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CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Dylan Williams
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive

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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR GWAITH	THE EXECUTIVE
DYDD MAWRTH 23 IONAWR 2024 10.00 o'r gloch	TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024 10.00 am
CYFARFOD HYBRID – YN YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR 1 AC YN RHITHWIR	HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Ann Holmes 01248 752518 Committee Officer

AELODAU/MEMBERS

Plaid Cymru/The Party of Wales

Neville Evans, Carwyn E Jones, Llinos Medi, Gary Pritchard, Alun Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Robin Wyn Williams

Y Grŵp Annibynnol/The Independent Group

Dafydd Roberts, Dafydd Rhys Thomas

COPI ER GWYBODAETH / COPY FOR INFORMATION

I Aelodau'r Cyngor Sir / To the Members of the County Council

Bydd aelod sydd ddim ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith yn cael gwahoddiad i'r cyfarfod i siarad (ond nid i bleidleisio) os ydy o/hi wedi gofyn am gael rhoddi eitem ar y rhaglen dan Reolau Gweithdrefn y Pwyllgor Gwaith. Efallai bydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith yn ystyried ceisiadau gan aelodau sydd ddim ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith i siarad ar faterion eraill.

A non-Executive member will be invited to the meeting and may speak (but not vote) during the meeting, if he/she has requested the item to be placed on the agenda under the Executive Procedure Rules. Requests by non-Executive members to speak on other matters may be considered at the discretion of The Executive.

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

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

2 URGENT MATTERS CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS APPOINTED OFFICER

No urgent matters at the time of dispatch of this agenda.

3 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 14)

To submit for confirmation, the draft minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on the following dates: -

- 28 November 2023
- 12 December 2023

4 THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 15 - 28)

To submit a report by the Head of Democracy.

5 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 (Pages 29 - 52)

To submit a report by the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer.

6 COMMUNITY BASED NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL CARE SERVICES - 2024/25 FEES AND CHARGES (Pages 53 - 58)

To submit a report by the Head of Adults' Services.

7 INDEPENDENT SECTOR CARE HOME FEES FOR 2024/25 (Pages 59 - 62)

To submit a report by the Head of Adults' Services.

8 MODERNISING AND TRANSFORMING DAY SERVICES IN THE HOLYHEAD AREA (Pages 63 - 90)

To submit a report by the Head of Adults' Services.

THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 28 November, 2023

- PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos Medi (Leader) (Chair)
- Councillors Neville Evans, Carwyn Jones, Gary Pritchard, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Robin Williams.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Director of Social Services
Director of Education, Skills, and Young People
Head of Regulation and Economic Development
Head of Housing Services
Head of Democracy
Economic Development Manager (THJ) (for items 11 and 13)
Housing Services Manager (Strategy, Commissioning and Policy) (ELI)
Solicitor (Contracts, Procurement and Corporate Governance) (DW)
Data Protection Officer (HP) (for item 5)
Committee Officer (ATH)
Webcasting Officer (FT)
- APOLOGIES:** Carys Edwards, Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors Douglas Fowlie, Glyn Haynes, Trefor Ll. Hughes, MBE, Robert Ll. Jones, Scrutiny Manager (AGD), Scrutiny Officer (EA), Communications Officer (GJ)
-

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2. URGENT MATTERS CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS APPOINTED OFFICER

None to report.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 24 October, 2023 were presented for confirmation.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 24 October, 2023 be confirmed as correct.

4. THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Democracy incorporating the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period from December 2023 to July 2024 was presented for confirmation.

The Head of Democracy updated the Executive regarding changes to the Forward Work Programme and the following were noted –

- Items 3 (Banning Animals as Prizes) and 4 (Outline and Strategic Business Case – Aethwy Extra Care Housing) as new items for the 12 December 2023 meeting of the Executive.
- Item 5 (HRA Housing Rents and Housing Service Charges 2024/5) rescheduled to the 12 December 2023 meeting of the Executive.
- Item 20 (2022/23 Annual Equality Report and 2024-2028 Strategic Equality Plan) as a new item for the 20 February 2024 meeting of the Executive.
- Item 29 (Local Housing Market Assessment) rescheduled to the 19 March 2024 meeting of the Executive.
- Item 32 (Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2023/24) as a new item for a delegated decision by the Portfolio Member in June 2024.
- Item 34 (Corporate Scorecard Quarter 4 2023/24) as a new item for the June 2024 meeting of the Executive.
- Items 35 to 37 (Budget monitoring reports) as new items for the June 2024 meeting of the Executive.

It was resolved to confirm the Executive's updated Forward Work Programme for the period October 2023 to May 2024 with the changes outlined at the meeting.

5. SCORECARD MONITORING – QUARTER 2 2023/24

The report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation incorporating the Corporate Scorecard for Quarter 2 2023/24 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience presented the report and highlighted that 91% of the performance indicators are performing above or within 5% tolerance of their targets which is reassuring at the end of Quarter 2. Some of the positive stories include the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) indicators, the number of empty homes brought back into use, the Adults' Services indicators, Children and Families' Services indicators, homelessness indicators, waste management and highways indicators. Although a full analysis of the corporate health performance indicators for the quarter had not been possible, the majority (67%) of the indicators with available data against targets monitored in this section are performing well and are ragged Green or Yellow. At the end of Quarter 2 the performance against target is ragged Red in respect of days lost to absence per FTE but it should be noted that long term sickness is an influencing factor and equates to 62% of the absence rates for the period. Areas being monitored by the Leadership Team to secure improvements into the future include the average days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities grant and the turnaround of lettable units of accommodation in Housing Services, the percentage of planning appeals dismissed and the number of FOI requests responded to within timescale due to the lack of available data for the second quarter for this activity. Whilst the forecast for the Council's financial position has improved from that reported at the end of Quarter 1, an overspend is still being projected for the year end with some service budgets coming under pressure. Expenditure is being scrutinised in order to limit the overspend.

Councillor Douglas Fowlie, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee reported from the Committee's 21 November 2023 meeting where the Q2 Scorecard report had been scrutinised. He confirmed that the Committee had been pleased to note that 91% of indicators were performing well and had sought assurance that the three underperforming indicators would improve. The forecast overspend was noted and enquiries made about how budget pressures are being managed and mitigated. Members also asked questions about the actions being pursued in response to the increase in the average days lost to absence per FTE. The number of planning appeals dismissed was noted with questions being asked about the impact of the mitigation measures introduced. The two underperforming indicators in Housing services relating to average days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities grant and the turnaround of lettable units of accommodation (Indicators 28 and 29 respectively) were discussed and further work regarding these areas was requested. Questions were also asked about local indicators to measure performance in connection with the Council's net zero target. Following its discussions the Committee had been agreed in recommending the Quarter 2 2023/24 scorecard report and the mitigating measures therein to the Executive and had also resolved to establish a scrutiny task and finish group to examine performance against Indicator 29 in Housing Services with a request that an officer group analyse the performance against Indicator 28 with a view to improving the performance for these housing related activities.

The Chief Executive said that it was gratifying to see performance holding up well at the end of Quarter 2. He highlighted sickness absence as an important area to be monitored going into the third quarter as having wider implications for team and service performance. He welcomed the discussions of Scrutiny in seeking to delve deeper into the data behind the two missed targets in Housing Services as the evidence suggests that that could be beneficial in understanding the factors that are influencing the performance of those indicators.

Members of the Executive acknowledged the positive performance overall and the efforts that had gone into maintaining the level of performance at a difficult time. The standout areas were noted and assurances were provided regarding monitoring and addressing those areas where the performance had been off target. Executive Members highlighted the importance of providing clarity on the context to indicators that are underperforming; Councillor Gary Pritchard, Portfolio Member for Children, Youth and Housing Services referred to complex cases which can significantly impact the timescale in delivering DFGs (Indicator 28); the unavailability of contractors/workers which can affect the turnaround time of lettable properties that require remedial works before they are then re-let was also cited as a factor in the performance of Indicator 29. Councillor Pritchard thanked Scrutiny for the discussion and feedback in relation to these Housing activity indicators and was keen to contribute to the further work proposed. He praised the performance with regard to bringing empty properties back into use which had exceeded target along with the Children's Services PIs which were all ragged Green apart from one which was ragged Yellow being within 5% of target which was particularly good in light of the increase in referrals to the service and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. Likewise Councillor Nicola Roberts highlighted that two of the three planning indicators are Green and that the only underperforming indicator is in relation to the number of planning appeals dismissed which involves a very small number of cases compared to the number of planning applications dealt with in the period.

It was resolved to accept the Scorecard Monitoring report for Quarter 2 2023/24 and to note the areas which the Leadership Team is exploring and investigating to manage and secure improvements into the future as outlined within the written report.

6. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 2 2023/24

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer setting out the financial performance of the Council's services at the end of Quarter 2, 2023/24 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance presented the report saying that based on the data to the end of Quarter 2, the overall projected financial position for 2023/24 including Corporate Finance and the Council Tax fund is a projected overspend of £0.364m which represents 0.21% of the Council's net budget for 2023/24. Whilst this is an improved position from that reported at the end of Quarter 1 and is a robust performance given the challenges, some services specifically Adults and Children's social care remain under considerable pressure as reflected by Table 1 in the report and are overspent which is offset only by under expenditure in other services within the Council. The Portfolio Member for Finance referred to the UK Government's Autumn Statement last week which made no mention of additional funding for local government either in England or Wales which was worrying especially given the perilous state of some councils' finances. The award of an extra £305m to Wales (a consequential of increases in spending in England) is unlikely even to cover increased pay costs in Wales before the pressures arising from increased Teachers' pension costs are also taken into account. The local authority financial landscape in Wales is therefore concerning.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised that whilst the figures in being based on six months of actual expenditure are therefore firmer, the coming winter period can be challenging especially for Adults' Social Care and Highways. The cost-of-living crisis has not abated and is likely to result in increased demand for a range of Council services. Whilst the non-teaching staff pay award for 2023/24 has been settled and the costs met from the existing provision the settlement being the same as the sum offered by the Employers back in March 2023 there is no indication that Welsh Government will provide additional grant funding to cover the cost of the Teachers' pay increase as from September 2023 as it did in 2022. The main budget variations in the report relate to Adults and Children's services with the position of the former having improved while the latter has deteriorated due principally to extra costs as a result of changes to current placements. Council Tax income is close to the budget and Council Tax collection rates have returned to pre-Covid levels. A rebate of £1.2m on the rates payable on Oriel Ynys Môn has been secured following appeal and will be added to the Council's balances.

The Executive's members considered the report and issues were raised including the possibility of Welsh Government imposing a penalty for non-achievement of recycling targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 which could impact the outturn position of the Waste Management Service although it was also noted that recycling rates are back on an upwards trajectory helped by input from WRAP Cymru. Members recognised that many challenges lie ahead especially with regard to the 2024/25 budget and that some services are coming under increasing pressure especially social care after many years of under investment nationally. The importance of continuing to monitor budget performance was emphasised so that pressure points can be identified and prepared for when developing the 2024/25 budget. The timeline with regard to negotiations on 2024/25 pay settlements and implications for setting the budget were discussed with the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advising that pay settlements for 2024/25 will remain challenging because of the increase in the National Living Wage which will affect the care sector in particular and therefore the Council as a commissioner of care services and also because of the current inflation rate. A provision for pay increases will have to be made in the draft budget pending confirmation of the Union's submission and Employer's offer for 2024/25 after the New Year.

It was resolved –

- To note the position set out in Appendices A and B in respect of the Authority's financial performance to date and expected outturn for 2023/24.
- To note the summary of Contingency budgets for 2023/24 detailed in Appendix C to the report.
- To note the monitoring of agency and consultancy costs for 2023/24 in Appendices CH and D.

7. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 2 2023/24

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer setting out the financial performance of the Council's capital budget at the end of Quarter 2, 2023/24 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance presented the report confirming that the total capital budget for 2023/24 stands at £60.018m which includes the HRA, slippage from 2022/23, grant funded additional schemes added onto the programme along with amendments since the original budget was set as illustrated by the table at paragraph 1.2 of the report. Whilst the profiled spend to the 30 September 2023 was £19m the actual expenditure is £18.704m or £19.616m when committed expenditure to the value of £912k is taken into account. The majority of projects are on target to be completed within budget and while some schemes are expected to underspend at this stage, the budgets are committed and required and slippage to 2024/25 will be requested for these schemes to complete in the next financial year.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer highlighted the number of capital schemes which are now supported by grant funding with core capital funding having reduced in real terms over recent years. He also referred to the matter of dealing with the discovery of RAAC concrete in two of the Island's schools which had diverted Property Service capacity from other activities in recent months.

The Executive's members acknowledged the fragility of the capital budget with no real investment having been made in capital funding over many years. Members were also appreciative of the efforts of the Property Service in responding with colleagues in the Learning Service and the two schools to address the RAAC concrete issue.

It was resolved –

- To note the progress of expenditure and receipts against the capital budget 2023/24 at Quarter 2.
- To approve the additional schemes amounting to £7.319m to the capital programme and amendments to funding, as per Appendix C to the report which will result in a revised capital budget of £60.018m for 2023/24.

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 2 2023/24

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer setting out the financial performance of the Housing Revenue account for Quarter 2 2023/24 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance presented the report which outlines both the revenue and capital budget performance of the Housing Revenue Account for the period and the forecast outturn for the year ending 31 March 2024. The report shows the revenue budget with a budgeted surplus of £8,044k. The gross capital

budget for 2023/24 is £19,988k. Grant and other funding of £6,898k reduced the net budget to £13,090k. The combination of both the revenue budget and the adjusted capital budget gave a planned budget deficit of £5,046k to be funded from the HRA reserve. The HRA revenue budget shows an underspend at the end of the second quarter of £600k compared to the profiled budget as detailed in Appendix A to the report. Capital expenditure is £940k above the profiled budget at the end of the quarter. The forecast expenditure is £1,890k above budget at year end as detailed in Appendix B to the report. The forecast deficit combining both revenue and capital is now £4,702k, £343k less than the budget.

The opening balance of the HR reserve stood at £12,107k. The revised budget allowed for the use of £5,046k of this balance. However the revised forecasts as reported will only use £4,702k. This will give a reserve balance of £7,405k by the end of the financial year. This balance is ringfenced and is only available to fund future HRA expenditure.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer emphasised the status of the Housing Revenue Account as separate from the Council's General Fund with its income derived from the rents on the housing stock and not from Welsh Government grant. Any surplus income is reinvested in upgrading and maintaining the existing stock to Welsh Housing Quality Standards and balances from the HRA reserve fund which have been built up over a number of years are used to fund capital expenditure. The HRA can also borrow to invest in developing new council housing. The HRA is in a robust position and is generating surplus income thereby enabling it to re-invest funds and to use borrowing powers to support further housing development in line with the strategy contained within the HRA Business Plan. Appendix C to the report details the housing units planned and/or in development and the development budget for 2023/24.

It was resolved to note the following –

- **The position set out in respect of the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for Quarter 2 2023/24.**
- **The forecast outturn for 2023/24.**

9. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer for the purpose of setting the Council tax base for 2024/25 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance presented the report saying that the Council as the billing authority is required to calculate the Council Tax Base for its area, and different parts of its area, and these amounts must be notified to the precepting and levying bodies by 31 December 2023. This year the Welsh Government has requested the information for the purpose of setting the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) by 14 November 2023 and for tax setting purposes (ratified by Executive decision) by 5 January 2024. The figure calculated for the Council Tax base to be used by Welsh Government to set the Revenue Support Grant for the Council for 2024/25 is 31, 241.64, a decrease of 0.10% on the previous year. This figure excludes adjustments for premiums and discounts granted by some authorities in respect of Classes A, B, and C (this does not affect the Council in Anglesey as no such discounts are granted). The figure for the Tax Base for tax setting purposes which does include adjustments for premiums is 33,170.03, an increase of 1.07% on the previous year.

The Director of Function (Resource)/Section 151 Officer explained the process by which the Council Tax Base is calculated both for the purpose of Welsh Government in determining the level of the Revenue Support Grant and also for local tax setting purposes and the factors involved including in the case of the latter the increase in the second homes premium from

75% to 100% which is expected to be ratified by Full Council in setting the budget in March, 2024 and which accounts for the increase in the tax base. He referred to changes in the tax base from the previous year for the standard Council Tax, empty properties, and second homes noting that although the number of properties subject to the second homes premium has decreased, the proposed increase in the premium rate from 75% to 100% has had a significant impact on this element of the tax base. The changes in the tax base will affect the Council's starting point for the revenue budget for 2024/25.

It was resolved –

- **To note the calculation of the Council Tax Base by the Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer – this will be used by the Welsh Government in the calculation of the Revenue Support Grant for the Isle of Anglesey County Council for the 2024/25 financial year, being 31,241.64 (Part E6 of Appendix A to the report).**
- **To approve the calculation by the Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer for the purpose of setting the Council Tax Base for the whole and parts of the area for the year 2024/25 (Part E5 of Appendix A to the report)**
- **That, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 (SI1995/2561) as amended by SI1999/2935 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) and Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004, and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, the amounts calculated by the Isle of Anglesey County Council as its tax base for the year 2024/25 shall be 33,170.03 and for the parts of the area shall be as listed in the table under recommendation 3 of the report.**

10. EMPTY HOMES STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-28

The report of the Head of Housing Services incorporating the Empty Homes Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2028 was presented for the Executive's consideration and approval.

Councillor Gary Pritchard presented the report saying that the Plan is an important element of the Administration's vision that everyone should have the right to call somewhere home. The Plan seeks to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to encourage owners to bring them back into use. The number of empty homes on Anglesey currently stands at 612 with 908 applications on the Council's social housing register requiring suitable accommodation as of March 2023; the return of those properties to use would make a significant difference in the lives of those waiting for a home. Councillor Pritchard spoke of having seen the return to use of several empty properties within his own ward and their becoming homes for people from the locality who would otherwise still be struggling to find accommodation or in some cases having to bed down in the homes of friends or relatives. The work that has gone into making that happen is deserving of praise and is a source of pride.

The Housing Service Manager (Strategy, Commissioning and Policy) said that the Plan explains why adopting a strategic approach to addressing the issue of empty homes is important given the demand for suitable housing and current housing pressures. The Plan set out four main objectives and details how those will be met; it recognises that bringing empty homes back into use is a partnership endeavour and involves working together with other Council services and external agencies to deal with the different aspects of empty homes and the various legislation.

The Head of Housing Services confirmed that the Strategic Plan encapsulates the Council's vision for bringing empty homes back into use in line with the approach it has taken over a number of years which since 2017 has seen the return of 525 empty homes into use. The Council has established a strong foundation for the work of tackling empty homes and is seen as being in the vanguard for this activity.

Councillor Douglas Fowlie, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee reported from the Committee's 21 September 2023 meeting which considered the Empty Homes Strategic Plan and he confirmed that in recommending the Plan to the Executive, Members had discussed the approach to addressing long-term and problematic empty homes, the contribution which the Plan makes towards achieving the Council's corporate objectives, the extent to which the Plan relies on input by partners and other services and the challenges in engaging with private sector empty home owners.

The Executive's members welcomed the Strategic Plan as the continuation of the good work undertaken by Housing Services in dealing with empty homes over several years and they highlighted some of the success stories in transforming difficult sites such as Beaumaris Social Club, the Old Snooker Club in Holyhead as well as Plas Alltran in Holyhead and bringing them back into use for the benefit both of local people and local communities. In supporting the Plan, the Executive sought assurance about the sufficiency of the Housing Services' empty homes resource to be able to realise the Plan's objectives over the five-year term.

The Head of Housing Services confirmed that although the team is small the service is making the best use of the resources it has at its disposal; it was noted that an Empty Homes assistant post has been funded through the Empty Homes Premium which is vital in supporting the work in this area.

In noting that 251 homes have stood empty for 3 years or longer and 77 homes have been empty for 10 years, the Executive urged the owners of long-term empty homes to engage with the Council to see what advice and assistance it can provide to help in bringing those properties back into use.

It was resolved to approve the Empty Homes Strategic Plan 2023-28.

11. ANGLESEY FREEPORT – PROGRESS ON OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE PREPARATION

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development setting out progress on preparing the Outline Business Case for the Anglesey Freeport was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Chair provided some background information about the successful bid for Freeport status and the approval in July 2023 of the Initial Collaboration Agreement (ICA) with the port operator Stena Line. Through the ICA an interim Governing Body was set up and the Council is about to finalise a grant agreement with Welsh Government which has been used to support the development of an Outline Business Case (OBC). The OBC is being developed in line with the draft guidance for Welsh Freeports as the final guidance was not published until October 2023 but is unchanged from the draft version. The report outlines the requirements in completing the OBC and the issues involved.

The Head of Regulation and Economic Development confirmed that the timescale for the preparation and submission of the OBC has been challenging as has fulfilling the more technical aspects of the guidance's requirements. A significant amount of work has been

achieved and the Council is in a good position in terms of the information it has put together and in meeting the target submission date. Several work streams are ongoing in the background including in relation to net zero, the Welsh language, innovation, local supply chains and Fair Work to ensure that the proposal is one that works for both Anglesey and the wider northwest region. The Full Business Case will be prepared next year with a final decision expected by the UK and Welsh Governments in September 2024. In addition, a community event has been arranged in Market Hall, Holyhead for 1 December 2023 to publicise and help people better understand the Anglesey Freeport programme and the opportunities attached to the offer.

The Executive's members thanked the Economic Development team for its efforts to date recognising that a great deal of work had been completed within a tight timescale as well as the importance of the local knowledge and understanding which the team has brought to that work. Whilst acknowledging the benefits that Freeport status is designed to create in terms of regeneration, job creation, investment and innovation, the Executive emphasised the importance of managing expectations highlighting that the Anglesey Freeport will not be operational until after the Final Business Case has been approved towards the end of next year. In response to a query about meeting the target date for the OBC, the Economic Development Manager confirmed that although the schedule is challenging and there is work still to be done, the Council is well placed to present the OBC to the expected standards in line with the November submission date.

It was resolved –

- **To authorise Officers to finalise the draft Outline Business Case (OBC)**
- **To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer and Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to sign-off and submit the OBC for approval by UK and Welsh Governments.**
- **To agree that the decision be exempted from call-in (with the agreement of the Council Chair) as any call-in could risk submission of the Outline Business Case being presented to both Governments.**

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.

13. ANGLESEY FREEPORT – GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development with regard to the governance and operational arrangements of the Anglesey Freeport was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Chief Executive guided the Executive's members through the report which set out the issues to be considered and resolved in coming to a determination and agreement on the governance and operational aspects of the Anglesey Freeport. A paper summarising the Council's position in relation to governance (Anglesey Freeport Governance Options) was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Isle of Anglesey County Council will be the Accountable Body for the Anglesey Freeport it being a requirement to designate a local authority as the accountable body as a condition of the Governments. Appendix 2 to the report sets out the role of the Accountable Body as agreed by the Freeport Governing Body

which was established under the Interim Collaboration Agreement between the Council and Stena Line following the successful bid for Freeport status. The report also provided an update on the position regarding capital and operational funding and tax sites in the context of preparing the OBC, the issues involved and the next steps. A map of Tax Sites was included as Appendix 3 to the report. It was noted that further reports on these matters would be brought to the Executive in due course as the work progresses and evolves.

It was resolved –

- **To agree that the Isle of Anglesey Council acts as the Accountable Body with the responsibilities as outlined within the report.**
- **To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer and Director of Function (Resources) /Section 151 Officer to progress with other partner arrangements for the Anglesey Freeport's governance structure and to ensure full compliance with appropriate Council governance requirements.**
- **That the Executive receive a future report on proposed governance arrangements setting out the Council's role in the Anglesey Freeport's governance structure once further progress has been made on the issues outlined in the report.**

**Councillor Llinos Medi
Chair**

THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 12 December 2023

- PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos Medi (Chair)
- Councillors Carwyn Jones, Gary Pritchard, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Dafydd R Thomas, Robin Williams
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Democracy,
Programme Manager (Corporate) (AH) (item 6 only),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Webcasting Officer (FT).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Neville Evans
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors Glyn Haynes and Derek Owen
Scrutiny Officer (EA)

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2 URGENT MATTERS CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS APPOINTED OFFICER

None to report.

3 THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Democracy incorporating the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period from January, 2024 to August, 2024 was presented for confirmation.

The Head of Democracy updated the Executive regarding changes to the Forward Work Programme and the following were noted –

- Item 16 (Biodiversity Plan – Annual Progress Report) re-scheduled from the Executive's 12 December, 2023 meeting to its 20 February, 2024 meeting.

- Item 26 (Local Housing Market Assessment) re-scheduled from the Executive's 12 March, 2024 meeting to its 23 April, 2024 meeting.

It was RESOLVED to confirm the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period January 2024 – August 2024 with the changes outlined at the meeting.

4 HRA HOUSING RENTS AND HOUSING SERVICE CHARGES 2024/25

The report of the Head of Housing Services incorporating the HRA Housing Rents and Housing Service Charges 2024/2025 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Children, Youth and Housing Services said that as the CPI for September 2023 was 6.7%, which falls outside the range of 0% to 3%, means that the current annual rent uplift of CPI + 1% does not apply, and the Minister for Climate Change within Welsh Government therefore will determine the appropriate change for Social Housing Rents for 2024/2025. The Minister has determined that the total maximum annual rent uplift across the whole of the stock will be up to 6.7%.

The Head of Housing Services reported that if the Council agrees to increase the annual rent by 6.7%, Welsh Government expects the Authority to commit to meeting the SATC2 standards recently launched by 2033. There is also an expectation that all RSLs in Wales continue to increase the number of new affordable social homes to fulfil their ambition of 20,000 new homes. Over the past 3 years, the Housing Service has completed the development of 131 new units and in addition a development programme of 39 new homes is in the process of planning development of an Extra Care Housing Scheme in Menai Bridge. However, as part of the consideration to increase the annual rent, several new commitments and initiatives have been set by Welsh Government which include that no evictions should be undertaken due to financial hardship for the term of the settlement where tenants engage with landlords; targeted support to those experiencing financial hardship to access support. There is also a requirement to maximise the use of all suitable social housing stock. The Head of Housing Services further referred to the requirement to assess the current average affordability of rents to tenants which was highlighted within the report. A questionnaire was sent out to all tenants to ascertain whether they believed that their rent is fair, affordable and the service they receive is value for money. A total of 779 questionnaires were returned and the target audience was to reach as many tenants who were not in receipt of any benefits that contributed towards paying for their rents as any possible rent increases would have an effect. 82% of tenants agreed that the rents were affordable and 18% disagreed. In addition, over 61% of the survey were completed by tenants working full time which shows that the survey targeted the tenants who were potentially not eligible for housing benefit or universal credit support. He further said that there is a Financial Inclusion Team within Housing Services who are available to provide advice and support to tenants.

The Executive emphasised the importance that tenants who are currently not eligible for housing benefits and financial support should be encouraged to contact the Council if they are suffering any financial hardship.

It was RESOLVED to approve:-

- **the rent increase of 6.7% on all general rent units in line with the Welsh Government rent policy on collection over 52 weeks;**
- **an increase of 63p per week for the rent of all garages;**
- **that the service charges cost as noted with section 6.3 of the report be applied to all tenants who receive the relevant services; the administration of the ‘Rent Support Scheme’, a local scheme to support tenants who self-pay their rent.**

5 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was RESOLVED under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.

6 AETHWY EXTRA CARE & RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME – BUSINESS CASES

The report of the Director of Social Service which sought the Executive’s approval relating to the Aethwy Extra Care and Residential Care Home - Strategic Outline Case (SOC)/Outline Business Case (OBC) was presented for consideration.

The Executive expressed their appreciation to the Officers involved in the development stages of Aethwy Extra Care and Residential Care Home and noted that such a development will contribute towards the strategic objective of ensuring that every person has a right to call somewhere a home and to be able to live independently for as long as it is possible.

It was RESOLVED to approve:-

- **The SOC/OBC for the Aethwy Extra Care/Residential Care Home scheme;**
- **The submission of the SOC/OBC to Welsh Government;**
- **To delegate authority to the Director of Social Services in consultation with the Deputy Leader & Portfolio Member for Children, Youth and Housing Services, Deputy Leader & Portfolio Member for Finance, Portfolio Member for Adults’ Service and Community Safety, Chief Executive, Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer and the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to amend the SOC/OBC if necessary, if the changes do not result in material changes (in terms of policy, principles, financial contribution, risks and harm to third parties);**
- **To commit to funding the Council’s Capital requirement, towards the project, via the Housing Revenue Account.**

The meeting concluded at 10.35 am

**COUNCILLOR LLINOS MEDI
CHAIR**

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	The Executive
Date:	23 January 2024
Subject:	The Executive’s Forward Work Programme
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Llinos Medi
Head of Service / Director:	Lynn Ball, Director of Function – Council Business / Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	Dyfan Sion, Head of Democracy
Local Members:	Not applicable

A – Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>In accordance with its Constitution, the Council is required to publish a forward work programme and to update it regularly. The Executive’s Forward Work Programme is published each month to enable both members of the Council and the public to see what key decisions are likely to be taken over the coming months.</p> <p>The Executive is requested to:</p> <p>confirm the attached updated work programme which covers February – September 2024;</p> <p>identify any matters for specific input and consultation with the Council’s Scrutiny Committees;</p> <p>note that the forward work programme is updated monthly and submitted as a standing monthly item to the Executive.</p>

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

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?
The approval of the Executive is sought before each update is published to strengthen accountability and forward planning arrangements.

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

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

Yes.

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

Not applicable.

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	Not 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.	

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

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	The forward work programme is discussed at Heads of Service meetings ('Penaethiaid') on a monthly basis (standing agenda item).
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	Under normal circumstances, monthly joint discussions take place on the work programmes of the Executive and the two Scrutiny Committees in order to ensure alignment.
9	Local Members	Not relevant

F - Appendices:

The Executive's Forward Work Programme: February – September 2024.

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

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

The Executive's Forward Work Programme

Period: February – September 2024

Updated 15 January 2024



The Executive's forward work programme enables both Members of the Council and the public to see what key decisions are likely to be taken by the Executive over the coming months.

Executive decisions may be taken by the Executive acting as a collective body or by individual members of the Executive acting under delegated powers. The forward work programme includes information on the decisions sought, who will make the decisions and who the lead Officers and Portfolio Holders are for each item.

Page 18 It should be noted, however, that the work programme is a flexible document as not all items requiring a decision will be known that far in advance and some timescales may need to be altered to reflect new priorities etc. The list of items included is therefore reviewed regularly and updates are published monthly.

Reports will need to be submitted from time to time regarding specific property transactions, in accordance with the Asset Management Policy and Procedures. Due to the influence of the external market, it is not possible to determine the timing of reports in advance

The latest version of the Executive's Forward Work Programme – **which is a live document and subject to change** - is set out on the following pages.

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

* Key:

S = Strategic – key corporate plans or initiatives

O = Operational – service delivery

FI = For information

The Executive's Forward Work Programme

Period: February – September 2024

Updated 15 January 2024

Subject & *category and what decision is sought	Decision by which Portfolio Holder or, if a collective decision, why	Lead Service	Responsible Officer/ Lead Member & contact for representation	Pre-decision / Scrutiny (if applicable)	Date to Executive or, if delegated, date of publication	Date to Full Council (if applicable)	
February 2024							
1	The Executive's Forward Work Programme (S) Approval of monthly update.	The approval of the full Executive is sought to strengthen forward planning and accountability.	Council Business	Dyfan Sion Head of Democracy Cllr Llinos Medi		The Executive 20 February 2024	
2	Treasury Management 2023/24 – 6-month review		Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams		The Executive 20 February 2024	Full Council 7 March 2024
3	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25		Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams		The Executive 20 February 2024	Full Council 7 March 2024
4	Capital Strategy		Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Committee 11.01.24	The Executive 20 February 2024	

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5	Fees and Charges 2024/25		Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams		The Executive 20 February 2024	
6	Local Authority Homes for Older People – Setting the Standard Charge 2024/25		Adults Services	Arwel Owen Head of Adults Services Cllr Alun Roberts		The Executive 20 February 2024	
7	Tenants Participation Strategy		Housing	Ned Michael Head of Housing Cllr Gary Pritchard	Corporate Scrutiny Committee 18.01.24	The Executive 20 February 2024	
8	Asset Management Strategy (Housing Services)		Housing	Ned Michael Head of Housing Cllr Gary Pritchard	Corporate Scrutiny Committee 18.01.24	The Executive 20 February 2024	
9	Modernising Day Opportunities: Disabilities		Adults Services	Arwel Owen Head of Adults' Services Cllr Alun Roberts	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 06.02.24	The Executive 20 February 2024	

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Period: February – September 2024

Updated 15 January 2024

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10	Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028		Council Business	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) and Monitoring Officer Cllr Llinos Medi	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 06.02.24	The Executive 20 February 2024	Full Council 7 March 2024
11	Biodiversity Plan – Annual Progress Report		Regulation and Economic Development	Christian Branch Head of Regulation and Economic Development Cllr Nicola Roberts		The Executive 20 February 2024	
12	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 3, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current financial position across the Council.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel 15.02.24	The Executive 29 February 2024	
13	Capital Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 3, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current financial position across the Council.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel 15.02.24	The Executive 29 February 2024	

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14 Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 3, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current financial position across the Council.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel 15.02.24	The Executive 29 February 2024	
15 Revenue Budget 2024/25 (S) Adoption of final proposals for recommendation to the County Council.	This is a matter for the Executive as it falls within the Council's Budget Framework.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function – Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel 15.02.24 Corporate Scrutiny Committee 27.02.24	The Executive 29 February 2024	Full Council 7 March 2024
16 Capital Budget 2024/25 (S) Adoption of final proposals for recommendation to the County Council.	This is a matter for the Executive as it falls within the Council's Budget Framework.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function – Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel 15.02.24 Corporate Scrutiny Committee 27.02.24	The Executive 29 February 2024	Full Council 7 March 2024

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The Executive's Forward Work Programme

Period: February – September 2024

Updated 15 January 2024

Subject & *category and what decision is sought	Decision by which Portfolio Holder or, if a collective decision, why	Lead Service	Responsible Officer/ Lead Member & contact for representation	Pre-decision / Scrutiny (if applicable)	Date to Executive or, if delegated, date of publication	Date to Full Council (if applicable)
March 2024						
17	Annual Equality Report 2022/23	Equality and Diversity Portfolio Holder	Council Business	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) and Monitoring Officer Cllr Llinos Medi		Delegated decision March 2024
18	The Executive's Forward Work Programme (S) Approval of monthly update.	The approval of the full Executive is sought to strengthen forward planning and accountability.	Council Business	Dyfan Sion Head of Democracy Cllr Llinos Medi		The Executive 19 March 2024
19	Corporate Scorecard – Quarter 3, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly performance monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current performance across the Council.	Corporate Transformation	Carys Edwards Head of Profession – HR and Transformation Cllr Carwyn Jones	Corporate Scrutiny Committee 12.03.24	The Executive 19 March 2024
20	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024 – 2054			Ned Michael Head of Housing Cllr Gary Pritchard	Corporate Scrutiny Committee 12.03.24	The Executive 19 March 2024

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The Executive's Forward Work Programme

Period: February – September 2024

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21	Corporate Asset Management Plan 2024 – 2029		Huw Percy Head of Highways, Waste and Property Cllr Dafydd Rhys Thomas	Corporate Scrutiny Committee	The Executive 19 March 2024	Full Council TBC
April 2024						
22	The Executive's Forward Work Programme (S) Approval of monthly update.	Council Business	Dyfan Sion Head of Democracy Cllr Llinos Medi		The Executive 23 April 2024	
23	Local Housing Market Assessment	Housing	Ned Michael Head of Housing Cllr Gary Pritchard	Corporate Scrutiny Committee	The Executive 23 April 2024	
May 2024						
24	The Executive's Forward Work Programme (S) Approval of monthly update.	Council Business	Dyfan Sion Head of Democracy Cllr Llinos Medi		The Executive May 2024	

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The Executive's Forward Work Programme

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June 2024							
25	Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2023/24 Approval of report.	Portfolio holder with responsibility for the Welsh language.	Council Business	Dylan Williams Chief Executive Cyng Dafydd Roberts	To be confirmed	Delegated decision June 2024	
26	The Executive's Forward Work Programme (S) Approval of monthly update.	The approval of the full Executive is sought to strengthen forward planning and accountability.	Council Business	Dyfan Sion Head of Democracy Cllr Llinos Medi		The Executive June 2024	
27	Corporate Scorecard – Quarter 4, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly performance monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current performance across the Council.	Corporate Transformation	Carys Edwards Head of Profession – HR and Transformation Cllr Carwyn Jones	Corporate Scrutiny Committee	The Executive June 2024	
28	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 4, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current financial position across the Council.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel	The Executive June 2024	

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29	Capital Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 4, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel	The Executive June 2024	
30	Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 4, 2023/24 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel	The Executive June 2024	
July 2024						
31	The Executive's Forward Work Programme (S) Approval of monthly update.	Council Business	Dyfan Sion Head of Democracy Cllr Llinos Medi		The Executive July 2024	
September 2024						
32	The Executive's Forward Work Programme (S) Approval of monthly update.	Council Business	Dyfan Sion Head of Democracy Cllr Llinos Medi		The Executive September 2024	

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The Executive's Forward Work Programme

Period: February – September 2024

Updated 15 January 2024

	Subject & *category and what decision is sought	Decision by which Portfolio Holder or, if a collective decision, why	Lead Service	Responsible Officer/ Lead Member & contact for representation	Pre-decision / Scrutiny (if applicable)	Date to Executive or, if delegated, date of publication	Date to Full Council (if applicable)
33	Corporate Scorecard – Quarter 1, 2024/25 (S) Quarterly performance monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current performance across the Council.	Corporate Transformation	Carys Edwards Head of Profession – HR and Transformation Cllr Carwyn Jones	Corporate Scrutiny Committee	The Executive September 2024	
34	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 1, 2024/25 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current financial position across the Council.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel	The Executive September 2024	
35	Capital Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 1, 2024/25 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current financial position across the Council.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel	The Executive September 2024	
36	Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 1, 2024/25 (S) Quarterly financial monitoring report.	This is a matter for the full Executive as it provides assurance of current financial position across the Council.	Resources	Marc Jones Director of Function– Resources / Section 151 Officer Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Scrutiny Panel	The Executive September 2024	

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
REPORT TO:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DATE:	23 JANUARY 2024
SUBJECT:	DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	COUNCILLOR ROBIN W WILLIAMS – DEPUTY LEADER & PORTFOLIO HOLDER – FINANCE
HEAD OF SERVICE:	MARC JONES – DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER
REPORT AUTHOR:	MARC JONES
TEL:	01248 752601
E-MAIL:	rmjfi@ynysmon.gov.wales
LOCAL MEMBERS:	n/a
A - Recommendation/s and reason/s	
<p>The final budget will not be approved by the full Council until 7 March 2024, however, at this point, the Executive is recommended to approve the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The initial proposed budget for 2024/25 of £184.219m; (ii) A proposed increase in Council Tax of 9.78%, plus 1.12% to cover Fire Levy = Total of 10.9%, taking the Band D charge to £1,592.37; (iii) To formally propose an increase in the premium on second homes from 75% to 100%; (iv) That £4.425m is released from the Council's general balances and earmarked reserves in order to balance the 2024/25 revenue budget. <p>The detailed report on the preparation of the 2024/25 standstill budget, the provisional settlement and funding the budget gap is attached as Appendices 1 and 2.</p>	
B - What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?	
<p>A number of options have been considered in reaching the proposed budget detailed in this report. The options took into account the level of net expenditure based on the draft settlement from Welsh Government and options relating to the level of Council Tax. The proposed budget aims to strike a balance between reducing Services and raising Council Tax.</p>	
C - Why is this a decision for the Executive?	
<p>The setting of the initial budget proposal is a matter delegated to the Executive.</p>	
CH - Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?	
<p>Yes. The final decision on the 2024/25 revenue budget will be taken by the full Council at its meeting on 7 March 2024.</p>	
D - Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?	
<p>Yes. The final decision on the 2024/25 revenue budget will be taken by the full Council at its meeting on 7 March 2024.</p>	

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	The current financial situation is challenging, with the funding from government being insufficient to meet the rising costs faced by the Council. This shortfall in funding will impact on the Council's ability to respond to the long term challenges and opportunities faced by the Island. This is an initial budget proposal which will be reviewed prior to setting and approving the final budget for 2024/25. In drawing up the budget proposal, the Executive has considered its statutory duties and the objectives set out in its Corporate Plan.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	The details of any savings proposals are set out in the report.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	The Council has been working with other Councils, regional and local partners and the WLGA to press the Welsh Government for the best financial settlement possible.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	The proposed budget will be subject to a period of consultation which will allow Anglesey citizens to comment on the proposals.
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	Any proposals included in the draft budget for 2024/25 will take into account the impact on any protected groups.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	The budget will result in an increase in the Council Tax payable by the taxpayers of Anglesey. Those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage are more likely to qualify for help through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which should result in no financial impact / limited financial impact to those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact identified.
E - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory)	Comments from the LT have been incorporated into the report and the draft report is endorsed by the LT.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	n/a – this is the Section 151 Officer's report.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	The Monitoring Officer is a Member of the LT and any comments made have been taken into account in discussions on this report in the LT.
4	Human Resources (HR)	Any proposals which impact on staff will have been identified and discussed with the HR Team.
5	Property	Any proposal which impacts on the Council's property and related budgets will have been discussed with the Property Team.

6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Any proposal which impacts on the Council's information technology systems and related budgets will have been discussed with the ICT Team.
7	Scrutiny	The initial budget proposals were considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16 January 2024. The Committee resolved to agree with the initial budget proposals and for the proposal to move on to the consultation stage.
8	Local Members	Proposals are applicable to all Members.
9	Any external bodies / other/s	
F - Appendices:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Report on Draft Revenue Budget 2024/25 • Appendix 2 – 2024/25 Proposed Budget by Service 		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2025/26 – See Executive meeting Agenda, 26 September 2023 – Item 10. 		

DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The following report sets out the Executive's provisional revenue budget for 2024/25. The budget is prepared on the basis of the assumptions set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by the Executive in September 2023, and the provisional local government settlement, which was issued by the Welsh Government on 20 December 2023. The report also outlines the proposed revenue savings which have been identified by the individual services and have been discussed by the Leadership Team, individual Portfolio Holders and the Executive.
- 1.2. The final settlement figures are not anticipated to be received until early March 2024. The final budget proposal will be subject to a review by the Scrutiny Committee on 27 February 2024, and will be recommended for approval by the Executive on 27 February 2024, with the final 2024/25 budget being approved by the Council at its meeting on 7 March 2024. No significant change is anticipated between the provisional and final settlement but, if a significant change arises, the budget proposal approved by the Executive would be changed prior to submission to the full Council.
- 1.3. The 2024/25 budget is being set in a significantly challenging time for the UK economy, for the financing of public sector services and the challenges being faced by all local authorities in the United Kingdom, with increased demand for services, the impact on the high level of inflation since early 2022 and the reduction in real terms in central government funding.
- 1.4. A number of local authorities in England have issued Section 114 notices (Local Government Finance Act 1988), whereby the Chief Financial Officer gives notice that, in the financial year, it is expected that the expenditure incurred by the Authority is likely to exceed the resources available to fund that expenditure. Prior to the current financial crisis, the issuing of a Section 114 notice was an extremely rare event, however, 8 Councils have issued Section 114 notices since 2021, including Birmingham City Council and Nottingham City Council, with many more reporting the possibility of having to issue notices within the next 2 years.
- 1.5. In Wales, where the funding model of local authorities differs slightly to that in England, no Council has yet issued a Section 114 notice. However, the financial pressures faced by Welsh Councils are similar to England. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) estimate that Welsh Councils are facing a budget pressure of £720m in 2024/25, and further pressures of £516m in 2025/26 and £524m in 2026/27. If the position on Anglesey reflected the WLGA estimate, the Council's budget would have to rise by £16m in 2024/25, followed by rises of £12m in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- 1.6. The current financial climate is also very uncertain, with the potential for significant changes in inflation, a lack of clarity on the level of future pay awards and the continued rising demand for services, particularly social care and homelessness prevention. The majority of these factors are outside the Council's control but must still be funded by the Council as and when they happen. The following report will outline these factors in more detail.
- 1.7. Preparing this draft provisional revenue budget 2024/25 has, therefore, been challenging and difficult. The scale of the funding deficit facing the Council is far greater than previous experiences during the initial period of austerity. Difficult decisions will have to be made that will impact on the Council, staff, service users and the Island's residents and communities.

2. MAIN ASSUMPTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

- 2.1. The Medium Term Financial Plan (reported to the Executive on 26 September 2023 – Item 10) sets out a number of assumptions (noted in Appendix 2 of that report) and these assumptions have been taken into account and updated in calculating the standstill budget for 2024/25. The standstill budget is a budget which provides resources to operate services at 2023/24 levels but updated to reflect any known changes outside the control of the services (committed changes) and to reflect the estimated costs in 2024/25.

2.2. These assumptions have been factored into the standstill budget, along with more detailed changes (committed changes) which allow for known increases in costs e.g. contractual commitments. The draft budget also allows for additional funding, known changes to grant funding and minor budget corrections deemed necessary to ensure that the Council's budget accurately reflects the costs it faces in 2024/25.

3. PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT

3.1. The provisional settlement for Local Government in Wales, announced on 20 December 2023, shows an increase of £169.8m in the overall level of funding for Wales, which is equivalent to an 3.1% increase in cash terms. The details are shown in Table 1 below:-

Table 1		
2024/25 Provisional Settlement		
	Anglesey	Wales
	£'m	£'m
2023/24 AEF	123.665	5,519.889
Adjustment for the Change in the Taxbase	0.201	0.000
Previous Years Grants Transferred In / (Out)	0.000	0.000
2023/24 Adjusted AEF	123.866	5,519.889
Provisional AEF 2024/25	126.973	5,689.689
Increase in comparison to 2023/24 AEF	3.308	169.800
% Increase in comparison to 2023/24 AEF	2.67	3.08
Increase in comparison to 2023/24 adjusted AEF	3.107	169.800
% Increase in comparison to 2023/24 adjusted AEF	2.51	3.08

3.2. A number of various datasets are adjusted in the allocation formula, including population, the number of people in receipt of benefits, children in receipt of free school meals, school pupils etc., and these impact on the allocation to each authority differently. Some authorities fair better from these adjustments, whilst others are impacted negatively and, as a result, not every authority receives the same level of increase. In the 2024/25 provisional settlement, there is a range of increases from 4.7% (Newport) down to 2.0% (Gwynedd and Conwy). The settlement includes a floor which provides a minimum increase of 2%. Anglesey's increase is 0.6% below the Welsh average, and the 17th highest increase from the 22 authorities.

3.3. In addition to the unhypothecated funding that the Council receives in the form of the AEF, all Councils in Wales receive additional revenue funding in the form of specific grants, which fund specific services in accordance with the grant conditions set by Welsh Government. The details of the individual allocations to each Council will be issued in due course but the overall level of grant funding for Wales is set out in the provisional settlement. Table 2 sets out the major grants which the Council will receive:-

Table 2
Main Revenue Grants – All Wales Allocations 2023/24 & 2024/25

Grant	2023/24 Allocation £'000	2024/25 Allocation £'000	% Change
Local Authority Education Grant	381,595	378,834	- 0.72%
Post 16 Education	113,892	113,892	0.0%
Universal Primary Free School Meals	62,988	93,500	+ 48.4%
Housing Support Grant	169,202	169,348	+ 0.1%
Bus Emergency Scheme	42,000	39,000	- 7.7%
Bus Services Support	24,800	24,800	0.0%
Sustainable Waste Management Grant	16,400	TBC	TBC
Homelessness	27,500	16,000	- 41.8%
Children & Communities Grant	171,744	174,583	+ 1.6%
Social Care Workforce Grant	45,000	35,000	- 28.6%
Substance Misuse Action Fund	39,063	41,063	+ 5.2%
Early Years Integration Transformation Grant	6,000	TBC	TBC
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	2,794	2,794	0.0%

4. MAIN BUDGET CHANGES FOR 2023/24

4.1. The major changes between the 2023/24 final budget and the 2024/25 initial budget are detailed below.

4.2. Non Teaching Pay Inflation

4.2.1. Pay costs will change annually to reflect the changes in staff over the year (new staff being appointed to a different point on the pay scale), staff receiving annual increments and the pay award. The 2023/24 pay award, effective from April 2023, was not agreed until November 2023. In setting the 2023/24 budget, an additional £2m was released from the Council's general balances, which was in addition to the sum additionally allowed for in the service budgets. The final agreed pay award was set as an increase of £1,925 per employee up to point 42 on the pay scale, and 3.88% on all scales from point 43 onwards. This gave a range of increases from 9.42% for the lowest point on the payscale, to 3.88% for the highest point on the payscale. On average, the pay award resulted in a 7.0% increase in the Council's non-teaching pay costs. The total initially included in the 2023/24 pay non teaching pay budgets, along with the £2m contingency, was sufficient to fund the final pay award and no additional funding is required in the 2024/25 budget to correct any under estimation in the 2023/24 budget.

- 4.2.2.** In determining the level of the 2024/25 pay award, consideration has to be made that inflation continues to fall and is expected to start the 2024/25 financial year at 3.9% and is expected to fall to 2.5% by March 2025. However, the National Living Wage also impacts as to the level of the pay award. The National Living Wage, from April 2024, will be £11.44 per hour, which is only £0.15 below the hourly rate of the lowest point on the national pay scale. Given the delay in agreeing the annual pay award, there is a risk that the lowest point on the pay scale may fall below the National Living Wage in April 2025, if the National Living Wage rises by a similar amount again in April 2025. The Employers are currently assessing options, but it may result in a higher than inflation pay award being offered in 2024/25, for all or the lower points of the scale.
- 4.2.3.** The Unions have yet to submit their pay claim and, in the absence of any further information at this point, an assumed pay award of 3.5% has been included in the standstill budget, which is 0.5% above the assumption of general inflation. This may have to be revised prior to the completion of the budget process. An additional 1% in the non teaching pay inflation assumption would increase the budget by £630k.
- 4.2.4.** Based on the assumptions made, the pay changes adds £2.22m to the Council's budget.

4.3. Teaching Pay Inflation

- 4.3.1.** As teacher's pay is set by the Welsh Government, the local government settlement reflects the expected increase in the pay award. However, for the 2022/23 pay award (effective from September 2022) and the 2023/24 pay award (effective from September 2023), the actual pay agreement has resulted in the pay award being 1.5% above the original offer.
- 4.3.2.** The Welsh Government have funded the impact of the 2022/23 pay award by means of an additional grant to Councils in 2022/23 and 2023/24. However, the 2023/24 additional pay award has not been funded and the cost of this additional increase has fallen on Councils to fund. The grant funding has not been transferred into the 2024/25 provisional settlement and, as a result, the cost of the additional 1.5% for the 2022/23 pay award and the 2023/24 pay award falls on the Council to fund, and the increased pay awards from the 2 previous years will have to be corrected in the 2024/25 budget. The estimated impact of this correction is £1.1m.
- 4.3.3.** No information has been provided as to the teachers' pay award applicable from September 2024. This pay award will cover the period September 2024 to August 2025, during which time inflation is expected to fall from 3.2% to 1.7%. An estimate of 2% has been included for the pay award from September 2024.
- 4.3.4.** Based on the assumptions made, the impact of teacher's pay will add £1.94m to the Council's pay budget.

4.4. Pension Costs

- 4.4.1.** The Council enrolls its staff into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff and the Teacher's Pension Scheme for teachers. The employer's contribution scheme is set by the Administrator of the scheme and is subject to regular revaluations.
- 4.4.2.** The LGPS scheme was revalued during 2022/23, with the new contribution rates coming into effect from April 2023 for a period of 3 years. The scheme sets 2 rates, a primary rate which is designed to fund the pension costs accrued for staff related to the current and future service, and a secondary rate which covers any funding shortfalls in the fund.

- 4.4.3.** When the final valuation was received, it was found that, due to the improved performance of the fund, the secondary rate was lower than estimated in the 2023/24 budget. This can now be adjusted in the 2024/25 budget and will reduce the budget requirement by £662k.
- 4.4.4.** The Teacher's Pension Scheme is a national scheme with the contribution rates set by the UK Treasury, based on an Actuary's valuation. The value of the fund has been reassessed and the employer's contribution rate has been increased from 23.68% to 28.68%, which is a 21.1% increase in the contribution rate. This change will increase the Council's employer contributions by £1.32m in 2024/25. This change is not funded by Welsh Government through the provisional settlement and it will be not until the new financial year that a decision will be taken by the Treasury as to whether this additional cost is funded by the UK Government.

4.5. Non Pay Inflation

- 4.5.1.** For a number of years, the level of inflation in the UK has been low and very simple to estimate. However, inflation has risen significantly since 2021, with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rising to 11.1% in October 2022, with higher increases for certain goods, including energy, food, fuel and building materials. Since that point, inflation has gradually fallen and currently stands at 3.9%, and is anticipated to continue to fall and is expected to reach the Bank of England's target of 2.0% by mid 2025.
- 4.5.2.** The Council's non pay costs are made up of a number of different contracts and procurement methods, all of which are affected by inflation in different ways:-
- Long term contracts where the inflation calculation is incorporated into the contract using pre-determined inflation indices, and using the figure as at a particular point in time. These type of contracts tend to favour the Council when inflation rates are rising, but they do reflect what is happening with particular types of goods which impact on the contractor's costs, e.g. the inflation factor for the refuse collection contract will be heavily linked to the cost of fuel as this is a major cost for the contractor.
 - Contracts where the annual increase is negotiated. These are, in the main, residential and nursing care home fees and other care contracts. CPI is not the main factor on these price increases as the main cost is staffing. The level of inflation is linked to pay and in particular the increase in the national living wage and the real living wage.
 - Long term framework agreements where the annual price is set by the framework and not as part of an individual agreement between the Council and the supplier / contractor. These include our main energy contracts. Again, the price increase will be linked to specific factors relating to the goods supplied, rather than using CPI as the basis for the increase.
 - Goods and services that are purchased as and when required, either through a one off tender process, obtaining quotations or simply by placing an order. These costs are subject to inflationary pressures as the price the Council pays is dependent on the price at the time the order is placed or tender received.
- 4.5.3.** In drawing up the standstill budget, the level of inflation as determined by a specific contract has been allowed for. The fact that the inflationary increases in the Council's main contracts are based on inflation levels in the Autumn of the preceding year (Autumn 2023 inflation is used to uprate contract rates from April 2024), has worked against the Council and increases in excess of between 5% and 7% have been allowed for.

4.5.4. Energy Costs

- The pressure on energy prices has fallen away during 2023/24, after a significant rise in 2022/23. The Council's corporate energy contract is due for renewal in October 2024 and this decision may influence the Council's cost of energy from this point. However, based on the information provided by the Council's current energy management provider, it is estimated that gas and electricity prices will rise by 10% in 2024/25, adding £438k to the Council's budget. However, it should be noted that the Council's continued investment in lowering the Council's energy consumption will have a positive impact and reduce the Council's energy costs.

4.5.5. Social Services Care Contracts Inflation

- The Council sets an annual fee for residential and nursing homes each year, with this figure being based on the toolkit which has been historically used by North Wales Councils for a number of years. Care home providers have made a number of representations at a local and national level that the current fees are insufficient and that without a significant increase their businesses will become unsustainable.
- A number of providers are unwilling to accept placements at the fee set by the Council and the actual charge is higher. The issue is being reviewed by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board to try and agree a funding toolkit to be used, which costs need to be included, the base position for those costs and the return on investment which the providers can expect. It is unlikely that agreement will be reached before the 2024/25 budget is set. Anglesey has also to take into account the type of providers who operate locally. They are mainly small providers who face different cost pressures to larger providers who operate in areas closer to the English border.
- The National Living Wage is a significant factor in the cost of both the residential and nursing sector and the domiciliary care sector, given that providers use this figure as the starting point to set the pay of their employees. As of April 2024, the National Living Wage will rise from £10.42 to £11.44, a rise of 9.8%. This is a cost that the providers cannot avoid and is likely to be passed onto the Council through higher fees. After taking into account the costs which will be impacted by the National Living Wage and those where the general level of inflation applies, an assumption of 8% has been allowed for in the case of residential and nursing care fees. This will increase the Council's costs by £700k (not taking into account the increase in demand).
- Other care budgets, including domiciliary care, residential placements in Adult Services (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities) and care provided through the direct payment scheme will also be impacted by the increase in the National Living Wage. Where the care is provided in a residential or nursing placement, the inflation assumption is as noted above but, for domiciliary care and direct payment costs, it is assumed that the costs will increase by the increase in the National Living Wage of 9.8%. These increases will add an additional £1.41m to the Council's budget.

4.5.6. General Inflation

- The general inflation (CPI) has fallen from a peak of 11% in October 2022 to its current rate of 3.9% (December 2023). It is expected to fall further over the coming months, reaching 2.5% by March 2025. The estimated average inflation rate for 2024/25 is 3.1%, and a small correction to the sum allowed for in the 2023/24 budget (0.7%). This will result in 3.8% being applied as the general inflation figure to the majority of budgets not covered by a specific inflation rate.
- It is estimated that general inflation will increase the Council's budget by £1.76m.

4.5.7. Fees and Charges

- The Council's budget includes a range of fees and charges, some are set by the Welsh Government, specific legislation or other outside bodies, and some are set by the Council. The total fees and charges budget for 2023/24 was £12.47m, with £5.7m within the Council's control. The Executive has set an increase of 5% to controllable fees and charges, but it is for each service to determine the individual fees and charges. It is estimated that the 5% increase will generate an additional £285k in income.
- Statutory fees and charges and other Government Grants account for approximately £30m of the 2023/24 net revenue budget. An increase of 3%, in line with CPI and the rise in the AEF, would generate an additional £971k, although the provisional settlement shows that some grants will be frozen whilst others will be reduced.

4.6. Pupil Numbers

Each year, the effect of the change in pupil numbers in the primary and secondary sectors is taken into account as part of the budget setting process, with the pupil numbers as at September 2023 being used as the basis for the 2024/25 budget. For 2024/25, the number of primary school pupils has continued to fall, with a further drop of 156 pupils, whilst the number of secondary school pupils has increased by 58. The net impact of these changes is a reduction of £467k in the primary schools budget and an increase of £263k in the secondary school budget.

Canolfan Addysg y Bont is currently operating at full capacity and cannot accommodate additional pupils. However, the severity of the learning needs of the pupils now receiving their education at Canolfan Addysg y Bont has increased over recent years, which has increased the staffing requirement to educate each pupil. The funding formula has not reflected this change and, as such, the special schools' budget has been restated and increased by £271k to take account of the change in the pupils needs.

4.7. Fire Service Levy

The Council's budget includes levies raised on the Council by other bodies who have the statutory power to set a levy. The main levy raised is by the North Wales Fire Authority, which sets an overall levy for the 6 North Wales authorities and this is allocated across the 6 authorities on the basis of population. The North Wales Fire Authority carried out a consultation on changes to the service during 2023 and are planning an increase its levy on the 6 constituent authorities of 10.8%, which increases the budget by £4.8m. However, due to the change in population, Anglesey's contribution to the levy rises from 9.92% to 10.03% of the total levy. This results in an increase to the levy on the Council of £533k, which is equivalent to a 1.12% rise in Council Tax. This takes the levy which is funded by the Council to £4.936m.

4.8. Corporate Joint Committee Levy

There is now a requirement for the 6 North Wales Authorities to set up a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) to be responsible for strategic transport and planning policy and regional economic development. The Council's share of the levy set for 2023/24 was £76k. Although the CJC has yet to make a final decision, it is not anticipated that this levy will increase in 2024/25.

4.9. Capital Financing Charges

Capital Financing Charges are made up of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), annual interest charges on outstanding loans and interest received on investments. The Council changed the MRP policy to the annuity method in 2022, which generated a significant reduction in the 2023/24 budget. However, the annuity method results in the MRP charge increasing each year, not taking account any new borrowing which may have been undertaken.

The Council's level of cash balances has been high since 2020, and the strategy has been to run down these cash balances, rather than borrow externally. However, as the Council's reserves and school balances are run down, the Council's cash balances are reaching their minimum and new borrowing will have to be undertaken in 2024/25 (estimated up to £15m). This will generate additional MRP and Interest costs of £847k.

Interest rates were exceptionally low from 2020 to 2022 and, as a result, a very low level of income was generated from investments. However, the position changed in 2022 and interest rates continued to rise into 2023. The increase in interest rates and the high cash balances allowed a budget of £1.036m to be set for 2023/24. It is anticipated that the current level of interest rates will be maintained until at least mid 2024, when they are then expected to fall slowly. However, as stated above, the level of surplus cash available to invest has fallen, the interest return will be less in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24. The estimated budget is £670k, a fall of £366k.

The overall effect of the MRP and interest charges is to increase the capital financing budget by £1.42m.

4.10. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Since 2011, the cost of providing financial support to those in need of help in paying their Council Tax has formed part of the Council's budget, but the sum allowed for in the Council's Standard Spending Assessment has remained virtually unchanged. As the level of Council Tax has increased and the number of claimants has changed, the additional cost of the scheme has fallen on the Council Taxpayers to fund. The increase in this budget is directly linked to the final increase in the Council Tax charge. Allowing for this, and an increase of 1% in the overall caseload, will increase the budget requirement by £681k.

4.11. Demand Led Budgets

The current forecast for 2023/24 does not indicate that the Council will experience a significant overspending position at the end of the financial year, which suggests that there are no unfunded budget pressures. However, the headline figure is not representative of the underlying position as it includes budget overprovision which will be corrected in the standstill budget, one off budget savings from vacant posts and other non pay costs and additional one off grants and the use of earmarked reserves, which provide one off funding, which reduce the level of overspending.

Taking these factors out highlights that 2 main budgets are experiencing demand and cost pressures which need to be corrected in the 2024/25 budget. The areas under pressure are social care budgets, which mainly deliver statutory services to the most vulnerable members of society. The Council is obliged to provide the services and there can be an urgent requirement to provide care to ensure that the health or safety of the client is maintained. Identifying placements at short notice, in a sector where demand outstrips supply, can significantly increase costs and this can be outside the control of the Council.

It is estimated that the increasing caseload and rising costs in the care sector require a budget correction (in addition to inflation) of £2.9m for Adult Social Care and £0.9m for Children's Services. These have been factored into the standstill budget.

4.12. Use of Council Tax Premium

The Council Tax premium on empty properties and second homes generates additional income for the Council, and part of this additional income funds schemes to help young local people purchase their own house on the Island. In 2023/24, £1.2m of the additional funding was allocated for this purpose, along with £300k to implement and administer an amended planning requirement in respect of second homes (article 4). For the purposes of the standstill budget, the £1.2m budget remains but the £300k has been removed.

4.13. Contingencies

As part of the budgeting process, a number of contingency budgets are built into the budget to cover fixed term costs, potential risks that may require funding during the year, or as a general contingency which is utilised during the year as additional budget pressures arise or as unexpected events occur. Holding contingency budgets is very important and ensures that the risk of unexpected expenditure having a negative impact on the Council's financial sustainability is mitigated. The current age and condition of the Council's asset stock does increase the risk that the Council will face more unexpected expenditure in order to allow services to continue to be provided from buildings where major problems arise.

The total budget in 2023/24 was £1.018m and the budget requirement for 2024/25 has been reassessed as £1.226m.

4.14. Other Committed Changes

In drawing up the standstill budgets, a number of minor budget corrections are made to reflect changes that are required or previous decisions to increase individual budgets. The net effect of these adjustments is to increase the overall standstill budget by £450k. The main changes relate to the reduction in the grant contribution from Y Gymdeithas to the Oriel £123k, the additional cost of providing universal free school meals for primary pupils £29k, the impact of the change in the number of school days £92k.

5. THE FUNDING POSITION

5.1. After taking into account the provisional settlement from Welsh Government (as set out in paragraph 3) and the main budget changes (as set out in paragraph 4), the funding position prior to any increase in Council Tax is set out in Table 3 below:-

Table 3			
Budget Funding Gap 2024/25			
	Reference	£'m	£'m
2023/24 Final Budget			174.570
Main Budget Adjustments (as set out in Paragraph 4)			
Pay Inflation and Other Staffing Costs	4.2 to 4.3	4.160	
Pension Adjustments arising from the Pension revaluation	4.4	0.653	
Non Pay Inflation	4.5	2.750	
Pupil Numbers	4.6	0.067	
Levies	4.7 to 4.8	0.514	
Capital Financing Charges	4.9	1.424	
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	4.10	0.681	
Demand Led Services	4.11	3.816	
Contingencies and Other Committed Changes	4.12 to 4.14	0.357	
			14.422
Standstill Net Revenue Budget 2023/24			188.992
Funded By			
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)		(101.631)	
Share of Non Domestic Rates Pool		(25.342)	
Total Aggregate External Finance			(126.973)
2023/24 Council Tax Budget (adjusted for the change in the taxbase and increase in second home premium)			(47.628)
Total Funding Prior to Increase in Council Tax			(174.601)
Funding (Surplus) / Deficit (before any change in Council Tax)			14.391

5.2. In order to fund the funding deficit of £14.39m, it would be necessary to increase Council Tax by 30.2%. This would take the Band D charge to £1,869.49, which is an annual increase of £433.63 and a weekly increase of £8.34. In order to reduce the increase in Council Tax, it would be necessary to utilise the Council's own reserves or to implement revenue budget savings. Each £1m reserves used, or savings implemented, reduces the increase in Council Tax by 2.43%.

6. BUDGET RISKS

6.1. In setting the budget, there are a number of financial risks which need to be assessed which may result in a financial cost to the Council. Some of these risks have been allowed for in the budget proposal, but others have not been allowed for in the budget and would be covered by the Council's general balances and reserves, should the risk materialise into a financial cost in 2023/24. In the current financial climate, a number of these risks are clearly outside the Council's control e.g., demand for statutory service provision, cost of pensions, levies set by other bodies, new or changing service requirements set by Welsh and / or the UK Government.

- 6.2. The Council's current level of unallocated general balances is forecasted to stand at £11.1m by the end of the financial year, with an additional £3.3m of earmarked reserves which could be returned to the Council's general balances. As a rule of thumb, the Executive has set the minimum general balance as 5% of the net revenue budget. Based on the standstill net revenue budget for 2024/25 of approximately £190m, the minimum required sum would be £9.5m. This leaves a potential £4.9m available to help fund the revenue budget over the next 2 to 3 years, but it should be noted that reducing the level of general balances and earmarked reserves does weaken the Council's financial position, and could lead to future financial difficulties should it be necessary to fund any significant unexpected expenditure e.g. funding future revenue overspending.
- 6.3. The current position of the 2023/24 revenue budget estimates that there will be a small overspend of 0.2% of the net budget, although it is difficult to accurately estimate the final level of expenditure, it is not currently expected that the overspend will rise significantly and would not impact significantly on the level of general balances at the end of this financial year.
- 6.4. In drawing up the draft revenue budget, it has been necessary to make a number of assumptions. The assumptions are based on the professional judgement of the Finance Team and other Council staff, external forecasts of both the UK and Welsh Governments or other professional bodies and other historical and statistical information. The potential impact on the revenue budget of errors in the main assumptions are detailed below:-

- **Pay Award** – as noted in paragraph 4.2 above, the budget has been inflated to reflect the estimated pay awards for 2024/25, but there is still significant uncertainty over the pay awards. The Unions have yet to submit their claim for 2024/25 and the pay award could be higher than the 3.5% allowed for. Each 1% above this figure adds approximately £1m to the Council's pay bill.
- **National Living Wage** – the UK Government announced that the National Living Wage (previously known as the minimum wage) would increase by 9.8% in April 2024, to £11.44 per hour. The National Living Wage puts pressure on the Council's budget in two ways i.e. what it pays its own staff and what its main contractors pays its staff.

The Council's lowest point on its pay scale for 2023/24 is £22,737, or £11.79 per hour, which is only £0.35 above the National Living Wage level. Of course, a pay award will be paid in April 2024 which will increase this figure and provide further headroom. However, it should be noted that the national payscale includes a point which is lower than the minimum paid by the Council, and the lowest point is currently £11.59 per hour, only £0.17 above the National Living Wage level. Any above inflation rise in the National Living Wage in April 2025 would require a similar rise in the pay scales in order to maintain the lowest point above the National Living Wage level.

A large number of staff employed by the Council's main contractors and service providers pay their staff on, or around, the Real Living Wage level. This is particularly true in the care sector (residential and nursing home care, homecare etc). Increases to the National Living Wage will result in an increase in the Real Living Wage (the Real Living Wage is currently £1.58 per hour higher than the National Living Wage). The Welsh Government require Councils to provide sufficient funding to allow providers to pay the Real Living Wage and the increase in this figure will be reflected in the increases in the fees the Council has to pay to their contractors and service providers. Although an increasing of funding has been allowed for, there is a risk that it will not be sufficient to meet the demands from providers, who may also be facing pressure as a result of general inflation, particularly food, energy and fuel costs.

- **General Inflation** – Over the past 12 months, the level of general price inflation has fallen and is expected to continue to fall back towards the Bank of England’s target of 2%. However, there is a risk that the fall in inflation may slow or that the inflation for certain goods or services purchased by the Council do not fall in line with the fall in CPI. As the inflation rate lowers, the risk of a material under or over allowance for inflation in the budget diminishes.
- **Energy Costs** – The Council purchases its gas and electricity through a framework agreement, with the prices being updated each October. The increases in October 2023 were lower than in the previous year, however, the risk of a surge in prices due to external factors before the next price change in October 2024 is possible. The budget allows for a further increase of 10% in costs in 2024/25. Resolution of the war in Ukraine and Palestine would considerably ease the pressure on energy prices but, conversely, an escalation in the war could significantly increase prices again.
- **Service Demand** – The budget allows for the provision of services at the current level of demand in certain services where the demand can fluctuate (Children’s Services, Adult Social Care, Homelessness, Council Tax Reduction Scheme). Any significant increase in service demand will create additional financial costs for the Council which would not be covered by the existing budgets.
- **Grant Income** – As noted in Table 2 above, in addition to the funding received through the Aggregate External Finance, the Council receives significant levels of additional funding in the form of specific grants from the Welsh Government and others. When the level of specific grant funding falls or is not increased to reflect the increase in costs, it is not always possible to react quickly to the change as the service funded by the grant is integrated into the service funded from the Council’s core budget. There is, therefore, a delay between the reduction in funding and the Council’s ability to reduce the associated cost through the reconfiguration of the service.
- **Income Targets from Fees and Charges** – As the cost of living emergency continues to impact on the disposable income of families, there is a risk that the use of some of the Council’s services may reduce e.g. leisure services, car parking, planning and building regulations applications. As a result, there is a risk that the targets for fees and charges budgets may not be achieved.

7. BRIDGING THE FUNDING GAP

- 7.1. In drawing up the standstill budget, a number of assumptions are made in respect of pay and price inflation. In respect of the school’s delegated budget, the standstill budget allows for an increase in cash terms of £4.596m (9.3%), which takes the delegated school’s budget to £53.856m (excluding the post 16 budget). It is proposed to cap the inflationary increase to 6.8%, thereby reducing the standstill budget by £1.246m.
- 7.2. Staffing is the main cost faced by the Council and reducing the overall workforce has to form part of any strategy to set a balanced budget. There is a constant turnover of staff during the year and, as vacancies arise, management will review each post and determine whether it is possible to achieve the objectives of the post in a more cost effective way. It is not possible at this point to identify individual posts which will generate savings, but a target of £1m has been set. It may not be possible to generate all of the £1m savings by April 2024, and reserves will have to be used to fund the cost in the short term, until the savings materialise.
- 7.3. A number of other savings measures have been identified which are summarised in Table 4 below and detailed further in Appendix 3.

7.4.

Table 4	
Summary of Proposed Budget Reductions 2024/25	
	£'000
Efficiency / Modernisation / Rationalisation of services	607
Raising Income above inflation / Generating income from new sources	365
Reductions in Grants & Contributions to External Organisations	73
Service Reductions	282
Total of Proposed Budget Reductions	1,327

- 7.5. In 2023/24, the Council allocated £1.2m of the premium generated to fund housing grants and loan to help first time buyers. Underspends from previous years are held in earmarked reserves and the Council currently holds sufficient funds in the earmarked reserves to fund these budgets without the need for the annual allocation. It is, therefore, proposed that the £1.2m budget is not included in the 2024/25 budget for one year only and is reinstated in 2025/26.
- 7.6. Based on the above changes to the standstill budget, the funding gap would fall to £184.219m.
- 7.7. It is estimated that the Council will hold £11.1m in general balances at the end of the 2023/24 financial year, but this is dependent on no significant overspending or increased demand for statutory services within the second half of 2023/24. The Council's general policy is to hold 5% of the net revenue budget as the minimum level of general balances. Based on the budget for 2024/25, the minimum balance would be £9.5m. Using £1.6m of the general balances to provide additional funding would close the funding gap and still maintain a level of general balances that is in line with the Council's policy.
- 7.8. It should also be noted that the Council held £19.6m as earmarked reserves at the beginning of the financial year. A review of the remaining reserves has identified that £3.3m could be returned to the general balances if required, and would take place at the end of the financial year when the position at the end of the financial year is known.
- 7.9. The Executive has agreed to increase the premium on second homes from 75% to 100% and this change will form part of the final Council Tax resolution which will be put before the Council in March 2024. Based on the taxbase approved by the Executive in November 2023, this change will generate an additional £545k (before any increase in the level of Council Tax). It is proposed to use this additional income to fund the cost of services that generally help support residents on Anglesey who are impacted by the high number of second homes (welfare support, homelessness prevention, social care, economic development) and to help support those services impacted during the tourist season (destination management, waste, public conveniences).
- 7.10. Each 1% increase in Council Tax generates £442k in standard council tax and £35k in empty and second home premium, giving a total of £477k in gross income. Based on the 2023/24 Band D charge of £1,435.86, each 1% rise increases the Band D charge by £14.39 or £0.28 per week. The Council's current charge is the 5th lowest in Wales and is £106 below the Welsh average.

- 7.11. The fact that the funding from the Welsh Government is lower than the inflation and demand pressures faced by the Council does require an above inflation increase to Council Tax in order that the Council can set a fully funded budget. The Executive is proposing a 9.78% increase in Council Tax, plus an additional 1.12% to fund the increase in the Fire Service levy. This is a total rise of 10.9%, which takes the Band D charge (excluding Police and Town / Community Council precepts) to £1,592.37, an increase of £156.51, or £3.01 per week. This increase will generate an estimated £5.194m in additional funding.
- 7.12. Based on the above, the initial revenue budget proposal for 2024/25 is set out in Table 5 below:-

Table 5		
Initial Budget Proposal 2024/25		
	£'m	£'m
Standstill Net Revenue Budget 2024/25 (as per Table 3)		188.992
Additional Budget Adjustments		
Funding of schools at 2.5% below inflation	(1.246)	
Workforce reductions	(1.000)	
Other Budget Savings – Table 4 & Appendix 3	(1.327)	
Use of Premium funding to support service costs	(1.200)	
		(4.773)
Initial Proposed Net Revenue Budget 2024/25		184.219
Funded By		
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	101.631	
Share of Non Domestic Rates Pool	25.342	
Total Aggregate External Finance		126.973
Council Tax (including premium and 10.9% rise)		(52.821)
Council General Balances		(1.600)
Council Earmarked Reserves		(2.825)
Total Funding		184.219

- 7.13. The budget savings of £4.773m noted above only relate to the Council's core funding. It will be necessary to review service provision funded by grants. Given the financial challenge faced by the Council, it is not possible for grant funded services to continue at the same level if the grant is cut or not increased in line with the increased costs. This will result in reductions in services, in addition to the proposals noted in this report. The reductions may result in a reduction in services and a loss of staff, where their salary is funded in whole or in part from grant funding.

8. THE BUDGET POSITION FOR 2025/26

- 8.1. There is still a significant level of uncertainty surrounding the UK economy and whether it will begin to recover in 2024/25, and the impact that recovery will have on inflation, interest rates, economic growth and the funding levels for the Welsh Government and local government in Wales. The current high level of inflation makes predicting future costs more difficult and there are wide variances between different scenarios. The fact that a General Election must also take place before January 2025 adds to the uncertainty in respect of future funding.

- 8.2.** The current cost of living crisis is also adding to the demand for Council services, mainly in homelessness and debt support and advice. Money problems within families is also leading to mental health issues and family breakdown, which results in increased demand for adult and children's social care. Any increase in unemployment will also add to the pressures on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme budget and in uncollectable debt. The current difficulties in the NHS adding to the pressure on adult social care services. If the wars in Ukraine and Palestine continue, this will maintain the pressure on energy costs and the risk from a re-emergence of Covid still remains.
- 8.3.** The Welsh Government's draft budget and provisional local government settlement does not directly state what the level of funding for local government in Wales will be, but the initial indications are that the settlement for 2025/26 will increase by a maximum of 1% in the level of funding in 2025/26. If this was to materialise, then the Council's funding would increase by £1.26m.
- 8.4.** Although the Executive has made no decision on the future rise in Council Tax, maintaining the long term policy of a 5% rise in Council Tax would bring in an additional £2.6m and, in light of the current funding restrictions, maintaining the average rise to 5% is currently not seen as a viable option, without a major reduction in the Council's provision of its core and statutory services.
- 8.5.** By using £4.425m of reserves plus the £1.2m of funding from the Council Tax premium in balancing the 2024/25 budget, the 2025/26 budget would require that this sum is funded from the additional core funding, continues to be funded from reserves or by a permanent reduction in the budget.
- 8.6.** If it is assumed that the £5.625m of funding from reserves is replaced by core funding, this will decrease the overall core funding in 2025/26 by £1.765m ($£1.26m + £2.60m - £5.625m$).
- 8.7.** Current inflation forecasts suggest that the average inflation in 2025/26 will start at around 2.5% and fall to around 1.5% by the end of March 2026. As a result, it is estimated that the additional funding in 2025/26 will only cover the inflationary increases and no funding will be available to make up for the use of reserves in 2024/25, meet increased demand for services or to invest in services. If the economic recovery is weak and inflation remains higher than forecast, the additional funding will be insufficient to meet the inflationary pressures and reductions in service budgets will be required. However, it is very uncertain as to the extent of those budget reductions.
- 8.8.** The balancing of the 2024/25 budget has been extremely challenging but, based on the current assumptions it is clear that the position in 2025/26 will not improve and it is likely that the 2025/26 budget process will be even more difficult, given that the Council's reserves will have been depleted and that all the budget savings that can be made, without having to significantly reduce the quality and range of services provided, will have been implemented. Future budget savings will have to include the reducing or stopping services and, possibly, not achieving the statutory standards expected. Work has already commenced to identify potential budget savings for 2025/26, and these savings proposals will be considered further during 2024/25.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1.** The budget for 2024/25 has been set in the context of severe restrictions in the funding of public services, ever increasing demand for services and a number of factors outside the control of the Council which have had significant cost implications for the Council. The challenging budget position faced by the Council is not unique to Anglesey, it is a position that is being faced by every local authority in the UK. Sound financial management in the past has placed the Council in a strong financial position to deal with the challenge in the short term, but if costs and demand for services continues to grow and is not matched by the required funding increases, a significant restructure of Council services will be required to avoid the Council becoming insolvent.

- 9.2. The Council's services rely on its committed and hard working staff and the impact on these members of staff also needs to be recognised. The financial challenge will require a reduction in staffing levels but, if this is not met by a reduction in workload, the pressure on staff will continue to grow and will lead to difficulties in retaining existing staff, recruiting new staff and ensuring that the Council has a healthy workforce. Dealing with these issues will come with a financial cost which will have to be factored into future budgets.
- 9.3. The local government provisional settlement for Wales is as forecast and does not cover the cost pressures currently faced by the Council. The standstill budget for 2024/25 is required to rise by 8.26%, but the provisional settlement only provides 2.67% for the Council. The shortfall is significant and cannot be made up by raising Council Tax alone.
- 9.4. The position in respect of grant funding creates an additional financial challenge which will result in a reduction in some grant funded services. This will become clearer once the individual allocation of each grant is known.
- 9.5. Prudent financial management in previous years has significantly strengthened the Council's financial position and has increased the Council's level of general balances and earmarked reserves. This improved financial position has allowed the Council to put forward a budget proposal which allows the Council Tax rise to be as low as possible, although it has to be higher than the current rate of inflation.
- 9.6. There is a level of risk surrounding the budget, in particular whether sufficient provision has been made for pay increases, energy inflation and the increasing demand for services. The risk is mitigated through the fact that the Council could redirect up to £3.3m of earmarked reserves to fund increased costs in 2024/25.
- 9.7. However, the continued use of reserves to balance the budget is unsustainable and weakens the Council's financial resilience. The use of reserves allows the Council to review its budget requirement in the long term, where the services provided must be re-aligned to the core funding available.
- 9.8. The proposed budget begins the process of reducing service provision, but further significant reductions in services will have to be implemented in 2025/26 and beyond to enable the Council to continue to set a balanced budget and to keep Council Tax rises to a reasonable and affordable level. Failure to do so increases the risk of the Council becoming financially unsustainable by 2026/27 or 2027/28.

10. MATTERS FOR DECISION

- 10.1. The final budget will not be approved by the full Council until 7 March 2024, however, at this point, the Executive is recommended to approve the following:-
 - The initial proposed budget for 2024/25 of £184.219m;
 - A proposed increase in Council Tax of 9.78%, plus 1.12% to cover Fire Levy = Total of 10.9%, taking the Band D charge to £1,592.37;
 - To formally propose an increase in the premium on second homes from 75% to 100%;
 - That £4.425m is released from the Council's general balances and earmarked reserve in order to balance the 2024/25 revenue budget.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2024/25 BY SERVICE				
Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Proposed Budget	Movement	% Change
	£'m	£'m	£'m	%
Lifelong Learning				
Schools	49.260	52.498	+ 3.238	+ 6.57
Central Education	12.709	13.392	+ 0.683	+ 5.37
Culture	1.350	1.598	+ 0.248	+ 18.37
Total Lifelong Learning	63.319	67.488	+4.169	+ 6.58
Highways, Waste & Property				
Highways	7.890	8.058	+ 0.168	+ 2.13
Property	1.548	1.757	+ 0.209	+ 13.50
Waste	10.317	10.367	+ 0.050	+ 0.48
Total Highways, Waste & Property	19.755	20.182	+ 0.427	+ 2.16
Regulation & Economic Development				
Economic Development & Maritime	3.084	3.287	+ 0.203	+ 6.58
Planning & Public Protection	2.670	2.910	+ 0.240	+ 8.99
Total Reg & Economic Development	5.754	6.197	+ 0.443	+7.70
Adult Services	34.973	39.668	+ 4.695	+ 13.42
Children Services	12.965	14.443	+ 1.478	+ 11.40
Corporate Transformation				
Human Resources	1.587	1.696	+ 0.109	+ 6.87
ICT	4.216	4.685	+ 0.469	+ 11.12
Transformation	1.190	1.245	+ 0.055	+ 4.62
Total Corporate Transformation	6.993	7.626	+ 0.633	+ 9.05
Housing	1.590	1.661	+ 0.072	+ 4.53
Resources	3.723	4.021	+ 0.298	+ 8.00
Council Business	2.014	2.128	+ 0.114	+ 5.66
Total Service Budgets	151.086	163.415	+ 12.329	+ 8.16
Corporate Budgets				
Corporate Management	0.760	0.802	+ 0.042	+ 5.53
Levies	4.504	5.018	+ 0.514	+ 11.41
Corporate & Democratic	3.244	2.143	- 1.101	- 33.94
Capital Financing Costs	4.329	5.753	+ 1.424	+ 32.89
Benefits Granted	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.00
HRA Recharges	(0.800)	(0.800)	0.000	0.00
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	6.752	7.433	+ 0.681	+ 10.09
Contingencies	2.979	1.241	- 1.738	- 58.34
Staff Savings to be found	0.000	(1.000)	-1.000	
Discretionary Rate Relief	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000
Housing Loans and Grants	1.501	0.000	- 1.501	-100.00
Total Corporate Budgets	23.483	20.804	- 2.679	-11.41
TOTAL BUDGET	174.569	184.219	+ 9.650	+ 5.53

PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS FOR 2024/25

Category	Service	Proposal	£
Efficiency / Modernisation / Rationalisation of services	Education - Schools	Reduce the secondary integration budget to reflect the historic demand	100,000
	Education	Reduce under utilised budgets within the service	103,210
	Education	Reduce the early years budget to reflect the historic demand	9,000
	Education	Restructure the Education Business Team	50,000
	Education	Reduce the Additional Learning Needs Budget by 5%	87,000
	Libraries	Reduce under utilised budgets within the service	12,000
	Culture	Restructure across Archives and Oriel Ynys Môn	5,000
	Adults Services	Reduce under utilised budgets within the service	28,500
	Adults Services	Reduce repair and maintenance budgets for residential care homes and other centres	70,000
	Childrens - Youth	Realign Youth Service provision	50,000
	Highways	Reduce road safety budget	10,000
	Highways	Reduce Service support budgets	10,000
	Transformation	Reduce the advertising budget for the Communications Team	1,000
	Transformation	Reduce the budget for the Performance Panel review costs – create an annual budget which will be sufficient to meet the cost of the review when it takes place	28,000
	Resources	Reduce under utilised budgets within the service	15,000
	Council Business	Reduce under utilised budgets within the service	6,000
	Transformation	Renegotiate mobile phone contract	22,500
TOTAL SAVINGS FROM EFFICIENCY / MODERNISATION AND RATIONALISATION OF SERVICES			607,210

Category	Service	Proposal	£
Raising Income above inflation / Generating income from new sources	Highways	Increase the income generated from private street works to reflect the increased work undertaken by utility services for which a road closure fee is chargeable.	150,000
	Highways	Increase car parking fees in coastal car parks and for fees for 4 hours + parking, but to freeze the charge for 1 hour and 2 hour parking in town centre car parks	100,000
	Waste	Increase the fee for green garden waste from £35 to £38, which equals inflation plus £1.25	32,500
	Economic Development	Move the Destination Management Team to another part of the Business Centre and rent out their current office accommodation on a commercial basis	6,000
	Leisure	Increase the Môn Actif package cost by £1 per month	62,000
	Council Business	Increase the Land Charges fees budget to reflect the historic level of income	14,000
TOTAL SAVINGS FROM INCOME GENERATION			364,500
Reductions in Grants & Contributions to External Organisations	Education	10% reduction in contribution to GwE	40,000
	Education	Reduce the contribution to Mudiad Meithrin	14,000
	Education	Stop the contribution to Early Years Wales	8,750
	Housing	Cap the contribution to CAB to 2023/24 levels	10,100
TOTAL SAVINGS FROM REDUCTIONS IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			72,850
Service Reductions	Children's Services	Reduce service support budgets	23,400
	Education	Cease the Education Referral Scheme	20,000
	Culture	Change exhibitions at Oriel Ynys Môn every 8 weeks rather than the current 6 weeks	1,000
	Adults Services	Remodel domiciliary provision and reduce non statutory responses	96,500

Category	Service	Proposal	£
	Adults Services	Remodel the provision of adult day care to a more community based model	102,000
	Leisure	Adjust the opening times of the 4 Leisure Centres, where usage is at its lowest, to reflect the current usage of the centres	39,500
TOTAL SAVINGS FROM SERVICE REDUCTIONS			282,400
TOTAL SAVINGS PROPOSALS			1,326,960

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive
Date:	23 January 2024
Subject:	Community based Non-residential Social Care Services – 2024/2025 Fees & Charges
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Alun Roberts
Head of Service / Director:	Arwel Wyn Owen
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Carwyn Edwards, Finance Manager 01248 752699 CarwynEdwards@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	All Members

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

Recommendation

To apply the maximum threshold for home care services endorsed by Welsh Government and to increase other service charges as outlined in the summary below. The recommendations are summarised at the end of this section (R1 – R9).

1. Background

It is usual practice to review the charges in respect of domiciliary services annually to coincide with Central Government revision of benefit and pension levels,

The report sets out community based non-residential social care fees and charges for 2024/25 in accordance with the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.

2. Home Care Services:

Home Care Charges 2024/25

We are awaiting confirmation from Welsh Government of the maximum charge as per legislation. We will charge up to the maximum amount permitted by Welsh Government.

3. Telecare Charges

Telecare services support independence within the home and provide 24-hour support and response 7 days a week, with remote monitoring via the telephone. Additional sensors can be installed which help identify any known risks e.g. falls, heat, water etc.

The following factors must be considered when determining a fair charge for the Telecare service:-

- Local Authority Contribution to the Regional Monitoring Galw Gofal Service;
- Maintenance charges;
- Telecare equipment costs;
- Finance and Administration costs;
- Installation costs;
- Costs of recycling equipment;

- Costs of bi-annual Health & Safety visual checks;
- Impact on current business;
- Transformation and modernisation by utilising technological aids.

We are progressing with the transition from Analogue to Digital systems, and it is expected that all service users will have transferred over to the Digital platform by 1st April 2025. In light of the change, it is proposed we confirm one fee rate for Telecare service at the digital rate, and not to have differential rates for analogue and digital from April 2024. The differential in Tier 1 and Tier 2 packages in 2024/25 will be retained. Individuals who have already transitioned will experience a 5% increase in fees, however, those on analogue will see a higher increase from April 2024 to reflect the hardware costs.

Table A - Telecare 2024/25 Proposed Charges

Tier 1 Digital Equipment, service and maintenance (unit, pendant and smoke alarm)	Everyone will be paying £75.14 per quarter. (£5.78 a week)
Tier 2 Digital Equipment, service, monitoring and Maintenance (equipment other than unit, pendant and smoke alarm)	Everyone will be paying £149.63 per quarter. (£11.51 a week)

Table B – Telecare Annual Charges for 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/2025 Proposed Charges
Service and Maintenance	£133.18	£140.00
Services Only	£86.08	£90.00
One Off Installation	£53.25	£56.00

4. Direct Payments

Direct Payments enable individuals to independently purchase services that the Local Authority would otherwise have provided. Direct Payments support independent living by enabling individuals to make their own decisions and have control over their own lives. In Wales, the Scheme has gradually been extended to include:-

- Older People;
- Carers;
- Parents of Children with Disabilities;
- Adults with Disabilities.

An hourly Direct Payment rate of £14.50 per hour was established for 2023/24. In light of the increase in the Real Living Wage, we propose to increase this to £15.95 per hour for 2024/25.

Micro Carers

Due to long standing recruitment challenges within domiciliary services, the Department is advocating a new rate to try and encourage the recruitment of micro carers. The provision would emulate schemes operational in other local authorities. To qualify for consideration, applicants would need to meet standards established by the local authority and comply with CIW registration requirements. Under existing legislation, micro carers can provide care for a maximum of 3 individuals and would operate on a self-employed basis. In recognition of the additional requirements aligned, the rate advocated is slightly above the Direct Payment but below the unit cost charged by independent providers who operate on Anglesey This is intended to try and attract new provision within the sector and increase options within the community. We are proposing an hourly rate of £17.00 per hour for Micro Carers.

Modernisation of Blue Badge Scheme in Wales

It is recommended that a charge of £10 / badge is levied in respect of organisational and replacement badges (lost / stolen) for 2024/25.

Purchasing Day Care Services in Independent Residential Care Homes

The charge for purchasing day services was £41.55 per day in 2023/24. We propose to increase the fee for 2024/25 to £44.33 per day. This increase will help to ensure the sustainability and continuation of day care services purchased from independent residential care homes, and in order to meet the individual needs of service users.

Domiciliary Care Fees

At present, Adult Social Care commission domiciliary care from the independent sectors following a tender exercise in 2023. The contract stipulates that we must allow for statutory increases in legislation, this equates to an increase of £1.72 per hour as a result of the increase in the Real Living Wage in 2024/25.

Meals in Day Services

For 2024/25, we recommend a 5% increase on the fees (rounded up to the nearest £0.05).

Table C – Meals in Day Services Charges for 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/25 Proposed Charges
Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with learning disabilities)	£7.25	£7.65
Mid-day snack in Day Services for people with learning disabilities	£3.05	£3.25
Other refreshments (tea / coffee/ cake) in Day Services	£1.70	£1.80

Recommendations

The Executive Committee is requested to approve the following:-

R1 To apply the maximum threshold for home care services endorsed by Welsh Government.

R2 Charges for Telecare services, as outlined in Table A.

Tier 1 - everyone will be paying **£75.14** per quarter.

Tier 2 - everyone will be paying **£149.63** per quarter.

R3 Charges for Telecare Annual Charges, as outlined in Table B.

Services and Maintenance **£140.00**

Services Only **£90.00**

One off Installation **£56.00**

R4 Rate for Direct Payments at **£15.95 per hour**.

R5 Implement a charge of **£17.00 per hour** for Micro Carers.

R6 Maintain a charge of **£10.00** for the administration in relation to blue Badge requests and replacements as outlined.

R7 Increase the fee for purchasing day care services in independent residential homes by 6.7% to **£44.33 per day**.

R8 Increase Domiciliary Care fees by **£1.72 per hour** to comply with new legislation.

R9 Charges for Meals in Day Services fees, as outlined in Table C.

Meals in Day Services for adults (excluding people with learning disabilities) - **£7.65**

Mid-day snack in Day Services for people with learning disabilities - **£3.25**

Other refreshments (tea / coffee/ cake) in Day Services - **£1.80**

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

The options noted are consistent with the Council's overall approach to fees and charges in previous years.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Decisions on fees and charges have financial implications for the Local Authority's budget in terms of income received and the affordability of payments made in the prevailing financial climate.

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?	Not applicable
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	No
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	We have consulted with other Local Authorities in the region as part of our fees setting process.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	Not applicable
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	DWP benefits are set to rise by 6.7% in April 2024, whilst the basic and new state pensions are set to rise by 8.5% from April 2024. The increases proposed are below the inflationary uplifts provided by DWP for state benefits. It is currently unknown whether Welsh Government will increase the charging cap on Domiciliary Care fees, therefore, we are unable to assess the full impact on any rise, however, this charge is means tested.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	As above, the inflationary increases recommended in this paper for like with like services is below the 6.7% inflationary uplift for state benefits, including Universal Credit, and 8.5% for state Pension. However, the statutory movement from Analogue to Digital platforms for Telecare services equates to a 34.4% increase, and this will have a direct impact on those individuals experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. This service is optional, and the most vulnerable adults are funded through CHC. Individuals are not tied into a contract and can choose to cancel the service at any given time.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact on the Welsh Language.

E - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	Not applicable
5	Property	Not applicable
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Not applicable
7	Scrutiny	Not applicable
8	Local Members	Not applicable
9	Any external bodies / other/s	Not applicable
F - Appendices:		
None		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
None		

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive
Date:	23 January 2024
Subject:	Independent Sector Care Home Fees for 2024/2025
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Alun Roberts
Head of Service / Director:	Arwel Wyn Owen
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Carwyn Edwards, Finance Manager 01248 752699 CarwynEdwards@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	All Members
A –Recommendation/s and reason/s	
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>We recommend increasing Residential, Residential EMI, Nursing and Nursing EMI fees by 8.8%. The recommendations are summarised at the end of this section (R1 – R4)</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>From 6 April 2016, the framework for financial assessment and charging is now under the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014. The Local Authority is required to review independent sector care home fees annually to coincide with Central Government’s changes to benefits and pension levels.</p> <p>In setting fee levels for independent sector care homes, we need to show that we have fully considered the costs of the provision in determining our standard care fees. This is done in collaboration with the other Authorities in North Wales and the Health Board by utilising a Regional Fee Methodology as a benchmark, as done in previous years. We have used this model as a benchmark for 2024/25. The methodology has reflected legislation changes in terms of Real living wage and inflation. We have adapted the regional methodology toolkit to include a market supplement for EMI provision again this year. When reviewing fee levels, consideration is given to local circumstances, demand pressures and availability of provision in addition to the regional formula.</p> <p>At this current stage, we have not received confirmation as to whether all Authorities within the region will use the regional methodology as a basis to set their fees for 2024/25. We have received correspondence from one local authority, confirming that they have referred to the regional fees methodology as a benchmark, but have however decided to add a market supplement considering the financial pressures within the sector. Work is ongoing with our counterparts across the North Wales region to ensure that our fees are comparable.</p> <p>Following discussions with Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer, and in recognition of the financial pressures faced by our providers, we propose to increase our fees by 8.8%, which exceeds the inflationary uplifts calculated using the regional methodology toolkit. It must be noted that we as the Local Authority are facing financial pressures, particularly so following the release of the provisional revenue budget for 2024/25. The provisional settlement from Welsh Government amounts to 2.5%, therefore in order to fund the increase of 8.8%, we as an authority must implement efficiency savings across all service areas.</p>	

Table 1 below sets out the fees based on inflationary uplifts and table 2 sets out Ynys Mon's proposed rates, recognising the pressures faced by providers.

The below fees for nursing care in Tables 1 and 2 include the Local Authority Free Nursing Care (FNC) element but excludes the Health Board FNC element, as the uplift for 2024/25 is yet to be agreed. The current Health Board FNC rate for 2023/24 is £206.95.

Table 1 – Proposed Fees for 2024/25 based on adapted 2023/24 fees methodology plus inflationary uplifts.

Category	2023/24 original Fee (April 2023)	2024/25 proposed Fee	Increase Compared to 2023/24 fees	% Increase Compared to 2023/24 fees
Residential (Adults)	£711.83	£753.04	£41.21	5.79%
Residential (EMI)	£795.46	£842.19	£46.73	5.87%
Nursing Care (Social Care Element)	£782.91	£828.71	£45.80	5.85%
Nursing (EMI) (Social Care Element)	£923.74	£978.89	£55.15	5.97%

Table 2 – Ynys Mon Proposed Fees for 2024/25

Category	2023/24 original Fee (April 2023)	2024/25 proposed Fee	Increase Compared to 2023/24 fees	% Increase Compared to 2023/24 fees
Residential (Adults)	£711.83	£774.47	£62.64	8.80%
Residential (EMI)	£795.46	£865.46	£70.00	8.80%
Nursing Care (Social Care Element)	£782.91	£851.81	£68.90	8.80%
Nursing (EMI) (Social Care Element)	£923.74	£1,005.03	£81.29	8.80%

The 8.8% increase if approved will apply to homes who accept our standard rates. Anyone currently in receipt of fees about our indicative rate will be asked to share financial information, with consideration of a monetary uplift.

In Exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to consider individual submissions from providers regarding these fees. Should there be clear evidence to indicate that the fee set is not sufficient in any individual case the council will need to consider exceptions to the fee rates. It is proposed that any such decisions are delegated to the Adults' Services Portfolio holder, Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer and Head of Adult Social Care.

The Executive Committee is requested to:-

1. Approve the recommendation to increase the fee level as follows.

- R1 - Residential Care (Adults) - £774.47 per week
- R2 - Residential (EMI) - £865.46 per week
- R3 - Nursing Care (Social Care Element) - £851.81 per week
- R4 - Nursing (EMI) (Social Care Element) - £1,005.03 per week

In line with other Authorities, we request that the executive authorise Social Services and Finance Services to respond to any requests from individual homes to explore their specific accounts and to utilize the exercise as a basis to consider any exceptions to the agreed fees. Any exceptions to be agreed with the Adults' Services Portfolio Holder, the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer and the Head of Adults from within current budgets.

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

We considered basing our fees on the regional methodology toolkit, however in recognition of the pressures faced by providers, we have decided to deviate away from the regional methodology this year and offer a higher % uplift.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Local Authorities need to set care home fee levels in line with the national policy. This decision has financial implications for the Local Authority's budget and in terms of affordability in the prevailing financial climate.

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

We have previously been granted approval to work with other Local Authorities in North Wales and to implement the North Wales Fee Methodology to set fees annually. As we have deviated away from the regional methodology this year, the executive are requested to approve this change in approach.

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

The additional cost of funding the above fees has been factored in the Authority's budget setting process.

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	This is intended to support and encourage new provision in growth areas
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	Not applicable
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	Discussions are ongoing regionally
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	No citizen engagement but we have been in regular discussion with providers
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	This is intended to support individuals protected by the Act
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	No impact
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact
E - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	Not applicable
5	Property	Not applicable
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Not applicable
7	Scrutiny	Not applicable
8	Local Members	Not applicable
9	Any external bodies / other/s	Not applicable
F - Appendices:		
N/A		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
None		

Isle of Anglesey Council	
Report to:	The Executive
Date:	23/01/2024
Subject:	Modernising and Transforming Day Services in the Holyhead Area
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Alun Roberts
Head of Service/Director:	Arwel Wyn Owen
Report Author: Phone: E-mail:	Arwel Wyn Owen 01248 752744 ArwelOwen3@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	Councillor Jeff M. Evans Councillor Glyn Haynes Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones Councillor Pip O'Neill Councillor Keith R. Roberts Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas

A – Recommendation(s) and Reason(s)

RECOMMENDATION

Integrate service users within the community and respond to the aspirations of people who attend activities to provide better outcomes. Continue to transform and modernise the way day services are provided with an emphasis on utilising community buildings. As the use of Morswyn has reduced, bring the existing service to an end. Declare the property surplus to requirements and invite expressions of interest from other Departments. If no use is identified, dispose of the property, and transfer the receipts to the Adults Department.

CONTEXT

Two of the Main Objectives of the Council Plan 2023-28 are:

- Modernise the day opportunities provision for adults with learning disabilities by improving and encouraging access to community resources.
- Ensure that community hubs provide services to promote independence, facilitate integration and improve people’s health and wellbeing.

The Adults Department’s Vision is:

- That as many day activities as possible are provided from community settings, encouraging opportunities for people with Learning Disabilities to attend mainstream activities and integrate into the everyday life and activity of their communities.
- Realising this vision would allow people with learning disabilities to choose where and when they wish to attend activities. Activities will be provided within communities for the whole community and could mean that a wide range of people, including the elderly, people with physical disabilities and learning disabilities, attend the same activities.

IMPLICATIONS

Users

The reason for the report is to respond to the aspirations of service users and offer a better and more varied experience. Service users' response to the engagement and consultation was extremely positive in terms of the changes, with some who have taken advantage of the community provision, stating that they do not wish to return to the Morswyn building. The community-based day activities have proved successful and popular amongst service users. As a result, there has been a reduction in the number of people attending day activities at the Morswyn Centre. 9 people attend the centre with 6 of them only attending occasionally, opting instead to attend activities in the community centres. We now believe that the majority of Morswyn users could be supported in the community, and it would be possible to identify an alternative provision in another setting or adapt care arrangements for the 3 individuals with the most complex needs. Social workers will discuss individual arrangements.

Staff

7 members of staff are employed at the Morswyn Centre. All existing jobs will be protected within the scheme. Staff will transfer to work in the community or from another centre. It will mean changing the location or nature of the work, but we will seek to ensure continuity of care for users.

Existing jobs will be protected, and a new workbase would be confirmed following discussions with individual members of staff, with the aim of ensuring continuity of care for individuals and taking the wishes of staff into account in terms of their workbase.

Finance

- There is no expectation of realising savings in the staffing budget as staff will transfer to work in the community or in other centres.

- A revenue budget saving of £29,000 is anticipated. From this total, £17,500 has already been realised due to a reduction in the use of the Centre. This leaves £11,500 to be realised when the building closes.

The Building

Terminating the use of the Morswyn building will avoid:

- £103,000 of essential maintenance costs over the next few years. The Property Department's assessment of the maintenance work required includes:
 - Re-roofing the building – slate and felt roofs.
 - Re-rendering the external walls.
 - Adaptations to modernise some of the windows and install alarms.
 - Update the electricity network.

The Morswyn Centre is a former school and cabins have been added to the site to create additional space. The building has a number of practical problems, e.g., due to its design, the building is not fully accessible to people with mobility issues.

- The Department has received confirmation from the Property Department of the financial value of the building for disposal.
- The Department has asked for confirmation of the building's legal status before consideration is given to its disposal (freehold).

MORSWYN (HOLYHEAD) DAY CENTRE

The Morswyn Day Centre is located in the former Morswyn school building in Holyhead. Before the Covid pandemic, it was a busy centre providing activities for approx. 20 individuals daily. When the pandemic struck early in 2020, the centre had to close for a period to prevent people from mixing and spreading the virus.

When the pandemic restrictions were eased, the Morswyn building could not accommodate the same number of people due to social distancing rules being implemented. In response to the challenge, the Adults Services began using community buildings in the town of Holyhead to hold activities. 'Boston Centre Stage' and 'Sea Scouts' buildings have been used regularly and the Council has helped the organisation running Boston Centre Stage to apply for funding to introduce adaptations, such as disabled toilets.

Traditionally, day activities for people with Learning Disabilities have been provided from a designated building. The Council has four specific sites which provide activities for approx. 110 people:

- Morswyn Day Centre, Holyhead
- Gors Felen Day Centre, Llangefni
- Blaen y Coed Day Centre, Llangoed
- Haulfre Gardens, Llangoed

The Adults Services also commissions a broader provision from the third sector for approx. 67 people.

Although attending the centres and settings responds to a number of people's needs, the model focuses on attending a setting and undertaking formal activities. This can limit the choices available to individuals and restrict people's personal control over their own lives. As the centres only provide for people with learning disabilities, it can have the unintended consequence of removing people with learning disabilities from day-to-day life in their local communities. As a result, they do not always promote the aim of improving the confidence and independence of people with learning disabilities. Although people are safe in these centres, we must ask whether attending one location on a daily basis is the best way of promoting living a full life. In the Holyhead area, the Department has looked at an alternative approach to meeting users' needs and the reaction has been positive.

The number of people regularly attending activities in community buildings in Holyhead is 28. They include people who previously attended Morswyn and people who have partially transferred from other local activities.

The success of the community activities in attracting people proves to the Department that the strategy is the right one, and that investment in the community buildings, not only in Holyhead but across the Island, is worthwhile. Appendix 4 provides further details about the Adults Department's investment in community buildings.

VISION

The Adults Services wishes to develop the model and extend the number of settings that provide day activities for people with Learning Disabilities in the Holyhead area. Diverting resources from the Morswyn Centre would allow further investment in that vision.

ENGAGEMENT WITH DAY ACTIVITY USERS

During August and September 2023, the Adults Department gathered the opinions of people who use day activities in the Holyhead area and their families. 37 people responded, and they regularly attend activities at Boston Centre Stage, the Sea Scouts and Morswyn. The aim of the exercise was to ascertain the opinions of users and their families about the activities provided from community settings, and what people want to see in future. Three questions were asked:

- Which day activities would you like to see offered in future?
- Are you happy with the day activities provided from community buildings such as Boston Centre Stage and Sea Scouts?
- Would you like to see more community day activities for people with learning disabilities in Holyhead?

'Appendix 1' includes a cross-section of responses.

Most of the feedback received was positive in terms of the activities offered in community settings.

A strong desire was expressed in favour of increasing the range of activities offered in community settings. There was a specific demand for practical activities such as sports and outdoor activities.

Based on this exercise, the Adults Department concluded that people were, in general, supportive of the vision of using community resources to provide day activities and that there is a strong desire to further increase variety.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A formal consultation was held on the future of day activities at the Morswyn Centre from 23/10/2023 to 01/12/2023. The consultation centred on the following proposal:

- Are you satisfied with the day opportunities provided from community buildings such as 'Boston Centre Stage' and the 'Sea Scouts'?
- Would you like to see more community day activities for people with learning disabilities in Holyhead?
- Would you be willing for the Council to stop offering day activities at the Morswyn Centre and extend activities in other community settings in the Holyhead area?
- Do you think that terminating day activities at the Morswyn Day Centre would have any effect on using the Welsh language?

123 questionnaire packs were sent out in the post. One pack for each person on the register of people with learning disabilities in the Holyhead area (a wider cohort than the core group of people who attend day activities on a regular basis). Staff at the Morswyn Day Centre and staff who provide day activities at other settings were informed that the consultation had opened and were encouraged to participate. The consultation was available on the Council website and open to anyone to participate. Additionally, telephone support and advocacy was available to people wishing to receive support.

A summary of responses is presented in Appendix 2.

34 responses were received to the consultation. The table below summarises the responses:

1) Are you satisfied with the day opportunities provided from community buildings such as 'Boston Centre Stage' and the 'Sea Scouts'?			2) Would you like to see more community day activities for people with learning disabilities in Holyhead?			3) Would you be willing for the Council to stop offering day activities at the Morswyn Centre and extend activities in other community settings in the Holyhead area?			4) Do you think that terminating day activities at the Morswyn Day Centre would have any effect on using the Welsh language?		
Yes	No	No comment	Yes	No	No comment	Yes	No	No comment	Yes	No	No comment
14	7	11	25	5	2	15	12	5	4	14	12

Summary of consultation responses:

- The majority of respondents were happy with the activities provided at the Boston Centre Stage and Sea Scouts buildings.
- The vast majority of people who responded to question 2 were keen to see more community day activities being provided.
- The majority of people who answered question 3 were willing for the Council to stop providing day activities at the Morswyn Centre and to extend day activities in community settings in the Holyhead area. 47% were satisfied and 38% were not satisfied.
- The vast majority of people who responded to question 4 believed that terminating activities at the Morswyn Centre would not have an effect on using the Welsh language.

CONCLUSION

- The vision of providing as many day activities as possible from community settings has received clear support from people who have experienced this model of provision.
- Overall, people who have experience of attending day activities at Boston Centre Stage and the Sea Scouts building are very positive about their experiences. Some have strongly expressed that they would not wish to return to the Morswyn Centre.
- The vast majority of people who expressed their opinions want to see more variety in the day care provision and want more activities to be provided in an increased number of different settings.
- Ending day activities at the Morswyn Centre would release resources and allow the Adults Department to divert resources and staff to stabilise and extend day activities held in other community buildings.
- Individuals with no experience of community activities were less supportive. Concern was expressed about how people with complex needs could be

supported in the community. The Adults Services will work with these individuals to identify how best to meet their needs. This has been outlined in Appendix 3, Equality Impact Assessment. It could mean a different approach to offering Day Care or offering a service from the Gors Felen Centre in Llangefni.

RECOMMENDATION

Integrate service users within the community and respond to the aspirations of people who attend activities to provide better outcomes. Continue to transform and modernise the way day services are provided with an emphasis on utilizing community buildings. As the use of Morswyn has reduced, bring the existing service to an end. Declare the property surplus to requirements and invite expressions of interest from other Departments. If no use is identified, dispose of the property, and transfer the receipts to the Adults Department.

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

The Adults Department considered two other options as part of the assessment:

- 1) Bring activities at the Boston Centre Stage Centre and the Sea Scouts building to an end. Refer everyone back to the Morswyn Day Centre.

Advantages:

- Keep the Morswyn Day Centre open. No change to individuals with complex disabilities and those continuing to opt to attend the Morswyn Centre.

Disadvantages:

- Missing an opportunity to realise two of the objectives of the Council Plan 2023-28.
- Missing an opportunity to realise the vision of the Adults Services to use community resources for day activities and provide a pathway for people with learning difficulties to integrate into their communities.
- The majority of users now favour a community provision.
- The assessment of the maintenance work required on the Morswyn Centre, undertaken by the Council's Property Department, states that approx. £103,000 needs to be spent on the centre to maintain the standard of the building.

The Adults Department considers that this option should be discounted due to the disadvantages.

2) Continue to provide day activities at the Boston Centre Stage Centre and the Sea Scouts building and continue to provide activities at the Morswyn Centre.

Advantages:

- Keep the Morswyn Day Centre open. No change for the individuals with complex needs who opt to continue to attend the Morswyn Centre.

Disadvantages:

- Resources cannot be used to extend activities in various settings on a permanent basis.
- Resources cannot be used to realise two objectives in the Council Plan 2023-28.
- Missed opportunity due to lack of financial resources to realise the vision of the Adults Department to use community resources for day activities and provide a pathway for people with learning disabilities to integrate into their communities.
- The assessment of the maintenance work required on the Morswyn Centre, undertaken by the Council's Property Department, states that approx. £103,000 needs to be spent on the centre to maintain the standard of the building.

The Adults Department considers that this option should be discounted due to the disadvantages.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The decision will lead to the closure of the Morswyn Day Centre building in the Holyhead area. The Executive's approval is required to close a building and change the form of services.

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

This scheme aligns with the strategic intention of modernising the way of providing social services and extending the use of community resources and integration opportunities.

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

Yes

Dd – Assessing the possible impacts (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	This decision is consistent with, and a positive step towards realising two Council Plan objectives, as stated in Section A of the report.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	Ending day activities at the Morswyn Centre will mean closing the building. Depending on a further decision about the future use of the building, it could avoid expenditure on maintenance, as stated in Section A.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.	N/A
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	As part of the work that led to the report's recommendation, the Adults Services has engaged with service users and conducted a formal consultation.
5	Note any potential impacts that this decision would have on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	See the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 3.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impacts that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	See the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 3.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No negative impacts identified. See the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 3.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	No comments
2	Finance / 151 Officer (mandatory)	No comments

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Support the principle. Offered advice on the original and final versions of the report.
4	Human Resources (HR)	The Resources Department were involved in a staff meeting at the Morswyn Centre to explain that the consultation on the future of the centre had begun.
5	Property	The Property Department has contributed an assessment of maintenance work required on the Morswyn building.
6	Information Technology (IT)	N/A
7	Procurement	N/A
8	Scrutiny	The report will be presented to the scrutiny committee
9	Local Members	A meeting was held with Local Members before the consultation began and to give them an opportunity to voice any concerns.

F – Appendices:
<p>Appendix 1 – Cross-section of responses to the engagement exercise August - September 2023</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Summary of responses to the formal Engagement</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Community Resources</p>

Ff – Background papers (please contact the Author of the report for further information):
Council Plan 2023-28

Appendix 1 - Summary of Responses to the Engagement (August/September 2023)

	1) Which day activities would you like to see offered in future?	2) Are you happy with the day activities provided from community buildings such as Boston Centre Stage and Sea Scouts?	3) Would you like to see more community day activities for people with learning disabilities in Holyhead?	Any additional comments
Response	Drop-in centre better than 5 days a week – choice and variety of what to do/where to go. 'A' likes to observe, doesn't enjoy when it's too quiet.	Yes – but need to make sure there is adequate changing facilities. More changing facilities on the island, getting better than what it has been. Needs two people to change. Yes, happy with everything.	Not aware what the facilities are like in comparison to other areas. Would be good to have more activities where people can come together. Having more social opportunities.	She loves it – she would come every day if she could. She misses it when she goes away, feels she is missing out. She would be devastated if it was taken away from her. She likes being able to have a choice, made good friends that she didn't know before.
Response	Promoting Healthy eating, 'A' has started to put weight on. Regular swimming sessions. Anything outdoors- walking is one of 'A's' favourite things. Sport sessions, pickle ball, basketball for example. Cinema. Trips – 'A' loves to go anywhere. Go carting.	Yes, happy with the staff. They take on board what we say.	More outdoor events.	I'd like a day service where they help me to be more independent e.g., going on a bus or going to the shops by myself.

Appendix 1 (continued)- Summary of Responses to the Engagement (August / September 2023)

Response	Regular swimming sessions. Loves the time she spends there, with her friends. She feels safe there.	Yes – I really enjoy it, get to spend time with friends, and I enjoy the activities. I get to choose what I want to do.	Any form of performing. She likes being included and taking part.	Everything is good.
Response	I enjoy the sports and swimming. I like having a mix of being in one building but also being able to go by vehicle to different places. Team building activities. Music – be part of a band Yes – I really enjoy it, get to spend time with friends, and I enjoy the activities. I get to choose what I want to do.	Yes – 'A..' will choose community facilities over Morswyn when given the choice. He prefers the sea cadets; I think because the building is brighter. Dependant on the condition, two places reduce people being too effected if there's a reason to close. More support for rather than with at Morswyn. Here people get the help they need and do what they can themselves.	Yeah. I like to do more, I like going for food, for walks, day trips with animals, shows. I get a say in what we do and where I go. I have played games that I didn't think I would be able to like taking part in an egg and spoon race.	Looking forward to the pilot
Response	Swimming. Exercise opportunities to be included. Going to the gym. Enjoys crafts and practical activities. Dancing, enjoys music.	Yes, Boston and Sea Cadets are a lot different. Its livelier. Days were in Morswyn after an hour or so she's ready to leave.	Yes – it would be nice to have a sports day, cooking, knitting group, crochet, art, and crafts.	

Appendix 2- Consultation – The Future of the Morswyn Day Centre (23/10/2023-01/12/2023)

Ymateb	1) Are you			2) Are you satisfied with the day opportunities provided from community buildings such as 'Boston Centre Stage' and the 'Sea Scouts'?			3) Would you like to see more community day activities for people with learning disabilities in Holyhead?			4) Would you be willing for the Council to stop offering day activities at the Morswyn Centre and extend activities in other community settings in the Holyhead area?			5) Do you think that terminating day activities at the Morswyn Day Centre would have any effect on using the Welsh language?			
	A person with a Learning Disability	A parent or a carer for a person with a Learning Disability	Other, write below	Yes	No	No Comment	Yes	No	No Comment	Yes	No	No Comment	Yes	No	No Comment	
1	✓					✓	✓					✓			✓	
2	✓					✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	
3	✓			✓					✓				✓			
4	✓					✓	✓			✓					✓	
5	✓				✓		✓			✓				✓		
6	✓					✓	✓					✓			✓	
7	✓				✓		✓			✓				✓		
8	✓					✓	✓			✓					✓	
9	✓					✓		✓		✓					✓	
10	✓					✓	✓					✓		✓		
11	✓					✓		✓			✓		✓			
12	✓					✓	✓			✓					✓	
13	✓					✓	✓					✓			✓	
14			✓	✓			✓			✓				✓		
15			✓	✓			✓			✓				✓		
16			✓	✓			✓			✓				✓		
17		✓		✓			✓				✓				✓	
18		✓			✓			✓			✓		✓			
19			✓	✓			✓				✓				✓	
20			✓	✓			✓				✓			✓		
21		✓		✓			✓			✓				✓		
22		✓		✓			✓			✓				✓		
23		✓			✓		✓			✓					✓	
24		✓			✓		✓				✓			✓		
25			✓		✓			✓			✓					
26			✓			✓			✓		✓				✓	
27		✓		✓			✓			✓						
28	✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			
29		✓			✓			✓			✓			✓		
30	✓			✓			✓			✓				✓		
31		✓		✓			✓				✓			✓		
32		✓		✓			✓				✓			✓	✓	
	15	10		7	14	7	11	25	5	2	15	12	5	4	14	12
33	Letter no direct response to questions															
34	Letter no direct response to questions															

Appendix 2 (Continued)- Written Comments and the Adults Service's Response

Summary of Matters highlighted during the Consultation and the Service Response	
Matters Shared, Comments and Concerns	Service Response
The consultation does not include the opinions of users who have communication difficulties	Individual sessions were arranged with individuals/families who would be directly affected, and the Advocacy Service was invited to provide support. If the changes go ahead, individual arrangements will be confirmed to ensure that the alternative provision is appropriate. It could mean providing support from another Centre.
It is unacceptable to consider closing Morswyn and moving people with complex disabilities who need help to eat to somewhere like Boston and another place that does not have a disabled toilet.	Adaptations have been introduced within the Sea Scouts and Boston Centre Stage buildings and they have been suitable for the individuals using the building. Other settings and further adaptations could also be considered.
There is no need to spend money on Morswyn, the roof does not leak.	The maintenance work required on the Morswyn building is outlined in the report. It is anticipated that investment will be required in the near future to maintain the standard of the building and there has been a reduction in the number of users.
The Morswyn centre has been going for some time in Holyhead and is a useful place for people with disabilities to go. It offers all sorts of activities for them to do.	<p>A number of users have confirmed that they enjoy community activities and have stated that they would like to see these being developed and extended.</p> <p>The Adults Services Vision is to be able to provide a wide range of activities from different buildings to promote integration.</p>

Appendix 2 (Continued)- Written Comments and the Adults Service's Response

<p>Morswyn just needs to be updated and fitted/ provided with things for the users to do, to give them more choice of things to do.</p>	<p>Morswyn would not be suitable in the long term without introducing significant improvements and there has been a reduction in the number of users as individuals favour more varied activities in different settings.</p>
<p>I am a carer in the Morswyn centre for the last 12 years also worked for the Council for 35 years, our place is like a second home to our clients, we do care there and activities which other places don't provide, and they feel safe.</p>	<p>Morswyn staff have and do offer a quality service to individuals, and we want this to continue but with the support provided from different settings, increasing opportunities and offering a variety of experiences.</p>
<p>I don't believe the other services can offer the same level of care especially for those with higher care needs such as personal care, Morswyn has all these facilities in place.</p>	<p>If additional needs exist above and beyond what can be provided at a community level this will be discussed with the individuals and their families. It could mean using other community buildings, other individual arrangements or using Gors Felen.</p>
<p>We haven't used the Morswyn Centre, but we do access the Sea Cadets/ Boston Centre Stage Group. This group has made a big difference to my daughter. The pilot scheme based in the Gwelfor Centre has been amazing. My daughter has grown in confidence so much and is much more sociable and finds it easier to express her opinions and make her own choices/ decisions.</p>	<p>The changes are the result of a desire to extend opportunities and it may be possible to expand the number of settings and activities offered. We know that other activities and buildings are available in the Holyhead area, but we would have to move staff and individuals to develop them.</p>

Appendix 3



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

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

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1	14/03/2023	Initial draft
2	10/10/2023	Second draft

Step 1: Background	
1 - What are you assessing?	The impact on equality arising from the Adults Service's proposal to ask stakeholders whether they would support considering ending the day activities provision at the Morswyn Centre to allow resources to be redirected to extend the day activities options offered in community settings, and provision by community organisations.
2 - Is this a new or existing proposal?	New Proposal

Step 1: Background	
3 - What are the aims and purpose of this proposal?	Invite stakeholders in the Holyhead area to provide their feedback and opinions about a change in the way day activities are provided with the emphasis on community buildings. There has been a reduction in the number of people attending the Morswyn Day Centre due to people opting to attend day activities which are provided in community buildings in the Holyhead area. To ask whether stakeholders support considering bringing day activities to an end at the Morswyn Centre to allow the Council to redirect resources to expand the day activity options offered from community settings and by community organisations.
4 - Who is responsible for the proposal you are assessing?	Head of Adults Services
5 - Who is the lead officer for this assessment?	Provider Unit Service Manager – Adults Service
6 - Who else is involved in undertaking this assessment?	Provider Unit Service Manager – Adults Service Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Service Manager – Adults Services Byron Centre Manager – Adults Services Learning Disabilities Team Manager – Adults Services Transformation and Development Manager – Adults Services
7 - Is the proposal related to other areas of work? For example, are there other proposals or policies that should be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 • Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 • Council Plan 2022-2028.

Step 1: Background		
into consideration as part of this assessment?		
8 - Is the proposal relevant to how the Authority complies with the public sector general duty relating to people who are protected by the Equality Act 2010? As a general rule, any policy that affects people is likely to be relevant across all protected groups.	The elimination of discrimination and harassment	Yes
	The advancement of equality of opportunity	Yes
	The fostering of good relations	Yes
	The protection and promotion of human rights	Yes
9 - Is the proposal a strategic decision? If so, the Socio-Economic Duty is relevant - see appendix 1.	Yes - It is a strategic decision to redirect the Day Service provision away from specific buildings towards community services which allow people with learning disabilities to integrate more and more into the daily life of their communities.	
10 - Who would be affected by the proposal(s) (adversely or positively, directly or indirectly)? If this is a strategic proposal , ensure that you give specific consideration to whether the proposal would affect more on people living in less favourable social and economic circumstances than others in the same society (see appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with Learning Disabilities who attend internal day services (Morswyn). • Their families and carers. • Internal Staff and Service Managers. • External Providers of day services. • Third sector organisations. • Isle of Anglesey Council Social Work staff. 	

Step 2.1: Information Gathering – Welsh Language Standards and the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011	
11 - Does this proposal ensure that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language, in accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Policy?	<p>The proposal should not have a negative impact on the Welsh language.</p> <p>The Council is committed to providing bilingual services in both Welsh and English across all its services. We promote a proactive approach to offering services in the Welsh language, in line with the Welsh Government's 'More than Words / Mwy na Geiriau' strategy framework. We ensure that we comply with the Council's Welsh Language Plan in organising and providing our social services.</p>
12 - Is there an opportunity here to offer more opportunities for people to learn and / or use the Welsh language on a day-to-day basis?	<p>Many service users are Welsh speakers. Consideration will be given to linguistic needs to ensure that service users are able to communicate with us in their language of choice.</p> <p>A requirement is already in place stipulating that every provider (both internal and external) provides services in Welsh and English, and that they must be culturally sensitive.</p>
13 - Will this area of work proactively offer services in Welsh for users?	The service already offers services in Welsh and this scheme will continue to offer a provision in both Welsh and English. There is no intention to change the service provider, the service will be provided by the Council (internal Service Provider).
14 - Is this proposal likely to protect and promote the Welsh language within communities?	The scheme will give service users more opportunities to use the Welsh language in their communities by providing opportunities for people to take part in daily activities in their communities.
<p>To help you to answer the questions above, the corporate Impact Assessment Guidance lists a series of questions which should be considered when assessing how proposals impact on the Welsh language in general. The extent to which these questions are relevant will depend on the proposal in question. However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are looking at how the implementation of the Council's key policies, strategies or guidance would affect the Welsh language; or 	

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

- If your initial response to the above questions raises any concerns or evidence to suggest that the proposal would treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language, or would have a detrimental impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language;

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

Step 2.2: Information Gathering – Human Rights Act 1998

15 - Are there any Human Rights issues? If so, what are they? For example, could this proposal result in the failure to safeguard the right to privacy?	<p>Changing the way a service is provided can effect the rights of individuals in relation to:</p> <p>Article 11: Freedom to associate and assemble – a small number of service users with complex needs may have to move to other centres further afield to continue to receive a service as some community buildings are not suitable for them.</p>
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Step 2.3: Information Gathering – Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

16 – Does this proposal meet any of the seven national well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015? (Descriptions of the well-being goals are listed in Appendix 3)	A prosperous Wales	
	A resilient Wales	Yes – supporting communities to be inclusive
	A healthier Wales	Yes – supporting people with learning disabilities to access various activities which are both physically and mentally beneficial.

Step 2.3: Information Gathering – Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015		
	A more equal Wales	Yes – allowing people with learning disabilities to participate in community-based activities.
	A Wales of cohesive communities	Yes – allowing people with learning disabilities to participate in activities and get to know other people in their communities.
	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	
	A globally responsible Wales	

Step 2.4: Information Gathering – Engagement / Consultation / Evidence / Filling gaps in information	
Please see the pre-engagement and pre-consultation checklist, which is available on MonITor.	
17 - What has been done to date in terms of involvement and consultation with regard to this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managers and staff at the Morswyn Centre are aware that a review of the service is being undertaken. • Service users and their families have already participated in community activities at other locations. • Officers from the Adults Department have engaged with service users / parents and carers in the Holyhead area to gather people's opinions about the activities offered, the current settings which offer the activities, and people's future wishes in terms of developing activities.

Step 2.4: Information Gathering – Engagement / Consultation / Evidence / Filling gaps in information	
Please see the pre-engagement and pre-consultation checklist, which is available on MonITor.	
18 – What other information have you used to inform your assessment? Please list any reports, websites, links used etc here and include the relevant evidence in the table in Step 3 below	None
19 - Are there any gaps in the information collected to date? If so, how will these be addressed?	No

Step 3: Assessing the potential impact and identifying mitigation measures

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

Protected group	* Potential impact	Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings)	Actions to mitigate negative impact
Age	No impact	Not relevant to this group	
Disability	Positive	The Council is proposing to adapt day activities opportunities to promote and support people with learning difficulties to participate more and integrate within their communities. The setting for activities may change and could mean moving to another venue.	If the proposal to close the Morswyn Centre is supported the Adults Service will discuss the individuals' individual needs with them. Individuals' needs will be discussed, as well as any changes e.g., travel, and any other reasonable adaptations.
Sex	No impact		

Protected group	* Potential impact	Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings)	Actions to mitigate negative impact
Gender Reassignment	No impact		
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact		
Race / Ethnicity / Nationality	No impact		
Religion or Belief	No impact		
Sexual Orientation	No impact		
Marriage or Civil Partnership	No impact		
The Welsh Language	Positive	By offering more options for Welsh speakers who have learning disabilities to use the language in their communities.	
Human Rights	Positive	The change is a positive one in terms of increasing opportunities for people with learning disabilities to integrate within their communities.	
Any other relevant matter	None		
<p>There are clear links between equality and socio-economic issues. Discrimination against protected groups can be a direct cause of socio-economic disadvantage. If any such issues become apparent when assessing non-strategic matters, they should be given due regard and recorded under the relevant protected group, or under 'any other relevant issue' above.</p>			

Please complete this section if the proposal is a strategic matter (see appendix 1)			
The Socio-Economic Duty	* Potential impact	Details of the impact (including evidence to support the findings)	Actions to mitigate negative impacts
Is the proposal likely to cause any inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage?	No impact	The service is proposing to redirect resources away from maintaining a building in order to expand the day activities provision in existing community buildings in the same area.	The Adults Service will work with people to identify how best to meet their needs and if this means travelling to settings, transport will be provided and paid for by the Council.

Step 4 – Outcome of the assessment

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

- **No major change** - The assessment demonstrates the proposal is robust; there is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken.
- **Adjust the proposal** - The assessment identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. Adjust the proposal to remove barriers or better promote equality.

- **Continue the proposal** - The assessment identifies the potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality. Clearly set out the justifications for continuing with it. The justification should be included in the assessment and must be in line with the duty to have due regard. For the most important relevant proposals, compelling reasons will be needed.
- **Stop and remove the proposal** - The proposal shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped and removed or changed. (The codes of practice and guidance on each of the public sector duties on the Commission's website provide information about what constitutes unlawful discrimination.)

Step 4 – Outcome of the assessment	
21 - Note the impacts identified and how it is intended to mitigate any negative impact in terms of equality, the Welsh language and, if relevant, socio-economic disadvantage (i.e. a summary of the table/s in step 3)	<p>The Service anticipates that one person attending the Morswyn Centre may have to be transferred to another provision. This is due to the person's complex needs which mean that attending a community setting is not suitable.</p> <p>We will discuss the individual's wishes and how best to address their needs. The Gors Felen Centre can offer a placement.</p>
22 - Describe any actions taken to maximise the opportunity to promote equality and the Welsh language, the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (sustainability) and, if relevant, ensure better outcomes for those facing economic disadvantage.	
23 - Would any aspect of the proposal contravene the wellbeing goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?	No
24 - Is there a need to look at what could be done differently, or to reconsider the entire proposal as a result of conducting this assessment?	No
(Evidence of negative impact could render the proposal or decision unlawful. If you have identified negative impact,	

Step 4 – Outcome of the assessment	
you should consider at this stage whether it is possible to proceed with the proposal).	
25 - Is there a strategy for dealing with any unavoidable but not unlawful negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?	The needs of each person, and the best way of meeting those needs will be discussed and agreed with them.
26 - Will the proposal be adopted / forwarded for approval? Who will be the decision-maker?	The outcome of the consultation and a recommendation will be presented to the Executive.
27 - Are there monitoring arrangements in place? What are they?	The Adults Service Management Team will oversee the consultation process as well as identifying matters requiring action.

Step 5 – Action Plan

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

Ref	Proposed Actions	Lead Officer	Timescale

Appendix 4 – Community Resources

The Council has installed Accessible Adult Changing Facilities in different locations across Anglesey. These facilities allow disabled adults and their carers to visit these places, which may not have been accessible to them in the past.

Accessible Adult Changing Facilities vary in terms of space and configuration, but generally they include an accessible toilet, adult-sized changing tables, electric or manually operated hoist, and sometimes showers.

We have invested in Accessible Adult Changing Facilities in the following community buildings.

- Holyhead Leisure Centre
- Holyhead Library
- Boston Centre Stage, Holyhead
- Llangefni Leisure Centre
- Gors Felen, Llangefni
- Mencap Môn, Llangefni
- Amlwch Leisure Centre

As a result of this investment, individuals with learning disabilities or physical disabilities have a wider choice of community activities, increasing opportunities to socialise and integrate.

As part of the wider work to ensure that we understand how accessible and suitable community building are for activities, we have created a Community Buildings Directory.

[Community buildings directory \(gov.wales\)](#)

In addition, we create a Community Transport Directory every two years, to ensure that people are aware of the community provision that is available.

[Anglesey Community Transport Directory \(gov.wales\)](#)

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