

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023

- PRESENT:** Councillor Dylan Rees (Chair)
Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Non Dafydd, Euryr Morris, Pip O'Neill,
Margaret Murley Roberts, Ken Taylor and Sonia Williams
- Portfolio Members**
- Leader of the Council & Portfolio Member for Economic
Development;
Councillor Dafydd R Thomas – Portfolio Member for Highways,
Property & Waste (for Item 4)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Head of Democracy (DS),
Head of Regulation & Economic Development (item 6 only),
Chief Waste Management Officer (ME) (item 4 only),
Service Strategy & Business Manager (GP) (item 4 only),
Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and
Anglesey (item 5 only),
Chief Economic Development Officer (THJ) (item 6 only),
Levelling Up Programme Manager (EM) (item 6 only),
Scrutiny Manager (AD),
Scrutiny Officer (EA),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors John Ifan Jones and Derek Owen
Councillor Neville Evans – Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism
and Maritime;
Councillor Gary Pritchard – Deputy Leader & Portfolio Member for
Children, Youth and Housing Services.
Councillor Alun Roberts – Portfolio Member for Adults' Services &
Community Safety.
- Head of Housing Services,
Head of Highways, Property & Waste.
- ALSO PRESENT:** **Portfolio Members**
- Councillor Nicola Roberts – Portfolio Member for Planning, Public
Protection and Climate Change;
Councillor Robin Williams – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member
for Finance
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1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Euryrn Morris declared a personal interest in respect of Item 5 – Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan – 2023-2028.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October, 2023 were confirmed as correct, subject to the inclusion within the action points noted at item 4 – Regional Emergency Planning Service – Annual Report : 2022/2023, that the Chief Executive writes to Welsh Government to express that a specific plan needs to be put in place for the Island due to the resilience of the two bridges if a major incident was to occur.

4 RESOURCES AND RECYCLING STRATEGIC PLAN - 2023-2028

The report of the Head of Highways, Waste and Property was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

The Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property said that the Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 supports the Council's key ambitions in the Council Plan. The Council Plan states that by 2028 the Council needs to reach a recycling rate of 70% and to reach the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030. He noted that all residents and tourists have a duty to reduce waste and to increase recycling. The Council has a good working relationship with partner organisations within the WLGA, Welsh Government and WRAP Cymru to assist in reaching these target rates of recycling of 70% and at present the current recycling rates on Anglesey is 64% (which can vary during different periods within the year). The Portfolio Member referred to the recent six weeks public consultation which took place between 11 September and 20 October, 2023. The consultation was designed to gather feedback on the key work streams to reduce, reuse and recycle more of household waste and nearly 200 responded to the consultation process (the response received was highlighted within the consultation document attached to the report). He further said that reference has been made that the recycling box to hold cardboard is insufficient and other avenues of affording cardboard collection needs to be considered i.e. affording sacks for additional cardboard. He further noted that there is a need to re-educate people as to importance of recycling and especially the younger generation .

The Chief Waste Management Officer reported that the main strategic priorities are to reduce waste, increase recycling, reduce fly-tipping, improve street cleaning together with improving recycling and waste within Council buildings. He also noted that to deliver services that are fit for the future there will be a need for efficient fleet to ultra-low emission vehicles that will need to transfer from diesel vehicles to electric vehicles to collect waste and recycling and the machinery within the recycling site at Gwalchmai and Penhesgyn in the future. He further said that

the consultation process was supportive of the need to increase recycling and to reduce the black bin waste.

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

- Reference was made that the Resource and Recycling Strategic Plan's objectives are ambitious. Questions were raised as to what else can the Council do to achieve the 70% statutory recycling rate by 2020. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that the recycling rate of 70% in Wales is high and residents on the Island have already been able to achieve a 64% recycling level. He noted that other ways of recycling will need to be examined with raising awareness of the importance of recycling and to consider other ways to make sure that everything that can be recycled is recycled. An analysis has been undertaken of the contents of black bin waste and there are still recyclable materials within the black bins that can be recycled.
- Questions were raised as to how the Resource and Recycling Strategic Plan will help the Council to achieve its commitment to become carbon net zero by 2030. Further questions were raised as to whether the Welsh Government's 2030 carbon net zero is ambitious due to the financial economy. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that the Wales Strategic Plan also refers that the reason for recycling is important so that carbon zero targets are reached and there will be a need to investigate as to how the recyclable material is collected with the need for electric and hydrogen vehicles. However, at present hydrogen vehicles are currently being developed as it is part of new technology. The Chief Executive said that the Council is committed in reaching the carbon net zero targets by 2030. However, it will be dependent on financial resources to reach the target. He referred to the 3 elements with the Strategic Plan i.e. decarbonisation of Council buildings is required if financial resources are available, but he considered that the Authority has several historical buildings that need to be considered for future use. The fleet plan needs to be investigated but it is also dependent on capital resources and an all-Wales tendering process would alleviate costs burden on local authorities. Procurement measures will also need to be investigated to make sure that partner organisations within the private sector are committed to carbon net zero.
- Reference was made to the response to the consultation process undertaken as part of the Resource and Recycling Strategic Plan. Questions were raised as to whether it was considered disappointing that only 22% responded to the consultation. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that the consultation process was undertaken through the Council's website and promoted through the social media channels. It was also shared amongst Anglesey's ageing well community forums. Further reference was made that a quarter of the responders considered that the service was poor/very poor. The Service Strategy & Business Manager responded that 75 responders commented that the 'recycling trolley boxes' are easily broken, not enough capacity within the boxes as regards to cardboard and plastics, rubbish on the streets following the collection of the recycling materials and people unsure what they are able to recycle. He noted that work is currently undertaken with WRAP Cymru to review the currently provision provided.

- Reference was made during the consultation process as to the need to increase the facility for cardboard collection. Questions were raised that there has been no mention of the inadequate size of the brown food bin as food waste could be saved from having to be disposed into landfill which could contribute to increase carbon emissions. Further comments were made that the number of brown food bins put out for collection is low. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that an analysis was undertaken into food waste within black bins. Whilst it is acknowledged that food waste should be avoided, the Authority needs to focus on different avenues for the collection of food waste. The Chief Executive referred to Page 10 of the strategic priorities which focuses on the way forward as regards to recycling and disposal of waste. He noted that the Strategic Plan is a corporate resource across the services of the Council in respect of educating and communicating with the public as regards to the need to recycle and reduce waste. He suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Executive that further analysis needs to be undertaken as regards to this matter.
- Questions were raised as to how additional waste can be collected on street collection bins. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that over 600 street collection bins are located on the Island; there are 15 bins which has recycling facilities for separation of waste. He noted that the standard of the recycling within these bins are poor due to contamination which result in difficulties to recycle. Whilst the management of these facilities is a challenge, additional facilities need to be place in further areas within the Island over the next few years. The Chief Executive suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Executive that further recycling street collection bins should be erected, especially within town centres and coastal areas. He further said that there is a link also between the Destination Plan and the AONB Plan of the Authority.
- Questions were raised as to what risks have been identified that could impact the delivery of the Resource and Recycling Strategic Plan. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that the main risk to the Strategic Plan is capital resources with major changes ahead due to the need to changes to the fleet to electric/hydrogen vehicles, need to change the bins and services provided and to maintain the current services. He further said that there are risks to any changes that may occur to legislation and fines can be faced if targets are not reached. The materials that are currently recycled is sold to generate income to fund the service but the market for such materials can fluctuate. Further questions were raised as to the financial implications for the Council to implement the Strategic Plan. The Chief Waste Management Office responded there are immense capital financial implications as been noted previously and financial resources needs to be invested in the infrastructure and address any changes to Health & Safety Regulations in the future.
- Questions were raised as to whether there are costs implications if the recycling materials are not washed and whether it is worthless. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that the majority of residents do comply with the requirement to wash their recycling materials but if the standard of the recycling is poor then the value of the recycling does decrease. Further comments were made that there seems to be an increase in 'take-aways' facilities in town centres. Questions were raised as to whether a planning condition can be imposed that they must afford a waste bin on any approval of

a planning application for a 'take-away' facility. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that he would welcome such a condition on a 'take-away' facility, however, the packaging waste would also need to be separated into the correct recycling boxes.

- Reference was made within the Strategic Plan that there is a need to address fly-tipping. Questions were raised as how this can be tackled across the Island and how many have been prosecuted for fly-tipping last year. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that there was no prosecution for fly-tipping on the Island last year. He noted that prosecuting fly-tipping in any local authority through court proceeding is low as resources is needed to enforce enforcement and to secure evidence and prosecution of fly-tipping. However, enforcement is required to reduce fly-tipping as it has a negative effect on town and communities and there is a need to convey that fly-tipping is unacceptable. The Service Strategy & Business Manager said that consideration is currently been given to increase the financial penalty for fly-tipping which is currently £75 in comparison to other local authorities in North Wales who charge between £200 - £400. Further questions were raised as to whether a recycling facility could be located in Holyhead as it seems that fly-tipping is higher within this area. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that there are currently no additional sites planned on Anglesey. The Chief Executive said some people do not have the facilities to be able to take their recycling materials to the recycling centre. He noted that 'community skips' were popular over several years ago in the communities. The Council works with a partner organisation Keep Wales Tidy in coastal areas with volunteers helping to clear waste. He said that different aspect of recycling facilities could be discuss under the Shared Prosperity Scheme.
- **It was RESOLVED:-**
- **To note the Isle of Anglesey Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan 2023-2028;**
- **To recommend to the full Council that the Isle of Anglesey Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan 2023-2028 be adopted.**

ACTIONS :

- **That the Resources and Recycling Strategic Plan on specific actions includes the increase in food recycling rates;**
- **That consideration needs to be given when planning applications are submitted for fast food outlets that a waste disposal bin needs to be provided;**
- **To note that recycling and waste is a corporate responsibility across a number of Council Services and that Keep Anglesey Tidy campaigns should be afforded to educate children and young people the importance of recycling;**
- **Recycling bin waste in our coastal towns and communities is an aspect that needs further attention and is a matter linked to other strategic plans such as the Destination Management Plan, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.**

5 GWYNEDD AND YNYS MÔN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP : ANNUAL REPORT : 2022/2023

The report of the Deputy Chief Executive was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

The Leader of the Council, in the absence of the Portfolio Member said that the Annual Report give an opportunity to view the statistics and the challenges as working in partnership is fundamental to community safety.

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

- Questions were raised as to what extent does the Committee agree with the Partnership's priorities, which are based on a local needs assessment process, and are there other matters which need to be prioritised. Further questions were raised as the report refers to the changes in reporting and as to how it is possible to get a true picture of any improvement or deterioration in individual communities. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey responded that the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership priorities within the Action Plan are based on a regional strategy by the Safer North Wales Board. The focus of the Board is to make sure that Gwynedd and Anglesey is a safe place to live, work and to visit . The Partnership's Strategy is also influenced by the Police Strategic Assessment and reports on the crime issues within the area. The Strategy places a framework of priorities for all the partner organisations within the Community Safety Partnership. She noted that the changes to the recording process was highlighted within the report and the Police will have an extended period to prioritise victims of crime without having to duplicate records. This will ensure a consistent method of recording across the UK which is more accurate than the previous system. She further noted that North Wales is in a positive place in terms of crime reduction.
- Questions were raised as to what ways does the statutory partnership add value and work in an effective and efficient manner in accordance with the expectations of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Community Safety Partnership has a duty to work closely with its partner organisations to ensure greater collaboration and sharing information. She noted that there are different work areas that are undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership and the local authorities are in a better position to address any issues that may arise. The Deputy Chief Executive, as Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, said that work is undertaken on a strategic process to raise awareness on different issues of concerns that would otherwise not been aware of, and action can be undertaken purposely and improve how to tackle crime issues that may arise. Further reference was made by the Committee that it is noted within the report that the Home Office does not acknowledge anti-social behaviour as a crime, but the Police Authority does acknowledge that anti-social behaviour is a crime. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that she is given to understand that anti-social behaviour is not recorded by incident but is recorded by how many calls that are received by the Police Control Room. The Deputy Chief Executive said

that he intends to invite the Police Officer that attends the Community Safety Partnership to this meeting during discussion of the Annual Report at this Committee in due course.

- Reference was made to the reported increase in shoplifting within the media recently and retailers are complaining that the Police do not attend any shoplifting incidents. Questions were raised as to whether shoplifting is on the increase in Anglesey and across Wales as reported shoplifting is not recorded and whether a Taskforce is going to be established to reduce incidents of shoplifting. The Community Safety Operational Officer responded that she is aware that retail theft is a priority for North Wales Police and work has been undertaken with supermarket as regards to the layout of shops to make sure that high value items are not place near the exit doors. She further said that North Wales Police have been targeting key offenders to understand the reasons for shoplifting and to change behavioural patterns. A Safer Business Action Week was undertaken by the Police recently with supermarkets and to encourage them to contact the Police for advice and support and to address organised and repeated crime. She noted that there is a tendency for increases in shoplifting incidents during the Christmas period and work has been done across the force to prepare for this.
- Questions were raised as to whether there is a decrease in reported crime due to victims not reporting the crime as they think that the Police will not attend. The Deputy Chief Executive said that he was willing to discuss the issue with the Police.
- Reference was made to incidents of telephone and on-line fraud. Questions were raised as to whether such incidents are increasing on Anglesey as fraudsters are using the Welsh language whilst phoning people. It was noted that the Trading Standards Department are arranging a campaign to raise awareness of telephone and on-line fraud. Facebook and social media platforms can also be a tool to share community alerts of fraudsters telephoning people. The Community Safety Operational Officer responded that incidents of telephone and on-line fraud has increased significantly in the UK and especially targeting elderly a vulnerable persons. She noted that telephone and on-line fraud is a priority by the Police and training was afforded to the Officers within the Community Safety Partnership last year who deal with incidents and to support victims. The Chief Executive highlighted that the Authority has an Age Friendly network and sharing information needs to be highlighted as regards to telephone and on-line fraud targeted on the elderly and vulnerable persons.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and attached documents and to support the priorities and future direction of the work of the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership.

ACTION : As noted above.

6 LEVELLING UP PROGRAMME - UPDATE REPORT

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development said that a decision was taken not to pursue and submit a bid in the first Levelling Up Programme (LUF) due to unrealistic timescales to develop a sufficient detailed bid. Instead, a decision was taken to focus on inviting expressions of interest (EOI's) from external partners on schemes that could be delivered in collaboration with the County Council in preparation for the second round of the LUF. During the assessment it came apparent that only a bid focussing upon addressing Holyhead socio-economic needs would likely meet the UK Government's specific requirements and have any opportunity of being successful. A total of 5 expressions of interest were submitted from Holyhead which included Môn Communities First & the Town Council; The Church in Wales; Ucheldre Centre; Maritime Museum and the Isle of Anglesey County Council – Heritage Regeneration. She noted that a progress report been produced which includes the governance arrangement for the programme with stringent management arrangement in place to ensure financial management, compliance, and risk management. The Leader wished to thank the staff involved in the project for the work in achieving this successful bid.

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

- Questions were raised as to how the Levelling Up projects are measured in terms of direct and indirect outputs. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that robust governance arrangements were submitted at the start of the bidding process to UK Government which also included establishing a Programme Board in partnership with the partner organisations. He noted that the Board meets regularly every six weeks to ensure that monitoring and progress reports are discussed especially in areas such as procurement to ensure full compliance with regulations. With regard to direct benefits to the area of Holyhead, the culture of the town is considered i.e. St. Cybi Church; empty buildings redeveloped into use; upgrading the shops within the town centre; employment opportunities for local people in the area. He noted that the indirect benefits are the additional use of community benefits within the town centre; cruise ships visiting the town; increasing the general atmosphere of the town to attract visitors.
- Reference was made that within the report, that 5 main risks associated with the programme are discussed. Questions were raised as to what measures are in place to manage and mitigate these risks? The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that comprehensive governance measure have been put in place within the scrutinizing process. A corporate risk register has been established which is monitored on a regular basis by the Programme Board. The Chief Executive said as Chair of the Programme Board, that the main risk is procurement, and the programme is monitored to ensure whether it is achievable in terms of costs and in line with the set timeframe of the LUF funding. The Chair of the Committee said that it is difficult to scrutinize the LUF programme at present as more details will be available in March to this Committee as the projects develops and any risk attached.
- Questions were raised as to whether different areas within Anglesey would benefit from the third round of the LUF funding (projects that came second within the second phase of the funding). The Chief Executive said that the projects in Holyhead were approved due to the viability of the projects being

able to proceed. UK Government has now revised the budget for LUF funding and are considering the projects within the second phase that were unsuccessful and no area has had more than one LUF funding.

- Reference was made that the Programme discusses the significant role of external partners in the successful completion of the Levelling Up Programme. Questions were raised as to how does the Council work together and support them to ensure full compliance and success. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that the key partner organization were key in fulfilling the applications which also benefits their applications. A meeting with the partner organisations is convened monthly which gives an opportunity to raise any concerns. He noted that as Officers they work within the town of Holyhead twice a week, which allows for any partner organisations to be able to ask for assistance in any matter. Officers from the Council meet UK Government Officers on a monthly basis to ensure that the processes that is followed conforms with the requirement of the LUF funding.
- Questions were raised as to what assurances can be given that all of the fund will be spent successfully, whilst ensuring compliance and value for money. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that the timescale to spend the LUF funding is limited (March 2025) with pressure on each of the partner organisations to be able to spend the funding within the timeframe.
- Questions were raised as to what arrangements are in place for the bidding process and what arrangements are in place to ensure transparency. Further questions were raised whether local construction firms would be allowed to bid for the projects. The Chief Economic Development Officer responded that the bidding process was undertaken in 2022 with an expressions of interest process thereafter to enable external partners to present potential projects for LUF funding. The projects were assessed against UK Government's criteria, and it was apparent that the Holyhead projects were the only projects that would be successful. Details of the processes undertaken is available which has conformed with UK Government's expectations. It was noted that all the contracts for the building projects are available through to 'Sell to Wales' website and a buyer's event was also held in June 2023 at the Trearddur Bay Hotel with an invitation to contractors to attend across North Wales.
- Reference was made within the report that 65 employment opportunities could materialise from these LUF projects. Questions were raised as to whether these posts are available for local persons and as to what type posts that it is anticipated that will be available. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that it is anticipated that the posts will be within hospitality and retail posts, but it is too early within the process to specifically refer to employment details at present. He noted that Holyhead Town Council has recently advertised for new businesses opportunities on Newry Beach and it is anticipated that these businesses will afford new employment opportunities within the town of Holyhead.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To note the progress, the development and delivery of the LUF programme in Holyhead;**
- **To note the implementation of the LUF programme in accordance with UK Government's guidance;**

- **To recognise the role of the Council in supporting the programme delivery partners.**

ACTION : As noted above.

7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Scrutiny Manager setting out the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's indicative Forward Work Programme for 2023/2024 was presented for consideration.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2023/2024;**
- **To note the progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.**

The meeting concluded at 3.50 pm

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
CHAIR**