

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 14 July 2026

- PRESENT:** Councillor Sonia Williams (Chair) (for items 1 to 4 and item 6)
Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair) (in the Chair for item 5)
- Councillors Non Dafydd, Douglas M Fowlie, Euryr Morris, Pip O'Neill, Dylan Rees, Margaret Murley Roberts and Liz Wood
- Councillor Gary Pritchard (Leader & Portfolio Member for Economic Development) (for item 5)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Social Services (for item 5),
Head of Regulation and Economic Development (for item 4),
Head of Democratic Services,
Scrutiny Officer (EA),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Support Assistant Democratic Services (Webcasting) (CH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors John Ifan Jones and Derek Owen.
- Chief Executive
- ALSO PRESENT:** **Portfolio Members**
- Councillor Neville Evans – Portfolio Member for Adults' Services,
Councillor Carwyn Jones – Portfolio Member for Housing and Community Safety,
Councillor Dyfed W Jones – Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families Services),
Councillor Alun Roberts – Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism, Maritime and Property,
Councillor Dafydd Roberts – Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language,
Councillor Ieuan Williams – Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste & Climate Change.
- Sian Williams – Head of Northwest Wales Operations – Natural Resources Wales (for item 4);
Lyndsey Campbell Williams – Medrwn Môn (for item 5);
Rita Stewart – MônCF (for item 5);
Danielle Owen – Citizens Advice Ynys Môn (for item 5).

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Sonia Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 – Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan as she is a Member of the Tackling Poverty Board. Councillor Williams left the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Dylan Rees declared a personal interest in Item 4 – Scrutiny of Strategic Partnership – Natural Resources Wales as he is a Member of the Red Squirrel Wales Trust.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 June, 2026 were confirmed as correct.

ARISING THEREON

Update on the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Anglesey 2022/2026

The following correspondence were attached within the Agenda of the Committee for information:-

- Correspondence sent by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to Mr Adam Price MS;
- Response received by Mr Adam Price MS;
- Correspondence sent by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to Mr Steve Reed MP;
- Response received on behalf of Mr Steve Reed MP.

The Vice-Chair said that a statement has been made that UK grant funding is considering awarding the grants to be administered by local authorities rather than Welsh Government. He ascertained whether the funding will be awarded to the established bodies i.e. CJC's. The Deputy Chief Executive responded that he was unable to confirm as to how the funding will be awarded a present.

The Leader of the Council said that the LGF funding will be awarded to local authorities in the first year. He referred to the correspondence received by UK Government that they consider that the SPF and LGF grant funding are two different means of funding. He further said that the previous government in the Senedd had said that the second and third year of the funding was to be awarded to the regional CJC's. The North Wales CJC has written to the Cabinet Minister for Enterprise, Connectivity and Energy, Mr Adam Price MS to ascertain whether the funding is to be awarded to the regional bodies or to the Local Authorities. He noted that a response is awaited from the Cabinet Minister.

4 SCRUTINY OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

The Chair welcomed Sian Williams – Head of Northwest Wales Operations – Natural Resources Wales to the meeting.

The Head of Northwest Wales Operations gave a verbal presentation to the meeting and highlighted the ambition of Natural Resources Wales through their Corporate Plan, which is to support nature recovery, building resilience to climate change in communities and reducing pollution and preventing harm to the environment. She highlighted the role and responsibilities of NRW as a regulatory body who advice and regulates the approach to the sustainable management of natural resources and deliver well-being outcomes. NRW is a regulator on the water industry. Details of the strategic projects on Anglesey were reported to the Committee and specifically the Wylfa development - Gwyndod, Freeport, Newborough Forest and Llanddwyn. Further details were highlighted as to how NRW response to the risks of Climate Change due to heat waves and droughts, farming and food

production, flood risks and erosion, construction and maintenance of defences. She further highlighted the work undertaken with local communities and the Local Authority as regards to traffic issues through the village of Newborough and discussions are continuing as regards to the parking issues for visitors to Llanddwyn. She further referred to the need to close Newborough Forest over the weekend due to potential fire risks.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Questions were raised as to the plans in place as regards to potential risks of wildfires especially in Newborough Forest and Llanddwyn and whether these plans have been shared with the Local Authority and other partner organisations. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that emergency plans are in place, and daily discussions are undertaken, especially during the heatwave, as to the potential risks of wildfires and as is the case in Sychnant Pass. Evacuation maps are shared with the Emergency Services and the Local Authority if there is a need to evacuate people from sites.
- Questions were raised as to the regulatory powers NRW has over Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and especially sewage incidents. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that Ofwat is the statutory regulator and have recently proposed a £44.7m enforcement package following its findings that Welsh Water has breached its legal obligations in operating its wastewater treatment works and network. NRW has enforced Welsh Water to put monitoring systems in place over the last few years. She noted that if there are areas that have an effect on the environment, NRW can use enforcement powers to ensure that they comply with statutory regulations.
- Questions were raised whether consideration has been given to parking facilities on the Malltraeth side to relieve pressure on the highway network towards Llanddwyn Beach and Newborough Forest. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that a suggestion for parking facilities on the Malltraeth side has been mentioned during 'drop-in' sessions in the community of Newborough. She noted that each option has its advantages/disadvantages and there are risks especially on the Malltraeth area as it is a much quieter area and is sanctuary for wildlife and birds; the implications and the effects of creating a road through the area would need to be considered. Different options have been considered as regards to alleviating the traffic issues with potential park and ride facilities away from the area which could be more sustainable in the future.
- Questions were raised as to whom has had an input to the Fire Emergency Plan for Llanddwyn and Newborough Forest. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that as the landowner NRW is responsible for the Emergency Plan. As regard to Community and Visitor Safety, the Local Authority would be responsible to ensure that people have a safe place to be relocated if the area needed to be evacuated. The Head of Regulation and Economic Development said that there would be a role for the Local Authority and other Emergency Agencies to have an input into the Emergency Plan. He noted that due to the heatwave and high winds the Plan needs to be reviewed to address any potential fire risks as has been seen in the Conwy area in the last few days. He further said that the Council is aware of the contents of the Emergency Plan but there is scope to review its contents. Questions were further raised whether the threat levels of potential fires at the site is monitored and whether the Fire & Rescue Services has an input. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that continued monitoring of any potential fire threat is undertaken, and multi-agency meeting can be arranged.
- Reference was made to a petition to be presented to the Senedd for the vaccination of Red Squirrels due to squirrel pox. Questions were raised as to whether NRW are supportive of the petition for the vaccination of Red Squirrels against the squirrel pox. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that discussions have been undertaken with the Senedd. She noted that discussions have been undertaken also with the England and Scottish Natural Heritage regarding research into vaccination of Red

Squirrells and the intention is to review the benefit of vaccination and how a programme of vaccination would work. It is considered that an UK level programme would be more beneficial than only in Wales.

- Reference was made to the employment structure of Natural Resources Wales with 2,278 employees. Questions were raised as to whether this is a high level of employees working for NRW. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded outlined the management and employment structure of Natural Resources Wales. She noted that as there are a wide-ranging requirements and work undertaken by NRW it is necessary to have a strong employment structure in place. She further said that that around 200 staff work within the Northwest. Further questions were raised whether the staffing structure for the Northwest is sufficient to carry out the work. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that the staff structure in the Northwest is challenging but they must undertake their statutory requirements.
- Questions were raised as to how NRW respond to planning development with regards to potential flooding due to water levels rising. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that NRW is a statutory consultee within the planning process. She noted that if a planning application is submitted for a major development, NRW would request the applicant to submit a Flood Consequence Assessment. This would gauge the potential flooding risk for the surrounding area and NRW can object to the development if they consider that the application would be a risk. She further said that NRW is a statutory consultee within the Local Development Plan process when new developments are considered with regards to the capacity of sewage network and sewage treatment. She said that discussions are undertaken with the Planning Authority to consider the flood risk and any changes required to the application. Further questions were raised as to the potential flooding risk with rivers due to nearby developments. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that smaller rivers are the responsibility of the Local Authority with the larger rivers the responsibility of NRW. She noted that NRW produce the Flood Risk Maps and they are shared with the Local Authority. Additional questions were raised as to the clearing of rubbish from rivers and whether NRW undertake regular check to clear the rivers. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that additional check are undertaken in the winter months rather than in the summer months as there is increased vegetation which makes it difficult to be able to enter the rivers. She noted that the public can report any potential flooding risk through an on-line complaints system and by telephone.
- Questions were raised as to whom is responsible for the reservoirs which supply drinking water. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water is responsible for drinking water and Ofwat is the Drinking Water Inspectorate. She noted that the public safety of reservoirs is the responsibility of NRW to make sure that the dams are safe.
- Questions were raised as to whether NRW is scrutinized and whether the public has an opportunity to scrutinize the work of NRW. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that NRW has a monthly public Board meetings and scrutiny is also undertaken by the Senedd Members.
- Questions were raised as to the role of NRW in respect of the two bridges across the Menai Straits. The Head of Northwest Wales Operations responded that as the Menai Straits is protected through European Legislation, NRW has an advisory role with regards to the environment and the landscape. She noted that discussion have undertaken within the Public Services Board as regards to the potential of the third bridge across the Menai Straits. She further said that the opinion of young people from Coleg Llandrillo/Menai have been sought as to what they consider the solutions in crossing the Menai Straits in the future.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Head of Northwest Wales Operations for attending the meeting. He wished to thank the Committee for raising the issue of an Emergency Plan

and especially in light of the wildfires on the Sychnant Pass in the last few days. He noted that it is important to have an Emergency Plan in place especially for Newborough Forest which has the highest risk of potential wildfires.

It was RESOLVED to accept the presentation by Natural Resources Wales.

ACTION POINTS

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

5 TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Vice-Chair was in the Chair as the Chair had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item.

Submitted – a report by the Director of Social Services for consideration by the Committee.

The Leader of the Council said that the report is an update on the progress of Tackling Poverty across Anglesey. He noted that 3 partner representatives from Medrwn Môn, MônCF and Citizens Advice Ynys Môn are in attendance at this meeting as they are part of the Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan. He expressed the frustration of the Council and the partner organisations that receiving grants on a yearly basis put pressure to create a Strategy that will help to alleviate poverty. He said that he is a Board Member of both Medrwn Môn and MônCF and has seen the difference the SPF funding has made to the third sector organisations.

The Director of Social Services reported that the representatives from the 3 partner organisations deal with the challenges of tackling poverty daily and getting people back into employment especially, when they live in rural areas, with limited public transport. The impact of short-term grants is challenging and is a barrier to planning strategically beyond twelve months. He noted that a Tackling Poverty Group has been established which acts as a strategic forum to bring together Council services and key partners to co-ordinate action and share information.

Lyndsey Campell-Williams, Medrwn Môn said that there has been an increase in families facing poverty due to increases in rents, food, utility bills and fuel. She noted that volunteering groups are finding it difficult in having people to attend sessions due to the increase costs of attending these activities. She further said that Medrwn Môn has been collaborating with MônActif in affording gym membership for young people, but some are only able to attend a few sessions as they are finding it difficult to attend the sessions due to increase costs of fuel or family members and carers unable to bring them to these sessions. She expressed that it is impossible to plan long-term projects due to uncertainties of receiving yearly grants.

Rita Stewart, MônCF said that there has been an increase in people in-work poverty due to the cost-of-living crisis with the increase in food, utility bills, rents and fuel. The SPF funding has come to an end, and all the inward support has finished which has resulted in 350 people not receiving support through this funding. With the new LGF funding it is

hoped that support for these people can be retained. She noted that as a third sector organisation MônCF is facing additional challenges in receiving funding as core funding is not available. All the grant funding bids must be undertaken by the Team at MônCF. At present MônCF is depended on small Charitable Funds for funding. Ms Stewart further said that investing in their staff is a priority but due to the uncertainty of funding, staff are applying for more secure employment. Following the SPF funding coming to an end, 7 members of staff who were skilled individuals were made redundant. She expressed strongly that grant funding should be made for a longer term as it puts pressure and uncertainties in applying for grants on a yearly basis.

Danielle Owen, Citizens Advice Ynys Môn said that more people with complex needs are in poverty due to the cost-of-living crisis. She noted that people in part-time employment, full employment and self-employed are struggling to meet to demands of the increase in food, rents, energy bills and fuel. She said that long term funding would be beneficial to support people in the communities. The Local Authority supports CAB with core funding and affording debt support would not be available without this funding. There is insecurity for staff when funding is received on a yearly basis.

The Leader of the Council said that the SPF grant funding enabled access to training and affording individuals back into employment. He noted that whilst this Committee has written to the UK Government as regards to the changes to grant funding, they seem to be creating problems in not realising that the changes in the funding formula restricts revenue capacity risks which weakens the delivery structures that have proven successful in recent years. He further said that the Leaders of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales through the WLGA has written to the Government that they should not change the funding formula. The grant funding was received by the Local Authorities and was shared with the third sector organisations to make the best use of the funding for the benefit of people in poverty.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Reference was made that MônCF came to this Committee two years ago and said that more elderly people were seeking help to go back into work. Questions were raised whether this situation has changed. Rita Stewart, MônCF responded that people over 65 are seeking help to go back to work as they are unable to live on their State Pension. Further comments were made by the Committee that some people on State Pension are struggling and are not seeking support during the cost-of-living crisis with high food and utilities prices. Lyndsey Campbell-Williams, Medrwn Môn responded that the elderly who are struggling are sometime more reluctant to seek help and support. She noted that community engagement is important for people to be identified in need of support.
- Reference was made that it would be advantageous to have an Impact Assessment Report from the third sector organisations to address the effect on the changes in the funding formula with the LGF funding and it would be evidence to both Welsh Government and UK Government the impact it will have with 70% revenue and 30% revenue. It was recommended that following receipt of the Impact Assessment Reports that further correspondence be sent to both governments to stress that the funding should be the same as the previous SPF funding model. The Leader responded that the impact of the change in the funding formula can be foreseen and it would be advantageous to write to both governments to express that the UK Government should reconsider their approach due to the significant implications it will have for revenue funded posts on the Island.
- Questions were raised as to the joint working with the Local Authority and the partnership with Medrwn Môn, MônCF and CAB. The Director of Social Services

responded that daily contact occurs with the three organisations between the services of the Local Authority. He noted that the use of a Dashboard has strengthened the issue of poverty and reduces duplication of services offered by the Council and the third sector organisations. Further questions were raised whether the third sector organisations consider that the Council could work better with the organisations. The third sector organisations all agreed that there is a good working relationship between the Council and the third sector over the last few years. UK Government has identified the good practice between the Council and the third sector as regards to the Place Shaping Programme and the work with Community Alliances. However, comments were made that the funding received through the Authority could be distributed more promptly with the third sector. The Leader said that due to the receipt of grant yearly the process of applying for grant can take time. He said that as Portfolio Member for Economic Development he would take the comments made as an action point for the distribution of grant more promptly to the third sector.

- Questions were raised whether there is sufficient funding for Foodbanks on Anglesey and whether they are able to support people during the cost-of-living crisis. In response all the 3 third sector organisations agreed that sustainable funding is also an issue to sustain Foodbanks.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **to accept the Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan for 2025/2026;**
- **to note the comments on the Tackling Poverty work priorities for 2026/2027**
- **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.**

ACTION POINT

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.

6 COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - 2026/2027

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2026/2027;**
- **To note the progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.**

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm

**COUNCILLOR SONIA WILLIAMS
CHAIR FOR ITEMS 1 TO 4 AND ITEM 6**

COUNCILLOR GWILYM O JONES

VICE-CHAR IN THE CHAIR FOR ITEM 5