

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	05/15/18
TITLE OF REPORT:	Leader's Annual Report
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To report on work undertaken during 2017-18
REPORT BY:	Leader of the Council

Foreword

It's hard to believe that a year has elapsed since I was elected Leader of the Isle of Anglesey Council. I want to provide an annual report that highlights the progress we have achieved against the Coalition's Manifesto.

The Group stated -

In the 2013 election, Plaid Cymru candidates pledged to the people of Anglesey that they wanted 'To restore Anglesey's good name'. Plaid Cymru Councillors and the Independent Councillors have worked together effectively over the last four years and want to build on this success.

Political maturity has evolved over the last 4 years and will give the Isle of Anglesey County Council a solid foundation for the next phase. The members that have come together have proved that they have the ability to provide the political stability that is essential in order ensure effective governance.

What have we done?

We have continued to work in the same way as the previous Council and have retained all protocols in order to ensure a fair opportunity for all councillors.

The Wylfa Newydd development has positive aspects with regard to our youth and the future of the families on Anglesey, with up to 800 permanent jobs. But we do not accept this development at any cost. We want to protect the interests of Anglesey and ensure that the developers can mitigate any side effects on our communities as a result of the development. We aim to have strong and prosperous communities.

What have we done?

We have created an additional Portfolio in order to ensure the necessary capacity to maximize the benefits for the people of Anglesey in the negotiations with Horizon. We are committed to promoting the development on the understanding that the needs of Anglesey are essential to the success of the project.

We are in discussions with the Town and community councils on our Place Shaping strategy that provides everyone in their communities with an opportunity to come together to discuss their vision for their areas.

We face significant cuts to the authority's budget and maintaining services is challenging. We will drive the transformation agenda forward in order to protect our front line services.

What have we done?

We have agreed on the 18/19 budget and it continues to protect our services although we have received a further cut as a Council. We remain in the lowest quartile throughout Wales in terms of Council Tax. 17/18 has been very challenging for the Children's Services and the Education Services who have overspent and the overspend will have to be funded from the reserves.

We continued to drive service transformation and the Information Technology Department have facilitated a major change in the Planning Department meaning that all applications are available for the people of Anglesey to view on-line. We are still working on improving our customer service by introducing more ways to request on-line services.

Education

I'm sure you will remember that we as a Coalition are of the firm belief that every child and young person in Anglesey deserves the best opportunity to achieve their full potential -

* We want to continue to invest in new schools to ensure the best facilities to educate our children.

What have we done?

We have received confirmation from the Welsh Government that our bid for band B funding has been accepted, which provides us with an exciting opportunity to develop new schools and new models of teaching here in Anglesey over the next few years. We have decided on the teaching model for the Corn Hir, Bodffordd and Henblas area. The coalition will promote modernization for the benefit of the education of Anglesey's children and will work on an Education Strategy that will give the children of Anglesey equal opportunities.

* We will support Teachers and Headteachers in order to ensure the best standards for Anglesey's children.

What have we done?

We have agreed on a plan to train our own middle managers and a very enthusiastic group of teachers are taking advantage of this. We have promoted teachers to take on NPQH training, and this year we have the largest number for years taking advantage of this training. We plan our Education Strategy in order to provide maximum support for our teachers.

* We want to work with partners to ensure that our young people develop essential work skills.

What have we done?

We have continued to work effectively with our partners. The Portfolio Holder is fully committed to ensuring that Anglesey has a strong voice in any national, regional and local discussions with all partners.

Care

Social Care is under constant pressure in our communities. We believe that there is a need to work together and strengthen aspects of the work to respond to demand -

* Work with the Health Service in constructive ways to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to live an independent life in their communities.

What have we done?

We have opened the first phase of Garreglwyd which is a joint plan with the Health Board and people from Anglesey have settled well there. Unfortunately, we have experienced a delay with the home care plan but we are now moving forward positively with this and hopefully the new model will be in place during the summer months. We are also attending a number of regional meetings in order to ensure that Anglesey works with the Health Board on a County, Regional and National level.

* Strengthen support services for families in need of such services.

What have we done?

We have established the Anglesey Family Team (Teulu Môn) where the family information and support service is available at a single point of access for all the Island's families. We have restructured the Children's Services Team to provide the best possible opportunities for our social workers and to ensure that they have the necessary support in order that they in turn can support families on

Anglesey.

* Work with partners to ensure suitable homes for our older adults.

What have we done?

We have decided to build an Extra Care scheme in Beaumaris to provide the best opportunity for our older people to be supported to live independently with 24 hour assistance.

* Ensure support for carers who look after family or friends

What have we done?

We continue to work closely with our partners to secure the necessary support for our carers in the Anglesey and Gwynedd Partnership. We also take advantage of Regional plans through the Part 9 Board that supports carers.

Housing

The group believes that everyone has the right to a suitable home -

* Continue to respond to housing need by building our own social housing and increasing the supply of affordable homes for our young people.

What have we done?

We have adopted the Department's business plan that includes an action plan for the construction of Social Housing here on Anglesey. This means that we would invest over £26 Million over the next 4 years to build 195 houses.

* Ensure empty homes are brought back into use to respond to housing need.

What have we done?

We have supported the Housing Department to bring as many houses as possible back into use. We will continue to work on this over the next year.

* Ensure support for first buyers by means of a council tax premium.

What have we done?

We have revisited the first time buyer support policy and made it more flexible in order to ensure that our young people get the most out of the scheme.

The Economy / Jobs

The economy and jobs are essential if we are to keep our young people in Anglesey. We believe we can do this by -

- * Ensuring that local businesses benefit from any major project.

What have we done?

We have continued to emphasize the importance of local businesses in all our discussions with large companies and in regional economic discussions.

- * Support local businesses to be able to apply for Council contracts.

What have we done?

We are starting an internal procurement project to ensure that we have systems in place that will enable local companies to take advantage of opportunities available in the Council. This work is now underway.

- * Promote and create opportunities for young people through apprenticeships.

What have we done?

We have been able to promote a 12 week 'Attracting Talent' scheme which has attracted a significant number of young people. This scheme will give the island's young people an unique opportunity to experience a variety of careers with the Council.

Environmental Protection

Anglesey is unique because of its surrounding natural environment. We want -

- * To continue the fight against the pylons.

What have we done?

We have continued to express the Council's strong opinion by protesting, having internal and external discussions and supporting local groups in their fight against the pylons.

* Protect Anglesey's natural environment, which is so important to the tourism sector.

What have we done?

We have adopted a joint Local Development Plan, which is the first of its kind in Wales. We now create supplementary planning guidance to maximize the needs of Anglesey.

* Ensure we meet recycling targets.

What have we done?

We have ensured that every house in Anglesey has access to trolley boxes if they wish. We have promoted recycling amongst our children and young people. We as a Council are committed to promoting recycling and have a goal to be a non-plastic Council.

To close

We have had an unforgettable year here in Anglesey. We had a great National Eisteddfod in Bodedern which was a success despite the rain, we experienced floods which created devastation in the businesses and homes of local people and we had an extreme storm disaster in Holyhead with damage to boats and local businesses. All of these events require national support, but we are fortunate here in Anglesey in that we pull together in an emergency. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart, the Council staff who have gone the extra mile during very challenging times to safeguard services. Thank you.

**Councillor Llinos Medi
Leader of the Council**