

THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 22 March, 2021

PRESENT:	Councillor Llinos Medi (Chair) Councillor Ieuan Williams (Vice-Chair) Councillors Richard Dew, Carwyn Jones, R. Meirion Jones, Alun Mummery, R.G. Parry, OBE FRAgS, Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Robin Williams
IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive (items 1 to 5, and 10 to 12) Deputy Chief Executive Director of Function (Resources) & Section 151 Officer Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer Director of Education, Skills and Young People Director of Social Services Head of Service (Highways, Waste and Property) Head of Service (Housing Services) Interim Head of Service (Regulation and Economic Development) Interim Head of Service (Adults' Services) Head of Democratic Services Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager (GM) Principal Valuation Officer (TDE) Economic Development Manager (THJ) Principal Development Officer (Housing Services) (AJ) Licensing and Corporate Safety Manager (SH) Committee Officer (ATH)
APOLOGIES:	None
ALSO PRESENT:	Councillors Glyn Haynes, Trefor Lloyd Hughes, MBE, Aled Morris Jones, G.O Jones, R. Llewelyn Jones, Bryan Owen, Dylan Rees, Dafydd Roberts, Scrutiny Manager (AGD), Mr Gareth Wyn Williams (Local Democracy Reporter)

The Chair welcomed all the Members and Officers present to this virtual meeting of the Executive. Prior to commencing the business of the meeting, she referred to the Covid-19 situation in Holyhead and extended her thanks and appreciation to the Council's Officers, the Health Board and Public Health Wales for their hard work over the weekend in co-ordinating the Covid-19 testing arrangements. In updating the Executive she explained that a consignment of tests had reached Holyhead the previous day and are available for children, young people and their families and further on Monday, volunteers will be distributing test kits to households – this will take a few days and people are asked to have patience. Thanks go to the volunteers for giving of their time to carry out this task and to Medrwn Môn and to the Housing Service for leading on the work. In the interests of safety she asked people not to turn up without having made prior arrangements. Arrangements are also being made with the Ambulance Service to set up a testing centre in Holyhead Leisure Centre which it is hoped will be operational by the end of the week – this is for individuals showing no symptoms of Covid-19. The existing test centre in Holyhead is also available for walk/drive

in tests without prior appointment. The Leader highlighted that as this is the first instance of community spread on the Island (with no one identifiable transmission point), it requires a different response to that taken previously and she urged everyone in Ynys Cybi to take the test to safeguard both themselves and the wider community of Ynys Cybi.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Richard Dew declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7 on the agenda.

2. URGENT MATTERS CERTIFIED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS APPOINTED OFFICER

None to report.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meetings of the Executive held on 15 February, 2021 and 1 March, 2021 were presented for the Executive's approval.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meetings of the Executive held on 15 February, 2021 and 1 March, 2021 be approved.

4. THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Democratic Services incorporating the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period from April to November 2021 was presented for consideration and the following changes were noted -

- Item 2 – Service Asset Management Plan 2020 to 2030: Smallholdings Estate – rescheduled from 22 March, 2021 to the 26 April, 2021 meeting.
- Item 3 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan – rescheduled from 22 March, 2021 to the 26 April, 2021 meeting.
- Item 18 – Initial 2022/23 Draft Budget proposals – a new item for the 8 November, 2021 meeting.
- Items 20 to 23 – Performance and Budget Monitoring related items – new items for the 29 November, 2021 meeting.

It was resolved to confirm the Executive's updated Forward Work Programme for the period from April to November, 2021 as presented.

5. CORPORATE SCORECARD QUARTER 3 2020/21

The report of the Head of Profession (Human Resources) and Transformation incorporating the Corporate Scorecard for Quarter 3 2020/21 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Portfolio Member for Corporate Business introduced the report for the third quarter of the 2020/21 financial year, a period which coincided with a short two week firebreak in October, 2020 and the introduction of a national lockdown in December, 2020. Overall, 79% of Performance Indicators are presenting as Green or Yellow with headline performance in staff absence management and the digital service shift subheading where all indicators have seen performances that have surpassed previous annual results during the pandemic. The Portfolio Member said that the importance of social media in sharing information and positively influencing behaviours to ensure greater local compliance with the Covid-19 national lockdown rules cannot be underestimated. The Council's social media channels have seen an increase of 8.5k followers from the end of

Quarter 3 2019/20 and mention should be made in this context of the Council's Communications Team whose clear and consistent messaging have kept the public well informed and up to date throughout the pandemic period. The Council is also mindful of those within the population who are digitally excluded and will continue to provide for their needs by alternative means. For those few areas that have been identified as not performing to target, the report explains why and offers mitigating measures aimed at improving performance going into Quarter 4 and beyond.

Councillor Richard Dew, Portfolio Member for Planning and Public Protection in referring to the impact of the pandemic on aspects of the Planning Service's performance highlighted recent feedback from local planning agents which stated that the Anglesey Council Planning Service is the only one in the region that is currently continuing to provide as near to normal a service as possible.

The Programme, Business Planning and Performance Manager advised that although some Performance Indicators are showing Red and are underperforming, the underlying trend for those PIs is upwards which is encouraging.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee reported from the Committee's 8 March, 2021 meeting at which the Quarter 3 Corporate Scorecard was scrutinised. The Committee was grateful for the report and updates provided by Portfolio Members and Officers at the meeting and having considered those and other clarifications, and having asked to be provided with managing homelessness data for its next meeting, the Committee was happy to accept the report noting the areas which the Senior Leadership Teams is managing to secure improvements into the future and the mitigation measures outlined, and to recommend the same to the Executive.

The Executive acknowledged the positive report and the continuing good work that it reflects which Members felt was especially gratifying considering the additional demands which dealing with the pandemic has placed on all the Council's staff over this period.

It was resolved to accept the Scorecard monitoring report for Q3 2020/21, to note the areas which the Senior Leadership Team are managing to secure improvements into the future and to accept the mitigation measures as outlined in the report.

6. DAVID HUGHES CHARITABLE ESTATE AND ANGLESEY FURTHER EDUCATION TRUST ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2019/20

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer incorporating the Annual Report and Accounts for the Anglesey Further Education Trust for the year 2019/20 as attached at Appendix A was presented for the Executive's consideration and approval.

Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance presented the Annual Report and Accounts and said that he was very pleased to be able to report about the progress made over the course of the year to which the report refers in ensuring greater utilisation of the Fund for the charitable purposes for which it was intended which follows a request made by the Executive in April, 2019 that the structure of the Trust be reviewed to this end. As a result, a one off allocation of £55k for each secondary school (from the Anglesey Further Education ⅓ Fund) was approved by the Executive in October, 2019 to fund the cost of Learning Coaches to provide support for senior pupils undertaking GCSE and A level courses which is especially pertinent given what has transpired in terms of the impact of Covid-19 on schools and learning. The Executive also resolved to allocate an additional £8,000 per secondary school (from the Anglesey Further Education ⅓ Fund) to provide grants to assist financially disadvantaged students to obtain places at colleges and universities and/or help with the purchase of books and equipment required to attend the courses in the first year. However, because of the pandemic, schools were not in a position

to invite applications during the 2019/20 summer term and consequently, no grants were awarded. Schools are therefore asked to remind pupils on their return of the availability of the grant and to actively encourage applications. In addition, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is also administering a scholarship scheme for students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to undertake University and College courses through the medium of Welsh. The Portfolio Member for Finance summarised that although further work needs to be done a solid start has been made in terms of utilising the fund and giving financial assistance to those for whom it was intended.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer referred to what the accounts represent in terms of the composition of the Anglesey Further Education Trust, the source of its income and the purpose of the three funds which it incorporates. He confirmed that a plan was put in place with the secondary schools to administer the award of the grants to pupils but that this process was disrupted by the pandemic with the hope now being that as restrictions are eased, schools will be able to distribute and use more of the funding in the coming summer term. The Section 151 Officer added that he was able to report that Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol has confirmed that 4 students will be receiving a grant of £500 in September, 2021 and that this expenditure will be reflected in the 2020/21 accounts. The report outlines the financial performance of the Trust for the year - total funds as at 31 March, 2020 were £3,152,966 with approximately £2.5m invested in the agricultural estate and the remainder in investments and/or cash deposits.

Councillor R. Meirion Jones, Portfolio Member for Education, Libraries, Culture and Youth expressed his gratitude both for the work and time expended on restructuring the Fund to enable its charitable purposes to be better fulfilled and thereby realise the educational benefits for pupils, and for the progress made subsequently. He was particularly grateful on behalf of Anglesey's schools and their pupils and he asked the Director of Education, Skills and Young People to remind schools about the availability of the grant funding. The latter confirmed that that is the intention.

It was resolved to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for the Anglesey Further Education Trust for the year 2019/20.

7. INDEPENDENT CARE HOME FEES FOR 2021/22

The report of the Interim Head of Adults' Services seeking the Executive's approval to increase independent sector care home fees for 2021/22 as proposed was presented for consideration.

As he had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, Councillor Richard Dew withdrew from the meeting when the matter was discussed.

The Chair and Portfolio Member for Social Services presented the report stating that as from 6 April, 2016 the framework for financial assessment has come under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Local Authority is required to review independent sector care home fees annually to coincide with Central Government's changes to benefits and pension levels and, in setting levels for independent sector care homes, the Authority needs to show that it has fully considered the costs of the provision in determining its standard care fees. As in previous years this is done in collaboration with the other Authorities in North Wales and the Health Board by utilising a Regional Fee Methodology. The Authority proposes to continue to use this model for 2021/22 which has reflected legislation changes in terms of pensions, national living wage and inflation as well as costs attributed to cover agency staff costs. The North Wales Methodology recommendations are set out in Table 1 of the report and are based on 10% ROI for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The Chair clarified that for the reasons set out in the report, the Authority is proposing that a slightly amended ROI is adopted for 2 categories (Residential Adults and Nursing EMI – Social Care Element) and is therefore recommending that the rates set out in Table 2 are approved for Anglesey. It may be necessary to consider individual submissions from providers regarding the fees proposed. Exceptions to the fee rates will be considered if there is clear evidence to indicate that the fee set is not sufficient in any individual case.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer advised with regard to the implications for the Council's budget that in setting the 2021/22 budget additional provision for inflation was made on the basis of the number of clients in Anglesey's independent care/nursing homes historically. Although the increase in fee levels is higher than the provision made for inflation, the number of clients in the homes has since reduced and if that number remains constant, expenditure should remain within budget. The number of clients to whom the fees apply tends to fluctuate each year in any case leading to variances in the budget as the number falls or rises so the fact that the fee increases exceed the provision for inflation is not considered a cause for concern.

It was resolved –

- **To acknowledge the North Wales Fee Methodology as implemented hitherto by the Authorities in North Wales as a basis for setting fees in Ynys Môn during 2021/22.**
- **To approve the recommendation to increase the fee level as noted in Table 2 of the report.**
- **In line with other Authorities, to authorise the Social Services and Resources function to respond to any requests from individual homes to explore their specific accounts and to utilise the exercise as basis to consider any exceptions to the agreed fees. Any exceptions to be agreed with the Portfolio Member, the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer and the Head of Adults' Services from within current budgets.**

8. ENABLING THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL TO TRANSITION INTO A CARBON NEUTRAL ORGANISATION BY 2030 – DELIVERING A NEW CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME

The report of the Deputy Chief Executive outlining the steps to be taken to deliver a new corporate Climate Change Programme to support the Council's transition into a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Planning and Public Protection in presenting the report referred to the climate change crisis as relevant both to the Council corporately and to services individually, with the Council having committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Although the immediate focus has been on managing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate change emergency is ongoing and will become more pressing going forwards and local expectations that the Council will take resolute action will increase. Although there have already been achievements across the Authority – in Housing, Highways and Property for example - with regard to reducing carbon usage, protecting and adding value to the natural environment and cutting down on travel, the Council's climate change work requires a long term and far-reaching corporate approach. Whilst resources will be made available the Council's response needs to be underpinned by definite measurable plans that will make a difference.

The Deputy Chief Executive agreed that the profile, significance and expectations on the Council to take positive actions to address the climate change issue will grow over the coming months and years especially once the Covid-19 crisis is over. The Council will need

to provide clear leadership both internally and externally for the Island's communities, businesses and its partners and the reports seeks to set a solid foundation that will enable climate change considerations to become embedded in all aspects of the Council's work in future years. Section 3.2.1 of the report is key in setting out local authority commitments in terms of establishing a baseline, reporting, monitoring and providing evidence of meaningful progress towards the 2030 target of achieving carbon neutral status and it is anticipated that Welsh Government will soon be publishing a roadmap for public sector organisations that will correlate with those commitments.

It is important that climate change and environmental wellbeing should form an integral part of the Covid-19 recovery process and that recovery plans should capture and seek to build on the changes in attitude, behaviour and ways of working that have emerged during the pandemic but should also recognise that it is individuals and their decisions that make a real difference so that the approach is both a strategic one and is also a group based approach that includes the Council's staff, residents of the Island and the local Senedd and Parliament Members who represent them. Section 7 of the report provides the reasoning for the proposals which recommend that corporate co-ordination, capacity and expertise in this area be strengthened to enable the Council to take addressing the climate change responsibility forwards decisively and effectively with the support of dedicated resources.

Councillor Gwilym O. Jones, Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee reported from the Committee's 11 March, 2021 meeting where the report was scrutinised. The Committee was informed and it noted that the climate change field is a very specialised and important area which involves a change of culture requiring the organisation to go on a learning journey. The way in which the Council needs to change the way it works was outlined to the Committee with emphasis on the fact that this is a long term journey with responsibility on the Council as well as all its staff. Reference was made to the key climate change legislation and policies and to the role of the Local Government Decarbonisation Strategy Panel and the commitments made by each local authority represented on the Panel. It was recognised that the Council is already doing much that is right in terms of becoming a carbon neutral organisation and that this needs to be more widely publicised; the attention now being focused on this matter for the benefit of the Island's residents and wider biodiversity was welcomed by the Committee and the intentions of the report were commended. Points were made regarding the importance of the procurement process in terms of sustainable purchasing and use of local products and companies and also in relation to the different ways of working and reduced travel as a result of the pandemic and the need to incorporate these lessons in the Council's plans going forwards. The Committee was also keen that the Climate Change Programme Manager once appointed, should visit schools to educate the next generation on the Council's climate change work and plans. The Scrutiny Committee was happy to support and recommend the proposals with regard to developing and implementing a new corporate Climate Change Programme; recruiting a Climate Change Programme Manager and establishing an internal Climate Change Working group.

The Executive likewise welcomed the report recognising that climate change is among the most important of the Council's priorities in terms of legacy and the wellbeing of future generations and Members were appreciative of the work at a time when the Council is still dealing with the pandemic and its implications.

Councillor Ieuan Williams, Deputy Leader was grateful for the report as a valuable starting point and in stating that he looked forward to receiving a clear and detailed programme with costings and delivery timescales, enquired as to when such a programme could be expected. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that developing a detailed action plan will be an early priority once the Climate Change Programme Manager is appointed. In hoping that the appointment can be made before summer, the objective would then be to put in

place an initial action plan to be taken through the democratic process by the end of the calendar year.

Councillor Robin Williams, Portfolio Member for Finance highlighted that the 2021/2022 Budget makes an initial provision for climate change works in recognition of Welsh Government's and the Council's commitment to achieving a carbon neutral public sector.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development referred to the steps the Council has taken to date in becoming a more sustainable, energy efficient and climate aware organisation in relation to its housing stock, moving to electric fleet vehicles, waste management and disposal and the natural environment and emphasised the importance of having detailed plans at the ready to take advantage of external funding linked to climate change action.

Councillor R.G. Parry OBE, FRAGS, Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property in acknowledging the role the Council has to play stressed the importance of Welsh Government also playing its part in helping local authorities make a difference for example in supporting the wider rollout of electric vehicle charging points in publicly accessible places such as in schools and Council buildings. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Authority has had discussions with Welsh Government with a view to attracting funding to create an electric vehicle charging plan for Anglesey that will form part of the national strategy that is being developed. It was pointed out that the solutions for Anglesey might need to be different to those for city areas on account of its more rural nature and that it is important to ensure that rural areas are treated fairly and equally.

It was resolved to support and endorse the following –

- **The development and implementation of a new corporate Climate Change Programme to enable the Authority to transition into a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.**
- **The Deputy Chief Executive being the SRO (Senior Responsible Owner).**
- **Prioritise resources on the local authority commitments agreed at the Local Government Decarbonisation Strategy Panel (section 3.2.1 of the report).**
- **The utilisation of a restricted reserve of £400,000 to create dedicated capacity/expertise to lead on progressing and co-ordinating the initial stages of development and delivery.**
- **The recruitment of a corporate Climate Change Programme Manager to lead on development and delivery.**
- **The establishment of a Climate Change Working Group (with political representation) – an advisory, non-decision-making group to make recommendations and requests.**
- **The appointment of a Climate Change Champion on the Executive and,**
- **That Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas be appointed as the Executive's Climate Change Champion.**

9. FUTURE OF THE LLANGEFNI GOLF COURSE

The report of the Interim Head of Regulation and Economic Development incorporating the consultation report on the proposed disposal of Llangefni Golf Course was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development outlined the context to the proposed disposal of the Llangefni Golf course and referred to the consultation held thereon which follows the Executive's decision in May 2018 to support in principle the intention to dispose of the Golf course land and Ffridd household and reinvest

the proceeds to improve Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. An open tender process to manage and operate the driving range facility was undertaken with Golf Môn securing the tenancy agreement with the Council. The driving range which reopened in January 2019 has proved very popular and successful and this will remain open. As it involves a playing field, the public consultation on the future of the golf course had to be carried out under a process prescribed by the Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and thanks are due to the Officers for all their work in connection with managing the process.

The Interim Head of Service (Regulation and Economic Development) advised that following the Executive's decision in 2018 to endorse in principle the disposal of the Golf course, the Service has been considering options for its future. Participation figures had reduced and the running costs had become unsustainable for the Service. In conducting the consultation the Council has adhered to the requirements of Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decision) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and is confident that the process followed is sound and that the options are realistic and achievable. The Officer said that the work has involved a number of officers from other services whose input to making the process as transparent and open as possible he appreciated and was grateful for. Referring to the Plas Arthur Leisure Centre, the Interim Head of Service said that the Service has identified an outline programme of investment which it would like to see implemented for the health and well-being of the local community and that any delay in proceeding is a risk.

The Economic Development Manager said that undertaking the public consultation under the Playing Fields Regulations 2015 was a new experience and a challenge. An earlier formal consultation on the proposed disposal of the Llangefní Golf Course went live on 9 March, 2020 and was intended to run until 26 April, 2020 had not the pandemic intervened. To prepare for the public consultation, external solicitors were commissioned to provide advice, guidance and assistance to ensure full compliance with the Regulations and they have raised no issues which provides assurance regarding the robustness of the process. The decision to be made is whether or not to dispose of the Golf Course taking into consideration the range of impact assessments that it has been necessary to carry out under the Regulations which are presented as supporting documents.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee reported that there was consensus at the Committee's 8 March, 2021 meeting to which the matter was presented that having considered the circumstances and relevant factors, disposing of the Golf course was the most appropriate option with the focus of the discussion then being on how that could be done to secure the best possible price. The Scrutiny Committee came to the view that the Ffridd House could be sold immediately and the proceeds of sale used to improve Plas Arthur Leisure Centre but that the value of the Golf Course land would be much enhanced were it to be incorporated into the Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) as development land when the Plan is next reviewed, hence the recommendation that the sale be delayed to allow options for doing so to be considered.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development responded by saying that following the Scrutiny Committee's meeting he had consulted with the Joint Planning Policy Unit and the Chief Planning Officer about the feasibility of incorporating the Golf Course land in the JLDP and was able to report that the process would involve submitting robust evidence to show why development is needed in the area as well as demonstrating why the site is suitable for development in terms of amenities, traffic and infrastructure. Added to that the landowner would have to offer the site as a candidate site. The process can be lengthy with no certainty of success particularly as the Golf course land is located in the countryside and is not adjacent to the development boundary. Taking the route of the JLDP would also render the public consultation null and void as the purpose of the disposal is different to that on which the consultation was held meaning the consultation would have to be re-run. Whilst Scrutiny's aim of obtaining best value for the asset is acknowledged there are other ways in which this can be achieved and alternative

options could be explored with the professional input of Officers from the Property Service. Although recognising the need to secure the best possible price for the land, seeking its inclusion in the JLDP could mean its value may not be realised for several years whereas proceeding with the sale means that the proceeds can be invested in Plas Arthur Leisure Centre for immediate benefit for the health and well-being of the community of Llangefni. Taking all things into consideration, the Portfolio Member proposed an amended wording for recommendation 1 of the report to the effect that the sale of the Ffridd household and Golf Course land should proceed in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property and the Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development and that the site be marketed to obtain the maximum possible income on the open market for sale.

Councillor R.G.Parry OBE, FRAGS, Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property agreed that there is a pressing need to invest in the Plas Arthur Leisure Centre which the sale of the Golf Course would make possible. Any type of development on the land could be problematic for the community and letting the land for grazing would also entail costs to the Council.

Councillor Robin Williams referred to the discussion in Scrutiny about imposing conditions on the sale of the land to ensure that the Council is able to benefit from any future profits made on it as a result of development for example and he sought clarity on the feasibility of such an arrangement.

The Principal Valuation Officer advised that it would be possible to put an overage clause on the sale of the Golf Course land with the only proviso being that any such barrier placed on the sale of land can potentially affect the income received for it on the first day. The advantages, disadvantages and effect of entering into an overage agreement would be the subject of discussion and professional advice with the agent during the sale process.

It was resolved –

- **To proceed with the sale of the Ffridd household with some land and the remaining 42 acres in consultation with the Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property and the Portfolio Member for Major Projects and Economic Development and to market the site to obtain the maximum possible income on the open market for sale.**
- **To undertake a minimum of 6 weeks notification in the local press of a Decision Notice indicating the Council's decision to dispose, and**
- **To reinvest any capital receipts received from the disposal of the site into the Plas Arthur leisure facility.**

10. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2021- 2026

The report of the Interim Head of Regulation and Economic Development incorporating a Statement of Licensing Policy for 2021 to 2026 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Richard Dew, Portfolio Member for Planning and Public Protection introduced the report stating that every five years the Licensing Act requires that the Council adopts a Statement of Licensing Policy which sets out how the Council will discharge its functions with regard to the regulation of licensed regulated activity. The draft policy has been produced in accordance with the Licensing Act statutory guidance on form and contents and is a revised and updated version of the Council's previous policy.

The Licensing and Corporate Safety Manager elaborated on the contents of the policy with regard to the principles that are applied in making decisions on applications, hearings, reviews and appeals under the Act in relation to the sale and supply of alcohol, provision of

late night refreshment and the provision of regulated entertainment. The Authority is duty bound to carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting with equal importance the four licensing objectives of preventing crime and disorder; public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. The powers of the Authority under the Act are carried out by the Licensing Committee, by a Licensing sub-committee or by one or more officers acting under delegated authority (Appendix D refers). When applications are advertised, the Responsible Authorities have a right to comment and make representations – Appendix B lists those authorities with whom the Council engages in administering the policy and legislation. The Policy also covers how temporary event notices and personal licences and club premises certificates are dealt with and refers to the link with Planning and Building Control. Also outlined in the Policy are the arrangements with regard to enforcement.

It was resolved to recommend the Statement of Licensing Policy 2021/26 to the Full Council for adoption.

11. HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT DELIVERY AND COMMISSIONING PLANS 2021/22

The report of the Head of Housing Services incorporating the Housing Support Commissioning and Delivery Plans for 2021/22 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The HSG is an early intervention grant programme to support activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilise their housing situation or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation. It does not fund the statutory duty on local authorities to prevent homelessness but augments, complements and supports the statutory service to ensure that the overall offer authorities provide helps people into the right homes with the right support to succeed.

Councillor Alun Mummery, Portfolio Member for Housing and Supporting Communities introduced the report by thanking the Housing Services Principal Development Officer for his work in developing the plans especially as the notification by Welsh Government of the increased allocation was only received days prior to Christmas. Notwithstanding the increase in the grant funding is very much welcomed, there is some anxiety about its continuation after 2021/22 and beyond given that it will have been committed for the purposes described in the report although it is understood unofficially that it will be maintained at this level as a minimum. Anglesey's indicative allocation for 2021/22 will be increased from April, 2021 by £856,722.50 which is the first increase in the grant for 5 years with the new indicative award set at £3,571,720.50. In previous years the allocation has been set at £2,714,998 of which £2,643,866 was allocated to the Housing Support element; £64,923 for Homeless Prevention (non-statutory) and £6,209 for the enforcement of Rent Smart Wales.

The Portfolio Member highlighted that over the past 18 months to two years data analysis and discussions with providers and other stakeholders have shown that there has been a shift in both the volume of referrals to the Housing Support Programme and in the number of complex cases which require support and targeted interventions. There were over 1,000 referrals in 2019/20 and 2020/21 is expected to see an equivalent if not higher number of referrals. Cases involving domestic abuse, mental health issues, substance misuse, individuals with a history of offending and young people in the 16 to 24 age range are a cause for concern especially when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted when levels of homelessness, mental health needs and domestic abuse are expected to increase and become more visible. Consequently, a rise in demand for Housing Support Services is anticipated. At present, the Service's commissioned units of support per week stands at approximately 700 where one unit equates to one individual or family; the numbers awaiting

contact or placed on waiting lists varies between 45 and 90 units and it is hoped that the additional funding can go some way to alleviating the demand.

The Portfolio Member elaborated on the proposed use of the additional money as set out in detail in section 4 of the report and referred to the challenge of ensuring that maximum benefit is realised quickly particularly as staff will need to be recruited whilst demand remains at an unprecedented high. At the time of writing, 99.3% had been committed for spending with a balance of £19,775.21 remaining and available for use for any of the three elements of the HSG. Similarly, any slippage incurred due to issues with recruitment or any other identified factor can be used flexibly.

The Housing Services Principal Development Officer acknowledged that formulating plans for the additional allocation in such a tight timescale has been a challenge; the increased funding is welcomed and it is hoped that it will help address the high level of demand although there are concerns about some of the groups which the funding supports even when the pandemic has ended.

In welcoming the increased support provided by Welsh Government for 2021/22, the Executive noted that the level of HSG funding in future years specifically whether it will be maintained at this increased level remains unconfirmed. This being so the Executive was of the view that Welsh Government should be urged to provide longer term certainty over future funding of the Housing Support Grant particularly in light of the additional pressures which Covid 19 is likely to create so as to enable the Authority to make appropriate provision to meet demand but also to help it plan its budget accordingly.

It was resolved –

- **To approve the recommendations of the IoACC's Housing Support Grant Delivery and Commissioning Plans for 2021-22 thereby ensuring compliance with the Grant's Terms and Conditions**
- **To endorse the funding allocation for every service area as outlined on the Supporting People Commissioning Plan, and previously approved by the multi-agency Housing Support Planning Group.**
- **That a letter on be sent to Welsh Government on behalf of the Portfolio Member for Finance and the Portfolio Member for Housing and Supporting Communities in recognition of the increased grant allocation and to also emphasise the importance of obtaining longer term certainty regarding the continuation of the grant at this level in order to enable appropriate provision to be made for the people whom the funding supports and to better facilitate budget and financial planning.**

12. SOCIAL SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The report of the Director of Social Services and the Interim Head of Adults' Services on progress to date in Social Services was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Chair and Portfolio Member for Social Services reported that the Social Services Improvement Panel has continued to meet regularly over the course of the past six months and continues to receive evidence of developments across both Adults' Services and Children and Families' Services. The report provides a synopsis of the projects/initiatives that have been taken forward in the period. It is also encouraging to note that Social Services are currently working within budget with both Adults' Services and Children and Families' Services on target to close the financial year in this position.

The Director of Social Services said that despite the daily challenges of Covid-19 and the unprecedented demands on staff, Social Services have managed to continue with their statutory duties as well as progressing developmental and innovative projects across both Adults' Services and Children and Families' Services. Young Carers ID Cards have been launched in the period to highlight a young person's status as a carer and a digital format has also been developed in response to young carers' stated preference for a digital ID. The Cartrefi Clyd scheme continues to expand with the third Small Group Home now progressing and an offer made on a fourth property to the North of the Island. The Service has secured ICF funding to purchase a detached bungalow in order to offer a better day care provision for children with complex needs and a property has been identified and is in the process of being purchased. The Service has also recognised the need to move quickly to a No Wrong Door approach in responding to the emotional well-being and mental health needs of children and young people that will ensure that children, young people and their families receive the help they need when they ask for it and will not be told that they are knocking on the wrong door and should go elsewhere.

The Interim Head of Adults' Services updated the Executive on progress within Adult's Services and acknowledged that the period has been challenging especially for service users and their families, and for carers and the Service's partners across the sector. What has emerged however is that everyone has pulled together to find creative solutions to ensure that support has continued to be provided for those who need it and as a result, collaboration has been strengthened. In terms of specific work streams, an independent audit of Adults' Social Care Services has been commissioned the intention being to provide an overview of what is a complex service area and produce clear and agreed recommendations on specific areas that require focus in order to improve the outcome for service users. Three Community Resource Teams are now in place and are meeting virtually. Elsewhere in Adults' Social Services, the pandemic has had a delaying effect with aspects of the work on the Adults' Learning Disability Day Opportunity Strategy currently on hold and the development of the Shared Lives Programme having been significantly impacted – it has been decided that this project will continue but will be opened up to support older people. Although the expansion of the Community Hubs has likewise paused, work has continued virtually for example on developing digital hubs.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones provided feedback from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 8 March, 2021 where the report was discussed and updates were provided in response to questions raised. The Committee was satisfied with the improvements made and the pace of progress and recommended the report for the Executive's approval.

It was resolved to confirm that the Executive is satisfied with the pace of progress and improvements made to date within both Adults' Services and the Children and Families' Services.

**Councillor Llinos Medi
Chair**