
THE COUNCIL 21/10/10

Present: Councillor W Tudor Owen (Chairman)
Councillor John Gwilym Jones (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: J Endaf Cooke, E T Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trefor Edwards, T G Ellis, Alun Wyn Evans, Simon Glyn, Keith Greenly-Jones, Gwen Griffith, Margaret Griffith, E Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwennllïan, Christopher Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sylvia Humphreys, O P Huws, Aeron M Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Charles Wyn Jones, Dai Rees Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Evie Morgan Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, R L Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, P.G.Larsen, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Keith Marshall, J Wynn Meredith, Llinos Merks, Dewi Owen, W Roy Owen, Arwel Pierce, Peter Read, Dafydd W Roberts, E Caerwyn Roberts, Glyn Roberts, Ieuan Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Siôn Selwyn Roberts, Trevor Roberts, W Gareth Roberts, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ioan Thomas, Guto Rhys Thomas, Ann Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gwilym Williams, J.W.Williams, Owain Williams, R H Wyn Williams and Robert J Wright.

Also present: Harry Thomas (Chief Executive), Dilwyn O. Williams, Dafydd Lewis and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Directors), Dilys Phillips (Monitoring Officer/Head of Democracy and Legal Department), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Legal Services Manager), Arwel Ellis Jones (Senior Manager – Performance and Scrutiny), Dewi Jones (Head of Education Department), Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department), Gareth Jones (Planning, Minerals and Waste Officer), Richard Jones (Performance and Projects Manager) and Eleri Parry (Committees Team Leader).

Others invited to the meeting: Mark Polin, Chief Constable of North Wales Police and Richard Green, Chief Constable Staff Officer; Val Owen, Clywed.

Apologies: Councillors Stephen Churchman, Anwen Davies, Dylan Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Huw Hughes, Jean Forsyth, Brian Jones, J R Jones, Richard Lloyd Jones, W Penri Jones, Dewi Lewis, Dewi Llewelyn, Linda Morgan and Paul Thomas.

1 PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor Evie Morgan Jones.

2 MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 July 2010 as a true record.

3 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

- (i) Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Monitoring Officer had circulated a guidance note amongst the members regarding the following issues:-

Members Allowances Scheme – it was noted that every member had a personal interest in this item under the Code of Conduct but that it was not a prejudicial interest. The members were advised to declare a personal interest in the item, but they were entitled to participate in the discussion and vote on the issue.

Survey of the Boundary Commission – it was noted that it was of the opinion that no prejudicial interest arose from the report on the Council's response to the Boundary Commission and that all members were entitled to participate in the discussion and vote.

- (ii) Councillors R J Wright and Alun Wyn Evans declared a personal interest in the Members Allowances Scheme because they were chairmen of Area Committees and they did not participate in the discussion or vote on the issue.
- (iii) The remaining members declared a personal interest in the item "Members Allowances Scheme". The members were of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and they participated fully in the discussion on the item.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) Councillor Endaf Cooke, the new member representing the Seiont Ward was welcomed to the Council, and a welcome was extended in their absence to Councillor Richard Lloyd Jones, the new member representing the Diffwys a Maenofferen Ward and Councillor Paul Thomas, the new member representing the Bowydd a Rhiw Ward, as members of the Council.
- (b) Also welcomed to the meeting were Mark Polin, Chief Constable, North Wales Police and Richard Green, Chief Constable Staff Officer.
- (c) The following were congratulated:-
 - Grace Roberts, Felinheli, on winning the Daniel Owen Memorial Prize and Dr Jerry Hunter, Penygroes, on winning the Literature Medal at the Blaenau Gwent National Eisteddfod this year;
 - Councillor Evie Morgan Jones, the President of Meirionnydd Show, on the success of the Show;
 - Gwynedd School Pupils who had been successful in their examinations and their teachers were thanked for their guidance and support;
 - Ysgol Gwaun Gynfi, Deiniolen on winning the Community Champions 2010 school award
- (ch) Reference was made to the booklet, "Responsibilities and Expectations for Elected Members" that had been distributed to every member with the Council agenda.

8. QUESTIONS

(i) A question by Councillor Ioan Thomas

"Why was the Arfon Area Office in Caernarfon not considered as a location for the administration unit of the Planning Service?"

Response of Councillor Gareth Roberts, Senior Leader – Environment

"Thank you for the question.

Full consideration was given to the Penrallt Office (Arfon Area) as a possible location to administer the Planning Service. An information pack was sent to all Members of the Council about two months ago, which explained the operational changes that were being introduced to the Planning Service. This information explained in detail how possible locations to administer the Service were assessed. The Penrallt Office (Arfon Area) was one of the five possible locations assessed to administer the Planning Service."

(ii) Question from Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams

"In relation to the decision of the Environment Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2010 to abolish 7 school crossing patrol sites, including Dyffryn Arduwly, there was no consultation with Dyffryn Arduwly School, the Patrol Officer or myself. Why?"

Response of Councillor Gareth Roberts, Senior Leader – Environment

"Thank you for the question.

The 50 school crossing patrol sites in Gwynedd were reviewed by undertaking a personal risk assessment for patrol workers, a risk assessment of the site and an assessment of the pedestrians and traffic flow, and they were placed in categories in accordance with national guidance.

Each school involved was informed by letter that the assessment was taking place and the officer conducting the assessment discussed the work with individual patrol officers.

This was an initial assessment and further assessment work will be carried out on a number of sites. The Department is already committed to hold discussions with the local member before any final decision is made regarding the future of any crossing patrol services which is currently provided."

Supplementary Question

"The safety of children is more important than anything. Can you confirm that this is not part of the Council's cuts?"

Response of Councillor Gareth Roberts, Senior Leader – Environment

"Yes I can. The purpose of the review is not to make savings, but rather to look at the service in the context of national guidelines. Should sites be removed, then other safety measures will be put in place."

9 PRESENTATION

- (i) Mark Polin, Chief Constable of North Wales Police was welcomed to give a presentation to the Council and an outline of his career was given by the Chairman.

It was noted that Mr Polin had been appointed as Chief Constable of North Wales Police in September 2009 and that he had come to north Wales from Gloucester Police where he was Deputy Chief Constable.

He joined the police in the City of London in 1983, and he left, following a promotion in 1998, to join Gwent Police and later on he became the manager of the Ebbw Vale division. Then, in 1999, he was promoted to manager of the Caerphilly division.

It was noted that he had an MA in Business Administration from the Open University and that he was committed to learn Welsh and he was congratulated for reaching standard 3.

Also, he was congratulated on being presented with the Queen's Police Medal recently.

- (ii) A presentation was given by Mark Polin, Chief Constable of North Wales Police.

The Council was informed of the following issues during the presentation of the Chief Constable:

- The vision of North Wales Police and the direction the establishment was now taking;
- The impact of the comprehensive spending review and what was being done by North Wales Police jointly with the North Wales Police Authority to respond to the financial challenges;
- How North Wales Police and Gwynedd Council had collaborated in order to deal with anti—social behaviour and reduce crime and how these two bodies moved on in terms of these joint priorities.

The Chief Constable expanded upon the main priority, namely to increase the confidence of the public and he referred to the other important priorities to be found in the Three Year Strategic Plan, namely:

- to provide a quality service;
- to focus on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- to protect people from serious harm;
- that the police service is well led, well arranged and well equipped.

A question and answer session followed the presentation, when the following points were noted:-

- (a) In relation to the cuts, a member expressed concern that some north Wales divisions would be abolished, thus having a detrimental impact on the language and culture of the Welsh areas. The member expressed further concern that there would be less policing of rural areas and that stations would close.

The Chief Constable emphasised that he fully realised that there was a need to safeguard the Welsh communities.

He explained that there were three North Wales Police divisions at the moment, namely the western, central, and eastern divisions. Despite the fact that he was unable to confirm that the three would continue in the future, he referred to the critical close link between the police and local community and he emphasised that they would ensure that the close link would continue under any new procedure.

He referred further to the possibility of establishing six areas which would correspond to local authority areas and that he would promote close links with the local community and a higher level link.

- (b) A member expressed doubt regarding the accuracy of statistics that showed that anti-social behaviour had reduced recently. He suggested that not everyone contacted the police because of their unwillingness to take action.

The Chief Constable noted that he agreed that it was not an accurate assessment of the situation and that communities did not inform the police of some crimes. He noted that there was a need to identify early the vulnerable people and individuals who suffered from anti-social behaviour on a regular basis and that the police needed to develop its IT systems to this end. He noted also that there was room for the police and local authorities to collaborate on the issue.

- (c) A member noted that many were of the opinion that the police should be under the control of the Assembly Government (as in Scotland and Northern Ireland), in order to ensure local accountability.

The Chief Constable explained that he had been given to understand that the Assembly did not wish for the police to be devolved, because they were concerned that the funding would not be devolved also. He noted further that there were different funding arrangements in England and Wales and that Wales would be at a real disadvantage.

- (ch) In relation to the observation that all Welsh authorities could merge, the Chief Constable explained that the Westminster Government did not support the merger of police forces – because of the concern that they would lose public support. Also, it would be costly, and money was scarce. Furthermore, he noted that North Wales Police was working closely with the police forces of north west England and that he saw no advantage to merging the Welsh police forces.

- (d) A member asked whether or not the police intended to have a substantial increase in the precept, in order to compensate for the cuts, and he sought the views of the Chief

Constable regarding the fact that the police could retire when 50 years of age, and that the pension had to be funded for 15 years more in comparison to other workers.

He explained that setting the precept was an issue for the Police Authority. However, the precept depended upon the spending review, and that there were two options in reality, namely to cut spending or increase the precept and the situation would need to be balanced carefully.

Furthermore, he explained that the Central Government paid the pensions of those who retired early and that it did not affect the budget of the Police. Also, he noted that the police's pension contributions were much higher than other public sector employees.

- (dd) A member expressed concern that drug use was increasing in the county and that he was eager for members and the police to work together, and specifically, for members to share information with the Police.

The Chief Constable emphasised that tackling the drug problem was one of the police's main priorities and that the establishment was very successful in tackling serious drug-related crimes. He noted that he was very prepared to receive confidential information from members. However, the police encouraged the public to convey information directly to the police, despite the fact that this did not happen on every occasion. He referred to good work done with schools and young people in relation to drugs prevention.

He vowed that an officer would contact the member in order to obtain information regarding the specific case in his ward.

The Chief Constable was thanked for his presentation and for his willingness to respond to the questions and observations of Members. He was wished well in his post and in relation to the work of North Wales Police.

10 POLITICAL BALANCE

- (i) The report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department was submitted on the political balance of the Council following the by-elections in the wards of Diffwys a Maenofferen, Seiont and Bowydd a Rhiw.
- (ii) The Leader of the Council reported that there was a need to ensure that the constitution of committees and sub-committees reflected the strengths of the various groups on the Council, that the Independent Group was losing two seats to the Plaid Cymru Group following the by-elections and that agreement was needed regarding the allocation of the seats.

It was added that there was an error in Appendix "A", which listed the seats for each Political Group on the Council's Committees, and that an amended leaflet had been distributed that noted that the Plaid Cymru Group had six seats on the Local Consultative Joint-committee (and not five, as noted), and that the Liberal Democrats Group did not have a seat on this committee (and not one, as noted).

It was reported further that the Business Group had discussed the allocation and that the majority of the members were in agreement that a period of stability was required and that as little change as possible should be made to the allocation of seats on Council committees.

The seat allocation was proposed and seconded.

- (i) The Leader of the Llais Gwynedd Group expressed his dissatisfaction with the existing allocation. He was of the opinion that the allocation was unfair and that the Llais Gwynedd Group was losing out. He explained that following the recent by-elections, the Llais Gwynedd Group had 13 members on the Council and the Independent Group had 17 members on the Council. However, the Llais Gwynedd Group had only two seats on the

Council Board, whereas the Independent Group had four members, and that the unfairness existed since the beginning of the Council.

An amendment that the Llais Gwynedd Group had three members on the Board, and lost a seat on another committee, and that the Independent Group lost a seat on the Board and gained a seat on another committee, was proposed and seconded.

The seconder pressed for support to allow three seats for the Llais Gwynedd Group on the Council Board – for fairness' sake. He added that he had spoken with the Wales Local Government Association and that they were of the opinion that there was a case for reconsidering the situation. In addition, he noted that the Assembly's Democracy Department was of the opinion that the issue should be referred to their attention unless the Council reached agreement on the issue.

The member noted further that there was a need to review the responsibilities of the Board in order to share the Senior Portfolios in a fairer way amongst the Political Groups.

In response, the Head of Democracy and Legal Department explained that there was a need to adhere to the rules for allocating seats, namely:-

- every seat on a committee cannot be allocated to the same political group;
- the majority of seats on a committee must be allocated to the political group in majority on the Council (this was irrelevant as there was no majority group on Gwynedd Council);
- the total seats must be divided based on political balance (as closely as possible to the nearest round number);
- that the seats of every committee must be allocated based on political balance (as far as practically possible)

The Head of Department emphasised that the total number of seats, along with the allocation of seats on every committee in the appendix, was in keeping with the rules and was in accordance with the Council's political balance (as far as practically possible).

However, she explained that various options were available, and with the Council's agreement, it would be possible to change the allocation on the Council Board to give 3 seats to the Llais Gwynedd Group and 3 seats to the Independent Group (rather than 2 seats to the Llais Gwynedd Group and 4 seats to the Independent Group, and that it would be possible to make a corresponding change to the allocations of seats on the Principal Scrutiny Committee. She emphasised that the two allocations outlined were legal and constitutional.

- (v) Another member referred to the Council's Constitution that noted that "the Board will consist of 15 councillors appointed to the Board by the Council on the basis of political balance" in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The member noted that an external solicitor was of the view that acting contrary to that would be unconstitutional.

The Head of Department noted that the Council's Constitution noted that the allocation was made in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and that she was confident that the allocation in the Appendix, as well as the allocation in the amendment, was in line with legislation and was constitutional.

In relation to the member's reference to a quote in the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of May 2008, namely, "*However, although the allocation was in accordance with the spirit of the legislation, since the arrangements did not mathematically reflect the Council's political balance, the Monitoring Officer explained that if the Council was to accept the allocation there had to be an unanimous decision in favour of the arrangements with no-one voting against – in order to prevent any challenge from the outside*", the Head of Department emphasised that the quote related to seats on external bodies being allocated in accordance with the Council's political balance. However, she explained that it was possible to reach a similar agreement for the

allocation of seats on committees – provided that every member was in agreement and nobody voted against.

The Chief Executive reported that the allocation of seats was a complex issue, with a very, very broad variety of mathematical combinations possible, and that it was not possible to strike a perfect balance.

An amendment to allocate three seats to Llais Gwynedd and three seats to the Independent Group on the Council Board and three seats to Llais Gwynedd and three seats to the Independent Group on the Principal Scrutiny Committee was proposed and seconded. A vote was taken on the amendment.

The Chairman reported that the amendment had failed.

A member noted that better clarity should be sought regarding the issue from the minister for Social Justice and Local Government. Another member was of the opinion that they had received completely clear and unbiased advice from the Monitoring Officer, and that further legal opinion should not be obtained.

A further amendment to refer the issue, for clarity, to the minister for Social Justice and Local Government was proposed and seconded. A vote was taken on the amendment.

The Chairman reported that the amendment had failed.

A vote was taken on the original proposal for the allocation of seats on the Council's committees and then on the allocation of chairs and vice-chairs of committees.

RESOLVED

(i) To note and accept the Council's following amended political balance:-

Plaid Cymru	36
Independent	17
Llais Gwynedd	13
Liberal Democrats	5
Labour	4
Total	75

(ii) to adopt the allocation outlined in the table noted below

COUNCIL BOARD AND PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Council Board	7	4	2	1	1
Principal Scrutiny Committee	7	3	3	1	1

OTHER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Development	8	3	3	1	
Environment	7	3	3	1	1

Children and Young People	7	3	3	1	1
Care	8	3	2	1	1

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Audit	7	4	3		1
Planning	7	4	2	1	1
Central Licensing	5	3	2	1	
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1	1
Human Resources	6	2	2	1	

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Pensions	2	2	1	1	1
SACRE	3	2	1	1	
Local Consultative Joint-committee	6	2	2		1
Special Educational Needs Joint-committee	4	2	1		
Language	3	2	2		

Total seats	90	43	33	12	10	= 188
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(iii) to adopt the allocation of chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships in accordance with the table noted below:-

	Committee	Chairman	Vice-chairman
1	Council Board	Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru
2	Principal Scrutiny Committee	Liberal Democrats	Independent
3	Children and Young People	Independent	Labour
4	Environment	Liberal Democrats	Plaid Cymru

5	Care	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
6	Development	Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru
7	Audit	Independent	Llais Gwynedd
8	Planning	Plaid Cymru	Llais Gwynedd
9	Central Licensing	Independent	Plaid Cymru
10	Pensions	Labour	Plaid Cymru
11	Human Resources	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
12	Employment Appeals	Plaid Cymru	Independent
13	Arfon Area	Plaid Cymru	Independent
14	Dwyfor Area	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
15	Meirionnydd Area	Plaid Cymru	Llais Gwynedd

11 CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON THE CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on changing the representation of co-opted members on the Care Scrutiny Committee.

An outline of the report was given by the Chairman of the Care Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that representatives from the Police and Health Board had been appointed as co-opted members of the Care Scrutiny Committee as a result of the committee's new function to deal with crime and disorder; that it would be fair to offer a co-opted seat to the Probation Service as they were now a statutory partner, and that there was no longer justification for giving co-opted seats to the Gwynedd Tenants' Federation as the housing stock had transferred.

It was noted that the Care Scrutiny Committee had addressed the issue and had recommended to the Council that the committee's co-opted membership should be changed to reflect these changes.

Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams noted that he had abstained his vote on the issue.

RESOLVED to change the representation of co-opted members on the Care Scrutiny Committee by abolishing the membership of the two representatives of the Gwynedd Tenants' Federation and to include one member of the Probation Service in their place.

12 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on the outcome of the application to pay a special responsibility allowance to the Chairman of an Area Committee.

An outline of the report was given by the Leader of the Council.

It was reported that the Council, at its previous meeting, had decided to submit an application to the Independent Remuneration Panel to pay a special responsibility allowance to the Chairman of an Area Committee.

However, it was explained that the role of the Chairman of an Area Committee had changed since the new Planning Committee had been established, and that the workload was considerably lighter. It was suggested that the permission to pay an allowance to the Chairman of an Area Committee should be accepted, however, the allowance should be determined on the same scale as committees that had a matching workload, namely the Audit Committee and Licensing Committee, rather than the scale of a Chairman of a Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED to amend the Members Allowances Scheme in order to pay an allowance of £2,272 to the Chairman of an Area Committee and to submit a financial bid to be considered in the context of the remainder of the Council's budget from 2011 onwards.

13 JOINT PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Submitted – the report of the Head of Regulatory Department in order to obtain agreement to provide and support a Joint Planning Policy Committee between Gwynedd Council and Anglesey Council.

An outline of the report was given by the Senior Leader - Environment.

It was reported that the Council Board had already approved the provision of a Joint Planning Policy Service for Gwynedd Council (excluding the Snowdonia National Park Authority Area), and Isle of Anglesey Council, and that there was a need for the Council to agree on details regarding responsibilities; and constitutional, operational and administrative arrangements for the Committee.

In response to members' observations and concerns, the following was noted:-

- that providing a Joint Planning Policy Service would make the best use of the resources of both authorities and would be more cost effective for both authorities rather than producing a Local Development Plan each;
- that the Agreement would continue for a period of six years, namely for the period of preparing the Local Development Plan and a period of monitoring and reviewing;
- that Gwynedd Council would welcome collaboration with Snowdonia National Park also, but that the timetable did not allow that because the Park was far ahead of Gwynedd Council with its Local Development Plan;
- that the documents before the committee focussed on forming a policy that provided the context for both authorities and that the joint-committee would not make decisions on individual applications.

RESOLVED

- a) **To approve the agreement in Appendix A for the provision and support of a Joint Planning Policy Committee;**
- b) **To delegate powers to the Head of Democracy and Legal Department to amend the Council's constitution, subject to ensuring agreement with Isle of Anglesey County Council;**
- c) **To delegate powers to the Head of Regulatory Department, in consultation with the Head of Democracy and Legal Department, to make minor amendments to the agreement in Appendix A, if required.**

14 COMMENCEMENT NOTICE FOR A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Submitted – the report of the Head of Regulatory Department in order to formally complete work on the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and to request the Welsh Assembly Government to prepare secondary legislation authorising the commencement of preparing a Local Development Plan (LDP).

An outline of the report was given by the Senior Leader - Environment.

It was reported that the work associated with preparing the UDP had ended and that the Assembly needed to be informed of that and that the Assembly was asked to prepare a Local Commencement Order for the preparation of the LDP. It was noted that the Council could not undertake any formal work in relation to the preparation of the LDP, until the Order was in place.

RESOLVED

- a) **To authorise the Head of Regulatory Department to inform the Welsh Assembly Government that the Council has completed using its powers to prepare a UDP under the Town and Country Planning Act (as amended)1990.**
- b) **To authorise the Head of Regulatory Department to ask the Welsh Assembly Government to prepare the secondary legislation (Local Commencement Order), authorising the formal commencement of preparing the LDP.**

15 THE GWYNEDD STANDARD

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer, requesting the Council to adopt the Gwynedd Standard and a local procedure for resolving complaints.

A member representing the Council on the Standards Committee gave an outline of the report and it was noted that the Standards Committee had recommended that the Council should adopt the “Gwynedd Standard”.

It was explained that the purpose of the Standard was to establish which behaviour was acceptable and unacceptable between members.

RESOLVED to adopt the “Gwynedd Standard”, along with the local procedure for resolving complaints.

16 “TOWARDS 2025” STRATEGY PROGRAMME – FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN GWYNEDD

- (i) Submitted – the report of Iwan Trefor Jones, Corporate Director on a Strategic Programme for education and training for children and young people in Gwynedd up to 2025.
- (ii) An outline of the report was given by the Portfolio Leader - Education.

It was reported that the document set a long-term strategic direction for developments in the education and training field in Gwynedd, and that it was a strategy for applying for capital funding under the “21st Century Schools” Programme.

It was added that 200 children and young people in the county had been consulted and a brief outline of their views and aspirations was given by Val Owen on behalf of “Clywed”.

- (iii) At the request of a member who was eager to promote Welsh communities, it was agreed to amend principle (vi) as follows:- “To promote the Welsh language and the use made of the Welsh language in Communities.”
- (iv) A member referred to the Penllyn area language impact assessment which showed a serious decline in the Welsh language in the schools in the town of Bala and he asked about the Council’s plans in order to restore the situation.

The Corporate Director explained that the language assessment was being addressed and that work was progressing at present in order to put an action plan in place to promote the Welsh language in Y Berwyn. He noted that developing the Lifelong campus would offer opportunities to strengthen the Welsh language and that the group of users established in the catchment area was looking at how agencies could collaborate, in order to support the

Welsh language – not only as the language of the school, but as a social medium also. In accordance with the member's request, the Director vowed that he would submit a written report on the issue.

RESOLVED to approve the "Towards 2025" Strategy Programme, subject to amending principle number (vi) as follows: "To promote the Welsh language and the use of the Welsh language in Communities".

17 THE COUNCIL'S ACHIEVEMENT 2009/10

Submitted – the report of the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department on the Council's achievement in 2009/2010.

An outline of the report was given by the Leader of the Council.

It was reported that it was required to report annually on the Council's performance and that the report included details of the Council's performance and all improvements and indicators of the Three Year Plan at the end of 2009/10.

It was explained that the Principal Scrutiny Committee had asked for further attention to be given to ensuring that the narrative in the document reflected better the actual situation regarding the Council's performance, and that the document before the Council had been amended in accordance with that.

The Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee noted that he was of the opinion that there was a tendency for the Council to be self-satisfied and that there was a need to be more balanced when reporting on performance. He explained that the Council had been unsuccessful in many fields and that the document focussed excessively on successes.

The Chief Executive explained that the Council had achieved 80% of the improvements for 2009/2010 and that the performance was to be praised in the current financial climate and that there was an intention to give thorough attention to the failures.

At the request of the member, it was agreed to amend the heading to "Report on the Council's successes and failures in 2009/10".

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the document as a fair and accurate reflection of the Council's performance against its main improvements and indicators during 2009/10;**
- (ii) To authorise the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department to make any necessary editorial corrections, additions or amendments before publishing the report.**

18 DRAFT REPORT OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION ON THE REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GWYNEDD

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on the draft report of the Boundary Commission on the electoral arrangements of Gwynedd and a comparison of how the draft proposals of the Commission corresponded to the principles proposed by the Council in its initial observations, in order to consider the Council's response to the draft report.

An outline of the report was given by the Leader of the Council.

It was reported that there was a need to respond to the report of the Boundary Commission on the Council's electoral arrangements by 23 November. It was explained that the Council had sent initial observations to the Commission and although there was evidence in the draft proposals that the Commission had paid some attention to these observations, it was

emphasised that several of the proposals were contrary to the principles in the Council's recommendations.

It was suggested that the Council should respond to the proposals based on the principles, rather than to individual proposals, and the member was reminded that individual members and political groups were entitled to respond in relation to specific wards.

Confirmation was received of the support to the previous principles in relation to the need to vary the member/elector ratio according to the needs of an area; to reduce the number of electoral regions that include more than two communities; not to increase the number of multi-member regions; to consider the non-registered population.

It was agreed to amend the relevant principle to read as follows: "The current administrative areas of Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd should be maintained unless there is a valid reason for deviating from them", and to add "ratepayers of the county" and "students" to the principle that consideration should be given to the non-registered population in some parts of the county.

RESOLVED to approve the observations, with the minor changes to be sent to the Boundary Commission.

19 NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted – the following notice of motion received by Councillor Huw Edwards under Procedural Rule 13 along with an organisational notice under Procedural Rule 13(12) requesting that the matter be discussed at the Council without being referred to the relevant committee first:-

RESOLVED to discuss the proposal at this meeting.

The following motion was proposed and seconded:-

"Following attention in the press and local concerns regarding the future of Alaw Ward and other services, I would like to extend an invitation to a member of the Betsi Cadwaladr Board to come to provide a comprehensive report to the Council on the future plans of the Board and the effect of any changes in health provision locally and its effects on patients in Gwynedd; also to provide information on how the Board will communicate and consult with the public in the County on any reviews or changes."

The Chairman of the Care Scrutiny Committee explained that the Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board had attended a meeting of the Care Scrutiny Committee at the end of September, and that he had recently received confirmation that she would also attend the next meeting on 7 December 2010. He strongly suggested that it would be more appropriate to invite all Council members to the Care Scrutiny Committee, rather than invite the Chief Executive to the full Council.

The following amendment was proposed and seconded: *"That every member of the Council is invited to attend the next meeting of the Care Scrutiny Committee on 7 December for the item when the Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr Trust will be in attendance."* A vote was taken on the amendment.

The Chairman reported that the amendment had won and that it replaced the original proposal. A vote was held on the original proposal as amended and it was passed.

The Chairman of the Care Scrutiny Committee asked members who were not members of the Care Scrutiny Committee to inform him beforehand regarding questions they wished to ask of the Chief Executive of the Health Board.

RESOLVED

(i) to adopt the following notice of motion:

“That every member of the Council is invited to attend the next meeting of the Care Scrutiny Committee on 7 December for the item when the Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr Trust will be in attendance.”

(ii) To authorise the Head of Democracy and Legal Department to act upon the motion.

20 REPORTING BACK ON NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted, for information, the response of the Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales, to the Council's letter expressing concern regarding the intention of the Welsh Assembly Government to abolish Cymorth (The Children and Families Fund) in its present form in order to establish a Strategic Fund to support the implementation of the new National Child Poverty Strategy.

RESOLVED to note the information.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 4.00 pm.