

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny – Partnership and Regeneration
Date:	15 September 2015
Subject:	Annual review of Anglesey Housing Partnership
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Aled M. Jones
Head of Service:	Shan Lloyd Williams, Head of Housing Services
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Local Members:	All

1. Purpose of report

- i. This is the first annual report on the work of Anglesey Housing Partnership to the Committee which will enable the progress of the Partnership to be scrutinised by Isle of Anglesey County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Partnership and Regeneration Committee. This report summarises the work undertaken by the Partnership in its first year of operation. It looks at future considerations for the Partnership and considers to what extent the Partnership has fulfilled its remit as set out in the Terms of Reference
- ii. Members are requested to comment on performance of the Partnership and any areas where the it could be strengthened to achieve joint priorities.

2. Background

- The Anglesey Housing Partnership met for the first time in September 2014. It was established because partnership working is essential in delivering the homes and housing services that the island needs. The Partnership aims to ensure that there is a more strategic and integrated approach to housing which is based upon agreed priorities for Anglesey. The Partnership also assist the Council in meeting its corporate objectives including:
 - Transforming Older Adult Social Care
 - Regenerating our Communities and Developing the Economy
 - Increasing our Housing Options and Reducing Poverty
 - Becoming Customer, Citizen and Community Focused

- i. The Partnership fulfils an important role as a consultative forum for the development and realisation of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for Anglesey. It provides opportunities for the organisations involved to work collectively on housing and related projects which contribute to the LHS.
- ii. The full Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Partnership are provided as an appendix to this report. The ToR states the following:

The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a forum for members to work together to deliver the Local Housing Strategy and be the voice of housing on Anglesey. The Partnership will be instrumental in:

- providing strategic leadership;
- shaping and setting the housing agenda;
- building relationships and influencing decisions for the benefit of Anglesey;
- drawing in resources from both traditional and alternative sources;
- working together to improve the supply and quality of homes; and
- create sustainable communities in Anglesey, particularly in relation to the delivery of the Anglesey Local Housing Strategy.

- iii. The membership is made up of senior representatives of the principal strategic partner for housing, both internal and external. The following external partners are members: Grŵp Cynefin, North Wales Housing Association, Pennaf Housing Association, North Wales Police, Welsh Assembly Government, National Association of Estate Agents, Anglesey Landlords Forum, Betsi Cadwaladr Local Health Board, Probation Service, Horizon, Homelessness Forum.
- iv. Internal representation is as follows: Energy Island Programme, Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Services, Head of Housing Services, Head of Planning Services, Manager of Joint Planning Policy Unit, Housing Strategy and Development Manager

3. Progress to date

The Partnership first met on 15 September 2014

- i. Five meetings of the Partnership have taken place to date. Meetings are scheduled to take place every quarter. An extra meeting took place this year in

order to ensure the Partnership could make input into the final draft of the Local Housing Strategy and its associated action plan.

- ii. Initial meetings included discussion about the format of Partnership and agreeing the Terms of Reference. Under the ToR the Chair of the Partnership alternates between a Local Authority and RSL representative. Paul Diggory, Chief Executive of North Wales Housing Association, was agreed as the Chair for the first two years.
- iii. In terms of agenda items, the first few meetings of the Partnership concentrated on discussing the new Anglesey Local Housing Strategy which had been developed to draft stage at the point the Partnership was launched. This enabled the Partnership to be made aware of the issues that the Council had identified as key priorities for housing over the coming 5 years and discuss the deliverability of the outcomes.
- iv. Meetings have enabled partners to become better informed about major housing issues for Anglesey and to share the perspectives of their different organisations on the consequences of these issues and the attitude of their organisation to these issues.
- v. Presentations have been made to the Partnership about issues of major importance or impact on housing in Anglesey. These were
 - Wylfa Newydd and workers accommodation:
 - Extra Care housing on Anglesey
 - Empty Homes strategy
 - Part II of the Housing (Wales) Act – prevention of homelessness
- vi. Key achievements of the Partnership during the first year have been
 - Finalising and adopting as a Partnership the Local Housing Strategy 2014-19 which is the central strategic driver for Anglesey's approach to housing over the next 4 years.
 - Increased understanding of housing related impacts of Wylfa Newydd and making an in principle decision for a sub-group to Partnership to act as a steering group for the Housing Hub project
 - Commencing a partnership approach to addressing the new duties around homelessness and homelessness prevention in Part II of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- vii. A programme of work for the Partnership will be agreed with the Chair and the Members. However key areas of work are expected to include the following
 - Twice yearly monitoring of the action plan for the Anglesey Housing Strategy 2014-19. Please note that the Council's Executive Committee in their meeting on 12 January 2015 requested an annual report on the performance /progress against key targets from the Local Housing Strategy.

- Responding as a Partnership to Pre- Application Consultation 2 (PAC2) by Horizon which is expected to take place in autumn 2015.
- Establishing a Partnership's approach to the issue of an ageing population and the need to provide excellent services through the right mix of housing, care and support services for older people in a cost effective manner.

4. Conclusions

- This formative year of the Partnership has been successful in allowing the department to share key housing issues which may be specific to Anglesey with Partners and to help ensure that there is a common understanding at a senior level in these organisations.
- Going forward it is important to learn from the experience of this first year to make further improvements to the Partnership. Attendance by members of the Partnership has been generally good. There is some concern that members who represent non housing organisations are less likely to attend. It is important that the meetings are relevant to them as the Council benefits from their broader perspective which can help ensure housing expenditure support agendas such as preventing crime, tackling social exclusion and planning for an ageing population.
- It is proposed to have a review of the operation of the Partnership at the October Partnership meeting. All partners will be asked to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the Partnership and the extent to which the Partnership is of benefit to them and their organisations.
- It is proposed that an annual work plan for the partnership is created. With input of Anglesey Housing Partnership members it would be agreed what topics should be discussed at meetings for the forthcoming year. In choosing these priority topics, the expected outputs of these meetings would also be clarified. This is with the aim of moving the meetings beyond an informative discussion forum to a body which agrees and achieves actions.

5. Recommendation to Committee

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report and provide any recommendations on how the performance of the Partnership could be strengthened to achieve joint priorities.

Background documents

Terms of Reference, Anglesey Housing Partnership
Anglesey Local Housing Strategy 2014-19

Terms of Reference Anglesey Housing Partnership

October 2014

1.0 Name of Partnership:

1.1 Anglesey Housing Partnership

2.0 Overall Purpose:

2.1 The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a forum for members to work together to deliver the Local Housing Strategy and be the voice of housing on Anglesey. The Partnership will be instrumental in:

- providing strategic leadership;
- shaping and setting the housing agenda;
- building relationships and influencing decisions for the benefit of Anglesey;
- drawing in resources from both traditional and alternative sources;
- working together to improve the supply and quality of homes; and
- create sustainable communities in Anglesey, particularly in relation to the delivery of the Anglesey Local Housing Strategy.

2.2 The Partnership will provide collaborative working, share expertise and resources to bring efficiencies to common areas of work, that add value to the outcomes, and produce value for money for members, residents and communities of Anglesey.

2.3 The Partnership between Isle of Anglesey County Council and Registered Social Landlords and private sector will be formalised to ensure maximum benefit for the residents of Anglesey.

3.0 Housing Partnership Functions

3.1 In its work with the Local Services Board, the Anglesey Housing Partnership will support the critical role played by LSB in articulating issues identified by communities to support Community Cohesion through the Single Integrated Plan.

4.2 Lobby on a regional or national level and raise issues which would benefit from action.

4.3 Oversee and manage performance in the delivery of the Local Housing Strategy.

- 4.4 Avoid unnecessary duplication and resource problems in partnership working on strategic issues.
- 4.5 Update the action plan in collaboration with implementing bodies and partners.
- 4.6 Establish and maintain effective arrangement in order to identify and assess housing needs in Anglesey continuously and promote good practice in terms of commissioning, supporting and using research work involving housing such as close collaboration with the Joint Local Development Plan Unit, neighbouring Local Authorities and major economic programme developers to support cohesion.
- 4.7 Encourage, comment on (and where appropriate, endorse) bids for resources to regional, national and European funding sources, according to strategic need.
- 4.8 Establish and maintain effective arrangements to promote and ensure the participation of residents, across all tenures in housing and housing-related issues.
- 4.9 Provide a framework for joint and collaborative working between authorities and partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors that contribute to the delivery of the Anglesey Local Housing Strategy.
- 4.10 Promote continuous improvement in the quality of housing and sustainable and cohesive communities across the Island.
- 4.11 Establish and maintain arrangements to ensure effective co-operation between groups, organisations, agencies and partnerships across sectors in Anglesey in order to promote housing and existing connections such as Economic Regeneration, Education, the Environment, Health, Police
- 4.12 Establish and maintain effective arrangements to communicate the Partnership's work and objectives to the County's residents as well as service providers, landlords, housing developers, funders, groups, organisations, agencies and partnerships providing services in the area of housing or a related area.
- 4.13 Identify opportunities to maximise the benefit to the community, such as housing led – regeneration opportunities, maximising apprenticeship scheme opportunities, maximising benefits for the local supply chains, collaborating on the development of services supporting social inclusion and financial inclusion.

- 4.14 Establish and maintain effective arrangements for promoting the principles of sustainable development in every aspect of the Partnership's work.
- 4.15 Establish and maintain effective arrangements to promote the Welsh language in every aspect of the Partnership's work.
- 4.16 Promote innovation and collaboration amongst the Partnerships' partners, consolidating resources and skills where relevant.
- 4.17 Develop and utilise positive, open and flexible working relationships with planners, partners and stakeholders to provide appropriate affordable and sustainable housing in the right locations.
- 4.18 Develop shared practice and ways of working to increase consistency across landlords to improve access to services and standards of service delivered.
- 4.19 Develop and co-ordinate providers inputs into place shaping sustainable neighbourhood management, building on wider strategic regeneration area working arrangements, such as Viable and Vibrant Communities Programme and Wylfa Newydd.

5.0 Members of Anglesey Housing Partnership

- 5.1 In the main, the Housing Partnership will include representatives of the key stakeholders in the field of housing in Anglesey. It will also include representatives of the principal strategic partners¹ that are acting jointly, in order to improve and provide services.

Function	Representing
Senior Leadership Team – one member	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Services	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Head of Housing Services	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Head of Planning Services	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Manager of Joint Planning Policy	Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey

¹ These Partnerships may be represented by the Partnerships' core members, who also sit on other partnership boards. Specific reference is made here to Health, Social Care and Well-being, Community Safety, Children and Young People Partnerships.

Unit	County Council
Housing Strategy and Development Manager	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Chief Executives and / or Director	Grŵp Cynefin North Wales Housing Association Pennaf
Representative	North Wales Police
Representative	Welsh Assembly Government
Representative	National Association of Estate Agents
Chair	Anglesey Landlords Forum
Representative	Betsi Cadwaladr Local Health Board
Representative	Probation Service
Representative	Horizon
Representative	Homelessness Forum
Representative	Energy Island Programme

- 5.2 The representatives attending should be at a senior level with the authority to speak on behalf of and to make commitments from the member organisation.
- 5.3 The Chair will serve a period of two years from election. The Chair will alternate between Local Authority and RSL representatives. The Vice-chair will also be elected every two years and will of necessity alternate between the Local Authority and RSL.
- 5.4 The Partnership will have the authority to invite and include new members as required. If the majority of Partnership members support the proposal to include new members then those new members will be designated either as Co-opted Members or Associated members on the basis of their contribution to the field of housing in Anglesey.

5.6 Working Groups

- 5.6.1 Sub Groups may be established to drive the strategic housing agenda. Each sub group will be appointed a mentor from the Housing Partnership to work with them and decide upon appropriate action plan outcomes.
- 5.6.2 Sub groups will inform the Housing Partnership of a summary of their progress and outcomes at each meeting, minutes from the sub-groups posted on the Housing Partnership website for information.
- 5.6.3 In addition, from time to time, the Housing Partnership will set up a Task and Finish Group to undertake specific pieces of work. These will have a clear brief on the outputs / outcomes required and will present their findings to the Housing Partnership.

6.0 Housing Partnership Operating Procedures

- 6.1 Isle of Anglesey County Council Housing Strategy and Development Manager will support and service the administrative functions of the Housing Partnership.
- 6.2 The Housing Strategy and Development Manager will work with partners to support the development, production and delivery of housing strategies, action plans, projects and initiatives to help meet identified objectives and to ensure the business of the Partnership is conducted expeditiously.
- 6.3 Partnership will meet at least 3 times a year, with an annual housing event to promote the working of the Partnership and other specific briefings, when agreed necessary.
- 6.4 If a member of the Partnership wishes to include an item on the Partnership agenda, the Housing Strategy Manager should be informed at least 10 working days before the meeting.
- 6.5 The final programme and reports for the Partnership meeting will be available in electronic form and on paper at least 5 working days before the date of the meeting.
- 6.6 For Partnership meetings, a minimum of 3 different bodies from amongst members must be present to form a quorum.
- 6.7 The Partnership will accomplish its work in an open and transparent way and in the spirit of consensus and mutual respect. The Partnership will therefore seek to resolve issues through consensus. If a consensus cannot be secured, the Chair will ask for a vote, and a simple majority will win the vote. If necessary, the Chair will ask for a second vote or will use his / her casting vote in order to secure a decision.

- 6.8 Meetings of the Partnership will be open – anyone may listen to the discussion, as observers.
- 6.9 Partnership meetings and correspondence will be bilingual and translation equipment will be available in every meeting. Correspondence, agendas and reports will be produced bilingually (except for those prepared by external bodies).

7.0 Accountability

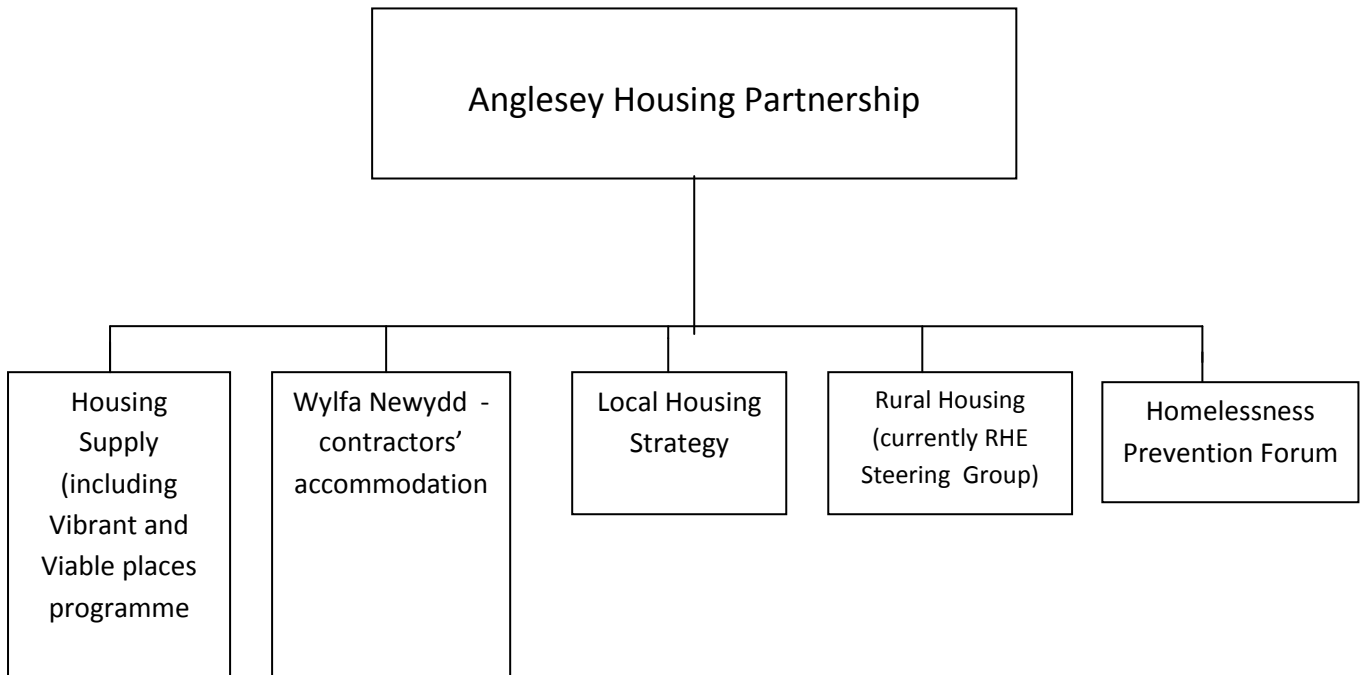
- 7.1 The Partnership, as a partnership body, will be accountable to the Local Service Board, and will report to other forums including the Isle of Enterprise Programme Board, Isle of Anglesey Corporate Scrutiny and Partnership Committee, Housing Association Management Boards that are members of the Housing Partnership, the Welsh Government, relevant inspection boards, and the wider community of groups, agencies and organisations providing services in the area of housing.
- 7.2 Members will be accountable to: (a) their individual employer organisation / representative body for their individual contributions, and (b) to the Housing Partnership as part of their duty to collaborate.
- 7.3 Expectations from members of the Housing Partnership have been outlined in Appendix 2.

Date Terms of Reference Agreed

Date for review (every 2 years)

APPENDIX 1

Proposed structure showing existing sub-groups (@20/06/14) – for determination by Partnership Members to enable the delivery of the Anglesey Local Housing Strategy.



APPENDIX 2 – GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

What is expected from Anglesey Housing Partnership members?

Members must:

- Ensure their organisation is represented at Partnership meetings by a Senior Officer (or nominated deputy) who must be able to contribute at a strategic level and be authorised to make commitments on behalf of their organisation.
- Ensure their organisation is appropriately represented at each meeting. Schedule of attendance will be circulated with the minutes of each meeting.
- Contribute to the work of the Partnership by participating in work streams, suggesting themes for meetings / seminar events and agenda items.
- Participate in shaping strategic direction and policy.
- Ensure all partners consider Equality and Diversity principles in delivery for and on behalf of the Anglesey Housing Partnership ensuring best practice and any relevant and appropriate legal requirements are adhered to.
- Where requested, be willing to act as a Mentor for sub-groups and Task and Finish Groups and report back to the Housing Partnership on the activities of the group which they are acting as Mentor.
- Encourage and assist partners to align their policies and strategies with the Anglesey Local Housing Strategy.
- Keep the Local Housing Strategy up to date on implementation and on issues to be considered, as action plans are updated and carried forward.