



Cyfarfod Fforwm Cyswllt
Cyngorau Tref a Chymuned

Town and Community Councils
Liaison Forum Meeting

Nos Fercher, 21 Gorffennaf 2021
6.30 yh

Wednesday, 21 July 2021
6.30 pm

Cyfarfod Rhithiol (Zoom)

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Rhaglen

Agenda

1 - Croeso ac Ymddiheuriadau

1 - Welcome and Apologies

2 - Cofnodion

2 - Minutes

Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 22 Ionawr 2020 – ynghlwm.

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 – attached.

3 - Covid-19

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4 – Premiwm y Dreth Gyngor ar gyfer ail gartrefi

4 – Council Tax Premium for second homes

5 - Strategaeth Dai 2022-27

5 - Housing Strategy 2022-27

6 – Unrhyw fater arall

6 – Any other business

Town and Community Councils Liaison Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday evening, 22 January 2020
In the Council Chamber, Llangefni at 7.00 pm

Present:

Town and Community Councils

Cllr Rhian Jones	Beaumaris
Cllr Stan Zalot	Beaumaris
Cllr Eurfryn Davies	Cwm Cadnant
Cllr Brian Potter	Llanbadrig
Cllr Arfon Wyn	Llanddyfnan
Cllr Dafydd Griffiths	Llaneilian
Cllr Gareth Cemlyn Jones	Llanfairpwll
Cllr Einion Williams	Llanfihangel Ysgeifiog
Cllr J E Lewis	Llangefni; Bodffordd
Cllr Margaret Thomas	Llangefni
Sydna Roberts (Clerk)	Llannerch-y-medd
Cllr Dafydd Idriswyn	Penmynydd
Eifion H Jones (Clerk)	Pentraeth
Cllr Ella Fisk	Menai Bridge
Cllr Keith Roberts	Trearddur
Cllr Bill Rowlands	Trearddur
Cllr Edna M Jones	Trewalchmai
Margaret Price (Clerk)	Trewalchmai
Cllr Gordon Brown	Valley
Cllr Mavis Swaine-Williams	Valley
Gwenda Owen (Clerk)	Valley

Other Council Partners / Stakeholders (invited for item 3):

Jackie Blackwell Anglesey CAB

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Cllr Llinos Medi	Leader of the Council (Chair)
Cllr Robin Williams	Finance Portfolio Holder (for item 3)
Annwen Morgan	Chief Executive
Dylan Williams	Deputy Chief Executive
Marc Jones	Director of Function (Resources) and Section 151 Officer
Huw Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Carol Wyn Owen	Policy and Strategy Manager
Rhian Wyn Jones	Policy Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

Dylan Williams, Deputy Chief Executive, was welcomed to his first meeting of the Forum.

Apologies were received from the following:

Town and Community Councils

Cllr Gordon Warren, Amlwch
Holyhead Town Council
Cllr Dewi ap Rhobert, Llanddyfnan
Cllr Delyth Owen, Llanfaelog

Other Council Partners / Stakeholders

Rhun ap Iorwerth, AM
Virginia Crosbie, MP
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
GwE
Wales Sports Council
Coleg Llandrillo Menai

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Cllr Meirion Jones – Education, Youth, Libraries and Culture Portfolio Holder;
Fôn Roberts – Head of Children and Families

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

Arising:

1.1 Public Toilets – Business Rates

The Director of Function (Resources) referred to Appendix 1 to the minutes of the previous meeting, ie explanatory note stating that all providers of stand-alone public toilets will receive 100% business rates relief from the start of 2020/21. As an update, it was explained that, although the explanatory note was correct as at July, Welsh Government had been unable to proceed with the required legislation. Welsh Government's latest statement on the subject is as follows:

“In June 2019 the Welsh Government announced it intends to make standalone public toilet buildings in Wales exempt from paying non-domestic rates from 1 April 2020. Delivery of the new exemption was originally planned through UK Government legislation. However, we know there will be a

General Election at the end of this year. It remains the Welsh Government's intention to find a legislative opportunity to deliver this exemption at some point in the future. This policy decision supports our commitment to providing access to toilets for public use under Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, helping to keep facilities open for residents and visitors to Wales."

It was agreed that town and community councils would be informed if the situation changes.

3. Initial Budget Proposals for 2020/21

A presentation was given by the Director of Function (Resources) explaining the current situation regarding the revenue and capital budgets, together with the Executive's draft proposals for the 2020/21 budget.

Revenue Budget 2020/21

It was explained that a better than expected initial budget settlement from Welsh Government had reduced the need to implement efficiency savings. However, the increase is not enough to meet rising costs and the need to invest in services that still face significant financial pressures.

The proposed budget for 2020/21 looks to protect services under pressure, including schools and adult services. These proposals add up to almost £343,000. The Executive's initial proposals are outlined below:

- Accept the starting point for the 2020/21 Budget as £142.203m
- Implement £343k of budget savings / additional income (the additional income includes generating an additional £83k by increasing car parking fees)
- To consult on raising the Council Tax between 4.5% and 5%
- The Executive to decide on how to allocate any surplus funding when they decide on the final budget proposal

It was explained that the proposals were based on the interim settlement as the final settlement would not be available from Welsh Government until February, but no major changes are expected. As for the future, it was noted that there was currently no indication on settlement levels beyond 2020/21. The situation will possibly be clearer by February/March this year.

The main points raised during the discussion that followed on the revenue budget are outlined below:

(1) Increasing parking fees

It was asked what the rationale was for the varying the percentage increase for car parks, rather than one common increase across all car parks on the island. The Leader explained that the Highways Service had looked at achieving consistency across the region in terms of prices.

Concern was expressed about increasing car park fees in the towns due to the problems already in existence with shops having to close. (Llangefni; Bodffordd). In contrast, an observation was also made that internet sales were the main cause of problems for shops, not parking costs (Beaumaris).

A comment was made that pay and display machines on the Island were dated and in need of upgrading to make it easier for people to pay for parking (Valley). An explanation was also requested as to administration costs (emptying machines, maintenance etc). The Deputy Chief Executive explained that it was intended to gradually upgrade the machines, where it will be possible to pay by card or, ultimately, through App Môn. In terms of costs, it was noted that new arrangements were currently being piloted for enforcement and that maintenance costs for car parks were included in the general Highways maintenance budget.

The Council's support was sought to transfer a car park in Llanfairpwll from a free car park to a pay and display car park. **The Chief Executive agreed that this matter should be investigated.**

(2) Council Tax / Business Rates

The Council was requested to review its arrangements for ensuring that holiday homes which have been registered as businesses do not receive the domestic waste collection service (Beaumaris). The Leader responded that it would be useful if communities could share local information on any such cases. **The Deputy Chief Executive added that the effectiveness of the internal process would be assessed in the first instance.**

(3) Council Tax Premium

It was asked whether the Council Tax Premium was to remain at the same level as 2019/20 (35% for second homes and 100% for long-term empty property) and what was the effect of implementing the premium last year (Trearddur). It was explained that the same levels would continue. As for the effect of the premium, it was explained that data for the full year was required to obtain the actual financial effect.

Information was requested as to the number of houses that have been transferred from domestic to business properties since the premium was introduced (Llaneilian). **It was agreed that the information would be shared with the Forum.**

An update was sought with regard to requesting Welsh Government to close the loopholes in the premiums policy that allows owners to transfer domestic properties to become business properties (Treaddur). The Director of Function (Resources) explained that this Council, along with Gwynedd and Ceredigion Councils, had raised the matter with Welsh Government who were of the opinion that no changes were needed as the situation was being monitored by the Valuation Office. The Finance Portfolio Holder added that it had been decided to restrict the increase to 35% in an attempt to reduce the likelihood that owners would take advantage of the loopholes in the policy.

Capital Budget 2020/21

The Director of Function (Resources) explained that the Capital Budget had been broken down into 5 elements:

- General Fund Capital Projects, where priority is given to investing in existing assets, ie:
 - Council buildings and schools
 - Vehicles
 - IT
 - Highways
 - Disabled Facilities Grants

- Smallholdings
- 21st century schools
- Leisure improvements
- Housing Revenue Account

The total funding available for 2020/21 is £38.235m and the recommendation was that £36.903m be used, leaving a balance of £1.332m unused.

Reference was made to the absence of green projects in the capital programme and it was asked what the Council intended to do in terms of investing in safeguarding the environment (Llanfairpwll). The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Council has already introduced a number of initiatives to reduce carbon levels (eg electric vehicles, LED street lighting). He explained that more grants would become available from Welsh Government in future for green projects but that their timescales for claiming grants tended to be very tight. Because of this, the Council is already preparing in order to be in a position to proceed immediately when grants become available.

The Council's intention to gradually replace gritting vehicles over a period of three years to reduce the cost was welcomed and it was asked what the Council intended to do in terms of replacing vehicles after this (Llaneilian). It was explained that the situation would be reviewed in due course.

It was agreed that a copy of the presentation on the budget would be circulated to all town and community councils on 23 January and also with the minutes, and councils were encouraged to respond to the consultation which would close on Friday, 7 February.

4. Welsh Language Champions

A presentation was given by Cllr Dafydd Idriswyn (in his capacity as Chair of One Voice Wales, Anglesey Branch) and Carol Wyn Owen, the Council's Policy and Strategy Manager, on the Anglesey Welsh Language Fourm and appointing Welsh language champions.

The main points are outlined below:

Anglesey's Strategic Language Forum exists on a County level in order to give strategic focus to the Welsh Language on the Island and it was established by the County Council in collaboration with the Menter Iaith and other key partners. It was noted that Menter Iaith Môn had reached the shortlist for winning a national award for Mentrau Iaith for their work on the Fourm.

The Chair of the Forum is independent and the Forum meets monthly. The role and responsibility of the Forum includes:

- Contributing to the Welsh Government target in its strategy 'Welsh 2050: a million Welsh speakers' through the local vision to see an increase in the number who speak and use the Welsh language (by the 2021 Census that the percentage increases to at least 60.1% as it was in 2001);
- Increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language;
- Develop and monitor the Welsh Language Strategy 2016-2021

The strategy's action plan includes one target for town and community councils – appoint Welsh language champions. It was noted that 39 of the 40 councils had now appointed a champion and that an initial meeting had been held with the language champions in November 2019. The next step would be to collect information on the language profile of each council so that they may be clustered by category. It was intended to hold another meeting with the champions in the spring.

In terms of the County Council, it was explained that the aim is to gradually increase the use of the Welsh language within the internal administration. There is a rolling programme in place to work purposefully with one service at a time by providing practical support, identifying Welsh language champions, promoting bilingual skills, improving customer care and complying with the Welsh Language Standards. It was noted that the Welsh Language Commissioner had stated recently that the County Council were going in the right direction with this.

5. **OWL Cymru Neighbourhood Watch Service**

The Forum's attention was drawn to the fact that OWL Cymru has circulated an email directly to all town and community councils on 18 December 2019. OWL Cymru are seeking financial support from communities for providing the service in the future, and have noted different options to achieve this.

As background, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that the service had been in place for some time and was co-ordinated by the Police at one stage. However, the County Council's view was that technology had now moved on, with a number of other communication methods available. Having said that, it was noted that it was a matter for individual councils to decide how they wish to respond to OWL Cymru.

6. **Next meeting of the Forum**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on **Thursday evening, 30 April 2020 at 7 pm in Ysgol Santes Dwynwen, Newborough**, in accordance with the decision of the Forum on 18 July 2019. It was noted that it was hoped to visit different areas in turn.

7. **Any other matter**

No matters to discuss.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.