Annual Report 2020 to 2021

This is my fourth annual report as the Leader of the Council, and certainly, we did not foresee what was facing us as we were planning our term in 2017. This report gives an overview of the Council's activity from May 2020 to May 2021. We are all aware that this past year has not been a usual one, the report will focus on our response to the crisis as well as business as usual.

It is important to note at the beginning of this report my gratitude to all who ensure the success of the Council so that we can be of service to the people of Anglesey. I would like to applaud the praise-worthy individuals who work so hard to ensure that the authority's performance is amongst the best in Wales. It is not size that guarantees success but a readiness to work for the benefit of society.

Response to the Covid-19 emergency

By May 2020 all of our lives had been affected by restrictions and the challenge of responding to the emergency. We have experienced the devastation of the emergency as a community. I offer my deepest condolences to everyone who has had to pay the ultimate price during this crisis, grief is difficult at the best of times but during this emergency it has meant even more adversity for family and friends.

What we have done –

At the beginning of the emergency the Council, Medrwn Môn and Menter Môn came together in order to provide support for the community. Over 900 volunteers offered up their time to support Anglesey's communities. By now there are numerous good turn schemes in places which continue to volunteer in their areas. Thank you to all of them.

With Menter Môn's guidance we saw the Neges scheme offering services to those who are vulnerable in our community. I would like to thank the many business who adapted and offered their services to those in need in the community.

We are continuing to work closely with Food Banks on the island who have offered their services throughout the emergency. Thank you to all the agencies for their support.

Over the Christmas period all the agencies came together to offer food hampers, gifts and Christmas dinners to our residents. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.







At the beginning of the emergency, a 7 day a week phone-line was set up to support those who are vulnerable in our community. We had a number of enquiries especially from local businesses. I would like to thank all the staff for their willingness to work additional hours and for being a comforting voice on the other side of the phone.

Announcing that Anglesey was closed in order to protect our communities went against our welcoming nature, but with the situation improving, we were able to re-open our Island safely over the summer. I would like to thank everyone for supporting the guidance. Anglesey's people, businesses, Council officers and the police all worked together to ensure that the Island's residents were kept safe. Thank you.





A track and trace team was established, with Anglesey as a pilot area following discussions with the Welsh Government. I would like to thank the Council's staff who were more than willing to take on the new duty. This work was crucial in protecting our communities when we had the first case of an outbreak in a factory in Llangefni.

A grant paying system was put in place for businesses, school lunches, self-isolation, and care worker pay. I would like to thank all the staff for maintaining contact with those who were in need of support and for adapting so quickly in order to ensure that payments were made as quickly as possible.

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Due to the local situation we had to make the decision to not open schools here on Anglesey in order to ensure everyone's safety. I would like to thank the children, parents, teachers and Council officers for ensuring the timely and safe re-opening of our schools.

Congratulations to Anglesey's pupils for being so great during a difficult year and I would like to wish those who have left the education system on the Island well. Remember that you belong to 'The Land of the Can Do' and you have the ability to achieve anything.

All the Council's services had to be adapted from the libraries to waste, from planning to the Oriel, from youth to leisure.



Thank you to everyone for such positive responses and to all the service users for your patience and gratitude.



Ensuring a testing unit on the Island. We have worked closely with Public Health Wales and the Health Board to ensure a testing unit on the Island and request and additional one when needed.



Supporting the vaccinations – sharing messages and supporting arrangements and locations.

Responding to the local challenge. The Council was a lead partner in ensuring that Holyhead was kept safe in co-operation with the statutory agencies. I would like to thank the volunteers, agencies and Council staff for responding so quickly in order to ensure everyone's safety.



Business as Usual -

Budget- this year's Budget was set out with the second lowest Council tax increase in Wales. We have invested in a traineeship scheme, new climate-change schemes and additional funding for tourism. Thanks to everyone for the responses to the consultation.





As part of the Welsh Government's plan we have opened childcare centres at Esceifiog School and Tywyn School. These developments will support families in the area.

Housing development has continued with 21 new social homes let. We have also purchased 18 former Council houses back into our housing stock. There are 49 homes currently being built on the island. We have also made plans to revert buildings into homes.





With regards to climate change, we have worked towards moving the Council forward by adopting a corporate strategy. We saw an investment towards ensuring that our schools, libraries and leisure centres are environmentally friendly by installing new boilers and solar panels. Moving forward with the 3G plan in Holyhead in collaboration with the Town Council. We would like to thank the Town Council for their positive response.





Work was conducted to re-new Beaumaris Pier. Thank you to the community for their patience as the work was in progress.

Energy Island – numerous discussions were had between the private sector and both Governments, regarding energy island plans, including Wylfa Newydd, Morlais, Holyhead Hydrogen Hub and Msparc developments.





Ambition Board – We are moving forward with regards to the Growth Plan with appointments made to essential jobs during the last year. This has enabled plans for digital connectivity, energy development, sites and property.

Responding to changes to Holyhead Port following Brexit has been challenging. We have ensured that both governments understand the importance of a searching site as close as possible to the port in order to ensure the safety of the site for the economy of Anglesey and beyond.



National Work

I have ensured a strong voice for Anglesey in national discussions. We as Leaders of Wales have met almost weekly since the beginning of the emergency in order to share concerns and influence the Welsh Government. In addition to this we have met with Ministers from the Welsh Government as well as the UK Government in order to ensure that local



concerns are recognised and are responded to in a timely manner by the Government. I have met with Public Health Wales regularly. We as the six Leaders of the north Wales Authorities have met regularly with the Chair of the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board. I have provided evidence to the Government's scrutiny committees on behalf of the WLGA. I was appointed as the Social Services Deputy Speaker of the WLGA. Ensuring that Anglesey's voice is heard nationally is important to me, in order to influence policies to take our local communities into consideration.



THANK YOU

A word that I've used so much in this report but impossible to use too much. The circumstances of the year from May 2020 to May 2021 have changed each and every one of us. We can be proud as a Council of our staff and our communities. Thank you all for your dedication. Together we can make a difference and by working together we can show the might of our small island.

