THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Committee Room and virtually on Zoom on 21 July 2026

PRESENT:	Councillor Gary Pritchard (Leader) (Chair) Councillors Neville Evans, Carwyn Jones, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Ieuan Williams, Robin Williams.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer Director of Education, Skills, and Young People Director of Social Services Head of Digital, Performance and Modernisation Head of Democratic Services Chief Economic Development Officer (TJ) Committee Officer (ATH) Webcasting Officer (FT)
APOLOGIES:	Councillor Dyfed Wyn Jones
ALSO PRESENT:	Councillors Glyn Haynes, Kenneth Hughes, R. Llewelyn Jones.

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1. APOLOGIES

The apology for absence was noted.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

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

None to report.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 16 June 2026 were presented for confirmation.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 16 June 2026 be confirmed as correct.

5. THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Democratic Services incorporating the Executive's Forward Work Programme for the period from August 2026 to March 2027 was presented for confirmation.

The Head of Democracy updated the Executive on the following changes to the Forward Work Programme –

- 22 September 2026 meeting
  - Treasury Management Annual Review 2025/26 - added as a new item
- 21 March 2027 meeting
  - Corporate Scorecard Quarter 3 2026/27 – added as a new item
- Changes since publication of the programme
  - Housing Support Grant Strategy 2027-2031- to be added to the 21 March 2027 meeting
  - Article 4 Direction: Proposed Way Forward for the Isle of Anglesey – to be confirmed for the 20 October 2026 meeting.
  - Bus Franchise – to be confirmed for the 22 September 2026 or 20 October 2026 meeting

It was resolved to confirm the Executive's updated Forward Work Programme for the period August 2026 to March 2027 with the changes outlined at the meeting.

6. CAPITAL OUTTURN 2025/26

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer setting out the draft outturn position of the capital programme for 2025/26 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience presented the report noting that the capital programme for 2025/26 totalled £70.648m, which includes funding of £3.704m received in the final quarter that the Executive is being asked to formally approve for addition to the budget. A total of £54.552m or 77% of the available budget, was spent on 98 different projects across a range of services. When schemes not directly delivered by the Council are excluded, the proportion spent increases to 80%. The total underspend was £15.986m which is not unexpected given the large number of complex projects in the programme. All external funding not incurred has been secured and will be available to fund the carried forward slippage.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer reported that the audit of accounts is underway and the figures may therefore change. The capital budget outturn feeds into the treasury management strategy review for 2025/26 which will be presented to the Executive in September 2026 and subsequently to the Full Council.

It was resolved –

- **To note the draft outturn position of the capital programme for 2025/26, subject to audit.**
- **To approve the addition of £3.704m to the 2025/26 budget as a result of additional funding received during the final quarter, which brings the final budget for 2025/26 to £70.648m.**
- **To approve the carry forward of £8.949m of expenditure and the associated funding to the 2026/27 budget. The revised budget for 2026/27 is £63.033m.**

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 4 2025/6

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer setting out the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2025/26 was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience presented the report noting that the HRA revenue budget was set with a budgeted surplus of £6,291k.The gross capital budget for 2025/26 after in year adjustments, was £26,914k. Grant funding of £10,783k reduced the net capital budget to £16,131k. Together, the revenue and adjusted capital budgets gave a planned deficit of £9,840k, with £6,820k to be funded from the HRA reserve, and £3,019k from external borrowing.

The HRA performed better than budgeted, ending the year with a revenue surplus £1.731k higher than planned. Capital expenditure totalled £25,114k, £1,800k below budget due to the reasons set out in section 9 of the report, and appendices B and C. The combined revenue and capital position produced a deficit of £4.914k, £1,907k less than anticipated. This was fully funded from the HRA reserve and no external borrowing was required in 2025/26.

The opening balance of the HRA reserve was £7,976k.The budget allowed for the use of £6,820k of this balance, leaving a minimum level of reserve balance of £1,155k in line with the HRA Business Plan. The closing balance of the HRA reserve was £3,062k.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer reported that borrowing is likely to be required in 2026/27 and this will feed into the updated 30 year HRA Business Plan to be presented to the Executive. He noted that the HRA financial position is tightening, meaning that the level of investment for maintaining the housing stock to WHQS standards, as well as developing new housing, will need to be reviewed.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Housing and Community Safety said that he had recently visited two of the Council's new housing developments in Holyhead and Newbrough and was very pleased with the quality of the schemes. He also highlighted the Council's work in bringing empty properties back into use and its ongoing programme of housing upgrades, all of which support local contractors and contribute to the local economy. He expressed hope for continued Welsh Government support to sustain the Council's housing investment programme.

The Executive noted an upcoming meeting with the new Welsh Government administration to discuss the challenges facing the Council in relation to housing, including the implications of rent policy and the rent cap, and looked forward to that discussion.

It was resolved to note the following –

- **The position set out in respect of the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for Quarter 4 2025/26.**
- **The outturn for 2025/26.**

8. DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS 2025/26 AND USE OF RESERVES AND BALANCES

The report of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer incorporating the main financial statements for the 2025/26 financial year was presented for the Executive's consideration. It included the Comprehensive draft Income and Expenditure Statement, draft

Balance Sheet along with a summary of the Council's general balances, earmarked reserves, school balances and the HRA reserve.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience presented the report, noting that the Council's draft unaudited accounts for 2025/26 were produced and signed by the Section 151 Officer by 30 June 2026. Although the statutory deadline is 31 May, Welsh Government and Audit Wales have recognised that this was not achievable for the 2025/26 financial year and have extended the timetable to 30 June 2026, with the final audited accounts to be published by 30 September. The draft accounts are now with the auditors.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer recorded his thanks to the Finance Team for completing the draft accounts by 30 June. The draft accounts have been published on the Council's website and will be available for public inspection, with a statutory notice to be issued. The aim is to complete the audit and sign off the accounts by 30 September 2026 subject to no local or national issues arising. He noted that the report also sets out proposed uses of reserves for 2026/27 including releasing £2.373m of general balances for the areas listed in table 9 of the report. This would still leave remaining balances of £15.590m (7.54% of the 2026/27 net revenue budget) which is considered a healthy level and provides adequate cover for any potential future funding risks faced by the Council.

Executive members echoed the thanks to the Finance Service team for their work on the accounts. The Executive also noted the importance of maintaining sound general balances and reserves as budgets continue to tighten and welcomed the Council's healthy financial position as work begins on developing the 2027/28 budget.

It was resolved –

- **To note the draft unaudited financial statements for the financial year 2025/26. (The full draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26 is published on https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/documents/Docs-en/Finance/Statement-of-Accounts/2025-2026/draft-statement-of-accounts-2025-to-2026.pdf?nocache=1)**
- **To note the position of the Council's general balances as at 31 March 2026 of £19.037m.**
- **To note the balance of earmarked reserves of £24.434m and approve the creation of £0.510m of new earmarked reserves.**
- **To formally approve the transfer of £0.716m of earmarked reserves back to the Council's general balances.**
- **To note the balance of school reserves of £4.327m.**
- **To note the balance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reserve of £3.063m.**
- **To approve the use of £2.373m of general balances and earmarked reserves for the purposes set out in Table 9 of the report.**

9. PANEL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (PPA) – FINAL REPORT AND COUNCIL RESPONSE

The report of the Chief Executive setting out the findings of a Panel Performance Assessment (PPA) of the Council was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience presented the report, noting that the Panel Performance

Assessment was conducted in November 2025 under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 with the final report issued in February 2026. The assessment examined the Council's arrangements for delivering the Council Plan's strategic objectives and evaluated how effectively it is working with communities and partners to achieve those objectives.

Councillor Robin Williams reported that the Panel concluded that the Council is exercising its functions in line with the performance duties outlined in the Act, and demonstrates sound governance, constructive member-officer relationships and a clear trajectory of improvement since 2018. The Council accepts all eight recommendations and has developed a high level action plan in line with WLGA guidance. Progress will be monitored through the Council's existing performance management arrangements .The PPA report was presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 25 June 2026, where it was positively received and the action plan endorsed.

He highlighted that in undertaking the assessment the panel conducted a desktop review of the Council's documents, data, external reports and other relevant intelligence and conducted a series of individual meetings and focus groups with a range of internal and external stakeholders. He thanked everyone who took part in the assessment.

The Chief Executive reported that the Panel's finding that the Council is meeting its duties under the Act provides important assurance not only to the Council, but to the island's taxpayers and communities. He emphasised that the positive conclusions regarding governance and member-officer relationships are particularly significant, and that the report also represents external endorsement of staff commitment. The Panel also noted that the Council has forged strong partnerships, especially with the voluntary sector, that it has a robust Council Plan that is well recognised internally and externally and a clear sense of organisational identity. Although the assessment reflects a point in time, he stressed that the key issue is that solid foundations are in place and that the Council recognises and responds to ongoing changes collaboratively, in accordance with its role as a partnership organisation.

He confirmed that he was very pleased with the findings and that the Council has good reason to be proud of its arrangements and its staff.

The Chair said that he and the Chief Executive had held constructive sessions with staff to share the PPA findings, thank them for their work and provide an opportunity to ask questions about the report, its recommendations and the Council's next steps.

In response to a question on how implementation of the recommendations would be monitored, the Chief Executive explained that they will be incorporated into the Council's day to day operations rather than treated as a standalone project. The Leadership and Management Teams will support officers, and portfolio members will receive updates on relevant areas, with updates also provided to the Executive informally. The recommendations will also be incorporated into the annual improvement plan and reported to the Improvement Board. He added that a members' briefing session could be arranged and a written update issued to participating stakeholders and the WLGA.

The Chair noted that as the Act requires the Council to undertake a PPA once every electoral cycle, the next assessment to be conducted after the 2027 local government election will review and confirm implementation of the current recommendations.

It was resolved to accept the Action Plan setting out the Council's response to the eight recommendations as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

10. RESILIENCE OF THE MENAI CROSSING

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development setting out the case for a third Menai crossing was presented for the Executive's consideration.

Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader and Portfolio Member for Economic Development presented the report noting that its purpose is to raise wider awareness of concerns regarding the resilience of the Menai crossings. The report builds on two earlier papers from 2023 and 2024 which also highlighted serious reservations about the reliability of the crossings. He referred to the frustrations caused by frequent bridge closures and the resulting congestion which disrupts daily life for residents and visitors, including missed appointments, delays getting to work and long queues. He said that the frustration felt by elected members and the Council cannot be overstated, particularly since the sudden closure of the Menai Suspension Bridge in October 2022.

It is proposed that the report be shared with public and private sector partners to set out a clear position on the need for a detailed examination of the crossings' resilience, both for the benefit of the locality and in support of the wider economy and major forthcoming investments such as the Freeport and Wylfa SMR.

Councillor Ieuan Willams, Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Climate Change highlighted the efforts the Council has made and continues to make to bring this matter to the forefront. He referred to the opening quotation in the report from Welsh Government, which states that the people of Anglesey and North Wales have been let down for too long regarding the resilience of the Menai crossings. He said it is the Executive's role to hold the new Welsh Government to its commitment to act with greater urgency and focus.

Councillor Robin Williams, speaking as a local member reiterated the frustrations felt by residents and businesses locally about longstanding congestion, which is exacerbated when the Menai Bridge closes at short or no notice, causing numerous problems. He stressed that the bridges were not designed to cope with today's traffic volumes and that resilience is the key issue, given there are no alternative routes on or off the island. He expressed the hope that Welsh Government would honour the strategic outline case made in 2016 for a third crossing, which he described as the only viable option.

Councillor Carwyn Jones noted that calls for a third crossing have been made for many years and that repeated bridge closures, particularly during the Urdd Eisteddfod week in May have further elevated the issue. This is compounded by ongoing remedial works since 2022.

The Chief Executive commented that although the Council's message has remained consistent, the resilience of the crossings has reduced, with closures and their associated problems becoming more frequent. He emphasised that the two bridges are essential infrastructure for Anglesey as an island, for its economy, its visitors and the daily life of residents. He particularly highlighted the importance of reliable, accessible crossings in emergencies, making improved resilience critical. He added that both Welsh and UK governments must identify a solution and secure funding for this essential infrastructure.

It was resolved –

- **To raise awareness and the profile of the report by sharing it with all regional stakeholders (public sector – North Wales Police, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board etc) and private sector partners.**

- **To share the report with UK Government's Secretary of State for Wales and Welsh Government's Cabinet Minister for Enterprise, Connectivity and Energy and the Deputy Minister for Transport.**
- **To arrange a meeting with the above ministers to discuss a collaborative approach to the issue of the Menai Crossing, agree governance structures and a proposed timetable for next steps and ensure progress.**

Councillor Gary Pritchard
Chair