

Leader Annual Report 2025-26

It's my pleasure to present my annual report for 2025/26, an important and exciting year for realising potential and new economic opportunities on the Island.

In November, it was announced that Wylfa would be the first site to welcome a small modular reactor within the British Isles; an announcement that was the result of cross-party lobbying work here on Anglesey by Members of Parliament and Senedd Members from every Party and of course, Members from all parts of this Chamber.

We are now working tirelessly to ensure that the benefits of the intended development reach the people of Anglesey. It's important that we create a skills pathway so that new roles for this development, and within the local supply chain, are given to Anglesey residents, and with that, it was my pleasure to sign a formal agreement of collaboration with Great British Energy-Nuclear last month.

In March, we reached an important milestone in realising the Freeport developments by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Welsh and UK Government to release initial funding worth £25 million, allowing the Freeport to move forward to be completely operational by the spring of 2026. With that in place, the Council, and other partners, can accelerate plans that strengthen the Island's role in areas such as energy, manufacturing and trade, and promote long-term prosperity on Anglesey and in North Wales.

In addition to these schemes, we've ensured an investment of £10.4 million through the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to support long-term economic growth in the Amlwch area by renovating the former Marine Terminal Building at Porth Amlwch and building 10 business units in the industrial estate. Another important step to achieving our North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan.

Ensuring that the economy is thriving and providing high standard jobs for our residents is at the heart of our work in the County Council, in order to support local businesses to take advantage of the opportunities that are coming and in order to enable our young people to stay here on the Island if they wish to do so. I'm confident that we can look forward to a prosperous future for Anglesey and its residents.

In our Social Services, we have welcomed the findings of a recent inspection by Care Inspectorate Wales. During their visit in January 2026, they looked at how well the Children and Families Services are working. The team concluded that children and families are supported by a caring, skilled and committed team and that there are many examples of excellent practice on the Island. At the same time, Anglesey's Fostering Services were also inspected, with inspectors highlighting that our children have stability and receive support to build positive relationships with foster carers, as well as praising the trauma informed training, constant supervision and support networks that foster carers receive.

I'd like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank all our foster carers for the work they do for children and young people on Anglesey. It's not always easy to adjust and share your home with other children, but their contribution is incredibly important, and foster carers go the extra mile to ensure that children who receive care feel they are welcomed, are safe and are part of the family. My admiration and respect for our foster carers is endless.

The Council's Community Hub was recognised with a national award at the Safer Communities Wales Awards in December. The hub offers a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive place for local communities across Anglesey, including refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Syria. The award reflects the commitment of our staff, our partners, and our volunteers, as well as the families who participate every week, in bringing together all that is good about Anglesey – it is welcoming, homely, supportive, and demonstrates what can be achieved when communities come together.

And on the theme of bringing all parts of our communities together, Môn Active's work has been recognised nationally after receiving the 'Building Belonging' award during the Youth Sports Trust Awards 2026. The award recognises organisations that create an inclusive environment where children and young people feel they belong. The service works in early years locations, schools and communities to support thousands of young people every year, and this work reflects the aims of Môn Active's Strategic Plan for 2024 - 2029 that prioritises work to reduce inequality, improve contribution and creates healthy and active communities through inclusive methods that has a focus on place.

Nine young people from Anglesey attended a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace where they were honoured for completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award under the guidance and support of the Isle of Anglesey County Council Youth Service. Ysgol David Hughes in Menai Bridge became the first secondary school in Anglesey to win the Language Charter Silver Award, while Ysgol Uwchradd Llangefni became the first mainstream secondary school in the UK to receive the Trauma Informed and Mental Health Awareness School award – a landmark step in our journey as a Council to become a Trauma Informed Island.

Significant investment is being made in future services for the residents of Anglesey, with exciting plans to re-locate learners age 11 to 18 in Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to a new building, as well as plans to build an additional care unit and a residential care home specialising in dementia in Menai Bridge.

Of course, it is easy to list awards and honours, but the progress and work that has been done during the year in every department within the County Council is a sign of dedication and hard work of all our staff. Attending National and Regional meetings in my role as Leader and in my role as Portfolio Holder, my pride in the innovation of Isle of Anglesey County Council and the respect for the work being carried out on the Island is immense, and my gratitude is enormous to all Isle of Anglesey County Council staff and our key partners for their dedication to supporting and protecting our residents and communities.