



Town and Community Councils Liaison Forum Meeting

Thursday, 8 September 2022
6.30 pm

Virtual meeting (Zoom):

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022 – attached.
3. Overview of the 2022 Local Elections
4. The Council's Standards Committee

Chair and Vice-chair of the Standards Committee to outline the work of the Committee – Standards Committee newsletter attached.
5. Council Plan 2023-2028

Outline of the draft Plan and consultation process.
6. Any other business

Town and Community Councils Liaison Forum

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Monday, 7 February 2022 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Town and Community Councils

Cllr Gordon Warren	Amlwch
Cllr Liz Wood	Amlwch
Cllr Eurfryn Davies	Cwm Cadnant
Cllr Brian Potter	Llanbadrig
Geraint Parry (Clerk)	Llanddona
Cllr Delyth Owen	Llanfaelog
Cllr Ifor Gruffydd	Llanfairpwll
Cllr Einion Williams	Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog
Cllr Margaret Thomas	Llangefn
Alun Foulkes (Clerk)	Llangoed
Sydna Roberts (Clerk)	Llannerch-y-medd
Rhianwen Sheldon (Clerk)	Pentraeth
Cllr Ella Fisk	Menai Bridge
Cllr Rhodri Williams	

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Cllr Llinos Medi	Leader of the Council (Chair)
Cllr Ieuan Williams	Deputy Leader of the Council
Cllr Eric Wyn Jones	Bro Rhosyr Electoral Area
Cllr Gwilym O Jones	Llifon Electoral Area
Annwen Morgan	Chief Executive
Dylan Williams	Deputy Chief Executive
Marc Jones	Director of Function – Resources/Section 151 Officer
Rhian Wyn Jones	Policy Officer

The Leader referred to Councillor Gareth Winston Roberts' recent bereavement on the tragic death of his son. She asked the Chair of Amlwch Town Council, Councillor Liz Wood, to convey the condolences of the members of the forum to Councillor Roberts and his family.

The Leader extended her best wishes to Annwen Morgan, who would shortly be retiring from her post of Chief Executive. The forum members reiterated the Leader's best wishes, and thanked the Chief Executive for her willing commitment to engaging with the island's communities.

1. Apologies

Town and Community Councils

Beaumaris:	Cllr Rhian Jones; Catrin Owen (Clerk)
Holyhead:	Cllr Ann Kennedy; Robert Henderson (Clerk)
Llanfairpwll:	Cllr Gareth Cemlyn Jones
Llangefni:	Cllr J Egryn Lewis
Trearddur:	Cllr Keith Roberts; Cllr Bill Rowlands
Valley:	Cllr Mavis Swaine-Williams
Trewalchmai:	Cllr Edna Jones; Margaret Price (Clerk)

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Portfolio Holder
Cllr Meirion Jones	Education, Youth, Libraries and Culture Portfolio Holder
Cllr Glyn Haynes	Chair of the County Council
Cllr Dafydd Roberts	Bro Rhosyr Electoral Area

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021 were confirmed as a correct record. Mater arising:

Review of the County Council's electoral arrangements - update

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to inform members of the forum that virtual sessions for prospective candidates are to be held on the dates noted below. She explained that everyone was welcome to attend and that further details on how to join these sessions were available on the County Council's website:

10 February 2022, 6-7pm: County Council elections

17 February 2022, 6-7 pm: Town and community council elections

3. Budget Proposals for 2022 to 2023

The Director of Function - Resources gave an overview of the Executive's initial budget proposals for 2022/23.

Revenue Budget 2022/23

The initial financial settlement from the Welsh Government is better for 2022/23 than for many years, with a 9.23% increase for Anglesey. However, it should also be noted that the settlement includes an expectation that the following areas are funded from this increase:

- Funding the real living wage in the social care sector
- Maintaining current levels of homelessness prevention
- Additional costs in dealing with Covid-19 and income losses in 2022/23
- Costs related to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021
- Cost of teacher pay award from September 2022

The Executive wishes to take the opportunity this year to respond to increased pressures by reinvesting in some service areas and this would require a 2% increase in Council Tax. It was explained that further information was available on the Council's website, as part of the consultation which would close on 9 February. Due to the tight timescale this year, the Executive will consider the proposals in more detail and take into account the consultation responses before making their final proposals.

Capital Budget 2022/23

The Executive wishes to prioritise the following areas in the capital budget for 2022/23:

- Investing in existing assets, including an increase to the budget for road re-surfacing - this was welcomed by the forum members.
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- One-off projects
- 21st Century Schools
- Housing Revenue Account

The main points made during the ensuing discussion are outlined below:

Holyhead Port: It was asked whether finance had been allocated in the budget for establishing a new Port Health Authority in Holyhead (Llanddona).

The Leader explained that additional money had been earmarked from general balances but that funding was also being requested from the Welsh Government to complete this work. The situation is unclear at present, and discussions with the Welsh Government are ongoing.

Public Toilets - Capital Expenditure: Clarification was sought on the expenditure earmarked for the island's public toilets, expressing concern that community councils that had taken over responsibility for toilets had already incurred significant expenditure (Llanfaelog).

The Leader explained that the first step would be to review existing provision across the entire island, in order to develop a suitable strategy for the future.

Public Toilets - Business Rate Relief: The Director of Function - Resources noted that the UK Government had now approved the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Act 2021 which allows 100% Business Rate relief, to be

backdated to April 2020. The Council was awaiting further information from the Welsh Government before arranging to reimburse the relevant councils.

Councils were encouraged to respond individually to the consultation which would close on Wednesday, 9 February.

**4. Any other business:
Dealing with major planning applications - specialist support**

Reference was made to major planning applications expected within the Llanfaelog CC area and expert support was sought to formulate a response to the planning consultations.

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that it would not be appropriate for the County Council, as the planning authority, to offer specialist support in relation to individual applications. He suggested contacting Planning Aid Wales or reaching a financial agreement with a professional company.

In closing, it was noted that this would be the last Liaison Forum meeting before the local elections on 5 May. The Leader thanked the community councils for their willingness to engage with the County Council and for their work within their communities.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

INTRODUCTION

The Standards Committee would like to congratulate you all on your election or re-election as town / community councillors. The Standards Committee is here to support you in observing the code of conduct adopted by your council.

As you know, maintaining the highest levels of ethical behaviour is an essential part of your role in representing the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local guidance has been issued to Councillors on declarations of interest and has been provided to your clerks*. In some circumstances it is possible to get special permission from the Standards Committee to take part in decisions, even if you have a prejudicial interest (as you know, this is a significant personal interest which means that you are not allowed to take part in discussion or voting). The special permission from the Standards Committee is called a dispensation and local guidance on how to apply for a dispensation has been provided to your clerks*. Please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice and support in submitting any application you may wish to make.

*The Monitoring Officer would be glad to provide further copies on request.

ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR WALES

- Serious breaches of your code of conduct are decided by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, which is a tribunal hearing its cases in public.
- These cases are reported in full on the Adjudication Panel's website and the link is [here](#)
- If you would prefer a summarised version of these cases they are reported to the Standards Committee and the link to the most recent summary considered by the Standards Committee is [here](#).

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- It is part of the role of the Committee to provide training for you on your code of conduct.
- So, we have written to all clerks to offer remote training sessions, of 1.5 hours duration, on the following alternative dates:

Tuesday 4th October @ 2pm - Welsh
Thursday 6th October @ 6.30pm - English
Tuesday 18th October @ 2pm - English
Thursday 20th October @ 6.30pm - Welsh

- Numbers are limited, so if you are able to attend one of the sessions then please let your clerk know as soon as possible.

THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES
When you signed your acceptance of office to become a Councillor you also agreed to uphold the principles of conduct in public life. These are also commonly known as the Nolan Principles and, in Wales, consist of the following:

- Selflessness
- Honesty
- Integrity and propriety
- Duty to uphold the law
- Stewardship
- Objectivity in decision-making
- Equality and respect
- Openness
- Accountability
- Leadership

AND FINALLY.....

The Standards Committee needs 2 representatives from town / community councils to sit on the Committee. Requests have been sent to the town and community council clerks with a deadline for response by the end of September 2022. If your council has yet to discuss this request, we ask that you please do so, and consider submitting a nomination. The relevant application form has been provided to every clerk.

If more than two candidates are nominated, a postal ballot process will follow.

Also, please advise your clerks if you wish to attend any of the training sessions mentioned above.

A reminder that the local Town and Community Councils' Forum is due to take place on the 8th September 2022.

Please ensure that your council is represented.

The Standards Committee's Annual Report will be considered by the County Council on 29th September and will be available to you on the County Council's Website.

INFORMAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

The Committee carries out governance reviews of some town/community councils, looking at undertakings, declarations of interest, minutes and training records. When the committee intends to conduct reviews of this kind we shall contact the relevant clerks in advance. We are most grateful to your clerks for the assistance they have provided to us in the past.

- Each council which is reviewed will receive written feedback and any recommendations, to be considered by all members of the council, but on an informal basis
- General and anonymised feedback will also be provided to all councils, including any recommendations and the sharing of good practice. We shall ask that this feedback be shared at a formal meeting of every council

MONITORING CONDUCT

The Committee also intends, from time to time, to send two of its members to monitor conduct at some public meetings of town/community councils.

We hope to accomplish this remotely and we shall contact the relevant clerks in order to make the arrangements.

The Committee members will provide early feedback to the chair and the clerk; and may produce general findings to be circulated to all councils.

These monitoring arrangements will begin to take place in 2023.

NEW LEGAL DUTIES ON TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Under the Local Governance and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 town and community councils must now:

- Produce an annual training plan for its councillors and staff, with the first plan being required within 6 months of the last local government election on the 5th May 2022. The annual training plan is a document that will be requested by the Committee when it carries out its reviews.
- Publish an annual report, as soon as reasonably practicable, after the end of each financial year.
- [One Voice Wales](#) is supporting its members to comply with the new legislation.