms of the percentage of Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted to meet Welsh Government targets as soon as possible, whilst also reviewing and revising the Planning Improvement Plan to ensure sustainability of change into the future | Highways, Waste and Property Regulation and Economic Development |
| 3. Utilise software to become more data aware and informed to make even more effective evidence-based decisions and by using such data, effectively communicate performance levels across the Authority to staff. | Transformation |
| 4. Continue to modernise our approach from customer service to a more rounded customer experience | Transformation |
| 5. Review and revise the service review process to ensure that it remains current and aligns with the expectations of the Corporate Self-Assessment | Transformation |
| 6. Working together with partners to reduce the effects of the cost of living crisis and protect those in poverty | Transformation / Housing |
| 7. Reduce electricity and energy costs across the Council thereby consequently reducing carbon emissions to aid the Council's drive to become net zero by 2030 | Chief Executive's Office / Highways, Waste and Property |
| 8. Identify opportunities to reduce costs/level of service and increase income by raising prices, improving services and the use of grants where appropriate | Resources |
| 9. Develop the Council's Asset Management Strategy that demonstrates consideration of the sustainable development principle | Highways, Waste and Property |
| 10. Minimise future housing subsidy with-holds by agreeing a suitable timetable with external auditors and reviewing staffing capacity | Resources |
| 11. Increase the opportunity for residents and stakeholders to ensure their voice is heard, | Transformation |

| Area of improvement | Leading Service |
|--|----------------------------|
| through the adoption of a revised, revamped and post pandemic public participation strategy | |
| 12. Implementing post-inspection action plans for Estyn, Care Inspectorate Wales and Audit Wales reports when and where they arise | All services |
| 13. Implement the 'three lines of assurance' model as one method to collect information to assist with assurance mapping for the Council | Resources / Transformation |
| 14. Adopt a new risk management framework and ensure that new procedures are implemented and adhered to by services | Resources |
| 15. Extend the understanding and use of the Trauma Informed model throughout the island | Learning / Social Services |
| 16. Prepare for the arrival of the Liberty Protection Standards | Social Services |
| 17. Provide training and guidance to officers on the General Power of Competence | Council Business |

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| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
|--|--|
| Report to: | Democratic Services Committee, the Executive and full Council |
| Date: | 28/06/2023, 18/07/2023, 12/09/2023 |
| Subject: | Extending the terms of reference of the Democratic Services Committee |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Councillor Carwyn Elias Jones (Corporate Business and Customer Experience Portfolio Holder) |
| Head of Service / Director: | Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lynnball@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Report Author: Tel: E-mail: | Mared Wyn Yaxley (Solicitor Corporate Governance) 01248 752568 maredyaxley@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Local Members: | Not a local matter |

| A –Recommendation/s |
|---|
| <p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek agreement for the terms of reference of the Democratic Services Committee (the DSC) to be extended to include the following provision:</p> <p><i>“Where a discussion, a local choice decision or a response to consultation is required in relation to constitutional matters, such matters may be submitted by the Monitoring Officer, with the agreement of the Committee Chair, for the Committee’s consideration before any final recommendation is made to full Council or before any consultation response is sent (“the proposal”)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DSC is requested to make a recommendation to the Executive and full Council that the proposal be agreed; - The Executive is requested to make a recommendation to full Council on the proposal and the subsequent amendments required to the Council’s Constitution as a result of such a change; and - The full Council is requested to approve the proposal and the constitutional changes that must be made as a result of the amendment/addition to the DSC’s terms of reference. |

| A – Reason/s |
|---|
| <p><u>Reasons:</u></p> <p>1. <u>The current arrangements for changing the Constitution:</u></p> <p>1.1. Every Council is required to adopt and maintain a Constitution which must include</p> |

A – Reason/s

prescribed information about the governance arrangements of the Council.

1.2. The Council's Constitution may only be changed in one of two ways:-

1.2.1. by full Council, following consideration of the matter by the Executive (section 2.15.2 of the [Constitution](#)) or

1.2.2. by the Monitoring Officer under the limited delegated authority afforded to them for making consequential amendments (Section 3.5.3.6.6 of the [Constitution](#)).

2. **The proposal:**

2.1. Some matters, which may lead to constitutional changes being approved by full Council, require a detailed discussion of options / benefits / disadvantages before the decision is made. This level of granularity is not possible at full Council.

2.2. The proposal is that, in the circumstances described in 2.1 above, the DSC undertakes this work on behalf of the Council. The DSC would also formulate responses to consultations involving constitutional matters.

2.3. Other options include setting up a separate task and finish group for each piece of work, or establishing a standing sub-committee of the Council. However, it is suggested that amending the terms of reference of the DSC is the most pragmatic solution, because:

(a) The DSC is a statutory requirement and is already established;

(b) It is a politically balanced Committee; and

(c) The proposal sits well alongside the DSC's statutory role.

3. **Legislative remit of the Democratic Services Committee:**

3.1. Under the [Local Government \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#), the Council must have a DSC.

3.2. The remit of the DSC is also included in legislation, and involves designating a Head of Democratic Services, reviewing the adequacy of provision by the Council of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions, and making reports and recommendations to the Council in relation to such provision ([section 11 of the 2011 Measure](#)). There is a list of matters that are considered "democratic services functions" under [section 9 of the 2011 Measure](#).

3.3. The current terms of reference of the DSC is in [3.4.12 of the Council's Constitution](#).

4. **Extending the Terms of Reference of the Democratic Services Committee:**

4.1. The [Local Government Measure 2011](#), whilst requiring the Council to establish the

A – Reason/s

DSC, prohibits the allocation to it of functions over and above its statutory remit ([section 16](#)).

4.2. It is suggested that a reasonable, albeit broad interpretation, of the statutory responsibility of the DSC to “*review the adequacy of provision by the authority of staff, accommodation and **other resources** [my emphasis] to discharge democratic services functions*” sufficiently encompasses the proposal.

5. The proposed extended Terms of Reference of the Democratic Services Committee:

5.1. At **Enclosure 1** is the current terms of reference for the DSC, with the proposed changes noted as tracked changes

5.2. It is not envisaged that all constitutional changes require consideration or debate by the DSC; it will be limited to instances where a discussion or a local choice decision is needed or in order to agree a response to any consultation on matters affecting the Council’s Constitution. The decision on whether the DSC will review a particular matter will be made by the Monitoring Officer, but only with the agreement of the DSC’s Chair.

5.3. The DSC will only have power to make recommendations to Council in relation to proposed constitutional changes; having no legal power itself to make such changes.

6. Consequential amendments:

6.1. In addition to changing the terms of reference of the DSC, the Council’s Constitution must also be amended to reflect the additional role of the DSC in constitutional matters.

6.2. The proposed wording to reflect this change is in **Enclosure 2** to this report, with the suggested changes noted as tracked changes.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

No change:

The current arrangement does not offer an opportunity for constitutional changes to be explored in detail; specifically where more than one option is available. It would be beneficial for such an opportunity to exist. Responding to consultations also requires much debate and this level of discussion is not possible within full Council meetings. In addition, the timing of consultation responses and Council meetings do not necessarily coincide. It would also be advantageous to the process that the DSC acquires expertise in constitutional matters.

Other options:

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

These have been addressed in section 2.3 above and include:

- setting up separate task and finish groups as required, or
- establishing a standing sub-committee of the Council.

However, amending the terms of reference of the DSC is considered the most pragmatic option on the basis that the DSC is already established as a statutory Committee, is politically balanced and the proposal sits reasonably within the DSC's current responsibilities.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Changes to the composition of the Council's Committees can only be made by full Council (Paragraph 3.2.3.5 of the Council's Constitution).

Changes to the Constitution will only be approved by full Council after consideration of the proposal by the Executive. (Paragraph 2.15.2 of the Council's Constitution).

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

The changes to the DSC's terms of reference, and thus the Council's Constitution, are in line with statutory and constitutional provisions.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Yes

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island? | 1-7 Not directly relevant |
| 2 | Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how? | |
| 3 | Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom. | |
| 4 | Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how. | |
| 5 | Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. | |
| 6 | If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those 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. | |

| E – Who did you consult? | | What did they say? |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory) | Considered by LT on 26/6/2023 |
| 2 | Finance / Section 151 (mandatory) | A member of the LT |
| 3 | Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory) | Author of the report |
| 4 | Human Resources (HR) | |
| 5 | Property | |
| 6 | Information Communication Technology (ICT) | |
| 7 | Procurement | |
| 8 | Scrutiny | |
| 9 | Local Members | |
| 10 | Other | The Monitoring Officer has presented the proposal to the Chair of the DSC, and the Group Leaders, all of whom were supportive of the suggested changes. |

| F - Appendices: |
|--|
| <p>Enclosure 1 – Current terms of reference for the DSC (as it appears in section 3.4.12 of the Council’s Constitution) with the proposed amendments to extend the remit, in accordance with the proposal put forward in this report, marked as tracked changes.</p> <p>Enclosure 2 – Section 2.15.2 of the Council’s Constitution (dealing with Changes to the Constitution) with amendments marked as tracked changes.</p> |

| Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information): |
|---|
| None |

Enclosure 1 - section 3.4.12 of the Council's Constitution (the Terms of Reference for the Democratic Services Committee) with amendments included as tracked changes

3.4.12 Democratic Services Committee

3.4.12.1 There is a requirement for all local authorities to appoint a committee of the Council to designate the Head of Democracy, oversee the work of Democratic Services, ensure that the work is adequately resourced and report to the full Council accordingly.

3.4.12.2 Membership

3.4.12.2.1 Nine members to be politically balanced.

3.4.12.2.2 Membership of the committee is limited to councillors.

3.4.12.2.3 In accordance with legislation no more than one member of the Council's Executive may be a member. There is a standing invitation to an executive Member to attend each Democratic Services Committee meeting. It would be advantageous for the Member Champion to be a member.

3.4.12.2.4 The Leader of the Council's Executive may not be a committee member.

3.4.12.3 Chairing the Committee

3.4.12.3.1 The Chair will be appointed by the full Council

3.4.12.3.2 The Chair must not be a member of a group represented on the Executive (save in authorities where all political groups are represented on the Executive, in which case the Chair may not be a member of the Executive).

3.4.12.3.3 The Vice-chair will be elected by the Committee at its first meeting after the Council's Annual Meeting.

3.4.12.3.4 The chairs of any sub-committees will be appointed by the Committee.

3.4.12.4 Proceedings etc

Provisions governing the proceedings of the Democratic Services Committees, include:

3.4.12.4.1 That the Committee (and a sub-committee) may call witnesses (who will be under a duty to attend if they are members or officers of the authority, but a witness of any description will not be obliged to answer any question which they would be entitled to refuse to answer in, or in connection with, court proceedings in England and Wales);

3.4.12.4.2 That committee (and sub-committee) meetings, papers and minutes will be subject to the requirements regarding access, publication and inspection as are set out in Part VA of the 1972 Act.

3.4.12.4.3 In accordance with legislation the Committee will designate an Officer of the Council to be the Head of Democracy, which excludes the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer.

3.4.12.5 Reports and recommendations by Democratic Services Committees

3.4.12.5.1 If a Democratic Services Committee prepares any report or makes recommendations about the provision of staff, accommodation and other resources provided by the local authority for the discharge of democratic service functions, a copy must be sent to each member of the authority

Enclosure 1 - section 3.4.12 of the Council's Constitution (the Terms of Reference for the Democratic Services Committee) with amendments included as tracked changes

who is not a member of the committee, as soon as practicable. A meeting of the full council must be held to consider such reports or recommendations within three months of their being sent to authority members.

3.4.12.6 Remit of the Committee:

3.4.12.6.1 The Committee's remit is in accordance with the relevant legislation and is extended to undertake responsibilities for the member training and development programme, including I.T. skills and support.

3.4.12.6.2 Where a discussion, a local choice decision or a response to consultation is required in relation to constitutional matters, such matters may be submitted by the Monitoring Officer, with the agreement of the Committee Chair, for the Committee's consideration before any final recommendation is made to full Council or before any consultation response is sent.

3.4.12.7 The Committee will hold three ordinary meetings in addition to its Annual Meeting each Municipal Year, with the right to arrange further meetings as required.

Enclosure 2 – Other Constitutional changes

2.15.2 Changes to the Constitution

2.15.2.1 Approval

2.15.2.1.1 The process for changing the Constitution differs depending upon the type of change to be made.

Subject to paragraph 3.5.3.6.6, and 3.4.12.6.2, changes to the Constitution will only be approved by the full Council after consideration of the proposal by the Executive.

Neither the Executive nor the Council shall consider any change/s to the Constitution which would disproportionately prejudice the rights or interests of any minority group/s within the Council without first having received and given due consideration to written recommendation/s from the Standards Committee. Any dispute as to whether proposed change/s will disproportionately prejudice the rights or interests of a minority group/s shall be decided by the Chief Executive.

2.15.2.1.2 Role of the Democratic Services Committee under paragraph 3.4.12.6.2

Where a discussion or a local choice decision is required in relation to constitutional matters, such matters may be submitted by the Monitoring Officer, with the agreement of the Democratic Services Committee Chair, for the Democratic Services Committee's consideration before any final recommendation is made to full Council in accordance with paragraph 3.4.12.6.2.

2.15.2.1.3 Role of the Monitoring Officer under paragraph 3.5.3.6.6

The Monitoring Officer is responsible for reviewing and updating the Council's Constitution from time to time and to make minor changes as detailed in accordance with paragraph 3.5.3.6.6.

2.15.2.2 Change to a mayoral form of executive or another form of executive or to alternative arrangements.

The Council must take reasonable steps to consult with local electors and other interested persons in the area when drawing up proposals and must hold a binding referendum if considering change to a Mayoral form of executive.

2.15.2.3 Change to the voting system for the election of Councillors to the Council

2.15.2.3.1 Two voting systems

(1) There are two systems for electing Councillors to the Council in polls at contested elections—

- (a) a simple majority system, or
- (b) a single transferable vote system.

2.15.2.3.2 A “simple majority system” means an electoral system where—

- (a) each voter may cast as many votes as there are offices to be filled;
- (b) in the case of an election for a single office, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes is elected;
- (c) in the case of an election to fill more than one office, the candidates equal to the

Enclosure 2 – Other Constitutional changes

number of offices to be filled who receive the highest number of votes are elected.

A “single transferable vote system” means an electoral system where—

(a) in the case of an election to fill more than one office—

(i) voters express a first preference for one candidate and may express second and further preferences for other candidates;

(ii) a quota for election is calculated from the number of votes and offices to be filled;

(iii) the first preferences are counted and any candidate whose first preference votes equal or exceed the quota is elected;

(iv) if insufficient candidates are elected under sub-paragraph (iii), the proportion of an elected candidate’s votes above the quota is redistributed according to voters’ further preferences;

(v) candidates who then reach the quota are elected and the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded;

(vi) the excluded candidate’s votes are redistributed according to voters’ further preferences;

(vii) if insufficient candidates are elected under sub-paragraphs (iv) to (vi), the steps described in those sub-paragraphs are repeated until all offices are filled;

(b) in the case of an election for a single office—

(i) voters express a first preference for one candidate and may express second and further preferences for other candidates;

(ii) an absolute majority of votes for election is calculated from the number of votes;

(iii) the first preferences are counted and, if a candidate’s first preference votes equal or exceed the absolute majority of votes, that candidate is elected;

(iv) if no candidate is elected under sub-paragraph (iii), the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded, the excluded candidate’s votes are redistributed according to voters’ further preferences and a candidate who then reaches the absolute majority is elected;

(v) if no candidate is elected under sub-paragraph (iv), the steps described in sub paragraph (iv) are repeated until a candidate is elected.

2.15.2.3.2 The simple majority system provided for by local elections rules applies in the council, unless and until the council changes the voting system for the first time.

2.15.2.3.3. The Council may change the voting system that applies to the election of Councillors of the Council to the single transferable vote system. If, in the future, the voting system that applies to the Council for the time being is the single transferable vote system provided for by local elections rules, the Council may change it to the simple majority system.

2.15.2.3.4 The power to change the voting system ;

(a) is not to be the responsibility of an Executive of the Council under Executive arrangements

(b) is not a function to which section 101 of the 1972 Act (arrangements for discharge of functions by local authorities) applies.

2.15.2.3.5 Before the Council exercises its power to change its voting system it must consult—

(a) the persons entitled to vote as electors at a local government election in its area;

(b) each community council in its area;

(c) such other persons as it considers appropriate.

(4) After the Council has changed the voting system for the first time, the system to which

Enclosure 2 – Other Constitutional changes

the Council has most recently decided to change applies.

(5) If the Council changes its voting system, the change takes effect at the first ordinary election of Councillors that takes place after the Council passes the resolution and continues in effect unless and until the system is changed again.

(6) But in a poll for an election to fill a casual vacancy in the office of Councillor that takes place before the first ordinary election of Councillors after the Council passes the resolution, the voting system that applied at the last ordinary election applies

2.15.2.3.4 The Council may change the voting system that applies to the election of Councillors of the Council.

(1) If the voting system that applies to the Council for the time being is the simple majority system, the Council may change it to the single transferable vote system provided for by those rules.

(2) If the voting system that applies to a Council for the time being is the single transferable vote system, the Council may change it to the simple majority system provided for by those rules.

(3) The power to change the voting system under this section—

(a) is not to be the responsibility of an Executive of the Council under Executive arrangements (within the meaning of section 10 of the 2000 Act);

(b) is not a function to which section 101 of the 1972 Act (arrangements for discharge of functions by local authorities) applies.

(4) Before the Council exercises its power to change its voting system it must consult—

(a) the persons entitled to vote as electors at a local government election in its area;

(b) each community council in its area;

(c) such other persons as it considers appropriate.

2.15.2 3.5 The Council's power to change its voting system must be exercised by resolution of the Council

a resolution to exercise the power must be passed by at least two thirds of the total number of Councillor seats on the Council.

the resolution must be considered at a meeting specially convened for the purpose

written notice of the meeting must be given to all Councillors, and

the meeting must take place after the end of a period of 21 days beginning with the day on which notice is given.

2.15.2.3.6.1 A resolution to exercise the power must be passed before 15 November of the year that is three years before the year in which the next ordinary election of the Council is due to be held.

2.15.2.3.6.2 After the Council has exercised the power, a further resolution to exercise the power cannot be passed until two ordinary elections of the Council have been held under the voting system to which it was changed.

2.15.2.3.6.3 A resolution to exercise the power passed during the period between two consecutive ordinary elections of the Council has no effect if the Council has previously voted on a resolution to exercise the power during that period at a meeting held for that purpose.

| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
|--|--|
| Report to: | County Council |
| Date: | 12 th September 2023 |
| Subject: | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (AONB) – Final Draft |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Cllr. Neville Evans (Leisure, Tourism and Maritime) |
| Head of Service / Director: | Christian Branch Head of Regulation & Economic Development |
| Report Author: Tel: E-mail: | Andy Godber Visitor Economy and Coastal Areas Manager andygodber@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Local Members: | Applicable to all Elected Members |

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

The Council is asked to approve the new Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (2023-2028).

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

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

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

It is a statutory requirement on the County Council to prepare an AONB Management Plan

C – Why is this a decision for the County Council?

It is a statutory plan requiring Full Council approval

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

The AONB Management Plan is fully aligned with the new Council Plan, and given its broad remit will help deliver the 6 key priorities which are:

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

The draft Plan was subject to a 6 week public consultation process. A summary of the responses received, and the subsequent changes to the final Plan, are outlined in the Consultation Report (**Annex B**).

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Funding is secured from Natural Resources Wales to develop and implement the Plan,.

Additional external funding sources will also be explored to deliver the Plan between 2023 and 2028

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island? | <p>The Management Plan provides a framework to ensure the appropriate, long term management of the AONB.</p> <p>The Management Plan focusses on the AONB's special qualities to ensure their conservation and enhancement for future generations.</p> |
| 2 | Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how? | Funding is provided by NRW to develop and implement the Management Plan |
| 3 | Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this | The Council is responsible for preparing the Management Plan, in collaboration with the Joint Advisory Committee. This is made up of a broad spectrum of |

| Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant): | | |
|--|--|---|
| | decision? If so, please advise whom. | stakeholders who play an active role in the management of the AONB. |
| 4 | Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how. | The draft AONB Management Plan has been subject to a period of public consultation. |
| 5 | Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. | We have carried out an Equality Impact Assessment. |
| 6 | If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. | We have carried out an Equality Impact Assessment. |
| 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. | We have carried out an Equality Impact Assessment. |

| E – Who did you consult? | | What did they say? |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory) | |
| 2 | Finance / Section 151 (mandatory) | |
| 3 | Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory) | |
| 4 | Human Resources (HR) | |
| 5 | Property | |
| 6 | Information Communication Technology (ICT) | |
| 7 | Procurement | |
| 8 | Scrutiny | |
| 9 | Local Members | |

| F - Appendices: |
|--|
| Annex A: AONB Man Plan (2023-2028) Annex B: Consultation Summary Report |

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



Draft AONB Man
Plan Exec Report Fin



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

www.ynysmon.llyw.cymru
www.anglesey.gov.wales

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2023–2028

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



Biwmaris/Beaumaris

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Introduction to the AONB

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

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

About this Management Plan



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

- An AONB Management Plan’s purpose is to evaluate and determine the special qualities of the AONB, and identifies what actions are required to make sure these qualities are conserved and enhanced for future generations.
- The original Isle of Anglesey AONB management plan, from 2004, was prepared with the participation of all the AONB partners, local landowners and the community. Subsequent reviews, including this one, have updated critical information and assessed the relevance of objectives, policies and actions crucial to managing the AONB effectively and sustainably.
- This management plan is for everyone who is interested in the protection and management of the Anglesey AONB. It is a plan for the landscape and seascape of the AONB, for the businesses and communities within its area, for the visitors who enjoy its views, dark skies and its tranquillity, and for everyone in the whole of the island who values its special qualities.

About the AONB

Designations

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

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

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

- North Anglesey
- Holyhead Mountain
- Aberffraw Bay

Key Facts

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

A Vision for Anglesey 2023 – 2028

The purpose of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

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The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is recognised as a local and national asset, critical to Anglesey's economy, environment, culture and the well-being of its communities and those who visit. There is an increased connection to the special qualities, and these are conserved, enhanced, appreciated, understood and able to be at the heart of the community, and a visitor industry which is both environmentally responsible and economically sustainable.

The continuation and reinforcement of customs and traditions, and use of the Welsh language has added to the unique identity and sense of place. Anglesey's AONB has been able to redress the decline in biodiversity, and is managed in a way that adapts to, and mitigates against the impacts of climate change to protect its natural beauty whilst supporting the needs of local communities and rural businesses.



Porth Dafarch

Key Features of the AONB

Features of the Anglesey AONB which define its designation status

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

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

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

Key Feature – Landscape

- The landscape of the AONB reflects the varied underlying geology and is a diverse mixture of marine and terrestrial habitats, including rugged cliffs, heathland, sand dunes, salt marshes and mud flats. The island contains some of the oldest rocks in Britain south of the Scottish Highlands as a whole. These are clearly illustrated in the topography of the island, which falls from the north east to the south west.
- The Holyhead Mountain, the cliffs of North and South Stack and rocky coves are the dominant features of the island's ancient Precambrian and Cambrian northern coastline. The east coast is characterised by vertical limestone cliffs and sandy beaches, while the west coast is less rugged and consists of stretches of sand dunes and beaches between rocky headlands. The Menai Strait can be considered in two parts, eastern and western. The eastern section from Beaumaris to Menai Bridge is well wooded with relatively large settlements.
- The character of the landscape has been influenced by centuries of farming, and by traditional industries such as quarrying. Agriculture is the main land use in the AONB, and stone walls, cloddiau, hedgerows and field patterns are an integral part of the landscape. There are also areas of heathland, semi natural woodland, intertidal wetlands and lakes.
- A number of the Estates located in the AONB maintain significant areas of broadleaved woodlands. These include Baron Hill, Bodior, Bodorgan, Dulas, Penrhos and Plas Newydd. The AONB also includes two extensive conifer plantations at Newborough and Pentraeth.

- The island shows a rich cultural history with evidence of man's actions extending over some 8000 years. There are over 200 Scheduled Ancient Monuments ranging from Bronze Age burial chambers to later medieval features. More recent landscape features include the planned landscapes of large estates, such as Plas Newydd. The UNESCO world heritage site of Beaumaris Castle is also located within the designated area.
- A detailed description of the Anglesey coastal landscape is contained in the National Landscape Character Assessment NLCA01 Anglesey Coast.



Key Feature – Seascape

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



Key Feature – Recreation and Tourism

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



Key Feature – Communities

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



Key Feature – Economic Development

- Employment within the Anglesey AONB is principally in agricultural business and businesses and activities linked to the tourism and hospitality sector – the latter driven by the quality and number of sandy beaches, the beauty of the coastal landscape, natural and heritage assets along the coast and the accessibility to them provided by the Anglesey / Wales Coastal Path
- No major industrial development is situated within the AONB – the boundaries having been drawn in order to, for example, exclude the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and the fast fighter-jet training base at RAF Valley. This is not to say, however, that their operation and possible future development will not potentially affect views into and out of the AONB and the quality and experience of those living in and visiting the designated area.
- The Isle of Anglesey County Council has, for several years, prioritised energy generation, and in particular ‘green’, low carbon energy, as a key economic driver – this, in the form of the Anglesey Energy Island Programme, remains a key corporate strategic priority for the Council.
- Off-shore renewable energy also remains high on the agenda with the recent consenting of Menter Mon’s Morlais development, activities of the private sector in this respect such as that of Minesto’s world first low-flow tidal stream project off Holyhead Deeps, aspirations to develop centres for manufacturing and servicing for future new rounds of off-shore wind in the Irish Sea as well as a Hydrogen Hub development in Holyhead.



Key Drivers for Change Policy Context

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

- Refer to Annex 1 for Policy Context

Council Plan 2023-2028

The Council Plan is the key document serving as a focal point for decision-making at all levels; providing a framework to plan and drive forward priorities; shape annual spending; monitor performance and progress.

At its core is our desire to work with Anglesey residents, communities and partners to ensure the best possible services, improve the quality of life for all and create opportunities for future generations.

Its six main objectives reflect the key areas the Council should be focusing its efforts on.

The Council Plan's vision is to:

Page 172
Create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.'

Our six strategic objectives



The Welsh Language

Increasing opportunities to learn and use the language.



Social Care and Wellbeing

Providing the right support at the right time.



Education

Ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations.



Housing

Ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home.



Economy

Promoting opportunities to develop the Island's economy.



Climate Change

Responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards becoming a net zero organisation by 2030.

Council Plan 2023-2028

The Council Plan 2023-28 is underpinned by the organisation’s core values, which are used to develop and guide the vision, strategic plans and services.

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Values



Respect
We are respectful and considerate towards others regardless of our differences.



Collaborate
We work as a team, with our communities and partners to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Anglesey.



Honesty
We are committed to high standards of conduct and integrity.

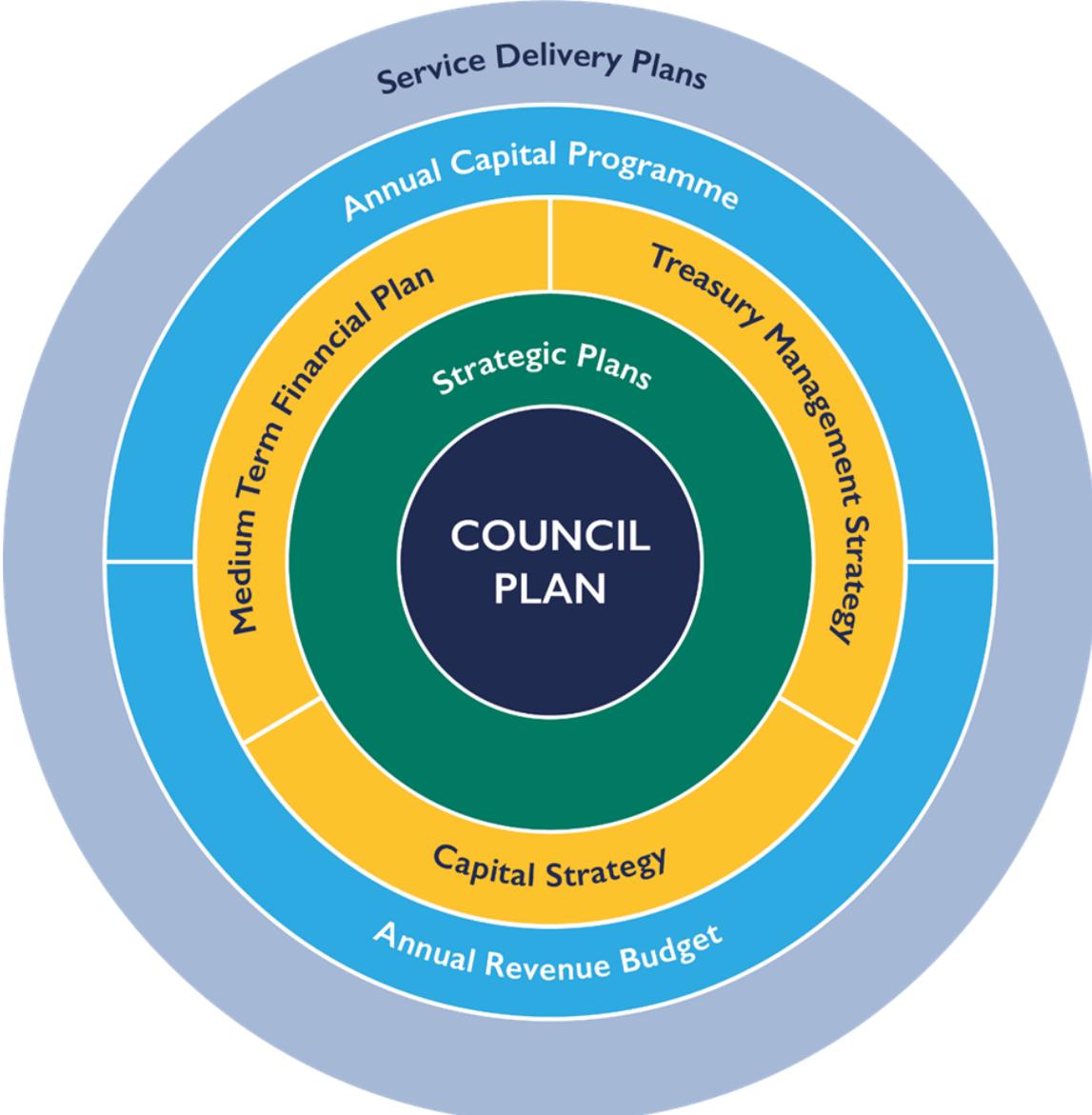


Champion the Council and the Island
We create a sense of pride in working for the Council and present a positive image of the Council and the Island.

Strategic Circle

The strategic circle identifies the plans in place to ensure we are able to achieve our priorities and objectives.

This plan is a key strategic plan that aligns with the Council's Plan and contributes to the achievement of the strategic objectives and vision.



Key Drivers for Change – Nature Recovery and Biodiversity

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



Tuberaria guttata

Key Drivers for Change

Access, Recreation and Well Being

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



Key Drivers for Change Climate Change

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



Key Drivers for Change Development and Transport

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

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

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

Key Driver for Change

Rural and coastal economy and communities

- There is uncertainty due to the post- Covid recovery, cost of living crisis and a slowing down of the economy. This impacts on increased poverty, health inequalities, lack of housing [general and affordable], potential reduction in employment and growth, climate change adaptation and mitigation requirements and an eroding of cohesive communities.
- The visitor economy is fundamental to the sustainable economic position of Anglesey, and the Destination Management Plan highlights our commitment to further enhancing this. However, it has become increasingly evident over the past 3 years that unchecked tourism can adversely impact the lives of people and the unique qualities which make the island so synonymous and drive the vast majority of tourist activities.
- The Destination Management Plan which aligns with this plan will redress this imbalance and ensure through a new multi organisational/interests group that the benefits of a vibrant and diverse offer is able to enhance the key qualities of language, culture, environment and heritage.
- Following the exit of the UK from the European Union, the resulting legislative changes are likely to have significant implications on agricultural practice, the rural and coastal economy within and adjoining the AONB. Farming is fundamental to the rural community and its economy, and the current uncertainty in how new subsidy schemes will work is a cause for concern. However, the outline proposals set out in the Sustainable Farming Scheme could deliver significant environmental gains and farming systems which are less dependent on inputs and as such are more economically viable. There needs to be innovation within the rural economy and routes to employment for local people of all ages. This can be supported through the production of local sustainable goods and services and local procurement policies.
- The Welsh language is an integral part of Welsh identity and central to its culture. The recent 2021 census found the number of Welsh speakers in the country had decreased by 1.2% since the previous 2011 census, from 19% to 17.8%. Despite the introduction of the Welsh Government's language strategy, the number of Welsh speakers in Wales has continued a downward trajectory begun in 2001.



Adopting an Ecosystem Approach

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

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

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

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

5 Key Themes for the 2023-28 Management Plan



Brân Goescoch/Chough

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

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

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

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

Enhancing countryside and coastal character

Why is this important ?

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

What are we going to do?

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

How are we going to do it?

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

»»» Tackling the Nature Crisis

Why is this important ?

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

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What are we going to do?

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

How are we going to do it?

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



The AONB as a place for enjoyment and learning

Why is this important ?

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

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What are we going to do?

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

How are we going to do it?

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

»»» Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

Why is this important ?

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

What are we going to do?

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

How are we going to do it?

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



Managing the AONB in a changing climate

Why is this important ?

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

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What are we going to do?

- Ensure partner organisations and communities are more aware of the impacts of climate change on the natural beauty and economy of the AONB
- Work with landowners and communities are involved in activities that help to ameliorate the impacts of climate change on the AONB.
- Embed an ecosystems service approach to our work and that of our partners.
- Work with framers and landowners to identify and understand their natural capital and ecosystem services, support increasing biodiversity, sequestering and storing carbon and natural flood management.

How are we going to do it?

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

Management and Governance Joint Advisory Committee

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

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

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

Management and Governance Staffing

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

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

Management and Governance

Core Activities

The Countryside and AONB Unit's core activities include:

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

Management and Governance

Finance

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

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

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

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

Management and Governance Monitoring

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

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

The State of the AONB Report 2022 for Anglesey's AONB will be reviewed bi-annually to act upon the report's recommendations for data collection, inputting of data gaps and relevant indicators. This will enable a comprehensive and up to date data source to be managed as well as providing robust baseline data for the preparation of the next State of the AONB Report linked to the next AONB Management Plan for Anglesey's AONB.



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

Responses

May/June 2023

Status: Official

Prepared by:

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

Introduction

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

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

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

Summary Overview

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

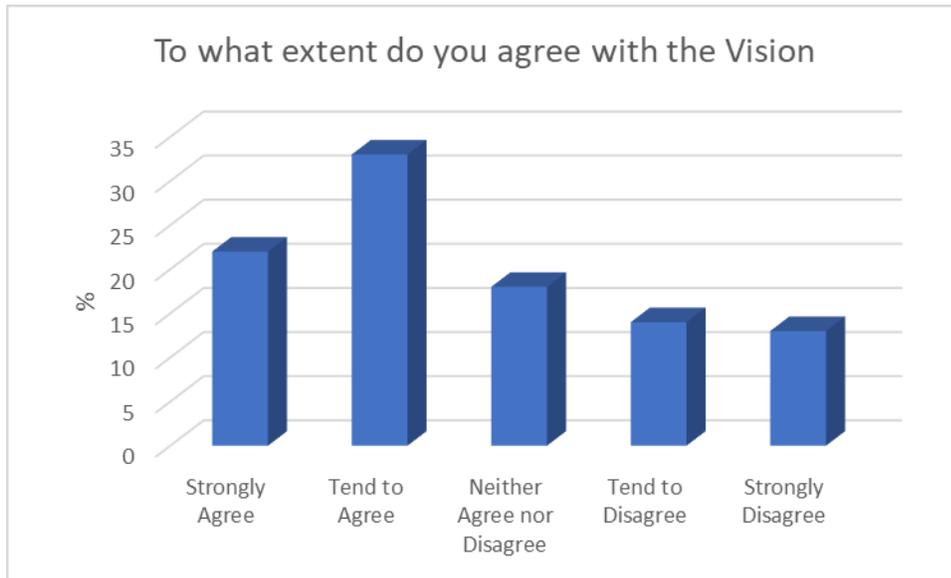
The responses to date have given an indication as to what key actions need to be developed, and where focus should lie. It is evident from responses that the major risks to the integrity of the AONB lies in the existing Nature Crisis and the impact of Climate Change, but interestingly Community and Social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

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

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

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

Q4 & Q5 – Vision



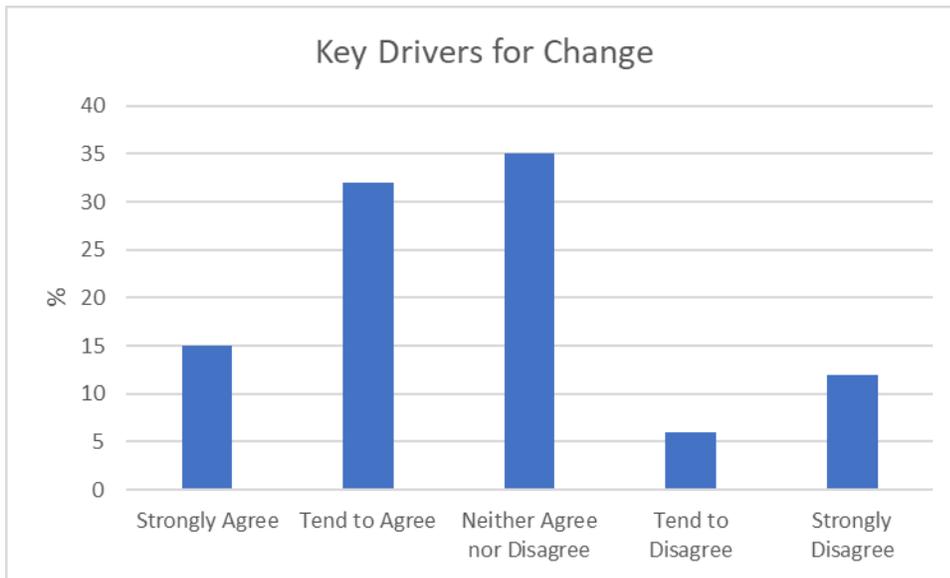
Observations

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

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

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

Q6 & Q7 – Key Drivers for Change



Observations

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

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

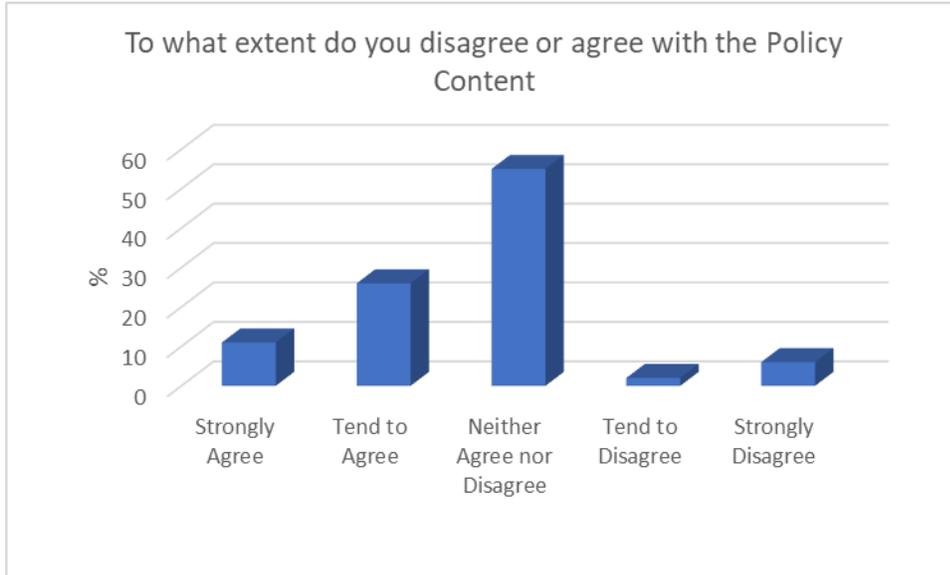
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| | Modifications | None |
| 6 | Comment | I have put 'Climate change' and 'Restoring nature and biodiversity' in equal first place - they both go hand in hand. Part of the answer in terms of reducing the extreme effects of climate change is to restore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

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

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

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

Q8 – Policy



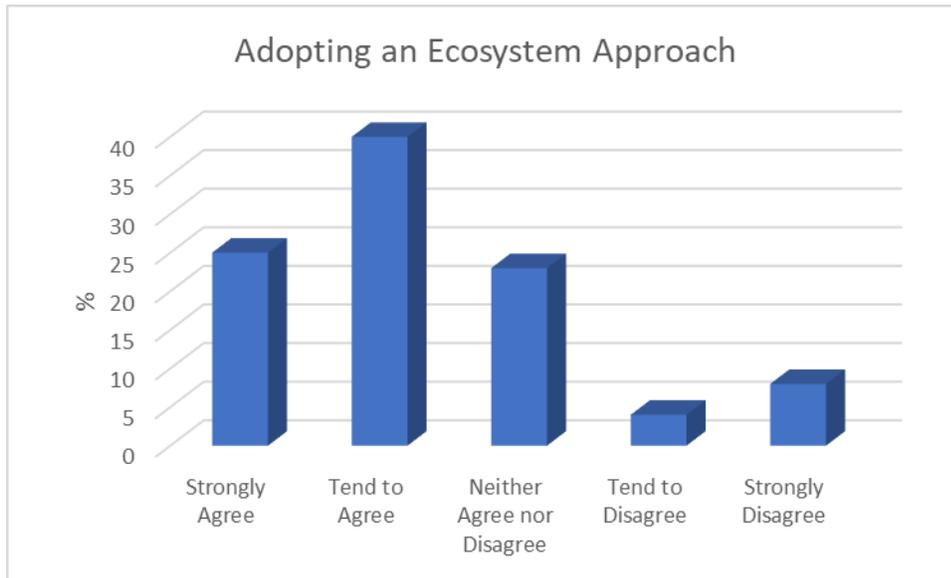
Observations

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

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

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

Q9 – Ecosystem approach



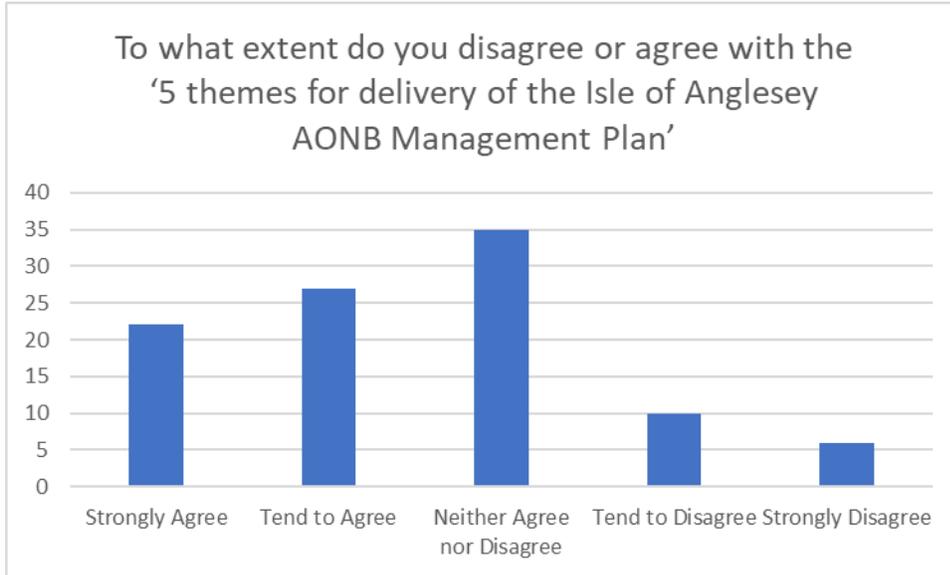
Observations

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

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

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

Q10 – Key Themes



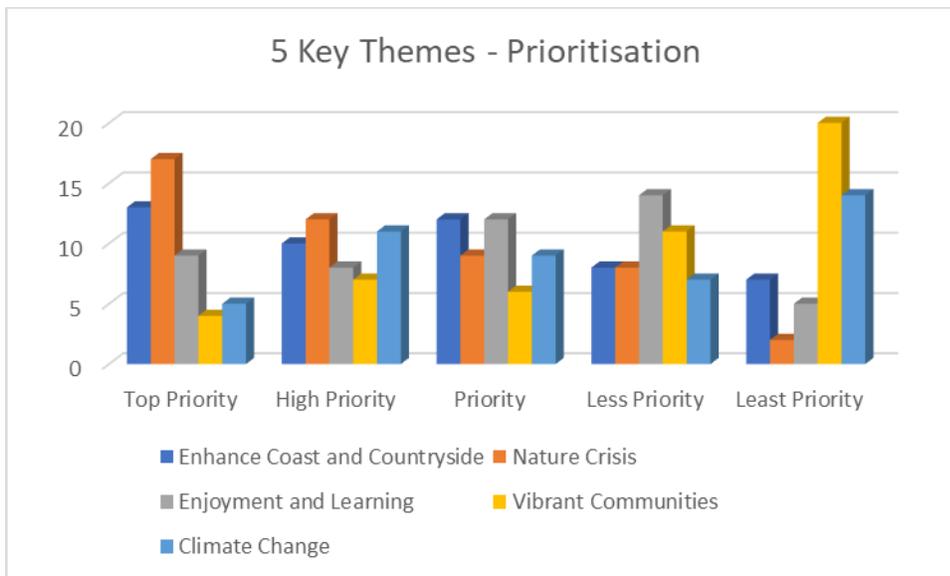
Observations

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

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

Q11 – Prioritisation of Key Themes



Observations

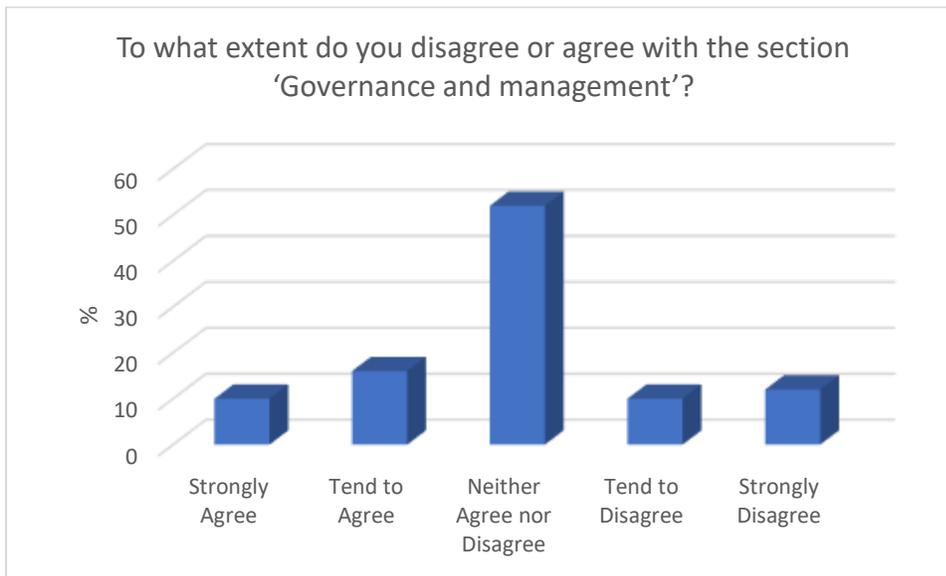
It is very interesting to see that clearly respondents identify two key themes as being of paramount importance. These being Enhancing Coast and Countryside and tackling the Nature Crisis. The sample size is very small, but it gives again an insight into that either the remit of the AONB is not fully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

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

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

Q12 – Governance and Management



Observations

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

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

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

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

Q13 – Action Plan



Observations

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

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

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

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

Anglesey AONB Management Plan – Annex1

Policy Context

International

International Union for Conservation of Nature Category V Landscape

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

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

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

The European Landscape Convention (ELC)

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

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

It defines landscape as:

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

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

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

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

National (UK)

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

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

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

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

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

The Environment Act 2021

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

The CRoW Act and the significance of AONBs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National (Wales)

Future Wales – The National Plan for Wales (2021)

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

The Environment (Wales) Act (2016)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Historic Environment Act 2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Natural Resources Wales / Our corporate plan to 2030 - Nature and People Thriving Together](#)

Text to be included when details available

[Biodiversity deep dive: recommendations | GOV.WALES](#)

Text to be included when details available

Welsh National Marine Plan (2018)

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

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

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

Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2017)

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

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

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

West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2012)

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

The coast of the Isle of Anglesey is considered within the West of Wales SMP under coastal areas F and G. These take into account predictions for sea level rise and climate change for 50-year and 100-year

periods. Policies range from doing nothing to holding the coastal line in order to protect land and property, and will influence AONB management.

North West Wales Area Statement

This area statement, produced by Natural Resources Wales with extensive community participation, provides an overview of the landscape of north west Wales from the perspective of the people who live and work there. The outcomes of the process to produce the statement include identification of a wide range of issues that impact on the environment of the area, a wealth of actions that can help to mitigate the issues and a commitment to working collaboratively between organisations and communities. The ethic of this approach resonates well with the process of developing and implementing this management plan. The four key themes of the statement are:

- Encouraging a sustainable economy
- Reconnecting people with nature
- Seeking opportunities for a resilient ecosystem
- Supporting sustainable land management

Two cross cutting themes are:

- Climate and emergency
- Ways of working

AONB Management Plans are legally required to take account of Area Statements and the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR). Area Statements must take account of relevant plans including AONB Management Plans under a901A of the CRoW Act 2000.

Marine Area Statement

The Marine Area Statement covers the inshore waters of Wales extending out 12 nautical miles and making up 43% of the Welsh territory.

The Marine Area Statement sits alongside the Area Statements and has three core themes which link to a wide range of the key themes and actions included in the AONB Management Plan:

- Building the resilience of marine ecosystems
- Making the most of marine planning
- Coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions

The Marine Area Statement also promotes reconnecting people with Welsh seas through actions such as ocean literacy and citizen science, together with raising awareness of the benefits that marine and coastal areas can provide to support wider well-being.

Local

Council Plan

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

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

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

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

Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011-2026

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

The plan recognises that Anglesey has a distinctive and diverse landscape, incorporating both the Isle of Anglesey AONB and entire island as an UNESCO Global Geopark. It appreciates that the character and beauty of the landscape significantly improves the quality of life of residents and has major social and health benefits.

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

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

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

Anglesey Energy Island

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

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

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

Anglesey Energy Island vision

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theme 5: 'A balanced environment'

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

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

Destination Management Plan

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

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

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

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

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

These are:

1. Celebrate, Respect and Protect our Communities, History, Language, Culture and Heritage
 - A visitor economy where the local communities feel ownership and empowered to drive forward the regenerative tourism model.
 - A visitor economy which embraces and sustainably utilises the existing strengths of our language and culture and brings our heritage to a wider audience.
 - A visitor economy where the culture is embraced, and at the heart of all product and promotional activities
2. Enhance the Visitor Experience Offer and Economic Sustainability
 - A visitor economy which can grow sustainably based around a high-quality offer where visitors value and respect Anglesey's culture, heritage and environment.
 - A visitor economy which is based around activities and experiences which take advantage of, but do not degrade the culture, heritage and environment.
 - A visitor economy where quality visitor infrastructure and access provision offer enhanced recreational opportunities and with this improved health and wellbeing.

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

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

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

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

Anglesey Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013

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

AONB Management Plan – Annex 2

Anglesey AONB's public benefits

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

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

AONB Management Plan

Annex 3 – Policy Objectives and Actions

THEME 1

Conserving and Enhancing Countryside and Coastal Character

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

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

AIM

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

What are the key forces for change?

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

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

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|---|--|
| European Landscape Convention | Water Framework Directive |
| Welsh Government Natural Resource Policy | Local Development Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | Post-Brexit agri-environment and rural development schemes |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | Wales National Marine Plan |
| Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | North West Wales Area Statement and Marine Area Statement |
| The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 | Planning Policy Wales 11 |

Further NRW guidance on the following can be found in the AONB Strategic Environmental Assessment document –

- Visual sensitivity of the marine settings of Wales's Designated Landscapes to offshore wind farms
- Tranquility and Place
- Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

Objective 1: Landscape/Seascape

The coastal landscape and seascape are actively conserved where appropriate, enhanced.

Policies

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

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

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

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

Objective 2: Historic Landscape and Culture

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

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

Policies

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

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

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

Objective 3: Development

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

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

Policies

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

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

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

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

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

Objective 4: Peace and Tranquillity

Unspoilt panoramic views, dark skies and tranquillity are safeguarded from development that would degrade the special qualities of the AONB.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

CCC 4.1 Work to maintain and enhance the solitude, dark skies and natural beauty of the AONB.

CCC 4.2 Work towards securing Dark Skies status for Anglesey.

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

Objective 5: The Ecosystem Approach

A model is agreed among partners and key stakeholders for applying an ecosystem approach to the management of the natural environment.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

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

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

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

CCC 5.4 Encourage partners to assign values to the various ecosystem services, recognising the non-use value that some services provide and create opportunity maps where land management changes could provide enhanced ecosystem services.

THEME 2

Tackling the Nature Crisis

7.1.4 Anglesey AONB has a wealth of habitats, supporting a wide and varied biodiversity. Its cliffs, sand dunes and salt marshes are internationally renowned, while its heaths, wetlands, reedbeds and woodlands support species such as otter, red squirrel, varied orchids and the rare marsh fritillary.

7.1.5 Anglesey's LBAP and the Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan set out a framework for protecting and managing its natural resources and promoting resilience in its ecosystems. It provides a firm basis for this management plan, in conserving the island's biodiversity and recognising the role that local people and visitors can play in its protection and management

Aim

The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the special qualities of the AONB environment. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|---|--|
| Increased isolation between woodlands | Pollution, including that originating from industries and activities not located in the AONB |
| General neglect of woodlands | Development pressure |
| Overgrazing leading to loss of dwarf shrubs | Changes in local government, legislation and regulations |
| Abandonment of cliff top grazing due to recreational pressure | Tourism and economic pressures |
| Scrub development on heathland | Energy production |
| Changes in land management policy and practices | Cumulative effects of the transport network |
| Abandonment of commons | Increased demand for fresh water |
| Decline in appropriate burning regimes of heathland | Lack of public awareness |
| Competition from invasive non-native species | Government policy, including post-Brexit environmental legislation |
| Climate change | Funding (increase and decrease) |
| An increase in fly tipping | Grubbing out native hedges |

| Who are the key partners? | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Natural Resources Wales | AONB Volunteers |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Utilities |
| Landowners, communities, | North Wales Rivers Trust |
| IACC Countryside and AONB Unit | JAC / Partners |
| IACC Council Planning Function | Local Nature Partnership |
| North Wales Wildlife Trust | RSPB |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|---|--|
| Welsh Government Natural Resource Policy | Local Development Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | Isle of Anglesey Corporate Biodiversity Plan 2022-2023 |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | Post-Brexit agri-environment and rural development schemes |
| Water Framework Directive | Wales National Marine Plan |
| North West Wales Area Statement and Marine Area Statement | |

Objective 1: Habitat and Species Conservation

The coast and countryside are managed sensitively to maintain the diversity of habitats and species in a favourable condition and to improve connectivity between sites.

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

Policies

NE 1.1 Continue to deliver the priorities of the Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action plan and the actions of IACC's Biodiversity Action Plan.

NE 1.2 Maintain, restore and enhance priority habitats and biodiversity in the AONB. Particular attention will be paid to sites with International and National designations such as SPAs, SACs, NNRs and SSSIs.

NE 1.3 Promote open sharing of information collected in research with those organisations having an interest in the AONB.

NE 1.4 Continued use and the resources available at the Local Biological Records Centre (COFNOD).

NE 1.5 Identify, locate, catalogue and remove invasive non-native species.

Objective 2: Soil, Air and Water

The quality of the soil, air and water – both freshwater and seawater – is regularly monitored to maintain standards that exceed UK and European standards.

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

Policies

NE 2.1 Communities, NRW and Welsh Water to work collaboratively to protect soils, air and water from pollution.

NE 2.2 Monitor soil, air and water quality regularly to ensure that the AONB meets or exceeds the expected standards.

NE 2.3 Reduce wastage by actively promoting and implementing water efficiency measures and more sustainable patterns of domestic, industrial, agricultural and leisure water use.

Objective 3: Designated Areas and Other Important Sites

Both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites are managed for their biodiversity, aesthetic and amenity value.

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

Policies

NE 3.1 AONB Unit, site managers and other organisations to work collaboratively to maintain, restore, expand and sometimes create wildlife habitats.

NE 3.2 Ensure that non-statutory local wildlife sites are recognised as fundamental components of the AONB and the wider Anglesey countryside.

NE 3.3 Ensure that high quality interpretative material is readily available to both residents and visitors so that they are informed about the interest and value of the AONB's natural environment and wildlife.

THEME 3

The AONB as a Place for Enjoyment, Learning and Wellbeing

7.1.6 Anglesey has long been a popular destination for both domestic and international visitors. Various studies and evidence also highlights Anglesey as the UK county that is most dependent on tourism, with the industry contributing significantly to Anglesey's prosperity and quality of life. The challenge is to ensure that the advantages to Anglesey communities outweigh any disadvantages, and as a result social and well being benefits are seen.

7.1.7 Tourism, by its very nature, can have both positive and negative effects if not managed appropriately. It can result in inappropriate development, congestion on roads and erosion of the natural beauty and tranquillity that are Anglesey's primary attractions. But it can also contribute positively through increased revenues, year-round sustainability and an increase in environmental holidays and visitor giving breaks, such as traditional skills' events and courses and nature conservation holidays.

Aim

People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate its special qualities and features in a sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|--|--|
| Increase in fly tipping | Tourism policy and promotion |
| Limited availability of waste transfer stations | Awareness of health and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation |
| Increasing cost of disposing waste | Local authority and partner funding (increase and decrease) |
| Use of rights of way | The selection criteria for award beaches |
| Legal issues of common land | Negotiations on permissive paths |
| External funding | Community involvement and support |
| Welsh Government protected landscape policy | Emerging recreation activities, such as e-biking |
| Changes in local government | Ferry use, with transient visitors |
| Changes in legislation, such as the Wales National Marine Plan | |

| Who are the key partners? | |
|---|--|
| Natural Resources Wales | Tourism providers |
| Local authorities – IACC, Town and Community Councils | Local schools, societies and interest groups |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Voluntary services |
| Landowners, communities | Menter Môn |
| Tourism authority – national regional local | Visit Wales |
| Tourism partnership | Bangor University |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|---|--|
| UK and Wales tourism policy | Local Development Plan |
| UK and Wales access legislation and policy | Anglesey Destination Management Plan |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | Anglesey Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan |
| North West Wales Area Statement and Marine Area Statement | Maritime statutory plan – marine operational plan (Marine and coastguard agency) |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | Welsh Government Natural Resource Policy |

Objective 1: Tourism

Partnerships are developed that secure sustainable recreation activities, supporting rural services and employment, and contributing to the local economy. *(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)*

Policies

EU 1.1 Ensure the tourism industry makes a vital and sustainable contribution to the Anglesey AONB economy.

EU 1.2 Raise awareness of the special qualities and features of the AONB that are key assets to the tourism sector.

EU 1.3 Ensure that the Destination Management Plan supports the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's special qualities and features.

Objective 2: Recreation

The AONB continues to be a popular location for sustainable recreation with both residents and visitors, and the risk of damage to the AONB's special qualities and features is lessened.

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

Policies

EU 2.1 Promote sustainable terrestrial and maritime recreational activities and facilities that complement the special qualities and features of the AONB.

EU 2.2 Promote terrestrial and maritime enjoyment of the AONB for residents and visitors by encouraging recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with the conservation of the area's special qualities and features.

Objective 3: A welcoming AONB

The impacts of pollution and recreation upon the special qualities and features of the AONB are regularly monitored to ensure that any incidents are within acceptable limits.

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

Policies

EU 3.1 Promote understanding and awareness between recreation, conservation and local interest groups.

EU 3.2 Work to improve people's enjoyment of the AONB by reducing incidents of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping and associated antisocial behaviour.

Objective 4: Access

Via the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) the access network is managed to a high standard, providing access opportunities appropriate to the purposes of the designation.

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

Policies

EU 4.1 Promote access for all (where appropriate), whilst also protecting the AONB's special qualities and features and the integrity of the European sites, ensuring there is a coordinated approach to the appropriate management and promotion of public access and quiet recreational activities.

EU 4.2 Ensure that the PROW network is maintained at a high standard and that appropriate information and clear signage conserves and enhances the special qualities and features of the AONB and the integrity of the European sites.

EU 4.3 Ensure the All-Wales Coastal Path complements the PROW network and where deemed appropriate provides opportunities for recreation that are accessible to all. Monitor the impacts of Coastal Footpath use on the special qualities and features of the AONB.

Objective 5: Understanding and Lifelong Learning

The whole community is aware of the benefits of AONB designation through the regular promotion of the special qualities and features of the AONB and its management needs.

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

Policies

EU 5.1 Support initiatives for children and young people to understand more about the Anglesey AONB's changing landscape and its special qualities and features through outdoor learning aligned to the new national curriculum.

EU 5.2 Work with schools to improve connections between the special qualities and features of the Anglesey AONB, landscape change and their curricular and extra-curricular activities aligned to the new national curriculum.

EU 5.3 Work with partners to provide opportunities for outdoor learning for all ages and abilities in keeping with the goals of lifelong learning and social well-being.

EU 5.4 Work with partners to ensure there is greater awareness and appreciation of the Anglesey AONB by those who live, work or visit the AONB.

Objective 6: Interpretation and Information

The meanings of the AONB's special qualities and features are revealed through effective interpretation.

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

Policies

EU 6.1 Increase the profile of the AONB through effective and consistent interpretation and information for both residents and visitors.

THEME 4

Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

Aim

Communities within, and adjacent to, the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

7.1.8 The AONB is home to over 16,000 people. They are distributed in sizeable settlements such as Beaumaris and Newborough and in dispersed communities throughout the area. The AONB is therefore both a protected landscape and a living and working community. While many people commute to other employment centres on the island or on the mainland employment within the AONB is mainly in tourism and agriculture. The natural resources of the island are therefore a significant foundation for people's livelihoods.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|---|---|
| Demise of family succession and ownership in agriculture and small business | Funding (increase and decrease) |
| Lack of affordable housing | Tourism traffic and increasing interest in off-road cycling |
| Increase in the number of second homes | Changes in local government |
| Lack of employment opportunities | Demand for local products |
| Migration patterns and population structures | Awareness of health and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation |
| Loss of community patterns and traditions | Community involvement and support |
| Demise in local traditions and skills | Home working and broadband provision, enabling more people to use virtual working practices |
| Government policy, including post-Brexit environmental legislation | Climate change |
| Rural development programmes post-Brexit | Impact of other infrastructure projects |

Who are the key partners?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Natural Resources Wales | Local Authority Departments |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Business associations |
| Farming Unions | Menter Môn |
| Landowners, communities | Welsh Government |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|--|---|
| Post-Brexit agri-environment and rural development schemes | Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 |
| Welsh Government Natural Resource Policy | Local Development Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | Anglesey Destination Management Plan |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | North West Wales Area Statement and Marine Area Statement |

Objective 1: Land Management

Land managers safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the AONB's special qualities and features and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services.

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

Policies

LWL 1.1 Support farming so that it remains one of the principal land uses within the Anglesey AONB and contributes to maintaining the quality of the landscape and the AONB's special qualities and features.

LWL 1.2 Ensure the continued viability of agriculture and its allied businesses in ways which conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB.

LWL 1.3 Influence policy, plans and funding streams which support farmers and other rural landowners.

LWL 1.4 Support the sound management and appropriate expansion of woodland within the AONB for both their commercial and social value.

LWL 1.5 Support opportunities for farmers and landowners to identify and develop environmentally sustainable diversification enterprises that conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB.

LWL 1.6 Encourage and support measures, including financial initiatives under agri-environment schemes which are targeted towards the enhancement of the special qualities and features of the AONB.

Objective 2: Viable Communities

Local culture and rural services, products and activities are maintained, securing affordable homes for local people and supporting the Welsh language.

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

Policies

LWL 2.1 Promote local employment and local business opportunities which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's special qualities and features; support local communities within the AONB and increase the ability of people to live and work locally.

LWL 2.2 Recognise a proven need for affordable housing within the AONB in accordance with relevant planning and housing policies.

LWL 2.3 Encourage and enhance the retention and provision of local services within the AONB's communities whilst reducing the move towards urbanisation.

Objective 3: Community Involvement

The communities of the AONB are engaged through meaningful consultation and empowerment to improve participation, inclusivity, active lifestyles and to take pride in their AONB community.

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

Policies

LWL 3.1 Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high quality, community-led initiatives that contribute to the understanding, conservation, and enhancement of the special qualities and features of the AONB.

LWL 3.2 Work with others to help develop and deliver the health and well-being agenda

LWL 3.3 Continue to build and maintain the volunteering capacity, and diversity of volunteer roles and the range of opportunities that deliver AONB purposes.

Objective 4: Business

Businesses in the AONB contribute positively to a healthy rural economy providing employment opportunities for people who live on Anglesey.

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

Policies

LWL 4.1 Work with partners to increase the availability and speed of broadband and the coverage of the mobile phone network, to facilitate business growth, encourage home working and hybrid lifestyles, and improve the quality of rural life.

LWL 4.2 Promote a profitable, high quality local food processing economy as a way of revitalising rural incomes, and to raise awareness among local residents, organisations and visitors about the benefits to the landscape/seascape, economy and social fabric of purchasing locally sourced foods.

LWL 4.3 Support opportunities that encourage local businesses in the AONB to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that conserve the special qualities and features of the AONB.

Objective 5: Sustainability

An increased proportion of the resident population of the AONB adopts sustainable lifestyles.

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

Policies

LWL 5.1 Ensure that the sustainability concept is recognised and understood as a basic requirement underlying all policies.

LWL 5.2 Ensure that the landscape and the special qualities and features of the AONB are recognised and valued as an economic asset, providing information about projects and examples of best practice.

LWL 5.3 Promote the efficient, sustainable use of the AONB's natural resources to conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the AONB.

LWL 5.4 Promote the objectives of the Waste Hierarchy in the AONB, which are to reduce, reuse and recycle, thus ensuring the sustainable management of waste.

Objective 6: Transport

National and local transport agencies have put in place policies, guidance and decisions to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, maintain local distinctiveness, provide services and support a buoyant rural economy.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 6.1 Promote the integration and use of more sustainable public transport systems as part of a multi-modal approach in the AONB.

LWL 6.2 Encourage cycling for both commuting and leisure purposes through the development and promotion of a seamless and safer network and by exploring opportunities for future off-road cycling infrastructure.

LWL 6.3 Ensure that the special qualities and features of the AONB are fully respected in the planning, design, provision and management of all types of transport schemes.

LWL 6.4 Promote the AONB as a model for high standards of design in highway schemes, infrastructure and associated landscaping which complement the special qualities of the AONB.

Objective 7: Partnership working

The JAC will continuously seek opportunities to promote joint working with and between stakeholders to secure the purposes of designation and maximise funds.
(Final document – Objective and Policies cross referenced via page numbers to Action Plan)

Policies

LWL 7.1 Foster effective partnership and administrative arrangements to lead and co-ordinate the management of the AONB via the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC).

LWL 7.2 Share knowledge, best practice and skills in protected landscape management through the JAC and the Protected Landscape network.

THEME 5

Managing the AONB in a changing climate

Aim

Aim

The AONB partners and communities are working positively to reduce carbon emissions, renewable and sustainable energy initiatives are pursued, and the principles of adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change are adopted to protect the natural beauty and landscape / seascape character of the AONB.

7.1.9 Climate change is likely to have a significant impact on the Anglesey environment. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, increased frequency of storms and predicted rising sea levels will affect the landscape, its habitats and its species. These impacts will have a detrimental effect on individuals, communities, businesses, health and well-being.

7.1.10 The impacts on habitats include soil erosion of fens from increased rainfall, erosion and habitat change of sand dunes, and erosion of soft sediment cliffs and coastlines. There will be impacts too on the interdependency and range of species, on populations of rare and endangered species that are characteristic of the island and on communities within the AONB and the whole of Anglesey.

What are the key forces for change?

| | |
|---|--|
| Cumulative effects of carbon emissions | Public engagement |
| The need to respond to a changing climate – such as flood management and coastal protection | Government policy |
| Increased demand for fresh water | Government funding (increase and decrease) |
| Lack of public awareness | |

Who are the key partners?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natural Resources Wales | Countryside and AONB unit |
| Landscape and wildlife organisations | Welsh Government |
| Landowners, communities, | UK Government |

| What are the key policy influences? | |
|---|--|
| Welsh Government Natural Resource Policy | The IACC Towards Net Zero Plan |
| UK Environment Act 2021 | UK Climate Change Committee risk assessment report – Wales |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 | Local Development Plan |
| Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 | West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan |
| Water Framework Directive | Wales National Marine Plan |
| The IACC Council Plan | North West Wales Area Statement and Marine Area Statement |

Objective 1: Understanding about climate change

Partner organisations and communities are more aware of the impacts of climate change on the natural beauty and economy of the AONB

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

Policies

CLCH 1.1 Ensure that the vision and policies of the Anglesey Energy Island Programme are promoted within AONB communities.

CLCH 1.2 Provide easily accessible information and interpretation, and education programmes, on the changes that are likely to happen in the AONB as a result of a changing climate.

Objective 2: Action on climate change

Landowners and communities are involved in activities that help to ameliorate the impacts of climate change on the AONB.

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

Policies

CLCH 2.1 Empower communities to explore ways they can help to take action on climate change.

CLCH 2.2 Ensure landowners and land managers understand best practice in approaches to carbon sequestration and land management that reduces carbon emissions and manages water catchment and flow and take action wherever appropriate.

CLCH 2.3 Encourage destination managers and tourism operators to develop approaches to sustainable tourism that reduces carbon emissions and mitigates against, or adapts to, the effects of climate change.

THEME: Managing the AONB in a changing climate

AIM: The AONB partners and communities are working positively to reduce carbon emissions, renewable and sustainable energy initiatives are pursued, and the principles of adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change are adopted to protect the natural beauty and landscape / seascape character of the AONB.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| CLCH 1.1 - 1.2 Page 253 | Understanding about climate change Partner organisations and communities are more aware of the impacts of climate change on the natural beauty and economy of the AONB | 1. Collaborate with partners organisations and academic institutions to better understand the implications of climate change on the AONB and implement measures to mitigate and adapt through (where possible), nature-based solutions 2. The AONB Unit in association with partners, to provide and implement an annual programme of events and activities for schools to raise awareness and understanding of climate change | IACC AONB Unit | JAC NRW/WG Bangor University | 2023-25 |
| | | | AONB Unit IACC | Schools | Annual |
| CLCH 2.1 - 2.3 | Action on climate change Landowners and communities are involved in activities that help to ameliorate the impacts of climate change on the AONB. | 1. Work with landowners, tenants and land managers to promote best practice and identify opportunities for carbon sequestration, water catchment, and climate adaptation through agricultural practices 2. Assist with preparing a Sustainable Tourism Strategy aligned to the IACC's Destination Management Plan 3. Promote and administer Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places [SLSP] | Farming Unions AONB Unit IACC | JAC Landowners / Land managers | Annual |
| | | | Tourism Unit AONB Unit | DAP JAC | tbc |
| | | | AONB Unit IACC | JAC | 2022-25 |

THEME: Managing the AONB in a changing climate

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| | | and Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for decarbonisation and nature recovery projects | | Landowners / Land managers | |
|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|--|

THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

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

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| CCC 1.1 - 1.4 Page 255 | <u>Landscape/Seascape</u> The coastal landscape and seascape are actively conserved through appropriate management. | 1. Continued use of Landmap when assessing new and proposed developments. | IACC | NRW | Ongoing |
| | | 2. Equip officers with Landmap and GIS training including familiarisation of new mapping and modelling technology linked to climate change. | IACC | NRW | 2023/24 |
| | | 3. Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment utilised when assessing new and proposed marine developments | IACC | NRW | Ongoing |
| | | 4. Continued IACC co-opted membership of the GeoMôn Board to influence and advise on funding, collaborative working and retaining UNESCO Geopark status. | IACC | GeoMôn NRW | Quarterly |
| CCC 2.1 - 2.3 | <u>Historic Landscape and Culture</u> Historic, archaeological and cultural sites are protected from development that degrades the special qualities of the AONB and interpreted to increase | 1. Promote the management and conservation of the AONB's historical and archaeological features 2. Outline key historic and archaeological locations within the AONB that can be used for education purposes aligned to the new school curriculum | GAT GAT / AONB Unit | AONB Unit / IACC IACC Schools | 2023-24/ Ongoing 2023-24 / ongoing 2023-24 / ongoing |

THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

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

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|------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Page 256 | people's understanding of their value. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Provide training in traditional and rural skills activities through the AONB Volunteer Programme 4. Identify key messages and themes and appropriate methods and materials for interpretation 5. Develop a project to research, catalogue, protect and promote Anglesey AONB's Welsh language place names, beaches and coves, rivers / streams and agricultural field names | AONB Unit | NRW, WG SPF | 2023-25 |
| | | | AONB Unit / Oriel - Archives | Menter Iaith Schools | |
| CCC 3.1 - 3.5 | <p>Development</p> <p>Planning Policies protect the special qualities of the landscape, ensuring that all development within and adjacent to the boundary of the AONB is compatible with the aims and objectives of the designation and that new developments enhance local character.</p> | 1. Integrate the new AONB Management Plan as policy within relevant sections of the new Local Development Plan for Anglesey. | AONB Unit / Planning Policy Unit | IACC JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 2. Production and publication of a series of relevant AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to support the AONB Management Plan and Local Development Plan. | AONB Unit / Planning Policy Unit | IACC JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 3. The AONB Unit to receive all Planning applications within and 2km adjacent to the AONB and respond accordingly. | IACC Development Management | AONB Unit Planning and Policy Service | Weekly Bi-annual |

THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

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

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|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Page 257 | | <p>4. Create closer working practices and reciprocal training between the AONB Unit and Planning and Policy Service.</p> <p>5. Improve and develop the dialogue with Section 85 organisations undertaking work in the AONB aligned to the AONB Management Plan's policies culminating in an annual report with recommendations.</p> | <p>AONB Unit</p> <p>AONB Unit</p> | <p>Utilities JAC</p> | <p>Bi-annual</p> |
| | <p>CCC 4.1 – 4.3</p> | <p><u>Peace and Tranquillity</u> Unspoilt panoramic views, darks skies and tranquillity are safeguarded from development that would degrade the special qualities of the AONB.</p> | <p>1. Application to the International Dark-sky Association (IDA) to accredit an area within the AONB as dark sky status.</p> <p>2. IACC (Officer and Member) and JAC training to raise awareness and understanding of lighting /dark skies from an environmental, economic, health / well-being and cultural perspective.</p> <p>3. Production and publication of a lighting AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to</p> | <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>Planning Policy Unit</p> | <p>IACC NRW Landowners / Communities</p> <p>IACC JAC</p> <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>Businesses General public</p> |

THEME: Enhancing countryside and coastal character

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

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|----------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Page 258 | | <p>support the AONB Management Plan and Local Development Plan.</p> <p>4. Continued support and implementation for retrofitting of outdoor dark sky friendly lighting on public and private buildings via Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) Fund</p> <p>5. Engage with the relevant stakeholders to reduce the prevalence of noisy marine activities along some parts of the coast</p> | <p>AONB Unit Prosiect Nos</p> <p>Maritime Unit</p> | <p>IACC</p> <p>IACC</p> | <p>Seasonal</p> |
| | <p>CCC 5.1 - 5.3</p> | <p><u>The Ecosystem Approach</u> A model is agreed among partners and key stakeholders for applying an ecosystem approach to the management of the natural environment.</p> | <p>1. Establish targeted climate change research projects with partners and education bodies.</p> <p>2. Undertake a series of workshops with stakeholders to identify the goods and services delivered by the Ecosystems on Anglesey and their impact on the special qualities and features of the AONB.</p> <p>3. Collate all relevant sources of data and mapping and make available to partners</p> | <p>AONB Unit IACC</p> <p>AONB Unit IACC</p> <p>AONB Unit IACC</p> | <p>NRW/WG JAC Bangor University Coleg Menai</p> <p>JAC NRW/WG</p> <p>NRW/WG JAC</p> |

THEME: The AONB as a Place for Enjoyment, Learning and Wellbeing

AIM: People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate the special qualities and features in a sensitive and sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|-----------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| EU 1.1 - 1.3 | Tourism Partnerships are developed that secure sustainable recreation activities, supporting rural services and employment, and contributing to the local economy | 1. Ensure close alignment of the AONB Management Plan and the Destination Management Plan | AONB Unit Tourism Unit | JAC DAP | 2023-24 |
| | | 2. Closer working practices and collaboration between the AONB's Joint Advisory Committee and the Destination Anglesey Partnership (DAP) | AONB Unit | JAC DAP | 2023-24 / Ongoing |
| EU 2.1 - 2.2 | Recreation The AONB continues to be a popular location for sustainable recreation with both residents and visitors, and the risk of damage to the AONB's special qualities and features is lessened. | 1. The AONB Unit working with relevant partners to provide an annual events and activities programme | AONB Unit | Event suppliers | 2022-25 |
| | | 2. Promote and administer Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) funding for sustainable recreation | AONB Unit | Businesses Event suppliers | 2022-25 |
| EU 3.1 - 3.2 | A welcoming AONB The impacts of pollution and recreation upon the special qualities and features of the AONB are regularly monitored to ensure that any | 1. Raise awareness and trial new / innovative methods of controlling littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and associated anti-social behaviour within and adjacent to the AONB 2. AONB Volunteers working with partners, schools and community groups to arrange beach cleans and segregate the marine waste for recycling | IACC Waste Mgmt AONB Unit | JAC | Ongoing |

THEME: The AONB as a Place for Enjoyment, Learning and Wellbeing

AIM: People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate the special qualities and features in a sensitive and sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | incidents are within acceptable limits. | | | | |
| EU 4.1 - 4.2 Page 260 | Access The access network is managed to a high standard, providing access opportunities appropriate to the purposes of the designation. | 1. Review and improve signage between villages, towns, other promoted routes, countryside sites, car parks and visitor facilities within the AONB | Coastal Path and PROW Units | JAC | 2023-25 |
| | | 2. AONB Volunteers to assist the Coastal Path Unit with improving and maintenance of the coastal path network | AONB Unit | Coastal Path Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 3. Review, re-invest and reposition data monitoring equipment within the AONB. Collate and analyse at quarterly intervals and disseminate to relevant partners. | AONB Unit | Coastal Path /PROW Unit JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 4. Production of a heathland strategy and action plan to enable the conservation and enhancement of lowland heath / common land for access and conservation purposes. | AONB Unit | Coastal Path /PROW Unit JAC | 2023-24 |
| EU 5.1 - 5.4 | Understanding and Lifelong Learning The whole community is aware of the benefits of the AONB designation through the regular promotion of the special qualities and features of the AONB and its management needs. | 1. The AONB Unit and Partners to provide an annual programme of educational activities and events linked to the new National Curriculum | AONB Unit IACC | Schools | Weekly – Monthly |
| | | 2. AONB Unit to continue supporting and participating in the work of Outdoor Learning Wales on Anglesey | AONB Unit | | Bi-annual |
| | | | AONB Unit | Schools JAC | Weekly – Monthly |

THEME: The AONB as a Place for Enjoyment, Learning and Wellbeing

AIM: People understand and support the primary purpose of the AONB. They have opportunities to experience and appreciate the special qualities and features in a sensitive and sustainable way and contribute positively to its current and future management.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| | | 3. Raise awareness of the education resources available from the AONB and utilise the Breakwater Country Park as a centre for schools' activities and events linked to the new curriculum. | | | |
| EU 6.1 Page 261 | <u>Interpretation and Information</u> The meanings of the AONB's special qualities and features are revealed through effective interpretation. | 1. Work with the IACC's Tourism Unit to review and report on all outdoor interpretation in the AONB to evaluate condition, relevance, location, compliance etc (include digital technology as part of review) | Tourism Unit AONB Unit | DAP JAC | 2023-25 |
| | | 2. Develop an interpretation and information plan for the AONB linked to the recommendations of the above review. | Tourism Unit AONB Unit | DAP JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 3. Prepare a year long programme of events and activities to celebrate the 60 th anniversary since Anglesey's AONB being designated (1966-2026) | AONB Unit IACC | JAC NRW WG | 2025 |

THEME: Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|--|-----------|
| LWL 1.1 - 1.6 Page 262 | <u>Land Management</u> Land managers safeguard sustainable land use activities that support the special qualities and contribute to the local economy by providing products and services | 1. Influence and promote the Sustainable Farming Scheme (Welsh Government's emerging agri-environment initiative) | Farming Unions | AONB Unit WG JAC | 2023-25 |
| | | 2. Support and promote local food supply chains and local food producers aligned to conserving and enhancing the AONB's special qualities | Farming Unions | Menter Môn AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 3. Develop tree / woodland planting schemes proportionate to land availability and suitability | AONB Unit | JAC Landowners / Land Managers | Annual |
| | | 4. Development of IACC Tree Nursery to supply trees for planting schemes [farmland, communities and landscaping commercial developments] | AONB Unit | Volunteers | 2023-24 |
| | | 5. Continuation of Anglesey Rivers' Project (River Wygyr) to improve water quality [river and bathing waters] improve public access, tree planting and increase bio-diversity | AONB Unit | NWRT WG Landowners / Land Managers | 2022-25 |
| | | 6. Promote and administer Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) funding for nature recovery and decarbonisation projects | AONB Unit | JAC Landowners / | 2022-25 |

THEME: Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | | | | Land Managers WG | |
| LWL 2.1 - 2.3 Page 263 | <u>Viable Communities</u> Local culture and rural services, products and activities are maintained, securing affordable homes for local people and supporting the Welsh language | 1. Improve dialogue with internal departments of IACC relevant to affordable housing in the AONB as well as external agencies | IACC | AONB Unit | 2023-24 |
| | | 2. Support and alignment with the North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan | IACC Economic Development | Destination Management Local Community | 2023-25 |
| | | 3. Promote and initiate volunteering opportunities through the AONB Volunteer Group with relevant community groups and employment agencies. | AONB Unit | IACC JAC DWP | 2023-27 |
| LWL 3.1 - 3.3 | <u>Community Involvement</u> The communities of the AONB are engaged through meaningful consultation and empowerment to improve participation, inclusivity, active lifestyles and to take pride in their AONB community. | 1. The AONB Unit's AONB Community Wardens to maintain and promote links with communities to develop projects and initiatives. | AONB Unit | Communities | Weekly – Monthly |
| | | 2. The AONB Unit's AONB Community Wardens to actively encourage membership of the AONB Volunteer Group. | AONB Unit | Communities | Monthly |
| | | 3. The AONB Unit to provide and implement an annual programme of events and activities. | AONB Unit | JAC Events providers | Weekly – Monthly |
| | | | AONB Unit | IACC Medrwn Môn Menter Môn | 2023-24 / ongoing |

THEME: Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

AIM: Communities within, and adjacent to the AONB contribute to the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities and features while increasing their existing economic and social activities sustainably.

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|---------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Page 254 | | <p>4. The AONB Unit to foster closer ties with relevant IACC Sections, Medrwn Môn and Menter Môn to deliver on key community objectives and initiatives.</p> <p>5. Promote and administer Welsh Government’s Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) and Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).</p> | AONB Unit | JAC Communities | 2022-25 |
| | LWL 4.3 | <p><u>Business</u> Businesses in the AONB contribute positively to a healthy rural economy providing employment opportunities for people who live on Anglesey</p> | <p>1. Joint working with multiple partners to enable more effective, efficient and sustainable working practices</p> <p>2. Support and promote local food supply chains and local food producers aligned to conserving and enhancing the AONB’s special qualities</p> <p>3. Promote Welsh Government’s Sustainable Development Fund as a catalyst for joint funding of projects</p> | <p>IACC Economic Development</p> <p>Menter Môn</p> <p>AONB Unit</p> | <p>AONB Unit</p> <p>AONB Unit Suppliers</p> <p>Businesses</p> |
| LWL 5.1 - 5.4 | <p><u>Sustainability</u> An increased proportion of the resident population of the AONB</p> | <p>1. The AONB Unit to continue to adopt and implement sustainable working principles and practices</p> | <p>AONB Unit</p> <p>AONB Unit</p> | <p>IACC</p> <p>JAC NRW</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2023-24 / Ongoing</p> |

THEME: Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

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|----------------------|---|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Page 265 | adopts sustainable lifestyles. | 2. Identify important landscape/seascape elements and explore the links between the AONB's special qualities and the ecosystem approach | AONB Unit | Bangor University | 2023-24 / Ongoing |
| | | 3. Identify current and future uses of the AONB's natural resources and explore the links to the ecosystems approach | IACC Waste Management | JAC NRW Bangor University AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 4. Support the Welsh Government and IACC's Waste Management principles and strategies | AONB Unit | Communities Businesses | Ongoing |
| | | 5. Promote Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund as a catalyst for joint funding of projects | | | |
| LWL 6.1 - 6.4 | Transport National and local transport agencies have put in place policies, guidance and decisions to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB, maintain local distinctiveness, provide | 1. Ensure the AONB Unit has an opportunity to contribute to any transport plans and programmes | IACC Transport Unit | AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 2. Ensure transport and PROW strategies support the AONB Management Plan's objectives and policies | Transport and PROW Units | AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 3. Production and publication of relevant AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance [SPG] to support the AONB Management Plan and Local Development Plan | Planning Policy Unit | AONB Unit | 2024-25 |

THEME: Vibrant Communities in a Working Landscape

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| | services and support a buoyant rural economy. | | Transport Unit | | |
| Page 266 | LWL 7.1 - 7.2 Partnership working The JAC will continuously seek opportunities to promote joint working with and between stakeholders to secure the purposes of designation and maximise funds. | 1. Extension of contracts for the 2Nº AONB Community Wardens and Assistant AONB Project Officer to enable effective implementation of the AONB Management Plan's Action Plan | AONB Unit IACC | WG | 2024 |
| | | 2. Review and strengthen the role of the JAC including governance and training | AONB Unit IACC | JAC | 2023-24 |
| | | 3. Seek new and additional resources to implement the AONB Management Plan's Action Plan | AONB Unit | WG NRW | Ongoing |
| | | 4. Arrange 4Nº JAC meetings annually [of which 1Nº site / project visits. | AONB Unit | JAC | Quarterly |
| | | 5. Attend and contribute to the National Designated Landscapes Wales Partnership (NDLWP) | AONB Unit | NDLWP WG NRW | Quarterly |
| | | 6. Continued membership, participation and contribution to the NAAONB & Europarc: attend meetings, seminars, workshops, training events and conferences when appropriate | AONB Unit | NAAONB | Ongoing |

THEME: Tackling the Nature Crisis

AIM: The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the special qualities of the AONB environment. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

| Policy Ref. | Objective | Actions to deliver this objective | Lead | Partnership/ Collaboration | Timescale |
|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| NE 1.1 - 1.5 Page 267 | <u>Habitat and Species Conservation</u> The coast and countryside are managed sensitively to maintain the diversity of habitats and species in a favourable condition and to improve connectivity between sites. | 1. The AONB Unit to assist and contribute to the priorities of the LBAP for Anglesey and actions within IACC's Corporate Biodiversity Plan | PBNE | LNP AONB Unit | Ongoing |
| | | 2. The AONB Unit to forge closer working with IACC's Planning, Built and Natural Environment (PBNE) Unit to share resources, exchange knowledge and prepare joint funding bids. | AONB Unit | PBNE | Ongoing |
| | | 3. The AONB Unit working collaboratively with Partners to lead and administer Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales' funding programmes on heathland, wildflower meadows, roadside verges / roundabouts conservation and management. | AONB Unit | IACC JAC Landowners / Land Managers Community Councils | 2022-25 |
| | | 4. The AONB Unit to lead and co-ordinate the Himalayan Balsam Partnership and expand it to an Invasive Non-Native Species [INNS] Partnership | AONB Unit | JAC NRW | Bi-annual |
| | | 5. Via the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), agree a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between IACC and Cofnod | AONB Unit | PBNE Development Management | 2023-25 |

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| Page 268 | | | | IACC | |
| NE 2.1 - 2.3 | <u>Soil, Air and Water</u> The quality of the soil, air and water – both | 1. Collate relevant data which can be incorporated and updated into the State of the AONB Report and help determine the values associated with the ecosystem approach | IACC | NRW WG | Annual |

THEME: Tackling the Nature Crisis

AIM: The whole community has accepted the importance of conserving the natural world and wildlife and supports legislation that protects the special qualities of the AONB environment. Designated wildlife sites are managed sensitively and form part of an increasingly rich matrix of wildlife-friendly countryside. Incidents of pollution of soil, air and water in the AONB will be reduced.

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| | freshwater and seawater – is regularly monitored to maintain standards that exceed UK and European standards. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support the work of IACC and agencies monitoring and reporting on soil, air and water quality 3. Work with NRW and the Farming Unions to gather relevant data and better understand the links to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) | IACC IACC | NRW WG Dwr Cymru Farming Unions | Annual 2022-25 |
| NE 1 - 3.3 Page 269 | <p><u>Designated Areas and Other Important Sites</u> Both statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites are managed for their biodiversity, aesthetic and amenity value.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the JAC and partners to identify suitable sites for joint working, joint funding bids and volunteering opportunities | LNP | AONB Unit JAC | 2023-24 / ongoing |

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| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
|--|--|
| Report to: | The Executive / full Council |
| Date: | 18/07/2023, 12/09/2023 |
| Subject: | Adoption of draft Petitions Scheme |
| Portfolio Holder(s): | Councillor Carwyn Elias Jones (Corporate Business and Customer Experience Portfolio Holder) |
| Head of Service / Director: | Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lynnball@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Report Author: Tel: E-mail: | Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer lynnball@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
| Local Members: | Not a local matter |

| A –Recommendation/s |
|--|
| <p>The Executive</p> <p>1. To consider the draft Petitions Scheme (“the Scheme”) at Enclosure 1 to this Report and to make recommendations, if any, to full Council regarding adoption of the Scheme.</p> <p>Council</p> <p>2. To consider the Scheme at Enclosure 1 to this Report and adopt same</p> <p>3. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to amend the Council’s Constitution to incorporate the Scheme</p> <p>4. To delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to make minor changes to the Scheme to ensure its smooth operation, with any material changes to be authorised only by full Council</p> <p>5. To authorise the Head of Democracy to implement the Scheme as soon as possible and to ensure reasonable steps are taken to promote its availability to the public</p> <p>6. To request that the Head of Democracy provide a report to the Democratic Services Committee on the operation of the Scheme as soon as possible after 12 months from the date of its implementation.</p> |

A – Reason/s

- 1.1 Section 42 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places a duty on principal councils to make and publish a Petitions Scheme. The relevant draft Guidance was published in April 2023.
- 1.2 This Scheme is in addition to, rather than a replacement for, the current arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules which enable elected members to submit petitions at Council meetings.
- 1.3 The Scheme, at **Enclosure 1** to this Report, meets the new statutory requirements, including an explanation of what constitutes a valid petition, who may submit a petition, how to submit a petition and how the Council will deal with the petitions it receives.
- 1.4 Valid petitions will be published on the Council's website but electronic petitions will also be populated on the Council's website using the Modern.Gov software which supports the committee system
- 1.5 It is specifically noted that the Scheme will not apply where a statutory consultation process is already being pursued eg planning, licencing, schools modernisation
- 1.6 The Scheme was considered by the Leadership Team on 5/12/2022 and 26/6/2023, was consulted upon with the Heads of Service and other relevant officers during December 2022 and January 2023, was presented to the Group Leaders on 22/3/2023 and open to consultation responses from the Group Leaders between 22/3/2023 and 28/4/2023
- 1.7 The Scheme will be operated and managed by Democratic Services and, with the agreement of Council, will be reviewed by the Democratic Services Committee after the Scheme has been operational for 12 months.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

No other options were considered as the adoption of a compliant Scheme is now a statutory requirement. Some elements of the Scheme were / are a matter of local choice. These were discussed with the Leadership Team, Heads of Service and other relevant officers, and Group Leaders. The content of the Scheme represents the majority view of the Group Leaders and Senior Officers. Should any of those elements require further review, then changes can be made by Council in the future.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Changes to the Constitution will only be approved by full Council after consideration of the proposal by the Executive (Section 2.15.2 of the Constitution)

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Changes to the Constitution are in line with the new statutory provisions.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

No current budget implications

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island? | Not Relevant |
| 2 | Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how? | Not Relevant |
| 3 | Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom. | Not Relevant |
| 4 | Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how. | No, but the Scheme provides a further mechanism for Anglesey citizens to raise matters of local concern and importance with the Council |
| 5 | Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. | The Scheme will be open to anyone over the age of 16 with the relevant local connection as described in the Scheme Petitions may be either paper or electronic and the Council will also take the views of the public into consideration in a number of different ways. Some examples are included in the draft Petition Scheme. |
| 6 | If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those | Not Relevant |

| Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant): | | |
|--|--|--|
| | 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. | We enable and encourage those who wish to submit a petition to do so in Welsh or English |

| E – Who did you consult? | | What did they say? |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory) | Consulted on 5/12/2022 and 26/6/2023. Supportive of the recommendations |
| 2 | Finance / Section 151 (mandatory) | Consulted as part of the Leadership Team and supportive response received as part of that process |
| 3 | Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory) | Report Author |
| 4 | Human Resources (HR) | Part of the Heads of Service consultation which took place in December 2022 and January 2023. No objection received |
| 5 | Property | Part of the Heads of Service consultation which took place in December 2022 and January 2023. No objection received |
| 6 | Information Communication Technology (ICT) | Working in collaboration with the IT Team Manager in relation to the technical elements of the project. Recommended using the Mod.Gov system. Work between IT and Democratic Services is ongoing |
| 7 | Procurement | Not relevant as no procurement exercise required |
| 8 | Scrutiny | n/a |
| 9 | Local Members | n/a |
| 10 | Other | <p>Policy and Welsh Language Manager – advice on Welsh language and equalities issues. Advice incorporated into the Scheme</p> <p>Data Protection Officer and Corporate Information Governance Manager – advice on privacy impact assessment i.e. how we shall collect, hold, process and destroy personal data shared through the Scheme. A formal privacy</p> |

| E – Who did you consult? | What did they say? |
|--------------------------|---|
| | impact assessment will be adopted before the Scheme “goes live”. The Scheme will be accompanied by a privacy notice |

| F - Appendices: |
|--------------------------------------|
| Enclosure 1 – Draft Petitions Scheme |

| Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information): |
|---|
| <p>Local Governments and Elections (Wales) Act 2021</p> <p>Statutory and Non Statutory Guidance for Principal Councils in Wales – supporting provisions within the Local Government Act 2000, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021</p> |

Draft Petition Scheme
Isle of Anglesey County Council



| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. | Introduction |
| | This petitions process gives members of the public an opportunity to influence political decisions/priorities and to raise concerns which are important to them/their communities |
| 2. | Subject matter of Petitions |
| | The public may submit petitions about matters for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affects the area, or where the Council has a legitimate interest |
| 3. | Who is eligible to submit a petition? |
| | Anyone who lives, works, owns a business, owns land or studies on the Island, may organise/sign a petition; including those who are 16 years of age and over |
| 4. | How to submit a petition |
| | <p>Petitions may be either paper, or electronic</p> <p>Paper petitions should be sent to the Head of Democracy (at XXXXXXXXXX)</p> <p>Alternatively, electronic petitions may be requested online using this link</p> |
| 5. | Requirements for a valid petition |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The subject matter of the petition must comply with paragraph 2 above 2. The petition organiser and signatories must meet the requirements for eligibility described in paragraph 3 above 3. Must have at least 100 valid signatures. The Council will exercise its discretion where fewer than 100 signatories are received, in cases where there is clear local support for action (for example, a small community seeking traffic calming measures) 4. Must include a clear, concise, statement dealing with the subject of the petition and stating what decision/s, action/s the Council is asked to make/take. Ambiguous petitions will not be valid 5. Must be accompanied by the full contact details (name, address, any email/s and telephone number/s of the petition organiser). This person will |

be the Council's point of contact for acknowledgement of the petition and any communications regarding the petition. The contact details of the petition organiser **will not** be published by the Council

6. Must include the name, contact details and signature of each of those persons supporting the petition. This requirement will apply to paper petitions upon receipt and to electronic petitions at the point when the petitions close for signature on the Council's website. The contact details of those signing the petition **will not** be published by the Council

6. Electronic Petitions

1. The Council welcomes e-petitions which are created and submitted through our website on this link
2. E-petitions must follow the same principles as paper petitions
3. The petition organiser will have to provide the Council with their name, postal address, e-mail address/es and telephone number/s
4. The petition organiser will also have to decide how long their petition shall be open for signatures on the Council's website; up to a maximum of 3 months from publication
5. If the Council is of the view that it is unable to publish an e-petition, for some reason, then the Council will contact the petition organiser within 5 working days of receipt of the petition to explain the reason/s for refusal. A petition may then be changed/amended and re-submitted for further consideration
6. When an e-petition has closed for signatures, then the petition organiser will receive an acknowledgement from the Council within 5 working days and the petition will then be dealt with in the same way as any paper petition
7. Anyone wishing to sign an e-petition will be asked to provide their name, postcode and a valid e-mail address. Once this information has been submitted, the sender will receive an e-mail to the e-mail address which has been provided. This e-mail will include a link which the recipient must 'click on' in order to confirm that the e-mail address is valid. Once this step has been completed then the 'notional signature' will be added to the petition
8. Those visiting the e-petition will be able to see the names of those who have signed, but not the contact details of signatories

7. Are there any petitions which cannot be accepted?

Although the Council believes that an effective Petition Scheme is one of the ways in which the Council may address public/community concerns and priorities, in

some circumstances petitions may not be accepted. This may include petitions which:

1. Do not meet one or more of the requirements in Sections 5 and 6 above
2. Contain offensive, derisive or provocative language. This not only includes obvious swearing and insults but any language that a reasonable person would consider to be offensive
3. Contain false or defamatory statements
4. Contain information which has been prohibited from publication by a Court Order or a body or person with similar powers
5. Contain material that may be confidential, commercially sensitive or may cause distress or personal loss
6. Promote any product, service or publication or statements that amount to advertisements
7. Name individuals, or give information by which individuals may easily be identified
8. Are not the appropriate channel (for example, correspondence about a personal matter or a matter that is the subject of a Court case)
9. Are about matters that are already the subject of an Ombudsman's decision (or someone with similar powers)
10. Are essentially freedom of information requests, observations, complaints or compliments. Such "petitions" will be forwarded to the appropriate service for a suitable response
11. Raise matters relating to alleged misconduct by Councillors or Council employees; which shall be taken as complaints that arise under the Local Government Act 2000 and shall be reported to the Monitoring Officer instead of being considered under the Petition Scheme
12. Are about an issue that is subject to consultation, or a statutory response period; such petitions shall be dealt with in accordance with the arrangements from a timetable that has been designated for that process
13. Are the same, or substantially the same, as a petition submitted within the previous six months
14. Are derived from other online petition systems; to ensure that petitions have not been copied or otherwise adulterated

15. Form one of a number of petitions received on the same / similar subject, seeking the same / similar outcomes. In these circumstances, only one petition organiser shall be able to submit their petition to the Council. The petition organiser for each petition will be informed by the Head of Democracy and they will be asked to contact each other to consider options, including combining the petitions, and to decide which petition organiser will submit the petition to the Council. If no agreement can be reached, the petition with the greater/greatest number of signatories will be accepted for submission to the Council

8. How will the Council deal with petitions?

1. Once the Council has received a petition it will be acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt and the petition organiser will be advised what the Council intends to do with the petition, and when they might expect to hear further
2. All validated petitions shall be published on the Council's website. That is, those which comply with the requirements of the Petition Scheme. If the subject matter of the petition requires further investigation, then the Council will inform the petition organiser of the steps it intends to take and the likely timeframe
3. If the Council concludes that a petition is not valid/acceptable, for any reason/s, then the Council will let the petition organiser know, explain the reasons and, where possible, advise the petition organiser about how the petition might be revised or amended to bring it within the Petition Scheme
4. Petitions received in relation to planning, licensing or grant applications / appeals etc which have not yet been decided, will be referred to the lead officer and treated as a consultation response in relation to the application / appeal etc
5. The initial acknowledgement/validation of a petition will be sent to the organiser of the petition and will be published on the Council's website
6. A petition which has been accepted/validated will be referred to the full Council, or the Executive, or a relevant member of the Executive, or the Scrutiny Committee or any other committee having the most appropriate terms of reference relevant to the subject matter of the petition
7. A request for a petition will be considered by the Head of Democracy who will determine the validity of the petition and, subject thereto, refer the petition to the relevant committee/Executive member. This process will occur upon receipt of paper petitions and at the end of the signature period for e-petitions
8. The petition organiser will be entitled to address any meeting which considers the petition

9. If a petition is rejected, is there a right of appeal?

If a petition organiser considers that their petition has not been properly assessed/allocated then they have a right to request that the Monitoring Officer review the decisions made. The Monitoring Officer will consider the request within five working days of receipt. Should it be concluded that the Council has not properly addressed the petition, then the original decision shall be rescinded and the petition shall be considered afresh in accordance with the principles set out in this Scheme

Once the review has been completed the petition organiser will be informed of the outcome

The results of the review will also be published on the Council's website

10. How will petitions be decided

If a petition is referred to Council / Executive / Committee the petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at any formal meeting, after which the petition will be debated by the Councillors present. The maximum time permitted for the debate will be 15 minutes although this may be extended at the discretion of the Chair

The Council/Committee etc. will decide how to respond to the petition. They may decide to adjourn the debate while further enquiries/investigation is undertaken; after which the petition may return to Council/Committee for further debate / decision on another date. They may decide to make the decision/take the action requested in the petition. They may decline to make the decision/take the action requested in the petition, for the reasons put forward during the debate. They may refer the matter to another body, or to a particular service or senior officer

The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of the final decision and this will also be published on the Council's website

11. Are there other ways in which the public can have their views taken into consideration?

The Council will take into consideration the views of the public through this Petition Scheme, but also in a number of different ways. The Council is committed to receiving feedback as it helps to make the best policy and strategic decisions possible, as well as developing and reviewing services. Some of the other ways in which the public may have their say include:-

- Contacting a local County Councillor
<https://democracy.anglesey.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx?LLL>
- Making a complaint through the Council's Corporate Complaints Procedure
- <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Get-involved/Official->

[complaints/Making-an-official-complaint.aspx](https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Planning/Public-speaking-at-the-Planning-Committee-notes.pdf)

- Speaking publicly on individual planning applications before the Planning and Orders Committee –
<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Planning/Public-speaking-at-the-Planning-Committee-notes.pdf>
- Speaking publicly at the Council's Corporate Scrutiny Committee -
<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Council/Scrutiny/Get-involved-with-scrutiny/Public-speaking-at-Scrutiny-Committees.aspx>
- Speaking publicly at the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Council/Scrutiny/Get-involved-with-scrutiny/Public-speaking-at-Scrutiny-Committees.aspx>
- Contribute to statutory and non-statutory consultations on key corporate issues, like the five year Council Plan, the Annual Self-Assessment, the five year Panel Performance Assessment.
- Also contribute to consultation/s on material changes to services:
<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/browse/Get-involved/Consultations/>

Draft version 3

Date of adoption:

Date of next review:

FOOTNOTE

1. Before organising/submitting a petition, a petition organiser is advised to first check with one of their local County Councillors, or with the relevant Council Service, to see if the Council is already acting on the issue that is intended to be the subject of the petition.
2. A petition organiser should also consider whether the County Council is the most appropriate body to receive the petition. Is the subject matter of the petition in scope, as explained in Section 2 above. Additionally, petitions may be more appropriate for another public body, such as a town or community council.

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| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
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| MEETING: | County Council |
| DATE: | 12 September 2023 |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | Appoint an elected member on the Standards Committee |
| AUTHOR: | Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer (ext 2568) lbxcs@ynysmon.gov.uk |
| PURPOSE OF THE REPORT: | For the Council to appoint an elected member on the Standards Committee |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer (ext 2568) lbxcs@ynysmon.gov.uk |

A. Background

1. The Standards Committee is a statutory committee and is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by the Isle of Anglesey county councillors and community council members in the area. This includes helping councillors follow the Code of Conduct for members.
2. The Isle of Anglesey County Council's Standards Committee has 9 members (2 county councillors, 5 independent members and 2 town and community council members). It is a legislative requirement that the committee includes representation from these three categories among its membership with the majority of committee members being independents.
3. Details of the committee and its current membership are available [here](#).
4. A process to fill an occasional vacant seat among independent members of the Standards Committee is currently underway. The Standards Committee Selection Panel will meet shortly to interview the shortlisted individuals. The Selection Panel includes an independent member, a representative of the town and community councils in the area and three County Councillors (Councillors Aled Morris Jones, Dylan Rees and Margaret Murley Roberts). It will be the decision of full Council to appoint on the recommendation of the Selection Panel. This will be the subject of a report to Council in due course.
5. This report is brought before the County Council because a vacant seat has arisen on the committee following the resignation of one County Councillor.

B. Appoint an elected County Council member on the Standards Committee:

1. The process for appointing an elected member of the County Council on the Standards Committee is by a full Council decision.

2. In accordance with the legislative requirements for Standards Committees,
 - a. It is not a committee that attracts political balance;
 - b. No more than one member of the Executive may represent the elected members on the Standards Committee.

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas, portfolio holder for Highways, Property and Waste on the Executive, is already a member of the Standards Committee and therefore another member of the Executive Committee cannot be appointed on this occasion.
 - c. The Leader of the Council cannot be a member of the Standards Committee.
3. The period of the appointment shall be 4 years or until the next ordinary election for local authorities, whichever is earlier.
4. An elected member of the County Council may be re-appointed as a representative on the Standards Committee for one further subsequent term.

C. Decision:

1. That the Council nominates an elected member of the County Council, who is not a member of the Executive, as a member of the Standards Committee.

| ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL | |
|---|--|
| Report to: | Governance and Audit Committee / County Council |
| Date: | 29 June 2023 / 12 September 2023 |
| Subject: | Annual Report of the Governance & Audit Committee 2022-23 – Chair’s Report |
| Head of Service: | Marc Jones Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer MarcJones@anglesey.gov.wales |
| Report Author: | Marion Pryor Head of Audit and Risk MarionPryor@anglesey.gov.wales |
| Nature and Reason for Reporting: The Governance and Audit Committee is required to report to ‘those charged with governance’ (the County Council) an assessment of its performance on its activities during the year to demonstrate how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities. This report details the activities of the Governance and Audit Committee during 2022-23. | |

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of the Council’s governance framework. Its function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management and to provide ‘those charged with governance’ independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes.
- 1.2. To discharge their responsibilities effectively, CIPFA guidance¹ states that audit committees should report regularly on their work to ‘those charged with governance’, and at least annually report an assessment of their performance. An annual public report should demonstrate how the committee has discharged its responsibilities. This report meets that requirement.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Governance and Audit Committee endorses the Annual Report of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2022-23 prior to its submission to the meeting of the County Council on 12 September 2023.

¹ The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s [Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police \(2022\)](#) and associated guidance sets out CIPFA’s view of the role and functions of an audit committee.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 2022-23 – CHAIR'S REPORT

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June 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of the Council's governance framework. Its function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management (3.4.8.1.1).

Its purpose is to provide full Council (*those charged with governance*) independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes (3.4.8.1.2).

It oversees internal (3.4.8.10) and external audit (3.4.8.11) and other regulators (3.4.8.13), helping to ensure effective assurance arrangements are in place. It also reviews, assesses and reports on the Authority's ability to handle complaints effectively (3.4.8.14) and makes recommendations for improvement in this area. Following the enactment of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, it also receives and comments upon the Council's annual self-assessment report (3.4.8.15) and the report of the performance assessment panel (3.4.8.16).

There is clear separation between the role of the Governance and Audit Committee and that of scrutiny committees. The Governance and Audit Committee role seeks assurance that internal control systems of the Council are working and risks are effectively managed, rather than the actual scrutiny of activities (3.4.8.1.3).

To discharge their responsibilities effectively, the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) guidance¹ states that audit committees should report regularly on their work to 'those charged with governance', and at least annually report an assessment of their performance. An annual public report should demonstrate how the committee has discharged its responsibilities. This report meets that requirement by assessing the Committee's activities during 2022-23 against its terms of reference, incorporated within the Council's [Constitution](#)², version 2.78 updated on 25 April 2023.

¹ The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's [Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police \(2022\)](#) and associated guidance sets out CIPFA's view of the role and functions of an audit committee.

² The relevant section of the Constitution is referenced in brackets.

COMPOSITION AND ARRANGEMENTS

Throughout the year, the Committee conducted its business non-politically and abided by the rules of political balance (3.4.8.2.1).

The Committee consisted of eight elected members and four lay members. Councillor Liz Wood took a brief leave of absence during the year. In her absence, Councillor Aled Morris Jones joined the Committee on a temporary basis. All members declared interests where appropriate (3.4.8.2.2).

The Finance Portfolio Holder is required, as far as possible, to attend all meetings of the Committee (3.4.8.2.2), and attended six out of the eight meetings of the Committee during 2022-23 ([Appendix A](#)).

As required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee was a lay member and, therefore, not an elected Councillor or a member of a group that formed part of the Council's Executive (3.4.8.2.3).

Where officers have been called to attend a committee meeting at the request of the Governance and Audit Committee members, they have done so (3.4.8.2.4).

The Committee's terms of reference require it to meet a minimum of four times per year (3.4.8.2.5). The Committee met formally (hybrid meetings) on eight occasions, which included two special meetings to consider only the draft and final Statement of Accounts 2021-22 and the report of External Audit on the Financial Statements (ISA 260 Report). The attendance at meetings during 2022-23 has been good ([Appendix A](#)).

Where necessary, the Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer has provided advice to the Committee and has had direct and unfettered access to the Committee (3.4.8.2.6). During the year, the Committee commissioned work directly from the internal auditors in the form of progress reports on individual audits (3.4.8.2.7).

Neither the external nor the internal auditors requested the Chair to consider any matter that the auditors believed should be brought to the attention of the Council (3.4.8.2.8).

Existing members received ongoing training ([Appendix B](#)), reports on new legislation, professional guidance and research. A knowledge and skills survey was conducted with members of the Committee during the year, and the outcome passed to the HR Development Manager for inclusion in the 2023-24 members' training programme (3.4.8.2.9).

During 2021-22, the Committee considered and approved a fully revised terms of reference following changes made as a result of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. In February 2023, the Committee reviewed its current terms of reference for appropriateness and with reference to sector-specific guidance which was issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in December 2022. As the guidance did not contain any changes that affected the Committee's existing terms of reference, the Committee resolved to approve them with no changes required.

ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

This report fulfils the requirement to report to full Council (*'those charged with governance'*) on an annual basis the Audit Committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions (3.4.8.3.1).

It also fulfils the requirement to report on the effectiveness of the Committee in meeting its purpose and agreed terms of reference. During 2022-23, a knowledge and skills self-assessment was conducted with individual members of the Committee to assess their own effectiveness and to identify whether there were any areas for development and training. A programme of events in response has been developed in conjunction with the HR Development Manager (3.4.8.3.2).

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has been commissioned to facilitate a qualitative self-assessment during 2023-24 with members of the Committee. It will also obtain feedback on the Committee's performance with those interacting with the Committee or relying on its work, including senior management, to evaluate whether and how the Committee is adding value to the organisation (3.4.8.3.2).

The Committee considered its business in public, with the exception of, where appropriate, when it met in private to consider items under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.³ During 2022-23, the Committee considered three items in private:-

- Annual Cyber Security Report 2022 (September 2022)
- Strategic Risk Register Updates (September 2022 and February 2023)
- Internal Audit Report of 'Galw Gofal - Partnership Governance Arrangements' (February 2023)

The appropriate Public Interest Tests were presented to, and accepted by, the Committee.

³ Items under Schedule 12A, Paragraph 14: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and Paragraph 18: Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

In February 2023, a query was raised by a member of the Committee on the necessity of excluding the Strategic Risk Register in its entirety from being discussed in an open session on the basis that it was deemed there were elements of the Register which were of public interest. Following the meeting, the Head of Audit and Risk sought advice from the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer on this matter and it was agreed that going forward, the Strategic Risk Register will be discussed in open session (3.4.8.3.3).

Agendas and reports were published in accordance with statutory timeframes and were available for inspection (3.4.8.3.3).

GOVERNANCE

The Committee considered the Council's Local Code of Governance at its meeting in December 2022. The Committee noted that it was being presented following an internal review process during 2022-23 via the Performance and Governance Review Group and Leadership Team, providing assurance that the Council's governance arrangements remain robust and fit for purpose and have been implemented and applied effectively to all aspects of the Council's business (3.4.8.4.1/5).

The Committee highlighted inconsistency between the Welsh and English versions of the document and queried whether the document, which is forward looking and will apply to the period from 2023 to 2028, should have as a reference point the current Council Plan as it comes to an end in 2022. In response, the Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager advised that the commitments set out in the document demonstrate what the Council is seeking to achieve, with the evidence that these have been fulfilled provided by the sources of assurance. The evidence in terms of the new Council Plan for 2023 to 2028 was not yet in place.

In July 2022, the Committee reviewed and assessed the Council's corporate governance arrangements during its review of the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) (3.4.8.4.2). The Committee commented on the improved readability and layout of the Statement but noted that a condensed version might be helpful for public consumption. The Committee also queried the overall assessment against the core principles of the Framework has remained 'Good' in consecutive years with no movement up to next level. In response, the Chief Executive advised that the categories are broad in scope and that to move up to "Excellent" would require the Council to be able to demonstrate innovative practices, which is not always easy with regards to governance.

Further, the Committee requested clarification on progress made with addressing governance matters identified during 2021-22, particularly those pertaining to new responsibilities and changes introduced by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. In response, the Chief Executive clarified that the Act imposes new duties and responsibilities on the Council, some of which have been implemented and others which were in progress to be completed within the current financial year.

In January 2023, the Committee received the final version of the AGS and resolved to endorse it for 2021-22 and to refer the Statement to the full Council for approval and to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive for their signatures (3.4.8.6.2).

The Governance and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference require it to review the governance and assurance arrangements available for significant partnerships or collaborations (3.4.8.4.6) and review the assurance available for managing partnership risks, including the risk profile of the Council as part of the partnership (3.4.8.8.1). Due to the new Council cycle, a report about significant partnerships was not available during 2022-23. In the absence of an annual report being available from the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Internal Audit will undertake a piece of work to provide the Committee with this assurance during 2023-24.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Full Council has nominated the Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies (3.4.8.5.1). Accordingly, the Committee undertakes a scrutiny role in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, prior to approval by full Council (3.4.8.5.2).

In September 2022, the Committee reviewed the **Annual Treasury Management Report 2021-22**, which provided an overview of the Council's borrowing and investment activities during the year and highlighted performance against the Prudential Indicators set by the Council. In considering the report, the Committee raised points including capital expenditure and the underspend on the capital budget, maintaining the Council's purchasing power and increasing yield through investment. The Committee resolved to accept the report and to forward to the next meeting of the Executive without further comment (3.4.8.5.1/2/3/4).

In December 2022, the Committee considered the mid-year review of treasury management activities and position. Following discussions around the Council's estimates for capital expenditure, causes of delays in the capital programme and security of lending and borrowing between local authorities, the Committee resolved to note and accept the mid-year review without further comment. The Committee also resolved to recommend to the Executive that the proposed change in counterparty limit to other local authorities from £5m to £10m is put forward for approval by the full Council (3.4.8.5.1/2/3/4).

In February 2023, the Committee considered the **Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023-24**, which incorporated the Annual Investment Strategy, the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, the Treasury Management Policy Statement and the Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation (3.8.4.5.1/4).

Following discussions around practicalities of funding the capital budget, increases in external borrowing due to the Council reaching the limits of internal borrowing and future WG funding expectations and likely requirements, e.g. net zero conditions, the Committee resolved to accept and to note the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023-24 and to forward to the Executive without further comment.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Committee supports the development of robust arrangements to ensure that the Council makes best use of its resources, and taxpayers and service users receive excellent value for money (3.4.8.6.1).

In July 2022, the Committee reviewed the Council's overall approach to value for money when reviewing the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement (3.4.8.6.2).

In April 2023, the Committee considered **Audit Wales's Annual Audit Summary 2022**, and assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money (3.4.8.6.3). The report informed the Committee that Audit Wales had completed work during 2021-22 to meet the Auditor General's duty to examine whether the Council had put in place arrangements to get value for money for the resources it uses. To meet this duty, Audit Wales had completed specific projects, and they relied on other audit work, and the work of regulators such as Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn (the education inspectorate).

In assessing whether the Council had put in place arrangements to secure value for money, Audit Wales cited its work on the 2021-22 financial statements, in which the Auditor General had been able to give an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council's financial statements.

The Auditor General also certified that the Council had met its remaining Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 duties for the financial year 2021-22, and that the Council had made good progress developing its arrangements to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, including drafting its first annual self-assessment (see [Self-Assessment Report](#) below). In terms of carbon reduction plans, the Auditor General acknowledged that the Council has a vision for its decarbonisation ambition but is in an early stage of its journey, with further work needed to understand its carbon footprint and the cost and carbon impact of its proposed actions.

The Committee resolved to note the Auditor General's Annual Audit Summary 2022 and assessment of whether the Council had put in place arrangements to secure value for money.

ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Having an overview of the Council's assurance framework supports the Committee's approval of the internal audit risk-based strategy by identifying the extent to which it relies on internal audit for its assurance requirements. The Committee also ensures clarity of what assurance is provided, that there is a clear allocation of responsibility for providing assurance and duplication is avoided (3.4.8.7.1/2).

During the year, the Committee considered assurances about [risk management](#), [internal audit](#), and the [Annual Governance Statement](#), as well as reports from the [external auditors](#).

In addition, during the year, the Committee received reports from first and second line assurance providers, as follows:-

In September 2022, the Committee received the Principal Health and Safety Officer's **Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report**. Discussion ensued around issues regarding attendance at training sessions and the ability to draw any emerging trends, patterns and/.or learning points from any referrals made to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The Committee resolved to accept the report and endorsed the recommendation that the Council should follow the strategic plan for the management of Health and Safety and implement the Corporate Health and Safety Action Plan. However, the Committee also recommended that future Corporate Health and Safety Annual reports include data on the number of people expected to attend individual training sessions as well as the number actually attending (3.4.8.7.1).

Also in September 2022, the Committee received the **Annual ICT Cyber Security report**. The report set out the common cyber threats facing the Council and outlined the mitigating and operational controls that were in place to detect and prevent malicious activity. The Committee resolved to accept the report and to note its contents (3.4.8.7.1).

In December 2022, the Committee received a report from the Chief Executive and Climate Change Manager outlining the **Council's response to reports from both Audit Wales and Zurich Risk Engineering on climate change approach in the public sector and within Isle of Anglesey County Council**. Discussion ensued around costs of achieving the net zero target; realisation of savings from measures already taken, e.g. installation of solar panels on Council buildings; metrics to measure net zero progress; external support and expertise; and the challenges with additional investment in decarbonisation initiatives when the budget situation is expected to worsen over the next two years. On noting the assurance provided, the Committee requested that it receive a further update on progress in spring 2023 (3.4.8.7.1 / 3.4.8.13).

In February 2023, the Committee received the **Schools Data Protection Officer's report regarding the key information governance issues in relation to Anglesey's schools** for the period November 2021 to January 2023. Discussion ensued regarding the arrangements in place to follow up on the implementation of the next steps and to monitor compliance. The Committee asked about the provision of training for school staff; the role of Cwmni CELyn in providing specialist information governance and data protection advice to local authorities; and arrangements for procuring software packages for schools whilst ensuring compliance with GDPR and data protection requirements. The Committee resolved to accept the report and to endorse the Schools Data Protection Officer's proposed next steps to enable schools to fully operate in accordance with data protection requirements (3.4.8.7.1).

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Governance and Audit Committee has overseen the development and operation of risk management in the Council (3.4.8.8.1) during the year.

In September 2022, the Committee received an update on the Council's Strategic Risk Register, which highlighted changes to both the overall risk register as well as to any specific risks in terms of probability and impact following review by the Leadership Team. Discussion ensued around the seven key red / critical residual risks outlined, where the Committee accepted that some of these risks, by their nature will always exist being linked to people, assets, information technology and the wider economy but having identified, assessed, and regularly monitoring them allows the Council to manage them to an acceptable level. The Committee resolved to note the amendments made to the Strategic Risk Register.

The Committee received a similar report in February 2023 and, following discussion, resolved to note the amendments made to the Strategic Risk Register and to take assurance that the Leadership Team has recognised and is managing the risks to the achievement of the Council's priorities.

In April 2023, the Committee considered the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy as well as the supplementary Risk Management Guidance. Following discussions around determination of risk appetite settings for different risk categories within the Risk Appetite Statement; contract risk management, particularly within the building / construction sector; and capturing lessons learned from risks that have materialised, the Committee resolved to accept the Risk Management Policy and Strategy and note their contents.

COUNTERING FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

In September 2022, the Committee received the Head of Audit and Risk's **Annual Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption report** for 2021-22 (3.4.8.9.4). As part of this report, the Head of Audit and Risk confirmed to the Committee current compliance rates (93%) for staff knowledge and understanding of the Whistleblowing Policy and Guidance (3.4.8.9.1).

Following discussion around the use of technology to help tackle fraud and the Council's participation in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI); Council Tax Single Person Discount fraud and the engagement of an external company to periodically analyse Single Person Discount data to identify anomalies and / or errors; the importance of educating staff about different types of fraud and the lack of current regional and local data about the extent of sector specific fraud, the Committee resolved to accept the report and to note its contents.

In December 2022, the Committee received the Head of Audit and Risk's **Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy 2022-25** (3.4.8.9.2/3).

The Committee engaged in discussion around the recognition that cyber risks are those which the Council is most exposed and the need, therefore, to avoid complacency on account of the size of the authority, highlighting that cyber threats are pervasive and continually evolving.

Following further discussion on the need for robust cyber-risk management arrangements in schools and the use of "detection" as a key objective for the Council's strategy for counter-fraud, the Committee resolved to note the report.

INTERNAL AUDIT

The Governance and Audit Committee has overseen the Council's internal audit arrangements (3.4.8.10.1). By reviewing the Internal Audit Strategy, the Internal Audit Annual Report and the Internal Audit Charter, and regular updates from the Head of Audit and Risk, the Committee has overseen internal audit's independence, objectivity, performance and professionalism, supported the effectiveness of the internal audit process and promoted the effective use of internal audit within the Council's assurance framework (3.4.8.10.2).

In June 2022, the Committee received the **Internal Audit Strategy 2022-23** (3.4.8.10.1/2/5/6). Following discussion around the meaning of Financial Resilience for the Council in the context of rising energy prices and materials and clarification that the focus for internal audit work in this area will be how the Council will plan ahead for the future, the Committee resolved to approve the Internal Audit Strategy for 2022-23 and to endorse the approach and priorities outlined as fulfilling the Council's assurance needs.

Also in June 2022, the Committee considered the **Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-22**, including the Head of Audit and Risk's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control, together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion, (3.4.8.10.6/7/8/9/12/14/15). The Head of Audit and Risk confirmed that it was her opinion as the 'chief audit executive' for the Isle of Anglesey County Council, that, for the 12 months ended 31 March 2022, the organisation had an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control.

Within the report, the Committee noted that the next external quality assessment of internal audit would be undertaken during the summer via peer review by Flintshire County Council (3.4.8.10.14).

Following discussion on a range of areas, in particular staff turnover, recruitment and retention of staff and remote working, the Committee noted the report.

In December 2022, the Committee reviewed and approved the **Internal Audit Charter**, which defines the internal audit's activity, purpose, authority and responsibility (3.4.8.10.3).

Following discussion on the use of the term "customers" to define the recipients of Internal Audit's services, the Committee resolved to approve the continued appropriateness of the Internal Audit Charter and noted the safeguards put in place to limit impairments to independence and objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the Head of Audit and Risk (3.4.8.10.13).

Throughout the year, the Committee received updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern, management responses and action in hand as a result of internal audit work (June, September, December 2022 and February and April 2023). The Committee considered summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested, including full copies of Limited Assurance reports, along with the action plan agreed with management (3.4.8.10.10).

The Committee monitored the implementation of agreed actions through the receipt of two reports, in September 2022 and April 2023 respectively (3.4.8.10.10/11). In September 2022, the Committee supported the proposal that action owners of major or amber rated issues / risks that are still not resolved 12 months after the original target date has passed, be asked to attend the Governance and Audit Committee to provide information on the reason for the delay in addressing the issue / risk.

As part of this new protocol, in April 2023, the Service Manager (Community Housing) updated the Committee on the position with regard to addressing a major or amber issue / risk identified during an audit of the Housing Allocations process. Following enquiries into timescales for the Housing Application process to be added to the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, the Committee resolved to note the Council's progress in addressing the outstanding internal audit issues / risks.

The Committee and the Head of Audit and Risk engage effectively (3.4.8.10.16). In particular, the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee made himself available for the Head of Audit and Risk at all times, including providing the opportunity for a private meeting with the Committee, if requested (3.4.8.10.17).

EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Committee oversees the external audit arrangements and considers the scope and depth of external audit work. In June 2022, the Committee received Audit Wales's Plan for 2021-22, which set out the work proposed to be undertaken in relation to the financial audit, the performance audit programme for the year, along with the programme of grant certification work and audit reporting timetable (3.4.8.11.1/3).

In February 2022, the Committee considered the external auditor's annual letter and ISA 260 report to *'those charged with governance'* (3.4.8.11.1/2). Following discussions around the provision for the Penhesgyn waste site; results of the revaluation of assets and the increase in value of Council dwellings; adjustments to the draft accounts and potential further improvements to the audit of the accounts; it was resolved to note the external auditor's report for its audit of the 2021-22 Financial Statements.

In April 2023, the Committee resolved to note Audit Wales's Annual Audit Summary report for 2022, which showed a summary of the outcome of each piece of work completed.

During the year, the Committee received quarterly updates (in June 2022, September 2022 and April 2023) and external audit reports, including the audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy (June 2022); Direct Payments for Adult Social Care (September 2022); an assessment of the Council's arrangements for managing its assets and workforce (Springing Forward) (October 2022); and Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 (December 2022).

The Committee monitored the implementation of external audit recommendations and received a report from the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation in December 2022, setting out how the Council had responded to external audit reports regarding the Council and national reviews, and their related recommendations (3.4.8.11.3).

The Committee was not compelled to make any recommendations on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies during the year (3.4.8.11.4).

Although there is an opportunity for the Governance and Audit Committee to meet privately and separately with the external auditor, this opportunity was not exercised during the year (3.4.8.11.5).

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Committee reviews and scrutinises the Council's financial affairs, making reports and recommendations in relation to them (3.4.8.12.1).

In July 2022 and January 2023, the Committee reviewed, prior to approval by full Council, the Authority's draft and final annual financial statements for 2021-22 respectively, including the explanatory foreword, key messages, trends, consistency with financial performance, suitability of and compliance with accounting policies and treatments and major judgmental areas (3.4.8.12.2).

In July 2022, in considering the draft financial statements, the Committee discussed a range of factors, including the increase in school balances, caused by additional grant funding from WG partly to help schools with the ongoing impact of the pandemic and partly to assist pupils catch up with missed learning during this period; the valuation of the Council's property assets, which does not include its highway network due to the challenge of accurately putting a value on highway infrastructure; and budget planning and forecasting challenges caused by late funding and the current economic situation.

Following further discussion on the pension liability and its impact on the accounts, as well as underspends on both the Council's revenue and capital budgets, the Committee resolved to note the draft unaudited main financial statements for 2021-22.

In January 2023, the Committee considered the external auditor's report to '*those charged with governance*' on issues arising from the audit of the accounts, and whether they needed to be brought to the attention of the Council (3.4.8.12.3). Following discussion (see [External Audit](#) above), the Committee resolved to note External Audit's Report on the Financial Statements for 2021-22.

COMPLAINTS HANDLING

The Committee has responsibility for reviewing and assessing the Authority's ability to handle complaints effectively (3.4.8.14.1).

In September 2022, the Committee considered the Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer's **Annual Concerns and Complaints report for 2021-22** which set out issues arising under the Council's Concerns and Complaints Policy for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. Following discussion around the Council's performance in complaints handling and clarification from the Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer that the main service areas where complaints are generally received are those that affect people personally, such as Resources, Housing and Social Services; the Committee resolved to accept the report.

Also in September 2022, the Committee received the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual Letter 2021-22**. The document outlined the complaints standards work undertaken by the PSOW over a 12-month period as well as a summary of the Council's performance in this area. Following consideration and discussion, the Committee resolved to note and accept the Annual Letter 2021-22 and authorised the Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer to write to the PSOW to confirm that the Governance and Audit Committee has given formal consideration to her Annual Letter and to provide reassurance that the Council will continue to monitor complaints and, thereby, provide Members with the information required to scrutinise the Council's performance (3.4.8.14.2).

SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

Each financial year, the Committee will receive from Council a draft of its self-assessment report [to be drafted in accordance with Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (performance and governance of principal councils)] (3.4.8.15.1).

In July and October 2022, the Committee considered the **draft Annual Self-Assessment Report 2021-22**, which was the Council's first corporate self-assessment report, prepared to fulfil the new duty placed on councils in Wales by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to keep their performance under review (3.4.8.1.4).

The Committee welcomed the report as a positive assessment demonstrating a number of strengths. Detailed discussions ensued around use of buildings resources and the future implications of hybrid working practices; staff turnover rates; misinterpretation of an increased level of reserves in the context of the 'good' assessment rating for use of resources; potential for future internal audit appraisal of the self-assessment document; and styling and presentation of the report (3.4.8.4.4).

The Committee resolved to agree the contents of the self-assessment report for 2021-22 and recommend its consideration by full Council, subject to consideration of the above points (3.4.8.15.1/2/3/4).

PANEL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

At least once during an electoral cycle a panel performance assessment will take place in the period between ordinary elections of Councillors to the Council. The Council may choose to commission more than one panel assessment in an electoral cycle, but it is not a requirement of the legislation (The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021).

The Council must make a draft of its response to the panel performance assessment available to its Governance and Audit Committee, which must then review the draft response and may make recommendations for changes to the response to the panel assessment.

A panel performance assessment was not conducted during 2022-23 (3.4.8.4.3 / 3.4.8.16).

AUDITOR GENERAL SPECIAL INSPECTION

The Auditor General may carry out a special inspection of the Council (if it considers the Council is not, or may not, be meeting its performance requirements).

Following the report being sent to the Council, as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving such report, the Council is required to make it available to the Governance and Audit Committee. The Council's draft response must be made available to, and be reviewed by, the Governance and Audit Committee. The Committee may recommend changes to the response, including the action proposed by the Council. If the Committee's recommendations are not adopted by the Council before publication, the recommendations must be included in the response along with the reasons why the Council has not made the changes recommended by the Committee (3.4.8.17.1/2/3).

The Auditor General did not carry out any special inspections of the Council during 2022-23.

APPENDIX A: FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

| Members | 29/06/22 | 26/07/22 | 28/09/22 | 20/10/22 | 8/12/22 | 18/01/22 | 7/02/23 | 18/04/23 | Total meetings attended |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Mr Dilwyn Evans (Lay Member) (Chair) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 |
| Cllr Euryrn Morris (Deputy Chair) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | 7 |
| Cllr Geraint Bebb | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | No | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 6 |
| Cllr Neville Evans | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | 6 |
| Cllr Dyfed Wyn Jones | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | 5 |
| Mr William Parry (Lay Member) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | ✓ | ✓ | 7 |
| Cllr Dafydd Roberts | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 |
| Cllr Keith Roberts | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 |
| Cllr Margaret M. Roberts | ✓ | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Apologies | ✓ | 6 |
| Ms Sharon Warnes (Lay Member) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 |
| Mr Michael Wilson (Lay Member) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | ✓ | ✓ | 7 |
| Cllr Liz Wood | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | Apologies | ✓ | No | ✓ | 5 |
| Cllr Aled Morris Jones (appointed for one meeting only) | - | - | - | - | - | - | ✓ | - | 1 |
| Cllr Robin Williams (Finance Portfolio Holder) | ✓ | ✓ | Apologies | Apologies | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 6 |
| Total for Committee⁴ | 13 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 12 | |

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⁴ In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee consists of eight elected Members and four lay members. Elected Members will not be members of the Executive, but the Finance Portfolio Holder is required, as far as possible, to attend all meetings of the Committee.

APPENDIX B: MEMBER TRAINING 2022-23

| | Committee Specific | | | | Mandatory | | | | | | Total Attendance / Completion |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Induction | Financial Statements | Complaints | Treasury Management | General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) | Cyber Awareness ⁵ | Basic Safeguarding Awareness | Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence* | Prevent* | Modern Slavery* | |
| Mr Dilwyn Evans (Lay Member) (Chair) | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | 9/09/22 | 14/09/22 | 5/09/22 | 12/05/22 | | Optional | 12/09/19 | Optional | 88% |
| Cllr Euryrn Morris (Deputy Chair) | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | 9/09/22 | 14/09/22 | 12/06/22 | 18/05/22 | 20/09/22 | 12/06/22 | 12/06/22 | In progress | 90% |
| Cllr Geraint Bebb | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | 9/09/22 | Apologies | 6/09/22 | 12/05/22 | Absent | 29/09/22 | Not started | In progress | 60% |
| Cllr Neville Evans | 23/06/22 | Apologies | 9/09/22 | 14/09/22 | 6/09/22 | 11/05/22 | 20/09/22 | Not started | Not started | Not started | 60% |
| Cllr Dyfed Wyn Jones | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | Apologies | Absent | 6/09/22 | 11/05/22 | 26/09/22 | Not started | Not started | Not started | 50% |
| Mr William Parry (Lay Member) | Apologies | Absent | 9/09/22 | Absent | | | | Optional | Optional | Optional | 14% |
| Cllr Dafydd Roberts | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | Absent | 14/09/22 | 11/20/22 | 12/05/22 | 20/09/22 | 1/04/18 | 12/10/22 | 12/10/22 | 90% |
| Cllr Keith Roberts | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | 9/09/22 | 14/09/22 | 7/09/22 | 11/05/22 | 20/09/22 | Not started | Not started | Not started | 70% |
| Cllr Margaret M. Roberts | 23/06/22 | Apologies | 21/07/21 | Apologies | Absent | 11/05/22 | 20/09/22 | Not started | Not started | Not started | 40% |
| Ms Sharon Warnes (Lay Member) | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | 9/09/22 | 14/09/22 | 25/01/20 | 12/05/22 | | Optional | Optional | Optional | 86% |
| Mr Michael Wilson (Lay Member) | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | 9/09/22 | 14/09/22 | 22/02/19 | 12/05/22 | | 21/12/17 | Optional | Optional | 88% |
| Cllr Liz Wood | 23/06/22 | 13/07/22 | Absent | Absent | Absent | 11/05/22 | Absent | Not started | Not started | Not started | 30% |
| Total | 11/12 (92%) | 9/12 (75%) | 9/12 (75%) | 7/12 (58%) | 9/12 (75%) | 11/12 (92%) | 6/12 (50%) | 4/12 (33%) | 3/12 (25%) | 1/12 (8%) | |

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⁵ Cyber awareness formed part of introductory training for new Council cohort in May 2022

*Optional for lay members.

| Isle of Anglesey County Council | |
|--|--|
| MEETING: | County Council |
| DATE: | 12 September 2023 |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | Annual Report of the Standards Committee |
| REPORT BY: | Standards Committee |
| PURPOSE OF REPORT: | To report on the activities of the Standards Committee in 2022/2023 and to secure Council approval for the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024. |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer (ext 2568) lbxcs@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |

1. Introduction

This is the second annual report of the Standards Committee to the County Council, made under the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. However, it has been customary in this Council for many years for the Chair of the Standards Committee to present an annual report to Council. The topics covered in those reports are very similar to those that are now required under the legislative provisions.

This is the Standards Committee's report for the period April 2022 - March 2023.

2. Membership

The Standards Committee is a statutory committee which comprises 9 Members (2 County Council Members, 5 Independent Members and 2 Town and Community Council Members). Details of the Committee and its membership is available [here](#).

(A) Independent Members:

The terms of four Independent Members ends on 19th December 2027 whilst the term of the fifth Independent Member ends on 11th December 2025.

One current Independent Member has decided to submit their resignation before the end of their term and a recruitment process is currently underway by the Standards Committee's Selection Panel in order to appoint to this role. Mrs Celyn Menai Edwards will resign on the appointment of the new Independent Member.

The Chair must be appointed from among the Independent Members. Mr John R Jones was appointed Chair at a Standards Committee meeting in February 2020. The Chair is appointed for a period of four years. An individual may be re-appointed as Chair.

Mr Rhys Davies is Vice Chair and his term as Vice Chair also ends in February 2024. Mr Davies is eligible to be re-elected.

(B) Town and Community Council Members:

Following a recruitment period after the last Local Government election (May 2022), two Town and Community Council Members were appointed by full Council at its meeting on 6 December 2022. These are Councillor Iorwerth Roberts of Bryngwran Community Council and Councillor Margaret Ann Thomas of Llangefni Town Council.. They will sit on the Committee until the next Local Government election or until such time as the appointees are no longer Community Council Members, whichever occurs first. A Community Council Member may be re-appointed for one further consecutive term, provided that the Isle of Anglesey Town and Community Councils have collectively agreed to select the current Community Council Member as nominee for the appointment.

(C) County Council Members:

The current County Council representatives (since May 2022) are Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes and Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas. Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes has resigned from his seat and a decision is required by full Council in order to fill that seat. This is the subject of a separate report to Council on 12 September 2023.

3. Role and Responsibility

The Standards Committee's statutory role and functions, in relation to County Council Members and Town/Community Council Members, include:-

- (a) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members;
- (b) assisting Members to observe their Code of Conduct;
- (c) advising, training, or arranging to train Members;
- (d) considering applications for dispensations;
- (e) dealing with any referrals from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW), or the Adjudication Panel for Wales (effectively the national Standards Committee).

However, with the introduction of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 ('the Act'), there are additional duties expected of the Standards Committee as of May 2022. These are detailed below:

➤ Annual Report:

The Standards Committee is now required to make an Annual Report to the Council, as soon as reasonably practicable at the end of the financial year, and the Council must consider the report and any recommendations made by the Standards Committee within three months of its receipt. As a minimum, the report must:

- describe how the Standards Committee has discharged its functions during the preceding year;
- include a summary of reports and recommendations made or referred to the committee by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) relating to the investigation of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, and any subsequent action taken by the Standards Committee;

- describe the advice it has provided on training for all Members and how that advice has been implemented, and
- include the Committee's assessment of how Group Leaders have complied with their new duty to promote high standards of conduct (see below bullet point).

➤ To monitor Group Leaders' compliance with their duty to promote high standards of conduct by Group Members and the provision of advice and training.

As detailed above, a new duty has been placed on Group Leaders to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by their Group Members. A further duty is imposed on Group Leaders to co-operate with the Council's Standards Committee in the exercise of the Committee's functions. In addition to this the Standards Committee must monitor how Group Leaders are complying with their new responsibility and consider how it is ensuring it satisfies the requirement to provide advice and training to Group Leaders under the umbrella of this duty.

4. Information on the Committee's duties and how they have been discharged during 2022/2023

The Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2022/2023 was approved by full Council in September 2022. The document in **Enclosure 1** includes the Standards Committee's approved Work Programme for 2022-2023 with additional matters included, and details of the actions completed in relation to each matter.

The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the officers who have supported its work.

4.1 Local Resolution Protocol:

➤ Local Resolution Protocol for County Council Members:

An amended Local Resolution Protocol (LRP) for County Council Members was developed and agreed during the 2022/2023 term. The LRP was developed by the Standards Committee, having considered the new legislative requirements and drawing from its experience to date, and agreed with Group Leaders. A copy can be seen [here](#).

We believe this document is user-friendly and simple to follow and are confident in continuing to endorse it.

Whilst we would like to think that the LRP would not be needed, we do hope, and indeed we would encourage Members to use it should the circumstances arise. Members have been involved in its development (with presentations made by the Standards Committee Chair and Vice Chair to a meeting of Group Leaders, and it being the subject of a Briefing Session with all Members); Members have also been reminded of its adoption in the Standards Committee's Newsletter in March 2023.

The Protocol was not used during the period of this report.

The Standards Committee takes this opportunity to remind Members of the need to raise concerns under the Protocol as soon as possible after the incident in

question, that the matter needs to be dealt with as a priority and to ensure that they give due consideration to the process.

➤ Local Resolution Protocol for Town and Community Council Members:

One Voice Wales (the national representative membership organisation for Community and Town Councils throughout Wales) has developed a Local Resolution Protocol (LRP) for use by Town and Community Councils and can be seen [here](#). However, the process outlined in that LRP is dependent on the Clerk and/or the Chair of the Town or Community Council managing it. In our experience, the Clerk and/or the Chair are often parties to the dispute / subject to the complaint and so that LRP can be of limited use. Therefore, this Standards Committee will be discussing the possibility of developing an alternative LRP for use in the Town and Community Councils and this work is included in the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023-2024 (**Enclosure 8**).

Code of Conduct matters within Town and Community Councils is within the Standards Committee's remit, however as independent legal entities, constitutional or procedural issues within the Town and Community Councils are outside the jurisdiction of the Standards Committee and the County Council, and the LRP must not be used to deal with issues involving these matters.

The Standards Committee Chair (together with other Standards Committee Members) has been asked to assist in some Town and Community Councils during the 2022/2023 period and more information is available in paragraph 4.2 below.

4.2 Town and Community Councils:

The Standards Committee has a responsibility in relation to the conduct of Town and Community Councillors and to fulfil this responsibility the Standards Committee has undertaken the following work this year.

The Committee has undertaken a number of interventions at Town and Community Councils during the term of this report, usually upon contact having been made by third parties including Members of the Town and Community Councils themselves or County Councillors.

The process followed for all of these involvements has been to write to the Chair and Clerk of the particular Town or Community Council with details of the concerns that have been brought to the attention of the Standards Committee's Chair and that two members of the Standards Committee are intending on attending the next meeting of their Town or Community Council as observers.

Following that meeting, correspondence is sent to the Clerk and Chair to inform them of the Standards Committee Members' conclusions.

Four Community Councils have been subjected to such observations during the term of this report / the current term; details included are general and names are removed so as to avoid Town or Community Councils being identified:

(a) Community Council A:

In one Community Council, a second meeting was observed before the Standards Committee members offered a Review of the Register of Interests and Code of Conduct related matters to the Community Council. A Review meeting was conducted and comprehensive correspondence was sent to the Clerk and Chair, with a request for it to be shared with all Council members, detailing the Standards Committee Members' recommendations. No further action is envisaged for this Council.

(b) Community Council B:

In another Community Council, following the first observation meeting, it was deemed that the best course of action would be to offer a Review of the Register of Interests and Code of Conduct related matters to the Council. The Clerk, on behalf of the Community Council, agreed but proposed a delay in the timetable suggested by the Standards Committee due to other commitments. The Standards Committee wanted to carry out this Review in Summer 2023 but the Community Council asked for a further delay. The matter is included on the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (**Enclosure 8**).

(c) Community Council C:

Similarly, in Community Council C, following the first observation meeting, and providing written feedback in relation to conduct matters, it was deemed that the best course of action would be to offer a Review of the Register of Interests and Code of Conduct related matters to the Council. The Clerk, on behalf of the Council, rejected this offer in the first instance. The Chair of the Standards Committee has again written to the Community Council to ask for it to reconsider and to explain that the purpose of the Review is to assist Town and Community Councils. In the hope the Community Council reconsiders and accepts the offer, this Review is included on the Standards Committee's work programme for 2023/2024 (**Enclosure 8**).

(d) Community Council Ch:

Two members of the Standards Committee attended a meeting at Community Council Ch as observers. As no concerns regarding conduct were observed, the Standards Committee did not consider that further assistance was needed but the Clerk was advised, as part of the written feedback, that they could contact the Standards Committee should they deem a Review to be useful in the future. The matter is included on the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (**Enclosure 8**).

The pattern seen above in (a)-(d) is part of the appetite for developing a Local Resolution Protocol for Town and Community Councils as this type of work is in high demand and is effecting heavily on the Standards Committee's capacity and resource.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee have attended the Town and Community Council Forum meetings on 08.09.2022 [with details following from the Standards Committee's formal meeting in June 2022] and on 27.02.2023 [again, with details following from the Standards Committee's formal meeting in December 2022, and to discuss the draft Newsletter that was being developed].

4.3 Newsletters:

For some time, the Standards Committee has been issuing Newsletters following their bi-annual formal meetings. This is considered a more effective and user-friendly method of communicating with Members, by providing snippets of information, and

sign-posting them to where they may obtain more details, bringing new and important cases to their attention.

The Standards Committee issued Newsletters in September 2022 and March 2023, following the Chair and Vice Chair attending meetings of the Group Leaders and the Town and Community Council Forum to discuss the topics that would be covered.

The Newsletters sent to the Town and Community Councils can be found at **Enclosures 2 and 3**.

Equivalent Newsletters were sent to Members of the County Council (elected and co-opted) are included in **Enclosures 4 and 5**.

An additional document was sent with the March 2023 Newsletters – “Meet the Members of the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s Standards Committee”. A copy is included in **Enclosure 6**.

Members are encouraged, and Group Leaders are requested to reinforce this message, to read these Newsletters, and consider the Code of Conduct cases reported in particular.

4.4 Group Leader Duty and reporting to the Standards Committee:

As detailed in Section 3 above, a new duty has been placed on Group Leaders to take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members of their groups. Group Leaders are also required to co-operate with the Council’s Standards Committee in the exercise of the Committee’s functions.

Similarly, the Standards Committee has a new duty to monitor how Group Leaders are complying with their new responsibility and consider how it is ensuring it satisfies the requirement to provide advice and training to Group Leaders under the umbrella of this duty.

To this end, work has been done during the period of this report, and continues on the Standards Committee’s Work Programme for 2023/2024 (**Enclosure 8**), on how Group Leaders are reporting to the Standards Committee in this regard.

A pro-forma for reporting on this matter has been developed and shared with Group Leaders. A draft of the paperwork was presented to Group Leaders on 27 April 2023. Group Leaders were given the opportunity to discuss with Members of their Groups and forward their comments to the Standards Committee, before the final form for this year was shared with the Group Leaders on 8 June 2023. A copy of the blank form used is included in **Enclosure 7**.

Four Independent Members of the Standards Committee met individually with each Group Leader during July 2023 to discuss the reports presented to the Standards Committee (using the *pro forma* in **Enclosure 7**). The Standards Committee would like to thank the Group Leaders for their cooperation and willingness to engage during these meetings.

Several issues were raised during these discussions, and implementing these is included on the Standard Committee's Work Programme for 2023-2024 (as noted in **Enclosure 8**). There were some specific themes that were raised as issues by one or more of the Group Leaders including training for Members and training for Group Leaders on their new duties; and how to adapt some procedures to make it easier for Members to comply with the requirements e.g. the process for declaring an interest.

The Members of the Standards Committee who were part of the above process created a matrix of the matters that were raised by the Group Leaders, and this is included in **Enclosure 9** to this report.

Other issues, included as headings within the pro forma form, and discussed include:

- Training:

It is confirmed that training on the Code of Conduct is mandatory. The pro forma form will be adapted to ensure that this is clear for reporting on issues in 2023/2024.

The Standards Committee was pleased to see that all Members had completed training on the Code of Conduct since the elections in May 2022. Group Leaders are encouraged to ensure that mandatory modules are completed on time by Members.

Further work will be undertaken by the Standards Committee regarding:

- The timetable for completing mandatory modules;
- Whether IT training should be considered mandatory within 6 months of the individual being elected;
- How will information about Member training be shared with Group Leaders.

- Annual Reviews between Members and their Group Leader:

The Standards Committee believes that it would be beneficial if Group Leaders could develop a system among themselves to develop and offer support to their Members. The Standards Committee Members believed there was a lack of specific procedure and that the importance of these reviews varies amongst Group Leaders.

- Elected Members Annual Reports:

The majority of Group Leaders were supportive of the idea and encourage Members to complete an Annual Report at the end of the financial year. However, this was not supported by everyone and as this is not a statutory requirement, the Standards Committee can only reiterate that it encourages all Members to submit an Annual Report in the interest of promoting transparency and to share useful information with members of the public since reports are published on each Member's biography page. So that members of the public are clear, as well as publishing the Annual Reports submitted by Members, a note will also be included on the biography pages of those Members that do not submit an Annual Report detailing that the Member has not completed an Annual Report for the specified period.

- Supporting the wellbeing of Members:

The Standards Committee met with the Head of Democratic Services following the conversations with the Group Leaders and, as part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme for the coming year, the Standards Committee intends to support the work of the Democratic Services Committee regarding Member Wellbeing.

It is understood that correspondence was sent to all Members during Mental Health Awareness Week in May 2023 to inform them of the provision available to Members, including access to free and confidential counselling. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this provision if it would benefit them.

The conversations with the Group Leaders were interesting and constructive and several of the issues raised have been included on the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (**Enclosure 8**), which is evidence of the Committee's emphasis on what has been reported by the Group Leaders. However, the Standards Committee does not want these conversations to become an opportunity for Group Leaders to note their discontent with matters outside the Committee's remit.

The requirements of the 2021 Act are in existence; this is a new process for Group Leaders and the Standards Committee alike. Group Leaders are encouraged to make regular contact with their Members in order to meet the requirement of promoting high standards of behaviour, and to accept any offer of training they receive in their capacity as Group Leaders in the future.

The Standards Committee is keen to make some adjustments to the procedure followed this year for 2023/24 and will include Group Leaders within those discussions. One option is for these conversations to be held between individual Group Leaders and two, rather than four, Standards Committee Members. Changes to the pro forma form are also anticipated.

4.5 Review of the Ethical Standards Framework and Model Code of Conduct ('Penn Report'):

In July 2021, Richard Penn presented the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework in Wales. The Standards Committee was involved in considering the outcome of that report and, more recently, the Committee has considered a Consultation by Welsh Government arising from the Penn Review.

The work on this matter is included in the Committee's Work Programme for 2023-2024 (**Enclosure 8**) as responses to the Consultation were needed by 23 June 2023. It can be confirmed that a response to this consultation has been sent by the Chair of the Standards Committee but will be further reported in 2023/2024.

It is likely that work will be required following the outcome of the Welsh Government Consultation and the Standards Committee will be taking any relevant action accordingly.

4.6 Reports from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW):

Reports in relation to complaints received by the PSOW for alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by County Council or Town and Community Councils Members on Anglesey are provided to Standards Committee Members on a quarterly basis. These

reports are also included on the Agenda for the bi-annual formal Standards Committee meetings.

- Over the period of this report, three complaints were received by the PSOW. These complaints were reported in quarter 1. One complaint was in relation to a County Council Member and two in relation to Town and Community Council Members. In respect of the complaint against the County Councillor, the PSOW decided not to investigate. In relation to the Town and Community Councillors, in one case, the PSOW decided not to investigate and in the other matter (a case which was reported as having started in the previous financial year) the PSOW's investigation was terminated.
- It is encouraging to note that no complaints were received in quarters 2, 3 and 4 of the period.

The Standards Committee has considered undertaking an analysis of complaints and any emerging patterns and mitigating measures. However, on the basis of the few complaints noted above, it has not been possible to determine any patterns.

The PSOW and the Adjudication Panel for Wales, publish a summary of the cases considered by them on their website. These cases are reported during formal meetings of the Standards Committee and information is shared in summary with County Council Members and the Town and Community Councils within the Newsletters (see section 4.3 above).

4.7 Dispensations:

Dispensations may be granted by the Standards Committee, in certain circumstances defined by statute, where the Member would otherwise be unable to participate in a debate or decision owing to a significant (prejudicial) personal interest. The Standards Committee may sometimes be in a position to overreach that prejudicial interest if certain conditions are met. The Dispensations Regulations apply to County Council Members and Town and Community Council Members.

No applications for dispensations have been received during the last financial year.

All County Council Members and Town and Community Council Members are advised to consider whether an application for dispensation may be appropriate for them in some circumstances and are encouraged to contact the Monitoring Officer for advice. Links to Briefing Notes on Dispensations are shared with Members in their respective Newsletters too (see **Enclosures 2-5**).

4.8 Code of Conduct: Setting the level of registering gifts and hospitality

The Code of Conduct places a duty on Members to register gifts and hospitality above a level which is set by each Authority. The current threshold in this Council is £20. The level has been set at this amount for a number of years.

The first Recommendation made in the Richard Penn report (see section 4.5 above) is that the threshold for declarations of any gift, hospitality, material benefit or advantage should be specified in the Code to ensure consistency across Wales.

It is noted in the Welsh Government Consultation document that there is no intention to amend the Model Code but Welsh Government has included a recommendation in its Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance arising from the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 that the approach to the setting of the level of this amount is reviewed and agreed within individual councils and that such regular reviews of the threshold are included in the standards committees' annual reports. The Guidance also suggests that this matter be routinely discussed by monitoring officer and chairs of standards committees' group.

Indeed, there has been some discussion at national level (in both monitoring officer meetings and the National Standards Committee Forum) about harmonising the amount and for all Welsh authorities to set the same threshold voluntarily, without requiring a legislative change. The proposed threshold discussed by the National Standards Committee Forum is £25.

The Standards Committee agrees to this change in an effort to be consistent with other authorities in Wales and on the basis the level is very similar to what is currently required in this Authority, it is unlikely to cause any great difficulties.

If Council agrees to this proposal i.e. to raise the registration level for gifts and hospitality received by Members to £25, the Standards Committee proposes that it will include such recommendation in the next relevant / appropriate report on constitutional matters presented to the Executive and full Council.

4.9 Training

The Human Resources Development Manager presents a report to each Standards Committee formal meeting which includes considering the content of and the actions taken in relation to the Council Members' Development Programme. The Committee is given an opportunity to provide its input on the Programme as it is developed and the extent to which Members engage with the Development Programme.

Following a review of the Council and some of its Committees' meetings, the Standards Committee made a recommendation that training for Council and Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs should be mandatory, both on election and every two years if re-elected. This proposal was presented to a meeting of the Group Leaders who agreed with this recommendation.

Training for the Standards Committee Members is part of each year's Work Programme for the Standards Committee. The training for the Members conducted during the period of this report includes training on the Code of Conduct for Members on 20 May 2022 (following the Local Government election) and subsequently in February 2023 (following the appointment of two Town and Community Council representatives on the Committee). Work is also ongoing with the Human Resources service to ensure completion of mandatory training modules, including the Chairing of meetings for both Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

The Standards Committee has also arranged training on the Code of Conduct for Town and Community Council Members in October 2022. Four sessions were arranged but only three were held, due to a lack of support from the Town and Community Councils. The low attendance records was subject to a discussion at the

Standards Committee meeting in December 2022 and was given attention in both the Newsletter and at the Town and Community Council Forum. As a Committee, we strongly feel that ensuring all Members are trained on the Code of Conduct is essential and were disappointed that one of the recommendations from the Penn report (recommendation 7) for training on the Code to become mandatory for all Members has been rejected by Welsh Government. It is something that is included in the Standards Committee's response to Welsh Government in its Consultation on the Penn report (discussed in 4.5 above).

Training for Group Leaders is another area that the Standards Committee has been and will continue to discuss. This includes looking at how training for Group Leaders in their new duty (detailed above in section 4.4) can be developed collectively via the National Standards Committee Forum.

Training was also given a great deal of attention in the discussions between the Group Leaders and the Standards Committee (detailed under item 4.4 above).

5. The Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024

A proposed Work Programme for the Standards Committee for 2023-2024 is included in **Enclosure 8**. Work is already being undertaken to achieve this vision.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 This Annual Report is presented to the Council for its approval within three months of its receipt.
- 6.2 Council approves the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (**Enclosure 8**) whilst accepting that some additional matters may be included, in accordance with demand.

Enclosure 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

Work Programme for Standards Committee 2022/23 – with annotations for the Committee’s Annual Report for 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Actions undertaken during the period of the report |
|----|---|--|---|
| 1 | The Standards Committee’s Annual Report to full Council | The Committee to begin consideration of and work on the next Annual Report ahead of their formal meeting in June, 2022. Share the annual report (once considered by the Council) with the PSOW? | 2021/2022 report presented to full Council in September 2022. 2022/2023 report (in draft) discussed at an informal meeting on 26/5/2023 and at the Standards Committee meeting in June 2023. The matter was further discussed at an informal meeting on 28/7, following the Committee Members meeting with the Group Leaders. The final report is to be presented to full Council in September 2023. |
| 2 | Review of Local Resolution Protocol | An amendment was made in March 2022 – further review may be needed after discussions with group leaders. Report anonymised cases dealt with under local resolution processes to PSOW? | Revised Local Resolution Protocol for County Council Members approved by Standards Committee, following discussion with Group Leaders in a meeting and a presentation to all Members in a Briefing session, in December 2022. Item included in the County Councillors’ Newsletter in March 2023. Work on a Local Resolution Protocol for Members of Town and Community Councils is included in the 2023/2024 Work Programme. |
| 3 | Offer and Provision of training to leaders of political groups. Need to decide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will deliver training Involvement of standards committee members. Involve senior officers? | Need discussion with political group leaders and democratic services. These arrangements must be made at the start of each administration and training take place within 6 months of the election and be reviewed at least annually | Discussed with Human Resources. Enquiries made of WLGA for any ‘bespoke’ training available. To continue on 2023/2024 Work Programme. Next National Standards Committee Forum meeting in June 2023. |
| 4 | Communication with political group leaders | Formal reporting process by leaders or more informal? What frequency of reports from group leaders? | Chair or Chair and Vice Chair attended Group Leader Meetings as follows: 29.09.2022 – to present the amended Local Resolution |

Enclosure 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

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| | | <p>Arrange meetings periodically to review behaviour?</p> | <p>Protocol ;</p> <p>08.12.2022 – to present observations made following observation exercise at Council meetings;</p> <p>16.03.2023 – to discuss items from December formal meeting and the Newsletter to follow;</p> <p>27.04.2023 – to discuss the Group Leaders' Report Template (new duty under the 2021 Act);</p> <p>08.06.2023 – to present the Standards Committee's draft response to the Welsh Government consultation on the Penn report's recommendations;</p> |
| 5 | <p>Intervention/notification of low – level complaints some within groups not reported to PSOW.</p> | <p>Need to see response from Penn report by Wales Government. Any reports to be anonymised.</p> | <p>Met previously 8/3/21 and 27/5/21.</p> <p>Penn report published. Welsh Government consultation open until end June 2023. This matter is to continue on 2023/2024 Work Programme.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Meetings</p> | <p>Last formal meeting 15/12/2021</p> <p>Informal meeting(s) to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation on WG's draft statutory guidance on standards of conduct a draft for the Annual Report of the Committee to full Council. (8/3/22) • Workplan for 22/23 (27/4/22) <p>Next formal meeting scheduled for 28/6/2022.</p> | <p>Formal meeting held on 28/6/22.</p> <p>Informal meeting on 14/11/22 (observation of Council/Committee meetings – discuss findings)</p> <p>Informal meeting on 07/12/22 (observation of Council/Committee meetings – discuss presentation to Group Leaders' meeting)</p> <p>Formal meeting on 14/12/22</p> <p>Informal meeting on 13/1/23 (discuss various matters including items for Newsletters and observation of Committee meetings)</p> <p>Informal meeting 24/3/23 (Group Leaders' Report Template with their new duty under the LGE(W)Act 2021)</p> <p>Informal meeting 12/5/22 (Welsh</p> |

Enclosure 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

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| | | | <p>Government's consultation on the Penn report)</p> <p>Informal meeting 26/5/22 (Standards Committee's annual report and work programme for 2023/2024)</p> <p>Next formal meeting scheduled for 14/6/2023.</p> |
| 7 | Newsletters following the 15.12.2021 formal meeting | Members to consider following-up responses to the Newsletter from a certain number of town and community councils after the discussion of the item at the Committee's formal meeting in December 2021. | <p>Newsletters sent August 2022 (incorporating information from the 12/2021 and 06/2022 formal Standards Committee meetings).</p> <p>Newsletters following the December 2022 formal meeting sent in March 2023 – following a presentation of each in the Town and Community Council Forum and Group Leaders' meeting respectively.</p> <p>Newsletters to be sent following the June 2023 formal meeting.</p> |
| 8 | Complaints reporting – Quarterly Update Reports | Work required on a procedure to allow Committee members to ascertain and be assured that reported PSOW cases do not show any particular trend in poor behaviour. This process to preserve and respect (any of) the PSOW's requirements of confidentiality relating to these matters. | <p>Complaints for Q1 and Q2 2022/2023 presented to SC members in December 2022 meeting.</p> <p>Complaints for Q3 2022/2023 sent to SC members in January 2023. Complaints for Q4 2022/2023 sent to SC members in April 2023. Q3 and Q4 complaint reports will be presented at formal Standards Committee meeting in June 2023.</p> |
| 9 | Standards Committee Observing work of Public Committees and full Council | Following a decision that members of the Committee would undertake the role of observing proceedings at formal, public meetings of certain Committees of the Council (Scrutiny and Planning) and full Council meetings, it was communicated to | <p>Pro-forma report to be developed to ensure all issues recorded.</p> <p>Observation exercise undertaken September-December 2022. Details of the process included in full report to Standards Committee (below link).</p> <p>Informal meeting on 14/11/22 (observation of Council/Committee meetings – discuss findings to</p> |

Enclosure 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

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| | | <p>the Group Leaders that this was now effective.</p> <p>Members of the Committee who wish to participate in this observation role are requested to volunteer so that a schedule can be drawn-up and responsibilities allocated accordingly.</p> | <p>date)</p> <p>Informal meeting on 07/12/22 (observation of Council/Committee meetings – discuss presentation to Group Leaders’ meeting)</p> <p>Findings discussed with Group Leaders at a meeting on 08/12/22</p> <p>Formal meeting on 14/12/22. Full report available here</p> <p>Observations for Corporate Scrutiny Committee to continue. 4 Members to attend meetings on 19/01/2023 (morning and afternoon).</p> <p>Informal meeting on 13/1/23 (discuss various matters including continuing with the observation of Corporate Scrutiny Committee meetings)</p> <p>Correspondence sent in relation to this issue including with Group Leader.</p> <p>Decision made not to continue with any further observations in this exercise. To be reviewed in the future.</p> |
| 10 | Training for Standards Committee Members | | <p>Discussions on-going with Human Resources.</p> <p>Training to Standards Committee members on Code of Conduct 20/5/22.</p> <p>Agreed mandatory for members of Standards Committee to be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics and Standards <input type="checkbox"/> GDPR <input type="checkbox"/> Cyber awareness <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Diversity and Equality <p>Available on Learning Pool.</p> <p>Also, Chairing meetings mandatory for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees. [Standards</p> |

Enclosure 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

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| | | | <p>Committee suggestions and agreed by Group Leaders].</p> <p>Code of Conduct training conducted for the two new Town and Community Council Members of the Standards Committee (and extended invitation to other Standards Committee Members too) on 15.02.2023.</p> |
| 11 | How to Complain | <p>Consideration to be given as to how to publicise how to complain against elected members once it has been settled what the process will be for 'low-level complaints' following the Penn Review and Welsh Government's response.</p> | <p>Penn report published. Welsh Government consultation open until end June 2023. This matter is to continue on 2023/2024 Work Programme.</p> |

MATTERS ADDED TO THE WORK PROGRAMME AFTER THE SAME WAS APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 2023:

| No | Items | Action | Actions undertaken during the period of the report |
|----|------------------------|--|---|
| 12 | Dispensations | As and when applications arise | No applications during the period of the report |
| 13 | Members annual reports | Standards committee to encourage practice of completing annual reports | <p>Democratic Services Business Manager to attend formal meeting on 14/12/2022.</p> <p>New Head of Democratic Services appointed January 2023.</p> <p>Chair and Vice-Chair of Standards Committee have presented this matter to the Group Leaders on 16/03/2023.</p> <p>This matter was included in the County Councillors' Newsletter.</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services to attend June 2023 meeting and discuss current work being done with annual reports.</p> |
| 14 | In-house training | In-house training to be recorded and made available to members | Not something that is currently available. |
| 15 | Appointment | Applications invited | Will be raised at Town and Community |

Enclosure 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

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| | of Town and community councillors to sit on Standards committee | through correspondence and newsletters | <p>Councils forum in September. Closing date 30/9/22 4 applications received. Applications and + ballot paper sent to the Town & Community Council clerks on 6/10/2022 to be returned by 5pm 19/11/2022.</p> <p>Report presented to full Council for a decision on 6/12/22.</p> <p>Report presented to Standards Committee at its formal meeting on 14/12/22. Available here.</p> <p>Councillor Iorwerth Roberts of Bryngwran Community Council and Councillor Margaret Ann Thomas of Llangefni Town Council appointed.</p> |
| 16 | Town and Community Council forum | Chair and vice-chair to attend next forum meeting | Chair and Vice Chair attended the Forum Meeting on 8/9/22 and then on 27/2/23. |
| 17 | Training for Town and community Councils | To be provided by One Voice Wales | <p>Invites sent out 12/8/22. Four training dates arranged in October with applications requested by 16/9/22.</p> <p>Final three dates (due to lack of interest at the registration stage by the Town and Community Councils): 4/10/2022 @ 2pm – Welsh 6/10/2022 @ 6.30pm – English 20/10/2022 @ 6.30pm – Welsh</p> <p>Report presented to Standards Committee at its formal meeting on 14/12/22. Available here.</p> <p>Matter given attention in the Town and Community Councils' Newsletter. Chair and Vice-Chair attended a Forum meeting on 27/02/2023 so as to present the Newsletter / encourage Town and Community Council members to complete Code of Conduct training.</p> |
| 18 | Community Council A | Concerns of low level breaches of Code of Conduct received in relation to Council / Councillors at the Council. | Chair and Vice Chair attended two observation meetings and subsequently conducted a Review of the Register of Interests with the Clerk and Chair between October 2022 and March 2023. |
| 19 | Role description for Standards | Welsh Local Government Association's | Updated role descriptions online with links in each Standards Committee Member's biography page on website. |

Enclosure 1 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

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| | Committee Members | Development Charter requires the adoption of role descriptions for elected and coopted members. Democratic Services Committee adopted new role descriptions. | |
| 20 | National Standards Committee Forum | First meeting to be held on 8/12/2022. Chair to attend. | <p>First meeting took place on 27/01/2023. Chair attended and provided feedback to Standards Committee Members via email/oral update following the Code of Conduct training in February 2023.</p> <p>Next Forum meeting in June 2023.</p> <p>To continue on the Work Programme for 2023/2024.</p> |
| 21 | Community Council B | Concerns of low level breaches of Code of Conduct received in relation to Council / Councillors at the Council. | <p>Observation meeting attended in February 2023 and an offer of Review of the Registers of Interests agreed for the Summer 2023.</p> <p>To continue on the Work Programme for 2023/2024.</p> |
| 22 | Community Council C | Concerns of low level breaches of Code of Conduct received in relation to Council / Councillors at the Council. | <p>Observation meeting attended in February 2023 and an offer of Review of the Registers of Interests offered, but not yet agreed, for the Summer 2023.</p> <p>To continue on the Work Programme for 2023/2024.</p> |
| 23 | Community Council CH | Concerns of low level breaches of Code of Conduct received in relation to Council / Councillors at the Council. | <p>Observation meeting attended in April 2023.</p> <p>To continue on the Work Programme for 2023/2024.</p> |



INTRODUCTION

The Standards Committee would like to congratulate you all on your election or re-election as town / community councillors. The Standards Committee is here to support you in observing the code of conduct adopted by your council.

As you know, maintaining the highest levels of ethical behaviour is an essential part of your role in representing the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local guidance has been issued to Councillors on declarations of interest and has been provided to your clerks*. In some circumstances it is possible to get special permission from the Standards Committee to take part in decisions, even if you have a prejudicial interest (as you know, this is a significant personal interest which means that you are not allowed to take part in discussion or voting). The special permission from the Standards Committee is called a dispensation and local guidance on how to apply for a dispensation has been provided to your clerks*. Please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice and support in submitting any application you may wish to make.

*The Monitoring Officer would be glad to provide further copies on request.

ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES

- Serious breaches of your code of conduct are decided by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, which is a tribunal hearing its cases in public.
- These cases are reported in full on the Adjudication Panel's website and the link is [here](#)
- If you would prefer a summarised version of these cases they are reported to the Standards Committee and the link to the most recent summary considered by the Standards Committee is [here](#).

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- It is part of the role of the Committee to provide training for you on your code of conduct.
- So, we have written to all clerks to offer remote training sessions, of 1.5 hours duration, on the following alternative dates:

Tuesday 4th October @ 2pm - Welsh
Thursday 6th October @ 6.30pm - English
Tuesday 18th October @ 2pm - English
Thursday 20th October @ 6.30pm - Welsh

- Numbers are limited, so if you are able to attend one of the sessions then please let your clerk know as soon as possible.

THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

When you signed your acceptance of office to become a Councillor you also agreed to uphold the principles of conduct in public life. These are also commonly known as the Nolan Principles and, in Wales, consist of the following:

- Selflessness
- Honesty
- Integrity and propriety
- Duty to uphold the law
- Stewardship
- Objectivity in decision-making
- Equality and respect
- Openness
- Accountability
- Leadership

AND FINALLY.....

The Standards Committee needs 2 representatives from town / community councils to sit on the Committee. Requests have been sent to the town and community council clerks with a deadline for response by the end of September 2022. If your council has yet to discuss this request, we ask that you please do so, and consider submitting a nomination. The relevant application form has been provided to every clerk.

If more than two candidates are nominated, a postal ballot process will follow.

Also, please advise your clerks if you wish to attend any of the training sessions mentioned above.

A reminder that the local Town and Community Councils' Forum is due to take place on the 8th September 2022.

Please ensure that your council is represented.

The Standards Committee's Annual Report will be considered by the County Council on 29th September and will be available to you on the County Council's Website.

INFORMAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

The Committee carries out governance reviews of some town/community councils; looking at undertakings, declarations of interest, minutes and training records. When the committee intends to conduct reviews of this kind we shall contact the relevant clerks in advance. We are most grateful to your clerks for the assistance they have provided to us in the past.

- Each council which is reviewed will receive written feedback and any recommendations, to be considered by all members of the council, but on an informal basis
- General and anonymised feedback will also be provided to all councils, including any recommendations and the sharing of good practice. We shall ask that this feedback be shared at a formal meeting of every council

MONITORING CONDUCT

The Committee also intends, from time to time, to send two of its members to monitor conduct at some public meetings of town/community councils.

We hope to accomplish this remotely and we shall contact the relevant clerks in order to make the arrangements.

The Committee members will provide early feedback to the chair and the clerk; and may produce general findings to be circulated to all councils.

These monitoring arrangements will begin to take place in 2023.

NEW LEGAL DUTIES ON TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Under the Local Governance and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 town and community councils must now:

- Produce an annual training plan for its councillors and staff, with the first plan being required within 6 months of the last local government election on the 5th May 2022. The annual training plan is a document that will be requested by the Committee when it carries out its reviews.
- Publish an annual report, as soon as reasonably practicable, after the end of each financial year.
- [One Voice Wales](#) is supporting its members to comply with the new legislation.



STANDARDS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

March 2023 - Issue 4

INTRODUCTION

The Standards Committee is here to support you in observing the Code of Conduct adopted by your Council. As you know, maintaining the highest level of ethical behaviour is an essential part of your role in representing the public.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Following a postal ballot process, Councillor Iorwerth Roberts from Bryngwran Community Council and Councillor Margaret Thomas from Llangefni Town Council have been selected to represent the town and community councils on the Standards Committee. Congratulations to both and thanks to all councils that took part in the process.

LOCAL COMPLAINTS

The Standards Committee is pleased with the low numbers of complaints being sent to the Ombudsman in relation to allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct by both county and community councillors in Anglesey.

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW) AND ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES (APW) CASES

Allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct are investigated by the PSOW. The PSOW publishes limited information of the cases that are referred to her office on the website. The PSOW will, in the most serious matters, refer cases to be decided by the APW.

These cases are reported in full on the PSOW's website and are available here and on the APW's website and available here.

Summarised versions of these cases are reported to the Standards Committee (SC) and the link to the PSOW summary considered by the SC is here and the APW summary considered by the SC is here.

Key themes that arise include:

- The newly appointed PSOW (in the role since 1.4.22) continues to use the two stage test when considering allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct (1.) Is there evidence of a breach of the Code? and (2.) Is it in the public interest for the matter to be investigated?
- The importance of completing training on the Code of Conduct, for both members and clerks in the town and community councils.

TRAINING

- Producing an annual training plan for both councillors and staff is now a requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021; the first plan was required within 6 months of the local government election on 5 May 2022.
- The Standards Committee would like to see your training plan. Please send to medwenjones@ynysmon.llyw.cymru by 31 May 2023. The matter will be discussed by the Standards Committee at its June meeting.
- The Standards Committee considered that the number of attendees at the recent Code of Conduct training in October 2022 was disappointing. Of the 90 spaces available, only 37 completed the training on the Code. There were no clerks or members from 29 of the 40 town and community councils on Anglesey present.
- The PSOW and the APW encourage members and clerks to undertake Code of Conduct training.
- Should you breach the Code, failure to have undertaken training on the Code would be considered an aggravating factor when the issue of sanction was considered by the Standards Committee or the APW.

THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

The last edition of the Newsletter provided some detail about the principles of conduct in public life. Should you wish to review these again, please follow this link.

DISPENSATIONS

It is possible for members to get special permission from the Standards Committee to take part in decisions when that member has a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct. A local guidance on how to apply for a dispensation has been provided to your clerks*. Please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice and support in relation to any application you may wish to make.

* The Monitoring Officer would be glad to provide a further copy on request.

WALES NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM

An All-Wales Forum for standards committee chairs has been created. This will be an opportunity for sharing good practice and problem solving amongst the 28 authorities required to have a Standards Committee in Wales. Any key messages from the Forum will be shared with you.

AND FINALLY:

The Standards Committee held a formal meeting on 14/12/2022 and should you wish to look at the items/reports considered at that meeting, please follow this link.

If you require any assistance, or further information, please contact the Monitoring Officer on lynnball@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

STANDARDS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

5th of August 2022 - Issue 3

INTRODUCTION

The [Standards Committee](#) would like to congratulate you all on your election or re-election to the County Council. The Standards Committee is here to support you in observing your [Code of Conduct](#). As you know, maintaining the highest levels of ethical behaviour is an essential part of your role in representing the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local guidance has been issued to Councillors on declarations of interest and the link is [here](#). In some circumstances it is possible to get special permission from the Standards Committee to take part in decisions, even if you have a prejudicial interest (as you know, this is a significant personal interest which means that you are not allowed to take part in discussion or voting). The special permission from the Standards Committee is called a dispensation and local guidance on how to apply for a dispensation is available [here](#). Please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice and support in submitting any application you may wish to make.

ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES

- Serious breaches of your Code of Conduct are decided by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, which is a tribunal hearing its cases in public.
 - These cases are reported in full on the Adjudication Panel's website and the link is [here](#)
- If you would prefer a summarised version of these cases they are reported to the Standards Committee and the link to the most recent summary considered by the Standards Committee is [here](#)

LOCAL RESOLUTION

The Standards Committee believes in early intervention, and mediation, to resolve issues whenever possible. To this end the Committee is developing a new Local Resolution Protocol, to involve the Group Leaders, and this will be circulated to all Councillors in due course.

THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

When you signed your acceptance of office to become a Councillor you also agreed to uphold the principles of conduct in public life. These are also commonly known as the Nolan Principles and, in Wales, consist of the following:

- Selflessness
- Honesty
- Integrity and propriety
- Duty to uphold the law
- Stewardship
- Objectivity in decision-making
- Equality and respect
- Openness
- Accountability
- Leadership

AND FINALLY.....

The Standards Committee needs 2 representatives from Town/ Community Councils to sit on the Committee. Requests have been sent to the Town and Community Council Clerks with a deadline for response by the end of September 2022. So far, only one nomination has been received so we would ask that you please remind the Community Councils of which you are members / which you regularly attend, to consider submitting a maximum of one nomination each. If more than two candidates are nominated, a postal ballot process will follow.

MONITORING CONDUCT

- Members of the Standards Committee will attend occasional meetings of the Council / its Committees to assess compliance with standards of conduct
- Early feedback will be provided to Committee Chairs
- Quarterly feedback will be provided to Group Leaders

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- It is mandatory for Councillors to undertake training on the Code of Conduct.
- A session took place on 20th May 2022 and the training materials were circulated to all Councillors
- However, any Councillors who were unable to attend are advised to undertake the "Ethics and Standards" module on the Council's Learning Pool. This link is [here](#)

NEW LEGAL DUTIES ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- The Standards Committee is now required to monitor the Group Leaders in carrying out their statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors in their groups.
- To ensure training for Group Leaders on the exercise of their ethical standards duty
- The Standards Committee is required to submit an annual report to Council. The first statutory report from the Standards Committee will go to Council on 29 September 2022 and will be available on the Council's website

INTRODUCTION

The Standards Committee is here to support you in observing the Code of Conduct for members. As you know, maintaining the highest level of ethical behaviour is an essential part of your role in representing the public.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Standards Committee encourages all elected members to complete an Annual Report, detailing the work and training you have undertaken during your year as a member of this Council from 01.04.22-31.03.23. There is a template for your use and it is available [here](#).

DISPENSATIONS

It is possible for members to get special permission from the Standards Committee to take part in decisions when that member has a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct. A local guidance on how to apply for a dispensation is available [here](#). Please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice and support in relation to any application you may wish to make.

MONITORING CONDUCT

As part of its work programme, members of the Standards Committee have attended meetings of (a) the Council, (b) the Planning and Orders Committee, (c) the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and (d) the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to monitor standards of conduct. The Standards Committee takes this opportunity to thank you for your welcome. Verbal feedback has been provided to committee chairs, Group Leaders' meeting and the Scrutiny Committees' Chair and Vice-Chair Forum. A link to the full list of recommendations made by the Standards Committee can be seen [here](#).

WALES NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE FORUM

Following a recommendation made in the Penn report, an all-Wales Forum for standards committee chairs has been created. This will be an opportunity for sharing good practice. Any key messages from the Forum will be shared with you.

TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

You are encouraged to complete any training which assists you in your role as members of the IOACC. Training is intended to empower and to make you as effective as possible in your role. Chairs and vice chairs of the Council and its committees are strongly encouraged to complete the Charing Skills module.

If you have not yet undertaken recent Code of Conduct training, the Standards Committee urges you to do so.

All modules are available on Learning Pool, the link is [here](#). For instructions on how to access Learning Pool follow this [link](#).

When you have completed any training in your role as member, remember to include details of that training on your profile page on the website. For details on how to do this follow this [link](#).

If you need details of your corporately completed training, please contact CefnogaethAelodauEtholedig@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

LOCAL COMPLAINTS

The Standards Committee is pleased with the low numbers of complaints being sent to the Ombudsman in relation to allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct.

AND FINALLY

The Standards Committee held a formal meeting on 14/12/2022 and should you wish to look at the items/reports considered at that meeting, please follow this [link](#).

If you require any assistance, or further information, please contact the Monitoring Officer on lynnball@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES (PSOW) AND ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES (APW) CASES

Allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct are investigated by the PSOW. The PSOW publishes limited information of the cases that are referred to her office on the website. The PSOW will, in the most serious matters, refer cases to be decided by the APW.

These cases are reported in full on the PSOW's website and are available [here](#) and on the APW's website and available [here](#).

Summarised versions of these cases are reported to the Standards Committee (SC) and the link to the PSOW summary considered by the SC is [here](#) and the APW summary considered by the SC is [here](#).

Key themes that arise include:

- The newly appointed PSOW (in the role since 1.4.22) continues to use the two stage test when considering allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct by members: (1.) Is there evidence of a breach of the Code? and (2.) Is it in the public interest for the matter to be investigated?
- The importance of completing training on the Code of Conduct.

THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

The last edition of the Newsletter provided some detail about the principles of conduct in public life. Should you wish to review these again, please follow this [link](#).

LOCAL RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

An amended local resolution protocol has been adopted following consultation with members. A copy is available [here](#).

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Two new members have recently been appointed to the Standards Committee; whilst introducing them, it also seems an appropriate time to provide you with information on all the members that collectively form the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Standards Committee – so that you may put faces to those behind the bi-annual Standards Committee Newsletters.

There are 9 members on the Standards Committee: five are independent members who have been co-opted following a statutory process; two are elected by the local town and community councillors as the town and community council representatives; and two are selected from amongst the elected members on the county council.

JOHN ROBERT JONES Independent Member Chair



John was co-opted to the SC in 2017, a year after his retirement as Chief Officer at Medrwn Môn, the independent agency which provides advice and support to voluntary organisations and community groups.

A Welsh-speaker, John was born and brought up on Anglesey and continues to live on the island with his family.

"I was elected Chair of the SC in 2020 and the Standards Committee continues to work proactively with County Council elected members and co-opted members as well as the town and community councillors in maintaining the highest possible standards of behaviour".

You may contact the Chair on JohnJones@ynysmon.llyw.cymru



RHYS DAVIES Independent Member Vice-Chair

Rhys was elected Vice-Chair shortly after his appointment to the SC in 2019.

Having studied dentistry in Cardiff, he returned to his native Anglesey to work as a dentist for over 30 years, until his retirement in 2015.

"I've enjoyed the experiences I've had since becoming an SC member. I am happy to contribute to assisting members to conform with their Code of Conduct duties so as to ensure decisions are made with transparency and members act with integrity".



CELYN MENAI EDWARDS Independent Member

A qualified barrister, Celyn currently works as the Chief Executive of the Isle of Anglesey Charitable Association, having worked previously for the Welsh Parliament. Her appointment on the SC in 2019 followed her return from Cardiff to Anglesey with her family.

SHARON WARNES Independent Member



Having begun her career as a secondary school teacher, Sharon then worked in further education before working for over 30 years in local government.

In addition to her role on the SC since 2019, she is a lay member of Gwynedd Council's Audit Committee and Chair of Snowdonia National Park's Standards Committee.



GILL MURGATROYD Independent Member

Gill is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and is currently the director of her own HR and organisation development consultancy business in North Wales, based at her Llandudno home.



MARGARET THOMAS Town and Community Council Representative

Margaret has been a member of Llangefni Town Council for 23 years and has been Town Mayor five times during that time. She represents the Town Council at Regional Meetings of One Voice Wales and the area committee.

She has lived on Anglesey all her life and continues to reside on the family farm, following on from her parents, for several years.

Margaret was appointed to the SC in December 2022.

"I'm looking forward to using my experience as a Town Councillor to assist the Standards Committee with its role in maintaining high levels of conduct by elected and co-opted members in Anglesey".



IORWERTH ROBERTS Town and Community Council Representative

Iorwerth has been a member of Brynrgwan Community Council since 1997 and, for the last 22 years, has been the Chair of the Community Council.

He worked more than 30 years in the construction industry, including as an accredited tutor and assessor.

Iorwerth was first appointed to the SC in 2017 and has recently been appointed for a second term.

"I hope my experience as a community councillor can assist the committee when it discusses behavioural matters, particularly when they involve community councillors. If I can stress one thing to current councillors, it is that training is vital, particularly on the Code of Conduct."

TREFOR LLOYD HUGHES County Council Representative



Trefor is a member of Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales and represents Ynys Gybi on the County Council. He was appointed to the SC following the election in May 2022; this will be his second term on the Committee.

DAFYDD RHYS THOMAS County Council Representative



Dafydd is a member of Y Grŵp Annibynnol - The Independent Group. He was appointed on the SC following the election in May 2022; this will be his second term on the Committee, and represents Ynys Gybi on the County Council.

The Standards Committee is here to support you in observing the Code of Conduct adopted by your Council.

As you know, maintaining the highest level of ethical behaviour is an essential part of your role in representing the public.

For more information about the Committee's work for the year, please review the Work Programme for 2022/2023 in the SC's annual report.

The Standards Committee's Annual Report and the new Group Leaders' duty



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, political Group Leaders now have duties in relation to standards of conduct. A leader of a political group must (a) take reasonable steps to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of the group and (b) cooperate with the Council's Standards Committee in the exercise of its functions.
2. Group Leaders who fail to comply with the duty may be regarded as bringing their office into disrepute, in breach of the Code of Conduct for Members.
3. In addition, the 2021 Act places a duty on Standards Committees to make an annual report to their council as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year (1 April-31 March). The report must be considered by the relevant council before the end of 3 months beginning with the day on which the council receives it.
4. The Standards Committee's annual report must include an assessment of the extent to which Group Leaders have complied with their duties (paragraph 1 above). The Standards Committee requires information from the Group Leaders in order to do this.
5. Having regard to the requirements in the 2021 Act, a template report has been drafted to assist Group Leaders and remind them of the matters to be covered in their reports to the Standards Committee. This template is included in **Appendix 1**.
6. The template does not ask, and should not include, details of individual cases. The report focuses on the type of action which has been taken in relation to each matter.
7. Group Leaders are asked to produce these reports once a year; however, if issues of importance arise during the year, Group Leaders should consult with the Monitoring Officer, who will inform the Chair of the Standards Committee.
8. Completed forms are to be forwarded by Group Leaders to the Monitoring Officer **by 30 April** in each year. The Monitoring Officer will report to the Standards Committee.
9. The Standards Committee will arrange to meet with each Group Leader in private to discuss their reports **during May**.
10. The Standards Committee will use appropriate information from the Group Leaders' reports to inform its annual report to Council. The Committee's annual report will contain a short summary of the steps taken to fulfil the duty, its opinion on whether what has been done is sufficient and any future pieces of work that might be undertaken etc.
11. The Standards Committee will discuss its draft annual report to Council at its formal committee meeting in June. During this meeting the Standards Committee will agree on its findings arising from the Group Leaders' reports and will also confirm in that public forum the identity of any Group Leader who has failed to submit a completed report.
12. The Committee's annual report will be presented to full Council at the next available full Council meeting after the Standards Committee's June meeting.
13. Unaffiliated members (sitting outside a group) will also need to be briefed in the same way as Group Leaders so as to ensure high standard of conduct are maintained by all members, though they would not be expected to produce a report in this way.

Report by Group Leaders (GL) to the Standards Committee in relation to their GL duty:

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Report by: | (name of GL) | Political Group: | (name of Group) |
| Period for which report applies ('the Period'): | 1 April 20__ to 30 March 20__ | Number of members in Group: | |

Training on the Code of Conduct during the Period:

| | |
|--|--|
| Number of members that have received training on the Code of Conduct: | |
|--|--|

Mandatory Training Modules (excluding the Code of Conduct) during the Period:See list of Mandatory Training in **Appendix 2**

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Number of mandatory training modules to be completed by all Group members: | | Number of completed modules: | |
| Number of members in the Group that have completed all required mandatory training modules: | | | |

Regular Group Meetings during the Period:

| | |
|---|--|
| Number of Group meetings held for all Group members: | |
|---|--|

Annual Discussion between members and their Group Leader during the Period:

| | |
|--|--|
| Number of members who have been offered an annual discussion with the GL: | |
| Number of members who accept the above offer with the GL: | |
| Number of members who have attended an annual discussion meeting with the GL: | |

Annual Reports for the Period:

| | |
|--|--|
| Number of members who have submitted a completed annual report: | |
|--|--|

Standing Register of Personal Interests:

| | |
|--|--|
| Number of members who have reviewed their Standing Register of Interests: | |
|--|--|

Complaints:

| Complaint received from: (insert numbers) | Stage which the complaint reached: | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Informal | Local Resolution Protocol | PSOW |
| member of the public | | | |
| officer | | | |
| member of the same political group | | | |
| member of a different political group / not in a political group | | | |

Support meetings:

| | |
|--|--|
| Number of members who have been offered support meetings by the GL: | |
| Number of members who have accepted the offer of a support meeting by the GL: | |

Steps taken by GL to promote compliance with the Code of Conduct:

| |
|---|
| This section is to be completed in your own words. Please see Appendix 3 for more information. |
| |

Please send your report to the Monitoring Officer by emailing LynnBall@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

Signed by GL: _____

Date: _____

Generally (excluding Code of Conduct – dealt with under separate heading):

- **Cyber Security**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Data processing (GDPR)**
- **Equalities**

In addition to:

- **For all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Council and its Committees:**
 - **Chairing Meetings**
Required on being elected as Chair / Vice-Chair and every two years if re-elected.

- **The relevant training required for a member of a particular Committee including:**
 - **Planning Committee**
 - **Licensing Committee**
 - **Governance and Audit Committee**
 - **Appointments Committee**

Members must complete and repeat the required mandatory training in accordance with details published by the Council.

This section of the report is to be completed in your own words.

There is ***no need to include all the information listed below***. The matters which follow are included as examples of the type of information that you may wish to consider including as part of your response.

Personal commitment:

- demonstrated personal commitment by attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards;
- setting an example by demonstrating the principles of conduct in public life (see **Appendix 4**);
- used your influence to promote a positive culture;
- promoted a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- addressed issues as soon as they arose;
- promoted civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal meetings of the Council;
- worked to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards;

Encouraging group members:

- encouraged group members to attend relevant development or training, particularly around equalities and standards;
- ensured nominees to a committee had received the recommended training for that committee;

Co-operation with others:

- promoted informal resolution procedures, and worked with the Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer to achieve local resolution;
- attended a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;
- attended meetings with the Monitoring Officer and/or other Group Leaders as necessary to discuss matters of conduct;
- worked together with other Group Leaders to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council;

- Selflessness
- Honesty
- Integrity and Propriety
- Duty to uphold the law
- Stewardship
- Objectivity in Decision making
- Equality and respect
- Openness
- Accountability
- Leadership

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

Proposed Work Programme for Standards Committee 2023/2024

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | The Standards Committee's Annual Report to full Council | <p>The Committee to begin consideration of and work on the next Annual Report ahead of its formal meeting in June 2024.</p> <p>The Committee to develop its annual report for 2023/2024 (and a proposed work plan for 2024/2025) at the end of the 2023/2024 term.</p> <p>The process used in 2022/23 for Group Leaders reporting on their responsibilities under the 2021 Act will need to be reviewed. This will be subject to further discussions between Members of the Standards Committee and Group Leaders.</p> | |
| 2 | Review of Local Resolution Protocol (LRP) | <p>Revised LRP for County Council Members accepted by the Standards Committee at its formal meeting on 14.12.22. Item included in the County Council Newsletter.</p> <p>A LRP for the Town and Community Councils Members, particularly in light of the number of cases where the Standards Committee has been asked to assist due to conduct/behavioural concerns, was the subject of a report</p> | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|---|--|-----------------------------|
| | | during a formal meeting of the Standards Committee in June 2023. It will be promoted with the Town and Community Councils in September 2023 | |
| 3 | <p>Offer and Provision of training to leaders of political groups. Need to decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will deliver training • Involvement of standards committee members. • Involve senior officers? | <p>Need discussion with Group Leader and Democratic Services.</p> <p>These arrangements must be made at the start of each administration and training take place within 6 months of the election and be reviewed at least annually.</p> <p>Training for Group Leaders discussed at the National Standards Committee Forum. This is being developed by the WLGA. The Standards Committee will encourage Group Leaders to undertake this training when further information is available.</p> | |
| 4 | Communication with political group leaders | <p>Chair and Vice Chair to report at Group Leaders' meeting following every formal meeting of the Standards Committee.</p> <p>Further reporting / communication to be made as required.</p> | |
| 5 | Group Leader reporting duties and the process being followed | Review the process followed for the 2022/23 Annual Report. | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|---|---|-----------------------------|
| | | <p>Communicate with Group Leaders, and obtain their agreement, on how the process will evolve in order that information for the 2023/2024 Annual Report can be inputted. The changes will include ensuring that the Code of Conduct is offered within mandatory training modules.</p> | |
| 6 | Meetings | <p>Formal meetings in June and December 2023, and as required.</p> <p>Informal meetings may also be arranged, as required.</p> | |
| 7 | Newsletters following the formal meeting | <p>To continue to send Newsletters to (a) elected and co-opted Members of this Council, and (b) Town and Community Council Members.</p> <p>Need to consider relevant topics to be included.</p> | |
| 8 | Complaints reporting – Quarterly Update Reports | <p>Reports are sent to the Standards Committee members quarterly. Reports are also included on the Committee’s formal Agenda (bi-annual reporting).</p> <p>The report to the Standards Committee discusses any particular trend in poor behaviour, though with the current level of complaints, no such</p> | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|---|---|-----------------------------|
| | | <p>pattern has been established. Need to continue to review this and ensure that the process preserves and respects (any of) the PSOW's requirements of confidentiality relating to these matters.</p> | |
| 9 | Training for SC Members | <p>Ensure all Standards Committee Members have completed all mandatory training.</p> <p>Arrange Mediation training.</p> <p>Arrange Dispensation training.</p> <p>Arrange any further training required, in consultation with the HR Training Manager.</p> | |
| 10 | How to Complain | <p>Consideration to be given as to how to publicise how to complain against Members once it has been settled what the process will be for 'low-level complaints' following the Welsh Government's consultation into the Penn Review.</p> | |
| 11 | Dispensations | <p>As and when applications arise</p> | |
| 12 | Members annual reports | <p>Standards Committee to continue to encourage practice of completing Annual Reports and work with the Head of Democratic Services in this matter.</p> | |
| 13 | Appointment of new independent member to sit on Standards Committee | <p>Applications process conducted via the Standards</p> | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|--|--|-----------------------------|
| | | Committee's Selection Panel. | |
| 14 | Town and Community Council forum | Chair and Vice Chair to attend regular Forum meetings to present matters of interest from the Standards Committee to the Town and Community Councils. | |
| 15 | National Standards Committee Forum | For the Standards Committee Chair to attend Forum meetings and provide feedback to Standards Committee Members. | |
| 16 | Case reporting by the PSOW and the APW. Provide a summary and key learning points for Committee members. | <p>To provide reports at each formal Standards Committee meeting summarising the key points from the cases published by the PSOW and APW.</p> <p>To bring any points of learning to the attention of Members of the County Council and/or the Town and Community Councils via the Newsletters.</p> | |
| 17 | Training Plans by the Town and Community Councils | <p>A request was made by the Standards Committee in its Newsletter in March 2023 for the Town and Community Councils to send a copy of their Training Plans to the attention of the Standards Committee by the end of May 2023.</p> <p>Encourage training offered by One Voice Wales.</p> | |
| 18 | Penn report / WG consultation on ethical | Penn report published. | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|---|--|-----------------------------|
| | matters | <p>Welsh Government's Consultation on the Penn report discussed at an informal meeting of the Standards Committee on 12.05.2023.</p> <p>Draft responses to the consultation presented to Group Leaders by Standards Committee Chair on 08.06.2023.</p> <p>Item on the Standards Committee's formal meeting Agenda on 14.06.2023.</p> <p>Responses to consultation to be submitted by 23 June 2023.</p> <p>Further work needed when Welsh Government's response to the Consultation is published.</p> | |
| 19 | Appoint Chair and Vice Chair of Committee | Term of current Chair and Vice Chair ends on 05.02.2024 | |
| 20 | Community Council B | Two Members of the Standards Committee to conduct a Review of the Register of Interests and Code of Conduct related matters in the Council and provide feedback to the Council via the Chair. | |
| 21 | Community Council C | Two Members of the Standards Committee to conduct a Review of the Register of Interests and Code of | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|---|---|-----------------------------|
| | | Conduct related matters in the Council and provide feedback to the Council via the Chair (if the Council agrees). | |
| 22 | Community Council Ch | Action to be taken following observation meeting in April 2023. | |
| 23 | Annual Discussions for the Standards Committee members. | The Chair will meet with the Members and report any outputs that need to be arranged to the Monitoring Officer. The Chair will have a discussion with the Monitoring Officer. | |
| 24 | A Review of a sample of the County Council Members' Registers of Interests. | A desktop review of a sample of the Registers of Interests will be conducted by the independent Members of the Standards Committee. | |
| 25 | Observation of the Council and its Committee meetings from time to time. | The Standards Committee Members will attend meetings of the County Council or its Committees for observation if required, and, if appropriate will also provide feedback to the relevant Chair. | |
| 26 | Work with the Democratic Services Committee as it works on customer experience / hybrid meetings (as the Standards Committee reported following its Observation exercise during 2022/2023). | Assist the Democratic Services Committee as it considers the recommendations put forward by the Standards Committee. | |
| 27 | Support the Democratic Services Committee's work as it encourages County Council members' wellbeing. | Assist the Democratic Services Committee as it leads on this work. | |
| 28 | Access to information about | Take steps to ensure | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | the Standards Committee on the County Council's website. | there is easy access to information about the Standards Committee on the Council's website. | |
| 29 | <p>Matters arising from discussions with Group Leaders in preparing the Standard Committee's Annual Report to the full Council.</p> <p>Training issues to be discussed with HR officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a list of mandatory training modules in a format that makes it easier for Group Leaders to identify members that have not completed specific modules so that they can encourage them to do so. This information to be shared on a quarterly basis. - IT training for members, including a proposal to Group Leaders that it should be mandatory for councillors to complete IT training within 6 months of being elected. - confirm how often members need to complete mandatory modules. The Standards Committee suggests that the Code of Conduct and Cyber Awareness training should be held within 6 months (and IT depending on the above); with other | Matters to be discussed with the relevant officers to find a resolution. | |

Enclosure 8 – Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023

| No | Items | Action | Completed / Further Actions |
|----|---|--------|-----------------------------|
| | <p>mandatory modules being held within 12 months of an election.</p> <p>Matters being discussed with the Head of Democratic Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Order so that members are reminder of the need to complete, update and regularly review their register of interests; - Simplify the process for registering an interest by members; - Provide guidance on the role of a Group Leader. <p>Other matters raised by the Standards Committee: Include a note on the biography page of members who do not complete an Annual Report stating that the member has not completed and Annual Report.</p> | | |

Enclosure 9 – Standards Committee Annual Report 2022/2023

Issues raised by the Group Leaders with four Members of the Standards Committee during one-to-one meetings in July 2023:

On the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024

No further action

| | Issues Raised: | By how many Group Leaders: | Committee's Comments: |
|----|--|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | A list of mandatory training should be provided in a format that makes it easier for Group Leaders to identify which Members need to be encouraged to completed which modules. | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing to action this as part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (Enclosure 8). An arrangement has already been agreed with Group Leaders that the information will be received quarterly. Trying to find a more useful arrangement for Leaders, by discussing with Training officers (HR) and Democratic Services. |
| 2. | Make the training on the Code of Conduct mandatory | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on the Code of Conduct is mandatory for Members within six months of being elected and once every term if they are re-elected, as noted in IOACC's Code of Conduct. As part of the work of reviewing the process this year, the template (Enclosure 7) will be adapted to make this clearer for Group Leaders. |
| 3. | Provide more IT training. | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Head of Democratic Services has already presented the matter of IT Training at a meeting of the Group Leaders and requested that Leaders provide the names of Members who would benefit from further IT training. These Members are referred to Training (HR). It can be confirmed that this work is ongoing, on a one-to-one basis, and the Standards Committee will not be taking any further action. Lack of IT skills may result in members being unable to comply with the requirements regarding conduct. On this basis, the Standards Committee intends to recommend to the Group Leaders that IT training should be mandatory within the first 6 months following an election and this is included in the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (Enclosure 8). |
| 4. | Provide one-to-one IT training to support members. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See response to point 3 above. |
| 5. | Training on Planning should be mandatory. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is up to the Group Leaders to decide which subjects are considered mandatory. But it may be the case that too many subjects are becoming mandatory, creating an additional workload for members. Training on Planning is mandatory for Members of the Planning |

Enclosure 9 – Standards Committee Annual Report 2022/2023

| | | | |
|----|--|---|---|
| | | | <p>Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Standards Committee will not be taking any further action on this. |
| 6. | Confirm how often mandatory modules need to be completed. | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work is ongoing so that a decision can be made and published. It is included on the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (see Enclosure 8). The Standards Committee suggest that the training on the Code of Conduct and cyber security should be completed within 6 months of an election; with safeguarding, information processing and equality requiring completion within one year of an election. However, this will be subject to further discussion and agreement. It is understood that mandatory courses are available on the Learning Pool. |
| 7. | Group Leaders and prospective Group Leaders should attend the WLGA Leadership course. | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is understood that only two spaces are offered to IOACC annually. Whilst accepting the limit on numbers, the Standards Committee encourages all Group Leaders and prospective Group Leaders to attend this course. The Standards Committee will not be considering this issue further, however the general training on offer to Group Leaders is part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (Enclosure 8). |
| 8. | If classroom-based training is offered, it should be held during the evening and during the day. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Officers (HR) have confirmed that morning / afternoon and evening sessions are offered. The Standards Committee will not be considering this specific point further; however, it will be considered when the Standards Committee discusses the Annual Training Programme for Members. |
| 9. | Ensure that training is offered separately in Welsh and English, rather than bilingual. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is understood from Training (HR) officers that this is a question of practicality as it would be difficult to facilitate separate Welsh and English training as well as offering day and evening session, as trainers often require a minimum number of attendees. However, this would be up to the Service requesting the training. The translation service receives an invitation to ensure that training is facilitated bilingually. The Council's policy officer believes that bilingual sessions are acceptable. The Standards Committee will not be considering this further; however, it will be considered when the Standards Committee discusses the Annual Training Programme for Members. |

Enclosure 9 – Standards Committee Annual Report 2022/2023

| | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 10. | That Group Leaders are informed when a member of their Group registers an interest. | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no corporate way of knowing if a member has updated their register, as this is done individually by each member. • Correspondence was sent by officers to all members following the May 2022 elections explaining the requirement and the process to be followed in terms of Registering an Interest. • Further correspondence was sent by the Chair of the Standards Committee in March 2023. It is customary for the Chair to remind members of the requirement annually. • The Head of Democratic Services will also contact Members to remind them of the requirement from now on. • The Standards Committee intends to review the Register of Interests of a sample of Members as part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (see Enclosure 8) and the Chair will communicate with all Members beforehand, as a further reminder. • As the process is done by individual members, there is a need for direct communication with all Members rather than just Group Leaders. |
| 11. | Simplify the form for registering and interest. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The form used for registering an interest (the standing register, declarations during meetings and gifts and hospitality) includes headings set out in law which cannot be amended. • However, work will be done to look at simplifying the process of registering an interest / updating members' registers. This is part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (Enclosure 8), but any developments will be dependent on capacity within the Democratic Services. |
| 12. | Make the Local Resolution Protocol Mandatory rather than optional. | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would require a change in legislation. This is not a currently a national issue and the Protocol will remain optional. • The Standards Committee will not be taking any further action on this. |
| 13. | Guidance on the role of the Group Leader / what is expected / how to prepare etc | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Head of Democratic Services is currently developing a job description for the role of Group Leader based on a document by the WLGA. • Supporting the Democratic Services Committee with this work is part of the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024 (Enclosure 8). |
| 14. | A mentoring scheme within groups to assist new members. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a political matter within groups and is not a matter for the Standards Committee. • The Standards Committee will not be taking any further action on this. |

Enclosure 9 – Standards Committee Annual Report 2022/2023

| | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 15. | Update information amongst Group Leaders more often. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a political matter / a matter for Group Leaders and not a matter for the Standards Committee. • It is understood that Group Leaders meet regularly, and the Standards Committee welcomes constructive collaboration amongst Group Leaders. The Standards Committee will continue with the current process of presenting matters to meetings of the Group Leaders, and general matters will not be discussed outside this arena, unless there are individual cases. • The Standards Committee will not be taking any further action on this. |
| 16. | Ensure that officers send communications in the individual's language of choice. | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has made enquiries and it is understood that mass communications are sent bilingually but individual correspondence is sent in the elected member's language of choice. • The Standards Committee will not be taking any further action on this. |

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| ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL | |
|--|---|
| REPORT TO: | County Council |
| DATE: | 12th September 2023 |
| REPORT TITLE: | Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 |
| REPORT BY: | Chairs of the: 1. Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2. Regeneration and Partnership Scrutiny Committee |
| PURPOSE OF THE REPORT: | Report on the work of both scrutiny committees during 2022/23 and provide an overview of the scrutiny work programme for 2023/24 |
| CONTACT OFFICER: Email: Phone Number: | Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager AnwenDavies@ynysmon.llyw.cymru 07971167198 |

1. Recommendation

Full Council is requested to:

R1 Approve the Scrutiny and Overview Annual Report for 2022/23

R2 Note the continued progress made in implementing our Scrutiny journey and the impact this is having on practice.

R3 Appoint the chair of the Regeneration and Partnership Scrutiny Committee as the Scrutiny Champion for the period May 2023 to May 2024.

2. Background and Context

2.1 This Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny encompasses the work undertaken by the two scrutiny committees between May 2022 and May 2023.

2.2 The chairs of both scrutiny committees led on developing the forward work programmes during this period. The scrutiny committees' forward work programmes are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum and for approval at every meeting of the scrutiny committees.

2.3 The Council's scrutiny function has been through an improvement journey as a result of commissioning the Centre for Public Scrutiny to review our local scrutiny arrangements (December 2017). The improvement programme put in place as a result of the review has come to an end and a development programme has replaced it within the context of continuous improvement, driving improvements and developments at an appropriate pace which are outlined in the report.

The impact and added value of scrutiny activity is contributing to the Council's corporate priorities through support and challenge.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Champion

3.1 The Scrutiny Champion has an important role in promoting the overview and scrutiny function both within the Council and also with external partners of the Authority. It is not a mandatory or remunerated position. The role is considered

key in demonstrating the Authority's commitment to ensuring that Scrutiny maximises the contribution of Non-Executive Members to the organisation's overall performance and "corporate health".

- 3.2** On 14th May 2015 the Council resolved that the chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be appointed as Scrutiny Champion for the period May 2015 to May 2016 and thereafter that the role of the Champion should alternate between the two scrutiny committee chairs. The Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee should therefore be appointed as the designated Scrutiny Champion for the forthcoming year.

| |
|------------------|
| Appendix: |
|------------------|

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|---|
| Scrutiny and Overview Annual Report for 2022/23 |
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Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report: 2022-23





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| | |
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| Appendix 3 | Vision for Delivering Effective Scrutiny in the Council |

1. FOREWORD

Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones

- **Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2022/23**
- **Scrutiny Champion → 2022/23**



It is with pleasure that I provide an overview of the work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee over the last 12 months. The scope of work of the Committee is discussed in this report and it is fair to note that the workload continues to be considerable and varied. A total of 10 meetings were convened during the municipal year.

- **Annual budget setting 2023/24** – one of the main responsibilities of the Committee is to contribute to the process of setting the Council's annual budget. This is a crucial part of our corporate governance arrangements, having a far-reaching impact on every service area of the Council as well as the public. The Committee considered both the initial draft budget proposals and also the final draft budget for 2023/24 with a significant contribution by the Finance Scrutiny Panel.
- **Council Plan: 2023-2028** – Members scrutinized the strategic priorities underpinning the new Council Plan for the current Administration as well as the findings of the public engagement and consultation process. The committee carefully consideration the draft Plan during the Spring before it was considered by the Executive and adopted by the Full Council in March 2023. The Committee recommended that the Plan be adopted as one that provides a clear direction to the Council's strategic priorities over the next 5 years.
- **Quarterly Performance Monitoring** – the Committee monitored performance on a quarterly basis throughout 2022/23, using the corporate scorecard which reports on an extensive range of indicators across all service areas. The scorecard continues to evolve as an effective method for Elected Members to scrutinize performance and data across all Council services.
- Our work as a committee also included monitoring and scrutinizing annual reports, including the Annual Performance Report and the Isle of Anglesey Local Authority Report on the School Sport Survey 2022: Sport Wales, to name only a few, and this is a core element of the Committee's work.
- **Poverty and the Cost of Living Challenge** – at the Committee's request, consideration was given to the poverty context and cost of living challenges, the benefits and financial support available, the free school meals scheme and preventative schemes that are available locally. The Committee scrutinized the resilience and sufficiency of the schemes and interventions in place to support Anglesey citizens.

- **Housing Services** – The Committee scrutinized the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023/53 which sets the direction for developing and maintaining the Authority’s council housing stock. Members focussed specifically on the following themes – alignment with the Council’s wider strategic priorities (Council Plan: 2023/2028); affordability of the expansion programme to increase the Local Authority’s housing stock; supply of sufficient accommodation for vulnerable adults and families and the risks related to the need for sufficient internal and external capacity to deliver the schemes. The Committee recommended the business plan for adoption by the Council.
- **Social Services** – finally, every six months Members scrutinized progress in realising the development plans for the Children and Families Services and the Adults Services. Consideration was given to the Post Performance Evaluation Inspection Action Plan (routine inspection of performance in the Social Services by Care Inspectorate Wales). At the end of the civic year, the Committee looked in detail at the Looked After Children Strategy before it was considered by the Executive in the Spring. The Committee recommended that the strategy be adopted as providing a clear direction for the Council to meet its statutory commitments towards looked after children and young people.

I acknowledge the work done by the Finance Scrutiny Panel and the Social Services Scrutiny Panel and to close a thank you to all Committee Members and officers who have assisted during 2022/23.

Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones

(Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)

Councillor Dylan Rees

- **Chair of Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 2022/23**



I believe that the scrutiny process plays a key role in the corporate governance arrangements of the Council – by holding decision makers to account, challenging in a constructive way and ensuring that the voice of the public and the community is heard as part of the decision-making process. Our Public Speaking Protocol in Scrutiny Committees is testimony to the Council’s commitment and formalises the process for the public to express their views at Scrutiny Committee meetings.

I would like to thank Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Committee for their contributions and commitment to the work of the Committee which has made an important contribution in terms of fulfilling the Council Plan and in maintaining standards of our public services.

It gives me great pleasure to provide an overview of the Committee’s work over the past 12 months. The Committee has made fair, robust recommendations to the Executive on a number of key topics and service areas during this period as well as the work of the Authority’s partners:

- **Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board (PSB)** – The Committee leads on scrutinising the work of the Board, which is a partnership between Gwynedd and Anglesey. This includes scrutinising the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan, governance arrangements and the Annual Report. Members carefully considered the Board’s annual report: 2021/22 and examples of quality scrutiny work were seen with Members asking how the Board addresses slippages in individual work streams. The Committee also provided observations on the Anglesey Wellbeing Assessment (2023 onwards) as part of the Board’s statutory consultation process. Finally, consideration was given to the draft Wellbeing Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey: 2023/2028, which was considered by the Executive and adopted by the Full Council in May 2023.
- **North Wales Economic Ambition Board** – the Committee scrutinized the quarterly monitoring reports and raised appropriate questions concerning progress against the projects that are underway e.g., what mitigation measures will be in place to address any slippage and how will the potential risk of over-expenditure in individual projects be managed. This is the designated Committee for scrutinising the work of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board – an essential role to ensure the maximum economic benefits for North Wales, and Anglesey in particular.
- **Education Scrutiny** – Members looked at a number of key areas whilst scrutinising education during the civic year and thereby added value to the contribution of the Education Scrutiny Panel. During the Autumn members were given an opportunity to scrutinize progress against the recommendations of a recent inspection of the Authority by Estyn (June, 2022) and it proposed the post-inspection plan for adoption by the Executive as being a considered, comprehensive and sound plan. In Spring, the Committee focused on the GwE Annual Report for Anglesey: 2021/22. Members scrutinized the effectiveness of GwE’s offer to Anglesey schools and the implications of the new Accountability Framework on our scrutiny approaches in future.

The Committee received regular progress reports during the civic year on the Education Scrutiny Panel's work programmes. The Education Scrutiny Panel continues to be a key component of the Council's corporate scrutiny arrangements.

- **Economic Development and Regeneration** – The Committee increasingly focused on regeneration and economic development projects which are corporate priorities e.g., Anglesey Levelling Up Fund, Anglesey Town Centre Improvement Strategy and the Arfor Programme. The Committee proposed these schemes for adoption by the Executive.
- **Other Partnerships** – The Committee scrutinized a number of reports to hold partners to account and to ensure the best possible outcomes for citizens. These reports included the Annual Report of the North Wales Partnership Board, the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report and the Annual Report on Equalities. Due to lack of capacity in the Democratic Services it was not possible for a number of our main partners to appear before the Committee this year.

I would like to thank members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and members of the Education Scrutiny Panel for working effectively as a team over the past year. All members have successfully adapted to ensure that the scrutiny function remains hybrid and undertaking scrutiny in an innovative way, maximising time of officers and Elected Members. Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank officers from the Scrutiny Team for their leadership, support and willingness to assist at all times.

Councillor Dylan Rees
(Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)

2022 Election: New Council

1.1 There was a significant change in our Elected Members following the 2022 Election with almost 50% of them elected as councillors for the first time. Several factors were behind this change – the Council has 5 additional seats as a result of a review of electoral boundaries within the Local Authority (Boundary Commission for Wales), and a number of Elected Members decided to step down.

1.2 Corporate induction arrangements were put in place during the first months of the civic year as a basis for further specific training for our Elected Members who sit on scrutiny committees and panels. The training and development programme is ongoing and provides regular opportunities to self-evaluate the impact of scrutiny work on our corporate governance arrangements.

Modernising our Arrangements for Convening Meetings

1.3 Since June, 2022 and in line with the statutory requirements¹, a hybrid solution is in place which facilitates multi-location meetings in the Council Chamber and the Committee Room. These arrangements ensure that the Council fully complies with the requirements of the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021.

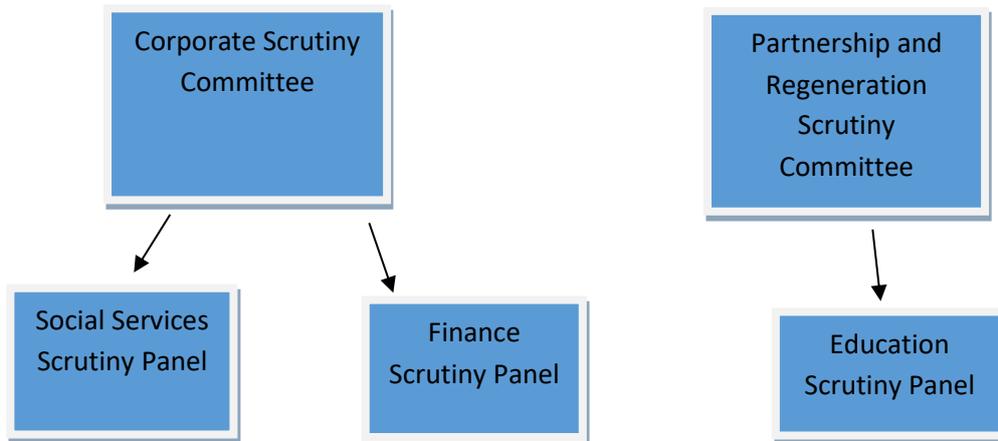
1.4 Both Scrutiny Committees met regularly and resumed the priority scrutiny work during 2022/23. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee has undertaken successful scrutiny, ensuring that the Council achieves its corporate objectives and its service objectives. The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has scrutinized some key partnerships and has complied with all statutory requirements. However, some partners that should have been scheduled had to be postponed due to lack of capacity in the Democratic Services. We hope to be able to resume this key focus during 2023/24.

2 OUR LOCAL STRUCTURE

Scrutiny committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. Their prime role is to hold the decision-makers to account, drive improvement, act as the voice of the community and play a role in policy development and review. A summary of the national policy context is outlined in **APPENDIX 1**.

¹ Deddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) 2021

2.1 Our local structure comprises of 2 scrutiny committees and three panels:



The remit and membership of our scrutiny committees are summarised in **APPENDIX 2**.

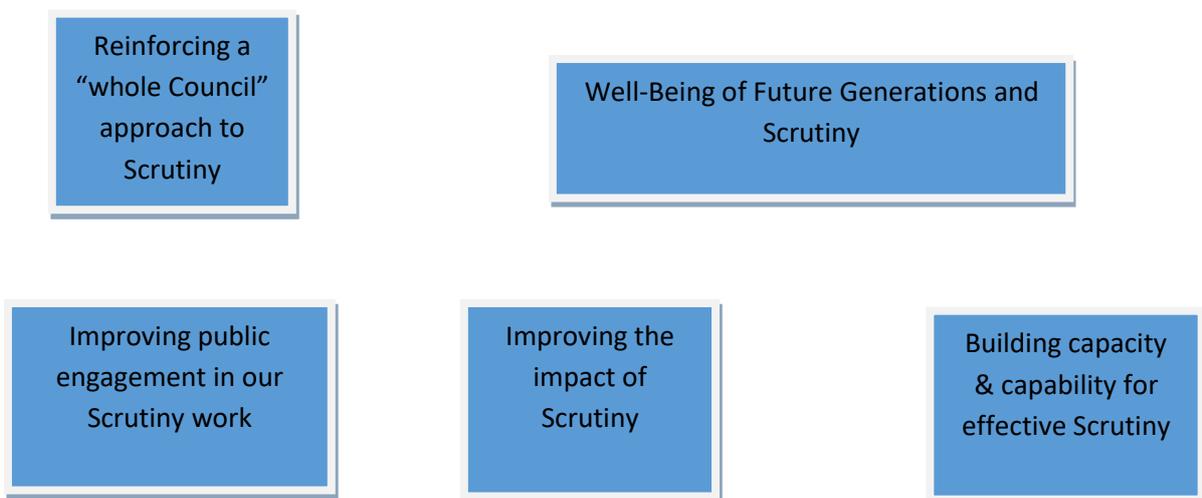
3 KEY LOCAL THEMES FOR SCRUTINY

3.1 Key Themes

Our local scrutiny work streams have prioritised key themes (which are summarised below), in order to provide a robust framework to:

- Clarify the role and contribution of Scrutiny in the governance arrangements of the Council
- Identify the actions required in the short and medium term in order to further improve Scrutiny within the context of the post Pandemic period and current legislative requirements.

KEY LOCAL THEMES FOR SCRUTINY



4. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SCRUTINY

4.1 MEASURING OUTPUTS

A number of significant **outputs** were achieved by Scrutiny during the last municipal year which go some way in assisting us to assess the impact that the function has had locally:

4.1.1 Committee meetings – a total of 19 scrutiny committee meetings were convened during 2022/23:

| Committee | Number of Committees convened |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Corporate Scrutiny Committee | 10 |
| Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee | 9 |

There are also robust arrangements in place to ensure feedback at meetings of the Executive by scrutiny committee chairs on matters that have been considered by both committees.

4.1.2 Scrutiny Panel meetings – there have been regular meetings of all 3 scrutiny panels over the past 12 months:

| Panel | Number of meetings convened |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Social Services Scrutiny Panel | 8 |
| Finance Scrutiny Panel | 8 |
| Education Scrutiny Panel | 9 |

These panels have been embedded into practice by:

- ✚ Putting in place robust governance arrangements to support each panel
- ✚ Ensuring a clear focus / remit and work programme for each panel
- ✚ Putting in place a reporting / escalation process ensuring that the work of scrutiny panels is reported quarterly to the two Parent Committees, with Chairs of the Panels proposing recommendations on plans or proposed decisions
- ✚ Ensure an appropriate pace for the work of the panels which is in line with corporate priorities and also complete detailed scrutiny on the Council's all important subjects.

4.1.3 Forward work programmes – there is a well-established practice of forward work programming in place to underpin the work of both scrutiny committees. These programmes are an important tool in assisting scrutiny committee members to prioritise their work and have been discussed with the Leadership Team and Heads of Service.

Both committees and the 3 panels review the content of their forward work programmes on a regular basis in order to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements ensure greater focus on:

- i. Strategic aspects
- ii. Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
- iii. Priorities of the 2017/2022 Council Plan and corporate transformation programmes as well as the Transition Plan (providing the operational parameters for officers to deliver key work streams during the 12 month transition period between the two Administrations)
- iv. Risks
- v. Work of audit, inspection and regulation
- vi. Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.

4.1.4 Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum – is well established and continues to meet regularly. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee the scrutiny committee work programmes and jointly negotiate priorities with the Scrutiny Committees' Chairs and Vice-chairs. It also takes lead responsibility for developing and continuously improving the overview and scrutiny function in the Council. The role of the Forum has also evolved to include conversations between the Executive (Leader), Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny and Leadership Team (Chief Executive) to ensure better alignment between work programmes.

4.1.5 Development, training and support for Members –

- ✓ a large part of the corporate Members' training & development programme has focused on the following areas in light of the 2022 Election:
 - i. Introduction to Scrutiny
 - ii. Chairing Scrutiny Committees (for committee and panel chairs /vice-chairs
 - iii. Effective Scrutiny / Questioning Strategies)
 - iv. Technology – upskilling Members with the aim of ensuring that everyone can participate effectively in multi-location meetings (**innovative / alternative models of Member scrutiny**)
- ✓ convening monthly briefing sessions to share information / raise awareness regarding key issues (eg Cost of Living Support Schemes, Destination Management and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Also, as a forum for Member self- evaluation / reflection on the performance of Scrutiny.

4.1.6 Scrutiny across a broader base – a broader approach to Member scrutiny has been further developed and consolidated during 2022/23 by:

- i. Effective forward planning to ensure alignment between topics discussed at Member briefing sessions, scrutiny panels and full scrutiny committee meetings.
- ii. Ensuring clarity of role for Members on corporate programme boards and ensuring robust, timely high level reporting to scrutiny committees, escalating slippage as required.
- iii. Developing a breadth of topics discussed at Member briefing sessions in support of Scrutiny and ensuring information available to Members on strategic and transformation topics.

4.1.7 “Closing the Scrutiny circle” – by having in place robust arrangements to:

- i. Report on progress or escalate issues from:
 - ✚ Scrutiny panels to parent committees
 - ✚ Scrutiny committees to the Executive
 - ✚ Corporate programme boards to scrutiny committees.
- ii. Enable and encourage self-analysis and reflection by Scrutiny Members in order to identify strengths and areas for further development / focus.

4.1.8 Scrutiny & Wellbeing of Future Generations – developing the role of Scrutiny by:

- ✚ Ensuring Members focus on the 5 ways of working to frame questions²
- ✚ Developing a revised scrutiny report template, placing wellbeing of future generations at its core
- ✚ Raising awareness and providing information in Member briefing and development sessions
- ✚ Reviewing progress made in developing the role of scrutiny against best practice
- ✚ Putting in place a framework to scrutinize the Public Services Board and key partnerships.

4.1.9 Citizen engagement in scrutiny – ensure the voice of citizens is heard in local decision making, e.g. the Protocol for Public Speaking in Scrutiny Committees is a key element of our corporate governance arrangements. Meetings of both Scrutiny Committees are broadcast live and a recording is kept on the Council website for 12 months. Committee meetings are publicised on the Council’s social network platforms.

² Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration, Involvement (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)

4.2 MEASURING OUTCOMES

Capturing and assessing the impact of Scrutiny is a challenge to achieve as the **outcomes** of overview and scrutiny activities are not always tangible and often do not easily lend themselves to being measured in a systematic way. Furthermore, it is not easy to measure the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny function's ability to influence decision makers through discussion and debate. There are however some examples where the input of scrutiny has added value and / or influenced the way in which proposals have been implemented by the Council.

The foreword to the report explains the main highlights of the Council's scrutiny work during the year. This included scrutinising and providing observations on the Council's main strategic plans, including the Council Plan 2023-28. The Council's outcomes and performance monitoring arrangements were also scrutinized, along with budget proposals for 2023-24.

During 2023-24, the intention is to implement a new scrutiny protocol for education and to adopt the principles across all scrutiny work within the Council. We will also review the Council's scrutiny arrangements to consider good practice and benchmark against other organisations.

5.0 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023/24

The Authority will continue on the next stage of its development journey and the following key areas will be prioritised for action over the next year:

KEY SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

| Theme | How | Outcome ³ |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Vision | Fully mainstream our Scrutiny vision and ensure that every Elected Member has a robust understanding of the purpose and value of scrutiny within the Council's governance. Utilise the new education scrutiny protocol to raise awareness of the principles of scrutiny and develop consistent principles. | <i>Better outcomes</i> |

³ Canlyniadau a Nodweddion am Drosolwg a Sgrïwtini Effeithiol i Lywodraeth Leol – Craffu Da? Cwestiwn Da! Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru 2014

| Theme | How | Outcome ³ |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Member Development and Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training and development programme is in place to support and develop Members. Effective chairing skills is part of the programme and new Scrutiny Committee members will also receive training on scrutiny work. • Convene short, regular briefing / development / review sessions with Scrutiny Members. | Better decisions |
| Scrutiny Panels | <p>Support the work of the panels through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the forward work programmes of the 3 Panels align with the corporate priorities of the Council Plan: 2023-2028 • Developing an evolving focus to the work of the Panels • Ensuring that the Panels complete self-evaluation exercises at least once a year • Undertake a review of the Scrutiny Panels' effectiveness as part of the Council's governance structure | Better decisions |
| Citizen engagement in our Scrutiny work | <p>Continue to mainstream the Protocol for Public Speaking and raise the public's awareness of its existence, in order to ensure greater public participation by providing a clear structure for the public to request to speak in Committees.</p> <p>Publicise Committee meetings in advance.</p> <p>Monitor the number of people watching both live and recorded broadcasts of the Scrutiny Committees.</p> | Better engagement |
| Well-being of Future Generations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support chairs in developing the role of scrutiny whilst meeting the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. • To fully embed a robust questioning strategy using the Well-being of Future Generations Act to ensure that key scrutiny questions are included in every committee report and are asked in the Panel and Committee meetings. • Review our arrangements in order to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. | Better outcomes |

| Theme | How | Outcome ³ |
|---|--|---|
| Partnership Working | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and expand scrutiny of key partners, subject to capacity. Work with the health sector as a priority and scrutinize strategic developments in other areas. • Continue to invite key partners to appear before the Committees in order to scrutinize their work on the Island. | <i>Better engagement</i> |
| Innovative models of Member Scrutiny | Consider more innovative and effective ways of scrutiny, taking account of good practice and benchmarking against other organisations. | <i>Better decisions, better outcomes and better engagement</i> |
| Alignment and Ownership of Scrutiny Work Programmes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update the work programmes of scrutiny panels and committees on a monthly basis to align with the process of updating the Executive's forward work programme. • Ensure that the forward work programme is discussed in every meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs Forum / committee / panel and ensure Members' input in forming the work programmes in order to ensure ownership. • Utilise national / regional good practice to steer local work programmes. Work with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). | <i>Better decisions, better outcomes</i> |
| Self-assessment of our local scrutiny arrangements | <p>Members to continue to complete self-assessments which includes identifying recommendations to improve the current scrutiny arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as part of the process of preparing the Scrutiny Annual Report. • to assess the outcomes and impact of our scrutiny panels. | <i>Better outcomes</i> |
| Closing the Scrutiny Circle and Alignment with the Transformation Boards | Accountability through reporting on the progress of the Panels' work on a quarterly basis and continue to formalise the process of reporting to Scrutiny Committees through Panels Chairs as a matter of course. | <i>Better decisions, better outcomes, better engagement</i> |
| Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 | Continue to act in accordance with the requirements of the Act and arrange information sessions for members as required. | <i>Better decisions, better outcomes</i> |

6. CONTACT SCRUTINY

6.1 To find out more about scrutiny in Anglesey or to give your views please contact:

Scrutiny Unit,
Isle of Anglesey County Council,
Council Offices.
Llangefni.
Anglesey.
LL777TW

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Anwen Davies | Scrutiny Manager (leading on supporting the Corporate Scrutiny Committee) | (01248) 752578 AnwenDavies@ynysmon.llyw.cymru |
|-----------------|--|--|

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report: 2022/23

APPENDICES

WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY? National policy context

National context:

Scrutiny committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. As well as establishing a decision making executive, the Local Government Act 2000 requires one or more scrutiny committees. Their primary role is to hold decision-makers to account, drive improvement, act as the voice of the community and play a role in policy development and review.

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)⁴ advocates four key principles in support of effective Member scrutiny:

- i. Provide “critical friend” challenge to executive policy makers and other decision makers
- ii. Enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard
- iii. Be carried out by “independent minded governors” who lead and own the scrutiny process
- iv. Is evidence based and drives improvement in public services.

⁴ Good Scrutiny Guide, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny 2004

REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF OUR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The overview and scrutiny function at the Isle of Anglesey County Council continues to be delivered through a structure comprising of two parent scrutiny committees - Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Remit:

- The focus of work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is to provide assurance regarding the performance and delivery of all services; ensure the council achieves its corporate and service objectives (as outlined in the Corporate Plan, Annual Budget, Budget and Policy Framework, Performance Management Framework, Corporate Policies or their successor plans and policies); and to support and make recommendations for continuous improvement.
- Members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee endeavour to hold preparation meetings in advance of committee meetings in order to prepare and focus discussion at the formal meetings of the committee. This is regarded as good practice and it is intended to ensure these arrangements are in place for 2023/24.

Membership

- The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones. Twelve Elected Members sit on the committee⁵ with provision for 4 co-opted members:

Membership of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

⁵ Councillor membership of the Scrutiny Committees reflect the political balance of the Council

| | Name | Ward | Political Party/Group | | Name | Ward | Political Party/Group |
|--|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
|  | Cllr Geraint ap Ifan Bebb | Cefni | Plaid Cymru |  | Cllr Alwen Watkin | Bodowyr | Plaid Cymru |
|  | Cllr Neville Evans | Crigyll | Plaid Cymru |  | Cllr Arfon Wyn | Bro Aberffraw | Plaid Cymru |
|  | Cllr Dyfed Wyn Jones | Aethwy | Plaid Cymru |  | Cllr Dafydd Roberts | Bodowyr | The Independent Group |
|  | Cllr Jackie Lewis | Talybolion | Plaid Cymru |  | Cllr Keith Roberts | Ynys Gybi | Welsh Labour |
|  | Cllr Llio A Owen | Talybolion | Plaid Cymru |  | Cllr Robert Llewelyn Jones (Chair) | Parc a'r Mynydd | Anglesey Independents |
|  | Cllr Aled M. Jones | Twrcelyn | Anglesey Independents |  | Cllr Douglas Fowlie | Crigyll | Anglesey Independents |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Member of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee during part of 2022/23 | |
| Cllr Sonia Williams | |
|  | Aethwy |

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Remit:

- The primary focus of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is to ensure that the interests of the citizens of the Island are promoted, and that best use is made of Council resources, in line with the Council's priorities, that demonstrate added value from working with partners. The remit of the committee includes regional and national arrangements as well as local arrangements.
- The committee is also the nominated Crime and Disorder Committee dealing with crime and disorder matters, as required under Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. It is also the designated committee for scrutinising the work of the Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Public Services Board.
- The Committee has introduced a practice of holding briefing meetings with members prior to each formal scrutiny committee meeting. This is regarded as good practice and it is intended to continue with these arrangements in 2023/24.

Membership:

- The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee was chaired by Councillor Dylan Rees and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Gwilym Owen Jones. Twelve members also sit on this committee with provision for 4 co-opted members:

Membership of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

| Name | Ward | Political Party/Group | Name | Ward | Political Party/Group |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|-----------------------|
|  Cllr Dylan Rees (Chair) | Canolbarth Môn | Plaid Cymru |  Cllr John Ifan Jones | Bro Aberffraw | Plaid Cymru |
|  Cllr Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair) | Bro'r Llynnoedd | The Independent Group |  Cllr Margaret Roberts | Lligwy | Plaid Cymru |
|  Cllr Non Dafydd | Canolbarth Môn | Plaid Cymru |  Cllr Paul Ellis | Canolbarth Môn | Anglesey Independents |
|  Cllr Euryrn Morris | Lligwy | Plaid Cymru |  Cllr Jeff Evans | Tref Cybi | Anglesey Independents |
|  Cllr Trefor Lloyd Hughes | Ynys Gybi | Plaid Cymru |  Cllr Derek Owen | Twrcelyn | Anglesey Independents |
|  Cllr Ken Taylor | Bro'r Llynnoedd | Plaid Cymru |  Cllr Pip O'Neill | Tref Cybi | Welsh Labour |

Our scrutiny committees can undertake their work in one of the following ways:

- Consider a topic during a formal meeting
- Consider a topic in more detail by establishing a scrutiny outcome panel OR
- Conduct informal sessions on a particular area of policy.

Again during 2022/23, the scrutiny committees were aware of the need to seek to focus their work on outcomes and within the Audit Wales framework of characteristics and outcomes for effective local government overview and scrutiny⁶:

- Better outcomes
- Better decisions
- Better engagement

Call-in of decisions: Scrutiny committees can “call-in” a decision taken by either the Executive, Portfolio Holder or an officer to whom the Executive has been delegated with a specific decision making power. The scrutiny committees only exercise a “call-in” when there is good reason to do so (through a Test of Significance), and during 2022/23 this was not exercised.

⁶ Good Scrutiny? Good Question!, Wales Audit Office, 2014

APPENDIX 3

A vision for delivering effective scrutiny in Isle of Anglesey County Council

Vision

Scrutiny on the Isle of Anglesey aims to secure better outcomes for citizens and communities and add to the effectiveness of the Local Authority by helping make public services more transparent, inclusive, accountable and cost effective.

Our Guiding Principles for Scrutiny on Anglesey

- Scrutiny is characterised by an atmosphere of mutual trust, co-operation and shared responsibility for achieving the best outcomes for local communities on the Isle of Anglesey
- Scrutiny Members are non-political in carrying out their support and challenge roles
- Scrutiny activity directly broadens the evidence base for decisions and transformational change by providing a view on how proposals are likely to be received by local communities
- Scrutiny Members help ensure that a strategic, long term approach is taken when major service strategies are being considered by providing constructive challenge in testing assumptions, looking at risk and challenging how resources are prioritised.

Our Values

Scrutiny on the Isle of Anglesey....

- Is forward and outward thinking and proactive (rather than inwards and reactive)
- has a clearly defined and valued role in the Council's governance and improvement arrangements
- Is non-political and incorporates a wide range of evidence and perspectives including those from strategic partners, regulators and the public
- Is led by Elected Members who have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively
- Receives effective support from the Council's Leadership Team who ensures that information provided to Scrutiny is of high quality and provided in a timely and consistent manner
- Takes into account concerns expressed at ward level in a non-parochial way when managing the forward work programme
- Is well planned, chaired effectively and makes best use of the resources available to it
- Is recognised by the Executive and Leadership Team as an important Council mechanism for community engagement and facilitates greater citizen involvement in governance
- Builds trust and positive relationships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.

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