

THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Committee Room and through Zoom on 23 May, 2024

PRESENT:	Councillor Llinos Medi (Leader) (Chair) Councillors Neville Evans, Carwyn Jones, Gary Pritchard, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Dafydd Rhys Thomas.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer Director of Social Services Head of Regulation and Economic Development Head of Democracy Legal Services Manager (RJ) Senior Manager (Secondary Education Sector) (AE) Chief Economic Development Officer (THJ) Committee Officer (ATH) Webcasting Officer (FT)
APOLOGIES:	Councillor Robin Williams, Marc Berw Hughes (Director of Education, Skills, and Young People), Lynn Ball (Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer)
ALSO PRESENT:	Councillors Aled Morris Jones, Derek Owen, Communications Officer (GJ).

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Llinos Medi declared a personal interest only when item 5 was discussed as a representative of the Local Authority on the governing body of Ysgol Llanfachell.

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

None to report.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held 19 March 2024 were presented for confirmation.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 19 March 2024 confirmed as correct.

4. THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Democracy incorporating the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period from June 2024 to January 2025 was presented for confirmation.

The Head of Democracy updated the Executive on the contents of the Forward Work Programme highlighting where new items had been introduced and items rescheduled.

It was resolved to confirm the Executive's updated Work Programme for the period June 2024 to January 2025 as presented.

5. SCHOOL ORGANISATION – OBJECTION REPORT AND FINAL DECISION RE: YSGOL CARREGLEFN

The report of the Director of Education, Skills and Young People incorporating the Objection Report on the proposal to transfer pupils from Ysgol Carreglefn to Ysgol Llanfechell and close Ysgol Carreglefn was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The report was introduced by Councillor Dafydd Roberts, Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language who reported that following approval by the Executive at its meeting on 20 February 2024 a Statutory Notice of the Council's intention to transfer pupils from Ysgol Carreglefn to Ysgol Llanfechell and close Ysgol Carreglefn was published on 1 March 2024 after which stakeholders had 28 days in which to make a statutory objection to the proposal. The report sets out the objections received along with the proposer's [i.e. the Council's] response to them which the Executive must now consider before coming to a final decision regarding the proposal. The Portfolio Member highlighted that as Ysgol Carreglefn had fewer than 10 registered pupils at the 2024 January Census Point, the School Organisation Code allows a streamlined procedure to bring about official closure with the requirement for a general consultation being waived.

The Senior Education Manager for the Secondary Sector reported that the Council received 8 responses objecting to the proposal 7 of which were from pupils of Ysgol Carreglefn and the other from the Governing Body of the Ysgol Carreglefn. The pupils' responses were sent in an email by a member of staff of Ysgol Carreglefn containing 7 individual objection letters each signed by the pupils. The issues raised in the objections and the Council's response to them are summarised in Table 1 of the Objection Report. As well as those responses, comments were received from Mechell Community Council after the closure of the objection period on 2 April 2024. These are summarised at section 4 of the Objection report and as they convey views rather than objections and were received outside of the statutory objection period, they have not been dealt with and responded to as statutory objections and are included in the report in the interest of transparency. Should the Executive affirm the proposal to transfer pupils from Ysgol Carreglefn to Ysgol Llanfechell and close Ysgol Carreglefn, a decision letter to that effect would be issued and arrangements put in place to implement the decision and transfer the pupils to Ysgol Llanfechell, and to provide support for them, their parents, and the school's staff with the process.

Councillor Dafydd Roberts, Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language in saying that the objections to the proposal had been considered and responses provided as per the Objection Report, proposed the recommendations of the report which were to approve the closure proposal and the transfer of Ysgol Carreglefn pupils to Ysgol Llanfechell. In doing so he thanked the Officers and contributors to the process and paid tribute to the staff, governors, pupils, and parents of Ysgol Carreglefn as well as the wider community for all their hard work in supporting and sustaining Ysgol Carreglefn in recent years.

Those thanks were reiterated by Members of the Executive who also acknowledged the respectful way in which Ysgol Carreglefn and the community of Carreglefn had dealt with the process which is never pleasant and they reiterated their commitment to working with the community to secure the school building as a community resource. Councillor Carwyn Jones spoke of his own experience in Llanddona when the community came together after the closure of the local school to secure a new community centre which has since flourished. Councillor Llinos Medi speaking as a Local Member said that the school and community

understand the rationale for the proposal with the number of pupils at the school expected to reduce to 5 in September 2024 making it unfeasible to sustain the school in the long-term. She referred to the Community Council's comments which although not part of the statutory objections reinforce the importance of continuing to support community activities in the school building which the Executive has also previously acknowledged.

It was resolved –

- To transfer pupils from Ysgol Carreglefn to Ysgol Llanfachell and close Ysgol Carreglefn from 31 August 2024.
- To authorise Officers to issue notice of the final decision in the form of a decision letter in accordance with the School Organisation Code 011/2018.
- To extend the catchment area of Ysgol Llanfachell to incorporate the current catchment area of Ysgol Carreglefn.

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was considered and resolved Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the Public Interest Test presented.

7. AGREE ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development setting out the arrangements for the establishment of the Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn including governance and budget considerations was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Chief Executive summarised the work to date to bring matters to this point which had involved extensive discussions with stakeholders and input from the Council's advisors as well as from Officers of the Council's Economic Development, Resources, Legal and Risk Management services which was in addition to their day-to-day responsibilities. He brought the Executive up to date on the progress of the draft Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Anglesey Freeport submitted to Government and the timeline for its approval and the subsequent delivery of the Full Business Case (FBC) and completion of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Head of Regulation and Economic Development reported on the proposed approach to governance of the Freeport entity and the draft Freeport budget as set out in the report. The March meeting of the Executive delegated authority to Officers in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development to agree the Articles of Association for the proposed Freeport Company and its Members Agreement and to continue negotiations with key stakeholders and invite them to be members of the company. Heads of Terms for the proposed company to be named Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn Cyf. have now been drafted and are attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The timetable for the conclusion of the OBC process implies the Freeport becoming operational in July 2024 which has implications as regards the establishment of the Freeport legal entity, the putting in place of landowners agreements and ensuring some operational and delivery capacity for the Freeport. The report addresses these matters, refers to the activities the Freeport is expected to undertake to deliver the Freeport programme and expands on the Freeport's proposed draft budget.

The considerable work put in by Council Officers in progressing the establishment of the Freeport was acknowledged by the Chair and the Executive's Members. The timescales with regard to the Outline and Full Business Cases were discussed and questions asked regarding factors and/or developments that could impact on those timescales as well as any associated risks to the Council. Officers provided further clarifications and assurances in relation to the matters raised.

It was resolved –

- To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer and the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to make the Council a Founding Member of the Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn Cyf. (the Freeport Company) alongside key local stakeholders.
- To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer and the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to finalise and sign the Articles of Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn Cyf. (the Freeport Company) and its Members Agreement.
- To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer and the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to finalise and sign the Landowner Agreements between IACC, Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn Cyf. (the Freeport Company) and each relevant landowner and/or occupier as required.
- To approve the proposed draft budget for the Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn and the role of IACC as Accountable Body.
- To delegate authority to the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to review and approve the final budget when submitted by Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Môn. The 2024/25 budget expenditure (including contingency) is expected to be as per the table at page 7 of the report.
- To note that any implications for the Council's budget will be set out for approval within the Full Council Budget for 2025/26.

**Councillor Llinos Medi
Chair**