

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Dylan Rees - Chair
Councillor Margaret M Roberts - Vice-Chair

Councillors R Dew, John Griffith, Richard Griffiths, K P Hughes, T LI Hughes MBE, Vaughan Hughes, A M Jones, Carwyn Jones, Eric Wyn Jones, G O Jones, R.Meirion Jones, Alun W Mummery, Bryan Owen, Bob Parry OBE FRAgS, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, J A Roberts, Nicola Roberts, P S Rogers, Dafydd Rhys Thomas and Ieuan Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvement),
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation),
Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation,
Head of Democratic Services,
Committee Officer (MEH).

ALSO PRESENT: None

APOLOGIES: Councillor Robin Williams, Richard Owain Jones, Glyn Haynes, Llinos Medi Huws, R LI Jones and Shaun James Redmond

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor T LI Hughes declared a prejudicial interest as regard to Item 3 – Annual Delivery Document 2018/2019 – 3G pitch and left the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.

2. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Chair reported that a petition of 1,010 signatories had been received against the closure of Talwrn Primary School. He noted that the petition has been forwarded to the Education Department.

3. ANNUAL DELIVERY DOCUMENT 2018/19

Submitted – the report of the Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation in relation to the above.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services said that the Annual Delivery Document sets out the targets the Council would achieve within its key priorities over the next twelve months, which is linked into the aspirations and objectives in the County Council's Plan for 2017-2022. He noted that the Annual Delivery Document shows that the Authority is

prepared to take on challenges as it modernises its services. He expressed that each objectives within the Annual Delivery Document are important but gave examples of priorities within the document :-

- A new school modernisation strategy needs to be adopted which highlights the importance of developing new learning environments in order to improve the provision and raise standards and the achievement of the Island's children and young people;
- The Council has launched the new 'Denu Talent Môn' scheme (Attracting Anglesey Talent) this year which will give 9 or 10 individuals of 16 years old and over to have a 12 week paid experience of work within the Councils' services over the Summer;
- Opportunities for residents of the Island to participate within sport and leisure activities for the well-being and health;
- The Council needs to work with the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and this has already taken shape with a Dementia Care unit at Garreglwyd, Holyhead and a new model of Homecare facility across the Island;
- There is an intention to build approximately 60 new social housing across the Island;
- A wider choice of placement for looked after children is being considered either by offering more services, increasing the available foster placements or by providing care in a different way;
- To continue with the County Council's intention and achievement of ensuring that over 70% of all household waste is recycled.

The Deputy Leader said that the Annual Delivery Document has 38 objectives that shows that this Authority is prepared to take on challenges as it modernises its services for the residents of the Island.

The Portfolio Holder for Major Projects and Economic Development expressed that the documents contains worthwhile projects that this authority is committed to investing in, and improving its services in an innovative way. He said that this Authority wishes to be able to attract employment opportunities for its young people and to be able to raise people's quality of life. He referred to the major projects that have/are to locate on the Island i.e. MSparc at Gaerwen, Wylfa Newydd, Bluestone Project at Holyhead, Môrlais at Holyhead, Market Hall at Holyhead, Visits from Cruise Ships, potential third bridge over the Menai Straits. He hoped that developments may be undertaken at Octel at Amlwch, Lairds at Beaumaris and the Halal site in Gaerwen in the future.

The following questions were raised by Members :-

- Councillor Aled M Jones referred that a total of 15 new business units are to be built in Llangefni and Holyhead. He questioned as to why business units are not been built in Amlwch as the town is the nearest to Wylfa Newydd project. He said that such new business units in Amlwch would enhance the economy of the town and the north of the Island. The Deputy Leader responded that he agreed that extra new business units is required in Amlwch but the land to build such units is not available on the current site and other potential site for such a development is at present in private ownership. The Portfolio Holder for Major Projects & Economic Development said that the Council is currently conducting a consultation process to ascertain the needs of the community within the 'Shaping Places' programme and to gather the opinion of the Amlwch Town Council and the local residents as to the future opportunities within the area. He further said that the owners of the Octel site has expressed their vision for the future of the site. Councillor Aled M Jones requested that a meeting be arranged with the Amwch Town Council, Local Members and Officers of the Council to discuss building new business units in Amlwch as a matter of priority;

- Councillor Aled M Jones referred to the potential 3G pitch at Plas Arthur Leisure Centre and questioned as to where the established Hockey Club, who have been using the facilities in Llangefni will practice as the 3G pitch is not suitable for hockey. The Portfolio Holder for Major Projects and Economic Development responded that the 3G pitch at Plas Arthur Leisure Centre is an achievement for this Council as such a facility is paramount for sports on the Island as clubs have faced going to the mainland to partake in such a facility. He noted that the revenue from a 3G pitch would allow for the leisure centres be able to stay open. He further said that 'astro turf' is more suitable to play hockey and he understood that negotiations are taking place. He further noted that there is an 'astro turf' in RAF Valley;
- Councillor Bryan Owen and Councillor Peter Rogers referred to the new Ysgol Santes Dwywen, Newborough and were concerned that parents, with children in schools that will close, will not send their children to this school. Councillor Owen said that he was disappointed that as Local Members they had not been invited to meetings, recently held at Bodorgan Primary School, as regard that the School may have to close this summer as parents have moved their children to other schools within the community. The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvement) responded that the Head of Learning received a request, at short notice, from the Governing Body and Head of Bodorgan Primary School to attend a meeting last week to discuss matter raised by the school and that he intended to discuss the matter with the Local Members thereafter. Councillor Peter Rogers expressed that people are parking across the access to the new school in Dwyran and the matter needs to be addressed. The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Property and Waste responded that adequate consultation period needs to be undertaken to allow the local residents to submit comments are regards to parking restrictions i.e. yellow lines near the school and surrounding area;
- Councillor Peter Rogers said that there has been no mentioned within this report as to issues as regard to flooding in the Dwyran and the continued problems to households within the village for the last 8/9 years and specifically at the Ael y Braint estate. The Authority started to clear the ditches in Dwyran in January but the work was inadequate and left in a complete mess. Within the last two weeks the Council has again started to clear the ditches in this area. Councillor Rogers considered that the Council has wasted valuable resources and local landowners should be made to clear ditches. The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Property & Waste responded that Natural Resources Wales have been slow to respond as regard to drawing up a plan to address the issues of flooding in Llangefni and in Dwyran. He referred to the comment made that work carried out on the ditches in Dwyran in January left a mess but expressed that the land was waterlogged during this time of year;
- Councillor Peter Rogers whilst welcoming the building of social housing expressed that adequate play area should be afforded with social housing. He referred to the 16 social housing in the Dwyran area with children having to play in the most dangerous location within the village. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Supporting Communities responded that he was unaware that there were 16 social houses on the Ael y Braint estate. Councillor Rogers expressed that most of the houses are in the ownership of a Housing Association and a mix of housing should not be allowed due to inadequate facilities for the residents;
- Councillor Aled M Jones referred whilst accepting that the projects within the document are worthwhile he expressed that the resources towards such projects needs to be within the appropriate areas. He expressed further that the Joint Local Development Plan has not been mentioned, which he considered to be a failing, as local people will not be afforded permission to build homes within the countryside following adoption of the Plan.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Annual Delivery Document for 2018/19.

Councillors Aled M Jones and Bryan Owen abstained from voting.

4. GROWTH VISION AND STRATEGY FOR THE ECONOMY OF NORTH WALES : GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

Submitted – the report of the Chief Executive on the Growth Vision and Strategy for the Economy of North Wales – Governance Agreement.

The Deputy Leader reported that the Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales sets out a collective and strategic ambition for North Wales for infrastructure development, skills and employment, and business growth. The five other North Wales Authorities have adopted this strategy and have agreed on a preferred governance mode i.e. a regional joint-committee under the working title of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board: the model is now well established and is on track to present a Bid to Government for initial agreement within 2018. A governance Agreement has been developed for this first stage of the Growth Deal Bid (GA1) for adoption by all partners to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer reported that the Governance Agreement has been adopted by the other five North Wales local authorities and will be considered by the four colleges in September. She noted that the adopted governance model for the Board is an Executive Joint Committee and not a Joint Committee of the Council. There will be one representative from each of the 10 partners and the representative from Ynys Môn will be the Council Leader. The Chair of the Board will be appointed on an annual basis from the local authorities' representatives but will not have a casting vote. Gwynedd Council will act as the host authority and the Board will adopt their Standing Orders and Procurement Rules etc. The Board will be held on a monthly basis and will adopt the Access to Information Regulations i.e. publish Agendas, decisions and minutes. The quorum for the body will be 4 out of the local authorities' representatives with one vote each but the non-local authority parties will not be entitled to vote. However, the agreement states that they have a right to be heard. She further noted that there is a procedure to deal with deadlock, but that at the end of that procedure, if there is no majority support the decision will fall. The Board has the capacity to create Sub-Boards, which might have either a statutory basis or an advisory basis, depending on their functions, powers and memberships. The first Board meeting will establish a Transport Sub-Board and the Digital Delivery Sub-Board. Both of these will be formally constituted as sub-committees, on a statutory basis, to be capable of having powers delegated to them. A Code of Conduct is attached to the Agreement and this will apply to the non-local authority parties but this Council's Code of Conduct will apply to our representative.

The Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer further reported that the Agreement will cease when the second stage, GA2 commences. The Growth Deal Bid is now at an advanced stage of development with Bid content about to be prioritised according to (1) regional choice and ambition (2) informal Government advice on the programmes and projects, which might qualify for their support and (3) business case assessments. The Growth Deal Bid will move through two approval stages. Firstly, a Heads of Terms Agreement on the strategic content for further development and, secondly, final agreement of the detailed content supported by full and final five case business model evidence and analysis. The aim is to have reached the Heads of Terms Agreement in the autumn of this year, and the final agreement for the new financial year 2019/20.

She further said that the decisions of the Joint Committee will be subject to scrutiny and call-in by the local authorities. The Chairs of the relevant Scrutiny Committee within each partner local authority will be able to co-ordinate their work insofar as the Board is

concerned. This is a power and not an obligation. An Executive Team of 10 Officers, from each party shall be formed for implementing the Growth Deal and the day-to-day management of the Parties' obligations in relation to the Growth Deal. Each authority has contributed a sum of £50k and £25k by the colleges towards the work of preparing the Growth Bid to the Government.

The Portfolio Holder for Major Projects and Economic Development welcomed the report and expressed that this is an example of the six North Wales local Authorities working together for the benefit of North Wales.

The following questions were raised by Members :-

- Councillor Aled M. Jones questioned whether consideration has been given to include the Northern Powerhouse and the Integrated Authority, which represent the Manchester area within the Agreement. He considered that once the Growth Deal links into those areas it is then when prosperity can be sourced to North Wales. The Portfolio Holder for Major Projects and Economic Development responded that he agreed that both organisations are important but they have no influence as regard to the North Wales Growth Bid but it is important to link with them as an Advisory body. Councillor Aled M Jones considered that the opinion of the Northern Powerhouse is important and asked that the Board be aware, during their negotiations, as regard to importance of the Northern Powerhouse as a body;
- Councillor Aled M Jones referred to 3.04 within the report which addresses road and rail infrastructure. He questioned whether the Electrification of the North Wales Railway Network is considered as an UK Wide priority. The Portfolio Holder for Major Projects and Economic Development responded that the electrification of the North Wales Railway Network is not included within the Growth Deal Bid. Councillor Aled M Jones further questioned whether the authority is committed to working with the HS2 – High Speed Rail Link project as it will bring benefit to North Wales when the project is completed. The Portfolio Holder for Major Projects and Economic Development responded that authority is supportive in principle to the project;
- Councillor G O Jones ascertained as to when reports will be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee as regard to the Growth Bid. The Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer responded that the Agreement should be signed by the parties at the end of September beginning of October prior to the stage of reaching Heads of Terms with both Governments. The Board will then officially be a legally constituted Joint Committee and will be open to scrutiny by this Council's Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

It was RESOLVED that :-

- **Progress on the development of a Growth Deal Bid is noted and welcomed;**
- **The Council approves the non-Executive arrangements i.e. the arrangements for Scrutiny as included in the first stage Governance Agreement;**
- **The Council be presented with the final draft Growth Deal Bid for review and consent in September/October 2018 prior to the stage of reaching Heads of Terms with both Governments;**
- **Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive and the Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader to finalise the terms of the Governance Agreement substantially in accordance with the draft attached as Appendix 1 of the Report;**
- **The Executive arrangements contained within the Governance Agreement to be included in the Constitution and the Council be asked to include the non-Executive arrangements relating to Scrutiny within the Constitution.**

The meeting concluded at 3.05 pm

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
CHAIR**