

# Public Document Pack



CYNGOR SIR  
YNYS MÔN  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Dylan J. Williams  
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive  
CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN  
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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DYDD MERCHER 19 CHWEFROR 2025 am 2:00 y. p.	WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2025 at 2.00 pm
YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR AC YN RHITHIOL DRWY ZOOM	COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES AND VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Ann Holmes 01248 752518 Committee Officer

## AELODAU/MEMBERS

Cynghorydd/Councillor:

## PLAID CYMRU / THE PARTY OF WALES

Geraint Bebb, John Ifan Jones, Jackie Lewis, Llio A. Owen, Alwen Watkin, Sonia Williams  
(*Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair*), Arfon Wyn

## Y GRWP ANNIBYNNOL / THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

Ieuan Williams

## LLAFUR CYMRU/ WELSH LABOUR

Keith Roberts

## ANNIBYNNWYR MÔN / ANGLESEY INDEPENDENTS

Douglas M. Fowlie (*Cadeirydd/Chair*), Aled Morris Jones (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol  
Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrats) R. Llewelyn Jones

## AELODAU CYFETHOLEDIG (Gyda hawl pleidleisio ar faterion Addysg) / CO-OPTED MEMBERS (With voting rights when dealing with Educational matters)

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

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

## **A G E N D A**

### **1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

### **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 16)**

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

- 15 January 2025 (morning)
- 15 January 2025 (afternoon)

### **3 BUDGET SETTING 2025/26 - FINAL DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS (Pages 17 - 38)**

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

### **4 BUDGET SETTING 2025/26 - FINAL DRAFT CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS (Pages 39 - 56)**

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

### **5 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT**

To receive a verbal report by the Chair of the Panel.

### **6 CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON HOUSING SERVICES VOIDS AND ALLOCATIONS - PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 57 - 82)**

To present the report of the Head of Housing Services.

### **7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 83 - 90)**

To present the report of the Scrutiny Manager.

## CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber and virtually on Zoom on 15 January, 2025 (A.M.)

**PRESENT:** Councillor Douglas Fowlie (Chair)  
Councillor Sonia Williams (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, John Ifan Jones, R. Llewelyn Jones, Llio A. Owen, Keith Roberts, Alwen Watkin, Ieuan Williams, Arfon Wyn.

Co-Opted Member: Mr John Tierney (The Catholic Church)

#### Portfolio Members

Councillors Gary Pritchard (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development), Robin Williams (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing), Neville Evans (Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime), Dyfed Wyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families), Alun Roberts (Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety), Dafydd Roberts (Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language), Nicola Roberts (Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change), Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property).

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

Councillors Non Dafydd, Jeff Evans, Kenneth Hughes, Trefor Lloyd Hughes, MBE, Gwilym O. Jones, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Ken Taylor.

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Aled M. Jones and Jackie Lewis, Wenda Owen (The Church in Wales), Gillian Thompson (Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector), Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience), Councillors Glyn Haynes, Euryrn Morris, Dylan

Rees (invitees)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Elin Allsopp (Scrutiny Officer)

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## **1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interest was received.

## **2 BUDGET SETTING 2025/26 – INITIAL DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The report of the Scrutiny Manager was presented for the Committee's consideration. The report outlined the context to the 2025/26 Budget setting process along with the key issues and questions for Scrutiny in evaluating the Executive's initial revenue budget proposals. The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to be presented to the 21 January, 2025 meeting of the Executive setting out the provisional revenue budget for 2025/26 and related considerations was attached at Appendix 1.

The report was presented by Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing who highlighted the better than expected provisional settlement for Local Government in Wales announced on 10 December 2024 which showed an increase of £410.3m in the overall level of funding for Wales equivalent to a 7.2% increase in cash terms. The draft settlement had resulted in a 3.59% increase for Anglesey (0.7% below the Welsh average and the 16<sup>th</sup> highest increase from the 22 authorities) which after the main budget changes have been accounted for as per section 4 of the budget report leaves a funding deficit of £10.791m before any change in Council Tax. Closing the funding gap through Council Tax alone would mean raising Council Tax by 20.6% which the Executive deems unrealistic and using the Council's reserves to make up the difference would lead to the depletion of the reserves. Neither can a deficit on this scale be met by implementing savings. The Executive is therefore proposing that the shortfall be made up by a combination of budget savings, use of reserves and Council Tax increase.

Councillor Robin Williams said that although the increase in the settlement is to be welcomed it is not sufficient to meet all the Council's budgetary pressures chief of which are National Insurance costs with there being some uncertainty around additional funding to meet those costs and its timing, and service demand especially in Children and Adult Services which are subject to significant changes in client demand meaning it is important that the Council maintains its prudent approach to financial management and avoids over committing its reserves. The Executive is keen to protect the schools budget for 2025/26 having implemented a cut in the budget in 2024/25 as well as the corporate trainee budget and to maintain the premium on empty and second homes at its current level of 100%. The draft budget proposals being put forward by the Executive for public consultation include an increase of 9.5% in Council Tax (to include a Fire Service levy of 0.65%), the provision of additional funding to meet demand pressures in Children's and Families Services, protection for school budgets with cost pressures being funded in full, use of Council Tax premium to support first time buyers, additional funding for social care providers to enable them to meet additional staff costs in 2025/26, service budget reductions, and the draw down of £2m from Council reserves to balance the budget. The outcome of the public consultation will be reported to Scrutiny in February ahead of the Executive formulating its final budget proposals to be put to the Full Council on 6 March 2025.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer referred to the work over many months that had gone into drawing up the draft budget which meets statutory requirements in being funded through the primary means available to the Council namely the Revenue Support Grant, Council Tax, and use of reserves. There remain a number of budget risks as

detailed in section 6 of the budget report regarding which assumptions have had to be made for the purpose of building the budget. These include staff costs which account for £100m of the budget and the as yet undetermined pay awards for 2025/26 for both teaching and non-teaching staff. While the report sets out the implications for the revenue budget of underestimating pay increases, it is also important that the Council should not over provide for these costs in the budget as over provision would have to be funded and the cost would fall to the taxpayer for something that might prove unnecessary. The objective is to create a budget that is based on facts and on reasonable estimates of the Council's costs but that is not overly conservative. The Section 151 Officer reminded members that the eventual Council Tax Bill to Anglesey taxpayers will also include the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner tax and town/community council tax. The settlement for 2025/26 means the Council is in a better position than originally anticipated but there remains significant uncertainty regarding funding for local government in Wales for 2026/27 and beyond with pressure on the Westminster Government to reduce public sector costs meaning that councils may again be facing having to cut budgets and expenditure in 2026/27. It is hoped that the Spending Review in Spring 2025 will bring some clarity to the matter and that there will also be changes to the funding allocation process to enable councils to better plan including earlier notification of the settlement and an indication of future years' allocations.

The Chief Executive referred to the extensive work on the 2025/26 budget with Executive members and officers having dedicated considerable time to the process since last Spring, both formally and informally and briefings having been held for all elected members. Due to the unavailability of concrete information at the time, the budget has had to include many assumptions most of which have since proved close to the mark owing to the experience and professional expertise of the Finance team, other Council staff and the Executive. All options including cutting costs and not providing some services have been considered mindful of the fact that various aspects of what the Council provides are used and valued by Anglesey residents.

Councillor Geraint Bebb, Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel reported on the outcome of the Panel's meetings on 19 December 2024 and 9 January 2025 to consider the initial draft revenue budget proposals for 2025/26. Having considered the documentation presented by the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer and Portfolio Members/Officer responses to matters raised, the Panel had resolved to support and to recommend the proposals to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee as presented. Those were as follows -

- An initial proposed budget of £195.234m
- Service budget savings totalling £699k
- Protection for the following –
  - Schools' budgets and ensuring that schools receive an increase that meets the increase in costs
  - Children's and Families' Services budgets with provision to fund additional budget pressures
  - The Corporate Trainee budget (£340k)
- Adults' Services to manage demand within the current budget provision (after allowing for inflation)
- Not to implement the remaining £400k in staffing efficiencies from the 204/25 financial year
- Formally propose that the Council Tax Premium for Second Homes / Empty Homes should remain at 100% and continue to use £1m of the income derived from the Premium to assist first time home buyers
- The release of £2m from the Council's general balances and earmarked reserves in order to balance the 2025/26 revenue budgets
- Proposed increase of 9.5% in the Council Tax (8.85% in the Council Tax plus 0.65%

to cover the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Levy).

The following matters were raised by the committee in the subsequent discussion on the initial budget proposals to which the Leader, Service Portfolio Members, Chief Executive and Officers responded with assurances and clarifications –

- How future LEA and capital budgets can be planned to extend capacity at Canolfan Addysg y Bont, Llangefni.

The committee was advised that the Education Service works closely with Finance to ensure that every school is funded fairly through the funding formula. Ways of increasing capacity to admit more pupils to Canolfan Addysg Y Bont which would in turn increase the funding allocation are being looked at including the relocation of a unit. The LEA is also aware that there are a number of children who wish to gain admission to Canolfan Addysg Y Bont as well mainstream schools who are providing for children with additional needs and the LEA is in discussions with headteachers and officers to identify an alternative provision. The committee was further advised that pressures in the special educational needs system have been recognised nationally and have been raised by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member in discussions at the WLGA about the need to ensure appropriate investment in the system to enable local authorities to deliver in accordance with legislation and to ensure the long term sustainability of the system. The matter is more complex and strategic than one particular area or local authority. The Leader echoed those sentiments and confirmed that the Executive is fully aware of the pressures on Canolfan Addysg Y Bont and all schools due to the increase in the number of learners with additional needs hence the proposal that school budgets are protected in 2025/26.

- In light of falling rolls in the primary sector and the importance of protecting the positive environment associated with small schools, the effects on small schools of a funding allocation model that is focussed on pupil numbers which means smaller schools with fewer learners have smaller budgets when the actual costs of running the school do not generally fall in line with pupil numbers.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised that the formula allocates funding on two levels the one being to meet the cost of the school building and the other the cost of the learners at a school. The cost per pupil in a small school is higher because the fixed costs are spread across fewer pupils. Those costs are included in the budget but as pupil numbers fall it becomes more difficult to sustain classes resulting in more mixed aged classes in small schools. While the Director of Education, Skills and Young People and the Portfolio Member for Education acknowledged the pressures on schools and were grateful for the protection afforded to schools in the proposed budget, the Leader also highlighted that the authority as a whole is disadvantaged by the national funding formula and as a smaller more rural council with an older demographic it has received a lower than average settlement because of the data on which the allocation is based which includes population; this in turn affects what the Council is able to fund.

- Given that Welsh Government has provided additional funding for local government in Wales for 2025/26 and Anglesey has received a better than expected settlement the rationale for proposing a 9.5% increase (including the Fire Service Levy) in Council Tax was questioned with concerns being expressed that the increase would be difficult for many people on the island coming on top of the increases in Council Tax in previous years.

The Leader explained that notwithstanding the settlement was better than had been planned for prior to the General Election, it was reported to Welsh Government through

the WLGA that councils in Wales would need a settlement of 9% just to keep services going at their current level before the increase in the national living wage and changes to National Insurance have been accounted for. The Council's share of the funding pot has increased by 3.6% and although the additional funding reduces the financial gap from the £18m originally envisaged down to £10.791m before adjustments/savings as noted in the report, it is not sufficient to meet all the financial pressures faced by the Council hence the need to make up the difference from the sources available to the Council by increasing Council Tax and by using reserves. The proposed Council Tax increase is higher than inflation because of the need to bridge the funding gap and is linked also to the proportion of the budget that is funded through Council Tax and through Welsh Government's Revenue Support Grant (30% and 70% respectively).

- The extent to which the proposals respond adequately to service pressures and challenges and the impact of the savings measures on services and provision in 2025/26.

The committee was advised that demand pressures and rising costs in Children's social care have required a budget correction in addition to inflation of £2.24m which has been factored into the budget. Children's care placements can incur significant costs as demand outstrips supply and these can be difficult to control. As the situation in Adult Services has stabilised and as the service has seen a significant increase in its budget over recent years it is proposed not to provide additional funding over and above inflation for demographic pressures in the service in 2025/26 and for the service to manage demand with the current budget provision. The rise in homelessness is also putting pressure on council budgets but is being managed by the Housing Service through provision other than expensive bed and breakfast accommodation. Grant funding is helping schools meet the needs of children and young people with additional learning needs but is not enough to fund staff costs. The committee was further advised of the pressure on capital funding which has not kept pace with costs over a number of years meaning the Council has not been able to invest adequately in its buildings and IT hardware leading to higher repair and maintenance costs.

- Whether the £3.122m increase in the Children's Services budget as per Appendix 2 of the report is based on assumption or on concrete evidence. Questions were also asked in the context of protecting vulnerable groups about the proposed rationalisation of day services for clients with physical and learning disabilities (£177k), the implications for day centres specifically Gweithdy Mona and whether a specific piece of scrutiny work should be conducted before the proposal is approved and implemented.

The committee was advised that the budget has to involve estimates and assumptions given the uncertainty around a number of aspects in relation to pay awards, the demand for services, demographic changes and wider economic factors regarding inflation and interest rates. The budget is constructed using the previous year's budget as a baseline to which are added known changes, and estimates are made based on experience and historical fact which means the budget is based on informed assumptions. The Section 151 Officer explained the process and referred to the different elements of Children's social care that are funded e.g. provision on the island, inhouse and independent foster care and out of county placements, the assumptions made and the changes that can occur in relation to those assumptions especially with regard to the number of children requiring care, the complexity of cases and costs involved. It was confirmed that the £3.122m increase in the Children's Services budget is made up of a £2.24m budget correction from 2024/25 to reflect an increasing caseload and rising costs, £400k for pay costs as well as approximately £440k to cover inflation. The committee was further advised by the Director of Social Services of the service's intention to accelerate its small homes provision (Cartrefi Clyd) for looked after children ahead of the introduction of

legislation to remove profit from children's care which potentially might affect the number and availability of care placements.

With regard to the proposed rationalisation of day services for clients with physical and learning disabilities, the committee was reminded that the Adult Services Strategic Modernisation Plan was presented to and supported by the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in November 2024 and sets out concrete steps to meet future service challenges including affordability and suitability and to transform and modernise elements of the service to ensure it is fit for the future including a continued emphasis on locating day services in community settings rather than specific buildings to provide better opportunities for people with learning disabilities to take part in mainstream activities and integrate in everyday life within their communities.

- Questions were asked about the effectiveness of preventive measures in managing costs and whether the savings target from income generation of £239,700 is realistic and achievable.

The committee was advised that while it is difficult to quantify the benefits of preventive actions the costs in Children and Families Services would be significantly higher were it not for the preventive and early intervention programmes run by the service to provide help and support to children and their families to prevent their needs from escalating into more serious issues. Reference was also made to the support provided for people with dementia and the creation of a dementia hub at Glan Hwfa. The Section 151 Officer clarified that the income generation proposals relate mainly to increasing the fee for green waste collection which had no impact on the number of subscribers when it was increased last year, and to improving and modernising income collection processes within the Maritime Service in response to the recommendations of an internal audit review. The Service Heads elaborated on what these proposals entailed highlighting also a charge which the Highways Service levies on utility companies for closing roads for utility works. It is envisaged that the scope for increasing the income from this particular source will reduce after 2025/26 and beyond.

- Whether the Executive is being overly cautious in proposing to maintain the Council Tax Premium for Second Homes / Empty Homes at 100% and that not increasing the premium represents a missed opportunity to generate additional resources at a time of financial constraints to help address pressing housing issues within communities on the Island.

The committee was advised that the Executive and Council have adopted an incremental approach to increasing the premium in order to evaluate the impact of an increase both in this and other neighbouring authorities on the number of premium payers in the local authority area. Also, Welsh Government recommends that local authorities consult on raising a premium to above 100% and that any such consultation should be undertaken at least six months before the beginning of the financial year to which the increase relates which means the timescale does not allow the Council to raise Council Tax premium above 100% for the 2025/26 financial year. Assurance was given that the level of premium for empty homes is under consideration in light of the number of people on the social housing register but that the Executive is also mindful that raising the premium on second homes may mean second homeowners registering their properties for business rates which means loss of the premium and Council Tax payments for the Council.

- Questions were asked about additional funding to help meet the increase in National Insurance costs as well as the areas on which the Executive would spend money in the event of extra funding being received or conversely the areas in which it would consider implementing cuts if additional funding is not received.



The committee was advised that it is understood but not confirmed that the Treasury will likely fund the additional NI costs of staff directly employed by the local authority and that the funding will be allocated to Welsh Government through the Barnett formula although Welsh Government has made the case that the position in Wales merits more funding than the formula allows. A provision for a grant of £2m for Anglesey has been made in the 2025/26 budget against estimated costs of £2.25m with any eventual difference to be met from the Council's general balances. An element of the costs to the third sector and to providers is also included in the provision for Adult Services. The Council through the WLGA has also been pressing for a funding floor to be included in the final settlement to reduce the impact on councils in receipt of a settlement below the Welsh average. Should a floor be applied and additional funding received the Executive would as part of the process look at the feedback from the budget consultation for the public's views on service priorities.

- The risks to the Council's long-term resilience and sustainability in using reserves to balance the budget.

The committee was advised that a contribution from the Council's reserves is a way of bridging part of the funding shortfall but also means that difficult decisions regarding ongoing expenditure are deferred to the following year. Reserves can also be used to meet any budget overspends. As a rule of thumb the Executive has set the minimum general balances as 5% of the net revenue budget as a reasonable level in terms of meeting the risks facing the Council. The Council's general balances are currently healthy and the Council's financial position has been helped by the allocation of additional grants by Welsh Government as per Table 3 of the report which means that funding allocated for the purposes now covered by the grants can be added to the general balances. Continued use of reserves is not sustainable in the long-term and the scope for doing so is reducing meaning that the Council will have to look at how it manages its budget and how it provides services to ensure that it operates within the resource available to it. Welsh Government's final settlement will not be announced until February and may change, and additionally the Westminster Government's March 2025 spending review is likely to have implications for the 2026/27 budget.

- Assurances were sought that the public consultation questionnaire on the 2025/26 draft budget proposals will be more than a tick box exercise and will allow respondents to express their views and that there will also be opportunities for the public to engage in ways other than online. A request was also made and agreed that the consultation questionnaire include an age range question to help with analysing how different age groups respond to the consultation.

While assurances were provided, it was noted that there is limited benefit in receiving a volume of varying views and that there should be an element of continuity with last year's questionnaire to analyse trends.

Following discussion, it was proposed that the initial draft budget proposals as presented with the elements as outlined by the Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing and endorsed by the Finance Scrutiny Panel as reported by the Panel's Chair be supported and recommended to the Executive with additional actions in relation to further scrutiny of the proposal in relation to the rationalisation of day services for clients with physical and learning disabilities, specifically Gweithdy Mona, and the addition of an age range question to the public consultation questionnaire.

The Chief Executive suggested that the budget proposal regarding the rationalisation of day services for clients with physical and learning disabilities be included for discussion at a Members' Briefing Session. This suggestion was subsequently proposed as an amendment and was agreed and carried in the ensuing vote.

Having scrutinised the initial draft Revenue Budget proposals for 2025/26 and having regard to the matters raised in discussion and the responses provided by the Officers and Portfolio Members it was resolved to support and recommend the 2025/26 initial draft Revenue Budget proposals as presented comprising of the following to the Executive for the purpose of public consultation –

- An initial proposed budget of £195.234m
- Savings from service budgets totalling £699k
- Protection for the following elements of the budget:
  - Schools' budgets ensuring that schools receive an increase that meets the increase in costs
  - Children's and Families' Services budgets with provision to fund additional budget pressures
  - The Corporate Trainee budget (£340k)
- Adults' Services to manage demand within the current budget provision (after allowing for inflation).
- Not to implement the remaining £400k in staffing efficiencies from the 2024/25 financial year.
- Formally propose to maintain the Council Tax Premium for Second Homes / Empty Homes at 100% and continue to use £1m of the income derived from the Premium to assist first time home buyers.
- The release of £2m from the Council's general balances and earmarked reserves in order to balance the 2025/26 revenue budget.
- A proposed increase of 9.5% in the Council Tax (8.85% in the Council Tax plus 0.65% to cover the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Levy).

Additional actions agreed –

- The budget proposal regarding the rationalisation of day services for clients with physical and learning disabilities (£177k) be included for discussion at a Members' Briefing Session.
- That the public consultation questionnaire on the Council's initial revenue budget proposals for 2025/26 include an age range question.

*(Councillor R. Llewelyn Jones abstained from voting)*

### **3 FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT**

Councillor Geraint Bebb, Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel reported on the outcome of the Panel's two meetings held on 19 December, 2024 and 9 January 2025 to consider the 2025/26 initial draft Revenue Budget proposals as referred to in the narrative on item 2 above.

**Councillor Douglas Fowlie  
Chair**

## **CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the meeting held in the Committee Room and on Zoom on 15 January, 2025 (P.M.)**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Douglas Fowlie (Chair)  
Councillor Sonia Williams (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, John Ifan Jones, R. Llewelyn Jones,  
Llio A. Owen, Keith Roberts, Alwen Watkin, Ieuan Williams, Arfon Wyn.

Co-opted Member: Mr John Tierney (The Catholic Church)

#### **Portfolio Members**

Councillors Gary Pritchard (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development), Robin Williams (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing), Neville Evans (Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime), Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Corporate and Customer Experience), Dyfed Wyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families), Alun Roberts (Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety), Dafydd Roberts (Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language), Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Head of Highways, Waste and Property  
Head of Democracy (DS)  
Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation (CE) (for item 3)  
Corporate Planning Performance and Programme Manager (GP) (for item 3)  
Executive Manager (SOJ) (for item 4)  
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)  
Committee Officer (ATH)  
Webcasting Officer (FT)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Aled M. Jones, Jackie Lewis, Wenda Owen (The Church in Wales), Gillian Thompson (Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector), (Mr Marc B. Hughes (Director of Education, Skills, and Young People)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Helen Kilgannon (Regional Manager - North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service), Jon Zalot (Emergency Planning Officer) (for item 4)

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#### **1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interest was received.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 19 November, 2024 were presented and were confirmed as correct and progress against the actions agreed at the meeting was noted.

## **3 SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT 2023/24 – UPDATE ON PROGRESS AGAINST IDENTIFIED IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS**

The report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation which provided an update on progress in implementing the improvement actions identified in the Self-Assessment Report for 2023/24 was presented for the committee's consideration.

The report was presented by Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader of the Council who confirmed that from the actions in the six areas identified as providing opportunities for improvement and monitoring from the 2023/24 Corporate Self-Assessment Report only two are behind schedule with all others either completed or on track to be completed. The March 2025 timescale for the publication of a new smallholding asset management strategy has slipped with it being recommended that a cross party task and finish group is established to progress the strategy while work on rationalising council assets is ongoing including the adoption of a new computer aided facilities management system, empty/surplus buildings processes in place and disposals accelerated as well as the development of a more complete asset data set to support decision-making.

In response to a question about the revised timescale for the production of a new smallholding asset management strategy the committee was advised that a revised draft strategy had been prepared to replace the strategy that was in place until 2021 but its approval through the democratic process was paused due to the local government election in 2022. Should the task and finish group when operational decide to support the existing draft strategy with minimal amendment then it is possible that the strategy can be finalised within a few months. More substantial changes or a change of direction/approach would have to be consulted upon necessitating further work and a longer timescale. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Political Group Leaders had been asked to submit nominations for membership of the Task and Finish Group.

Reference was made to area six on the update report which sets out specific actions to address identified workforce planning challenges and a request was made for an update and overview of the current situation within the Council generally with regard to staff recruitment and retention and whether the Council has plans either singly or in collaboration with partners and local educational establishments to ensure it can meet future staffing requirements.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council's staffing situation is at present stable. The Council is able to attract and retain good staff and can provide its staff with experiences and career progression. There is some concern regarding single points of failure within the system where the absence or loss of an individual with specific expertise and knowledge in a particular area has wider implications for the Council as a whole in terms of maintaining the level of service. While Service Heads are aware of the importance of workforce planning within their services there is more the Council can do as an organisation to raise its profile as an employer and to emphasise what it can offer prospective employees in terms of work flexibility, training, and growth opportunities. Welsh Government's new education strategic workforce plan to address challenges in the education sector is being looked at and the Council's own trainee scheme in being targeted at areas where there are gaps will ensure the Council remains sustainable. The Council may in future need to focus attention on some of the main roles within the organisation to ensure it can attract the right talent in a competitive market where a service head is expected to specialise in several areas.

The Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation referred to a number of schemes within the Council to support recruitment including the Denu Talent Programme which provides individuals with direct experience of working in the Council and which has proved especially successful in Adult Services; the availability of SCWWDP funding to help develop the social care workforce and the Council's longstanding relationship with Bangor University in delivering the MA Social Work programme. She confirmed that the corporate trainee scheme will be focusing on areas/posts within the Council where there are identified gaps the emphasis being on a grow your own approach. The Council also offers management and leadership development programmes internally for its staff. She highlighted that the Council's staff retention rate is 82%. The Director of Social Services briefed the committee on how the Council's investment in recruitment and training measures have helped Social Services achieve workforce stability. The Head of Highways, Waste and Property advised that the main recruitment challenge for the service is in relation to technical staff. While the grow your own approach is producing results there remains a risk that with hybrid working arrangements staff may be attracted by opportunities further afield with higher pay.

In response to a question about the recruitment challenges in the secondary education sector specifically in science based disciplines, the Deputy Chief Executive reiterated that the Welsh Government's new education strategic workforce plan to address the challenges will be carefully studied. Efforts have been made nationally for some time to enhance the profile of the teaching profession and those efforts continue.

Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader of the Council referred to a positive working environment as being a key factor especially in the Council being able to retain existing staff. The Council's induction programme for new staff highlights the opportunities within the Council for career progression, continuing learning and development, and workforce planning forms part of every service's annual self-assessment. He noted that recruitment challenges are being experienced by the local government sector as a whole particularly in relation to more specialised roles where there can be strong competition for a limited pool of candidates hence the importance of promoting the Council as an employer.

**Having scrutinised the update report and received assurances with regard to the matters raised, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee resolved to note the progress against the improvement actions identified in the Self-Assessment Report.**

#### **4 NORTH WALES COUNCILS REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE (NWC-REPS) ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

The annual report for 2023/24 of the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS) was presented for the committee's consideration.

The annual report was introduced by Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader of the Council as providing an overview of the service's activity during 2023/24. The Council has emergency planning and response duties under the relevant legislation and regulations and is a principal responder. The Council meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales local authorities through the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service for which Flintshire County Council is the host authority. The report summarises both regional activity during the year with regard to incident management and emergency response as well as activity within the six North Wales local authorities individually. Councillor Garry Pritchard thanked all staff who had been involved in the work carried out during the year and praised the collaboration as a valued partnership.

The Regional Manager for the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service was invited to comment and she highlighted the regional service as the only one of its kind in Wales saying that since its establishment the service had made significant savings for the six local authorities in North Wales, reduced duplication and ensured the availability of increased resources for the local authorities.

In scrutinising the annual report the committee discussed the following matters –

- Noting recent issues in relation to bridge closures on Anglesey and noting also that the only contingency plan for both bridges closing simultaneously was dated 2011 the committee sought assurances regarding progress with updating the document and taking the matter forward.

The Emergency Planning Officer confirmed that since the last report to Scrutiny the Chief Executive had raised the issue with the Local Resilience Forum in a letter to the Chair of the Forum and a task and finish group was established to examine the issue. He confirmed that the 2011 document listed each agency's responsibilities in the event of both bridges closing simultaneously and needed to be updated to reflect current arrangements and ensure all relevant agencies are included and had an input. The updated document was tested in an exercise held in November 2024 in the Business Centre in Llangefni and the issues and options with responding to both bridges closing were discussed including ensuring passage for emergency vehicles. North Wales Police have been investigating options for HGV stacking with Welsh Government also providing an input on this matter.

The Chief Executive said that a great deal of work had been achieved in a short timescale and while the emergency response would now be more robust than it would have been a year ago, further work needs to be done particularly with regard to the unresolved issue of HGV stacking. The only existing HGV stacking plan dates back to Brexit and its main elements would take two weeks to put in place which is not ideal in a crisis. While it is frustrating that a reasonable up to date plan has not yet been produced definitively, progress has been made since the letter to the LRF was sent with the response to the closure of Holyhead Port in the wake of Storm Darragh with signage to warn drivers not to make the journey to the port cited as an example.

The Head of Highways, Waste and Property confirmed that the existing HGV stacking plan offers limited capacity close to the A55 in Holyhead and does not address the challenges involved in the closure of both bridges affecting the resilience of the whole of the island. An Anglesey wide plan is required covering both Holyhead and the link with the mainland as well as regional recognition of the importance of this issue.

In response to further questions the Head of Highways, Waste and Property clarified the working relationship between the Council and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Agency and explained what he understood to be the position regarding HGV stacking arrangements for the mainland saying that the delay in producing a plan for Anglesey may be due in part to a failure at national level to appreciate the significance of the bridges to the island and the real impact of the closure of one or both bridges and the port.

- The immediate priorities of the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service

The Regional Manager advised that the service is currently looking at the priorities of the LRF to ensure alignment and to ensure also that all issues relevant to North Wales are covered. Finalising the recovery plan is a priority as is the continuation of work in relation to coastal pollution and the production of a plan that meets the needs of the five local authorities with a coastline. Work with regard to the bridges will continue as will the delivery of training. Reviewing the preparedness of the service and making sure its plans are up to date are priorities for the next six to eight months.

- The feasibility of including within the contingency plan a provision to inform the public of the optimum times to make the crossing to the mainland to avoid traffic bottlenecks on the bridges as a result of ferry arrivals and/or departures.

The committee was advised by the Emergency Planning Officer that when Menai Bridge was closed for repairs the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTA) undertook to investigate peak traffic times on Britannia Bridge and the options available for managing traffic e.g. by installing traffic management lights on the slip roads joining the bridge. He confirmed that he would take the query back to the Traffic Wales as the traffic information service for trunk roads and motorways in Wales to ascertain whether the relevant data can be shared more widely.

- The savings generated by collaborating regionally to provide an emergency planning service to discharge local authority responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and relevant regulations.

The Regional Manager advised that in the event of any serious incident e.g. storms the service will attend Police Headquarters on behalf of the local authorities to co-ordinate their response and provide information from the multi-agency partners thereby saving six officers' time. In terms of finance the service has only reduced costs and since 2014 has not had an increase and has returned in the region of 5% annually. The service will in due course have to review its structures in order to achieve further savings. This year the service has supported the Council in testing a range of its business continuity plans to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose.

The Head of Highways, Waste and Property confirmed that the co-ordinating role taken by the regional service in recent storm events meant that Council Officers could remain on Anglesey and thereby provide a better response to residents by being able to liaise with local members, senior management, and officers on the ground.

The Chief Executive advised that a review of the service has been undertaken internally by Flintshire County Council where the service is hosted which resulted in savings mainly from reducing staff. Working collaboratively produces greater resilience and provides the Council with expertise that might not otherwise be available to it. Because of the regional structure the Council is able to focus on its actual response instead of being expected to co-ordinate it with strategic partners.

- The regional service's role in dealing with pollution and interaction with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) including input into contingency plans in the event of a nuclear incident.

The committee was advised by the Regional Service Manager that the service is represented on the environment sub-group of the LSF which works with NRW through the group on matters of pollution. The service works with NRW as the regulator on sites in which it is involved such as the control of major accidents and hazard sites. One of the service's officers is aligned to statutory duties with an industrial focus and in that capacity the officer attends Wylfa and Trawsfynydd stakeholder group meetings to keep up to date with events as well as national groups to look at best practice. Should there be an issue at a site the officer would be an integral part of the offsite plan that would need to be created for the site.

**Having scrutinised the update report and having regard to the Officer response to the matters raised, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee resolved to note the progress of the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service work in 2023/24.**

**Additional actions agreed –**

- **To ask the Chief Executive to write a further letter to the Chair of LRF to expedite the production of a current up to date HGV stacking plan for Anglesey**
- **To ask the Emergency Planning Officer in consultation with Traffic Wales to provide members with traffic flow data on Britannia Bridge.**

- To ask the Regional Service Manager to provide members with information about the savings generated by the service and value for money provided
- To ask the Regional Service Manager to provide members with an update on the development of contingency plans for nuclear sites.
- To request that for 2024/25 the annual report includes an illustration of how the regional service has reduced duplication for each of its constituent councils.

## **7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The report of the Scrutiny Manager incorporating the Committee's Forward Work Programme to April, 2025 was presented for consideration.

**It was resolved –**

- To agree the current version of the Forward Work Programme for 2024/25.
- To note the progress thus far in implementing the Forward Work Programme.

**Councillor Douglas Fowlie**  
**Chair**



<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b> <b><u>Scrutiny Report Template</u></b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	2025/26 Budget Setting (Revenue)
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	Scrutiny consideration of final draft budget proposals for 2025/26
<b>Scrutiny Chair:</b>	Cllr Douglas Fowlie
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Cllr Robin Williams
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Marc Jones, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Tel:</b>	07971167198
<b>Email:</b>	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
<b>Local Members:</b>	Applicable to all Elected Members

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<b>1 - Recommendation/s</b>
Agree a formal response to the Executive on the Council's final draft proposed revenue budget for 2025/26 (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 below).

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

<b>3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members</b>
<b>To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-</b> <p><b>3.1</b> Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]</p> <p><b>3.2</b> A look at the efficiency &amp; effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]</p> <p><b>3.3</b> A look at any risks [focus on risk]</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance &amp; quality]</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul> <p>[focus on wellbeing]</p> <p><b>3.6</b> The potential impacts the decision would have on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protected groups under the Equality Act 2010</li> <li>• those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)</li> </ul>

- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

#### 4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

The following key questions are proposed to underpin the Committee's consideration of the 2025/26 budget proposals:

- Taking into account the responses of the public consultation process and the final draft funding settlement for 2025/26, to what extent do the proposals respond adequately to Service pressures and challenges?
- To what degree does the Committee agree with the budget's strategy of protecting services for vulnerable individuals? Considering the responses to the consultation, should any further action be taken to mitigate the impact of the proposals on Anglesey citizens or vulnerable groups?
- To what degree does the Committee support a Council Tax increase of 9.5% in order to realise the proposals of the Executive for 2025/26?
- What are the Scrutiny Committee's final views on the savings proposals for 2025/26 and in light of the responses to the relevant question in the consultation?
- What steps should the Executive take to plug any financial gap anticipated in 2026/27 and 2027/28 and thereby reduce the financial risk faced by the Council?

#### 5 – Background / Context

##### 1. CONTEXT

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

**1.2** Members will be aware that finance is critical to the services the Council delivers and that there are far reaching implications to financial issues facing us as a local authority – both in terms of the services being received by our citizens and also the level of Council Tax or fees and charges being levied<sup>1</sup>. This will inevitably require us to ask challenging questions about which services to offer to the future and which services to invest in and also the degree to which current methods of service delivery remain appropriate. Another consideration is also how best to manage expectations of local people in making the necessary changes. In the current economic climate, Members therefore need to be assured that the Council is making the most effective use of resources, in particular finances.

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

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

## **2. SETTING THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2025/26**

2.1 Attached is the report of the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer summarizing the final draft proposals for the 2025/26 budget (**APPENDIX 1**).

Details of the Final Settlement for the 2025/26 budget are expected from Welsh Government on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

## **3. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY – SETTING THE 2025/26 BUDGET**

3.1 Financial scrutiny is much more than adding value to decisions taken by the Executive. It is about ensuring that there is proper scrutiny in the effective planning, delivery and follow up of key decisions impacting on taxpayers and local communities<sup>2</sup>. Scrutiny should therefore:

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

## **4. FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL**

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

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

4.2 The Panel gave further consideration to the budget proposals at its last meeting (18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025). A summary of the Panel's deliberations will be presented verbally at the meeting by Cllr Geraint ap Bebb, chair of the Panel.

## **5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS**

5.1 The Council recently sought views on the revenue budget proposals: 2025/26 through a public consultation process. The process built upon the foundations set over recent years under the supervision of the Engagement and Consultation Board (established with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners).

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

- i. Consultation with the public via an online questionnaire which was also available at Leisure Centres, Libraries, Oriel Môn, Archives and Canolfan J. E. O'Toole

<sup>2</sup> Financial Scrutiny: A guide for Members (Centre for Governance and Scrutiny November, 2023)

- ii. Conversations at the following standing fora – Town and Community Councils' Forum, Older People's Forum and the Schools' Funding Forum.

This public consultation period ran from 22<sup>nd</sup> January until 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. It set out the Council's financial position, the financial risks and issues which the Council faces. The consultation also sought the views of Anglesey taxpayers on the Executive's proposal to address these risks through:

- Raising the Council Tax by 9.5%
- Providing additional funding to meet demand pressures on Children's and Families' Services
- Protecting schools' budgets from any reductions and funding cost pressures in full
- Utilising income from Council Tax Premiums to fund support for first time buyers
- Providing additional funding for social care providers to allow them to meet the additional staffing costs they face in 2025/26.

Attached is a summary of the main messages from the consultation (**Appendix 2**).

## **6. KEY SCRUTINY ISSUES**

6.1 The 2025/26 budget setting process provides an opportunity for Elected Members to consider and challenge the implications of the draft budget and any additional investment proposals. Input has also been received via the Finance Scrutiny Panel who have given detailed consideration to the budget proposals. At this stage in the process, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is now requested to agree a formal response to the Executive<sup>3</sup> on the Council's final draft proposals for the 2025/26 revenue budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 above).

6.2 In light of the 2025/26 budget setting process to date, it is therefore proposed that the Committee should:

- i. Consider the Executive's final draft budget proposals and provide comments which the Executive can consider before agreeing its final draft budget proposals on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.
- ii. Examine in detail the likely impacts on citizens of the initial proposals
- iii. Come to a view about the level of the Council Tax for 2025/26.

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

### **6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010**

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2025/26 budget setting process.

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2025/26 budget setting process.

### **6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language**

<sup>3</sup> Meeting of the Executive to be convened on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2025/26 budget setting process.
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<b>7 – Financial Implications</b>
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This report discusses the process for setting the Council's 2025/26 budget, which includes consideration of the final draft proposals for the revenue budgets.
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<b>8 – Appendices:</b>
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<b>APPENDIX 1:</b> report of the Director of Function (Resources) on the proposed revenue budgets for 2025/26.
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<b>APPENDIX 2:</b> Summary of the responses to the consultation on the draft budget.
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<b>9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):</b>
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Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW
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GWYBODAETH GEFNDIR A CHRYNODEB O GYLLIDEB REFENIW ARFAETHEDIG 2025/26

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SUMMARY OF THE 2025/26 REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSAL

1. GWYBODAETH CEFNDIR / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. Cyllideb Refeniw a Chyllid ers 2014/15 / Revenue Budget and Funding Since 2014/15

Blwyddyn / Year	Cyllideb Net / Net Budget £'m	CAC / AEF £'m	Band D / Band D £	Cynnydd yn Gyllideb Net Increase in Net Budget %	Cynnydd yn CAC / Increase in AEF %	Cynnydd yn Band D / Band D Increase %	% O'r Gyllideb Ariannwyd gan Treth Cyngor % of Budget Funded from Council Tax %
2014/15	125.944	96.432	981.41	(2.1%)	(3.8%)	4.5%	23.4%
2015/16	123.926	92.966	1,025.57	(1.6%)	(3.6%)	4.5%	25.0%
2016/17	124.038	91.929	1,061.46	0.1%	(1.1%)	3.5%	25.9%
2017/18	126.157	92.652	1,088.01	1.7%	(0.8%)	2.5%	26.6%
2018/19	130.820	95.812	1,140.21	3.7%	3.4%	4.8%	26.8%
2019/20	135.210	95.791	1,248.57	3.4%	0.0%	9.5%	29.2%
2020/21	142.344	101.005	1,304.73	5.3%	5.4%	4.5%	29.0%
2021/22	147.120	104.825	1,340.64	3.4%	3.8%	2.75%	28.7%
2022/23	158.367	114.551	1,367.46	7.6%	9.3%	2.0%	27.7%
2023/24	174.460	123.555	1,435.86	7.8%	7.9%	5.0%	27.6%
2024/25	184.165	127.586	1,572.30	5.6%	3.3%	9.5%	28.7%

## 1.2. Treth Cyngor Cymru 2024/25 / Wales Council Tax 2024/25

Safle Rank	Awdurdod Authority	Band D 24/25 £	Safle Rank	Awdurdod Authority	Band D 24/25 £
1	Merthyr Tydfil	1,975	12	Abertawe / Swansea	1,642
2	Blaenau Gwent	1,920	13	Powys	1,639
3	Neath Port Talbot	1,872	14	Gâr / Camarthenshire	1,603
4	Penybont / Bridgend	1,834	15	Wreccsam / Wrexham	1,598
5	Gwynedd	1,755	<b>16</b>	<b>Ynys Môn</b>	<b>1,572</b>
6	Conwy	1,733	17	Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan	1,563
7	Ceredigion	1,726	18	Torfaen	1,551
8	Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,695	19	Benfro / Pembrokeshire	1,511
9	Fynwy / Monmouth	1,687	20	Casnewydd / Newport	1,497
10	Dinbych / Denbigh	1,679	21	Caerdydd / Cardiff	1,471
11	Fflint / Flintshire	1,658	22	Caerffili / Caerphilly	1,446

## 2. CYLLIDEB REFENIW ARFAETHEDIG CYCHWYNOL 2025/26 – INITIAL REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2025/26

### 2.1. Cyllideb Ddi Symud 2025/26 – Standstill Budget 2025/26

	£'000	£'000
Cyllideb 2024/25 / Budget 2024/25		184,164
Chwyddiant Cyflog / Pay Inflation	7,698	
Chwyddiant Arall / Other Inflation	3,035	
Premiwm Tai Gwâg ac Ail Dai / Premium Empty and Second Homes	1,847	
Ardollau / Levies	345	
Costau Ariannu Cyfalaf / Capital Financing Charges	302	
Cynllun Lleihau Treth Cyngor / Council Tax Reduction Scheme	133	
Pwysau Gwasanaethau Plant / Children's Services Demand	2,280	
Pwysau Gwasanaethau Oedolion / Adult Services Demand	1,273	
Pwysau Gwsanaethau Eraill / Other Service Pressures	48	
Effaith Cau Ysgolion / Impact of School Closures (Talwrn, Garreglefn)	(239)	
Newid mewn Niferoedd Disgyblion / Change in Pupil Numbers	(292)	
Grantiau yn Trosglwyddo i Fewn / Grants Transferred In	431	
Cyfanswn Cynnydd yn y Gyllideb / Total Increase in the Budget		16,861
<b>Cyllideb Ddi Symud 2025/26 / Standstill Budget 2025/26</b>		<b>201,025</b>
Grant Ar Gyfer Costau Ychwanegol Yswiriant Gwladol / Grant in Respect of the Increased NI Costs		(2,000)
<b>Cyllideb Ddi Symud 2025/26 / Standstill Budget 2025/26</b>		<b>199,025</b>



## 2.2 Bwlch Ariannol cyn Codi'r Dreth Gyngor / Financial Gap Before Raising Council Tax

	£'m
<b>Cyllideb Ddi symud 2025/26 / Standstill Budget 2025/26</b>	<b>199.025</b>
<b>CAC 2025/26 / AEF 2025/26</b>	<b>(135.605)</b>
<b>Incwm Treth Cyngor 2024/25 / Council Tax Income 2024/25</b>	<b>(52.629)</b>
<b>Gap Ariannol cyn Codi'r Dreth Gyngor / Financial Gap before Raising Council Tax</b>	<b>10.791</b>

## 2.3. Cynigion Cychwynol y Pwyllgor Gwaith 2025/26 / Executive's Initial Budget Proposals 2025/26

Cynnig	Proposal
Cyllideb arfaethedig o £195.234m – cynnydd o £11.070m = 6%	Proposed Budget of £195.234m – an increase of £11.070m = 6%
Arbedion o £3.791m	Savings of £3.791m
Defnyddio £2.0m o Arian wrth Gefn y Cyngor i gyd-bwyso'r gyllideb	Use £2.0m of Council Reserves to balance the budget
Dim newid yn y lefel o premiwm ar ail dai a tai gwâg – aros ar 100%	No change in the level of premium for second and empty homes – remains at 100%
£2.238m yn ychwanegol ac ar ben chwyddiant ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Plant	Additional £2.238m for Children's Services above inflation
Holl costau chwyddiant ysgolion yn cael i'w cyllido'n llawn	All inflation costs for schools fully funded
Gronfa o £1m i helpu prynwyr tro cyntaf – cyllido gan premiwm y dreth gyngor	£1m fund to help first time buyers – funded from the council tax premium
Cynyddu'r Dreth Gyngor 9.5% - Band D = £1,721.70, cynnydd o £149.40	Increase Council Tax by 9.5% - Band D = £1,721.70, an increase of £149.40

## 2.4 Cynigion Arbedion Arfaethedig / The Savings Proposals

Arbedion Arfaethedig	Savings Proposal	£'000
Lleihau swm premiwm y Dreth Gyngor a ddyrannwyd ar gyfer cymorth Tai i brynwyr tro 1af lawr i £1m	Reduce the amount of CT premium allocated for Housing support to 1st time buyers down to £1m	849
Dim lwfans ar gyfer pwysau demograffig mewn Gwasanaethau Oedolion	No allowance for demographic pressures in Adult Services	1,273
Dim Darpariaeth Refeniw Isaf (DRI) ar y Gronfa Gyffredinol am 1 flwyddyn	No Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) on the General Fund for 1 year	1,418
Arbedion staff o ddefnyddio AI i gofnodi cofnodion cyfarfodydd gofal	Staff savings from using AI to record minutes of care meetings	36
Cynyddu'r ffi a delir gan 3 Landlord Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig am fynediad i'r gofrestr Opsiynau Tai	Increase the fee paid by 3 RSLs for access to the Housing Options register	11
Cynyddu ffioedd morwrol uwchben chwyddiant a gwella prosesau bilio a chasglu	Increase maritime fees above inflation and improve billing and collection processes	30
Dechrau codi tâl gwasanaeth, yn unol â chytundebau prydles, ar gyfer unedau diwydiannol a busnes	Begin charging a service charge, in accordance with the lease agreements, for industrial and business units	33
Lleihau cyfanswm y diwrnodau y mae canolfannau ailgylchu ar agor, o 10 diwrnod yr wythnos i 8 diwrnod yr wythnos (Penhesgyn Dydd Mercher i ddydd Sul, Gwalchmai Dydd Sul i ddydd Mawrth)	Reduce the total days that recycling centres are open, from 10 days per week to 8 days per week (Penhesgyn Wednesday to Sunday, Gwalchmai Sunday to Tuesday)	60
Dileu cyllideb banner las – Cyngor wedi tynnu allan o'r cynllun yn barod	Delete blue flag budget – Council has already withdrawn from the scheme	11
Cyllido costau staffio o ad-daliad cynyddol i'r HRA ac o gyllid grant / cronfeydd wrth gefn clustonodedig.	Fund staffing costs from an increased recharge to the HRA and from grant funding / earmarked reserves	69
Cynyddu ffioedd a thaliadau priffyrdd yn uwch na chwyddiant	Increase highway fees and charges above inflation	60
Cynyddu'r ffi am y gwasanaeth gwastraff gwyrdd gan swm sy'n fwy na lefel y chwyddiant a ganiateir yn y gyllideb ddisymud	Increase the fee for the green garden waste service by a sum greater than the level of inflation allowed for in the standstill budget	38
Lleihau cyllideb cyflenwadau a gwasanaethau penodol nad ydynt yn cael eu defnyddio'n ddigonol neu lle gall y Cyngor reoli lefel y gwariant (dodrefn, offer swyddfa, taliadau cynhaliadau i staff, mynychu cynadleddau, hysbysebu allanol anstatudol)	Reduce specific supplies and services budget which are under utilised or where the Council can control the level of expenditure (furniture, office equipment, subsistence payments to staff, attending conferences, external non statutory advertising)	175
Rhesymoli'r ddarpariaeth o wasanaethau dydd ar gyfer cleientiaid ag anableddau corfforol a dysgu	Rationalise the provision of day services for clients with physical and learning disabilities	177
Arbedion staffio na chyflawnwyd yn 2024/25	Staff Savings Not Achieved in 2024/25	(401)
Balans i Arian wrth Gefn Cyffredinol	Balance to General Contingency	(48)
<b>Cyfanswm Cynigion Arbedion</b>	<b>Total Savings Proposals</b>	<b>3,791</b>

## 2.5. Crynodeb o'r Gyllideb Arfaethedig / Summary of the Initial Proposal

		£'m	£'m	Cynnydd o / Increase from 2024/25
Cyllideb Ddi-Symud 2025/26	Standstill Budget 2025/26		199.025	
Arbedion Arfaethedig	Savings Proposals		(3.791)	
Cyllideb Refeniw Net Arfaethedig 2025/26	Proposed Net Revenue Budget 2025/26		<b>195.234</b>	<b>11.070</b>
<b>Cyllidwyd Gan</b>	<b>Funded By</b>			
CAC	AEF	135.605		8.019
Arian wrth Gefn	Reserves	2.000		(2.425)
Y Treth Gyngor, gyda chynnydd o 9.5%	Council Tax, with rise of 9.5%	57.629		5.476
			<b>195.234</b>	<b>11.070</b>
Cost Band D y Dreth Gyngor = £1,721.70 – cynnydd o £149.40 - £2.87 yr wythnos				
Council Tax Band D Charge = £1,721.70 – increase of £149.40 - £2.87 per week				

### 3. RHAGOLYGN CYLLIDEB 2026/27 & 2027/28 –

#### BUDGET FORECAST 2026/27 & 2027/28

		2026/27 £'m	2027/28 £'m
Cyllideb Refeniw Net a ddygwyd ymlaen	Net Revenue Budget B/F	195.492	201.504
Pwysau ar y Gyllideb a Chwyddiant	Budget Pressures and Inflation	6.012	5.347
Arbedion ddygwyd ymlaen o'r flwyddyn blaenorol	Savings B/F from previous year	0.000	(2.414)
<b>Cyllideb Ddisymud Ddiwygiedig</b>	<b>Revised Standstill Budget</b>	<b>201.504</b>	<b>204.437</b>
Cyllid Allanol Cyfun (CAC) (gan dybio cynnydd o 2.0% yn 2026/27 a 2027/28)	Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (assuming 2.0% rise in 2026/27 and 2027/28)	138.580	141.352
Y Dreth Cyngor (gan dybio cynnydd o 5% yn 2026/27 a 4% yn 2027/28)	Council Tax (assuming 5% rise in 2026/27 and 4% in 2027/28)	60.510	62.930
<b>Cyfanswm Cyllid</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>199.090</b>	<b>204.282</b>
<b>Cyllid Ychwanegol Gofynnol / Arbedion Gofynnol</b>	<b>Additional Funding Requirement / Savings Required</b>	<b>2.414</b>	<b>0.155</b>

## **Council Budget 2025 / 2026**

### **Summary of consultation responses**

## 1. Introduction

The consultation opened on 22 January 2025 until 7 February 2025. The consultation was published on the Council website and promoted via our social media channels. Paper copies of the survey was also shared amongst Anglesey's public buildings.

Purpose of the consultation was to gather feedback from Anglesey residents on the proposed budget for 2025/26.

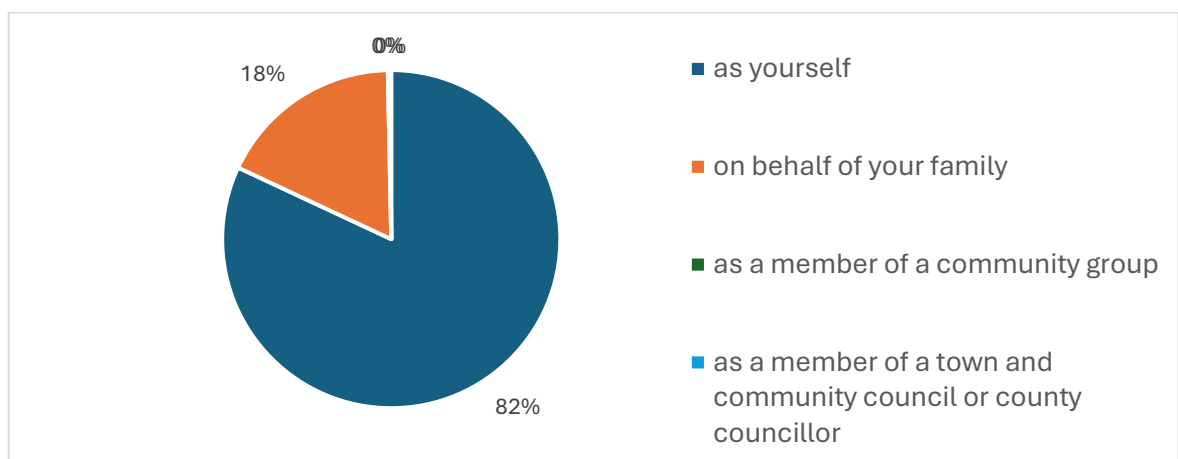
We received a total of 927 fully completed responses, including:-

- 870 completed an online survey
- 57 completed a paper copy of the survey

This report is a summary of the consultation survey results and the main themes identified from feedback.

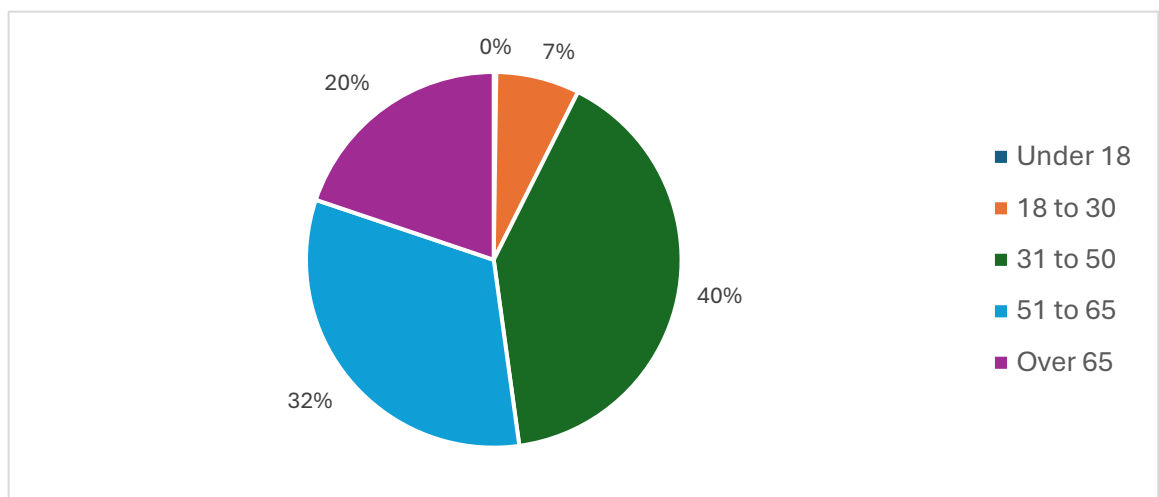
## 2. Summary of Results

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



**2.1.2. Question 2 asked for the respondents post code. These have been mapped and the results are attached as Appendix 1.**

**2.1.3. Question 3 asked – Respondents Age Group**



#### 2.1.4. Question 4 asked - Which services are most important to you?

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

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
Waste Collection, disposal and recycling – Budget £8.3m	69.6%	637
Roads and Infrastructure – Budget £8.3m	68.1%	623
Education and Schools – Budget £66.3m	58.1%	532
Supporting vulnerable children, families, adults and older people – Budget £53.2m	47.0%	430
Fire and Rescue Services – Budget £4.9m	42.4%	388

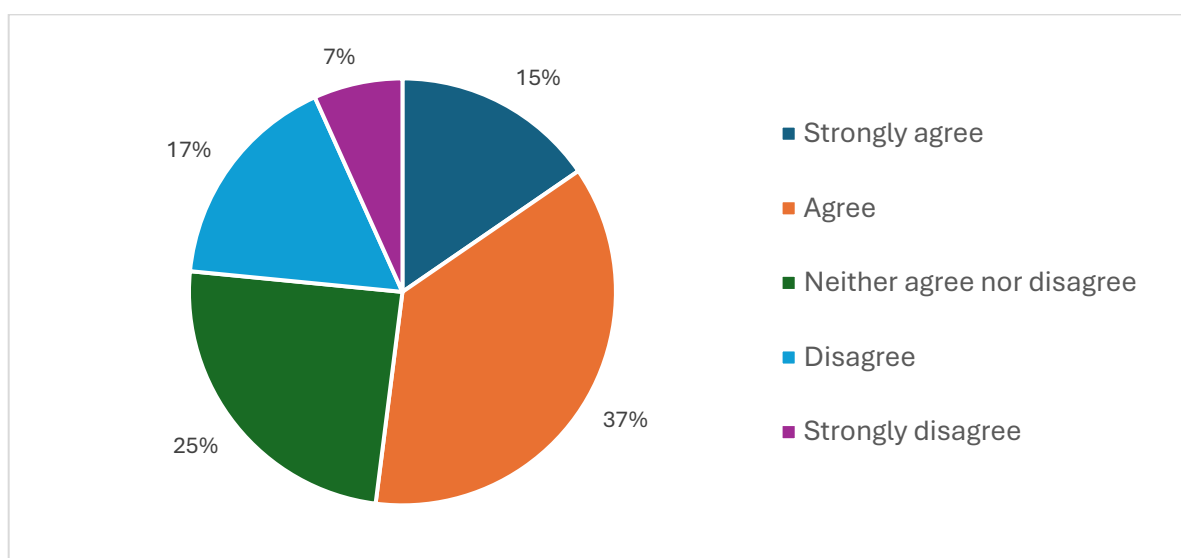
The five lowest priorities are:-

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
Archives and Museums – Budget £0.6m	4.3%	39
Housing advice and welfare support – Budget £0.8m	8.7%	80
Libraries – Budget £1m	10.6%	97
Youth Services – Budget £0.5m	12.1%	111
Homelessness Prevention – Budget £0.8m	13.4%	123

#### 2.1.5. Question 5 asked - The Council's budget strategy aims to safeguard services for the most vulnerable people in our community, ensure the financial viability of the Council, recover the cost of services through fees and charges, where it can, continue to invest, where possible, to modernise and transform the way the Council provides its services

##### Do you agree with these aims?

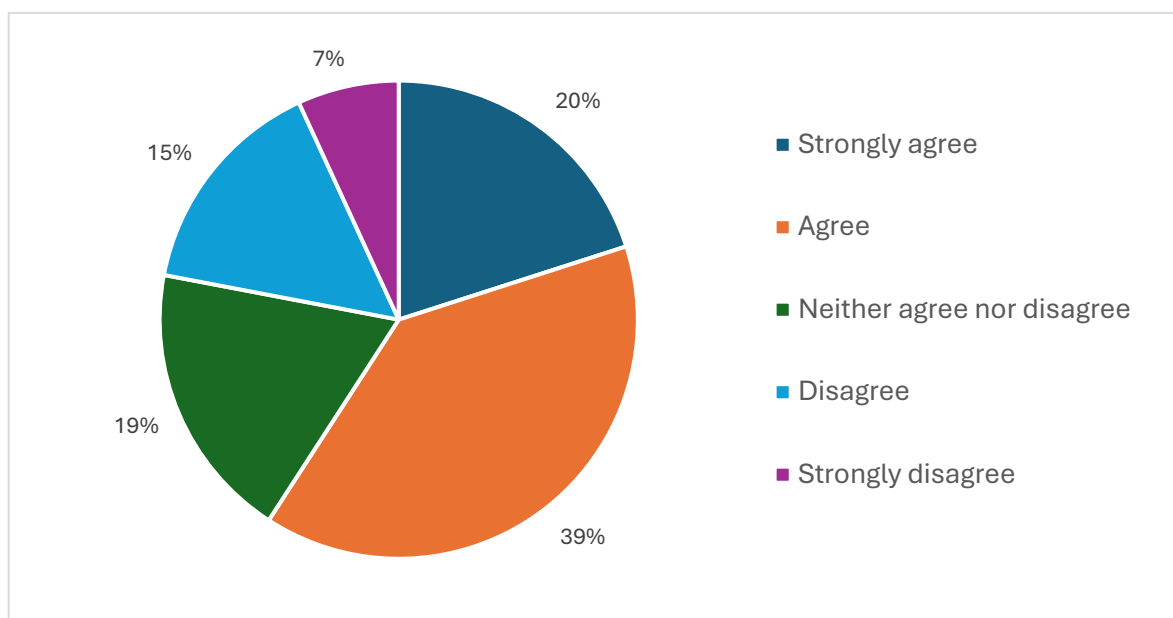
52% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed.



**2.1.6. Question 6 asked - The budget proposals for 2025/26 allow for significant continued investment in social care budgets in order to continue to provide services to the most vulnerable people in our communities.**

**Do you agree with this proposal?**

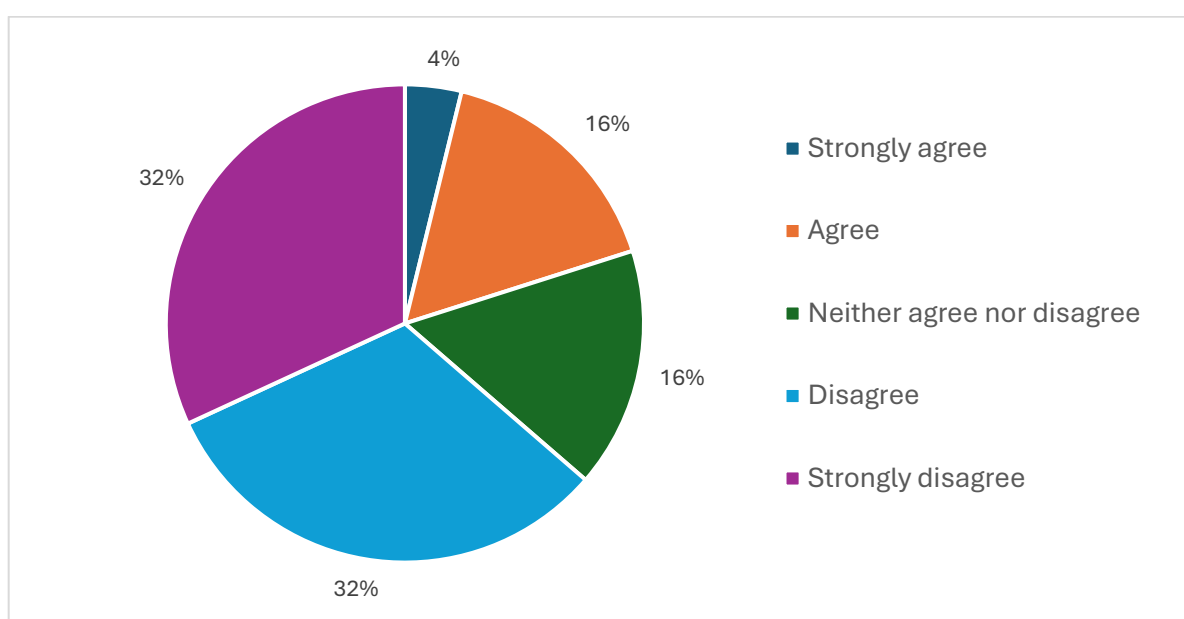
59% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed.



**2.1.7. Question 7 asked - The budget proposals allow for a general increase of 3% in discretionary fees and charges.**

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

20% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed, 64% either disagreed or strongly disagreed





**2.1.8. Question 8 asked – For which services would you pay more? (Please choose as many services as you want).**

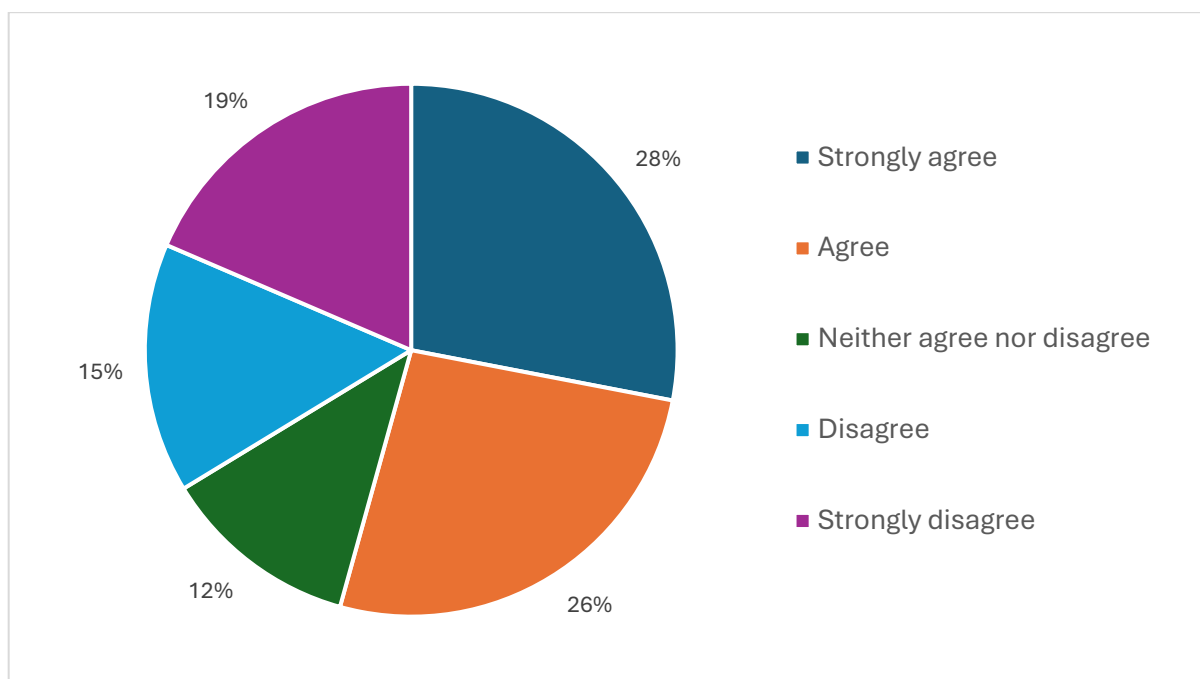
<b>Answer Choice</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
Leisure centres	46.1%	268
Waste collection services (including green garden waste)	40.1%	233
Personal watercraft launching fees	38.7%	225
Admission to museum	36.3%	211
School meals	31.8%	185
Pest control charges	31.7%	184

This question also had a free text section, asking respondents which other services would they pay more for. 262 provided comments but, unfortunately, a significant number of respondents misunderstood the question and either identified services which the Council should invest in, which are not generally covered by fees and charges, or made comments such as “we pay too much in Council Tax” or made general comments about the service provided by the Council. Of those who identified clearly whether they were willing to pay more through fees and charges, the following comments were made:-

- None (134) – respondents commented that they “already pay enough council tax”;
- Car parking and highways (6) – respondents suggested increase parking fees and parking enforcements, as well as improvements to highway services;
- Community, visitor services (public conveniences, maritime fees etc) (8);
- Education (1) – respondents suggested paying more for education provision, including meals, school clubs and school trips;
- Libraries and Culture (5) – respondents willing to pay to visit Oriel Môn and pay late fees on books;
- Planning and Environment (2) – respondents willing to pay more for planning fees, including building control, and any services linked with improving the environment;
- Leisure Activities (2) – respondents willing to pay more for leisure centre membership.

**2.1.9. Question 9 asked – The budget proposal allows for £1m of the income generated from charging a Council Tax premium on empty and second homes to be used to provide grants and loans for first time buyers. Do you agree with the proposed use of this funding and the level of funding?**

54% Strongly agreed or agreed, 34% disagreed or strongly disagreed



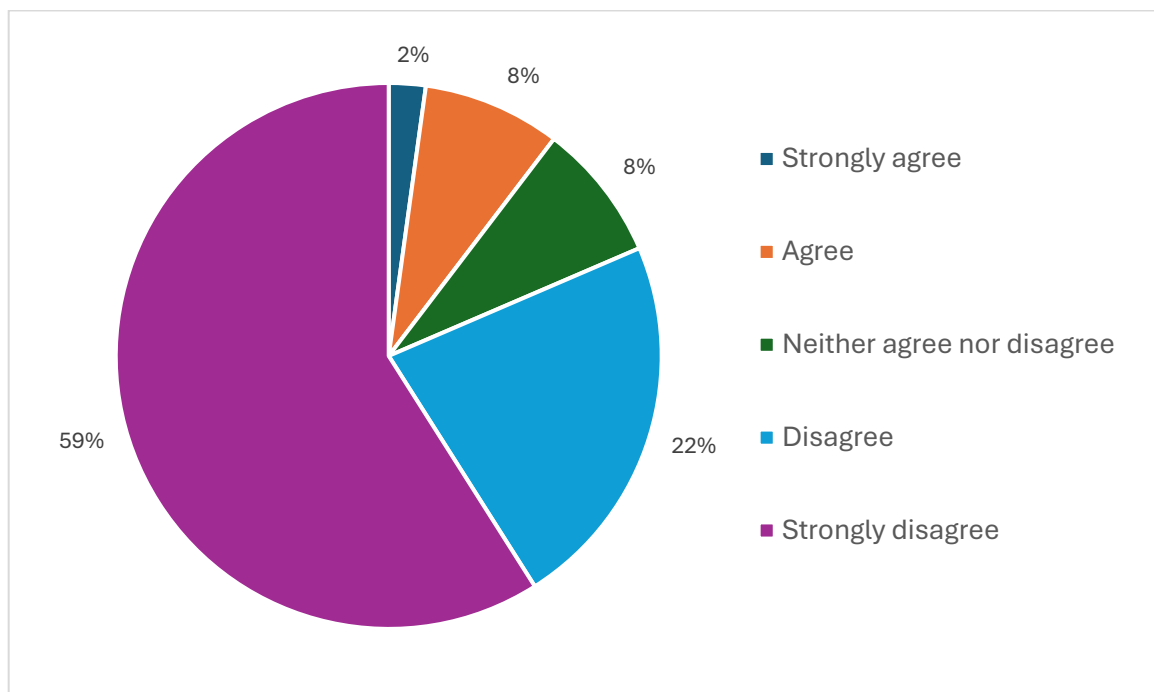
**2.1.10. Question 10 asked - Do you agree or disagree with our major savings proposals?**

Answer Choice	Agree	Disagree
Increase maritime fees above inflation and improve billing and collection processes: Potential saving £30,000	77.3%	22.7%
Reduce the total days that recycling centres are open from 10 days per week to 8 days per week (Penhesgyn Wednesday to Sunday, Gwalchmai Sunday to Tuesday): Potential saving £60,000	53.7%	46.3%
Increase highway fees and charges above inflation: Potential saving £60,000	40.8%	59.2%
Reduce specific supplies and services budget which are under utilised or where the Council can control the level of expenditure (furniture, office equipment, subsistence payments to staff, attending conferences, external non statutory advertising): Potential saving £175,000	91.9%	8.1%
Modernise the provision of day services for clients with physical and learning disabilities: Potential saving £177,000	73.7%	26.3%

**2.1.11. Question 11 asked – Do you agree with the proposed level of rise in Council Tax of 8.95% (plus 0.65% to cover fire levy)?**

**A rise of 9.5% would increase Council funding by £5.0 million.**

59% strongly disagree and a further 22% disagree



**2.1.12. Question 12 asked – By how much should Council Tax rise? (A rise of 9.5% would increase Council funding by £5.0 million)**

Answer Choice	Response %	Response Total
No rise - this would leave a funding shortfall of £5.0m	36.4%	271
Rise between 0% and 3% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £3.4m and £5.0m	30.4%	226
Rise between 3% and 5% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £2.4m and £3.4m	26.6%	198
Rise between 5% and 7.5% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £1.0m and £2.4m	6.2%	46
Rise between 7.5% and 9% - this would leave a funding shortfall of between £0.3m and £1.0m	0.4%	3

**2.1.13. Question 13 asked – How would you make up the funding shortfall noted in the previous question?**

<b>Answer Choice</b>	<b>Response %</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
Option 5: No cut in service budgets. All funded in the use of Council reserves	36.4%	269
Option 4: Some cut to service budgets. Fund majority with the use of Council reserves	26.0%	192
Option 3: Fund 50% with a cut to service budgets. Fund 50% by using Council reserves	21.7%	160
Option 2: Majority cut to the service budgets. Some use of Council reserves	9.6%	71
Option 1: All funded by a cut in service budgets. No use of Council reserves	6.2%	46

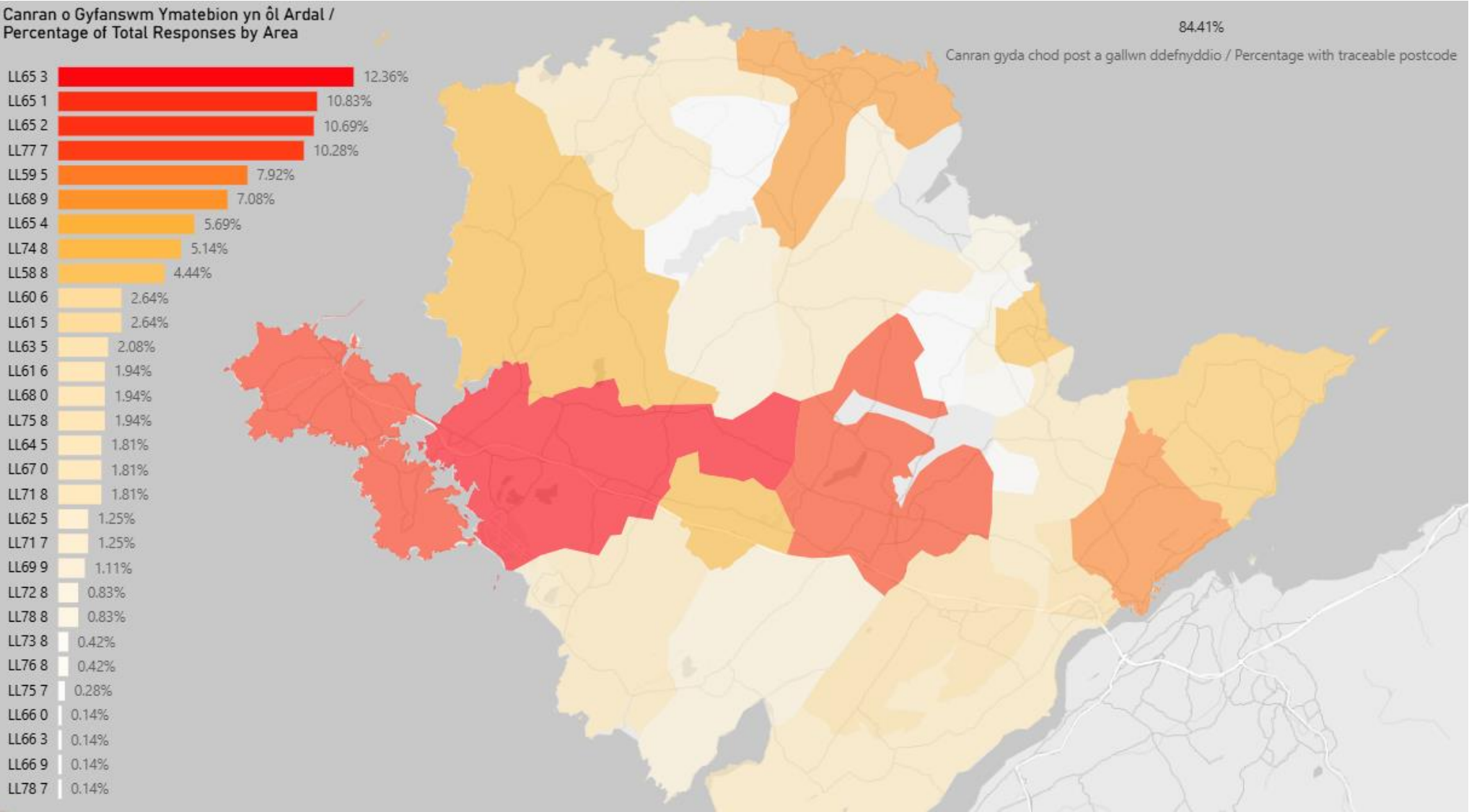
**2.1.14. Question 14 asked - Which service budgets would you be willing to see reduced? (Please choose as many services as you want).**

<b>Answer Choice</b>	<b>Response %</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
Archives and museums	61.2%	511
Tourism and Maritime	49.6%	414
Libraries	45.7%	382
Public protection, planning, licensing and environmental health	36.2%	302
Housing advice and welfare support	35.9%	300
Environment and countryside management	30.5%	255
Homelessness prevention	26.3%	220
Leisure centres	26.3%	220
Street and Beach Cleaning	24.9%	208
Economic development	24.4%	204
Youth Services	18.0%	150
Supporting vulnerable children, families, adults and older people	13.1%	109
Education and schools	11.9%	99
Waste collection, disposal and recycling	10.2%	85
Fire services	9.3%	78
Roads and infrastructure	6.2%	52

2.1.14 A free text box was provided which allowed respondents to make an additional comment if they wished. 465 individual comments were received, which covered a range of topics. Some of the comments were positive but, in the majority of cases, the respondent took the opportunity to express their dissatisfaction or to make suggestions as to how the Council should look to reduce costs. These included:-

- Reducing staffing levels;
- Freezing or reducing staff pay, in particular senior management pay;
- Withdrawing from the current pension scheme;
- Reducing the number of Councillors or their allowances;
- Increase the level of reserves used to balance the budget;
- Reduce waste and inefficiency;
- Stop staff working from home;
- Allow more staff to work from home and reduce / close the Council offices;
- Share Council support services with other Councils;
- Invest in Council buildings e.g. leisure centres;
- Make the case to Welsh Government that additional funding is required to maintain essential services.

RESPONSES BY AREA



<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b> <b><u>Scrutiny Report Template</u></b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	2025/26 Budget Setting (Capital)
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	Scrutiny consideration of final draft budget proposals for 2025/26
<b>Scrutiny Chair:</b>	Cllr Douglas Fowlie
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Cllr Robin Williams
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Marc Jones, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Tel:</b>	07971167198
<b>Email:</b>	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
<b>Local Members:</b>	Applicable to all Elected Members

25

<b>1 - Recommendation/s</b>
The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to agree a formal response to the Executive on the Council's final proposals for the 2025/26 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 below), taking into account views from the Finance Scrutiny Panel.

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

<b>3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members</b>
<b>To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-</b>  <b>3.1</b> Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]  <b>3.2</b> A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]  <b>3.3</b> A look at any risks [focus on risk]  <b>3.4</b> Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]  <b>3.5</b> Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul> [focus on wellbeing] <b>3.6</b> The potential impacts the decision would have on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protected groups under the Equality Act 2010</li> </ul>

- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

#### 4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

The following key questions are proposed to underpin the Committee's consideration of the 2025/26 capital budget proposals:

- To what degree does the Committee support the proposed capital programme and the proposed schemes given the limited capital funding available for the general fund?
- How do the 2025/26 capital proposals enable delivery on the Council's medium term priorities whilst balancing short term pressures and do the principles of the Council's Capital Strategy (Section 5 paragraph 1.3 below) allow the Council to meet its corporate objectives?
- The Council's capital budgets include expenditure funded by the Housing Revenue Account. What impact does this investment have on the Council's housing stock, our current tenants and individuals on the housing waiting list?

#### 5 – Background / Context

##### 1. CONTEXT

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

##### 1.2 Capital Strategy 2025/26

The revised CIPFA Prudential Code<sup>1</sup> requires local authorities to produce a capital strategy in order to:

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

The Authority's capital strategy and capital programme for 2025/26 are currently being considered by the Executive<sup>2</sup>. It sets out the objectives, principles and governance framework to ensure that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with the Council Plan and local strategic priorities. A fundamental principle of the Strategy is to focus capital expenditure on projects which assist the Council meet the following key objectives and help the Council meet its statutory responsibilities:

<sup>1</sup> Revised Prudential Code (CIPFA) dated September, 2017

<sup>2</sup> Meeting of the Executive on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2025



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

The Strategy also identifies the potential future capital expenditure, assesses the impact on the capital financing element of the revenue account and determines the funding available to finance new capital schemes for the period 2025/26. Also, the strategy sets out the long term principles underpinning capital planning to the future.

### 1.3 Principles of the Capital Strategy

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

- The annual capital programme should focus capital expenditure on projects which contribute most to the key priorities of the Council during the period up to 2025/26.
- Capital funding should be allocated each year to ensure investment in existing assets to protect them into the future
- The Council will maximise external capital funding wherever possible and affordable
- Capital funding will also be prioritised on assets required to help the Council deliver its statutory responsibilities
- Continued commitment to the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and to fully utilise any available external funding.

### 1.4 Capital Budget Funding Sources

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

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

- 1.5** In considering their response to the final draft capital budget proposals, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will need to consider the proposals in terms of the longer term financial position of the Council (our Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy & Capital Programme 2025/26) and the Council's long term objectives and priorities.

## 2. SETTING THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2025/26

- 2.1** Attached is the report of the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer on the final draft capital proposals for the 2025/26 budget (**APPENDIX 1**) which will be submitted to a meeting of the Executive on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

The paper provides a position statement on the following issues:

- The principles of the capital strategy;
- The proposed capital programme for 2025/26 including the general capital programme, the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and the Housing Revenue Account capital programme;
- How the capital programme will be funded in 2025/26;
- Impact on general balances and earmarked reserves.

Details of the Final Settlement for the 2025/26 budget are expected from Welsh Government on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

### **3. FINANCIAL SCRUTINY – SETTING THE 2025/26 BUDGET**

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

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

### **4. FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL**

4.1 The Finance Scrutiny Panel considered the latest details of the budget proposals at its meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. The Panel's deliberations will be presented verbally at the meeting by Cllr Geraint ap Bebb, Chair of the Panel.

### **5. KEY SCRUTINY ISSUES**

5.1 The 2025/26 budget setting process provides an opportunity for Elected Members to consider and challenge the implications of the final draft capital budget and any risks. Input has also been received via the Finance Scrutiny Panel who have given detailed consideration to the draft budget proposals. At this stage in the process, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is now requested to agree a formal response to the Executive<sup>3</sup> on the Council's final capital budget proposals for the 2025/26 capital budget (using the key scrutiny questions in paragraph 4 above).

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

### **6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010**

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2025/26 budget setting process.

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

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2025/26 budget setting process.

### **6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language**

Identify the need for impact assessments later in the 2025/26 budget setting process.

## **7 – Financial Implications**

<sup>3</sup> Meeting of the Executive to be convened on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

This report discusses the process for setting the Council's 2025/26 budget, which includes consideration of the initial capital budget proposals

**8 – Appendices:**

**APPENDIX 1:** report of the Director of Function (Resources) on the proposed capital budgets for 2025/26

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

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

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL			
Report to:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
Date:	27 FEBRUARY 2025		
Subject:	CAPITAL BUDGET 2025/26		
Portfolio Holder(s):	ROBIN WILLIAMS – DEPUTY LEADER & PORTFOLIO HOLDER – FINANCE & HOUSING		
Head of Service / Director:	MARC JONES – DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER		
Report Author:	MARC JONES – DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER		
Tel:	01248 762601		
E-mail:	rmjfi@ynysmon.gov.wales		
Local Members:	n/a		
A –Recommendation/s and reason/s			
The Executive is required to propose a capital budget for 2025/26, which will be presented to the full Council for approval at its meeting on 6 March 2025.			
RECOMMENDATIONS			
To recommend to the full Council the following capital programme for 2025/26:-			
		Ref	£'000
2024/25 Schemes Brought Forward – General Fund Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	Para 4.1		6,439
	Para 4.2 & 4.3		6,304
Heating System upgrades utilising Low Carbon Heat grant funding	Para 4.2		4,463
Communities for Learning	Para 5		152
Flood Relief Schemes	Para 6.1		330
Holyhead : A Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation	Para 6.2		4,367
Economic Development Sites and Premises	Para 6.3		200
Waste Infrastructure	Para 6.4		1,445
Housing Revenue Account	Para 7		15,609
Total Recommended Capital Programme 2025/26			39,309
Funded By:			
General Capital Grant			2,661
Supported Borrowing General			3,118
Communities for Learning Unsupported Borrowing			152
Capital Receipts Reserve			500
Earmarked Reserves			1,160
Welsh & UK Government Grants			14,816
Unsupported Borrowing – General Fund			1,293
HRA Revenue Account Surplus			5,488
HRA External Grants			3,531
HRA Unsupported Borrowing			6,590
2025/26 Total Capital Funding			39,309

<b>B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?</b>		
A number of additional schemes are to be considered in the capital programme, with the main driving factor in funding being affordability and the maximisation of external grant funding.		
<b>C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?</b>		
It is a matter for the Executive to propose the annual capital budget.		
<b>CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?</b>		
Yes		
<b>D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?</b>		
Not applicable		
<b>Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):</b>		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	The capital budget ensures funding to maintain the Council's assets, and forms part of the strategy to meet the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	Continued maintenance of the Council's assets will prevent larger costs in the future.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom	Capital projects in respect of Communities for Learning and the HRA are aligned to priorities set out by the Welsh Government.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	As part of the consultation process on the Council's Corporate Plan for 2023 – 2028, citizens were asked a number of questions relating to capital expenditure and their priorities.
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	The capital budget ensures funding to maintain the Council's assets and forms part of the strategy to meet the objectives set out in the Council's corporate plan.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	None Identified.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	No impact identified.
<b>E - Who did you consult?</b>		<b>What did they say?</b>
1	Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory)	The report has been considered by the LT and any comments incorporated into the report.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Author of the report.

<b>3</b>	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	The Director of Function - Council Business is a member of the LT
<b>4</b>	Human Resources (HR)	No direct impact on HR
<b>5</b>	Property	The capital programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chief Property and Asset Officer and the Head of Highways, Waste & Property
<b>6</b>	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	The comments of the Head of ICT have been incorporated into the report.
<b>7</b>	Scrutiny	TBC
<b>8</b>	Local Members	Proposals applicable to all Members.
<b>9</b>	Any external bodies / other/s	Not applicable
<b>F - Appendices:</b>		
Appendix 1 – Report on the Capital Budget 2025/26 Appendix 2 – Final Proposed Capital Budget 2025/26		
<b>FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):</b>		
Capital Strategy Report – full Council 7 March 2024 Capital Budget 2024/25 – full Council 7 March 2024 Quarterly Capital Monitoring Reports 2024/25 – Executive - 24 September 2024, 26 November 2024, 18 February 2025		

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1.** The Capital Budget for 2025/26, set out below, takes into account the principles set out in the Capital Strategy which was approved by the Executive and the full Council in March 2024. The Capital Strategy has been updated to reflect the proposed capital budget for 2025/26, but the principles of the strategy remain unchanged.

**2. PRINCIPLES OF THE CAPITAL STRATEGY**

- 2.1.** The Capital Strategy for 2024/25 was approved by the Executive and full Council and will be updated for 2025/26 to reflect the new funding levels, any changes in the Council's priorities and any changes set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26, which will be approved by the Executive and full Council in March 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 3. FUNDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

3.1. The funds available to finance the capital programme for 2025/26 are shown in Table 1 below. It should be noted that the figures for the General Capital Grant and Supported Borrowing are based on the provisional Local Government settlement figures. The final figure will not be known until the final settlement figures are announced on 28 February 2025. It is not anticipated that the level of funding will change significantly between the provisional and final settlement.

**Table 1**  
**Anticipated Capital Funding Available for 2025/26**

Source of Funding	£'000	£'000
<b>General Fund Capital Programme</b>		
Schemes / Funding brought forward from 2024/25	6,439	
General Capital Grant 2025/26	2,661	
Supported Borrowing	2,126	
UK and Welsh Government Grants (secured)	9,829	
Capital Receipts Reserve	500	
Earmarked Reserves	700	
<b>Funding for the General Capital Programme (Council Fund)</b>		<b>22,255</b>
<b>Communities for Learning</b>		
Unsupported Borrowing	152	
<b>Funding for Communities for Learning</b>		<b>152</b>
<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</b>		
HRA Reserve	0	
HRA - In-year Surplus	5,488	
Welsh Government Major Repairs Allowance & Other external grants	3,531	
<b>Funding for HRA</b>		<b>9,019</b>
<b>Total Capital Funding 2025/26</b>		<b>31,426</b>

3.2. The General Capital Funding received from Welsh Government (WG) for 2025/26 is £401k higher than the allocation for 2024/25, which is the first significant increase that the Council has received for a number of years, but the increase does not make up for the erosion in the value of the funding that has taken place due to inflation.

3.3. Although the Council does have unsold schools, the capital receipts generated will have been allocated to fund the replacement school e.g Ysgol Llangaffo remains unsold but the capital receipts from any future sale has been allocated as part of the funding for Ysgol Santes Dwynwen. The Council does hold a small number of assets which it wishes to dispose of, and there is a balance of capital receipts which have not been allocated to any particular scheme. It is proposed to release £500k of these unallocated capital receipts to increase the funding available in 2025/26.



- 3.4. In previous years, sums have also been held as earmarked reserves to fund individual projects. The Council has used £3.78m of reserves to balance the 2023/24 revenue budget, with a further planned use of £4.4m in 2024/25. This has diminished the Council's reserves to the minimum level and does not allow for the use of reserves as capital funding in 2025/26, although £700k of earmarked reserves are available to fund capital projects in 2025/26.
- 3.5. The HRA funding is earmarked for HRA projects and cannot be used for any other purpose. The HRA reserve is now forecast to reach its minimum level and no further funding can be released from reserves. The surplus generated by the HRA Revenue Account is re-invested in the housing stock through the capital programme, and the figure shown above is based on the estimated surplus as set out in the 30 year Business Plan. Grant funding is made up of the Welsh Government's Major Repair Allowance and grant funding for the development of an extra care facility in Menai Bridge.

#### 4. PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

##### 4.1. 2024/25 Schemes Carried Forward

The capital budget monitoring report to the end of quarter 3 of 2024/25 estimates that the capital programme will underspend by £6.439m, although the final position may change during the final quarter. Once the final position in respect of 2024/25 is known, this will be reported to the Executive alongside a request to approve the carrying forward of funding from 2024/25 to 2025/26. The schemes which are likely to carry forward to 2025/26 are shown in the table below:-

**Table 2**  
**2024/25 Schemes Brought Forward**

<b>2024/25 Schemes Brought Forward</b>	<b>2025/26 £'000</b>
School Building Major Repairs & Upgrades	769
Purchase of Vehicles	48
Purchase of IT Equipment	352
Upgrade of Public Conveniences	270
Match Funding for Low Carbon Heat Grants	696
Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II)	291
Maritime and Visitor Infrastructure	190
Holyhead : Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation	3,426
Flood Relief Schemes	110
Canolfan Glanhwfa	287
<b>Total Schemes Brought Forward</b>	<b>6,439</b>
<b>Funded By</b>	
Supported Borrowing	992
Welsh and UK Government Grants	4,987
Earmarked Reserves	460
<b>Total Funding for Schemes Brought Forward</b>	<b>6,439</b>

##### 4.2. Refurbishment / Replacing Existing Assets

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

- **Refurbishment of Schools** – The cost of clearing the backlog maintenance in the Council's 46 schools is considerable and cannot be fully funded in the short to medium term. The Council's school modernisation programme may reduce some of this cost, but a large number of the existing schools will remain in use in the long term. A sum of £471k has been allocated, with a further £319k allocated as match funding for work funded from WG's Low Carbon Heat grant, and this will draw down £2.873m of grant funding. In addition to this funding, £345k has been allocated to begin the work of upgrading toilets at the Council's secondary schools. Work will be prioritised to undertake the most urgent upgrades first.
- **Refurbishment of Non School Buildings** – Due to insufficient funding over a number of years, the condition of the Council's buildings continue to deteriorate. £1.1,452m of work has been identified for 2025/26 and this is at leisure centres, libraries, residential care homes and day care facilities. In addition, £127k has been allocated as match funding for work funded from WG Low Carbon Heat grant, which will result in £1.144m of grant funding being drawn down. Work continues on the refurbishment of Plas Arthur Leisure Centre, with a further £500k being allocated from earmarked reserves.
- **Highways Resurfacing** – The Annual Status and Option Report confirms that an annual budget of £2.5m is required in order to sustain the Steady State (Preventative) condition of our roads. A budget below this required amount would inevitably result in less efficiency and reduced value for money, with additional costs to the Highway Authority, with more money being spent on emergency works and also the risk of increased third party claims being made against the Authority. A budget allocation of £1.7m has been provided for this work. However, it is anticipated that WG may fund additional borrowing which will allow this allocation to be increased in both 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- **Vehicles** – The Council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral organisation and, in order to achieve that commitment, the Council needs to reduce the number of petrol and diesel powered vehicles. However, achieving this within the current funding limitations will be challenging and the Council will be reliant on additional grant funding, or will have to change from direct purchase to leasing in order to achieve the change. The Service has identified a new gritter and replacement minibuses for Môn Community Transport as the priority. £240k is allocated in the proposed budget to purchase one new gritter and to begin the MCT minibus replacement programme, with a further £300k allocated to replace older vehicles in the fleet.
- **IT Assets** – Continued investment is required to maintain the Council's core infrastructure and to replace devices used by staff to access systems. £271k has been identified as the sum required to maintain the core infrastructure and to replace desktop devices.
- **IT Assets in Schools** – Significant investment has been made in upgrading IT assets in schools using WG funding (HWB). It will be necessary for the Council to fund the replacement of these assets when they reach the end of their useful lives. Although only a small amount of expenditure is required in 2025/26, funds are allocated when available to build up a reserve to fund the significant expenditure, over £2m, which will be necessary in 2027/28. A further £155k has been allocated to fund the replacement cost of IT devices and infrastructure in schools with any unused funding being carried forward to future years.

#### **4.3. Disabled Facilities Grants**

The demand for major adaptations to enable disabled residents to continue to live at home continues to be high. Funding of £500k for adapting Council houses is included in the HRA planned maintenance budget, however, the Council must also fund work to private homes as well. The allocation is increased in 2025/26 to £870k, an increase of £120k from the previous year.

### **5. COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME**

- 5.1.** The Council's modernisation of the school estate, through WG's Communities for Learning programme, is now moving to the next phase and, as a result, no work is planned on any new schools in 2025/26. A budget of £152k is required to pay retained sums in respect of the Ysgol Y Graig project which was completed in 2024.

### **6. OTHER PROJECTS**

- 6.1.** Flood related schemes are funded by WG grant (85%), with the remaining 15% being funded from the Council's own funding. Work continues to develop a number of projects, including major schemes in Menai Bridge and Llanfair P.G. Design work continues on both schemes, with a final business case being put forward to WG for funding to enable the works to be undertaken. £300k has been allocated as match funding for one of the schemes, but the funding will only be utilised should WG provide grant funding for the schemes. Currently, there is no guarantee that the application will be successful.
- 6.2.** The funding relating to the Holyhead : Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation project moves into its final year, with a number of projects being undertaken by the Council and other organisations. The project is funded by the UK Government through a grant scheme which replaced the previous funding received through EU programmes. In addition to the funding that has been brought forward from 2024/25, a further £4.367m is planned to be spent in 2025/26.
- 6.3.** The Economic Development service is currently seeking grant funding to develop more business units across Anglesey, but the commencement of the schemes is dependent on being successful in grant applications. £200k is allocated to allow further work to take place to develop and design individual schemes.
- 6.4.** Significant expenditure will be required over the medium term to upgrade the Council's waste facilities. This will not only allow ageing equipment to be replaced but will also allow the facilities at both Penhesgyn and Gwalchmai to be upgraded to meet new legislative requirements and to allow the Council to meet WG's recycling targets. Work is ongoing to secure grant funding from WG to fund the majority of the investment. In 2025/26, the Council will receive funding through the UK Government's extended producer responsibility for packaging (eEPR) scheme. It is estimated that the Council will receive £2.3m of funding in 2025/26, and this funding is earmarked to fund essential investment in the waste infrastructure which will not be funded by WG grants. £1.445m has been allocated in the 2025/26 budget.

### **7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

- 7.1.** The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced account in terms of both revenue and capital expenditure. The proposed programme for 2025/26 will see the continued investment in the existing stock to ensure continued compliance with the WHQS standards, with £13m being invested.
- 7.2.** Planning work is ongoing to build a new extra care facility in Menai Bridge. £2.276m of expenditure is planned for 2025/26.

The Council continues to build new housing stock across the Island, with a number of projects planned for 2025/26. Each project is subject to a financial viability assessment and is only added to the programme if the assessment is positive and is authorised by the Executive under the agreed authorisation protocol. As a result, no schemes are included in this initial budget, but schemes will be approved and added to the budget during 2025/26.

- 7.3. The total planned investment for 2025/26 (excluding new developments) is estimated at £28.333m. The programme will be funded from: the revenue surplus generated in 2025/26 (£5.488m), Unsupported Borrowing (£9.155m) and WG grants (£13.69m).
- 7.4. The long term investment programme, and how it will be funded over the next 30 years, will be set out in the HRA business plan, which will be presented to the Executive in due course.
- 7.5. A sum of £350k has been allocated to purchase replacement vehicles for the Housing Maintenance Unit.

## 8. SUMMARY RECOMMENDED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

- 8.1. The recommended capital programme for 2025/26 is summarised in Table 3 below, and analysed in further detail in Appendix 2:-

**Table 3**  
**Summary Recommended Capital Programme 2025/26**

	Ref	£'000
2024/25 Schemes Brought Forward – General Fund	Para 4.1	6,439
Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets	Para 4.2 & 4.3	6,6304
Heating System upgrades utilising Low Carbon Heat grant funding	Para 4.2	4,463
Communities for Learning	Para 5	152
Flood Relief Schemes	Para 6.1	330
Holyhead : Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation	Para 6.2	4,367
Economic Development Sites and Premises	Para 6.3	200
Waste Infrastructure	Para 6.4	1,445
Housing Revenue Account	Para 7	15,609
<b>Total Recommended Capital Programme 2025/26</b>		<b>39,309</b>
<b>Funded By:</b>		
General Capital Grant		2,661
Supported Borrowing General		3,118
Communities for Learning Unsupported Borrowing		152
Capital Receipts Reserve		500
Earmarked Reserves		1,160
Welsh & UK Government Grants		14,816
Unsupported Borrowing – General Fund		1,293
HRA Revenue Account Surplus		5,488
HRA External Grants		3,531
HRA Unsupported Borrowing		6,590
<b>2025/26 Total Capital Funding</b>		<b>39,309</b>

- 8.2. The total capital programme shown in Table 3, above, exceeds the anticipated capital funding available shown in Table 1 by £10.323m. This will be funded by unsupported borrowing by the General Fund £1.168m and by the HRA £6.590m.

- 8.3.** This additional unsupported borrowing will create additional revenue expenditure in terms of an increased minimum revenue provision (MRP) and interest costs in 2026/27. The actual additional cost will depend on the interest rate when the funding is borrowed and the life of the asset which is funded by the borrowing. As the Council has adopted the annuity method to calculate the MRP charge, the value of this charge increases over time, with the total sum charged to the revenue account equalling the sum borrowed.

## APPENDIX 2

## FINAL PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET 2025/26

Scheme	Budget £'000	External Grants £'000	General Capital Grant £'000	Supported Borrowing £'000	Unsupported Borrowing £'000	HRA Surplus £'000	Earmarked Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000
<b>2024/25 Committed schemes b/f</b>								
Refurbishment of Schools	769	193		576				
Vehicle Replacement	48			48				
IT Equipment Replacement	352			352				
Upgrade of Public Conveniences	270						270	
Low Carbon Heating Systems	696	696						
Holyhead Regeneration (THI Phase II)	291	291						
Maritime and Visitor Infrastructure	190						190	
Holyhead : Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation	3,426	3,426						
Flood Relief Schemes	110	94		16				
Canolfan Glanhwfa	287	287						
<b>Total 2025/26 Committed Schemes</b>	<b>6,439</b>	<b>4,987</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets</b>								
Refurbishment of School Buildings	471			471				
Refurbishment of Secondary School Toilets	345							345
Refurbishment and Repairs – Council Offices	125				125			
Refurbishment and Repairs – Amlwch Leisure Centre	80			80				
Refurbishment and Repairs – David Hughes Leisure Centre	46			46				
Repairs at Menai Bridge Library	17			17				
Refurbishment and Repairs – Brwynog	69			60	9			
Refurbishment and Repairs – Garreglwyd	514				514			

Scheme	Budget £'000	External Grants £'000	General Capital Grant £'000	Supported Borrowing £'000	Unsupported Borrowing £'000	HRA Surplus £'000	Earmarked Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000
Refurbishment and Repairs – Haulfre	81			81				
Refurbishment and Repairs – Plas Crigyll	100			100				
Refurbishment and Repairs – Plas Mona	70			70				
Refurbishment and Repairs – Hen Rheithordy	35			35				
Refurbishment and Repairs – Gors Felen	315				315			
Vehicle Replacement	540		140	400				
IT Equipment Replacement General	271		271					
IT Equipment Replacement Schools	155							155
Disabled Facilities Grants	870		870					
Refurbishment Plas Arthur Leisure Centre	500						500	
Highway Resurfacing	1,700		1,380	320				
<b>Total Refurbishment / Replacement of Assets</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Communities for Learning Programme</b>								
Ysgol y Graig	152				152			
<b>Total Communities for Learning Programme</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Flood Relief Scheme</b>								
Flood Relief Schemes – Match Funding	330				330			
<b>Total Flood Relief Schemes</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Heating Systems Upgrade to Low Carbon</b>								
Heating Systems Upgrade to Low Carbon	4,463	4,017		446				
<b>Total Heating Systems Upgrade to Low Carbon</b>	<b>4,463</b>	<b>4,017</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Scheme	Budget £'000	External Grants £'000	General Capital Grant £'000	Supported Borrowing £'000	Unsupported Borrowing £'000	HRA Surplus £'000	Earmarked Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000
<b>Holyhead : Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation</b>								
Holyhead : Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation	4,367	4,367						
<b>Total Holyhead : Culture and Heritage Driven Transformation</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Economic Development Sites &amp; Premises</b>								
Economic Development Sites & Premises	200						200	
<b>Total Economic Development Sites &amp; Premises</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Waste Infrastructure</b>								
Internal Recycling Sorting Equipment - Gwalchmai	733	733						
Mobile Plant - Penhesgyn	318	318						
Drainage Works - Penhesgyn	314	314						
Mobile Plant - Gwalchmai	80	80						
<b>Total Waste Infrastructure</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>14,816</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>								
WHQS Planned Maintenance Programme	12,983	2,690			4,805	5,488		
Extra Care Facility Menai Bridge	2,276	841			1,435			
Vehicle Replacement	350				350			
<b>TOTAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>15,609</b>	<b>3,531</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,590</b>	<b>5,488</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26</b>	<b>39,309</b>	<b>18,347</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>8,035</b>	<b>5,488</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>500</b>



<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b> <b><u>Scrutiny Report Template</u></b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	19/02/2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Recommendation from Corporate Scrutiny task and finish – Housing Services voids & allocations
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To provide an update on actions to date
<b>Scrutiny Chair:</b>	Councillor Douglas Fowlie
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Councillor Robin Williams
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Ned Michael
<b>Report Author:</b>	Llinos Wyn Williams
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<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Llinoswilliams2@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">Llinoswilliams2@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>
<b>Local Members:</b>	Not relevant

## 1 - Recommendation/s

### The Committee is requested to:

It is felt that more time is needed to see the results achieved on performance indicators following the report undertaken by the task and finish group and interventions put in place by Housing Services following the work of the task and finish group but would ask the committee to:-

**R1** - to note this report as an interim report on progress to date following recommendations made by the task and finish group on void turnaround and days taken to re-let properties.

**R2** – to note the void turnaround improvement action plan, which can be found in annex 2.

## 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

### Housing – Ensuring everyone has a place to call home

- We remain committed to working with the Welsh Government and partners, such as registered housing associations, to respond to local housing challenges.
- We will work together to identify the island's housing needs so that we can provide for the recognised need and the required tenures.
- Continue to invest in our housing stock by remodeling property that is no longer suitable and work towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standards II.
- Reduce the requirement for emergency accommodation units by increasing the number of permanent homes developed.
- Continue to bring empty homes back into use across the island

### 3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

**3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities (focus on customer / citizen)**

**3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality** [focus on value]

**3.3 A look at any risks** [focus on risk]

**3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role** [focus on performance & quality]

**3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:**

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

**3.6 The potential impacts the decision would have on:**

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

### 4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. In what ways will the Housing Service incorporate and apply the best practice examples from the Housing Quality Network that have led to a reduction in void turnaround days, and how will these strategies be integrated into our current processes?
2. The action plan is ambitious, with several actions already implemented or completed. What assurance can you provide that all remaining actions will be finished by their deadlines, while also meeting the necessary resource and financial requirements?
3. In what ways will the Housing Service ensure effective communication of challenges and demands with all potential tenants waiting to move to their new homes and other stakeholders moving forward?
4. In terms of the Action Plan, Action point 11 (regular management meetings) and action point 14 (examine current processes and timeline in HMU) do not have specified completion dates. What is the proposed expected timeline for completing these actions?

## 5 – Background / Context

### **Background of task and finish group**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2023 and during the scrutiny of the Corporate Scorecard within the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, it was recommended that an Elected Member led task and finish group be created to review the performance of housing services indicators PI29 and PI30, which relate to housing voids. The aim of this review was to observe current working practices and make recommendations to improve the process, in order to lower the number of days taken to complete a void property.

- **Indicator 29** - The average number of calendar days to let lettable units of accommodation (*excluding Difficult to Let – DTL's*) – it was red with a performance of 48 days against a target of 40 days. This was a decline on the 30 days seen for the same period in 2022/23 and the 35 days seen in 2021/22.
- **Indicator 30** – the outcome of indicator 29 influenced indicator 30 whereby the percentage of rent lost due to properties being empty, the corporate scorecard noted that 1.58% of rent was lost.

In the following months, the task and finish group agreed their Terms of Reference (ToR) and held several meetings with Housing Services Management team.

The task and finish group used a methodology based on a methods investigation and improvement technique called SREDIM (select, record examine, develop, implement and maintain)

### **Panel Membership:**

Cllr Ieuan Williams, Chair, Cllr Keith Roberts, Cllr Geraint ap Bebb, Cllr Sonia Williams, Cllr Arfon Wyn and Cllr Dyfed Wyn Jones.

### **The task and finish group consisted of the following meetings:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to agree the TOR and discuss the methodology
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, to meet with housing staff to ask questions on the information supplied.
- 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to meet with the maintenance unit staff to understand the refurbishment process in further detail.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 to discuss progress to date.

### **General overview of the Housing Services void operations**

On an annual basis, Housing Services receives circa. 260 property notices. When a property is under notice, the term used for this is a void. Income is lost for every day a property is void. Tenant turnover is a significant and costly challenge within the housing sector.

Despite a void property being a challenge, it also provides an opportunity to inspect, refresh and improve the efficiency of each home longer term. It is also an opportunity that our homes meet statutory standards, including WHQS2023 compliance.

The target timescales for the refurbishment of a property is 50 calendar days. This classification is for any works associated with minor repairs, decoration, statutory safety checks and servicing.

The refurbishment of a property classified as a major void has significant resource and budgetary implications for the void process. This classification is for any works associated with major repairs, major plastering works, capital investment works such as component renewals (kitchen / bathroom / heating etc.), safety checks and servicing.

The cost of refurbishing these properties can run into tens of thousands of pounds.

**Effective and efficient void management is necessary to:**

- Maximise rental income
- Reduce waiting times so that tenants can access properties more quickly
- Meet housing demand and increase stock available for homeless households / applicants.
- Maintain and ensure the quality and safety of council homes

**There are several teams that form part of void turnaround work, including:**

- **Housing Solutions** – responsible for allocating properties as part of the housing register. There are circa. 900 applicants on our housing register, which is a substantial increase when comparing to 2019.
- **Housing Maintenance Unit (HMU)** – responsible for the end of tenancy inspection, void planning works and Maintenance completion of properties, ensuring they are within our Minimal Lettable Standard alongside the Wales Quality Housing Standard 2023.
- **Estate Management team** – responsible for signing new tenants and provide ongoing intervention and support where required.
- **Housing Occupational Therapist** – responsible for assessing each applicant with a medical housing need alongside assessing prospective properties to ensure they achieve long term independent living.

**Key Challenges assessed by the task and finish group alongside Housing Services response & mitigation:**

Risk number	Aspect assessed	Housing Services mitigation

1	<p><b>Housing Maintenance Unit key risks identified;</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Housing Maintenance Unit (HMU) has never been fully staffed.</li> <li>2. There are ongoing challenges with recruiting painter and decorators, Electricians and Heating Engineers.</li> <li>3. The poor condition that properties are handed back from some tenants.</li> <li>4. Issues such as rubbish left in properties, unauthorised groundworks such as ponds and outbuildings alongside poor decoration.</li> <li>5. Carrying out carbon reduction work (<i>removing fireplaces, oil boilers and moving to electric heating</i>)</li> <li>6. Challenges with utility companies regarding power and meters.</li> <li>7. The HMU struggle to accommodate the peaks and troughs the way voids key come in. We experience difficulties managing approx. 50 void programs of work, all running at the same time.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a review of the HMU structure has commenced. Our starting point was to develop and advertise a new Voids Supervisor role. The Voids Supervisor, alongside our Maintenance Team Leader &amp; Manager will assess the productivity of our workforce.</li> <li>2. We have recruited x 8 apprentices within the last 2 Years. A further x 5 apprentices will be appointed during 2025-26. We have recently gone out to tender for our sub-contractor framework, which consists of 23 lots. Once the framework has concluded, contractor monitoring meetings will commence with providers, ensuring they are achieving our agreed SLA.</li> <li>3. End of tenancy inspections will commence in April 2025. In addition to this, we are commencing on a planned monitoring exercise of annually inspecting 10% of our properties.</li> <li>4. Will be addressed as above.</li> <li>5. This is undertaken as part of our void works alongside WHQS2023 and the decarbonization programme. Our action plan aims to fully cost this programme.</li> <li>6. We are actively discussing issues with utility companies, with our main provider, Energy Angels. Over the last 3 months, we have had two void properties affected by this issue.</li> <li>7. The void monitoring sheet is now in place and will monitor all voids closely. A weekly inter-departmental meeting to discuss voids of concern will occur as per our action plan.</li> </ol>
2	<p><b>Technology risks within the voids process;</b></p> <p>The Housing Asset Management system, Accuserve was assessed as</p>	<p>- Since the voids review, our Housing Information Systems officers have gone back to basics with the Accuserve system through training and development for operational</p>

	being administratively heavy and adds to the hours of work required when preparing for void properties.	staff. This, alongside the successful recruitment of our new Maintenance Information Systems officer, of whom started in post on the 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.
3	<p><b>Adaptation requirements by our OT</b></p> <p>At the time of review, a % of applicants with adaptation needs that required OT support, resulted in an increase days taken to assess the suitability of accommodation for their longer-term social housing needs.</p>	<p>Since the task and finish group, Housing Services have worked on defining the role and responsibility of our Housing OT. This is to ensure the workload is manageable and partners, applicants and other stakeholders are fully aware of the remit. This can be found in appendix 2.</p> <p>There are no longer delays with assessing prospective properties for housing applicants with an adaptation requirement.</p> <p>We adopt a common sense approach whereby if an applicant requires a certain level of adaptations and is matched to a suitable void property, suitability assessments are no longer undertaken. This is for lower-level adaptations such as level access showers and / or grab rails.</p>
4	<p><b>Sensitive Let Policy review</b></p> <p>The Sensitive Let policy leads to an increased number of void days due to the requirement to undertake additional checks for applicants being considered for properties in Tyddyn Mostyn, Peibio Close, Ty'n Caeau and Ger y Graig (<i>all designated as sensitive let areas since 2017 due to ASB challenges</i>)</p> <p>(<a href="#">18.09.2017</a> – Executive Committee Sensitive Let Policy approval)</p>	<p>The current format of our Sensitive Let Policy has been in situ since 2017. It does not reflect some of the current complexities that Housing Services are presented with. The policy in its current form has aimed to achieve its purpose, which is to reduce the risks of ASB in areas that have previously been prevalent with challenges. In addition to this, the Policy is intended to provide additional reassurance to that provided in the Common Allocations Policy regarding achieving balance and social inclusion on our estates.</p> <p>An internal review is underway, and an updated version of the revised Sensitive Let Policy will be discussed at the February 2025 Senior Management meeting.</p> <p>This policy will require democratic approval.</p>

5	<p><b>Property affordability assessments</b></p> <p>Some delays with housing allocations where a financial assessment is required to ensure incoming tenants can afford rental costs.</p>	<p>Pre-tenancy financial due diligence checks are paramount to sustainable and affordable longer term secure contracts.</p> <p>Housing applicants are required to provide an overview of their financial position at the time of application alongside when they are being considered for a property.</p> <p><b>A new process has been agreed whereby;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicants that are in employment can be financially assessed by our Housing Solutions Team at the point they come up on the list for a property.</li> <li>- Applicants that have more complex income streams, such as being supported by welfare benefits, are financially assessed by the Financial Inclusion Team</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Challenges with new builds and our old stock</b></p> <p>An increase in some tenant expectations comparing existing housing stock to new build stock, remembering a large proportion of our stock is approaching 80 - 100 years old.</p>	<p>All void properties undergo full decoration alongside installation of flooring.</p> <p>This is to ensure the quality of our homes upon allocation achieved the Renting Homes Wales Act 2016, Wales Quality Housing Standard 2023 alongside our minimal lettable standard.</p> <p>Void turnaround on an existing property when comparing a new build will always be much higher, especially if a tenant has lived within the property for decades.</p>
7	<p><b>Housing Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Telephone sign up were viewed by the Solutions team to increase void days</li> <li>- Very short notice of some HMU handovers given to the Housing Solutions Team for property sign up.</li> </ul>	<p>Sign-ups are offered both by phone and face to face. The drive for sign ups will always ensure that void days are not impacted, ensuring incoming tenants can move into their homes as soon as possible.</p> <p>Virtual sign ups can provide a degree of flexibility for incoming tenants – examples of this is someone who works full time, being able to undertake the sign up by phone, sign and return the Secure Contract on the same day to which they are provided with the key safe code to enter.</p>

8	<b>Renting Homes Wales Act 2014</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adding additional void days when a property is handed back due to tenants passing away.</li> <li>- Increased compliance requirements as part of the property sign up.</li> </ul>	<p>The Act has increased our void days by an average of 4 days per void property when a tenant passes away.</p> <p>The increase in compliance required as part of the property sign up has added pressure onto our void teams, however this aspect of compliance is essential to maintain the Law and re-assure our homes are fit for human habitation. An extract from Inside Housing can be seen below, providing information on associated risks of not conforming with the Renting Homes Wales Act.</p>
9	<b>Wales Quality Housing Standard 2023</b>	<p>WHQS 2023 is a positive program for the social housing sector in Wales. As with phase one of WHQS, the Council embraces the required changes and improvements to achieve compliance within the realms of phase two.</p> <p>There are however, cost and resource implications that will continually be assessed and monitored as per our Housing Revenue Account business plan.</p> <p><b>The x 8 essential requirements of WHQS 2023 includes;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Homes must be in good condition</li> <li>- Homes must be safe and secure</li> <li>- Not cost too much to heat. And not be bad for the environment</li> <li>- Have an up-to-date kitchen</li> <li>- Have an up-to-date bathroom</li> <li>- Be comfortable. And suit the person living there</li> <li>- Have a garden if possible.</li> <li>- Have nice outside space if possible</li> </ul>



**In addition to the above, the following actions have been achieved;**

- Developed a real time data-led voids monitoring document, which enables the department to view in real time status of any current void property turnaround timescales, alongside income lost per property.
- This data is reviewed the bi-weekly operational voids meeting whereby operational staff meet every week to hold in-depth property-based discussions alongside a management monitoring group
- Recruited an additional painter and decorator (*this role was advertised x 4 times before we appointed*) and appointed 2 Contractors who can carry our work on Major Void Properties

**Actions going forward**

**Action Plan**

- Develop a Void Policy document and review Letting Standards document.
- Setting a realistic target for void turnaround in 2025/26 of 35 days
- End of tenancy inspections will occur between Housing Management and Housing Maintenance to address issues and requirements prior to tenant departure.
- Develop a tenant departure survey to understand the rationale behind notices given. Some notices will be outside of our control, including tenants passing away and tenants moving into residential homes.
- Recruit to roles with full consideration given on specific hard to recruit Maintenance roles and arranging a meet the employer employability event, in partnership with Môn CF and DWP.
- In depth property analysis as per our newly developed void monitoring spreadsheet to identify problems earlier and resolve through an increase in discussions and plans to troubleshoot issues (*for example, the new data document can inform us of when a property is becoming problematic through either resource issues such as sickness or delays in capital orders, for example a new front door*)
- Learn from other areas and the Housing Quality Network (HQN) on good practice and examples whereby void turnaround days have decreased due to various interventions, that aren't currently within our practice.
- More departmental emphasis given on the void income loss as we're currently driven by void turnaround days. The balance between both PI's and income loss monitoring is essential for positive business management.

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

**6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010**

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

**6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language**

Not applicable
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<b>7 – Financial Implications</b>
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Financial implications is one of the key risks with the authority's void work requirements. The longer and the more properties that are on our void list, the larger the income loss will be.
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With the introduction of WHQS 2023, the renting Homes Wales Act. and the very nature of an ageing housing stock, means increasing financial implications.
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<b>8 – Appendices:</b>
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<u><b>Appendix one - Task and finish report</b></u>
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<u><b>Appendix two - Proposed action plan</b></u>
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<b>9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):</b>
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None
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## **Report on the conclusions of the voids task and finish work group**

### **1. Introduction**

In the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 following the scrutiny of the Corporate Scorecard it was decided that a task and finish group be created to review the performance of Indicator 29 – The average number of calendar days to let lettable units of accommodation (excluding DTLs) – it was red with a performance of 48 days against a target of 40 days. This was a decline on the 30 days seen for the same period in 2022/23 and the 35 days seen in 2021/22.

This has an effect on indicator 30, the percentage of rent lost due to properties being empty, the corporate scorecard noted that 1.58% of rent was lost. Assuming that the total rent is approximately £22.5 million this equates to a sum of roughly £355,500 per year. The closer we can bring the number of empty days to the target or set a new target based on the optimum time to carry out repairs or refurbishment will bring this loss of income down.

In the following months the group was set up and terms of reference agreed, see appendix 1. It was decided to use a methodology of SREDIM, select (the problem), record (the current process), examine (the current process), develop (a new process or identify the problem), implement (the new process or recommendations), maintain (the improved situation).

The group met informally in early February to decide on a set of questions to begin the work, see appendix 2. After receiving the questions from the group and a set written by scrutiny officers, staff from housing prepared a detailed set of information to assist the group in understanding the process of letting out our social housing. See appendices 3 and 4. We were also supplied with the Lettable Standards document – appendix 5 and the new tenancy agreement/contract appendix 6.

Following this the group has met on 5 occasions:

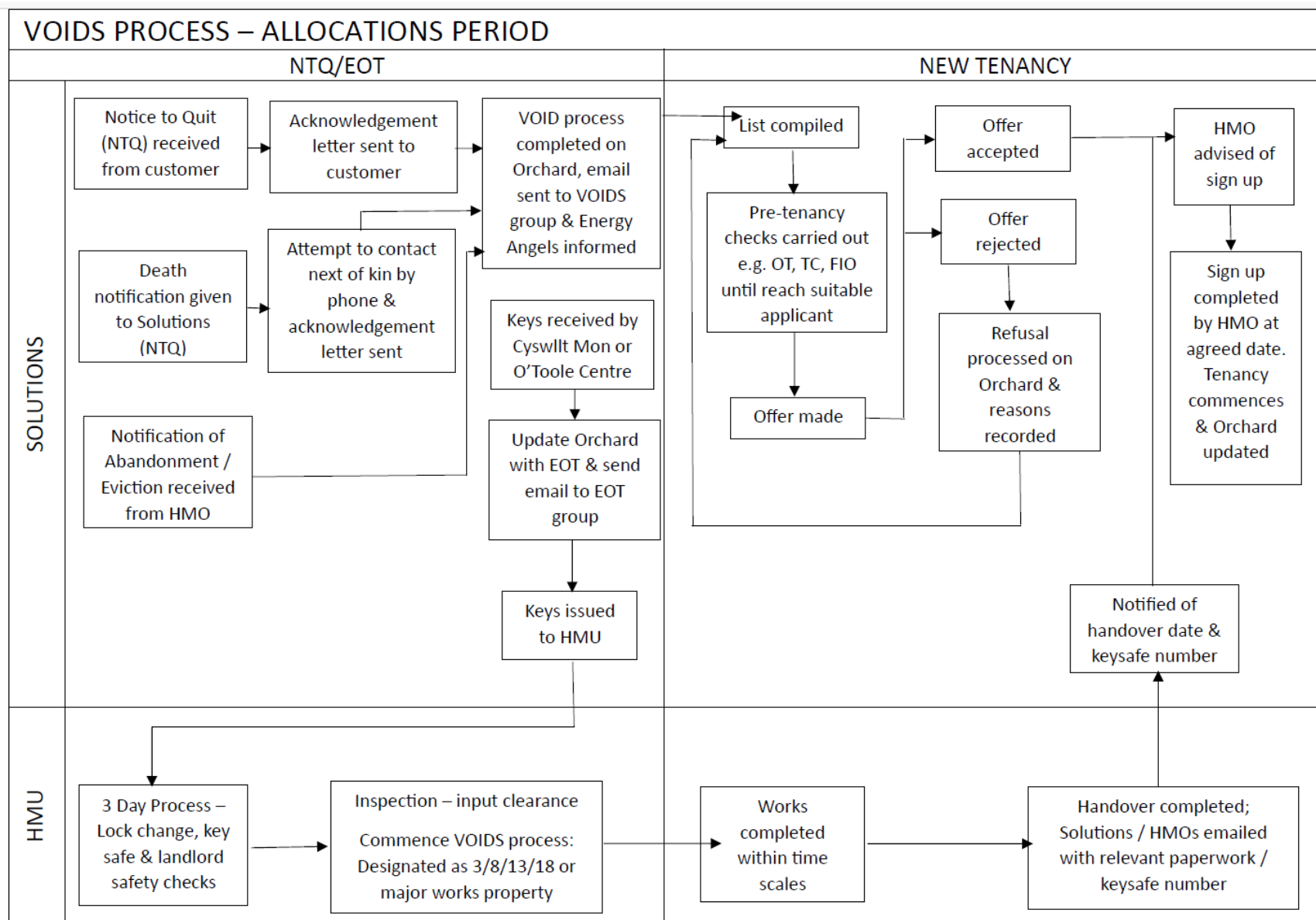
8<sup>th</sup> February to agree the TOR and discuss the methodology

4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March – to meet with housing staff to ask questions on the information supplied.

19<sup>th</sup> March to meet with the maintenance unit staff to understand the refurbishment process in further detail.

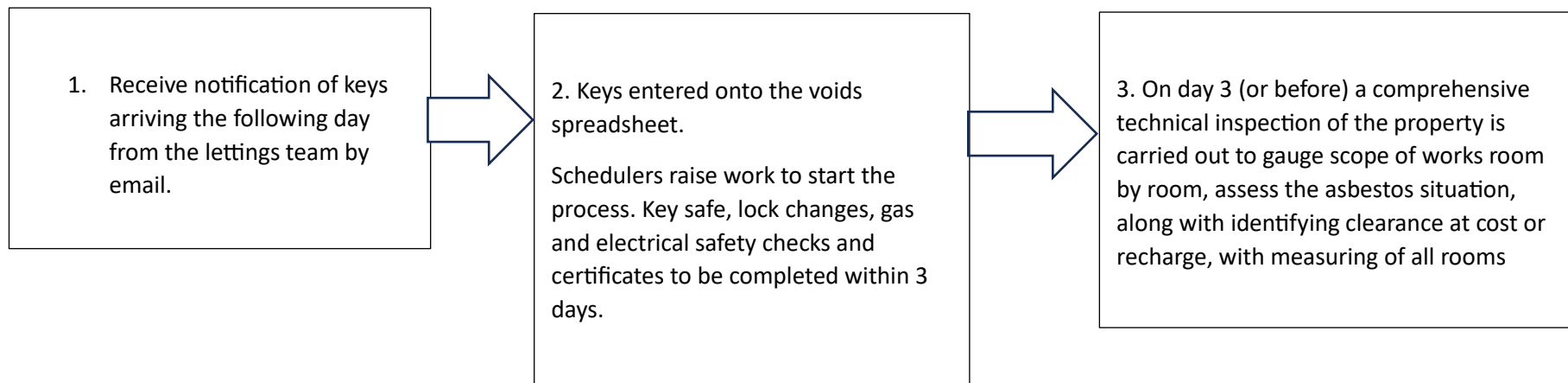
22<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss progress to date.

2. Record – documenting the process of letting out a property. Below are two detailed flowcharts of the process followed by the Solutions team and the HMU (Housing Maintenance Unit)

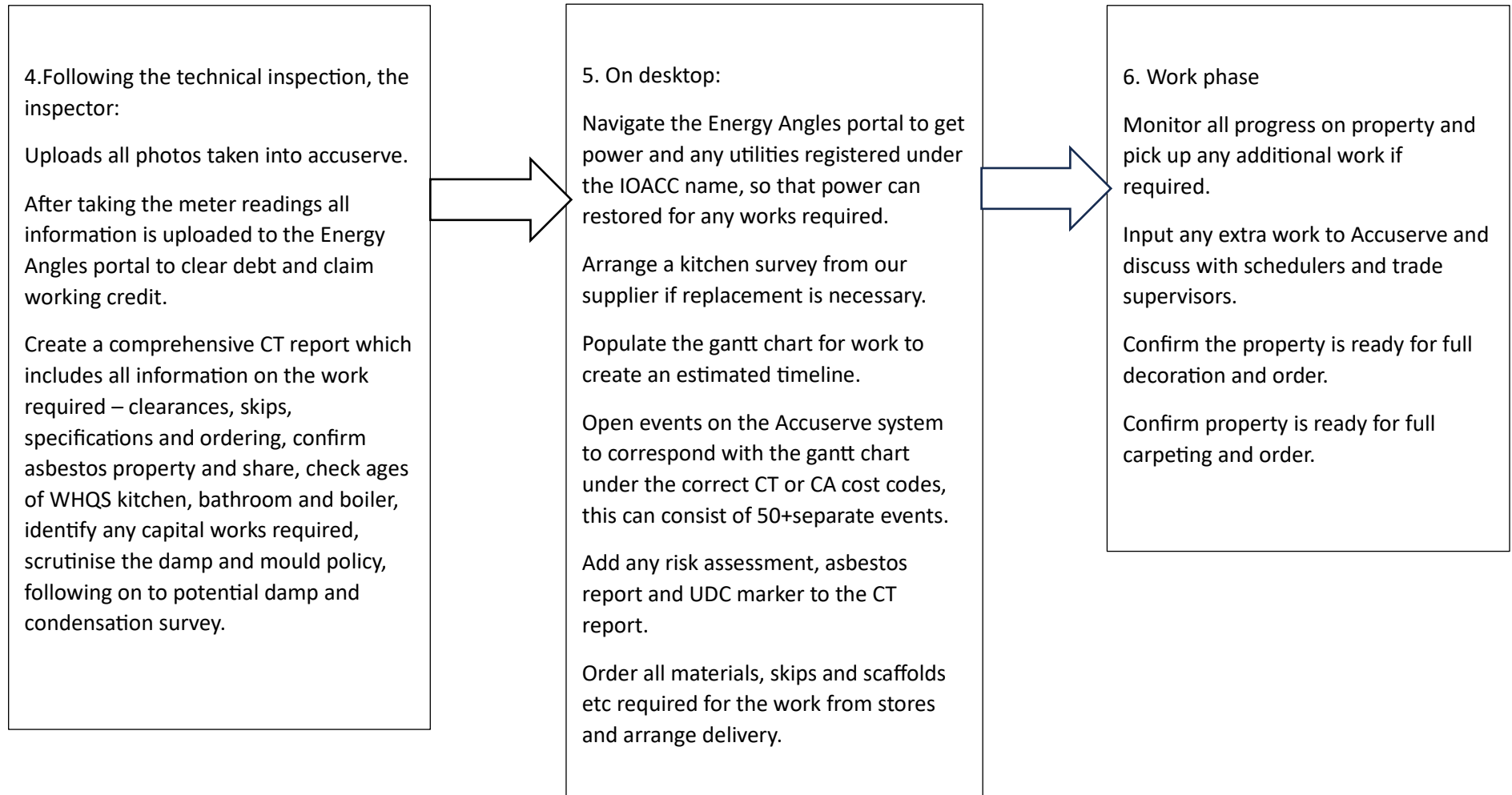


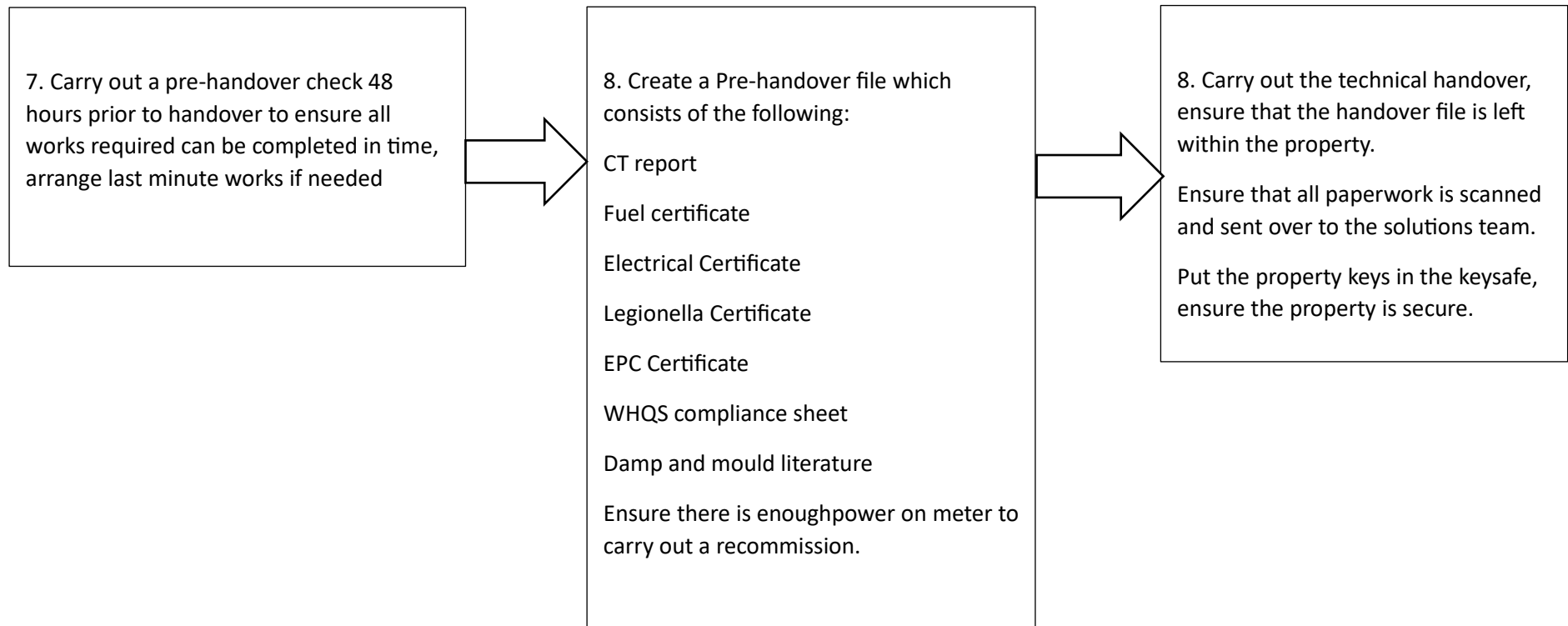
## Detailed voids process for the HMU section

### The first 3 days



## Following on from the first 3 days







### 3. Examine – analysis of the process

The Solutions team have identified 6 areas that are problematic, see appendix 3 for the detail:

1. Lets where an occupational therapist is involved.
2. Sensitive to let property.
3. Short notice of handovers from the HMU.
4. Lets where the a financial inclusion assessment is required.
5. The delivery of keys from the HMU.
6. Telephone sign ups.

The next section will document the solutions proposed by the Solutions team.

The HMU unit noted 14 areas that influence on the complexity of the refurbishment process:

1. All voids target times were set before RHW, WHQS, Damp + Mould and other W.G. targets have been introduced, with no amendments to compensate for all additional work resulting from the additional legislation.
2. Tenant expectations due to comparing existing housing to new build specifications, remembering a large proportion of our stock is approaching 80 - 100 years old.
3. The poor condition we receive a lot of our properties back from tenants.
4. Shortage of available trades/contractors and supervision resource due to support required to other areas such as reactive maintenance, tight repair priority times and managing staff leave and sickness absences, all made worse since all visits to our customers are on appointment only basis.
5. The HMU struggle to accommodate the peaks and troughs the way voids key come in. We experience difficulties managing approx. 50 void programs of work, all running at the same time.
6. Property clearance, where tenants are just walking out and leaving large amounts of rubbish and old furniture.
7. Our properties are now expected to be brought up to a refurbished state, rather than a minimal lettable standard.
8. Dealing with external gardens and fencing, where tenants have built their own sheds and fencing etc., which need to be removed, made safe and reinstated for incoming tenants.
9. I.T. concerns, Accuserve voids management can be time consuming.
10. Meeting Welsh government standards. Pre Covid, an average of 20% of voids were major. Now, 80% of voids are major as more kitchens + bathrooms are being fitted as we are approaching WHQS2
11. It could be stated that we are approaching a time where all voids will be major, considering WHQS2023, full decoration, full flooring just as a starting point.

12. New standards from RHW (Full decoration + Full floor covering + additional smoke alarms) and Capital works (Front + rear doors, E7 heating, boiler exchanges) and Damp + Mold (PIV + Humidity fans) work now being completed whilst void.
13. Carrying out carbon reduction work (removing fireplaces, oil boilers and moving to electric heating)
14. Challenges with utility companies regarding power and meters.

These issues were discussed in the meeting at the HMU on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and are discussed in the next section.

#### 4. Develop – possible solutions to the problems identified.

The solutions team have already thought about potential solutions to the 6 problem areas they identified. These are:

1. Limit number of OT referrals sent for an applicant to 2 properties, which will allow solutions to proceed with other lists should the applicant come up top for another property.  
Give deadlines to the OT for feedback if the keys for the property is with HMU – e.g. 5 working days. Should no feedback be received within the deadline the solutions officer will carry on with the list.  
Solutions to by-pass the OT referral in situations where the property is a bungalow and only a LAS is required for the applicant – subject to management approval.
2. Review the S/L policy and the process needed to allocate properties within these estates.  
Arrange a quick 30 minute meeting with the relevant HMO / ASB officer to discuss the applicants instead of sending an email and waiting 5 days for a reply.
3. Receive handover emails earlier in order for solutions to arrange a sign up ASAP, but explain to the customer that there *might* be a delay in the handover. Explain that this is due to the fact that we now carpet and decorate the property for them. However, if the sign up is done remotely (i.e. telephone) then it will just be a case of releasing the keysafe number once the handover has taken place. This would only work if the sign up was done over the telephone and not in person.
4. Solutions team leader to review with FIO team leader their capacity on a two monthly basis and if FIO are able to conduct the FIO to save time they would do so. If not, Solutions to continue to assess the affordability of applicants who work full time and receive no benefits / UC, however need to remind customer services to encourage the applicant to complete the Income and Expenditure form with the application form.
5. HMU staff re-commence collecting the keys from Llangefni office when they are passing throughout the day.

6. Still offer the telephone sign up for applicants who wish to do the sign up this way, however not to offer this as the 'default' option and to ask if they would like a face to face sign up in order for the keys to be given the same day. If a face to face sign up is requested, solutions officer to send a copy of the occupation contract via email beforehand in order to save time during the sign up appointment.

A few but not all of the issues raised by the HMU were discussed in the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. Accuserve is not viewed as a concern, but the administration time involved in fully documenting a refurbishment is noted. The extra information is seen as a benefit when evidence is required that the Council is complying with the many extra requirements that we have to comply with today.

The main issue is one of capacity. The HMU manager shared the voids gantt chart/spreadsheet which highlighted the issue. On the 19<sup>th</sup> March there were 46 voids in the system, 31 (67%) were classed as major works. The gantt chart covered 12 days. If we multiply those days by the 46 properties being worked on we have 552 days that could be productive if we had the workforce. The number of days with resources working on properties was 201, leaving 351 days without a trade working on a property, 64% non-productive days.

The HMU manager shared an updated gantt chart in early May. The number of voids had risen to 59 houses. 37 (63%) were classed as major works. The gantt chart covered 19 days from 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. 59 voids over 19 days is 1121 days. 766 of these days had no resource allocated to the voids, taking the percentage of non-productive days to 68%.

There are roughly 200 voids a year with the numbers varying from 6 a month in July and August 2023 to 26 a month in April 26.

The HMU Manager believes that a major refurbishment would take 25 days to complete if resources were available from start to finish.

The obvious solution is to employ more tradesmen. The HMU currently have two teams working on voids. These teams comprise of 2 electricians, 2 plumbers, 2 joiners, 2 plasterers and 2 labourers. External tradesmen are also contracted to complete work like fitting kitchens. Often many of the voids team have to work on day to day maintenance if staff from that team are on holiday or sick leave. The HMU was brought in house in 2015 and has never been fully staffed.

Following conversations with the Head of Service and the Section 151 Officer the task and finish group recommended that:

1. the local performance target for Key Performance Indicator 29 be set at 35 calendar days to relet lettable units of accommodation (excluding difficult to let units).

2 the Housing Service prepare a costed action plan to reduce the number of calendar days to relet units of accommodation from current performance to 35 calendar days. The plan should include steps to reduce the current level of unproductive time in the reletting process.

3 the task and finish group request the Housing Service to prepare a costed action plan to ensure sufficient resource to complete the necessary works on an average number of 4 vacant units per week and in order to ensure that units are ready to relet within the revised target

4 recommend that the Housing Service examines current processes and the Housing Maintenance Unit in order to reduce the current level of unproductive time lost.

The new Housing Asset management plan to reach WHQS needs to be considered in association with voids. If a maximum number of voids were set for any one time should and external company be used to bring the number down.

## 5. Implementation and maintenance

The suggestions from the Solutions team to be implemented as soon as possible.

A comprehensive and detailed business plan to achieve recommendations 1 to 4 above to be developed by December, with implementation over the following six months and the new target of 35 days set by April 2025.

## 6. Lessons learned

Although this task and finish project has been a valuable experience, the question should be considered if a task and finish group by committee is the most effective way of investigating performance? A committee is confined to a few meetings and doesn't want to impede on Officers time in areas that can be sensitive. The Authority has a transformation section, should the Senior Management team and the Executive consider training them in business process improvement techniques and should that work be considered as normal and valuable if it can bring about improvements in efficiency and effectiveness. Should the Council consider other Total Quality Management or Continuous Improvement methods to improve productivity and performance in the future. This would be akin to making the Council a Learning Authority as was suggested in Education a couple of years ago.

## 7. General Comments and thanks

The task and finish group acknowledge that the Housing Departments performance is amongst the best in North Wales and that all Authorities and Housing Associations face challenges in keeping void times down to targets.

We are facing an unprecedented period in housing with over 700 on the list for a house and many private landlords deciding to pull out of the market. Being able to squeeze all improvements in void performance should assist us in bringing the numbers on the list down sooner.

The group would like to thank all of the Housing staff that gave of their time to answer all our questions and provide us with the required documentation.

Action No.	Action	Lead Officer	Completion date
1	Develop a void management policy that encompasses Renting Homes Wales Act, WHQS2023 and the Councils' Minimal lettable standard	Llinos Williams	April 2025
2	Review the Sensitive Let Policy to ensure it achieves the required outcomes and has the least impact on void turnaround days as possible	Llinos Williams Dewi Parry	March 2025
3	Develop the live / real time void monitoring database for continuous monitoring	Darren Gerrard	January 2025

4	Develop the operational void monitoring group	Darren Gerrard	January 2025
5	Workshop with all staff involved in voids turnaround once policy is in place	Ned Michael Llinos Williams Dafydd Rowlands	April 2025
6	Review Maintenance workforce capacity, ensuring performance is continually high. Consideration given to business cases on invest to save recruitment vs sub-contracting.	Dafydd Rowlands	Ongoing to commence from January 2025
7	Develop operational procedures as part of the wider voids policy	Solutions and Maintenance Operational Team	June 2025 (post approval of voids policy)
8	Ongoing housing application to go live via CRM	Llinos Williams	June 2025

9	Elected Member workshop on voids policy, procedures and how best they can support with reducing demands on officers (for example, persistent contact from housing applicants)	Llinos Williams Dewi Parry	Summer 2025
10	Cost out WHQS2023 and decarbonisation in respect of voids for the next 10 Years	Dafydd Rowlands	
11	Regular Management meetings regarding properties that are becoming a concern (i.e. they are heading to be out of target) – agree on a property specific plan of action)	Hefin Thomas Llinos Williams Dewi Meredith Dafydd Rowlands	
12	Commence end of tenancy inspections – inform outgoing tenants of their end of tenancy requirements and our re-charging policy	Community Housing Technical Services	April 2025
13	Develop an end of tenancy survey in order to understand why tenants are looking to move on from their homes	Llinos Williams Dewi Parry Karen Roberts	April 2025



14	Examine current processes and timelines in the Housing Maintenance Unit in order to reduce the current level of unproductive time lost.	Hefin Thomas Dafydd Rowlands Darren Gerrard	
15	Review performance indicator for 2025-26 based on a costed forecast on completing a minimum of x 4 void properties per week. Task and Finish group recommends x 35 days.	Tim Rheoli Tai	February 2025

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<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b> <b><u>Scrutiny Report Template</u></b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	Assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering, agreeing and reviewing its forward work programme for 2024/25
<b>Scrutiny Chair:</b>	Cllr Douglas Fowle
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Not applicable
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Tel:</b>	07971167198
<b>Email:</b>	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
<b>Local Members:</b>	Applicable to all Scrutiny Members

<b>1 - Recommendation/s</b>
<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <p><b>R1</b> agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2024/25</p> <p><b>R2</b> note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.</p>

<b>2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities</b>
<p>Effective work programming is the foundation of effective local government scrutiny. Our Scrutiny rolling forward work programmes are aligned with the corporate priorities of the Council and corporate transformation programmes – ensuring the role of Member scrutiny makes a tangible contribution to the Council's improvement priorities.</p>

<b>3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members</b>
<p><b>To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b> Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]</p> <p><b>3.2</b> A look at the efficiency &amp; effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]</p> <p><b>3.3</b> A look at any risks [focus on risk]</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance &amp; quality]</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul> <p>[focus on wellbeing]</p>

**3.6** The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

**4 - Key Scrutiny Questions****5 – Background / Context****1. Background**

1.1 Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective local government scrutiny function<sup>1</sup>. Done well, work programming can help lay the foundations for targeted and timely work on issues of local importance demonstrating where Member scrutiny can add value. Good practice advocates two key issues at the heart of the scrutiny forward work programme:

- Challenge around prioritising work streams
- Need for a member-led approach and interface with officers.

**1.2 Basic principles of good work programming<sup>2</sup>**

- Work programming should not be a “start-stop” process
- Complementary work programmes for separate scrutiny committees
- Balance between different methods of work
- An effective process for reporting / escalating issues to the Executive
- Input and views of internal stakeholders
- Close working with the Executive
- Links with the Annual Scrutiny Report (evaluation and improvement tool).

**2. Local context**

2.1 There is now a well-established practice of forward work programming which are now rolling programmes focusing on the quality of scrutiny with fewer items, to add value. They are an important tool to assist Members in prioritising their work and are discussed with the Leadership Team and Heads of Service. Both committees review the content of their work programmes on a regular basis, to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements now ensure greater focus on:

- Strategic aspects
- Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
- Priorities of the Council Plan and transformation projects
- Risks and the work of inspection and regulation
- Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.

<sup>1</sup> A Cuning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

<sup>2</sup> A Cuning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

**Outcome:** rolling work programmes for scrutiny committees which are aligned with corporate priorities.

2.2 Committee chairs lead on developing the forward work programmes and are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum and for approval at each ordinary meeting of the scrutiny committees. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee these programmes and jointly negotiate priorities.

2.3 **“Whole council” approach to Scrutiny:** our work programmes provide a strong foundation for our improvement programme, ensuring the role that Scrutiny plays in the Authority’s governance arrangements:

- i. Supports robust and effective decision-making
- ii. Makes a tangible contribution to the Council’s improvement priorities
- iii. Continues to evolve.

### 3. Issues for consideration

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee receives regular update reports on the implementation of its forward work programme. A copy of the current 2024/25 work programme is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report for reference and includes changes made to the work programme since the Committee last considered the document.<sup>3</sup>

3.2 Where appropriate, items may be added to the Committee’s forward work programme during the municipal year. Requests for additional matters to be considered for inclusion on the work programme can be submitted via the Members Request Form for an item to be considered for Scrutiny. Requests are initially considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum, using the following criteria:

- the Council’s strategic objectives and priorities (as outlined in the Council Plan)
- the ability of the Committee to have influence and/or add value on the subject (A Scrutiny Test of Significance Form will be completed).

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

### 6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

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

### 6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

Not applicable for this overarching issue but will be considered as an integral part of preparing for specific proposals to be submitted for consideration by the Committee.

## 7 – Financial Implications

Not applicable.

## 8 – Appendices:

<sup>3</sup> Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2024/25
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<b>9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):</b>
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Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW
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**ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR SCRUTINY → MAY, 2024 – APRIL, 2025**  
[Version dated 13/02/25]

**Note for Stakeholders and the Public:**

A [Protocol for Public Speaking at Scrutiny Committees](#) has been published by the Council.

Should you wish to speak on any specific item at a Scrutiny Committee then you should register your interest by submitting a written request using the form available as soon as possible and at least 3 clear working days prior to the specific Committee meeting. You can access information about the meeting and which items being discussed by reading this Forward Work Programme. Contact the Scrutiny Manager if you have any queries

[\[AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk\]](mailto:AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk)

<b>CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>May, 2024 (21/05/24)</b>	<b>May, 2024 (21/05/24)</b>
Election of Chair: 2024/25	Election of Chair: 2024/25
Election of Vice-chair: 2024/25	Election of Vice-chair: 2024/25
<b>June, 2024 (13/06/24) – Q4</b>	<b>June, 2024 (19/06/24) – Education / Welsh Language</b>
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Qtr4: 2023/24	Welsh Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Report on the Welsh Standards: 2023/24</li> <li>Welsh in Education Strategic Plan: 2023/24 → Measure Progress</li> </ul>
Annual Delivery Plan: 2024/25	
Draft Corporate Self-Assessment 2024	Nomination of Committee Member on the Finance Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Review of Performance Indicator 29: Letting of Council Housing – final report	
<b>Item for Information:</b> Ambition North Wales Qtr 4: 2023/24 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
<b>No meeting scheduled</b>	<b>July, 2024 (10/07/24) – Emergency Services</b>
	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
	Welsh Ambulance Services Trust
	Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Public Services Board Annual Report: 2023/24
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
<b>September, 2024 (17/09/24) – Q1</b>	<b>September, 2024 (12/09/24) – Tackling Poverty</b>
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Q1: 2024/25	Ynys Môn Citizens Advice

<b>CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
Annual Performance Report: 2023/24	Communities for Work Plus Programme
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
<b>October, 2024 (16/10/24)</b>	<b>October, 2024 (15/10/24) – Education &amp; Sustainable Community Development</b>
Annual Report North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9): 2023/24	GwE Annual Report for the Isle of Anglesey: 2023/24
Care Inspectorate for Wales: Adults' Services Improvement Check Letter and Action Plan	Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
Nomination of Committee Members on the Finance and Education Scrutiny Panels	Menter Môn
<b>Item for Information:</b> Ambition North Wales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Report: 2023/24</li> <li>Qtr 1: 2024/25 Progress Report</li> </ul>	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
	<b>November, 2024 (13/11/24) - Health</b>
	Audit Wales: Urgent and Emergency Care: Flow out of Hospital – North Wales Region
	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
<b>November, 2024 (19/11/24) - Q2</b>	<b>November, 2024 (20/11/24) – Crime and Disorder</b>
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2024/25	Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership Annual Report: 2023/24
Môn Actif Strategic Plan	Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress
Local Housing Market Assessment 2024	Modernising Adults' Services Strategic Plan
Procurement Strategic Plan and New Contract Procedure Rules	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
<b>January, 2025 (15/01/25) – 2025/26 Budget (morning)</b>	<b>January, 2025 (14/01/25)</b>
2025/26 Budget Setting (Revenue Budget) – initial budget proposals	Corporate Safeguarding
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Medrwn Môn



<b>CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
<b>January, 2025 (15/01/25) (afternoon)</b>	
Corporate Self-Assessment – 6 month update on progress	
Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report: 2023/24	
<b>Item for Information:</b> Ambition North Wales Qtr 2: 2024/25 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	
<b>February, 2025 (19/02/25) – 2025/26 Budget</b>	<b>February, 2025 (12/02/25) - Education</b>
Final Draft Budget Proposals for 2025/26 – revenue & capital	Revised Welsh Language Policy
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Partnership
Recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group: Letting of Council Accommodation – update on progress	Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
<b>March, 2025 (11/03/25) - Q3</b>	<b>March, 2025 (12/03/25)</b>
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2024/25	Annual Report on Equalities: 2023/24
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2025/2055	Shared Prosperity Fund
Flood Risk Management Strategic Plan	Local Area Energy Plan
	Nomination of Committee Member on the Finance Scrutiny Panel
<b>Item for Information</b> - Ambition North Wales Qtr 3: 2024/25 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25
<b>April, 2025 (10/04/25)</b>	<b>April, 2025 (09/04/25)</b>
Care Inspectorate for Wales: Adults' Services Improvement Check Letter and Action Plan – Progress Report	Public Services Board – governance arrangements / scrutiny of delivery of the Wellbeing Plan
North Wales Regional Transport Plan	Ynys Môn Free Port – measure progress
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2024/25

**Items to be scheduled:**

<b>Corporate Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee</b>
Census 2021	North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner / North Wales Police
Modernisation of Learning Communities and Strengthen the Welsh Language Programme	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Service Asset Management Plan 2024/34 – Smallholdings Estate	Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
Ambition North Wales Qtr4: 2024/25: Progress Report	Scrutiny of Partnerships
North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Action Plan
Play Strategic Plan	Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Public Services Board – Annual Report 2024/25 (June, 2025)
People Strategic Plan	Communities for Work Plus Programme: Annual Report 2024/25 (June-July, 2025)
Schools' Digital Strategic Plan	Improving Reliability and Resilience across the Menai Straits
	Impact of Tourism on Anglesey Local Communities (resolution of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 21/06/2023)
	Ynys Môn Local Development Plan (full agreement)
	Scrutiny of Partnerships – annual review (March 2026)
	Natural Resources Wales
	Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress (June, 2025)
	Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan (2025/26)
	Audit Wales: Flow out of Hospital → measure progress (June, 2026) (resolution of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 13/11/2024)
	A New Way of Working in the Learning Service following the termination of GwE