

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	9 SEPTEMBER 2020
TITLE OF REPORT:	Council Leader's Annual Report
REPORT BY:	Council Leader
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	

Introduction

This is my third annual report as Leader of the Council, and we certainly didn't see what lay ahead for us when planning for our terms in 2017. The report outlines the Council's activity from May 2019 to May 2020 and is in two sections - our pre-Pandemic successes and then an overview of the Council's response to the Covid 19 emergency.

At the beginning of the report it is important that I convey my thanks to all those who ensure the success of the Council in serving the people of Anglesey. I would like to pay deserved tribute to everyone who works so hard in what was one of the highest performing authorities in Wales in 2018/2019. Success is not brought about by size but rather a willingness to work for the good of society.

What have we done-



Business Units

Business units continue to be developed on the island. The new units in Llangefni have already been filled. The new units in Holyhead continue to attract a considerable number of enquiries despite the negative impact of Covid-19 on the economy.

North Anglesey Recovery Plan

Following Rehaul's decision to close the factory in Amlwch, the Executive decided to support the area by agreeing the North Anglesey Economic Recovery Plan. £495,000 was received from the NDA for this work.





Energy Island Programme

We continue to support the Energy Island programme to support economic development based on energy generation. The offshore energy plan from Morlais is showing progress. Minesto is also constructing a factory to build their technology at Holyhead Port. The government in Westminster is expected to make a statement on consent for Wylfa Newydd in the Autumn.



North Wales Growth Bid

The six north Wales leaders signed the 'Heads of terms' with both Governments in order to progress the North Wales Growth Bid to the next stage. Equivalent to £220million. Anglesey has exciting schemes as part of the Growth Deal, for example Morlais, Holyhead Port and innovative schemes at Msparc. I have now been elected from amongst the six leaders to lead on Energy matters for North

Wales.

Arfor

Arfor is a grant scheme for businesses to develop and use the Welsh language. 11 businesses have received business development grants and 14 businesses have received Welsh language grants on Anglesey this year.



Creu Gwaith - Cefnogi'r Iaith



Supply and construction of Housing

104 empty homes returned to use for households as we increased the council tax premium on empty homes. We are developing Council housing on 6 sites across the island to respond to local need. We are working in an exciting partnership with Cartrefi Conwy who are producing innovative housing in a unit in Holyhead to provide homes for the people of Anglesey.

Llawr y Dref

The Llawr y Dref refurbishment scheme has been completed to provide comfortable homes. We have amended the allocations policy to ensure the best use of the flats for the community in Llangefni. In conjunction with the Children's Service we opened two training flats for our young people leaving care.



Trac and Adtrac

The Track and Adtrac scheme has worked successfully with a group of young people, and it was pleasing to be able to invite some of them to the Council so they could share the cooking skills they had learned.

Leisure

We are constantly striving to improve the island's leisure facilities. This year we received grant funding to create a small 3G pitch at David Hughes. The equipment in the fitness room at Plas Arthur has been upgraded.



Market Hall

Holyhead Market Hall was opened following major repairs after being vacant for years. The building has been rescued as a focal point for the town. The Library has been successfully incorporated into the new building and offers a service for all generations to come together in a welcoming atmosphere. We are continuing to market multipurpose offices for letting.

Parc Adfer

Parc Adfer was opened in Deeside as a recycling centre serving 5 north Wales councils. This development will generate electricity from the waste.





Rationalizing the Council's energy use

The Council has invested £250,000 to reduce our energy consumption. We have seen a number of initiatives, for example, a scheme to improve the efficiency of the water heating boilers and solar panels in our leisure centres, schools and main building with additional grant funding.

Flood Prevention Schemes

Flood prevention schemes in Llansadwrn, Pentraeth and Beaumaris were completed during the last year along with small flood prevention schemes. The total expenditure on flood prevention schemes for 2019/2020 is £3.5M.



Budget

We agreed a budget for 2020/21 which enabled us to provide additional funding for Social Services and Education. It is important to note that setting the Council budget is becoming more challenging with reduced scope for savings and service pressures as the needs of the population become more acute.

Foster Parents

The number of foster parents increased during the year due to the change in our offer, with a reduction in Council Tax, leisure membership and a parking permit. This ensures that the island's children can live here on Anglesey.





Care Centres

We have developed a childcare cabin at Ysgol Morswyn, Holyhead, and Ysgol Pencarnisiog. These will offer all day childcare and care during school holidays. By September two more will be completed at Ysgol Esceifiog and Ysgol y Tywyn.

'Denu Talent'

The 'Denu Talent (attracting talent) scheme was a success again this year. 9 young people took advantage of the opportunity provided under the scheme, with some of them taking up employment within the Authority.



Place Shaping

In collaboration with Medrwn Môn we have reached the following wards to plan for the needs of the Twrcelyn, Llifon, Rhosyr and Aethwy areas, as well as the rural area of Canolbarth Môn (Central Anglesey.) I would like to thank the staff of Medrwn Môn and the residents of the areas for taking the time to discuss local needs and establish active groups.





The Anglesey Show

Unfortunately there was no Anglesey Show this year but the two Anglesey Show days were extremely successful. The Council's presence at the Show is a great opportunity to share information about the Council's extensive work. It's great to welcome everyone for a chat and to get their feedback.

Engaging with young people

It gives me great pleasure to lead a group of young people around the Council building to raise their awareness of Council services. The question and answer sessions are challenging and show the young people of the island at their best.



Responding to the Covid-19 crisis

As Covid -19 closed in on us the Council responded and adapted very quickly to protect the vulnerable in our communities and to support those in need. I sympathize deeply with all those who have paid the ultimate price during the crisis. Bereavement is difficult in normal times but this crisis has intensified pressure on family and friends.

What we have done –

A 7 days a week emergency phone line was set up to support the vulnerable community. We received a great deal of enquiries, particularly from local businesses. I would like to thank all the staff for their willingness to work the extra hours and for being a comforting voice on the other end of the phone.

Llinell Ffôn Argyfwng

Mae ein llinell ffôn argyfwng ar gael 7 diwrnod yr wythnos.
Ffoniwch **01248 750057** rhwng 10yb-4yp.

Opsionau y ddeuwslen ffôn yw:

- Cymorth cyllid busnesau
- Gwasanaethau Oedolion
- Gwasanaethau Plant (gan gynnwys Teulu Môn)
- Mynediad IT system gymarth leol
- Canolfannau gofal ysgolion
- Treth Cyngor a Refeniw
- Gwastraff ac Allgylchu
- Budd-dal a goslyngiad Treth Cyngor
- Llythys Cysgodl
- Pob ymholiad arall

Mae diweddariadau gwasanaeth ar gael ar ein gwefan: cynghorn.gov.uk/coronafeirws ac ar ein cyfrifon cyfryngau cymdeithasol

  



GRONFA CADERNID ECONOMAIDD
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND

Mae Cronfa Cadernid Economaidd Llywodraeth Cymru bellach ar agor.

Mae busnesau Yrr Mân tydfi angen cymorth ariannol yn ystod pandemig Coronavirus, yn cael eu hannog i wario eu cymhwysedd a gwneud cais cye gynted i phosib.

Caiswch drwy Busnes Cymru
<https://fundchecker.businesswales.gov.wales/>

The Welsh Government's Economic Resilience Fund is now open.

Anglesey businesses needing financial support, during the Coronavirus pandemic, are urged to check their eligibility and to apply as soon as possible.

Apply through Business Wales at:
<https://fundchecker.businesswales.gov.wales/>



We established a crisis team to respond to the local economic pressures. This was a joint venture between the finance and economic development departments of the Council. Thanks to all the staff for responding and for your tireless work in serving the island.

The difficult decision that Anglesey was closed had to be made to protect our communities from the spread of the virus. I would like to thank everyone for supporting the decision and public protection officers and the police for responding in a timely manner if there were local concerns about non-compliance.



At the start of the crisis the Council, Medrwn Môn and Menter Môn came together to create community support. Over 800 volunteers came forward to support the communities of Anglesey. Thanks to all of them for protecting those in need in our society. Under the leadership of Menter Môn, the Neges scheme was set up to ensure nutritious meals for vulnerable people in our society. I would like to thank the Dylan's company and the staff of the Housing and Highways Departments for making sure the food was delivered to the doorstep.

At the start of the crisis, food parcels were being delivered to the homes of children who receive free school meals. I would like to thank the Council's youth service staff for arranging this. Direct payments were arranged for families eligible for free school meals once we received clarification of the medium term position.

PRYDAU YSGOL AM DDIM

O'r 27/04/2020 bydd gan rieni plant sy'n gymwys am brydau ysgol am ddim yr hawl i dderbyn taliad o £19.50 ar gyfer pob plentyn cymwys, drwy drosgwyddiad cyfrif banc.

Tydd taliadau yn cael eu gwneud yn swyddogol ac yn ddi-ddif system parhauau osid ddi-ddif.

Er mwyn hawlio, cwblhewch y ffurflen ar-lein www.yrymmon.gov.uk/prydau-ysgol-am-ddim-covid-19 neu ffonwch ein llinell gymorth ar 01248 752 292 sy'n agored rhwng 9-5 bob dydd.

Sylwch bod hysoddedau'r Ffôn yn llwng cyn 20/04/20i sicrhau taliadau.

Ysbytyr
Am fwy o wybliadau, cyswrtwch â'r gwasanaeth ein ffôn ar 01248 731888.



Thanks

A word that has been used a lot during my report, but one that it's impossible to use too much. The circumstances in the year from May 2019 to May 2020 have changed us all. As a Council we can be proud of our staff and our communities. Together we can make a difference and by pulling together we show the strength of our small island.

