

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 9 June 2026

PRESENT: Councillor Sonia Williams (Chair)
Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Non Dafydd, Douglas M Fowle, Pip O'Neill,
Dylan Rees.

Councillor Dafydd Roberts – Portfolio Member for Education and
the Welsh Language (for items 3, 4 & 5).

Co-opted Members

Mr John Tierney (The Roman Catholic Church),
Ms Kathryn Seeney (Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector),
Ms Christina Williams (Parent Governor – Secondary Schools
Sector and ALN).

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Head of Democratic Services,
Policy and Welsh Language Manager (FO) (for item 3),
Senior Manager (Primary) (OD) (for item 4),
Senior Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service Manager
(FEE) (for item 5)
Strategic Lead for ALN, Inclusion and Engagement (OR) (for item
5),
Scrutiny Officer (EA),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Webcasting Committee Services Officer (FT).

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Ifan Jones, Euryrn Morris, Derek Owen, Margaret
Murley Roberts

Councillor Alun Roberts – Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism,
Maritime and Property.

Reverend Llewelyn Moules-Jones – Co-opted Member (The
Church in Wales).

ALSO PRESENT: Portfolio Members

Councillor Neville Evans – Portfolio Member for Adults' Services,
Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones – Portfolio Member for Children,
Young People and Families Services,

Councillor Gary Pritchard – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development,
Councillor Ieuan Williams – Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Climate Change.
Councillor Robin Williams – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience.

The Chair expressed her deepest sympathy to the family of the late Councillor Ken Taylor who has passed away suddenly recently. She noted that Councillor Taylor was a dedicated member of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Gwilym O Jones paid tribute to the late Councillor Ken Taylor who was a fellow elected member for the Bro'r Llynoedd Ward and a friend. He said that Councillor Taylor was always willing to help everyone, he was a dedicated Member of the Council and was passionate about his community.

A minute silence was undertaken by Members and Officers.

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mrs Christina Williams – Co-opted Member - Secondary Schools Sector and ALN declared a personal interest in Item 5 – ALN & Inclusion Service 2025/2026 : Current Situation, Challenges and Next Steps and following legal advice she was able to take part in the discussion and voting thereon.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the following meeting were confirmed as correct:-

- Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March, 2026;
- Minutes of the Election of Chair and Vice-Chair held on 12 May, 2026.

Action points arising from the meeting held on 17 March, 2026:-

- **Update on the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Anglesey 2022/2026**
 - That a letter be sent to the UK Government on behalf of the Council, outlining its concerns and to request that they reconsider the recent changes to the Local Growth Funding as regards to capital and revenue funding grant formula in Wales which will have an impact on revenue funded post and services on Anglesey.

Correspondence has been forwarded by email to the relevant Cabinet Minister – awaiting response.

- That a letter be sent to Welsh Government on behalf of the Committee, highlighting concerns as regards to clarity and implications of the CJC's future decision-making role in relation to the Local Growth Funding.

Correspondence has been forwarded by email to the relevant Cabinet Minister – awaiting response.

Councillor Douglas M Fowle said that at the meeting held on 17 March, 2026 he raised whether the invitation to the representatives from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board could be brought forward within the Committee's Forward Work Programme. The Head of Democracy responded that the representatives from the Health Board will attend a meeting of this Committee in September rather than in November.

3 WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

The Welsh Language Annual Report was presented for the Committee's consideration and for comment prior to its submission for delegated approval by the Portfolio Member for publication.

The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language said that in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards Regulations 2015 the Council must prepare an Annual Report regarding the compliance with the standards.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Questions were raised as to how the Council intends to improve the Welsh provision in areas where there is a lack of consistency i.e. Leisure Services. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language responded that a complaint was received about inconsistent use of Welsh at a Leisure Centre fitness class. He noted that the Welsh Language Commissioner found failure to comply with standards and enforcement action was taken. An action plan has been put in place to address the finding and is currently awaiting approval by the Welsh Language Commissioner. He further said that additional MônActif fitness courses are being afforded within the Leisure Centres and targeted provisions are put in place to increase the confidence of staff in affording these fitness courses through the Welsh language. The Policy and Welsh Language Manager said that the leisure sector is an area which needs to be reviewed as regards to the use of the Welsh language and the Council is taking a proactive approach in working in partnership with external partner to maximise opportunities.
- Questions were raised whether the Welsh awareness sessions will be mandatory for staff. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language responded that the first Welsh awareness session was well attended, and it is an intention to convene additional sessions in the future. He accepted that the Welsh awareness sessions need to be advertised broadly and to encourage Welsh speakers to also attend these sessions. The Policy and Welsh Language Manager agreed that the sessions need to be advertised broadly and to give opportunity for people to understand their Welsh language potential. She noted that there is currently no intention to make the Welsh language course mandatory for staff, however, there is a language awareness session for each new member of staff, and these sessions make them aware of the help and support available to improve and develop their language skills.

- Reference was made that during the review of the Welsh Language Policy this Committee sent a letter to Welsh Government emphasising that the Welsh place names of properties need to be protected. Questions were raised whether further correspondence should be sent to the new Welsh Government. The Policy and Welsh Language Manager said that the response from the previous Welsh Government was supportive, but it did not afford additional legislation for Local Authorities to protect Welsh place names. The Chief Executive said that it would be more appropriate to send further correspondence to Welsh Government following the Senedd's summer recess and maybe allow discussions with the relevant Cabinet Minister as regards to the commitment the Government intends with regards to this issue.
- Questions were raised whether the Welsh language requirements for posts affects the recruitment process within the Council. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language responded that he considered that the Authority is successful in attracting individuals to apply for posts within the Council due to the ability to be working in a Welsh speaking environment and affordability of training opportunities to improve their Welsh language skills. He further said that the Council must respond to the language of choice of residents when they require services afforded by the Council. The Chief Executive said that the ability to communicate in both Welsh and English is important in many posts within the Authority and to ensure that residents and stakeholders can communicate with the Council in their preferred language. However, if there are recruitment issues into certain posts in the Council, consideration will be given to the required role of the post as it is important to attract experience staff into these roles.

The Vice-Chair wishes to thank the Officers involved in the promoting of the Welsh language at the Urdd Eisteddfod held recently on Anglesey.

- **To accept the Welsh Language Annual Report 2026 to 2026;**
- **To note its contents and to forward the scrutiny committee's comments to the Portfolio Member as part of its submission for delegated approval and subsequent publication.**

4 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) REPORT 2025/2026

Submitted – a report by the Director of Education, Skills and Young People for consideration by the Committee.

The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language said that the purpose of the report is to provide an annual update on the progress made as regards to Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

The Senior Manager (Primary) reported that the report summarises the performance of Anglesey's WESP for 2025/2026 and highlights the main developments, risks and next steps. The report highlights the effective use of funds to sustain language centres and strengthens engagement with secondary schools, the support for 'workforce capacity' grant applications and a partnership with Coleg Menai to model and develop bilingual pedagogy. The report also refers to the increase in development activities e.g. Taith i laith, WESP project groups in

schools, and collaboration with the National Centre for Learning Wales. Any possible changes to grants after 2026 could threaten the continuity of the provision especially language centres and secondary support. The report refers to Transport costs which are increasing, with financial and carbon implications, and there is a need for long term solutions to reduce costs. Recruitment/language proficiency challenges, and the risk to secondary school arrangements regarding the numbers that a registered for GCSE Welsh first language.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Reference was made to the identified risks and mitigations within the report and specifically that the Transport funding is increasingly challenging. Questions were raised as to the software that was to be used to lower costs, and more detail is required within the report as regards to these costs. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language responded that the transport modelling work is ongoing, however, there are two language centres that pupils need to be transported which is costly. The Senior Manager (Primary) said that solutions have been undertaken and considered in lowering transport costs each year and he noted that immersion for pupils into language centres is a priority. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People assured that more details of the transport costs will be included in the Annual Report for 2026/2027.
- Questions were raised as to the reasons why more pupils are registering for second language Welsh GCSE. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language responded that pupils have the right to choose their preferred language courses, and some pupils may consider that they would have a better grade within their GCSE's. He said that there is a plan in place to encourage more pupils to choose first language courses. However, there will be changes introduced in two years with Welsh Language and Welsh Literature examinations being combined into one GCSE for pupils in the Welsh medium and bilingual schools and a Welsh Second Language GCSE will be discontinued and a new GCSE in Welsh will be created for learners in English medium settings. The Senior Manager (Primary) said that one school has plans to change their language category and it is hoped that GCSE's result will reflect the progress in the Welsh language courses. Further questions were raised as to whether the ability of pupils is undermined to undertake GCSE courses in Welsh as some pupils would not be able to achieve a higher grade. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that pupils have the choice which language they wish to undertake their GCSE courses. However, there is an increase in pupils within the Welsh mainstream at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi and it is hoped that in two years that these pupils will be more confident in undertaking Welsh language GCSE courses.
- Reference as made within the report that there is a risk due to the dependent on grant funding. Questions were raised as to whether the Language Centres are under threat due to grant funding risks. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language responded that the dependent on grant funding is a risk, and it would be better for the funding to be part of the annual settlement from Welsh Government to Local Authorities. He noted that he hoped that the new Welsh Government will appreciate the work undertaken within the Language Centres and they are willing to continue to fund these centres. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People said that the allocation of grant

funding would be advantage for a three-year period rather than uncertainties with a yearly grant.

- Reference was made that resources for an A Level course which pupils wish to undertake is unavailable in Welsh and teachers are having to translate. Questions were raised whether pressure can be put on the Welsh Government to make these courses available through the medium of Welsh. Further questions were raised as to how this Council encourages pupils to undertake course through the Welsh language. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language said that he was willing to send a letter to the Welsh Government expressing the need for all A Level courses to be available through the Welsh language.
- Reference was made that Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is currently in the T3 category. Questions were raised whether the school can reach Category 3 in the provision of the Welsh language similar to other secondary schools on the Island. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that the school has received grant funding to enable the collaboration between the school and the University to support professional development to increase the number of pupils receiving education through the medium of Welsh and bilingually. He noted that the Governors and the School are aiming to enable the school to be in the same category as all the other schools on Anglesey. Further questions were raised whether there are difficulties in grant funding to enable Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi reaching the Category 3 provision in the Welsh language and whether a Strategic Plan has been put in place for the school to achieve the Category 3 provision when the new school has been built in Holyhead. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that the availability of grant funding is always a challenge. He noted that work is undertaken with the Governing Body of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to address any risks that might arise and to put in place mitigation processes in place for the school to achieve the Category 3 provision.
- Questions were raised that two other primary schools within the catchment area of Holyhead are receiving assistance with the Welsh language. Questions were raised as to the support to other primary schools with the Welsh language. The Senior Manager (Primary) responded that two primary schools in the Holyhead catchment area receives support through the Language Centres. He noted that any school can request additional support with the Welsh language and support for the workforce to give them additional confidence in the language. Welsh Government has created a national learning and professional body Dysgu to support professional development which includes the promotion of the Welsh language.

It was RESOLVED to note the update on the Isle of Anglesey Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Report : 2025/2026.

5 ALN & INCLUSION SERVICE 2025/2026 : CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

Submitted – a report by the Director of Education, Skills and Young People for consideration by the Committee.

The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language said that the purpose of the report is to provide assurance and an overview of the current performance of the ALN & Inclusion Service. He noted that the ALN & Inclusion Service was established in May 2017, as a joint service between Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council. The current contract with Gwynedd Council will come to an end on 31 August, 2026, and a consultation process on the service's structure for this Authority has recently been completed.

The Senior Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service Manager reported that a transitional period currently is undertaking in preparing this Council to provide a new ALN & Inclusion Service for Ynys Môn from September 2026. She noted that the report provides details of the previous year, and she said that a new funding formula has been introduced in the primary sector for the ALN Service. Systems are in place to monitor quality within schools to evaluate their own provision. She highlighted the challenges facing the service and especially with the increase in the demand for the service since the pandemic. The workload of ALN & Inclusion Service Co-ordinators has seen increased demand within the schools; funding is also a national challenge within the service. The recruitment of professional staff is also a challenge. She further said that since the end of 2021, and in partnership with Children's Service, education hubs have been established within the five secondary schools on Anglesey. These hubs primarily support year 10 and 11 pupils who are not coping in the mainstream education provision. A review of this model was commissioned in December 2023, and strengths were identified especially with the integrated/multiagency work that enriches the provision. There is also close collaboration surrounding hard-to-place learners due to complex emotional and behavioural needs. She further referred that attendance of pupils is of national concern. Substantial work has been undertaken to improve attendance over the past year, allocating additional welfare hours through the Welsh Government Attendance Grant to target the attendance improvements of specific individuals within schools.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Reference was made to the challenges in the training and recruitment of Educational Psychologists and Support Officers has been an issue for several years. The Chief Executive said that there are currently TUPE procedures been undertaken with the transitional of staff from the current provision between both this Authority and Gwynedd Council. The Senior Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service Manager said that currently the University in Cardiff affords a course for Educational Psychologists; discussions are currently being undertaken with Bangor University on the possibility of the University being able to offer such a course. She noted that it is still a challenge in recruiting Welsh speaking Psychologists. Further questions were raised as to whether collaboration will continue with Gwynedd Council. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that collaboration with all North Wales Authorities will be undertaken within the educational sector.
- Questions were raised as to the long-term strategy of the Authority to reduce the dependency on Canolfan y Bont, Llangefni and how the Authority ensures that the increase in demand is financially sustainable without undermining the quality of the provision. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People

responded that the main priority at present is to plan the service provision from September 2026. The Strategic Lead for ALN, Inclusion and Engagement said that there are challenges to ensure that the service continues, and that children are the forefront of the service provision.

- Reference was made that parents are still unaware of the service provision that will be put in place when the new ALN & Inclusion Service will be operational from September. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that whilst the TUPE consultation with staff is currently on-going the service is currently unable to afford parents information at present. He considered that it is better to communicate with parents when the TUPE consultation has been agreed. He further said that the schools and the Governing Bodies of schools are aware of the transition of the ALN & Inclusion Service. Comments were also made that people with experience of a child with ALN needs should be employed within the service. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that whilst accepting that people with experience of a child with ALN needs would be advantages within the service, staff must have the essential criteria and qualifications in the ALN provision.
- Questions were raised as to the workload and pressure on ALN Co-ordinators and Welfare Officers within the schools. The Strategic Lead for ALN, Inclusion and Engagement responded that the work of the ALN Co-ordinators and Welfare Officers is a crucial role in primary schools in preparing pupils to enter the secondary sector. He noted that a staffing structure has been established and funded when the new service will be established in September 2026.
- Questions were raised as to the challenges of recruiting Welsh language Educational Psychologists as the new service will commence in September 2026. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that the recruitment of Welsh language Educational Psychologist is a national challenge and discussion are currently being undertaken with Gwynedd Council in respect of collaboration with staff, but due to on-going TUPE consultation details are unable to be afforded at present.
- Reference was made to the funding challenges of the ALN Service provision, and a suggestion was made to ask the Leader of the Council to gain support of the WLGA to put pressure on Welsh Government for adequate funding of the service. The Leader of the Council responded that he has raised concerns as to the funding of the ALN Service before Mr Rhun ap Iorwerth AS was appointed First Minister of the Welsh Government. He further said that the Executive has afforded an additional £300k into the ALN Service provision.
- Reference was made that the current attendance figures for pupils on Anglesey is around 90%. Questions were raised as to whether the data includes the ALN learners. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that the data includes all pupils' attendance in schools on the Island. The Leader of the Council said that the Council has Hubs within secondary schools, and the Executive has agreed to fund 'virtual schools' that support well-being and children who receive care and with ALN needs.
- Reference was made that Educational Support staff should also be considered during the transition period with the new ALN & Inclusion Service and retaining these staff without putting additional pressure upon them is important. The Leader of the Council said that funding towards the service should be included within the annual settlement from Welsh Government rather than yearly grant funding.

- Questions were raised as to how the Authority intends to assure that the 'Voice of Service Users, Parents and Carers' are considered within the new ALN & Inclusion Service. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that the continuity of the service from 1 September, 2026 is paramount, and the key aspect is to listen to service users.

It was RESOLVED to note the update on the ALN & Inclusion Service 2025/2026.

6 COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - 2026/2027

The report of the Scrutiny Manager setting out the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's indicative Forward Work Programme 2026/20267 was presented for consideration.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2026/2027;**
- **To note the progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.**

The meeting concluded at 3.45 pm

**COUNCILLOR SONIA WILLIAMS
CHAIR**