

THE EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 2 October 2025

PRESENT: Councillor Gary Pritchard

Councillors Neville Evans, Carwyn Jones, Dyfed W Jones,
Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Robin Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Head of Regulation & Economic Development,
Head of Democracy,
Accountancy Services Manager (BHO),
Lead Case Officer – Major Projects (IWJ),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Webcasting Committee Services Officer (FT).

APOLOGIES: Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Glyn Haynes, Kenneth P Hughes, John Ifan Jones,
Robert Ll Jones, Jackie Lewis, Derek Owen, Llio Angharad Owen,
Dylan Rees, Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Ieuan Williams, Sonia
Williams.

Mr Gary Soloman and Ms Leticia Mandra – Burgess Salmon
Solicitors (in respect of item 6)

1 APOLOGIES

None received.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest received.

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

None to report.

4 BUILDING CONTROL IMPROVEMENT NOTICE RESPONSE

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development outlining the building control improvement notice response was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Leader of the Council said that notification was received in April 2025 by Welsh Ministers that an investigation had been instigated after they received an allegation that there had been a contravention of the Operational Standards Rules (Wales) 2024. An urgent internal investigation was undertaken to establish the veracity of the allegation and immediate steps were undertaken by the Council which was highlighted within the report.

The Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change said that it is important that the Council has acknowledged the weaknesses that has occurred and the recommendations within the report have already been addressed before receiving advice from the Inspectorate and improvements have been undertaken to improve the service.

Councillor Carwyn Jones said that a comprehensive response has been made to the building control improvement notice. He ascertained as to whether the work undertaken by the Building Control Team was compliant with the relevant standards in the previous years and what assurance can be given there are no other issues that may arise in the future as to the safety of buildings.

The Chief Executive responded that there were changes within the Operational Standards Rules and the Council had not responded within the required timeframe. The staff within the Building Control Team are experience and have the required knowledge as regards to building control legislation and that training is now been afforded to ensure full compliance with the new standards.

The Head of Regulation and Economic Development said that the capacity of the Building Control Team has been temporarily strengthened to ensure that the team has the skills and competency. An experience Officer has conducted a review of historic building control applications between October 2024 and March 2025 and no issues have been raised as regards to the decisions taken on building control applications. He further said that he is confident that the correct decisions have been undertaken and that the Team is working effectively and complies with statutory compliance.

The Leader of the Council ascertained whether there is a training and workforce plan is in place as regards to this service.

The Head of Regulation and Economic Development responded that the trainees and the Technical Support Officer within the service has commenced a training programme to ensure that they are able to attain the necessary skills and qualifications to undertake the work in compliance with the new legislation.

The Chief Executive said that it has been recognised, on a national level, that there is a lack of expertise and skills within the building control area. Due changes to the legislation, Welsh Government will need to invest further to create a professional workforce. Local Authorities afford the trainees training, but these staff sometimes leave the authority and there is a continued process of having to train new staff. He expressed that the retention of staff is important to comply with legislation.

It was RESOLVED :-

- to endorse the Council's response to Welsh Ministers in relation to a Building Control Improvement Notice.
- with the prior agreement of the Council Chair, to exclude the right of the Scrutiny Committee to call-in this decision. Delaying the decision to allow a call-in period by the Scrutiny Committee would be detrimental as the Council is required to respond to Welsh Government by the 14th October, 2025 to demonstrate how it is complying with the Notice.

5 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the following:-

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information pursuant to paragraph 16 of Schedule 12A of the said. Act. Namely information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.”

6 POSSIBLE LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE DECISION TO GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION TO THE ALAW MÔN SOLAR FARM (DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE)

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development regarding the possible legal challenge to the decision to grant planning permission to the Alaw Môn Solar Farm was presented for the Executive's consideration.

The Leader of the Council said that the full Isle of Anglesey County Council meeting held on 25 September 2025 considered that a Legal Challenge should be undertaken to the decision by Welsh Government to approve the planning permission to the Alaw Môn Solar Farm. He noted that the Council challenged the decision to permit the application as the Council expressed concerns throughout the planning process.

The Head of Regulation and Economic Development said that considerable work has been undertaken as to whether there is a prospect of challenging the decision. The Council has reviewed the Opinion of Specialist Counsel on the merits of submitting a legal challenge in the High Court. Counsel considers that there is a strong prospect of successfully challenging the grant of permission.

It was **RESOLVED** to :-

- instruct Officers to proceed with a challenge to the granting of DNS application (Ref. DNS-3274702) by the Welsh Ministers under s.288 of the Town and Country Planning Act (s.288(4) and s.284(3)(aa) TCPA 1990);
- authorise release of funding to pursue this challenge within the authority afforded them in the 2025/2026 Council Budget and subject to the ongoing monitoring and support of the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer;

- with prior agreement of the Council Chair, to exclude the right of the Scrutiny Committee to call-in this decision. Delaying the decision to allow a call-in period by the Scrutiny Committee would be detrimental as the legal challenge must be made to the High Court by no later than 7 October, 2025.

**COUNCILLOR GARY PRITCHARD
CHAIR**