



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

GŴYS A RHAGLEN

SUMMONS AND AGENDA

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for a

**CYFARFOD O GYNGOR
SIR YNYS MÔN**

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

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on

**DYDD MAWRTH
21 MAI 2024**

TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2024

→ am 10:30 o'r gloch yb ←

→ at 10:30 am ←

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A G E N D A

1. MINUTES

To submit for confirmation, the draft minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 7 March 2024.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

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

4. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

5. THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023/24

To consider the Council Leader's Annual Report in accordance with Paragraph 4.1.16 of the Constitution.

6. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

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

7. ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

To submit a report by the Head of Highways, Waste and Property, as presented to the Executive on 19 March 2024.

8. LOCAL CHOICE FUNCTIONS: PERFORMANCE

To submit a report by the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer, following a Portfolio Decision taken by the Portfolio Member for Corporate and Customer Experience on 29 April 2024.

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 7 March 2024

- PRESENT:** Councillor Margaret Murley Roberts (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Haynes (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Geraint Bebb, Non Dafydd, Paul Ellis, Jeff M Evans, Neville Evans, T LI Hughes MBE, Llinos Medi, Aled M Jones, Carwyn Jones, Dyfed Wyn Jones, G O Jones, R LI Jones, Euryn Morris, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Llio Angharad Owen, Gary Pritchard, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Keith Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Ken Taylor, Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Alwen Pennant Watkin, Robin Williams, Sonia Williams, Liz Wood and Arfon Wyn
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Director of Educations, Skills & Young People,
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Highways, Waste & Property,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) & Transformation,
Head of Democracy,
Solicitor – Corporate Governance & Contracts (MY),
Legal Services Manager (for item 12 only),
Human Resources Manager (CW) (for item 12 only),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- ALSO PRESENT:** None
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Douglas M Fowlie, John Ifan Jones, Jackie Lewis and Ieuan Williams.
- Director of Social Services,
Head of Regulation & Economic Development.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the County Council held on 19 December, 2023 were confirmed as correct.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

The Chief Officers declared a significant personal interest in Item 12– Pay Policy Statement 2024 and left the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.

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

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- The Chair wished to thank Menter Môn for arranging various processions to note the St David's Day occasion. She said that she had the privilege of attending the procession held in Llangefni and it was nice to see so many young local school children celebrating what it is to be Welsh. The Schools of Anglesey also celebrated St David's Day. Ysgol Henblas received a very special message from the Archdruid of the National Eisteddfod, Mererid Hopwood.
- The Chair referred that the North Wales Choir Festival was held in Llandudno over the weekend and Anglesey Youth Choir came first in the Show Choir Category and came second in the Young Voices Category.
- Congratulations extended to Mr Tom Bown from Llannerchymedd. Mr Bown has been measuring rainfall every day since 1948 and continues the family tradition which began with his grandfather. He was recently honoured for his services by the Met Office and Natural Resources Wales.
- Congratulations extended to Mr Peter Jones from Anglesey who has recently been honoured with an MBE following recognition of his services towards the peat land of Wales. Mr Jones is a specialist Senior Consultant with Natural Resources Wales for peat ecosystems across Wales.
- The Chair extended best wishes to the Finney's Chip Shop in Benllech who have reached the Final of the 'Takeaway of the Year' category in the National Federation of Fish Fryers awards. These are the most prestigious awards in the industry.
- Congratulations extended to Mr Tomos Parry, originally from Anglesey, in gaining his second Michelin Star. He gained his first Michelin star back in 2018 for his restaurant 'Brat' in London and he has now been successful in gaining his second star with his new restaurant 'Mountain'.
- Congratulations extended to the young athlete Eli Jones for becoming the indoor 60 meters and 200 meters Welsh Under 20's Champion.
- Congratulations also extended to Meinir Thomas from Llangefni who has once again been chosen for the Wales' Masters Over 55's Hockey Squad. She will compete in

three competitions – the Home Nations Championships in Nottingham, a four-country competition in Germany and the World Cup in New Zealand in November.

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Condolences was extended to the family of former Councillor Vaughan Hughes who passed away at the beginning of the new year. Mr Hughes had been a County Councillor for ten years and before that was a well-known broadcaster, presenter and tv producer. He was also the Editor of the magazine 'Barn' right up to his death. He spent most of his life in Anglesey and was passionate towards the Island. There will be an annual memorial prize in his name at Eisteddfod Môn.

Condolences also extended to the family of Mr Iolo Trefri Owen who recently passed away. He was a farmer and innovative businessman. He received the privilege of opening the Anglesey Winter Fair in 2021 as recognition of his significant contribution to agriculture on the Island.

Condolences extended to the family of Ms Bethan James who was a consultant on behalf of GwE and who attended Council SACRE meetings.

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

Members and Officers stood as silent tribute.

4. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

None received.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2023/24

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 20 February, 2024 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Treasury Management Mid-year Review Report for 2023/2024.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2024/25

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 20 February, 2024 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/2025.

7. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024 - 2029

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 29 February, 2024 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Portfolio Member for Finance said that it is a requirement under the revised CIPFA Prudential Code (September 2017) that all authorities must produce a capital strategy. This must set out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made. The requirement is aimed at ensuring that authorities take capital and investment decisions in line with the service objectives and properly take into account stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.

In response to a question by Councillor Robert LI Jones as to the total amount borrowed to build new schools on the Island and how much interest is paid per year on those loans, the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer said that it is dependent on the Council's financial resources available as to the amount borrowed. It is also dependent on the interest rates at the time when it is the best time to borrow and the length of the loans. He recommended that Councillor Jones writes to the Finance Department as to the information he wishes to receive as regards to the total amount borrowed to build new schools.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Capital Strategy for the financial years 2024/25 to 2028/2029.

8. BUDGET 2024/25

Submitted – the report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 29 February, 2024.

The Portfolio Member for Finance reported that this has been the most challenging budget put forward due to the settlement received from Welsh Government and also to high inflation. At the beginning of the budget setting process there was a gap of £14.391m between the standstill budget and the funding available, prior to raising Council Tax, in the Council's revenue budget. The Executive in January 2024 initially proposed a budget for 2024/25 of £184.219m which was based on the provisional AEF of £126.973m, this would require an increase of 10.9% in Council Tax and the use of £4.425m of the Council's general balances to balance the budget. He noted that despite the short timescale between the publishing of the initial budget proposal and the date of the deadline for setting the Council Tax, a public consultation process was undertaken which included consultation within the Town and Community Councils Forum, Young People's Forum, Older People's Forum, Schools Finance Forum together with an on-line consultation process. The response of the public consultation can be seen at Appendix 2 of the report. In setting the final budget proposals, the UK Government announced that Councils in England would receive an additional £600m in funding in 2024/25. This additional funding creates an additional £25m as consequential funding for the Welsh Government which resulted in an addition of £332k received by this Authority. Additionally, Welsh Government has transferred revenue grants of £280k into the settlement. He also noted that further adjustment has been made as listed within the report. The Portfolio Member for Finance further said that the North Wales Fire Authority has reviewed their final budget proposal which has resulted in a reduction of £87k in the levy that the Council must fund. The increase in Council Tax is also reduced to 9.5%, of which 0.9% relates to the increase in the Fire Authority levy and 8.6% relates to the Council's budget requirement. Whilst the increase in Council Tax is significant as in all other local authorities; this Council will be the

lowest in North Wales with Band D, Council Tax by £136.44 taking the Band D charge to £1,572.30.

The Portfolio Member for Finance said that the financial situation is slightly better than was foreseen at the beginning of the initial budget process. Whilst the school's budget has been increased, the Executive has decided that the gap on the inflationary increase in schools be reduced from 2.5% to 1.5%, which schools also receiving an additional £250k in 2024/2025. The proposed budget incorporates a number of assumptions in terms of likely levels of income and expenditure in future years and inevitably a number of financial risks inherent in the proposed budget. He further said that the Section 151 Officer recommends that the reserves should not fall below 5% of the revenue budget and it is anticipated that the reserves will amount to £10.79m at the end of the financial year, which equates to 5.88%. He referred to the capital budget received towards capital project has been reduced but a budget has been set at £43.838m. A grant has been received from Welsh Government of £2.22m and supported borrowing of £2.164m. He noted that most of the Authority's capital projects are funded from the HRA account, which is ring-fenced for expenditure on the housing stock.

The Portfolio Member for Finance proposed the recommendations to the full Council as seen in (a), (b) and (c) of the reports.

Councillor Robert LI Jones said that local government is facing challenging times with reduced resources available and local authorities will need to consider innovative ways to help the vulnerable people within society who require services of the Councils and the financial challenges people are facing due cost-of-living crises. He wished to thank the staff of the Council for their work and especially through the pandemic. He further said that some housing stock needs to be upgraded due to dampness and to install new heating systems. Councillor Jones referred that the Council needs to afford apprenticeships and needs to be more transparent in respect of the work of the Council.

The Chief Executive responded that the pandemic was a challenging period for everyone, and that the staff of the Council undertook a key role in protecting the residents. He noted that a report was submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee with the regard to the lessons learnt through the pandemic. As is similar with all local authorities in Wales, this Council is providing information to the National Covid Inquiry currently taking place. The Chief Executive in response to the comment made that the Council needs to be more transparent, he noted that in accordance with the Local Government Act 2021 the meetings of the Council is webcast and kept on the website for 6 months. He further said that information as regards to the work of the Council is accessible through the website.

Councillor Aled M Jones said that he accepted that it is challenging to set a budget in these challenging times, and he considered that the way local government across the UK is funded needs to be urgently reviewed. Whilst accepting that the Council Tax in this Authority is one of the lowest in Wales, an average of 5.54% increase in Council Tax has been over the last few years. He referred that there has been an increase in the charge for green garden waste collection this year from £35 to £38. He noted that the 20mph speed limit imposed by Welsh Government has placed cost implications to every local authority and this money could have increase the settlement to Welsh local government. There has also been an increase in the premium for second and empty homes and this could have an effect on local people wishing to renovate their properties. He further said

that he is given to understand that some local companies on Anglesey are facing challenges in securing contracts on the Island. Councillor Jones further referred that the general reserves of this Council are over £10m and the dedicated reserves are over £13m. He said that he would be voting to against the increase in the Council Tax of 9.5% as he considered that the communities are unable to afford such an increase.

Councillor Jeff Evans considered that the Council's needs to review the situation as to how the services are financed and that the reserves should be used to reduce the substantial increase in the Council Tax.

The Portfolio Member for Finance in response to comments made said that it is likely that the next financial year, 2025/2026 will be considerably challenging and it would not be prudent to use additional reserves to balance the budget.

Following the vote of 25 in favour, 6 against with no abstentions.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To approve the capital budget for 2023/2024.**
- **To accept the draft Council Tax Resolution as (c) in the Agenda :-**

1. RESOLVED

- (a) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Executive, to adopt the 2024/25 Budget at Section 5 as a Budget Strategy within the meaning given by the Constitution, and to affirm that it becomes part of the budget framework with the exception of figures described as current.
- (b) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Executive, to adopt a revenue budget for 2024/25 as shown at 4.2 within Section 4 of the 2024/25 Budget Report Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- (c) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Executive, to adopt a capital budget as shown in the Capital Budget Report 2024/25 report.
- (ch) To delegate to the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer the power to make adjustments between headings in the Final Budget Proposal 2024/25 at Appendix 2 in order to give effect to the Council's decisions. In addition, to delegate to Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer the power to transfer up to £50k per item from the general contingency. Any item in excess of £50k will require the approval of the Executive before any transfer from the general contingency is made.
- (d) To delegate to the Executive Committee, for the financial year 2024/25, the powers to transfer budgets between headings as follows:-
 - (i) unlimited powers to spend each budget heading in Appendix 2 Final Budget Proposal 2024/25 against the name of each service, on the service to which it relates;
 - (ii) powers to approve the use of service and earmarked reserves to fund one-off spending proposals that contribute to the delivery of the Council's objectives and improve services;
 - (iii) powers to vire from new or increased sources of income.
- (dd) To delegate to the Executive Committee, in respect of the financial year 2024/25 and on the advice of the Director of Function (Resources) – Section 151 Officer, the power to release up to £250k from general balances to deal with priorities arising during the year.
- (e) To delegate to the Executive Committee in respect of the period to 31 March 2025, the following powers:-

- (i) powers to make new commitments from future years' revenue budgets up to amount identified under New Priorities in the Medium Term Financial Plan;
 - (ii) the power and the duty to make plans for achievement of revenue budget savings implied by the Medium Term Financial Plan;
 - (iii) powers to transfer budgets between capital projects in the Capital Budget Report 2024/25 report and to commit resources in following years and consistent with the budget framework.
- (f) To set and approve the prudential and treasury indicators which are estimates and limits for 2024/25 and onwards as shown in the report on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25.
- (ff) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25 and the Capital Strategy 2024/25.
- (g) To confirm that items 1(b) to (ff) become part of the budget framework.

2. **RESOLVED** to adopt and affirm for the purposes of the financial year 2024/25 the decision of the County Council on 10 March 1998 to set the discount level applicable to the prescribed Class A and prescribed Class B of dwellings under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), as described by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998, as follows:-

Prescribed Class A	Nil Discount
Prescribed Class B	Nil Discount

3. **RESOLVED** to adopt and affirm for the purposes of the financial year 2024/25 the decision of the County Council on 6 March 2007 to set the discount level applicable to the prescribed Class C of dwellings under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), as described by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) and Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 as follows:-

Prescribed Class C	Nil Discount
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4. **RESOLVED** to disapply any discount(s) granted to long-term empty dwellings and dwelling occupied periodically (usually known as second homes) and to vary the full Council's decision made on 28 February 2018 and apply for the financial year 2024/25 a higher amount of Council Tax (called a Council Tax Premium) of 100% of the standard rate of Council Tax for long-term empty dwellings or for dwellings occupied periodically (usually known as second homes) to apply a higher amount of Council Tax (called a Council tax Premium) of 100% under Sections 12A and 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as inserted by Section 139 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
5. That it be noted that at its meeting on 28 February 1996 the Council resolved not to treat any expenses incurred by the Council in part of its area or in meeting any levy or special levy as special expenses and that the resolutions remain in force until expressly rescinded.
6. That it is noted that a resolution of the Executive on 28 November 2023 approved the amount calculated by the Isle of Anglesey County Council for its council tax base for 2024/25 and to further note that the full Council in its meeting on the 11 December 2018 approved that the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will continue unchanged for subsequent years unless substantially amended. It is also noted that the full Council on 28 February 2018 adopted and approved a local Council Tax Discretionary Policy under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, delegating to the Executive the power to revoke, re-enact and/or amend the Policy. The Executive having last amended the Policy on 03 March 2022
7. At its meeting on 28 November 2023, the Executive, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base)(Wales) Regulations 1995 (SI19956/2561) 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 Authority (Calculation of Taxbase) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 resolved to approve the amounts calculated by the Isle of Anglesey County Council as its tax base and for the parts of the area, for the year 2024/25, as follows:-

- a) **33,170.03** being the amount approved by the Executive as the Isle of Anglesey County Council's council tax base for the year.
- b) The parts of the Council's area, being the amounts calculated by the Executive as the amounts of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate, are as follows:-

Community/Town Council Areas	Tax Base 2024/25
Amlwch	1,553.58
Beaumaris	1,128.28
Holyhead	4,122.23
Llangefni	2,104.10
Menai Bridge	1,503.94
Llanddaniel-fab	376.52
Llanddona	417.01
Cwm Cadnant	1,231.69
Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	1,342.23
Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog	714.29
Bodorgan	483.02
Llangoed	698.88
Llangristiolus & Cerrigceinwen	645.03
Llanidan	436.75
Rhosyr	1,061.51
Penmynydd	252.52
Pentraeth	603.97
Moelfre	692.31
Llanbadrig	708.58
Llanddyfnan	523.53
Llaneilian	621.16
Llanerch-y-medd	541.56
Llaneugrad	194.77
Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf	2,038.26
Cylch y Garn	427.15
Mechell	592.04
Rhos-y-bol	488.24
Aberffraw	316.77
Bodedern	423.75
Bodffordd	424.81
Trearddur	1,492.47
Tref Alaw	272.44
Llanfachraeth	238.36
Llanfaelog	1,439.20
Llanfaethlu	279.29
Llanfair-yn-Neubwll	573.51
Valley	1,052.48
Bryngwran	372.60
Rhoscolyn	399.54
Trewalchmai	381.66
Total Taxbase	33,170.03

8. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- a) £244,076,190 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) of the Act.
- b) £62,342,087 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) and (c) of the Act.
- c) £181,734,103 being the amount by which the aggregate at 8(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- ch) £127,586,070 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its council fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant and specific grant, reduced by any amount calculated in accordance with Section 33(3) of the Act.
- d) £1,632.44 being the amount at 8(c) above less the amount at 8(ch) above, all divided by the amount at 7(a) above, calculated by the Executive, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- dd) £1,994,795 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- e) £ 1,572.30 being the amount at 8(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 8(dd) above by the amount at 7(a) above, calculated by the Executive, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- f)

Community/Town Council areas		Band D equivalent per area including Isle of Anglesey Council and Community/Town Council elements
Amlwch	£	1,646.91
Beaumaris	£	1,599.75
Holyhead	£	1,737.45
Llangefni	£	1,722.33
Menai Bridge	£	1,664.46
Llanddaniel-fab	£	1,608.57
Llanddona	£	1,592.64
Cwm Cadnant	£	1,600.02
Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	£	1,625.13
Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog	£	1,606.95
Bodorgan	£	1,599.66
Llangoed	£	1,607.67
Llangristiolus & Cerrig Ceinwen	£	1,584.72
Llanidan	£	1,610.01
Rhosyr	£	1,600.56
Penmynydd	£	1,607.58
Pentraeth	£	1,601.91
Moelfre	£	1,591.83
Llanbadrig	£	1,618.47
Llanddyfnan	£	1,583.27
Llaneilian	£	1,606.95
Llanerch-y-medd	£	1,612.26
Llaneugrad	£	1,592.82
Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf	£	1,604.70
Cylch y Garn	£	1,591.02
Mechell	£	1,590.93
Rhos-y-bol	£	1,588.68
Aberffraw	£	1,610.19
Bodedern	£	1,605.33
Bodffordd	£	1,602.90

Trearddur	£	1,596.42
Tref Alaw	£	1,597.05
Llanfachraeth	£	1,614.24
Llanfaelog	£	1,602.90
Llanfaethlu	£	1,593.81
Llanfair-yn-Neubwll	£	1,605.42
Valley	£	1,616.94
Bryngwran	£	1,611.18
Rhoscolyn	£	1,592.28
Trewalchmai	£	1,609.02

being the amount given by adding to the amount at 8(e) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 8(b) above, calculated by the Executive in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one of more special items relate.

Valuation Bands

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 8(e) and 8(f) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Executive, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 8(e) and 8(f) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Executive, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

Council Tax per Band, per Area, which includes the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Community/Town Council elements/precepts										
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Amlwch	£	1,097.94	1,280.93	1,463.92	1,646.91	2,012.89	2,378.87	2,744.85	3,293.82	3,842.79
Beaumaris	£	1,066.50	1,244.25	1,422.00	1,599.75	1,955.25	2,310.75	2,666.25	3,199.50	3,732.75
Holyhead	£	1,158.30	1,351.35	1,544.40	1,737.45	2,123.55	2,509.65	2,895.75	3,474.90	4,054.05
Llangefni	£	1,148.22	1,339.59	1,530.96	1,722.33	2,105.07	2,487.81	2,870.55	3,444.66	4,018.77
Menai Bridge	£	1,109.64	1,294.58	1,479.52	1,664.46	2,034.34	2,404.22	2,774.10	3,328.92	3,883.74
Llanddaniel-fab	£	1,072.38	1,251.11	1,429.84	1,608.57	1,966.03	2,323.49	2,680.95	3,217.14	3,753.33
Llanddona	£	1,061.76	1,238.72	1,415.68	1,592.64	1,946.56	2,300.48	2,654.40	3,185.28	3,716.16
Cwm Cadnant	£	1,066.68	1,244.46	1,422.24	1,600.02	1,955.58	2,311.14	2,666.70	3,200.04	3,733.38
Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	£	1,083.42	1,263.99	1,444.56	1,625.13	1,986.27	2,347.41	2,708.55	3,250.26	3,791.97
Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog	£	1,071.30	1,249.85	1,428.40	1,606.95	1,964.05	2,321.15	2,678.25	3,213.90	3,749.55
Bodorgan	£	1,066.44	1,244.18	1,421.92	1,599.66	1,955.14	2,310.62	2,666.10	3,199.32	3,732.54
Llangoed	£	1,071.78	1,250.41	1,429.04	1,607.67	1,964.93	2,322.19	2,679.45	3,215.34	3,751.23
Llangristiolus & Cerrig Ceinwen	£	1,056.48	1,232.56	1,408.64	1,584.72	1,936.88	2,289.04	2,641.20	3,169.44	3,697.68
Llanidan	£	1,073.34	1,252.23	1,431.12	1,610.01	1,967.79	2,325.57	2,683.35	3,220.02	3,756.69
Rhosyr	£	1,067.04	1,244.88	1,422.72	1,600.56	1,956.24	2,311.92	2,667.60	3,201.12	3,734.64
Penmynydd	£	1,071.72	1,250.34	1,428.96	1,607.58	1,964.82	2,322.06	2,679.30	3,215.16	3,751.02
Pentraeth	£	1,067.94	1,245.93	1,423.92	1,601.91	1,957.89	2,313.87	2,669.85	3,203.82	3,737.79
Moelfre	£	1,061.22	1,238.09	1,414.96	1,591.83	1,945.57	2,299.31	2,653.05	3,183.66	3,714.27
Llanbadrig	£	1,078.98	1,258.81	1,438.64	1,618.47	1,978.13	2,337.79	2,697.45	3,236.94	3,776.43

Llanddyfnan	£	1,062.18	1,239.21	1,416.24	1,593.27	1,947.33	2,301.39	2,655.45	3,186.54	3,717.63
Llaneilian	£	1,071.30	1,249.85	1,428.40	1,606.95	1,964.05	2,321.15	2,678.25	3,213.90	3,749.55
Llanerch-y-medd	£	1,074.84	1,253.98	1,433.12	1,612.26	1,970.54	2,328.82	2,687.10	3,224.52	3,761.94
Llaneugrad	£	1,061.88	1,238.86	1,415.84	1,592.82	1,946.78	2,300.74	2,654.70	3,185.64	3,716.58
Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf	£	1,069.80	1,248.10	1,426.40	1,604.70	1,961.30	2,317.90	2,674.50	3,209.40	3,744.30
Cylch y Garn	£	1,060.68	1,237.46	1,414.24	1,591.02	1,944.58	2,298.14	2,651.70	3,182.04	3,712.38
Mechell	£	1,060.62	1,237.39	1,414.16	1,590.93	1,944.47	2,298.01	2,651.55	3,181.86	3,712.17
Rhos-y-bol	£	1,059.12	1,235.64	1,412.16	1,588.68	1,941.72	2,294.76	2,647.80	3,177.36	3,706.92
Aberffraw	£	1,073.46	1,252.37	1,431.28	1,610.19	1,968.01	2,325.83	2,683.65	3,220.38	3,757.11
Bodedern	£	1,070.22	1,248.59	1,426.96	1,605.33	1,962.07	2,318.81	2,675.55	3,210.66	3,745.77
Bodffordd	£	1,068.60	1,246.70	1,424.80	1,602.90	1,959.10	2,315.30	2,671.50	3,205.80	3,740.10
Trearddur	£	1,064.28	1,241.66	1,419.04	1,596.42	1,951.18	2,305.94	2,660.70	3,192.84	3,724.98
Tref Alaw	£	1,064.70	1,242.15	1,419.60	1,597.05	1,951.95	2,306.85	2,661.75	3,194.10	3,726.45
Llanfachraeth	£	1,076.16	1,255.52	1,434.88	1,614.24	1,972.96	2,331.68	2,690.40	3,228.48	3,766.56
Llanfaelog	£	1,068.60	1,246.70	1,424.80	1,602.90	1,959.10	2,315.30	2,671.50	3,205.80	3,740.10
Llanfaethlu	£	1,062.54	1,239.63	1,416.72	1,593.81	1,947.99	2,302.17	2,656.35	3,187.62	3,718.89
Llanfair-yn-Neubwll	£	1,070.28	1,248.66	1,427.04	1,605.42	1,962.18	2,318.94	2,675.70	3,210.84	3,745.98
Valley	£	1,077.96	1,257.62	1,437.28	1,616.94	1,976.26	2,335.58	2,694.90	3,233.88	3,772.86
Bryngwran	£	1,074.12	1,253.14	1,432.16	1,611.18	1,969.22	2,327.26	2,685.30	3,222.36	3,759.42
Rhoscolyn	£	1,061.52	1,238.44	1,415.36	1,592.28	1,946.12	2,299.96	2,653.80	3,184.56	3,715.32
Trewalchmai	£	1,072.68	1,251.46	1,430.24	1,609.02	1,966.58	2,324.14	2,681.70	3,218.04	3,754.38

9. That it be noted that for the year 2024/25, the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales has stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands

		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales	£	233.10	271.95	310.80	349.65	427.35	505.05	582.75	699.30	815.85

10. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 8(ff) and 9 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Council Tax per Band, per Area, which includes the Isle of Anglesey County Council element, Community/Town Council Precepts and North Wales Police Precept										
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Amlwch	£	1,331.04	1,552.88	1,774.72	1,996.56	2,440.24	2,883.92	3,327.60	3,993.12	4,658.64
Beaumaris	£	1,299.60	1,516.20	1,732.80	1,949.40	2,382.60	2,815.80	3,249.00	3,898.80	4,548.60
Holyhead	£	1,391.40	1,623.30	1,855.20	2,087.10	2,550.90	3,014.70	3,478.50	4,174.20	4,869.90
Llangefni	£	1,381.32	1,611.54	1,841.76	2,071.98	2,532.42	2,992.86	3,453.30	4,143.96	4,834.62
Menai Bridge	£	1,342.74	1,566.53	1,790.32	2,014.11	2,461.69	2,909.27	3,356.85	4,028.22	4,699.59
Llanddaniel-fab	£	1,305.48	1,523.06	1,740.64	1,958.22	2,393.38	2,828.54	3,263.70	3,916.44	4,569.18
Llanddona	£	1,294.86	1,510.67	1,726.48	1,942.29	2,373.91	2,805.53	3,237.15	3,884.58	4,532.01

Cwm Cadnant	£	1,299.78	1,516.41	1,733.04	1,949.67	2,382.93	2,816.19	3,249.45	3,899.34	4,549.23
Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	£	1,316.52	1,535.94	1,755.36	1,974.78	2,413.62	2,852.46	3,291.30	3,949.56	4,607.82
Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog	£	1,304.40	1,521.80	1,739.20	1,956.60	2,391.40	2,826.20	3,261.00	3,913.20	4,565.40
Bodorgan	£	1,299.54	1,516.13	1,732.72	1,949.31	2,382.49	2,815.67	3,248.85	3,898.62	4,548.39
Llangoed	£	1,304.88	1,522.36	1,739.84	1,957.32	2,392.28	2,827.24	3,262.20	3,914.64	4,567.08
Llangristiolus & Cerrig Ceinwen	£	1,289.58	1,504.51	1,719.44	1,934.37	2,364.23	2,794.09	3,223.95	3,868.74	4,513.53
Llanidan	£	1,306.44	1,524.18	1,741.92	1,959.66	2,395.14	2,830.62	3,266.10	3,919.32	4,572.54
Rhosyr	£	1,300.14	1,516.83	1,733.52	1,950.21	2,383.59	2,816.97	3,250.35	3,900.42	4,550.49
Penmynydd	£	1,304.82	1,522.29	1,739.76	1,957.23	2,392.17	2,827.11	3,262.05	3,914.46	4,566.87
Pentraeth	£	1,301.04	1,517.88	1,734.72	1,951.56	2,385.24	2,818.92	3,252.60	3,903.12	4,553.64
Moelfre	£	1,294.32	1,510.04	1,725.76	1,941.48	2,372.92	2,804.36	3,235.80	3,882.96	4,530.12
Llanbadrig	£	1,312.08	1,530.76	1,749.44	1,968.12	2,405.48	2,842.84	3,280.20	3,936.24	4,592.28
Llanddyfnan	£	1,295.28	1,511.16	1,727.04	1,942.92	2,374.68	2,806.44	3,238.20	3,885.84	4,533.48
Llaneilian	£	1,304.40	1,521.80	1,739.20	1,956.60	2,391.40	2,826.20	3,261.00	3,913.20	4,565.40
Llanerch-y-medd	£	1,307.94	1,525.93	1,743.92	1,961.91	2,397.89	2,833.87	3,269.85	3,923.82	4,577.79
Llaneugrad	£	1,294.98	1,510.81	1,726.64	1,942.47	2,374.13	2,805.79	3,237.45	3,884.94	4,532.43
Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf	£	1,302.90	1,520.05	1,737.20	1,954.35	2,388.65	2,822.95	3,257.25	3,908.70	4,560.15
Cylch y Garn	£	1,293.78	1,509.41	1,725.04	1,940.67	2,371.93	2,803.19	3,234.45	3,881.34	4,528.23
Mechell	£	1,293.72	1,509.34	1,724.96	1,940.58	2,371.82	2,803.06	3,234.30	3,881.16	4,528.02
Rhos-y-bol	£	1,292.22	1,507.59	1,722.96	1,938.33	2,369.07	2,799.81	3,230.55	3,876.66	4,522.77
Aberffraw	£	1,306.56	1,524.32	1,742.08	1,959.84	2,395.36	2,830.88	3,266.40	3,919.68	4,572.96
Bodedern	£	1,303.32	1,520.54	1,737.76	1,954.98	2,389.42	2,823.86	3,258.30	3,909.96	4,561.62
Bodffordd	£	1,301.70	1,518.65	1,735.60	1,952.55	2,386.45	2,820.35	3,254.25	3,905.10	4,555.95
Trearddur	£	1,297.38	1,513.61	1,729.84	1,946.07	2,378.53	2,810.99	3,243.45	3,892.14	4,540.83
Tref Alaw	£	1,297.80	1,514.10	1,730.40	1,946.70	2,379.30	2,811.90	3,244.50	3,893.40	4,542.30
Llanfachraeth	£	1,309.26	1,527.47	1,745.68	1,963.89	2,400.31	2,836.73	3,273.15	3,927.78	4,582.41
Llanfaelog	£	1,301.70	1,518.65	1,735.60	1,952.55	2,386.45	2,820.35	3,254.25	3,905.10	4,555.95
Llanfaethlu	£	1,295.64	1,511.58	1,727.52	1,943.46	2,375.34	2,807.22	3,239.10	3,886.92	4,534.74
Llanfair-yn-Neubwll	£	1,303.38	1,520.61	1,737.84	1,955.07	2,389.53	2,823.99	3,258.45	3,910.14	4,561.83
Valley	£	1,311.06	1,529.57	1,748.08	1,966.59	2,403.61	2,840.63	3,277.65	3,933.18	4,588.71
Bryngwran	£	1,307.22	1,525.09	1,742.96	1,960.83	2,396.57	2,832.31	3,268.05	3,921.66	4,575.27
Rhoscolyn	£	1,294.62	1,510.39	1,726.16	1,941.93	2,373.47	2,805.01	3,236.55	3,883.86	4,531.17
Trewalchmai	£	1,305.78	1,523.41	1,741.04	1,958.67	2,393.93	2,829.19	3,264.45	3,917.34	4,570.23

9. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2024-2028

The report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer as presented to the Executive on 29 February, 2024 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

It was unanimously RESOLVED:-

- To approve the Council's draft Strategic Equality Plan for 2024-2028;
- To authorise Officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to complete and publish the Plan by 31 March, 2024.

10. POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

The report of the Chief Executive was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Member for Corporate and Customer Experience.

It was unanimously RESOLVED :-

- To note the outcome of the Polling District and Polling Places Review;
- That the final proposals set out in Appendix 1 regarding polling districts, polling places and polling stations be approved.

11. MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

The report of the Director of Education, Skills and Young People was presented to the Council by the Chair of the SACRE.

It was unanimously RESOLVED:-

- To amend the name of SACRE to SAC and for its terms of reference to be included in the Council's Constitution by the Monitoring Officer, in accordance with the legislative requirement for SAC;
- That on the basis that the local authority must take all reasonable steps to secure that the membership is broadly proportionate to the strength of each religion, denomination, or non-religious philosophical conviction in its local area, the membership of SAC includes a total of 9 seats, made up of 6 seats to the current members and an additional 3 new seats appointed to representatives from: Humanists UK, Islam and Jehovah's Witness.
- To conduct a further review, within 6 months of the current Christian seats (thus excluding Jehovah's Witnesses from the next consultation) following comments made when SACRE was consulted and the figures that have been received.

12. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024

The report of the Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation was presented to the Council by the Portfolio Member for Corporate and Customer Experience.

It was RESOLVED to endorse the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025.

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET M ROBERTS
CHAIR**

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The Leader's Annual Report for 23/24

Foreword

Another year has gone by with its challenges and opportunities. I will try and summarise some of the Authority's activities over the past year, but it's important that the Council continues to work hard for the benefit of Anglesey's residents. I'm proud to lead a Council that abides by principles such as Respect, Collaboration, Honesty and Promoting the Council and the Island.

Adopting the 2023 / 2028 Council Plan

Following a significant consultation period with residents, businesses, and stakeholders across Anglesey, it was great to approve the Council Plan, that outlines the Council's key vision and aims for the next five years.

The Council Plan's vision is to 'Create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive'. The six strategic aims reflect the key areas which the Council should focus its effort, according to the opinion of residents.

The six strategic aims within the Plan are as follows:

- The Welsh Language: offering more opportunities to learn and to use the language.
- Social Care and Wellbeing: to offer the right support at the right time.
- Education: ensure effective provision today, tomorrow and for future generations.
- Housing: ensure that everyone has the right to call somewhere home.
- Economy: promote opportunities to develop the island's economy.
- Climate Change: respond to the crisis, manage change and work toward becoming a net zero organisation by 2030.

Setting a Challenging Budget

During March, Anglesey Council approved one of its most challenging budgets after overcoming an initial funding gap of £14 million. This is the biggest funding gap I have ever faced as Leader, and this is the result of the cuts made to budgets over the last 11 years.

As in previous years, we've tried to reach a balance between cuts to services, increasing the Council Tax and using reserves to balance the Revenue Budget. We used additional consequential funding by Welsh Government as well as a better financial situation than expected during 2023/24 to try and alleviate the effect and residents.

The consultation on the budget provided information regarding Anglesey resident's priorities, including support for the Council's Budget strategy to protect services for the most vulnerable people in our communities and to protect school budgets. I'm grateful to those residents that took part in our latest consultation on the Budget. It was great to see the feedback provided

supporting the Council Plan's strategic aims, with education, supporting vulnerable people and recycling amongst some of the main priorities.

We've already spent over a decade trying to protect residents and local communities from devastating budgetary cuts. Every local authority in Wales faces significant financial challenges when trying to balance the budget, and we don't foresee that things will get any easier in the years to come.

Anglesey's Council Tax rate remains the lowest in north Wales, and amongst the lowest in Wales. Despite this, we recognise that people are struggling, and we encourage anyone that is faced with financial problems to find out if they're eligible for support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Unfortunately, we expect an even more challenging budget for 2025/26 and beyond, as costs increase due to inflation, the demand for services increases and funding from Welsh Government decreases.

Education

New Developments

The new Corn Hir School was opened in April 2023, and pupils, staff and visitors are extremely happy with the new building. We had an opportunity to visit the school before the pupils began the term. It was a pleasure seeing children from the island being offered educational opportunities in a modern building.

Work has begun on an extension at Ysgol y Graig, and the new building will be open to Foundation Phase children from September 2024.

RAAC

Two secondary schools on Anglesey faced a challenging time. As a result of a change in legislation regarding RAAC, Holyhead Secondary School and David Hughes Secondary School could not open their door to pupils following the summer holidays. Urgent repair work had to be done in many different buildings on both sites. Many of the Council's services worked together and efficiently to ensure that the schools continued to provide education whilst the premises were closed, and that both schools could safely reopen their doors as soon as possible. We'd like to thank the Heads, the staff, pupils, and families for working closely with us as an Authority during a very difficult period. We'd also like to thank the communities, internal teams, local businesses and Welsh Government for supporting us to respond so quickly.

Estyn

During 2023, Anglesey's Estyn profile was exceptional, with only one school on Anglesey having to be placed in a category. The Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service was also used as an example of good practice within the ADN National Thematic Review, in the wider context of the work to transform legislation, the quality of provision and the provision through the medium of Welsh. We'd like to thank all staff members in our schools and the education department for achieving this.

Trauma Informed Island

Schools, and the Council, continue to work toward becoming a Trauma Informed Island. Many staff within our schools have completed a diploma course, and during 2023, many officers in the Council also completed the course.

Grants

The grants from Sports Wales, that are worth £400,000, have supported us to realise the work of modernising two multipurpose fields in Bodedern Secondary School. In 2024, a small sized 2G field and a small sized 3G field, with floodlights, will open.

Community Focused Schools

We've used grants by Community Focused Schools to invest £700,000 in 3 schools to ensure better community use. The team of family engagement officers has grown from 2 to 3, and as a result, more support is available to families across the island.

Free School Meals

Every primary child in every school on Anglesey will receive free school meals through the new National scheme. Work continues to monitor the service to increase the number of children that take up the offer.

The Welsh Language

We are in our second year of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32. A clear structure has been established to support seven outcomes within the Plan. The Language Centres (Moelfre and Cybi) have welcomed and immersed 120 pupils over the past year, and 50 secondary pupils were immersed in Syr Thomas Jones School. We look forward to launching our App, 'Cynllun y Llan' to share resources and guidance with pupils, parents, schools, centres, and authorities across Wales.

Archives and the Oriel

The Archives have been successful with their bid for accreditation, and the service continues to monitor and ensure that they manage to keep that accredited status. The number of visitors in the Oriel has increased, and many of the exhibitions that have been arranged have been very popular and have also been included in programmes, newspaper articles and magazines.

Libraries: Increase in use

The figure regarding the number of people using our libraries has increased this year, and this shows the importance of libraries within our communities. We have continued to work with partners to develop more learning opportunities for adults within their communities. We've held over 600 events and activities for children, school pupils and adults to improve literacy, health and wellbeing and new learning skills.

Social Care and Wellbeing**Membership with the Global Network of Age-friendly Communities**

During June 2023, Anglesey Council was awarded membership, and this showed a commitment to creating an Age-friendly Anglesey, where there are no barriers stopping people from ageing well. We're grateful for the support of Wales' Older People's Commissioner that

joined us to celebrate this success. During the last year, Age-friendly Anglesey has held many local Older People's Forums in communities and has led over 50 Open Days with Môn Actif.

Learning Disabilities Services

Making better use of community resources to encourage integration within communities is a priority for the Learning Disabilities Services. The Service has been using Community Hubs and has completed engagement activities in the Holyhead area. The feedback received by everyone present has been positive. People appreciate being offered a variety of activities, and this has led to better experiences, better choices, and more control within their lives. In order to realise this vision for Day Activities, the authority has approved a transformation process regarding provision within communities, moving resources from the Morswyn Centre to facilitate the work of further developing community resources. Additionally, we have invested in improving the current provision, including outdoor facilities in Gors Felen. This included developing areas that would welcome wheelchair users and a sensory garden.

Fragility Project

The Fragility Project is a joint initiative with Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, and the work has been in place for 6 months. This operational project aims to alleviate the need for people to go to hospital and support them to stay at home and receive rapid response support by agencies. Following the positive response and praise for the project, arrangements are in place to emulate the model in the Amlwch CRT, and this will be available by spring 2024.

Additional Care Properties, South of the Island

We have prepared a strategic outlined case for another Additional Care Property, and we're awaiting approval by Welsh Government, before presenting a full business case by October 2024.

Dementia Actif Môn

This project has made significant progress in the last 12 months and has created more opportunities to socialise as well as a light physical exercise programme. This is supported by recruiting more full-time staff to offer activities and support across the island.

Supported Housing

The service has ambitious plans to transform and upgrade accommodation options for people with learning disabilities with a programme of new developments. Working alongside the Housing Department and local housing associations we have a pipeline of schemes over the next year. The first scheme on the Mill / Safle y Mart site in Valley is expected to come into use in June 2024 and we have also purchased an additional property with grant funding which will be managed by our Housing Department.

Trauma Informed

Anglesey is leading the way in terms of becoming a Trauma Informed Island, as we've worked tirelessly to operate and promote our Trauma Informed Island Strategy in the council, with partners and in the community. Over 1,000 people from the authority, and a variety of partners, have attended various training during the year.

Providing Youth Services

Our youth service framework has been revised, modernised and realigned to meet the needs of our young people with a clear support and provision offer. An average of 700 young people attend our youth offer over 39 weeks over the year.

Pilot Virtual School (Wales)

A pilot scheme took place in 2023, with the support of Welsh Government to look at improving results for Looked After Children. Our Virtual School is led by the Integrated Services Manager that's part of the Children and Families Services, and who also sits on the leadership group for Learning Services.

Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan

This plan was announced earlier this year, and it notes our priorities to support the challenges that people on Anglesey face. It is a Council wide plan where internal joint-working and with external partners is essential.

Cartrefi Clyd

Since the First Cartref Clyd was opened, we have added three additional units that provide a home for up to six of our Looked After Children. The units are managed by a small team of staff that ensures the best quality of care is given to the children that live there. We are now looking for our next Cartref Clyd on Anglesey.

Môn Actif

Môn Actif has invested £1,175,000 in our leisure facilities during the year. This has included renovation work in our leisure centres in Amlwch, Holyhead, Llangefni and Menai Bridge.

Economy

Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)

The Council has assessed applications and allocated £16m of UK Government SPF funding to projects that will make a real difference to local communities.

In collaboration with local partners, 25 projects were selected from across Anglesey. Approximately £3m was also earmarked to improve adult numeracy, as part of the UK Government's Multiply programme.

Levelling Up Fund (LUF), Holyhead

Work is ongoing in Holyhead to spend the £22.5m investment to transform the town centre's key cultural and heritage assets, and bring properties back into use, within a very challenging timescale.

There are currently three projects ongoing, namely:

- The extension to the Ucheldre Arts Centre to provide greater capacity and offer a greater programme of events.
- Develop 9 Stanley Street in collaboration with Môn CF to encourage businesses to venture into the town centre and thrive.
- Work with the Town Council to transform the kiosks at Newry Beach to sell food and drink and provide information to visitors.

Further developments are expected over the coming year, and we look forward to continuing to work with our partners on those schemes.

Town Centres

The Anglesey Town Centres Improvement Strategy 2023-28 has been developed and agreed following a public consultation process. SPF Creating Places funding has been secured to implement elements of the strategy and employ two project officers. Welsh Government regeneration funding has also been secured to improve urban properties.

North Anglesey

In Amlwch, four commercial properties have benefited from the new support grant currently being piloted to improve commercial properties.

New Signage Highlighting Amlwch's Heritage

New signage and interpretation boards have been erected around the town to highlight Amlwch's rich industrial heritage. The modern welcome signage, interpretation boards and way-finders will also help to link the town centre with Amlwch Port, Anglesey Coastal Path and nearby Mynydd Parys. The project was developed in partnership between Anglesey County Council and Magnox NDA, with support from Amlwch Town Council.

Arfor Programme

The second phase of the Arfor venture has been established with a £1m fund to support initiatives to support the Welsh language and improve the economy. Anglesey will also benefit from regional schemes such as Llwyddo'n Lleol 2050, Cronfa Her, and Bwrlwm Arfor.

Supporting Rural Communities

SPF funding has been allocated to several projects to support community development schemes across Anglesey. We have lobbied for rural needs through the WLGA's Rural Forum. A strong response has been sent to Welsh Government regarding its 'Sustainable Farming' scheme.

Free Port

The Welsh Government and the UK Government have approved Anglesey's application to be one of Wales's first free ports, with the potential to deliver real change for communities across Anglesey and the wider north Wales region.

The Anglesey Free Port will be developed as a public/private partnership between the County Council and Stena Line - the owners of Holyhead Port and the old Anglesey Aluminium site, and an important local employer in the area for 27 years. The iconic chimney on the site was demolished in March 2024, with a crowd gathering to witness the historic occasion. This is the second step in redeveloping the site for the future, to offer an ideal location for new investments.

We are currently in the process of developing comprehensive business cases for the project, and we look forward to working closely with partners during this next exciting stage.

Penrhos industrial estate expansion completed

The third and final phase of a project to transform a former derelict site into a business park has now been completed. Thirteen new business units have recently been completed and are now available for let following the expansion of Holyhead's Penrhos Industrial Estate. Transformed over the past two years, the site now provides a total of 23 business units.

Wylfa Site Acquisition Welcomed

Confirmation that the UK Government has reached a £160m deal with Hitachi to acquire two sites, including the Wylfa site and that it has a 'vital role' to play in the delivery of the UK's nuclear ambitions has been welcomed.

Now that the Wylfa site will be back in direct control of the UK Government, we hope that this will lead to a firm commitment as to when a development will take place. The Island's communities, particularly those in the North, need clarity and certainty.

Calls for a third Menai crossing

The Executive unanimously backed calls for a third Menai crossing. The Council presented its findings to the Welsh Government's North Wales Transport Commission (NWTC). In addition to resilience and economic prosperity, ensuring robust links with the mainland are crucial so that residents can live their day to day lives - gain access to work, education, health and emergency services. These links also have a key role to play in maintaining Anglesey's connectivity with the rest of the region (and vice versa) and promoting our profile and reputation.

We will continue to press and work with the new Transport Secretary to improve the resilience across the Menai and to resolve the current fragile situation.

The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Beauty Management Plan

The new AONB Management Plan (2023-2028) was prepared during the year. The Isle of Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) encompasses large parts of Anglesey's dramatic coastline. It includes most of the island's cliffs and beaches, and much of the farmland and forests that form the backdrop to the island's coast with a varied and thriving rural and coastal economy.

Destination Management Plan

A new Destination Management Plan 2023 - 2028 was presented to support a collaborative approach to destination management. We need a sustainable visitor economy, that balances the needs of residents, communities, and visitors by maintaining and improving Anglesey's special characteristics, the main reason why people visit the island. We will set up a working group to respond in a collaborative and strategic manner and drive this work forward.

New Visitor Centre at Holyhead

A new, modern visitor centre has been opened at Holyhead's award-winning Breakwater Country Park as part of an all-Wales scheme to create and improve key visitor facilities.

Housing

Here is some data from the housing service for the year:

- 77 empty properties brought back into use
- 4 families resettled under the ARAP scheme
- 790 households contacted the Council as they were in danger of becoming homeless
- 101 households in emergency or temporary accommodation during one week in March

- A Condition Survey has been undertaken on all our properties
- £8m has been spent on upgrading our existing housing stock, including measures to make them energy efficient
- Restoration work has been undertaken at the O'Toole Centre, Holyhead and Financial Inclusion Team

Anglesey Homebuy Scheme

The Anglesey Homebuy Scheme is now utilising the £390,000 of income generated through the second homes premium to help local residents purchase their first home.

Local authorities were given powers to charge a Council Tax Premium on properties that are only occupied from time to time – second homes or long-term empty properties – on 1 April 2017.

The Council has made the best possible use of the premium and funding from Welsh Government. It has already committed nearly £1.5m towards schemes through the council tax premium fund to meet the local demand for housing and to help first time buyers. The Homebuy Scheme builds on this success by providing additional support to local residents in the form of equity loans to purchase a home.

The Council Tax Premium offers a unique opportunity to respond to the current housing crisis. We aim to support local people so that they can live in good quality affordable homes in their own community. We want to ensure that everyone has the right to call somewhere home.

New apartments at Beaumaris

This is the latest council housing development project on the island. It represents our continued commitment to provide affordable social housing to local tenants within the heart of their communities. Increasing our social housing stock is a strategic target that is highlighted in our Housing Strategy Plan (2022 to 2027) and responding to the local housing challenges is one of the Council Plan's strategic objectives in order to ensure that everyone has the right to call somewhere 'home'. The apartments have also been designed to be energy efficient, which compliments the Council's Towards Net Zero Plan (2022 to 2025).

Climate Change

Reducing the carbon footprint of Council assets

The Council's Property Service was successful in attracting low carbon heating grants worth £14M to upgrade and replace heating systems across 27 of our assets. It is envisaged that this work will lead to a substantial reduction in our carbon emissions by moving from fossil fuels to low carbon heating systems (air source heat pumps) for our heating and hot water needs. The Council's success in attracting this substantial investment signifies our commitment to reducing our carbon emissions and the progressive way in which we have taken advantage of opportunities for external funding.

Converting our fleet to electric vehicles in a net zero bid

During the year the Council has continued its journey to convert to electric vehicles.

The Council recently received delivery of two brand new electric skid-steer loaders. Seven vehicles were purchased during the year, bringing the total to 22 - 10% of our fleet is now electric.

Replacing our current diesel vehicles with electric alternatives is an essential step in reaching net zero status. This will help us in our overall aim to reduce CO₂ emissions and reduce running costs.

Expanding Anglesey's public charging network

To encourage citizens and visitors to opt for low carbon travel, the Council has expanded its network of charging points with new charging points at Rhosneigr and Cemaes Bay. It is also encouraging to see an increase in those using the charging network.

Thousands of trees planted to boost Anglesey's net zero aim

Isle of Anglesey County Council is spearheading an innovative project that will see thousands of trees grown on a new tree nursery on the island. The project, led by the Council's AONB team, will see approximately 10,000 native broadleaf trees grown at Gerddi Haulfre in Llangoed every year.

As part of the day to day running of the nursery, the Council will work proactively with a number of local community groups, education centres and clients at Blaen y Coed Resource Centre. 400 trees were also planted in Holyhead along with the creation of new allotments.

The Welsh Language

Status given to the Welsh Language

Including the Welsh language as a strategic aim in the Council Plan 2023-28 was an important step in confirming the Welsh language's status within the Council. Welsh is the natural language of the organisation; our services have been available in Welsh without question for some time, and we have taken great strides over the past few years to increase the use of Welsh in our administration.

Letter of congratulations from the Commissioner

We received a letter from the Welsh Language Commissioner in December congratulating us on meeting our duties in relation to the Welsh language. After carefully gathering detailed evidence, the Commissioner found that we had met with all the requirements assessed by officers during the year. We are proud that a regulator has recognised our commitment to the language giving us assurance that our Welsh language services are of a high quality.

Learning and development

More and more of our officers are interested in learning Welsh and developing their Welsh language skills. The number of Welsh courses doubled this year and thanks to support from the National Centre for Learning Welsh we now offer three classes a week. I would like to thank officers for the progress they have made during the year and wish them well as they take the next steps in their learning journey.

To support officers who are learning Welsh and to help them brush up on their Welsh language skills, the Learning and Development team have created a new dashboard. The aim is to collate all the resources available to assist officers in one convenient place. The dashboard includes information about courses, spelling aids, tips on using more Welsh and much more.

Welsh language promotion group

The group has met regularly during the year to discuss plans to improve our Welsh language services and to increase the use of Welsh in our administration. One of the successes during the year has been the new indicators that we developed to track our progress against our aims.

Working in partnership

It was nice to see Annwen Morgan, our former chief executive and a champion of the language, being appointed chair of Anglesey's Welsh Language Forum. It is important to recognise the exceptional work that is being undertaken by the members to ensure the language remains a living language in our communities. It has been an honour to be able to contribute to the forum's discussions and influential plans and I look forward to continuing the good work under Annwen's leadership.

Along with other public services in north Wales, we undertook innovative research to recruit Welsh speakers and we hope that other organisations will be able to learn from our practices here on Anglesey.

National recognition

Another measure of our success this year was the attention given to our work at national events, including the Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfodd. The Welsh Language Commissioner and the Wales Audit Office consider our plans to promote the Welsh language within the Council and our communities as an example of best practice that should be emulated by others. As Leader, this gives me great pride and confirms that the Council is leading in this field.

Closing remarks

The report mainly concentrates on the work undertaken locally, but it is important to note that I have also contributed to regional work through the Regional Leadership Board and the Ambition Board in my role as Leader. Also, on a national level I lead the Plaid Cymru Group within the WLGA and I am also the WLGA spokesperson for social services. This adds to our ability as a Council to influence and contribute on a regional and national level.

But it must be noted that Local Government across the country are facing an uncertain future following more than a decade of cuts. The services we are responsible for are vitally important to the fabric of our country, but the Government insists on cuts year after year. Despite this, we as an Authority are able to care for the older generation and educate the next on a daily basis, and we are fighting for a fair economy and equal society and for the Welsh language.

I am extremely fortunate to be writing my seventh report as leader. Each one has been different with several successes to be proud of. Despite all the challenges, once again this

year the Council's staff have proved able to do the best for the island. I would like to thank my Group and fellow members who have ensured our successes throughout the year. But above all, I would like to thank the Council's staff who serve on our behalf. It is a great privilege to be the Leader of the best Council in Wales!

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
REPORT TO:	County Council
DATE:	21st May 2024
REPORT TITLE:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24
REPORT BY:	Chairs of the: 1. Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2. Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	Report on the work of both scrutiny committees during 2023/24 and provide an overview of the scrutiny work programme for 2024/25
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	Not applicable
DIRECTOR / HEAD OF SERVICE:	Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer
REPORT AUTHOR:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager AnwenDavies@ynysmon.llyw.cymru 07971167198
LOCAL MEMBERS:	Applicable to all Scrutiny Members

1. Recommendations

Full Council is requested to:

R1 Approve the Scrutiny and Overview Annual Report for 2023/24

R2 Note the continued progress made in implementing our Scrutiny journey and the impact this is having on practice

R3 Appoint the chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee as the Scrutiny Champion for the period May 2024 to May 2025.

2. Background and Context

2.1 This Annual Report on Overview and Scrutiny encompasses the work undertaken by the two scrutiny committees between May 2023 and May 2024.

2.2 The chairs of both scrutiny committees led on developing the forward work programmes during this period. The scrutiny committees' forward work programmes are submitted to regular meetings of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice- chairs Forum and for approval at every meeting of the scrutiny committees.

2.3 Whilst the impact and value of scrutiny activity continues to make a meaningful contribution to the Council's corporate priorities through support and challenge, the Local Authority is of the view that it is now timely to complete a review of current scrutiny arrangements. This external review is ongoing at the time of writing this report with the findings and recommendations scheduled to be available by August, 2024. Any recommendations will be translated into a development programme and progress monitored by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Champion

3.1 The Scrutiny Champion has an important role in promoting the overview and scrutiny function both within the Council and also with external partners of the Authority. It is not a mandatory or remunerated position. The role is considered key in demonstrating the Authority's commitment to ensuring that Scrutiny maximises the contribution of Non-Executive Members to the organisation's overall performance and "corporate health.

3.2 On 14th May 2015, the Council resolved that the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be appointed as Scrutiny champion for the period May 2015 to May 2016 and thereafter that the role of the Champion should alternate between the two scrutiny committee chairs. The Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee should therefore be appointed as the designated Scrutiny Champion for the forthcoming year.

Appendix:
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24

Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report: 2023-24



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3	Key local themes for Scrutiny
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Appendix 2	Remit and membership of our Scrutiny Committees
Appendix 3	Vision for Delivering Effective Scrutiny in the Council

1. FOREWORD

Councillor Douglas Massie Fowlie

- **Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2023/24**



It is with pleasure that I provide an overview of the work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee over the last 12 months. The scope of work of the Committee is discussed in this report and it is fair to note that the workload continues to be considerable and varied. A total of 9 meetings were convened during the municipal year:

- **Annual budget setting 2024/25** – one of the main responsibilities of the Committee is to contribute to the process of setting the Council’s annual budget. This is a crucial part of our corporate governance arrangements, having a far-reaching impact on every service area of the Council as well as the public. The Committee considered both the initial draft budget proposals and also the final draft budget for 2024/25 with a significant contribution by the Finance Scrutiny Panel again this year – with the Panel completing in-depth scrutiny of both the revenue and capital budget proposals on behalf of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- **Council Plan: 2023-2028** – Members scrutinised a number of key strategic plans which when implemented will enable the Local Authority to realise the 6 key strategic objectives of the Council Plan for 2023-2028. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the following plans:
 - Annual Delivery Document: 2023/24
 - Empty Homes Strategic Plan
 - Tenant Participation Strategic Plan
 - Asset Management Strategic Plan (Housing)
 - Asset Management Strategic Plan
 - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan
 - Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language

The Committee recommended that these strategic plans be adopted, providing a clear direction for the Council’s strategic priorities for the next five years.

- **Quarterly Performance Monitoring** – the Committee monitored performance on a quarterly basis throughout 2023/24, using the corporate scorecard which reports on an extensive range of indicators across all service areas. The scorecard continues to evolve as an effective method for Elected Members to scrutinise performance and data across all Council services. In January 2024, the Committee established a Scrutiny task and finish group to examine local performance of the Housing Service against KPI 29 (the average number of calendar days to let lettable units of accommodation - excluding Difficult to Lets). The outcome of the Scrutiny work is scheduled to be reported at the beginning of the next financial year (June 2024).
- Our work as a committee also included monitoring and scrutinising of the Annual Performance Report 2022/23. This is a core element of the Scrutiny Committee’s work.
- **Housing Services** – The Committee scrutinised the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024-54

which sets the direction for developing and maintaining the Authority's council housing stock. Members focused specifically on the following themes – alignment with the Council's wider strategic priorities (Council Plan: 2023-2028); affordability of the expansion programme to increase the Local Authority's housing stock; supply of sufficient accommodation for vulnerable adults and families and the risks related to the need for sufficient internal and external capacity to deliver the schemes. The Committee recommended the business plan for adoption by the Council.

- **Social Services** – finally, in November 2023 Members scrutinised progress in realising the development plans for the Children and Families Services and the Adults Services. Consideration was given to the Post Performance Evaluation Inspection Action Plan (routine inspection of performance in the Social Services by Care Inspectorate Wales). At the end of the civic year, the Committee looked in detail at the Corporate Parenting Strategy before it was considered by the Executive in the Spring. The Committee recommended that the strategy be adopted as providing a clear direction for the Council to meet its statutory commitments towards looked after children and young people.

I acknowledge the work done by the Finance Scrutiny Panel and the Social Services Scrutiny Panel and thank all Committee Members and officers who have assisted during 2023/24. I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank the Vice-chair, Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones, for his support during the past 12 months.

Councillor Douglas Massie Fowlie
(Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)

Councillor Dylan Rees

- **Chair of Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 2023/24**
- **Scrutiny Champion → 2023/24**



I believe that the scrutiny process plays a key role in the corporate governance arrangements of the Council – by holding decision makers to account, challenging in a constructive way and ensuring that the voice of the public and the community is heard as part of the decision-making process. Our Public Speaking Protocol in Scrutiny Committees is testimony to the Council's commitment and formalises the process for the public to express their views at Scrutiny Committee meetings.

I would like to thank Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Committee for their contributions and commitment to the work of the Committee which has made an important contribution in terms of fulfilling the Council Plan and in maintaining standards of our public services.

It gives me great pleasure to provide an overview of the Committee's work over the past 12 months. The Committee has made fair, robust recommendations to the Executive on a number of key topics and service areas during this period as well as the work of the Authority's partners:

- **Welsh Language** - the Partnership & Re-generation Scrutiny Committee looked at one of the six strategic objectives of the Council Plan for 2023-2028 namely the Welsh Language. The Welsh language is an integral part of our identity, culture and heritage and we have a responsibility to ensure that it continues to develop and thrive. We want to see an increase in the number of people on Anglesey who can speak Welsh and in the number of people who use the language on a daily basis. The areas in particular which were scrutinised by Members include the following -
 - I. Welsh Standards Annual Report: 2022/23
 - II. Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022/23 - Measuring Progress
 - III. Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
- **Modernising Day Opportunities: Learning Opportunities (Holyhead area)** - the Scrutiny Committee looked at the proposals to modernise and transform day opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities in the Holyhead area. Members considered proposals to integrate service users within the community and respond to the aspirations of people who attend activities (in order to deliver better outcomes for service users). This will allow the Service to continue to transform and modernise the way in which day services are provided across the Island.
- **Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board** - an additional meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee was convened in November 2023 to welcome the Chair of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. The meeting was the forum for a positive, constructive dialogue with the Health Board focusing on the following key areas of collaboration:
 - ✓ Health Board Improvement Programme – high level overview

- ✓ Resilience of Community Clinical Services on the Isle of Anglesey
- ✓ Joint Working between the Health Board and Isle of Anglesey County Council Adults' Services

The Committee asked relevant primary and supplementary scrutiny questions resulting in constructive scrutiny of a key strategic partner to the Local Authority. A tangible outcome has been confirmation of an agreement for the Health Board to return on an annual basis.

- **Council Plan: 2023-2028** – Members scrutinised a number of key strategic plans which when implemented will enable the Local Authority to realise the 6 key strategic objectives of the Council Plan for 2023-2028. To that end, the Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the following plans-
 - i. Public Participation Strategic Plan
 - ii. Waste and Recycling Strategic Plan
 - iii. Equalities Strategic Plan
 - iv. Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan
- **Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board (PSB)** – The Committee leads on scrutinising the work of the Board, which is a partnership between Gwynedd and Anglesey. This includes scrutinising the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan, governance arrangements and the Annual Report. During the 2023/24 civic year, Members carefully considered the Board's annual report: 2022/23 and examples of quality scrutiny work were seen with Members asking how the Board addresses slippages in individual work streams.
- **Ambition North Wales** – the Committee scrutinised the quarterly monitoring reports and raised appropriate questions concerning progress against the projects that are underway e.g., what mitigation measures will be in place to address any slippage and how will the potential risk of over-expenditure in individual projects be managed. This is the designated Committee for scrutinising the work of Ambition North Wales – an essential role to ensure the maximum economic benefits for North Wales and Anglesey in particular.
- **Education Scrutiny** – Members added value through scrutinising key areas of education services on the Isle of Anglesey with the Education Scrutiny Panel looking in detail at some priority areas –
 - i. An Integrated Joint Working Model for Anglesey (Children in Care)
 - ii. NEST - The mental health and wellbeing framework
 - iii. Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Legislation
 - iv. Schools in a Category, Estyn Follow Up or Receiving Additional Support
 - v. GwE Annual Report for Anglesey: 2022/23

During the year, the Committee received the latest information about standards in schools on Anglesey, along with the assurance that improvement measures are in place, as well as appropriate support, for schools that raise concerns.

The above summary shows how the work of the Scrutiny Committee has provided added value to the decision-making process of the Council during the last 12 months. However, I believe that even more value can be added if all members of the Committee play their part. Attendance at meetings from some Members has been poor and this concern has been raised in meetings of the Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-chairs Forum.

I would like to thank members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

and Members of the Education Scrutiny Panel for working effectively as a team over the past year. Members have successfully adapted to ensure that the scrutiny function remains hybrid and undertaking scrutiny in an innovative way, maximising time of officers and Elected Members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my Vice-chair, Councillor Gwilym Owen Jones, for the invaluable support he has provided me with.

Lastly, I would like to thank officers from the Scrutiny Team for their leadership, support, and willingness to assist at all times.

Councillor Dylan Rees
(Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)

Modernising Arrangements for Convening Meetings

1.1 Since June, 2022 and in line with the statutory requirements¹, a hybrid solution is in place which facilitates multi-location meetings in the Council Chamber and Committee Room. These arrangements ensure that the Council fully complies with the requirements of the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021. At the time of writing this report, meetings of our 3 scrutiny panels continue to be convened virtually in the main.

1.2 Both Scrutiny Committees met regularly and completed the priority scrutiny work during 2023/24. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee has undertaken successful scrutiny, ensuring that the Council achieves its corporate objectives and its service objectives. The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has scrutinised some key partnerships and has fully complied with all statutory requirements. Capacity in Democratic Services did however hinder the development of a broader programme of partnership scrutiny (beyond our statutory obligations). Those capacity issues have been addressed and planning is now underway in order to ensure that this broader scrutiny work is fully realised during 2024/25 and beyond.

Training and Development Opportunities

1.3 The Authority successfully delivered a corporate induction training programme following the 2022 Election. This was followed by a bespoke training programme for Elected Members who sit on scrutiny committees and panels. The training and development programme is ongoing and provides opportunities to self-evaluate the impact of Member scrutiny work on our corporate governance arrangements.

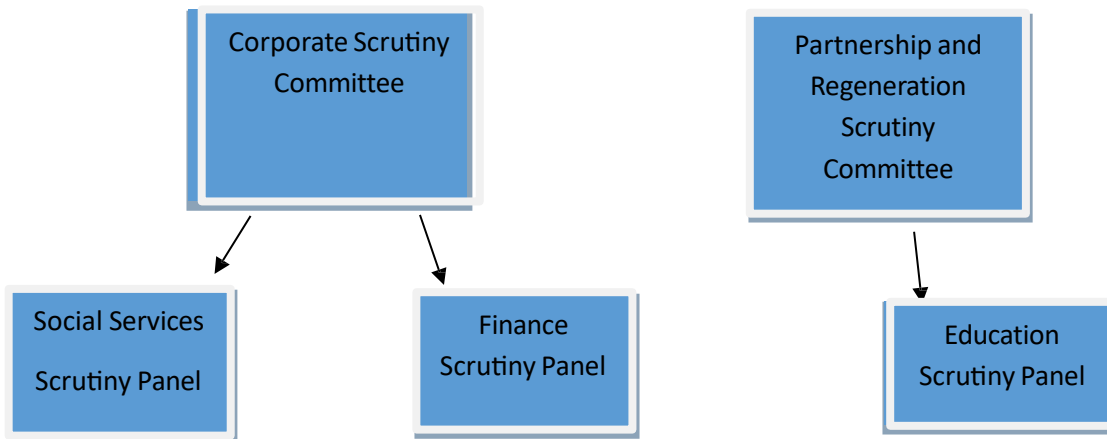
1.4 We will review our Member training programme again when the outcomes of the current review of scrutiny arrangements are available in order to ensure that the conditions are created for continuous improvement and robust scrutiny by Elected Members.

2 OUR LOCAL STRUCTURE

Scrutiny committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. Their prime role is to hold the decision-makers to account, drive improvement, be a critical friend, act as the voice of the community and play a role in policy development and review. A summary of the national policy context is outlined in **APPENDIX 1**.

1 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

2.1 Our local structure comprises of 2 scrutiny committees and three panels:



The remit and membership of our scrutiny committees are summarised in **APPENDIX 2**.

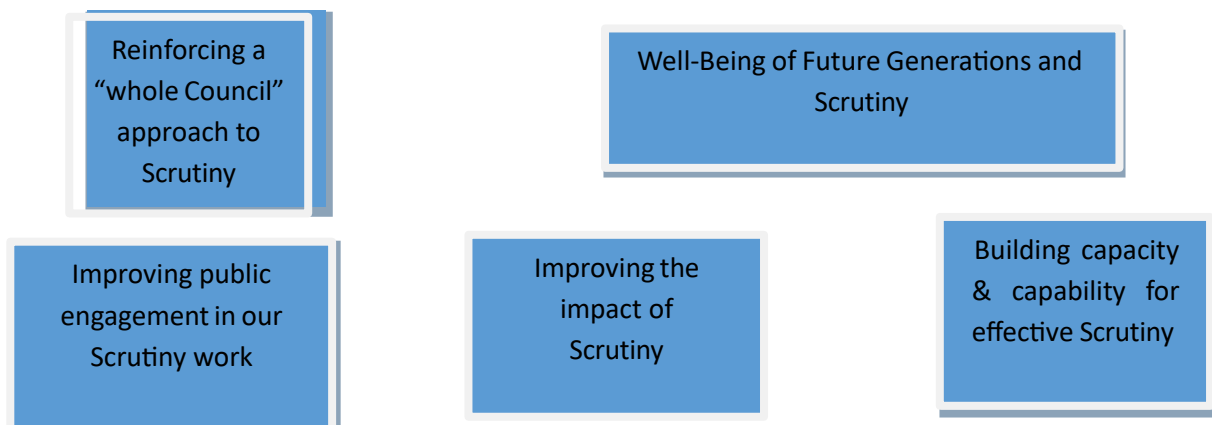
3 KEY LOCAL THEMES FOR SCRUTINY

3.1 Key Themes

Our local scrutiny work streams have prioritised key themes (which are summarised below), in order to provide a robust framework to:

- Clarify the role and contribution of Scrutiny in the governance arrangements of the Council.
- Identify the actions required in the short and medium term in order to further improve Scrutiny within the context of the post Pandemic period and current legislative requirements.

KEY LOCAL THEMES FOR SCRUTINY



4. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SCRUTINY

4.1 MEASURING OUTPUTS

A number of significant **outputs** were achieved by Scrutiny during the last municipal year which go some way in assisting us to assess the impact that the function has had locally:

4.1.1 Committee meetings – a total of 19 scrutiny committee meetings were convened during 2023/24:

There are also robust arrangements in place to ensure feedback at meetings of the Executive by scrutiny committee chairs on matters that have been considered by both

Committee	Number of Meetings Convened
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	9
Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	10

committees.

4.1.2 Scrutiny Panel meetings – there have been regular meetings of all 3 scrutiny panels over the past 12 months:

These panels have been embedded into practice by:

Panel	Number of meetings convened
Social Services Scrutiny Panel	9
Finance Scrutiny Panel	9
Education Scrutiny Panel	10

- ✚ Putting in place robust governance arrangements to support each panel
- ✚ Ensuring a clear focus / remit and work programme for each panel
- ✚ Introducing a reporting / escalation process ensuring that the work of scrutiny panels is reported regularly to the two Parent Committees, with Chairs of the Panels proposing recommendations when appropriate
- ✚ Ensuring an appropriate pace for the work of the panels which is in line with corporate priorities and also complete detailed scrutiny on the Council's all important subjects.

4.1.3 Forward work programmes – there is a well-established practice of forward work programming in place to underpin the work of both scrutiny committees. These programmes are an important tool in assisting scrutiny committee members to prioritise their work and are discussed regularly with the Leadership Team and Heads of Service.

Both committees and the 3 panels review the content of their forward work programmes on a regular basis in order to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements ensure focus on:

- i. Strategic aspects
- ii. Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
- iii. Priorities of the 2023-2028 Council Plan
- iv. Risks
- v. Work of audit, inspection and regulation
- vi. Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.

4.1.4 Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum – is well established and continues to meet regularly. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee the scrutiny committee work programmes and jointly negotiate priorities with the Scrutiny Committees' Chairs and Vice-chairs. It also takes lead responsibility for developing and continuously improving the overview and scrutiny function in the Council. The role of the Forum has also evolved to include conversations between the Executive (Leader), Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny and Leadership Team (Chief Executive) to ensure better alignment between work programmes across the work of the Authority.

4.1.5 Development, training and support for Members –




- ✓ Elected Members received Scrutiny specific training and development inputs in light of the 2022 local Election (Introduction to Scrutiny; Chairing Scrutiny Committees; Effective Scrutiny / Questioning Strategies; technology – upskilling Members with the aim of ensuring that all can participate effectively in multi-location meetings). The priority during 2023/24 has been a focus on training and development inputs:
 - i. for individuals new to their role (Co-opted Members and officers supporting Member Scrutiny)
 - ii. a continued focus on technology (upskilling Members)

- ✓ convening monthly briefing sessions to share information / raise awareness regarding key issues (eg Green Waste Collection, North Wales Police – engagement with the Local Policing Team; Modernising Day Opportunities (Learning Disabilities) and Education Eco-System (partnership working in education). Also, as a forum for Member self-evaluation / reflection on the performance of Scrutiny.






4.1.6 Scrutiny across a broader base – a broader approach to Member scrutiny has been further developed and consolidated during 2023/24 by:

- i. Effective forward planning to ensure alignment between topics discussed at Member briefing sessions, scrutiny panels and full scrutiny committee meetings.
- ii. Ensuring clarity of role for Members on corporate programme boards and ensuring robust, timely high level reporting to scrutiny committees, escalating slippage as required.
- iii. Developing a breadth of topics discussed at Member briefing sessions in support of Scrutiny and ensuring information available to Members on strategic and transformation topics.

4.1.7 “Closing the Scrutiny circle” – by having in place robust arrangements to:

- i. Report on progress or escalate issues from:
 -  Scrutiny panels to parent committees
 -  Scrutiny committees to the Executive
 -  Corporate programme boards to scrutiny committees.
- ii. Enable and encourage self-analysis and reflection by Scrutiny Members in order to identify strengths and areas for further development / focus.

4.1.8 Scrutiny & Wellbeing of Future Generations – developing the role of Scrutiny by:

-  Ensuring Members focus on the 5 ways of working to frame questions²
-  Introducing a revised scrutiny report template, placing wellbeing of future generations at its core
-  Raising awareness and providing information in Member briefing and development sessions
-  Reviewing progress made in developing the role of scrutiny against best practice
-  Putting in place a framework to scrutinise the Public Services Board and other key partnerships.

4.1.9 Citizen engagement /participation in scrutiny – ensure the voice of citizens is heard in local decision making, e.g. the Protocol for Public Speaking in Scrutiny Committees is a key element of our corporate governance arrangements. Meetings of both Scrutiny Committees are broadcast live and a recording is kept on the Council website for 12 months. Committee meetings are publicised on the Council’s social network platforms. At the time of writing this report, we are reviewing our arrangements for promoting citizen and stakeholder engagement in scrutiny. The findings of this review will form part of a scrutiny development plan and implementation will be monitored by the Scrutiny Chairs / Vice-chairs Forum.

² Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration, Involvement (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)

4.2 MEASURING OUTCOMES

Capturing and assessing the impact of Scrutiny is a challenge to achieve as the **outcomes** of overview and scrutiny activities are not always tangible and often do not easily lend themselves to being measured in a systematic, methodical way. Also, it is not easy to measure the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny function's ability to influence decision makers through discussion and debate. There are however some examples where the input of scrutiny has added value and / or influenced the way in which proposals have been implemented by the Council.

The foreword to the report summarises the main highlights of the Council's scrutiny work during the last municipal year. This included scrutinising and providing observations on the Council's main strategic plans, including the Council Plan 2023-28. The Council's outcomes and performance monitoring arrangements were also scrutinised along with budget proposals for 2024-25.

The Local Authority has commissioned an external review of its current scrutiny structure and arrangements with the fieldwork scheduled to be completed by August, 2024. This review will also consider:

- i. best in class practice and will benchmark against other organisations in order to provide a robust set of recommendations in moving forward
- ii. measuring outcomes and impact of Member scrutiny as an integral part of practice.

5.0 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024/25

The outcomes of the external review commissioned of current scrutiny arrangements will form the basis of the next chapter in the local development journey. Without pre-empting the outcome of the review, it is anticipated that the development programme will be crystallised under the following key themes:

KEY SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT THEMES

Theme	How	Outcome ³
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements	Better outcomes

³ Outcomes and Characteristics for Effective Local Government Overview and Scrutiny – Good Scrutiny? Good Question!

Theme	How	Outcome³
Scrutiny Structure and Governance Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better decisions</i>
Member Development and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better decisions</i>
Citizen engagement and Participation in our Scrutiny work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better engagement</i>
Well-being of Future Generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better outcomes</i>

Theme	How	Outcome³
Partnership Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better engagement</i>
Innovative models of Member Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better decisions, better outcomes and better engagement</i>
Alignment and Ownership of Scrutiny Work Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better decisions, better outcomes</i>
Continuous self-assessment of our local scrutiny arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better outcomes</i>
Closing the Scrutiny Circle and Alignment with Corporate Transformation Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better decisions, better outcomes, better engagement</i>
Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail to be informed by the findings of the external review of scrutiny arrangements 	<i>Better decisions, better outcomes</i>

6. CONTACT SCRUTINY

6.1 To find out more about scrutiny in Anglesey or to give your views please contact:

Scrutiny Unit,
Isle of Anglesey County Council,
Council Offices.
Llangefni, Anglesey,
LL777TW

Anwen Davies	Scrutiny Manager	07971 167198 AnwenDavies@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
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Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report: 2023/24

APPENDICES

WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY?

National policy context

National context:

Scrutiny committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. As well as establishing a decision-making executive, the Local Government Act 2000 requires one or more scrutiny committees. Their primary role is to hold decision-makers to account, drive improvement, act as the voice of the community and play a role in policy development and review.

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)⁴ advocates four key principles in support of effective Member scrutiny:

- i. Provide “critical friend” challenge to executive policy makers and other decision makers
- ii. Enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard
- iii. Be carried out by “independent minded governors” who lead and own the scrutiny process
- iv. Is evidence based and drives improvement in public services.

⁴Good Scrutiny Guide, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny 2004

APPENDIX 2

REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF OUR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The overview and scrutiny function at the Isle of Anglesey County Council continues to be delivered through a structure comprising of two parent scrutiny committees - Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Remit:

- The focus of work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is to provide assurance regarding the performance and delivery of all services; ensure the council achieves its corporate and service objectives (as outlined in the Corporate Plan, Annual Budget, Budget and Policy Framework, Performance Management Framework, Corporate Policies or their successor plans and policies); and to support and make recommendations for continuous improvement.
- Members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee hold preparation meetings in advance of committee meetings in order to prepare and focus discussion at the formal meetings of the committee. This is regarded as good practice and it is intended to ensure these arrangements are in place for 2024/25.

Membership

- The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Councillor Douglas Massie Fowlie and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones. Twelve Elected Members sit on the committee⁵ with provision for 4 co-opted members:

Membership of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Elected Members

Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
------	------	-----------------------

Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
------	------	-----------------------



Cllr Geraint
ap Ifan Bebb

Cefni

Plaid Cymru



Cllr
Alwen
Watkin

Bodowyr

Plaid Cymru



Cllr Ieuan
Williams

Lligwy

Anglesey
Independents



Cllr Arfon
Wyn

Bro Aberffraw

Plaid Cymru



Cllr Dyfed
Wyn Jones
(Vice-
Chair)

Aethwy

Plaid Cymru



Cllr Sonia
Williams

Aethwy

Plaid Cymru



Cllr Jackie
Lewis

Talybolion

Plaid Cymru



Cllr Keith
Roberts

Ynys Gybi

Welsh Labour



Cllr Llio A
Owen

Talybolion

Plaid Cymru



Cllr
Robert
Llewelyn
Jones
(Chair)

Parc a'r
Mynydd

Anglesey
Independents



Cllr Aled M. Jones

Twrcelyn

Anglesey Independents



Cllr Douglas Fowlie (Chair)

Crigyll

Anglesey Independents

Co-opted Members



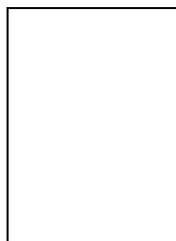
Mr John Tierney
Representing: The Roman Catholic Church in Wales



Mrs Wenda Owen
Representing: The Church in Wales



Mrs Gillian Thompson
Representing: /Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector



Vacant Seat: Parent Governor – Secondary Schools Sector and ALN)

Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Remit:








- The primary focus of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is to ensure that the interests of the citizens of the Island are promoted and that best use is made of Council resources, in line with the Council's priorities, that demonstrate added value from working with partners. The remit of the Committee includes regional and national arrangements as well as local arrangements.
- The Committee is also the nominated Crime and Disorder Committee dealing with crime and disorder matters, as required under Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. It is also the designated committee for scrutinising the work of the Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Public Services Board.
- The Committee has introduced a practice of holding briefing meetings with Members prior to each formal scrutiny committee meeting. This is regarded as good practice and it is intended to continue with these arrangements in 2024/25.

Membership:

- The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee was chaired by Councillor Dylan Rees and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Gwilym Owen Jones. Twelve members also sit on this committee with provision for 4 co-opted members:

Membership of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Elected Members

	Name	Ward	Political Party/Group		Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
	Cllr Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair)	Bro'r Llynnoedd	The Independent Group		Cllr Margaret Roberts	Lligwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Non Dafydd	Canolbarth Môn	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Paul Ellis	Canolbarth Môn	Anglesey Independents
	Cllr Eurn Morris	Lligwy	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Jeff Evans	Tref Cybi	Anglesey Independents
	Cllr Sonia Williams	Aethwy	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Derek Owen	Twrcelyn	Anglesey Independents
	Cllr Ken Taylor	Bro'r Llynnoedd	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Pip O'Neill	Tref Cybi	Welsh Labour

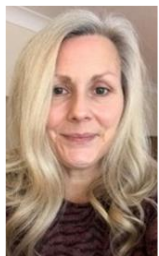
Co-opted Members



Mr John Tierney
Representing: The Roman Catholic
Church in Wales



Mrs Wenda Owen
Representing: The Church in Wales



Mrs Gillian Thompson
Representing: Parent Governors – Primary
Schools Sector



Vacant Seat: Parent Governor – Secondary Schools
Sector and Additional Learning Needs

Our scrutiny committees can undertake their work in one of the following ways:

- Consider a topic during a formal meeting
- Consider a topic in more detail by establishing a scrutiny outcome panel OR
- Conduct informal sessions on a particular area of policy.

Again during 2023/24, the scrutiny committees were aware of the need to seek to focus their work on outcomes and within the Audit Wales framework of characteristics and outcomes for effective local government overview and scrutiny⁶:

- Better outcomes
- Better decisions
- Better engagement

Call-in of decisions: Scrutiny committees can “call-in” a decision taken by either the Executive, Portfolio Holder or an officer to whom the Executive has delegated with a specific decision making power. The scrutiny committees only exercise a “call-in” when there is good reason to do so (through a Test of Significance), and during 2023/24 this was not exercised.

⁶ Good Scrutiny? Good Question!, Wales Audit Office, 2014

APPENDIX 3

A vision for delivering effective scrutiny in Isle of Anglesey County Council

Vision

Scrutiny on the Isle of Anglesey aims to secure better outcomes for citizens and communities and add to the effectiveness of the Local Authority by helping make public services more transparent, inclusive, accountable and cost effective.

Our Guiding Principles for Scrutiny on Anglesey

- Scrutiny is characterised by an atmosphere of mutual trust, co-operation and shared responsibility for achieving the best outcomes for local communities on the Isle of Anglesey
- Scrutiny Members are non-political in carrying out their support and challenge roles
- Scrutiny activity directly broadens the evidence base for decisions and transformational change by providing a view on how proposals are likely to be received by local communities.
- Scrutiny Members help ensure that a strategic, long term approach is taken when major service strategies are being considered by providing constructive challenge in testing assumptions, looking at risk and challenging how resources are prioritised.

Our Values

Scrutiny on the Isle of Anglesey....

- Is forward and outward thinking and proactive (rather than inwards and reactive)
- has a clearly defined and valued role in the Council's governance and improvement arrangements.
- Is non-political and incorporates a wide range of evidence and perspectives including those from strategic partners, regulators and the public.
- Is led by Elected Members who have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively.
- Receives effective support from the Council's Leadership Team who ensures that information provided to Scrutiny is of high quality and

provided in a timely and consistent manner.

- Takes into account concerns expressed at ward level in a non-parochial way when managing the forward work programme.
- Is well planned, chaired effectively and makes best use of the resources available to it.
- Is recognised by the Executive and Leadership Team as an important Council mechanism for community engagement and facilitates greater citizen involvement in governance.
- Builds trust and positive relationships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	FULL COUNCIL
Date:	21 MAY 2024
Subject:	Asset Management Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029
Portfolio Holder(s):	Dafydd Rhys Thomas - Portfolio Holder – Highways, Waste and Property
Head of Service / Director:	Huw Percy Head of Highways, Waste and Property
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Meilir Hughes, Chief Asset and Property Officer meilirhughes@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	Relevant to all Elected Members
A –Recommendation/s and reason/s	
<p>Recommendation: The Executive is requested to recommend the Asset Management Strategic Plan 2024-2029 to the full Council for its formal approval.</p> <p>Better asset management delivers better assets, in the right locations, drives efficiency and limits waste. In turn the assets provide the best possible support to local communities, improve the way public services are delivered, and make those services more accessible.</p> <p>The Asset Management Strategic Plan 2024-2029 builds on the last few years’ work programmes that has guided investment priorities and portfolio management decisions. It sets out the direction of travel for the next 5 years.</p> <p>The purpose of the Asset Management Strategic Plan is to ensure that the Council has a financially and environmentally sustainable asset portfolio, rationalized to be fit for purpose and safe for the delivery of services.</p> <p>In order to deliver that Purpose, we will address the following four Key Priority Areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitability – a smaller portfolio, improved condition, safe and accessible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rationalised portfolio • The right properties in the right locations • Properties that are accessible and safe for everyone • Properties in good condition (with budgetary constraints acknowledged) 2. Sustainability – reduced carbon footprint, increased financial efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce our carbon footprint • Financially sustainable 3. Collaboration – joined up thinking to deliver economic, environmental and social objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and manage properties as a corporate resource to achieve the Council’s vision and strategic objectives. 4. Data driven – proactive planning, clarity and transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive planning based on data 	

- Clarity and transparency

The Asset Management Strategic Plan is linked to a number of other plans and strategies. They include: -

- The Council Plan
- The Capital Strategy
- The Net Zero Carbon Reduction Strategy;
- The Leisure Improvement Strategy;
- The Modernising Learning Communities and Developing Welsh Language Strategy.

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

No other options were considered as officers consider that the production and adoption of an Asset Management Strategic Plan essential to the delivery of the Council Plan. A current Asset Management Strategic Plan is also considered a key document by both CIPFA and the RICS.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

In accordance with and the Council's Constitution, the Executive is requested to consider the Asset Management Strategic Plan and recommend its approval to the full Council.

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?		
The full Council's approval of the Strategic Plan will be sought in due course.		
D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?		
There are no direct and immediate budgetary implications. Further decisions may be sought in due course.		
Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	This Strategic Plan sets out the strategic direction and principles that will guide our Asset Management decision-making and processes for the period until 2029. and decision to achieve its long-term objectives as set out in the Council Plan.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	The Strategic Plan sets out a strategic direction and principles to improve the Council's property portfolio's financial sustainability.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	The Strategic Plan sets out a strategic direction and principles to build on and improve existing collaboration between Council Services and with external partners. Going forward, it is envisaged that the Council will work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders to include Welsh Government, other public bodies and communities on specific projects and buildings.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	No, this is a strategic document without reference to individual properties and communities. Going forward, it is envisaged that the Council will engage directly with communities about specific projects and buildings.
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	The Strategic Plan sets out a strategic direction and principles that will improve properties' accessibility and safety for everyone. Going forward, Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken when considering specific projects and buildings.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	The Strategic Plan sets out a strategic direction and principles to build on and improve existing collaboration between Council Services and with external partners to

		<p>The Strategic Plan sets out a strategic direction and principles to build on and improve existing collaboration between Council Services and with external partners to efficiently deliver services. Going forward, Impact Assessments will be undertaken when considering specific projects and buildings.</p>
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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.	The Strategic Plan sets out a strategic direction and principles to improve the Council's property portfolio's financial sustainability. Improved sustainability will help to maintain local communities in the long term, which will have a beneficial effect on the Welsh language.
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.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Comments from the Section 151 Officer. have been incorporated into the 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)	No direct impact on staff.
5	Property	N/A The Property Section have authored the Strategy.
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	N / A
7	Scrutiny	TBC
8	Local Members	Proposals are applicable to all Members.
9	Any external bodies / other/s	N/A
F - Appendices:		
Appendix 1 – Asset Management Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
Council Plan 2023 – 2028		

Ynys Môn

THE ISLE OF

Anglesey

Asset Management Strategic Plan

2024 – 2029



This is the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Asset Management Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2029. It is available on our website:

www.anglesey.gov.wales

If you require this publication in another format and/or language, or have any questions about its contents, please contact:

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Council Offices

Llangefni

LL77 7TW

Tel:

Email:

We welcome calls and correspondence in Welsh and English. Using Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Foreword



Councillor Llinos Medi
Council Leader



Dylan Williams
Chief Executive

The Council is currently facing significant asset management challenges;

- our assets are aging
- their condition is deteriorating
- the burden of legislative compliance is intensifying
- the commitment to become a net zero council
- increasing public expectations
- the lack of sufficient capital funding
- increasing public expectations

The Council's capital requirement to modernise and upgrade existing assets and to deliver on its strategic objectives is in excess of £300m over the next 5 years. Whilst the Council takes pride in its assets, the void between ambition and the ability to deliver (due to increased costs and budget pressures) is growing.

Investment in the Council's property assets is essential from a social, economic, environmental and community perspective. In the current financial climate, it is important that decisions are evidence based, address the short and long-term risks faced by the Council and are affordable. This is a significant challenge.

The Asset Management Strategic Plan is driven by the Council Plan 2023-2028 and the Capital Strategic Plan 2024-2029. Together, the plans will ensure that asset management decisions are taken in a planned way that allows the Council to achieve its key strategic objectives whilst ensuring that the long-term viability of the Council is not put at risk.

Purpose of the Asset Management Strategic Plan

The Council's vision for 2023-2028 is to create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.

The purpose of the Asset Management Strategic Plan is to ensure that the Council has a financially and environmentally sustainable asset portfolio, rationalized to be fit for purpose and safe for the delivery of services.

The condition, safety, suitability, accessibility and sustainability of Operational Assets (schools, leisure centres, care homes, public toilets and so on) have a direct bearing on the delivery of front-line services to the Island's communities.

The way in which management of Investment (or Non-Operational) Assets (Industrial Estates, Smallholdings and other let property) has an impact on the income generated and costs incurred which has a direct bearing on the Council's financial position.

It is therefore important that these assets continue to be managed in a proactive and efficient way.

This high-level strategic document has a five-year lifespan and will provide the framework for ensuring there is a strategic, corporate and co-ordinated approach to the management of our assets, in line with the Council Plan.

It is important to note that whilst the purpose of this Strategic Plan and the principles within are well established, the information we hold about our portfolio is not complete. Information collection and processing is therefore a key workstream that is already underway.

The Council's Assets

The Council has a varied portfolio of assets.

These assets contribute to the delivery of services; however, they require substantial revenue and capital funding to run and maintain.

The management of these assets are informed by legislative and statutory obligations.

Type of Asset	Number	Type of Asset	Number	Type of Asset	Number
Primary Schools	39	Youth Clubs	1	Vehicles*	200
Secondary Schools	5	Industrial Units	68	Social Housing*	3,953
Canolfan Addysg y Bont	1	Retail Sites	20	Carriageway*	1,188 km
Offices	2	Community Centres	8	Footway*	661 km
Museums and Archives	2	Other Educational Establishments	3	Cycleways*	211 km
Libraries	7	Sundry Property	8	Structures*	539
Residential Care Homes	5	Maritime Sites	7	Lighting*	20,014 lights
Children's Care Homes (Cartrefi Clyd)	3	Moorings	468	Drainage*	28,064
Day Care Centres	4	Parks & Open Spaces	47	Non Illuminated Signs*	7,629
Leisure Centres	4			Other Highway Assets*	9,239
Public Conveniences	22				
Smallholdings (5,845 acres)	75				

* Beyond the scope of the Asset Management Strategic Plan

Council Plan 2023-2028

The Asset Management Strategic Plan is closely linked to the Council plan and its vision. The Council Plan is the key document serving as a focal point for decision-making at all levels; providing a framework to plan and drive forward priorities; shape annual spending; monitor performance and progress.

At its core is our desire to work with Anglesey residents, communities and partners to ensure the best possible services, improve the quality of life for all and create opportunities for future generations.

The Council Plan's vision is to:

Its six main objectives reflect the key areas the Council should be focusing its efforts on.

Page 97
Create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.'




The Welsh Language

Increasing opportunities to learn and use the language.



Social Care and Wellbeing

Providing the right support at the right time.



Education

Ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations.



Housing

Ensuring that everyone has the right to call somewhere home.



Economy

Promoting opportunities to develop the Island's economy.



Climate Change

Responding to the crisis, tackling change and working towards becoming a net zero organisation by 2030.



 [Council Plan 2023-2028](#)

Council Values

The Council Plan 2023-28 is underpinned by the organisation's core values, which are used to develop and guide the vision, strategic plans and services.

It also adheres to the general principles of:

Page 68

- Sustainable development
- Equality and diversity
- Prevention and safeguarding
- Commitment and accountability
- Communication
- Modernisation

Values



Respect

We are respectful and considerate towards others regardless of our differences.



Honesty

We are committed to high standards of conduct and integrity.



Collaborate

We work best as a team, with our communities and partners to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Anglesey.



Champion the council and the island

We create a sense of pride in working for the council and present a positive image of the council on the council and the island.

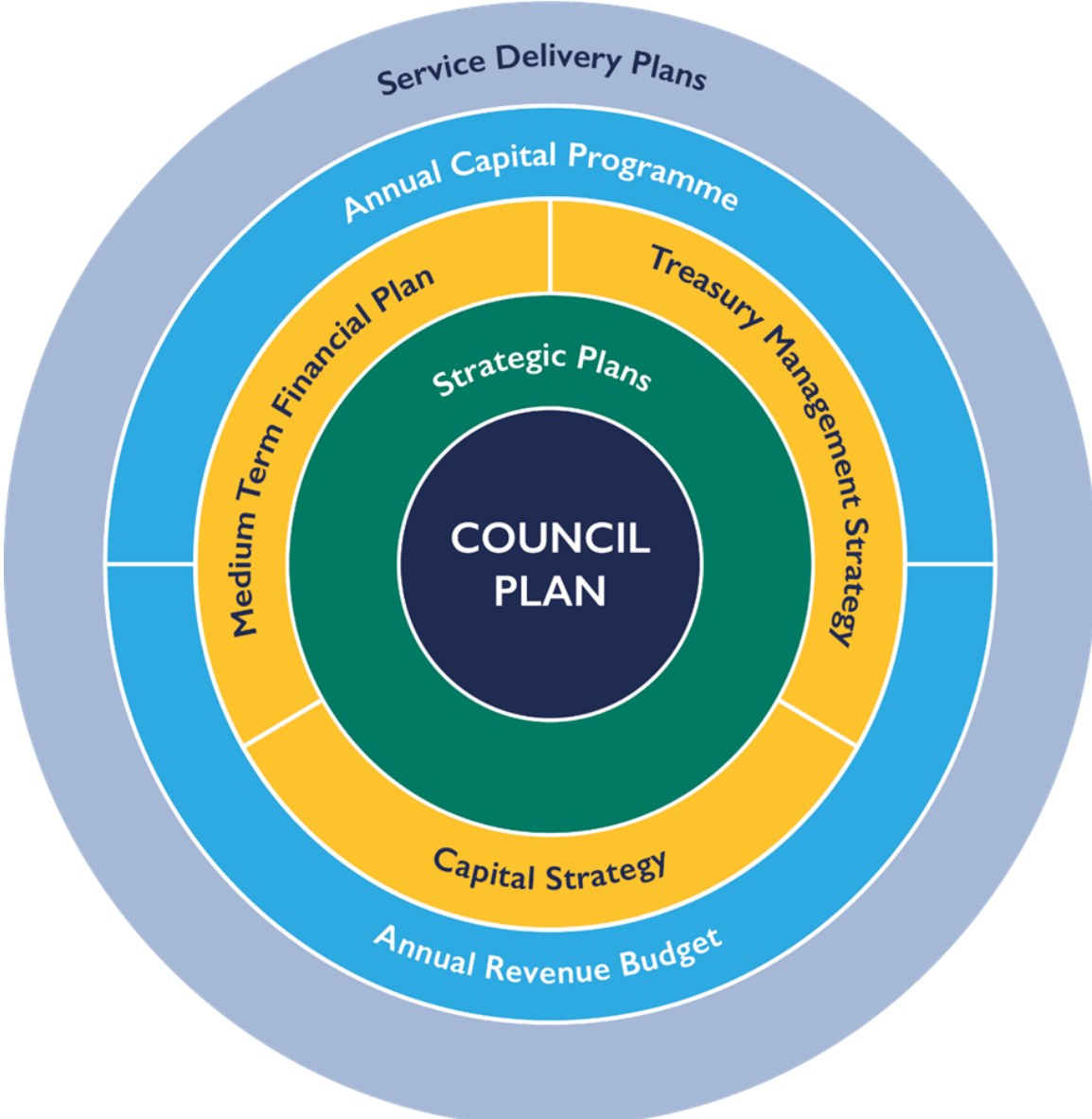


[Council Plan 2023-2028](#)

Strategic Circle

The strategic circle identifies the plans in place to ensure we are able to achieve our priorities and objectives.

This plan is a key strategic plan that aligns with the Council's Plan and contributes to the achievement of the strategic objectives and vision.



[Council Plan 2023-2028](#)

Key priority areas

To ensure that the Council has a financially and environmentally sustainable asset portfolio, rationalised to be fit for purpose and safe for the delivery of services.

1. Suitability

- A rationalised portfolio
- The right properties in the right locations
- Properties that are accessible and safe for everyone
- Properties in good condition (with budgetary constraints acknowledged)

2. Sustainability

- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Financially sustainable

3. Collaboration

- Plan and manage properties as a corporate resource to achieve the Council's vision and strategic objectives.

4. Data driven

- Proactive planning based on data
- Clarity and transparency

Suitability – a smaller portfolio, improved condition, safe and accessible

Why is this important?

We have a large historical portfolio that hasn't evolved at the same pace as our communities and their needs. We must align needs of our communities with our property portfolio.

Our maintenance backlog is increasing, and the condition of our buildings is deteriorating.

By reducing the size of our portfolio, we can concentrate our budgets and improve the condition of our properties. This will lead to us having fewer* but better-quality properties.

By providing fit for purpose properties, in the right locations, we can meet the needs of existing users and Services and plan more effectively for the future.

By providing safe and accessible properties and we can protect against health and safety risks and liability.

What are we going to do?

- Hold assets with a defined purpose only and aim for financial, socio-economic, and environmental sustainability across our property portfolio.
- Presume in favour of disposal of a property if there is no service requirement.
- Challenge the existing use of assets by identifying co-location opportunities and alternative provisions, including with partners, which could mean rationalising and disposing of properties when appropriate.
- Maintain assets so that they are in a good state of repair and legally compliant, to ensure their continued safety and suitability.
- Develop information gathering and management arrangements to evidence achievements.

How are we going to do this?

- Challenge our assets on a continued rolling programme.
- Identify properties that should be kept / invested in, and those that are surplus to requirement and should be disposed of.
- Review the portfolio and plan service provision according to service requirements and geographic areas.
- Formalise property safety arrangements and ensure that the necessary checks are completed within suitable timescales.
- Set up a rolling programme for detailed condition inspections of schools and other buildings.

Sustainability – reduced carbon footprint, increased financial efficiency

Why is this important?

Our property portfolio is one of our main carbon emitters and we will have to reduce our carbon footprint if we are to achieve our Towards Net Zero Plan. There are substantial grants linked to decarbonisation, and if we plan and prioritise correctly they offer a funding stream that will allow us to upgrade, improve and reduce the burden of maintaining our buildings whilst achieving the main goal of decarbonisation.

The current financial climate is challenging and the property portfolio's financial implications are significant. The corporate property portfolio represents a significant proportion of the value of the Council's assets, liabilities, revenue (rents) and expenditure (maintenance, energy, taxes etc.) and the portfolio can have a significant impact on the Council's financial capacity.

What are we going to do?

- Establish a carbon baseline for our buildings.
- Reduce the carbon emissions of property assets.
- Be ambitious and brave when considering opportunities to decarbonise our stock whilst accepting that there are risks associated with new technologies.
- Be open to opportunities to fund decarbonisation and energy production schemes.
- Encourage biodiversity gains when making property decisions and make wise and prudent investments.
- Reduce operational costs by using buildings more efficiently.
- Ensure maximum financial gains whilst recognising economic and social benefits.
- Make the most of external funding.

How are we going to do this?

- Develop a pathway towards net zero for the council's property portfolio.
- Establish design standards to follow when buying or renovating assets to ensure carbon efficiency and the future flexibility of the space.
- Develop performance monitoring processes and manage energy efficiently.
- Establish clear and transparent invoicing and debt collection arrangements.
- Review property disposal policies presuming in favour of ensuring the highest price.
- Explore all funding opportunities as stated in the Capital Strategy.

Collaboration – joined up thinking to deliver economic, environmental and social objectives

Why is this important?

It is crucial that property decisions are made with regard for, and in the context of, the economic, environmental and social impacts on our communities.

The property portfolio is an asset that is held with the aim of achieving the vision in the Council Plan of creating a healthy and prosperous Anglesey where people can thrive and introducing a breadth of services to support that vision.

What are we going to do?

- Work together to plan and manage properties as a corporate resource to achieve the council's vision and strategic objectives.
- Be open to opportunities to use our portfolio innovatively to support economic regeneration and the delivery of the objectives of the Housing Plan.

How are we going to do this?

- Develop a proposal for a Corporate Landlord Model for stakeholder consideration.
- Establish a view point on working in partnership with the Island's communities and other public services through the *Ystadau Cymru* programme.

Data Driven – proactive planning, clarity and transparency

Why is this important?

Decisions relating to property are significant, difficult to undo and can attract a lot of public interest. It is crucial that procedures and policies are clear and transparent.

Opinion is not always a sufficient basis for decision making when resources are limited and the decisions difficult.

We need to be able to plan our work and our investment programmes for the mid to long term to establish a long-term direction.

What are we going to do?

- Develop data gathering and management arrangements to provide evidence and aid decision making.
- Plan for the long-term despite gaps in information and uncertainties regarding resources.
- Ensure clarity about what needs to be done, the resources needed and any barriers.
- Make decisions after evaluating the options with clear and documented reasoning in line with recognised good practice.

How are we going to do this?

- Move to the CPM asset management software.
- Develop complete programmes for collecting, checking and maintaining data.
- Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) and suitable measures for managing them.
- Develop plans for undertaking prioritised work before funding is identified so that we are ready to respond to grant opportunities.
- Review or develop policies and arrangements as required.
- Establish suitable arrangements for publishing information.

Risks in delivering the Asset Management Strategic Plan

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Governance and accountability



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To ensure the plan is realised, we will establish robust arrangements. We will review the terms of reference of the Land and Assets Group to ensure its fit for purpose.

We will report to our Leadership Team and our Executive Committee.

Our arrangements will ensure clarity, accountability, coordination and the structure to monitor progress effectively.

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	Executive Council
Dates:	Executive – decision by Portfolio Holder 29/4/24 Council 21/5/2024
Subject:	Local Choice Functions: Performance
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Carwyn Jones
Head of Service / Director:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Lynn Ball Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer 01248 752586 lynnball@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	Relevant to all Members

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

1. To designate the Corporate Self Assessment (CSA) and Panel Performance Assessment (PPA) as Executive functions;
2. To agree that the Council’s first PPA shall take place in 2025;
3. To authorise the appointment of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to support the Council’s first PPA, at an estimated cost of £35,000 (less the cost of co-designing the specification);
4. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make all operational decisions and arrangements for conducting the PPA, but specifically excluding the appointment of the independent panel and its terms of reference; which shall be Executive decisions.

Legal Background

Council will be aware of the duty to publish an annual CSA, as well as at least one PPA in every five year Council term. The requirement to produce these documents is specified in the [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#) (“the Act”).

On [25/04/2022](#) the Council adopted constitutional amendments, revising the terms of reference of the Governance and Audit Committee (GAC), and in doing so also designated CSAs, and PPAs as Council functions. The legal position at the time was that these were both Council functions, there being no local discretion.

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

However, the WLGA has since contacted all Councils with advice from Welsh Government (reproduced at **Enclosure A**). Welsh Government has clarified its view and now considers that CSAs, and PPAs, are local choice functions. That is, they may be the responsibility of full Council or the Executive.

Against this background it is now recommended that a decision be made on whether the Council, or the Executive, shall be responsible for making relevant decisions over the functions listed in Section 108 of the Act; namely:-

- a) section 91(1) (self-assessment report);
- b) section 91(8) (response to recommendations about report);
- c) section 92(1) (appointment of performance assessment panel);
- d) section 93(1) (response to report of panel performance assessment);
- e) section 93(5) (response to recommendations about response to report of panel);
- f) section 96(1) (response to recommendations from the Auditor General for Wales);
- g) section 96(5) (response to recommendations about response to the Auditor General for Wales);
- h) section 102(2) (request to the Welsh Ministers for support and assistance)

Relevant Factors for Consideration

- From a legal perspective, there is no distinction between the two performance duties being functions of Council or the Executive. Either choice is equally valid.
- Whichever Council body undertakes the political role, the same degree of transparency is required. So, agendas/reports/meetings in public/decision records/minutes/webcasting, shall apply to either the Council or the Executive.
- The role and powers of the GAC remains unchanged; including the requirement that the recommendations of the GAC be followed, or an explanation published as to why recommendations have been rejected.
- Once made, the designation of functions may be revisited by Council; subject to the usual six month rule.
- On balance, though, the Monitoring Officer recommends that both performance functions be exercised by the Executive. This is partly for reasons of public and corporate accountability but mainly for reasons of practicality, as described below.

CORPORATE SELF ASSESSMENT

- Each year the CSA must be approved by the Council in draft before submission to the GAC for views and recommendations. The CSA then returns to Council to consider the views of the GAC, in particular to

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

consider and respond to any recommendations from the GAC and to make any amendments etc. The final CSA is then published.

It would be more efficient for this function to be undertaken by the Executive as there is a requirement that the CSA be published and shared with regulators as soon as possible after the end of the relevant financial year. Thus far, two CSAs have been published and the corporate timetable has been challenging. CSAs risk becoming stale/outdated if not published promptly and the nexus between Council and the GAC makes this delay inevitable.

However, the number of regular Executive meetings, and the potential for ongoing informal consultation with the Leader/Portfolio Holder/s, will hasten the timescale of publication. It should also be noted that approval by Executive decision would be open to call-in, including a potential referral from scrutiny to Council if appropriate.

PANEL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

- Every council must undertake at least one PPA in each 5 year Council term. This work is carried out by an independent panel. The report from the panel's work must be published at least a year before the next local government election in May 2027. The PPA is a process and not an event and will require numerous, and consequential, decisions from the preparation period to the publication of the panel's findings.

The WLGA's generic programme is [here](#) and gives a detailed account of what is likely to be involved. It is an inclusive process which, among others, involves all Council members.

The granularity of this process does not lend itself to oversight from Council. The preparation for the PPA will absorb significant officer capacity and the need to call extraordinary Council meetings would not add value with resources better deployed elsewhere. Key decisions, like the terms of reference, would be made by the Executive and would be open to call-in and the usual transparency requirements would apply. Operational decisions would be made by officers under delegation but in consultation with relevant Executive members. This would provide readily accessible support and advice for officers, facilitating a continuous dialogue which would not be possible where full Council was required to be consulted on an ongoing basis.

It would not be appropriate for Council to delegate all of the decision making to officers as it is essential there be political ownership of key components.

An alternative might be for Council to appoint an informal working group for consultation purposes. However this would create another level of

A – Recommendation/s and reason/s

administration, when Executive arrangements, which better meet the needs of this process, are already well established.

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

None. It is appropriate that Council make a decision based on the Welsh Government's advice.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

This is a decision for Council, but the Executive is required to consider all proposed constitutional changes and make recommendations (if any) to Council.

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

Not relevant in these circumstances as the final decision is for Council.

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

This is largely a governance decision about local choice functions and that decision will have no budgetary implications. However, Council is also being asked to set a timeframe for its first PPA, and to engage the WLGA to facilitate that work. The likely cost will be in the region of £35,000. This cost has already been anticipated by the Council's Section 151 Officer and the sum has been earmarked. The WLGA has recently informed the Council that it has secured government funding which will cover the costs involved in working with the Council to co-design the specification for the PPA. This is likely to reduce the estimated budget though the level of that reduction is not yet clear.

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):	
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory)	Supportive of the recommendations in the report
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Supportive of the recommendations in the report
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Report Author
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Procurement	
8	Scrutiny	
9	Local Members	
10	Others: Head of Profession HR and Transformation Head of Audit and Risk	All supportive of the recommendations in the report

E – Who did you consult?	What did they say?
Head of Democratic Services Scrutiny Manager Portfolio Holder Corporate and Customer Experience	

F - Appendices:
A – Advice of WLGA/Welsh Government

Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
There are links in the report to the Act, the Report previously received by Council on 25/04/22 and the support “offer” from the WLGA

(Consideration of a local choice function: self-assessment and panel performance assessment, Council, 2023)

Legal advice received by the Head of Improvement WLGA from Welsh Government Legal Team (May 2023):

As discussed, I've received advice from Legal Services in relation to whether the self-assessments required by section 91 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 should be agreed by the full council or the executive.

As we've previously discussed section 13 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides:

"Subject to any provision made by this Act or by any enactment which is passed or made after the day on which this Act is passed, any function of a local authority which is not specified in regulations under subsection (3) is to be the responsibility of an executive of the authority under executive arrangements."

However, section 13(2) of the 2000 Act also provides a stipulation that this provision is *"Subject to any provision made by this Act or by any enactment which is passed or made after the day on which this Act is passed,"*.

I was not previously aware that Section 108 of the 2021 Act states:

"(1) A function conferred on a principal council under or by virtue of this Chapter (other than functions expressly conferred on a governance and audit committee) may be exercised by the council or by its executive, as the council may determine.
(my underline)

(2) If a principal council determines that a function mentioned in subsection (4) is to be exercised by the council, section 101 of the 1972 Act (arrangements for discharge of functions by local authorities) does not apply to that function.

(3) If a principal council determines that a function mentioned in subsection (4) is to be exercised by the executive, section 14 or (as the case may be) 15 of the 2000 Act (discharge of functions by executives) does not apply in relation to that function."

The requirement to prepare a self-assessment in section 91 of the 2021 Act falls within the Chapter referred to in section 108 ("Performance, performance assessments and intervention: principal councils").

Section 108(4) includes sections 91(1) (self-assessment report) and 91(8) (response to recommendations about report).

So, all of the functions referred to in section 91 may be exercised by either the council or the executive (not both, and excluding those functions conferred on the governance and audit committee).

I've now confirmed with Legal Services that ALL of the provisions dealing with "*Performance, performance assessments and intervention: principal councils*" in the 2021 Act are captured by section 108. Therefore the previous advice in relation to who should determine when a panel assessment should take place was incorrect. A local authority can also provide for either the full council OR the Executive to make a decision on timings of a panel assessment. I'm sorry for the confusion this might have caused.

DRAFT