

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Town and Community Councils Liaison Meeting

Wednesday, 21 January 2015

7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Council Offices
Llangefni
LL77 7TW

Agenda

1. Confirmation of minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2014 enclosed.

2. Meeting the Challenges - Initial Budget Proposals for 2015/16

The consultation document can be accessed on the following link (has also been circulated previously):

<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations/-meeting-the-challenges-our-initial-budget-proposals-2015/16/124632.article?redirect=false>

3. Reforming Local Government in Wales

Update by the Leader of the Council.

4. Adding value to the work programmes of the Council's Scrutiny Committees

To note the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2014 – copy enclosed.

5. Any Other Business

Town and Community Councils Liaison Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Llangefni on
23 October 2014 at 7 pm.

Present:

Representing Town and Community Councils

Marilyn Hughes, Gwynn Jones	Amlwch
B Kotkowicz, S Zalot	Beaumaris
Mairede Thomas	Cwm Cadnant
Elfed Jones	Llanbadrig
Delyth Owen	Llanfaelog
Hanna Huws	Llanfairpwll
Ian Owen, Ted Thomas, Einion Williams	Llanfihangel Esceifiog
Janice M Davies, Margaret A Thomas	Llangefni
Geraint Parry	Llangoed; Llanddona
J E Lewis	Bodffordd; Llangefni
Eifion H Jones	Pentraeth
Eric Roberts, Bill Rowlands	Trearddur Bay
Anna Jones	Tref Alaw
Edna Jones, Margaret Price	Trewalchmai
Gwenda Owen, Mavis Swaine-Williams	Valley

Representing the Isle of Anglesey County Council

Councillor Ieuan Williams	Leader (Chair)
Councillor Hywel Eifion Jones	Finance Portfolio Holder
Richard Parry Jones	Chief Executive
Gwen Carrington	Director of Community
Richard Micklewright	Interim Head of Resources and Section 151 Officer (for item 2)
Geraint Wyn Roberts	Scrutiny Officer (for item 4)
Rhian Wyn Jones	Policy Officer

Also present:

Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Rita Lyon	Môn Communities First (for item 3)
Marton Fabok	University of Liverpool (observer)

Apologies:

Cliff Everett (Holyhead)
Jack Jones, John Jukes (Llanerchymedd)
Menai Bridge Town Council
Cllr Aled Morris Jones (Isle of Anglesey County Council)
Huw Jones (Interim Head of Democratic Services, Isle of Anglesey County Council)

The Leader of the Council welcomed Mr Marton Fabok, who was attending this meeting as an observer as part of his research work on Wylfa Newydd and its impact on local communities.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2014 were confirmed as a true record, subject to the following:

Reference was made to the fact that Llanfihangel Esceifiog had asked questions at the last meeting with regard to the Science Park but that there was no reference to this in the minutes. It was noted that the matter had since been followed up by the Community Council and a response had been received.

Matters arising:

Beaumaris Town Council noted that 'Asset Transfer' had not been included as an item on this evening's agenda and expressed concern with regard to correspondence sent recently to the Clerk with regard to the financial commitment connected to the transfer of public conveniences. The Leader explained that discussions were continuing internally and that the Council would not be in a position to proceed until these discussions are completed.

For action: Relevant officers of the Council contact the Clerk of Beaumaris Town Council by the following Monday (27 October) to clarify the current situation.

2. Budget Prospects

Making a Difference: Draft Efficiency Strategy 2014-17

The Leader gave a presentation outlining the Council's three-year draft efficiency strategy which is currently subject to public consultation.

Anglesey has a budget of £126m and it is estimated that savings of around £15m will need to be made over the next three years. The purpose of this draft strategy is to provide a clear direction over the coming years and to ensure an understanding amongst the public, staff and councillors as to how the Council aims to meet its financial challenges.

It was noted that the steps set out in the draft strategy could provide savings in the region of £12.5m, which still leaves a shortfall of £3m over the next three years. Work would therefore continue on developing these proposals and others and more detailed savings proposals would be developed for annual consultation.

The main points raised during the discussion that followed are summarised below:

Joint working arrangements - More should be done to work with the private sector to achieve savings (Trearddur).

Reducing the cost of democracy - the importance of strengthening democracy and promoting diversity in local government (Llanfairpwll).

Getting the best out of our staff – need to be mindful of the potential impact of redundancies and not filling vacant posts on staff sickness levels (Llanfairpwll).

Consultation – need to ensure that the Council’s consultation methods are robust (Llanfairpwll).

Challenging the delivery of non-statutory services – need to engage with all stakeholders as early as possible on any major cuts to non-statutory services (Cwm Cadnant)

Reforming Local Government in Wales – Whilst acknowledging that the timescale went beyond the three years covered by the draft efficiency strategy, the importance of researching the potential implications of Council mergers was emphasised (Cwm Cadnant).

For action: It was agreed that Local Government Reform should be discussed at the next meeting.

Transfer of Assets

Community councils need to be mindful of the costs involved in maintaining and insuring community facilities, such as playing fields (Llanfihangel Esceifiog).

Need to ensure that sufficient financial information is provided to town and community councils to enable them to make informed decisions about potential asset transfers (Beaumaris).

The importance of progressing discussions on asset transfers at the earliest opportunity in view of the need for town and community councils to set precepts (Bodffordd; Llangefni)

Need to bear in mind that the smaller community councils are limited in their ability to take over responsibility for services due to insufficient capacity and resources (Amlwch) – the Leader suggested that that the smaller councils could consider working in partnership with neighbouring councils.

Town and Community Councils Stakeholder Group

The Leader explained that the Council wished to discuss proposals in more detail with town and community councils and sought volunteers to represent this forum on a Town and Community Councils Stakeholder Group. The following individuals agreed to represent town and community councils on the stakeholder group:

Gwynn Jones (Amlwch)
Stan Zalot (Beaumaris)
J E Lewis (Bodffordd; Llangefni)
Margaret Thomas (Llangefni)
Einion Williams (Llanfihangel Esceifiog)

3. Môn Communities First

Rita Lyon of Môn Communities First (CF) gave a presentation outlining the work of Môn CF and the services available in communities. Môn CF was set up in 2012 to deliver the Communities First programme for Anglesey and offers a wide range of services and support under two main themes - Prosperous Communities and Learning Communities

In addition to the services available, Môn CF have made the following community benefit commitment:

- With any grass cutting contract, they will engage a young person from the area and train them alongside their team
- They will also offer free Play Equipment Checks with all grass cutting contracts

Rita Lyon encouraged town and community council representatives to contact Môn CF to discuss any opportunities for working together, for support in making grant applications etc, noting that Môn CF would be open to discussions on any issues.

4. Adding value to the work programmes of the Council's Scrutiny Committees

Geraint Roberts, Scrutiny Officer, began by outlining the purpose of scrutiny committees and the scrutiny structure within the Council which consists of two committees – the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

The Scrutiny Officer explained that the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs were anxious to begin a dialogue with the third sector and town and community councils in order to promote and strengthen local democracy. To this end, there was an intention to hold an informal meeting with stakeholders during December 2014, to provide community representatives with an opportunity to comment on the scrutiny committees' work programmes

For action: It was noted that the date of the proposed meeting would be agreed as soon as possible and that invitations to attend be sent to clerks of town and community councils as well as Unllais Cymru.

5. Any other business

5.1 Customer Service

Reference was made to problems encountered by community councils in obtaining replies to correspondence from the Council, as well as returning telephone calls (Llanfihangel Esceifiog, Trearddur, Valley).

For action: The Leader reminded those present to contact him directly if any problems arise so that he could address the matter. He also asked the Chief Executive to circulate a message to Heads of Service to emphasise the importance of ensuring that all enquiries are dealt with promptly.

5.2 Protests – Council Offices

Concern was expressed that the Council was seen to be discouraging individuals from protesting peacefully outside the Council building by placing barricades which were considered to be excessive (Llanfairpwll).

For action: The Leader responded that he would ensure that the relevant officers are informed of the concerns raised.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Ynys Môn

THE ISLE OF
Anglesey

Meeting the Challenges: Our Initial Budget Proposals 2015/16



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

www.ynysmon.gov.uk

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Meeting the Challenges: Our initial budget proposals for 2015/16

The Council wants to hear your views on the various savings, efficiencies and income generation proposals for the year ahead.

These have been developed by officers and elected members and agreed by the Council's Executive in their meeting on December 15th 2014. You can watch a webcast of this meeting [here](#) and the full report presented is available [here](#).

These savings, efficiencies and income generation proposals are part of the Council's drive to achieve its corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-17, whilst addressing considerable financial challenges including an estimated £15million funding gap over the next three years.

This autumn, we launched the **Making a Difference** debate, where we asked for your views on where we should focus our efforts over the next three years in order to deliver modern public services which are fit for purpose. We undertook an online consultation, organised sessions with partners such as town and community councils, the Schools Forum and others and visited town markets, libraries and supermarkets to gain the views of the public. The results of this consultation can be found [here](#)

The budget for 2015/16 is the first phase in delivering **Making a Difference: Our Efficiency Strategy 2014-17** and reflects our eight key efficiency principles, which are:

- Ensuring value for money
- Reducing the cost of management, democracy and bureaucracy
- Transforming statutory services
- Working with others to save money/services
- Getting the most out of staff
- Increasing income
- Challenging delivery of non-statutory services where others can /could provide these
- Understand the impact of our proposals on Anglesey and its residents

The proposals set out here are the options that the council has to consider between now and February 2015, when it will have to make the final decision on its budget for the next financial year. All county councillors have been invited to a workshop early next year to go through the various options for savings.

Council Tax

Currently, Council Tax provides just under 25% of the Council's income.

The budget gap identified, and the consequent savings which we will need to make, are based on a proposed council tax increase of 5%. Below is a table which identifies the various council tax increases, the income they would bring in, the level of savings which would need to be made at the different percentage increases and the weekly effect on a band D property.

%	Council Tax £	Savings Required	Weekly Effect on Band D	Total Cost
5	30,988,000	4,080,801	1.2	25.2
4.75	30,914,000	4,154,801	1.14	25.14
4.5	30,840,000	4,228,801	1.08	25.08
4.25	30,766,000	4,302,801	1.02	25.02
4	30,766,000	4,302,801	0.96	24.96

Whilst just over £4million in savings represents just over 3% of our total spend, they are likely to have more impact on certain services than others, because we must protect services such as schools. Other areas are high in terms of risk, such as social services, or key corporate priorities. Some are important statutory functions that we must carry out.

Why are we consulting with you now?

The proposed 5% increase in Council Tax and some of the savings we are now considering will have a direct impact on you as residents, members of staff, community groups and the wider environment and so **we want to hear your comments and any ideas for how we could lessen that impact.**

The feedback from this consultation will be reported to county councillors before they make their final decision, and a summary of your responses will also be available on the Council's website.



You can respond to this consultation by:

Completing the surveys on our website www.anglesey.gov.uk/budgetconsultation **after reading through the proposals below.**

Alternatively, you can send any comments to budgetconsultation@anglesey.gov.uk

Or write to us at: Meeting the Challenges: Budget Consultation 2015/16, Chief Executive's Office, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW

If you require a large print version please phone 01248 752128.

The consultation ends on: Friday, 23rd January 2015

The savings proposals are provided on the pages that follow.

Type of Efficiency		Service	Proposed Saving	Total £'000
Value for Money	1	Highways	Reduction in Highway & Lighting Work Budget	514.0
	2	Waste	Reduced opening days (to 5 days per site) and amended working hours at Penhesgyn & Gwalchmai recycling centres	80.0
	3	Waste	Reduction in landfill costs budget	75.0
	4	Children's Services	Reduction in costs of the Independent Fostering Agencies	75.0
	5	Waste	Changes to Clinical Waste Services delivery	67.0
	6	Waste	Reduction in free Bulky Waste Collection of up to 4 items during the financial year from 2 to 1, with an annual maximum for Anglesey as a whole	60.0
	7	Highways	Bus Service Amendment Retendering	60.0
	8	Children's Services	Reduction in Out of County Placement costs	51.0
	9	Education	Reduction in Improve School Standards budget	43.4
	10	Highways	Reduction in Traffic Calming Works & Structures Budget	40.0
	11	Waste	Removal of long term vacant post	38.0
	12	Children's Services	CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) - termination of current arrangement	38.0
	13	Planning	Reduction in contribution to the Joint Planning Policy Unit	25.0
	14	Children's Services	Various service efficiencies	20.0
	15	Education	A change to the delivery of the outreach service part of Youth	16.3

			Service provision	
	16	Culture	Reduction in Grants to the Arts Allocation	10.7
	17	Planning Service	Various service efficiencies	17.0
	18	Culture Service	Various service efficiencies	13.6
	TOTAL VALUE FOR MONEY SAVINGS PROPOSALS			£1,244
Challenge the continuation of services	1	Waste	Reduction in street cleaning budget	206.0
	2	Education	10% reduction in contribution to SEN Joint Committee	93.0
	3	Education	Reduction in out of county placements	80.0
	4	Education	Reduction in grants to Urdd & Young Farmers & William Mathias Music Service	65.6
	5	Economic and Community Regeneration	Reduction in funding to management company running Llanfairpwll Tourist Information Centre	53.0
	6	Economic and Community Regeneration	Various service efficiencies	43.3
	7	Education & Culture	Various service efficiencies	29.6
	8	Education	Reduction in Primary Dyslexia budget	27.2
	9	Economic and Community Regeneration	Reduction in operational budget – European Projects	13.0
		TOTAL SAVINGS - CHALLENGING THE CONTINUATION OF SERVICES		

Reducing the cost of management, democracy and bureaucracy	1	Highways, Leisure, E&CR, ICT, Transformation, Audit & Culture	Staffing rationalisation, reduction & removal of vacant posts	511.5
	2	Council Business	Rationalisation of Senior Leadership Team	300.0
	3	Cross-Council	Smarter Working Project	300.0
	4	Adult Services	Removal of general unused budget lines	200.0
	5	Council Business	Savings on paper, printing and posting hard copy minutes and agendas	25.0
	6	Economic and Community Regeneration	Reduction in operational budget	12.0
TOTAL SAVINGS FROM REDUCING THE COST OF MANAGEMENT, DEMOCRACY AND BUREAUCRACY				£1,348
Work collaboratively with others to save money or maintain service levels	1	Waste	Collaborative working with other councils	50.0
	2	Highways	Reduction to the Safecote budget	25.0
	3	Planning	Vibrant and Viable Places fee income	10.0
TOTAL SAVINGS FROM WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHERS				£85.0
Maximise income generation	1	Education	Free School Breakfasts – introduce a £1.50 fee for breakfast for non-free-school-meal pupils	171.0
	2	Adult Services	Creation of income budget for deferred payments for care	127.0
	3	Economic and Community Regeneration	Increased income generation across leisure centre activities	105.9

	4	Waste	Sale of green waste	75.0
	5	Resources	Tendering exercises	65.0
	6	Waste	A £25 charge for replacement black wheeled bins lost, damaged, stolen or requested at new-build house	50.0
	7	Education	Increase fees for post-16 travel and charging post-16 pupils in schools	50.0
	8	Highways	Increased parking income through the introduction of parking fees at Rhoscolyn, Station House Llangefni, Porth Swtan & Stanley Crescent Holyhead together with increased parking rates of 10p per hour for first two hours but no change to half hour parking fee.	40.0
	9	Property	Smallholding review of ring-fenced income	36.0
	10	Resources	Credit Card charges	16.0
	11	Adult Services	Môn Enhanced Care Income Generation	10.0
	12	Culture & Education	Increased Income generation schemes & events	8.8
	13	Housing	General reduction to the supplies and service budget lines	2.0
	TOTAL - INCREASED INCOME GENERATION STREAMS			£756.7
Best out of our staff	1	Various Services	Removal of the Car Allowance Budgets	26.3
	2	Planning	Secondment opportunities for staff	13.0
	TOTAL SAVINGS FROM BEST OUT OF OUR STAFF			£39.3

Minute of the Scrutiny Open Forum with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs

Thursday, 18 December 2014 - 6pm to 7.30pm

Council Chamber, LLangefni.

Present	Town and Community Council /Organisation
Griff Pritchard	Llanfair M.E
Catherine Lloyd	Trewalchmai
Margaret Price	Trewalchmai
Egryn Lewis	Llangefni
J A Jones	LLanfaethlu a Llanfwrog
Anna Jones	Tref Alaw
Eric Roberts	Trearddur
Margaret Thomas	Llangefni
Stan Zalot	Beaumaris
John R Jones	Medrwn Môn
Lyndsey Williams	Medrwn Môn (Community Voices)
Jackie Blackwell	Citizen Advice Bureaux
Also Present:	
Derlwyn Hughes	Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Alun Mummery	Vice -Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Meirion Jones	Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Gwilym Jones	Vice-Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny committee
Huw Jones	Interim Head of Democratic Services
Bev Symonds	Scrutiny Manager
Geraint Wyn Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Apology:	
Alun Foulkes	Cwm Cadnant
Meinir Davies	Menai Bridge
Marilyn Hughes	Amlwch

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Derlwyn Hughes introduced himself and confirmed that it had been agreed with colleagues that he would be chairing the meeting. He also introduced Councillor Alun Mummery, Councillor Meirion Jones and Councillor Gwilym Jones. All

representatives, members and officers present were given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Councillor Derlwyn Hughes outlined the role of the two Scrutiny Committees at the Isle of Anglesey County Council and informed those present that the intention of the meeting was to raise the profile and knowledge of the scrutiny function and develop better links with Town and Community Councils together with the voluntary sector. It was emphasised that this was a new forum and that lessons would be learnt as it developed.

2. PRESENTATION AND WORKPROGRAMMES

The Scrutiny Manager gave a presentation on the scrutiny committee's structure and function at the Council together with sharing with those in attendance copies of the forward work programmes. She emphasised that the main purpose of the meeting was to start a discussion on the sort of areas scrutiny committees should be looking at and to ascertain the priority topics for local communities. An explanation was provided on how access and use the Council's scrutiny web pages and how to contact the scrutiny unit. It was emphasised the Committees Work Programmes are available on the Council's Web page.

3. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

The importance of the Council communicating better with Town and Community Councils was raised on several occasions. Examples cited by Town and Community Councillors of poor consultation included matters such as extra care housing, asset disposal and asset transfer to the community.

Concern raised that Town and Community Councils were not aware of proposed decisions to be taken by the Executive and that the process was opaque allowing them little or no input.

ACTION:

The Interim Head of Democratic Services to forward to Clerks of the Town and Community Councils a link to the Executive Forward work programme once approved by the Executive.

4. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the meeting had been useful and that future meetings take place on a six monthly cycle.

ACTION:

Arrange a meeting of this forum in June 2015