

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2026

- PRESENT:** Councillor Sonia Williams (Chair)
Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Non Dafydd, Douglas Massie Fowle, John Ifan Jones, Eurn Morris, Pip O'Neill, Dylan Rees, Margaret Murley Roberts
- Councillor Alun Roberts – Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism, Maritime and Property – for item 4
- Councillor Ieuan Williams – Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Climate Change – for items 5 and 6
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Head of Regulation and Economic Development (for item 4),
Head of Highways, Waste and Property (for items 5 & 6),
Head of Democratic Services,
Visitor Economy & Coastal Area Manager (AG) (for item 4),
Chief Waste Management Officer (SO) (for item 5),
Scrutiny & Committee Services Manager (AH),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Support Assistant Democratic Services (Webcasting) (CH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Derek Owen
Mr John Tierney – The Roman Catholic Church
Councillor Neville Evans – Portfolio Member for Adults' Services
- ALSO PRESENT:** **Portfolio Members**
- Councillor Carwyn Jones – Portfolio Member for Housing & Community Safety;
Councillor Dyfed W Jones – Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families Services;
Councillor Dafydd Roberts – Portfolio Member for Education & the Welsh Language;
Councillor Nicola Roberts – Portfolio Member for Planning & Public Protection;
Councillor Gary Pritchard – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development;
Councillor Robin Williams – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business & Customer Experience.

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Douglas M Fowlie declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 4 – Visitor Levy Consultation and left the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor John Ifan Jones declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 – Visitor Levy Consultation and left the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Alun Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 4 – Visitor Levy Consultation but having received dispensation by the Dispensation Panel of the Standards Committee he was allowed to present the item to the Committee.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 July, 2026 were confirmed as correct.

ARISING THEREON

Scrutiny of Strategic Partnership – Natural Resources Wales

- That Natural Resources Wales provides further information about the organisation responsible for regulating drinking water as well as an explanation of the process for considering the effects of developments that are planned for the Island in relation to drinking water.

An email was received by the Elected Members by Natural Resources Wales on 10 August, 2026.

- That Natural Resources Wales provides the appropriate on-line link that Members can share with the electorate, outlining how they can directly contact Natural Resources Wales.

Information circulated to Members of the Committee on 10 August, 2026.

Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan

To request the three third-sector organisations to complete impact assessments and use the findings to write jointly on behalf of the Committee to the UK and Welsh Governments, highlighting the significant impact of the proposed CJC role in LGF funding on Anglesey and advocating a return to the SPF model (70% revenue, 30% capital) to ensure essential local services can continue. **In progress**

4 VISITOR LEVY CONSULTATION

The report of the Head of Regulation was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism, Maritime and Property said that the full County Council meeting on 12 May, 2026 resolved that a public consultation process be undertaken regarding the potential introduction of a visitor levy on Anglesey, in line with Council and Welsh Government guidelines. The consultation process was undertaken between the 15 May, 2026 and 13 July, 2026 which was conducted through an on-line process and 6 face-to-face sessions. One specific business sector session was also conducted in conjunction with the Welsh Revenue Authority on 22 June, 2026. The Council received 2,098 responses to the on-line consultation and during the sessions. He noted that opposition to the adoption of the Visitor is strong, with 70.8% of all respondents opposed or tended to oppose the introduction of a visitor levy, whilst 25.1% supported or tended to support. He further said that it has been highlighted that there are clear weaknesses in legislation and mainly in the administration and collection of the levy and that young children accompanying relative would be expected to pay the levy. The Portfolio Member said that the recommendation was not to support the introduction of the Visitor Levy as the tourism industry on the Island needs to be supported.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Questions were raised as to the procedure in responding to Welsh Government as to the concerns regarding inconsistencies in the level of the levy between people staying in caravans and in hotels. The Portfolio Member responded that the inconsistencies as to how the levy was to be administered was highlighted during the consultation process. He noted that it is recommended that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, will write to Welsh Government requesting a review of the current legislative regime to address the issues raised during the consultation process on Anglesey. He stressed that the opinion of people as regards to the Visitor Levy is paramount and it is evident during the consultation process that there is strong objection to the levy and that changes are required to the legislation to ensure that it is a fair process as tourism for the Island is important due to the demographic and nature of Anglesey. He considered that levy is easier to administer in urban areas.
- Questions were raised about the levy's potential impact on businesses and how any resulting income would be allocated. The Portfolio Member explained that, under the legislation, income from the levy could not be considered as part of the consultation process. The Leader of the Council said the Executive was responding to the needs of small and medium-sized tourism businesses, which are central to Anglesey's local economy. He added that the current legislation creates challenges for the sector and stressed the need to support sustainable tourism.
- Reference was made that the Committee agreed to the recommendation that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, will write to Welsh Government requesting a review of the current legislative regime to address the issues raised during the consultation process on Anglesey,

however, questions were raised whether additional information could be included that Anglesey was unique as it is an Island. The Leader of the Council responded that it would be difficult for a government to create a legislation for different areas. He considered that the Council should highlight that the current legislation is not sustainable for small and medium businesses on the Island and to highlight the weaknesses within such a legislation. The Chief Executive said that it would be beneficial to highlight that Anglesey is dependent on small businesses.

- Reference was made to the Economic Impact Assessment within the report and questions were raised whether the figures within the report were accurate that Anglesey could benefit from £1.56m with the introduction of the Visitor Levy. The Head of Regulation and Economic Development responded that there are challenges with the data set by the government and the figures differ significantly. There is no consistent evidence across Wales to assess the potential of the Visitor Levy and the risks associated with its implementation. He noted that this will need to be highlighted within the letter to Welsh Government.
- Questions were raised about whether the Visitor Levy consultation had been imposed on local authorities, as some Members considered it was premature to introduce such a levy without sufficient information or clarity at a UK level about its implications. The Chief Executive explained that the legislation sets out a clear process that the Council must follow before deciding whether to adopt the levy, and that consultation is a statutory part of that process. He noted that it is difficult to assess the effect of the introduction of the levy within rural and urban areas. The Leader of the Council said that it was a decision by the County Council at its meeting held on 12 May, 2026 to conduct a consultation process on the Visitor Levy to allow the residents and businesses the opportunity to express their view of the introduction of a levy. A timetable of 12 months is set to consult and to introduce the levy.
- Questions were raised as to the tax implications for businesses whilst collecting the Visitor Levy and when the levy is transferred to Welsh Government the Authority will not receive the full amount thereafter. The Portfolio Member responded that there are clear weaknesses in the legislation in administering the collection of the levy. He noted that there are uncertainties as to the percentage of the levy that would be transferred to the Local Authorities.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **Having considered the current uncertainties facing the tourism sector and outcome of the public consultation and impact assessments, the Council does not adopt the Visitor Levy.**
- **The Council will monitor, review and consider evidence of the impact of the Visitor Levy in other local authorities in Wales that have chosen to adopt the Levy, and any changes to the relevant legislation.**
- **The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, will write to Welsh Government requesting a review of the current legislative regime to address the issues raised in the recent consultation process. Such letter to Welsh Government to be circulated to all elected members.**

5 CHANGES TO RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

The report of the Head of Highways, Waste and Property was submitted for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Climate Change said that is a statutory requirement for the Council to achieve a household waste recycling rate of 70%. The Executive recommended in December 2025 that a consultation process be undertaken on the possible changes to the Recycling and Waste Collection Service on Anglesey. The consultation process was conducted between January and February 2026 with over 4,000 responses received which is summarised in Appendix 1 of the report. Following the consultation process it was recommended that the collection of residual waste should continue every 3 weeks but by reducing the capacity of the black bins with new 180 litre bins, in place of the current 240 litre bins in 2029. To increase the recycling figures by 2029 it was recommended that more space is required in the recycling boxes i.e. the collecting of cardboard and paper together in the top box of the trolley box; offering additional storage options for recycling additional cardboard, and/or hard plastic and cans; conduct a campaign to raise awareness and understanding of recycling and reusing; conduct research into extending the recycling materials collected to include soft plastic and other materials; proceed to develop and submit an outline business case for funding to Welsh Government. There is clear evidence that reducing the capacity of the black bins in Newport and Flintshire Councils has resulted in them achieving Welsh Government's recycling targets. Whilst it would be possible to start collecting cardboard and paper together sooner, WRAP Cymru recommends implementing all changes involved in the service change at the same time as it will reduce the risk of not being able to cope with the additional recycling and it would facilitate the change for the customer by having one clear communication plan. He further said that a robust business plan could result in attracting grant funding from Welsh Government of between 60% and 70% to improve the infrastructure in the Penhesgyn and Gwalchmai Recycling Centres.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Questions were raised as to the intentions regarding the campaign to raise awareness of recycling and reusing and whether the Council is considering a campaign to educate people of the need to put food waste in the Brown Bin as the figures show that 27% of residents choose not to use the food waste bin. The Portfolio Member responded that engagement has been undertaken with other local authorities who have been able to succeed in reaching the 70% Welsh Government targets for recycling and to ascertain and learn how they have been able to persuade residents to recycle.
- Questions were raised as to the percentage of residents that have not used the Green Garden Waste since the additional tax payment has been introduced. The Leader of the Council wished to clarify that the fee in collecting the Green Garden Waste that it is not a tax payment it is a collection fee. He noted that the introduction of the Green Garden Waste fee was to enable people who needed a green garden waste to be able to attain the facility but those who do not have a garden do not require the service provided. The Portfolio Member said that he would afford the figures through email to the Member who had

raised the matter. He emphasised that each other local authority charges a fee for the collection of green waste.

- Reference was made that there is a potential for fines to be imposed by Welsh Government if the 70% recycling figures are not improving. Questions were raised as to whether the Council Tax will have to be increased to pay for these fines. The Portfolio Member responded that resources would need to be addressed if the Authority is fined for not reaching the recycling targets. However, if a business case was produced to show that the Authority is striving to reach the recycling targets and that strong plans are in place to reach these targets, this could show that the Authority is taking action similar to other local authorities. The Chief Executive said that every action is undertaken to avoid fines but if such fines were imposed there are three possible avenue of resources i.e. the use of Council reserves, reducing expenditure in other services or reducing funding to reduce the fines imposed. The Head of Services, Highways, Waste and Property said that if a decision was made to implement the recommendations in the report, the Authority can access 65% of the fundings of over £20m. Funding of up to £15m is required to improve the Gwalchmai Recycling Centre together with machinery at the site with no grant available unless a clear path to increase recycling rate is confirmed.
- Reference was made that during the consultation process it was evident that residents choose not to use the Brown Food Waste box and therefore 27% of the black bin contains food waste. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that it is hoped that reducing the size of the black bin will encourage residents to use the brown food waste and the education of people is paramount in the success of reaching the recycling targets. Further comments were made by the Committee that targeted approach should be undertaken in areas where it is evident that residents are not recycling. Questions were raised whether the data is available as regards to these areas. The Head of Highways, Waste and Property responded that data has been collected by WRAP Cymru and it shows that some areas are better than others in recycling; these areas will be targeted to educate people to recycle. Additional questions were raised whether the Authority has considered employing a person to specifically educate and target areas that are not complying to the need for recycling. The Head of Highways, Waste and Property responded that whilst it is accepted that there is a need to educate people about the need to recycle, there are other methods to achieve that have proven to be successful such as reducing the size of the black bins.
- Questions were raised as to whether the figures within the report include the private bins collection provision. The Portfolio Member responded that the figures are those of the collections afforded by the Authority.
- Questions were raised as to the costs of replacing the black bins and whether a phased approach could be implemented as some peoples black bins are not full after three weeks. The Portfolio Member responded that the WRAP Cymru has indicated that the changes proposed should be implemented at the same time in three years, to ensure that once the infrastructure has been upgraded. The Chief Waste Management Officer said that a plan will need to be established if the replacement of the black bins, and the 240 litre bins can be afforded to larger families. The existing black bins have been in use for 20 years and need to be replaced.

- Questions were raised whether the Council had clarified that there was an intention to reduce the capacity of the black bin to 180 litres within the consultation process. It was further said that education of residents of the need to recycle should also have been a factor in the decision to reduce the capacity of the black bin. The Portfolio Member responded that Welsh Government collection blueprint states that each household black bin waste should be 60 litres per week and WRAP Cymru's recommended is also to reduce the black bin capacity to 60 litres per week.
- Reference was made that the 240 litre black bins will be surplus to requirement and will need to be collected from each household. Questions were raised as to whether the collection of the 240 litre black bins will be compliant with the Council's Climate Change objectives. The Portfolio Member responded that the 240 litre bins will be recycled without polluting landfill and there is a value for plastic pellets following recycling of the bins. The Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience said that it is important that fines of up to £600k per year could be imposed if the recycling targets are not met. The replacement of 180 litre black bins will cost the Council £350k following a 65% grant from Welsh Government. He noted that if the Council has not agreed a plan to improve recycling, then access to grant funding will not be available. The infrastructure at Penhesgyn and Gwalchmai Recycling Centres also need to be improved.
- Reference was made that some local authorities in England collect the food waste and green garden waste within one bin as they have an in-vessel composting facility. Questions were raised whether there is an intention to have such a facility during the upgrade of the Recycling Centres. The Chief Waste Management Officer responded that the food waste is transported to an anaerobic digester plant in Gwynedd. He noted that the investor composer in Penhesgyn deals with the green waste.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To continue to collect residual waste once every 3 weeks but by collecting new 180 litre black bins, in place of the current 240 litre bins, from 2029.**
- **To create more space for recycling by 2029 by:**
 - **collecting cardboard and paper together in the top box of the trolley box;**
 - **offering additional storage options for recycling additional cardboard, and / or hard plastic and cans.**
- **Conduct a campaign to raise awareness and understanding of recycling and reusing.**
- **To conduct research into extending the recycling materials collected to include soft plastic and other materials.**
- **Proceed to develop and submit an outline business case for funding to Welsh Government.**

6 BUS FRANCHISING - PROPOSED BUS ROUTES

The report of the Head of Highways, Waste and Property was submitted for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Climate Change said that Transport for Wales is holding a consultation on the proposed buses network for Anglesey, as part of preparations for franchising. The consultation process closing date is 9 October, 2026. Transport for Wales objectives are to reduce the number of miles travelled per person by car by 10% in 2030 and to increase the proportion of journeys made on public transport and active travel to 45% by 2040. To attract more people to use buses, it is hoped to build a simpler bus network by offering a wider range of journeys and providing more reliable and frequent services. He noted that the proposed bus routes were included at Appendix 2 within the report, and it is evident that there are caps within the routes that will need to be addressed. Community Transport is undertaken currently by Medrwn Môn and some Community Councils afford bus services within the current caps in rural communities.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Reference was made the proposed network offers 9 services/routes instead of the 30 that currently operate and the comments made on each route within the report. Questions were raised whether the Transport Officer has responded to these proposed routes. The Portfolio Member responded that the Transport Officer has responded to the proposed bus routes to Transport for Wales. Transport for Wales have reviewed the current routes and suggested the 9 service routes is required to ensure effectiveness of the service. Further questions were raised as the data used by Transport for Wales with the use of mobile phone data to gauge the movement into passengers' movement patterns. The Portfolio Member responded that there is currently no wi-fi provision on the current buses and there are questions as to how Transport for Wales has been able to use such a tracking facility.
- Questions were raised as to how the 9 proposed routes can be assessed with the current 30 bus routes provision on the Island and the effect it will have on the service users. The Head of Highways, Waste and Property responded that the level of use of bus routes has reduced significantly since the pandemic together with operational costs increasing. He expressed that it is important for Elected Members and the residents of the Island to respond to the new proposed bus franchise. He noted that providing a bus service is challenging in rural areas. Transport for Wales wishes to improve the connection for routes in coastal areas but the Authority has expressed that there will be challenges in rural villages for people to attain a bus service as the facility is essential for people to get to work, medical and hospital appointments.
- Questions were raised as to the provision available for residents to be able to respond to the consultation process. The Portfolio Member responded that an on-line consultation process will be undertaken together with drop-in sessions to be arranged. He noted that it is imperative that Elected Members should promote the consultation process with their electorate.
- Reference was made to the Community Alliance Transport provisions in local communities. It was stressed that it is important that the bus franchise will

serve those communities and not be disregarded as there is already a Community Alliance Transport link in the area. The Portfolio Member responded that it is important that Transport for Wales be made aware of the need for such a provision in the Community Alliance Transport links and to confirm that these areas are not disregarded within their bus franchise plans.

- Reference was made to the loss of bus service in the village of Bodedern. The village has lost 15 bus journeys per day since 2024 with no provision to Bangor nor Llangefni. The Portfolio Member reiterated that it is important that Elected Members and residents of the Island should respond to the proposed bus franchise and to gain support from the First Minister and the Member of Parliament to express concerns that some villages have no adequate public transport provision.
- A suggestion was made that Elected Members should meet in an informal session to discuss the bus routes and to raise any concerns within their electoral area. The Chief Executive responded that it is important that the Council supports the bus routes before the consultation process can commence. The Head of Highways, Waste and Property said that the Transport Officer has reviewed the bus routes and compared those routes with existing provision on Anglesey. However, there are concerns that the network does not serve every village on the Island.
- Questions were raised whether a Steering Group will be established to review the consultation data. The Head of Highways, Waste and Property responded that such a review would need to be undertaken before the consultation process comes to an end on 9 October, 2026.
- Questions were raised as the costs associated with the Community provision to the Council. The Portfolio Member responded that it is uncertain at present to the required Community provision and the Authority will request Transport for Wales to fund a high proportion of the provision. The Head of Highways, Waste and Property said that the expectations are that the Council will be part of a North Wales bus franchise and a contribution will be expected from Transport for Wales to fund Community/Flexible Transport to serve the villages who are not part of the bus routes.

The Committee were concerned with the second recommendation in the report that it 'supports' the proposed buses network proposed by Transport for Wales. The Committee were unable to support such a recommendation until the data afforded by Transport for Wales is factual and correct. It was noted that the residents should be afforded the opportunity to respond to the consultation before the Council can support the bus franchise and the recommendation should be that the Committee is supporting reviewing the buses network. Whilst accepting the comments made the Chief Executive said that Transport for Wales is an external body and they could proceed without receiving the Authority's comments and therefore it is important that the Council adheres to the timescale. It is important to note that every Elected Member can respond to the consultation process, and he suggested that an informal consultation between the Members could be undertaken to ensure compliance with the timetable.

It was RESOLVED:-

- To note that Transport for Wales is holding a consultation on the proposed buses network for Anglesey, as part of preparations for franchising.
- That the Councils responds to the consultation by the closing date, which is 9 October, 2026, by agreeing to the proposed buses network that Transport for Wales has developed but that further consideration is given to the bus routes in the future.

Councillor Douglas Fowlie wished it to be noted that he was against the changes to the second recommendation.

COUNCILLOR SONIA WILLIAMS
CHAIR