

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 25 September 2025

- PRESENT:** Councillor Non Dafydd (Chair)
Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Geraint Bebb, Jeff M Evans, Neville Evans, Douglas M Fowlie, Glyn Haynes, Kenneth P Hughes, Trevor LI Hughes MBE, Carwyn Jones, John Ifan Jones, R LI Jones, Aled M Jones, Gwilym O Jones, Dyfed Wyn Jones, Jackie Lewis, Pip O'Neill, Llio Angharad Owen (left the meeting at 3.00 pm & returned at 3.25 pm), Derek Owen, Gary Pritchard, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Keith Roberts, Margaret Murley Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Ken Taylor, Ieuan Williams, Robin Williams, Sonia Williams, Liz Wood.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer,
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Adults' Services,
Head of Regulation & Economic Development,
Head of Highways, Property & Waste,
Corporate Planning, Performance & Programme Manager (GP,
Committee Officer (MEH),
Webcasting Committee Services Officer (FT).
- ALSO PRESENT:** Mr Dilwyn Evans – Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee (in relation to item 10)
Mr Trefor Owen – Chair of the Standards Committee (in relation to item 9)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Paul Ellis, Euryrn Morris, Alwen Watkin, Arfon Wyn
- Head of Profession (Human Resources) & Transformation,
Head of Democracy

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Isle of Anglesey County Council held on 20 May, 2025 were confirmed as correct.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- Congratulations to everyone who organised the Anglesey Agricultural Show for yet another successful year, as well as everyone from the Island who was successful in the Royal Welsh, Eisteddfod yr Urdd and the National Eisteddfod.
- Congratulations to the individuals from Anglesey that were inaugurated to the Orsedd during the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham, including Hywel Wyn Owen, Mared Lewis, Gwyn Anwyl, Nia Wyn Jones and Rhun ap Iorwerth.
- Congratulations to the young people of Anglesey on their successful GCSE, A Level and other level 2 and 3 qualification results over the summer. She expressed her best wishes to those young people who will be leaving for University. The Chair also congratulated the Council's Looked After Children on their recent success with GCSE qualifications and other achievements. She expressed her gratitude to all staff, teachers, parents and foster parents who have supported young people during their exams.
- The Chair referred to the County Councils' Dyfydol Môn scheme that gives local graduates an opportunity to complete valuable work experience within the Council as they work towards a post graduate qualification. The Council has been successful in appointing four graduates through the Dyfydol Môn scheme.
- The Chair referred to a special event held in Mona last weekend to welcome the Eisteddfod yr Urdd in 2026 to the Island.
- The Chair said that the Rownd a Rownd television series celebrated 30 years since it was first broadcasted. The series, located in Menai Bridge, has attracted significant financial investment to the area over the years, and more than 100 people now work on the programme.
- Congratulations was extended to businesses on the Island that have recently won awards. Cybi Brewery and the honey production company, Anglesey Bees won stars in the Great Taste Awards, and Llanfairpwll Distillery won the best small drink producer award in the Welsh Food and Drink Awards.

On behalf of the County Council, the Chair wished to thank the Fire Service for their work managing and fighting fires on Mynydd Bodafon during the summer. At one point, the fire had spread to 1,500 meter squared and thankfully no one was injured during the incident.

The Chair referred that earlier this month, a special event was held with key partners and stakeholders to celebrate the County Council's journey to becoming a Trauma Informed Island. One of the highlights was naming Ysgol Gyfun Llangejni as the first

mainstream secondary school in the United Kingdom to receive the Trauma Informed and Mental Health award from *Trauma Informed Schools UK*.

The Chair referred that on the 15th of August, the County Council and Officers from RAF Valley came together to commemorate 80 years since VJ Day with a flag raising ceremony outside the Council Offices in Llangefnï. Many also attended the remembrance event that was organised by Councillor Aled Morris Jones at Parys Mountain in the evening. Both events, as well as the VE Day event in May, were opportunities to remember the generation who sacrificed so much, so that we can enjoy our freedom today.

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Condolences were extended to the family of the former County Councillor Mr Derlwyn Hughes who passed away recently.

Condolences were extended to any Member of the Council and Staff who had suffered a bereavement. Members and Officers stood as silent tribute.

4. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

No petitions received.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

- Submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillor Aled M Jones :-

‘Anglesey Independents call on Anglesey County Council to seek a judicial review of the decision by the Welsh Government to allow planning permission to the Alaw Môn, Sola Farm development.

This proposed development has caused a great deal of concern in our communities and we as a County Council must seek all possible means to challenge this decision’

Councillor Kenneth P Hughes seconded the motion.

Councillor Hughes said that there are immense concerns that the decision to approve the Alaw Môn Solar Farm by Welsh Government and not allowing the County Council to make such a decision. He expressed strongly that the Council needs to apply for a Judicial Review of the decision taken by Welsh Government and hopefully overturn the decision. The Island already generates enough energy for the whole of Wales and good agricultural land should not be used for solar farm developments. He further said that Cadw Tir Môn has asked through email that if the Council is unable to apply for judicial review that financial assistance be afforded to help the Community Group to pursue a judicial review of the decision.

- Submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillor Gary Pritchard :-

‘The Council expresses its disappointment and frustration in the Welsh Government’s decision to permit the Alaw Môn Solar Farm development contrary to its policies on the use of best and most versatile agricultural land.

The Council is asked to investigate every possible option, including legal options, to challenge the decision.’

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gary Pritchard said that he would withdraw his Notice of Motion, subject to an amendment as there is unity agree by the political groups to the frustration and disappointment that Welsh Government’s decision has been to approve the Alaw Môn Solar Farm. He noted that Welsh Government have ignored their own policies on the use of good agricultural land and this Council has expressed objection from the start of this development.

The Leader outlined his amendment to the Motion by Councillor Aled M Jones as follows:-

- *‘The Council expresses its disappointment and frustration in the Welsh Government’s decision to permit the Alaw Môn Solar Farm development contrary to its policies on the use of best and most versatile agricultural land;*
- *The proposed development has caused a great deal of concern in our communities as well as creating real concerns regarding future food security;*
- *The Council is asked to investigate every possible option, including seeking a Judicial Review, to challenge this decision as well as seeking to work alongside other Community Groups who are working towards a similar goal;*

Councillor Jeff Evans seconded the amendment to the Motion.

The Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer advised that the amendment to the Motion is appropriate and a vote was undertaken. 28 Members voted in favour of the amendment to the motion, and 3 Members abstained.

Councillor Ieuan Williams, on behalf of the Independent Group, said that the Council needs to challenge the decision by Welsh Government to approve the Alaw Môn Solar Farm.

Councillor Llio Angharad Owen said that this solar farm development has raised considerable opposition in the community she represents and across the Island. She noted that she has taken part in protest against the development of solar farm which harms nature and the agricultural future of Anglesey. She said that the decision by Welsh Government to approve the Alaw Môn Solar Farm was disappointing as they are ignoring their own policies. Whilst accepting that there is a need for sustainable and clean energy for the future, the Island will not benefit from the development, and the Council needs to challenge the decision by Welsh Government.

Councillor Jackie Lewis reiterated the comments of her fellow local members and thanked those who have campaigned against the development in the local communities together with the support of the Member of Parliament and the Assembly Member for Anglesey. She expressed that Welsh Government has ignored the people of Anglesey who are against this development.

Councillor Robert LI Jones said that he would be voting against the amendment to the Motion as he considered that there is a need to reduce the carbon footprint and such development should be supported. He expressed that solar grazing minimizes carbon emissions and promotes biodiversity. He further said that sheep farmers across the World have expressed that allowing animals to graze under the solar panels improves productivity and increases their income as farmers.

Councillor Derek Owen said that there are concerns as regards to possible damage to Llyn Alaw who serves over 30,000 people with water supply. He questioned whether the promotion of Energy Island should be disregarded, and priority should be given to developing the Wylfa site. He said that energy companies consider that the Island will take any development such as solar farms in place of the development of Wylfa. Councillor Owen further said that young people are having to leave the Island for work and there is an effect on the Welsh language. The loss of 650 acres of good agricultural land at the Alaw Môn site will have a dire effect on food production and the development needs to be refused. He questioned whether Legal Advice has been sought by the Council to challenging this decision.

The Chief Executive responded that the Energy Island Programme was established to support projects that have economic benefits for local communities. The Alaw Môn Solar Farm has no economic benefits for the Island. He noted that the Council responded in November 2019 to the consultation on Welsh Government's National Development Framework and he read out a paragraph from the correspondence which stated that *'the Council has reviewed the background document supporting the priority areas for wind and solar, information in relation to the criteria, the justification and selection of the majority of the land as a priority area for wind and solar energy is unclear. This is not acceptable and is of a significant concern. The Council objects to this designation.'* He noted that this development is policy driven and a strong response was made by the Council

The Chief Executive further said that specialist Legal Advice has been sought, and consideration will need to be given to that legal advice received. Legal and Financial Officers will need to consider whether it is prudent to seek judicial review within the timeframe and whether it is the appropriate use of the Council's financial resources. Thereafter, consultation will be undertaken with the Leader of the Council and the relevant Portfolio Members and to a formal decision by the Executive Committee.

The Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer said that there are statutory General Powers of Confidence where such a development will have an immense impact on a community. The Council could contribute towards a third-party organisation to progress and seek a judicial review. She noted that an amendment would be required for the Council to approve a financial contribution to a third-party body, and an amendment would be required to the Motion. Consideration would also need to be given to the total amount of financial contribution the Council will afford and that the decisions be made in principle only, and to give statutory power to the Chief Executive and the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer to discuss the amount of contribution the Council would afford if it was decided that the Authority would not proceed with a Judicial

Review. She noted that the deadline for initiating the proceedings is 6th October, 2025.

At this juncture the meeting had a recess to discuss the amendments required to the Motion with the Leaders of the Political Groups and Chief Officers.

Following the recess the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gary Pritchard read out the second amendment to the Motion as follows:-

- *The Council expresses its disappointment and frustration in the Welsh Government's decision to permit the Alaw Môn Solar Farm development contrary to its policies on the use of best and most versatile agricultural land;*
- *The proposed development has caused a great deal of concern in our communities as well as creating real concerns regarding future food security;*
- *The Council is asked to investigate every possible option, including seeking a Judicial Review, to challenge this decision as well as seeking to work alongside other Community Groups who are working towards a similar goal;*
- *If the Council decision is not to proceed with a Judicial Review, the Council, in principle, will consider affording financial contribution to the Tir Môn Group, subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Office and the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer.*

Councillor Aled M Jones seconded the amendment to the Motion as noted above.

Councillor Pip O'Neill said that reverting to green renewable energy is essential to protect climate change for future generations. However, he considered that the Alaw Môn Solar Farm has not been implemented correctly whilst he supported solar farm developments.

Councillor Sonia Williams said that the Area of Outstanding Beauty must be considered and attracting tourist to the Island is essential.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged the comments as regards to the need for green energy and the impact of climate change. He said that the Council is not opposing solar energy. The opposition to this development at Alaw Môn is due to its scale and there are alternative to installing solar panels on brownfield site and roofs of buildings. The proposed site will take over acres of fertile agricultural land at a time where there are concerns due to food security. Councillor Pritchard expressed strongly that the Authority is not opposing renewable energy nor refusing to acknowledge the climate change challenges.

Councillor Aled M Jones said that there are challenges the Country is facing due to food and energy security. He said that the island is unable to loss valuable agricultural land, and it is a fallacy that farming and grazing of sheep can be undertaken under the solar panel frames. He expressed that he is not against solar panels, but they need to be erected within an appropriate location. Councillor Aled M Jones referred to the Borthwen Solar Scheme which experience severe damage during Storm Dara and the company is continuing to address the damage caused

on the site. The damage due to storms on such the size of the Alaw Môn Solar Farm could be life threatening.

In accordance with paragraph 4.1.18.4 of the Constitution the required number of members requested that a recorded vote be taken on the recommendation as noted above.

The recorded vote was as follows:-

To support the amendment to the Notice of Motion :-

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Non Dafydd, Jeff Evans, Neville Evans, Douglas M Fowle, Kenneth P Hughes, Trefor LI Hughes MBE, Aled M Jones, Carwyn Jones, Dyfed W Jones, Gwilym O Jones, John Ifan Jones, Jackie Lewis, Derek Owen, Gary Pritchard, Dylan Rees, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret M Roberts, Nicola Roberts, Ken Taylor, Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Ieuan Williams, Robin Williams, Sonia Williams, Liz Wood.

TOTAL 26

Against the amendment :-

Councillor Robert LI Jones,

TOTAL 1

Abstained : Councillors Glyn Haynes, Pip O'Neill, Keith Roberts

TOTAL 3

Following a Recorded Vote:

It was RESOLVED that :-

- **The Council expresses its disappointment and frustration in the Welsh Government's decision to permit the Alaw Môn Solar Farm development contrary to its policies on the use of best and most versatile agricultural land;**
- **The proposed development has caused a great deal of concern in our communities as well as creating real concerns regarding future food security;**
- **The Council is asked to investigate every possible option, including seeking a Judicial Review, to challenge this decision as well as seeking to work alongside other Community Groups who are working towards a similar goal;**
- **If the Council decision is not to proceed with a Judicial Review, the Council, in principle, will consider affording financial contribution to the Tir Môn Group, subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Office and the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer.**

6. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2024/25

The report of the Director of Function (Resource)/Section 151 Officer as presented to the Executive on 17 July, 2025 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Annual Treasury Management Review for 2024/2025.

7. SELF-ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer as presented to the Executive on 23 September, 2025 was presented for the Council's acceptance.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to :-

- **approve the constitutional changes required to reflect the merging of the Annual Self-Assessment Report and the Annual Performance (Wellbeing) Report into a single integrated document called the Annual Self-Assessment and Performance (Wellbeing) Report;**
- **approve the changes to the Constitution to reflect that the merged report referred to above shall be a function of the Executive;**
- **authorize the Monitoring Officer to make the constitutional changes required to implement the above.**

8. ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2024/25

The Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Services was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Director of Social Services gave a brief video presentation to the Council and said that the Annual Report is a statutory report which highlights the successes within the Social Services Department. He said that there are financial challenges, across Wales and the United Kingdom. He referred to the challenges in finding placement for looked after children which has resulted in the Children's & Families Services overspending but plans are in place to address the overspend with the Cartrefi Clyd initiative and the foster carers package to try and keep the looked after children on the Island. The Adults' Services are underspending at present due to the plans put into that service. He further referred to the incentive as regard to Authority and the staff becoming Trauma Informed. Work continues as regard to the Age Friendly Island and the Older People's Commissioner Wales visited the Island for a week visiting several activities afforded together with the third-sector activities. The Director of Social Services referred to the work of modernising the learning disabilities services across the Island and supporting individuals with learning disabilities to live independently. He further referred that the transition of staff leaving the authority has reduced significantly, and staff are trained to a high standard where they can improve their prospects to apply for higher roles within the service. Several students from Bangor and Wrexham Universities have taken the opportunity to train to become Social Workers and other roles within the service. Work has also been undertaken with Coleg Llandrillo Menai highlighting the roles available for young people in Social Services roles within the Council. The Social Services Scrutiny Panel continue to meet on a regular basis together with the

Corporate Parenting Panel. Work is undertaken with the Care Inspectors Wales and meeting are undertaken on a regular basis.

The Director of Social Services wished to thank the staff of the Children's and Adults' Services for their work.

Councillor Ieuan Williams raised that there has been recently reported in the press that a child that was placed in care and who needed to be placed in 'out of country' costed a local authority £1m. He considered that local authorities in Wales should collaborate through the WLGA and Welsh Government to afford quality care for individuals in their local communities.

The Portfolio Member for Children's and Families responded that work is continued with other local authorities but agreed that affording quality care in their communities is paramount.

The Leader of the Council said that Caretrefi Clyd on Anglesey is an innovated service for caring for young people and allowing them to stay within their Welsh local communities and that costs of caring for young people in care are not paid to private companies across the border.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Services 2024/2025.

9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

The report of the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer was presented for the Council's acceptance.

The Annual Report of the Standards Committee was presented by Mr Trefor Owen, Chair of the Standards Committee.

Mr Owen said that the Standards Committee is required by legislation to report annually to the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Mr Owen detailed that the report outlines the duties of the Standards Committee, and he highlighted the work undertaken with the County Council Members, Group Leaders and the Town and Community Councils in discharging its duties. Mr Owen further said that the report outlines the work the Committee has undertaken in accordance with its responsibilities in 2024/2025 and the Committee's Work Programme for 2025/2026 was submitted for the Council's approval.

It was unanimously RESOLVED:-

- **To approve the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2024/2025;**
- **To approve the Standards Committee's Work Programme for 2025/2026, whilst accepting that some additional matters may be included, in accordance with demand.**

10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE 2024/25 – CHAIR’S REPORT

The report of the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee as presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 27 June, 2024 was presented for the Council’s acceptance.

Mr Dilwyn Evans, Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee said that the report meets the requirements of the Committee’s Terms of Reference that it report annually to the Full Council on its findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council’s governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, complaints handling and internal and external audit functions. The Committee’s activities within 2024/2025 are detailed within the report. He further said that he wished to sympathise with the family of the late Mrs Sharon Warnes, a member of the Governance and Audit Committee who passed away at the beginning of the summer. He wished to thank the Members of the Governance and Audit Committee for their work and the Democracy staff that supports the Committee.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Annual Report of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2024/2025.

11. NORTH WALES REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Submitted a report by Head of Highways, Waste and Property on the North Wales Regional Transport Plan.

The Leader of the Council reported that the North Wales Regional Transport Plan aligns with the Welsh Government’s Llwybr Newydd : the Wales Transport Strategy 2021 (STC), a document that provides the strategic direction, vision and priorities for transport in Wales. The North Wales Joint Corporate Committee (CJC) was established on 1 April, 2021 which has a statutory duty to prepare a Regional Transport Plan. The CJC has established its Transport and Strategic Planning Sub-Committee to carry out its statutory functions and therefore leads and governs the North Wales Regional Transport Plan and has prepared a Regional Transport Plan in accordance with Welsh Government guidance. He noted that the report has been submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for discussion.

He further said that the resilience of both bridges across the Menai Straits and public transport challenges faced by rural areas as been highlighted in the report. However, there are challenges to ensure that this Authority can attract grants when a function is a regional entity.

Councillor Kenneth P Hughes said that the CJC’s have been forced upon local authorities by Welsh Government. He noted that the CJC has a statutory duty to prepare a Strategic Development Plan and a Regional Transport Plan. These plans are key in ensuring that the transport infrastructure is adequate to address the needs of the local communities and the environment of the region. Councillor Hughes said that the CJC has not considered the bus routes within rural areas with recent reduction in bus services.

Following the vote of 25 in favour, 6 against and 0 abstentions.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the North Wales Regional Transport Plan July 2025.

**COUNCILLOR NON DAFYDD
CHAIR**