
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL 21/1/10

Present: Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones (Chair)
Councillor W Tudor Owen (Vice-chair)

Councillors: Bob Anderson, Stephen Churchman, Anwen Davies, Dyfed Edwards, Dylan Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trefor Edwards, T. G. Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwennllian, Dafydd Ll. Hughes, Huw Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sylvia Humphreys, O. P. Huws, Aeron M. Jones, Charles Wyn Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Evie Morgan Jones, John Gwilym Jones, J. R. Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, R. L. Jones, W. Penri Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, P. G. Larsen, Dewi Lewis, Dilwyn Lloyd, Keith Marshall, J. Wynn Meredith, Llinos Merks, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, W. Roy Owen, Arwel Pierce, Peter Read, Caerwyn Roberts, Glyn Roberts, Ieuan Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Trevor Roberts, W Gareth Roberts, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, Gwilym Williams, J. W. Williams, Owain Williams, R. H. Wyn Williams and Robert J. Wright.

Also present: Harry Thomas (Chief Executive), Dilwyn Williams, Iwan Trefor Jones and Dafydd Lewis (Corporate Directors), Dilys Phillips (Monitoring Officer / Head of Democracy and Legal Department), W. E. Jones (Senior Finance Manager), Iwan Evans (Legal Services Manager), Gwyn Morris Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal Department), Peter Evans (Senior Projects Manager), Stephen Jones (Senior Waste Manager), Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department), Dewi Jones (Head of Education Department), Amlyn ab Iorwerth (Licensing Manager) and Eleri Parry (Senior Committee Officer).

Others Present: Anthony Barrett and Amanda Hughes (Wales Audit Office)

Apologies: Councillors E. T. Dogan, Alun Wyn Evans, Simon Glyn, Keith Greenly-Jones, Margaret Griffith, Christopher Hughes, Brian Jones, Dai Rees Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Dewi Llewelyn, June Marshall, Dafydd Roberts, Gwilym Euros Roberts, Siôn Roberts, Guto Rhys Thomas and Gethin Glyn Williams.

1 PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor Dyfed Edwards.

2 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

- (i) Councillors Bob Anderson, Dylan Edwards, John Gwilym Jones and Dyfrig Siencyn declared a personal interest in the item Council Tax: Discretionary Powers to Allow Discounts, because they owned empty properties.
- (ii) Councillor Eric Merfyn Jones declared an interest in the notice of motion regarding the Royal Welsh Show as he was an elected member of the County's Consultative Committee.

The members were of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussions on those items.

3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) Condolences were expressed to the following:-
 - (i) The family of Professor Hywel Teifi Edwards who was a prominent national figure in a number of fields in Wales.

- (ii) The family of Dafydd Whittall, who had been the Director of Education and Culture, and subsequently a Strategic Director in Gwynedd Council. He was the President of the Court of the National Eisteddfod and was very active with a vast number of public bodies in the field of the Welsh language and culture.

Councillor W. Penri Jones, the former Education Portfolio Leader of Gwynedd Council paid tribute to Dafydd Whittall.

- (iii) The residents of Haiti following the horrendous earthquake there recently, and any member who wished to contribute towards the Appeal was invited to send a contribution to Siân Ellis Williams, Civic Officer, or to the Chair by the end of the month.

Also, condolences were expressed to everyone else who had lost loved ones recently and the Council stood in silence as a mark of respect and sympathy.

- (b) All Council staff were congratulated for their special efforts to ensure the continuation of services during the recent period of inclement weather.

- (c) The following were congratulated:-

- (i) Councillor Gethin Williams and his wife on the birth of a son.
- (ii) Councillor Caerwyn Roberts on receiving the OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List.
- (iii) Reference was made to promoting informal socialising among Council staff. It was noted that the Gwynedd Council Ten-Pin Bowling competition had been held for the first time at the end of November 2009. The evening had been a huge success with over 100 members of staff taking part and the "Hogia' Groeslon" team were the winners.

- (iv) Also, a number of activities had been held to raise money towards Children in Need during November 2009 and Council staff were congratulated on raising £2,193.00.

- (ch) Reference was made to a service that was being held as part of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the service in Neuadd y Penrhyn, Bangor at 10.30am, Wednesday 27 January 2010, in order to join thousands of people worldwide to remember the past and set foundations for a safe and fair world in the future.

Apology

Councillor Louise Hughes apologised to the Council because she had voted in error on an amendment relating to the Reorganisation of Primary Education in the Tywyn Catchment Area at the last meeting of the Council, after she had declared an interest in the matter.

8 WASTE STRATEGY

- (i) Submitted – the report of Dilwyn Williams, Corporate Director, on the Council's Waste Strategy 2010-2025, for adoption by the Council.
- (ii) A PowerPoint presentation was received from the Head of Highways and Municipal Department explaining the content of the strategy.

It was explained that the aim of the strategy was to reduce the waste produced and to substantially reduce the dependency on land filling, by increasing the waste recycling and composting levels.

It was noted that the Assembly's new strategy was the main driver of the Strategy, namely:-

- a long-term aim to make Wales a zero-waste nation by 2050
- a mid-term aim of achieving a 'high recycling' society by 2025
- set a target of 70% of waste being recycled / composted by 2025
- limit the amount of municipal waste that can be land filled annually to 10% in 2020 and 5% in 2025
- emphasis on separation and treatment of food waste, namely
 - 12% of food waste must be composted by 2012/13
 - 14% of food waste must be composted by 2015/16
 - 16% of food waste must be composted by 2024/25
- emphasis on developing Anaerobic Digestion (AD) technology for the treatment of food waste
- set a 30% maximum level of waste that can be treated by means of Energy from Waste by 2024/25
- set a maximum annual limit of 150kg waste per household inhabitant by 2024/25.

He expanded upon the Assembly's challenging new targets per "milestone year" until 2024/25. He explained that the Assembly was considering making the recycling and composting targets (including food targets) statutory targets, with possible fines, unless authorities met the targets. Also, he referred to the landfill allowance per year until 2024/25 and fines to authorities unless they kept within the allowance.

He referred to the waste strategy and action plan for 2005-09 and he elaborated upon the developments to date. He explained that the Council's performance against the targets set by the Assembly had been successful. The Council had met its recycling and composting target and had kept within the landfill allowance and it had not received any financial penalty.

He expanded upon the likely targets that would be set by the Assembly for 2010-2025. It was noted that there were ambitious targets (up to 70%) for recycling and composting and that there would be a need to increase food waste collections from 2012/13 onwards. He explained that the landfill allowance was reducing substantially in 2012/13. Only 10% of all waste would be able to be sent to landfill by 2020 and the figure would reduce to 5% by 2025. Also, it was noted that there would be a restriction on the amount of waste being burnt in order to create energy from 2015/16 onwards and that it would reduce to 30% by 2024/25.

The Head of Department explained that the 2010/11-2014/25 Action Plan was in place in order to achieve the Strategy and he expanded upon the content of the Plan for the forthcoming period, namely:-

- Rationalise Collection Routes in the Arfon Area – January 2010
- Review of Commercial Waste 2009/10 to 2010/11
- Provide Additional Recycling Centres 2010/11
- Establish a Material Recovery Facility in south Gwynedd 2010/11
- Modify the Caergyllu Material Recovery Facility 2010-2012
- Extend the Recycling Collections (blue boxes) to include other materials 2010-2012
- Reduce the residual waste container from 2010 onwards
- Other measures to increase Recycling and Composting (2012-2017)
- Treat food waste from 2012/13 onwards (GwyrIAD Project)
- Treat residual waste (North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Project 2016/17 onwards)

It was explained that establishing a provision in order to treat food waste (GwyrIAD project) and establishing joint arrangements across north Wales in order to treat residual waste (North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Project) would be the most expensive aspects for

the Council. He noted that both projects would be provided by private providers, and despite the fact that the Assembly was offering financial assistance towards establishing the facilities he explained that a substantial investment would be needed on the Council's part. He explained that not establishing the facilities would result in much higher costs to the Council.

He referred to the main risks associated with the strategy, measures in order to alleviate those risks and the implications of failing to achieve the strategy.

The Head of Department emphasised that doing nothing, namely to continue with the dependency on landfill, would result in much higher financial implications than those incurred when realising the strategy. It was noted that there would be a substantial cost to the Council from implementing the strategy and details were provided of those likely costs; however, that was compared to the cost of doing nothing which was much higher over the same period of time.

The Environment Scrutiny Committee had approved the Strategy.

The Head of Department was thanked for his comprehensive presentation.

- (iii) Members were given an opportunity to make observations and ask questions.

The Head of Department expanded upon aspects of the strategy in response to members' enquiries and concerns.

There was strong support to the Strategy and Action Plan. Also, there was agreement that problems would certainly arise when implementing the strategy, but the problems could be solved by collaborating and discussing together.

A member referred to the substantial investment associated with the GwyrIAD project and the North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Project. The member noted that there was potential here to create employment and that it was important to ensure that the providers employed local people. Also, the member noted that there was a need to ensure that appropriate training was available in order to ensure that the necessary skills were available locally.

Another member noted that changing culture, raising awareness and educating was all important to the success of the Strategy and residents of the county were thanked for their positive response to the strategy thus far. Many members noted that they were confident that residents would continue to address the strategy positively and that they hoped that it would be possible to avoid taking enforcement action on the people of Gwynedd.

The Head of Department, the staff and workforce were thanked for their praiseworthy work in the field.

RESOLVED to adopt the Waste Strategy for 2010-2025 and include a commitment to provide the resources as outlined in the report of the Corporate Director.

9 AUDITOR'S STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2006/07 ACCOUNTS

Anthony Barrett and Amanda Hughes from the Wales Audit Office were welcomed to the meeting in order to present the statutory recommendations of the Auditor on the 2006/07 Accounts, following an enquiry to the objection to the 2006/07 accounts.

It was explained that members had ignored the professional advice of officers in relation to the proposed development of Wern Manor, Porthmadog and that there was no clear evidence of the members' objection to the development on planning grounds before the decision was made in June 2006. Subsequent reports had been commissioned by

consultants to defend the decision made, rather than supporting the decision making process. If the reports of consultants would have been available when the decision had been made, it was noted that it would be possible that the inspector would have made a different decision in terms of awarding costs against the Council and that it was important to put arrangements in place in order to avoid a similar situation in the future.

As a result, the Auditor recommended that members had to ensure that sufficient evidence was available to support the basis of their decision when it would be contrary to the professional advice of officers. Also, when providing evidence, the timing of the evidence and the use made of it should drive the planning decision in the first place, and not justify the decisions retrospectively.

A member noted that decisions contrary to officers' professional advice would need to be deferred, in order to commission further information prior to coming to a final decision on the matter and that this would delay the process.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Auditor on the 2006/07 accounts.

10 MEMBERS' TRAINING STRATEGY

Submitted – the joint report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department and the Head of Human Resources Department to adopt descriptions of the role and responsibilities and the competencies and conduct for Gwynedd Council Members and Board Members.

After approving a comprehensive development and training strategy for members in May 2009, it was reported that the documents before members had been developed and that members had been a key part of the process.

It was explained that the purpose of the documents was to set the foundation or benchmark of what members themselves had agreed that an ideal member would exhibit. Despite the fact that not every member would achieve every aspect of the standard, when documenting the expectations, it had been noted that it was possible for every member to compare their achievement against the expectation, thus targeting the training programme that would ensure that a personal development plan would be tailored for every individual member.

A member objected to the documents before the Council and noted that they were patronising and unnecessary.

Other members welcomed them greatly and noted that they would be very useful for new, inexperienced members.

RESOLVED to adopt the following documents as part of the Members' Training Strategy:-

- (i) The Council's Values.**
- (ii) Role and Responsibilities of Gwynedd Council Members.**
- (iii) Role and Responsibilities of Board Members.**
- (iv) Competencies and Conduct of Gwynedd Council Members.**
- v) Competencies and Conduct of Board Members.**

11 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on undertaking minor amendments to the Council's constitution.

It was reported that the Board had adopted a series of protocols relating to the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Social Services, and that it was mandatory for the Council to adopt the new protocol as part of the Constitution to replace the existing protocol.

Also, it was noted that there was a need to close gaps in the Officers' Delegation Scheme because of new legislation etc., in order to protect officers and the Council from legal challenges.

RESOLVED to approve the amendments in relation to a Protocol on the implementation of the statutory duties of the Director of Social Services and the Officers' Delegation Scheme.

12 REVIEW OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on submitting initial observations by the Council on a review of electoral arrangements for the county of Gwynedd.

It was reported that a review of electoral arrangements for Gwynedd had commenced at the beginning of November, with a presentation by the Boundaries Commission to all Council members. Observations were invited before the Commission drew up its draft recommendations, a questionnaire was sent to all Council members and the responses received from the Leaders of the Political Groups were considered in order to draw up initial observations.

It was explained that the initial observations of the Council were based on the principles or criteria the Commission was asked to consider when drawing up its proposals. It was noted that there would be a further opportunity to consider the recommendations of the Commission.

A member expressed concern that reducing the number of members would mean that a member would be responsible for a broader area and it could lead to the need to change legislation in order to be able to undertake the work. He referred to the fact that a member was restricted to being a governor on two schools only at present and that this could restrict a member's ability to fulfil the duties of the post fully as extending the electoral ward could mean that there were a number of schools within a ward. It was noted that the Commission should be asked to address the need to change any regulations as a result of extending areas.

It was noted that the Council had resolved to propose reducing the number of members from 75 to 65 as part of the Savings Strategy, but that it would not be possible to realise the proposed savings unless the Commission continued with the work.

RESOLVED to approve the initial observations to be sent to the Boundaries Commission, along with asking the Commission to address the need to change regulations as a result of extending areas and to send observations to the appropriate bodies.

13 GAMBLING POLICY

Submitted – the report of the Head of Regulatory Department on adopting Gwynedd Council's Gambling Policy.

It was reported that it was mandatory for the Council to review its Gambling Policy every three years and that references to transitional arrangements had been removed from the policy, and new guidelines regarding small lotteries and amendments regarding the value of prizes had been included in the new policy.

It was noted that the Central Licensing Committee had approved the changes and had recommended to the full Council to adopt the amended Gambling Policy.

RESOLVED to adopt the Gambling Policy for a period of up to three years.

14 COUNCIL TAX: DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS

Submitted – the report of the Head of Finance Department in order to seek confirmation of the decisions not to allow a discount for second homes and not to allow a discount on empty properties for 2010/11 and beyond.

The policy not to allow a discount on empty properties was welcomed because it encouraged bringing empty dwellings back into use.

A member emphasised that there was a need to place emphasis on bringing empty properties back into use. The member noted that it was a matter that was relevant to all members. He referred to the fact that there was only one elected member on the Empty Houses Working Group and that there was a need to consider increasing the membership.

A member referred to the vast number of caravans in Gwynedd and he asked officers whether the caravans situation within the tax could be considered by next year.

RESOLVED that Gwynedd Council, for 2010/2011 and beyond:-

- (i) allows **NO** discount under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for the two classes of second homes (classes A and B) which are defined in the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998
- (ii) allows **NO** discount in the context of empty properties (class C, namely unoccupied and unfurnished property and which has been so for a period exceeding six months)
- (iii) confirms that this policy continues beyond 2010/11 until a relevant item is tabled on the agenda of the full Council.

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a)(i) Submitted – the following notice of motion received from Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd under Procedural Rule 13, along with a procedural motion under Procedural Rule 13 (12) asking for the proposal to be discussed at the Council, before referring it to a committee first:-

RESOLVED to discuss the proposal at this meeting.

The following proposal was proposed and seconded:-

“That this Council restricts the responsibility of the Central Planning Committee to discuss planning matters which are relevant to Gwynedd as a whole such as quarrying, mining, flood defences, the energy industry etc. leaving the Area Planning Committees to deal with planning applications relevant to their areas and accountable to the full Council.”

- (ii) The member expanded upon his proposal.
- (iii) Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on the impact of the proposal on the Council’s Constitution.
- (iv) The Senior Leader – Environment reported that the proposal to change the functions of the committee was premature, because a working group was in the process of investigating arrangements for dealing with planning applications. He explained that it was intended to consult with the area committees on the conclusions of the Working Group, prior to submitting a final report before the Council.

A number of members noted that the report was long-awaited, that the working group was slow in completing its work, and officers were asked to submit the final report of the Working Group to the Council in May.

An amendment was proposed, seconded and carried to defer a discussion relating to the role of the Central Planning Committee until May 2010, when the full Council would consider the report of the Working Group on the arrangements of dealing with planning applications.

The Chair reported that the amendment had replaced the original proposal, a vote was taken on the amended proposal and the proposal (as amended) was passed.

RESOLVED to defer a discussion relating to the role of the Central Planning Committee until May 2010, when the full Council will consider the report of the Working Group on the arrangements of dealing with planning applications.

- (b)(i) Submitted – the following notice of motion received from Councillor Owain Williams under Procedural Rule 13, along with a procedural motion under Procedural Rule 13 (12) asking for the proposal to be discussed at the Council, before referring it to a committee first:-

RESOLVED to discuss the proposal at this meeting.

The following proposal was proposed and seconded:-

“That Gwynedd Council adopts a policy of allowing the appointment of a Substitute to represent a group in a committee when the appointed member is unable to attend due to special circumstances, i.e. illness, bereavement or another matter that had not been anticipated beforehand.”

- (ii) The member expanded upon his proposal.
- (iii) Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on practical, constitutional and legal matters regarding the proposal.
- (iii) The Leader of the Council reported that he agreed with the spirit of the proposal. Nevertheless, he was concerned that appointing a substitute to take the place of a standing member for a specific meeting would not facilitate the democratic process as the substitute would not possess the background information or necessary expertise.

The Monitoring Officer emphasised that it was possible within the current rules for political groups to change their membership on committees permanently or temporarily and that this was implemented with regard to long-term sickness absence. However, should there be a wish to change membership without warning; she suggested that the matter should be referred to a committee in order to consider suitable arrangements.

An amendment was proposed, seconded and carried to refer the matter to the Principal Scrutiny Committee in order to consider possible options for implementing a suitable procedure.

The Chair reported that the amendment had replaced the original proposal, a vote was taken on the amended proposal and the proposal (as amended) was passed.

RESOLVED to support the spirit of the original proposal, namely that a substitute takes the place of a standing member who is unable to attend a committee because of special circumstances, and to refer the matter to the Principal Scrutiny Committee in order to consider possible options for implementing a suitable procedure.

- (c)(i) Submitted – the following notice of motion received from Councillor John Pughe Roberts under Procedural Rule 13, along with a procedural motion under Procedural Rule 13 (12) asking for the proposal to be discussed at the Council, before referring it to a committee first:-

RESOLVED to discuss the proposal at this meeting.

The following proposal was proposed and seconded:-

“In 2011, it will be the former County of Caernarfonshire, namely a part of Gwynedd and part of the County of Conwy that will be sponsoring the Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells. Efforts are underway across the county to raise money to promote the show and make it a successful and memorable festival.

In view of this, parents and teachers, along with others working in our schools have highlighted the difficulty facing them because of the school holidays in Gwynedd and Conwy.

The show will be held from Monday until Thursday, that is from the 19 - 22 July. Unfortunately, as arrangements currently stand, the schools do not close until 21 July 2011 and this could have a substantial detrimental effect on Gwynedd residents along with attendance at the showground. In the face of common sense and for everyone’s benefit, I propose that Gwynedd schools, like other schools in mid and south Wales, close on the Friday, 16 July 2011.”

The member expanded upon his proposal.

- (ii) Submitted – the report of the Head of Education Department outlining the procedure that had been followed, along with the consultations undertaken across the six north Wales authorities, the schools and unions, when setting the holiday dates 2010-2016, along with the implications of changing the holiday dates.

The Head of Department expanded upon the arrangements and implications.

He emphasised that there was an established procedure of joint consultation in place, and in order to avoid undermining that procedure, he suggested that he submitted the observations of the Council to the North Wales Inter-Authority Task Group, the union and school head teachers’ forum, in order to seek their views regarding changing the holiday dates.

Nevertheless, he explained that it would be problematic to identify three school days to replace them. He suggested that a local solution could be sought, by means of a combination of reclaiming days through twilight in-service training sessions and using parents’ rights to request additional days under alternative arrangements. In addition, it was suggested that schools could arrange trips to the Show, thus providing an opportunity for more pupils to attend the show and benefit from the experience.

A member noted that it would be advantageous to seek to create a national pattern through the Assembly Government. In addition, it was suggested that the Chief Executive of the show should send the details of dates and sponsors in good time to all Welsh authorities, in order to facilitate arrangements.

With the agreement of the proposer and seconder of the original proposal, an amendment was agreed upon to ask Gwynedd education officers to hold the necessary discussions, in order to act on the Council’s wish to enable the county’s parents and children to attend the Royal Welsh Show in 2011. Also, that education officers contacted the Assembly’s Minister for Education, and proposed a general all Wales school holidays arrangement that would consider events of national importance.

A vote was taken on the proposal, as amended, and it was passed.

RESOLVED

- (1) **That the Council respects the steps taken by education officers and the North Wales Inter-Authority Task Group to co-ordinate holiday dates for the period**

2010-2016 in the region, and asks Gwynedd education officers to hold the necessary discussions in order to act on the wish of this Council to enable the county's parents and children to attend the Royal Welsh Show in 2011;

(II) That education officers, by means of the Association of Directors of Education in Wales contacts the Minister for Education, Welsh Assembly Government, and proposes a general all Wales school holiday arrangement that will consider events of national importance.

(III) To ask the Head of Education Department to act on resolutions (i) and (ii) above.

(ch)(i) Submitted – the following notice of motion received from Councillor Louise Hughes under Procedural Rule 13, along with a procedural motion under Procedural Rule 13 (12) asking for the proposal to be discussed at the Council, before referring it to a committee first:-

RESOLVED to discuss the proposal at this meeting.

The following proposal was proposed and seconded:-

“I propose that the Tonfannau site near Tywyn be seriously considered as a location for the proposed new prison for North Wales.

In view of the fact that the Ferodo site near Caernarfon has now been eliminated from the process (which is disastrous news for the economy of Gwynedd), it is imperative that Gwynedd Council does not lose the initiative in vigorously pursuing this objective.”

The member expanded upon her proposal.

(ii) Submitted – the report of Dafydd Lewis, Corporate Director, on the requirements of the Ministry of Justice for the prison site, the features of the Tonfannau, Tywyn site and social, cultural and economic considerations.

A member noted that locating a prison in Tonfannau would bring advantages to the area; however, he noted that the requirements of the Ministry of Justice were very ambitious and were likely to be beyond reach.

He expressed general concern regarding the future of south Meirionnydd. He noted that there was a need to protect and promote the interests of the area, and that there was a need for a detailed study on regenerating the area. Also, he noted that there was a need to consider whether or not a prison of the size in question would be in accordance with the local requirements and whether or not it would change the character of the area forever.

Another member noted that an invitation had been extended to north Wales authorities to propose sites by the middle of February and that the Council should not delay with its decision so as not to obstruct efforts and miss the opportunity.

Iwan Trefor Jones, Corporate Director reported that correspondence had been exchanged with the Ministry of Justice and that they were aware of the Tonfannau site and its features. He explained that no response had been received thus far in relation to the Tonfannau site and that it was important that the contact and correspondence continued.

He added that it was intended to establish a working group from amongst Meirionnydd members in order to consider an employment plan for the area in order to ensure that economic plans were in place in order to meet the needs and requirements of the area.

An amendment to add to the original proposal that establishing a prison in Tonfannau, Tywyn would be scrutinised in detail by the Development Committee in the context of other methods of promoting employment levels that are suitable for Bro Dysynni was proposed, seconded and passed.

A vote was taken on the proposal, as amended, and it was passed.

RESOLVED

- (i) to adopt the proposal, namely that the Tonfannau site near Tywyn is seriously considered as a location for the proposed new prison for north Wales, and to authorise Dafydd Lewis and Iwan Trefor Jones, Corporate Directors, to act on the proposal.
- (ii) that the matter of scrutinising the establishment of a prison in Tonfannau, Tywyn be scrutinised in detail by the Development Scrutiny Committee in the context of other methods of promoting employment levels that are suitable for Bro Dysynni.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 4.15pm.

CHAIR