
THE COUNCIL 4/10/18

Present: Councillor Annwen Hughes (Chair);
Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen (Vice-chair).

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Freya Hannah Bentham, Stephen Churchman, Steve Collings, R.Glyn Daniels, Anwen Davies, Elwyn Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Dylan Fernley, Peter Antony Garlick, Simon Glyn, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, R.Medwyn Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Nia Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M.Jones, Aled Wyn Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Charles W.Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Elwyn Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dafydd Owen, Dewi Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Rheinalt Puw, Peter Read, Dewi Wyn Roberts, Elfed P.Roberts, Gareth A.Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Hefin Underwood, Catrin Wager, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gareth Williams and Owain Williams.

Also in attendance: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwenna Edwards and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Directors), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer), Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor / Deputy Monitoring Officer), Vera Jones (Democracy Manager), Gwenllian Williams (Gwynedd Language Development Officer - Workplace) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Dylan Bullard, Annwen Daniels, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sian Hughes, Anne Lloyd Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Roy Owen, Jason Parry, W.Gareth Roberts, Cemlyn Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams and Gruffydd Williams.

2. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2018 as a true record.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillors Dilwyn Lloyd and Simon Glyn declared a personal interest in item 8 on the agenda - North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority: Financial Update and Consultation 2019/20, since they were members of this Authority. Councillor Nia Jeffreys also declared a personal interest in the same item as her husband was a fireman.

Members were not of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and they did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Best wishes were extended to:- Gwyn Morris Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal on his retirement at the end of August.

The following were congratulated:-

- Manon Steffan Ros, Gruffudd Owen a Rhydian Gwyn Lewis, and everyone else from Gwynedd who had been successful at this year's National Eisteddfod in Cardiff.
- Edmund Bailey, Lord Lieutenant for Gwynedd on his appointment as Constable of Caernarfon Castle.
- The group of Councillors, led by Dilwyn Lloyd, Jason Parry and Roy Owen, who had arranged the "Trôns dy Dad" event recently to raise money for the Prostate Appeal. £3,500 had thus far been raised, and it was understood that Santander would double the final sum.

It was noted that a special meeting of the Council would have to be convened to discuss the North Wales Growth Deal at 10.00am on Thursday, 25 October. A formal invitation would be sent to everyone after this meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, OR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None to note.

6. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

7. QUESTIONS

(The Cabinet Members' written responses to the questions had been distributed to the members in advance).

(1) A question by Councillor Sion Jones

"What powers do community councils and councillors have to determine which tenants get social housing in our community?"

Response - Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture, Councillor Craig ab Iago

"I believe that this is one of the subjects that creates the most frustration for councillors. We are all aware of cases in our wards where people need houses and we find that the house, or houses, have gone to someone from outside our communities. Personally, I would like to see a housing system being designed here, by us, which is founded on our priorities. There are several examples across the world and in Europe where the housing systems let houses on the grounds of things such as ethnic group, language, local connections - none of which is racist. The United Nations and the European Union have confirmed this. However, in order to achieve this, we need the power and we lack that power on the say so of the governments in Cardiff and London. We are, therefore, in this perverse situation now where Cornwall is able to achieve far more than we can with their housing system. But, this is the status quo and we can only do what we can."

A Supplementary Question by Councillor Sion Jones

"Will the Cabinet Member, with me, write to the Assembly and Westminster to try to reopen discussions in order to get a more robust and better system within our community and the Council?"

Response - Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture, Councillor Craig ab Iago

"The truth of the matter is that most people who get houses have a local connection, but what does a local connection mean? What is the definition of local connection? This is our problem, we don't get to define it. Although we would like to have an overhaul of the whole system, I would say that the Labour Government in Cardiff has shown no interest in this, neither through planning nor through housing, and if we genuinely want a new housing system, the solution is in voting for a different party in our Government. I will, however, do my best to make sure we are able to do all we can and put pressure on whoever to change the system."

(2) A question by Councillor Owain Williams

"Why have some of the Council's senior officers been refusing a notice of motion from a Councillor time and again, using lame excuses such as, the notice had gone to the wrong department in July, and in September, stating that it was "illegal"?"

Response from the Chair of the Council, Councillor Annwen Hughes

"The Council's Constitution gives members the right to submit motions on the proviso that they are about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the well-being of the administrative area of the Council.

The Council adopted a formal process to ensure the propriety of notices of motions at its meeting in December 2017. In accordance with the arrangements if the Monitoring Officer is of the opinion that a notice is not in accordance with the Constitution or improper for other reasons he will refer the notice together with his opinion to the Chairman and Chief Executive to decide whether or not to include it in the agenda.

Rejecting a notice is highly unusual and certainly not a "time and time again" event. As might be appreciated careful consideration is given to this step. On the other hand decisions of the Council can have legal implications as well as the need to observe the Constitution. This is why these arrangements are in place. The member who presented the motion will be given a written explanation of the decision and the reasoning.

Each notice of motion has to be submitted within a time limit of 10 clear days before the meeting. If a notice is received outside this limit the member will be informed and it will be considered for the next Council meeting. As far as is understood no notice of motion has gone astray in the manner suggested. A notice was received out of time for the July meeting. The notice on subsequent consideration was deemed not to meet the requirements of the Constitution and the member was informed in August.

A supplementary question by Councillor Owain Williams

"Where did the notice of motion go if the Monitoring Officer claims that it did not go missing?"

Response from the Chair of the Council, Councillor Annwen Hughes

"We will investigate this and get back to you."

(3) A question by Councillor Dewi Owen

"Does the Council Leader intend to write to Lesley Griffiths, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, objecting to any proposals to change agricultural and rural policies which exist under the Common Agricultural Policy

without a comprehensive and detailed assessment of their possible effects on jobs and the economy in the county of Gwynedd and trial them on volunteered farms?"

Response by the Leader, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

"This question is an opportunity for me to explain to all Council members our intentions on this consultation paper, the implications of which are far-reaching and very substantial, not only for the farming industry, but for the entire rural economy. I have led a discussion with the officers and intend to respond to this paper. I have held discussions with both unions and have had further subsequent discussions with the officers in preparing the response. We have also discussed the matter at the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board and the response will also be provided from that Board.

As is the way with this most ineffectual Government that ever was, namely Welsh Government, it is clear that the Minister has neither discussed the implications for Future Generations nor has she discussed its implications with her fellow Minister for the Economy. It appears to me as though this is just the way it is, Welsh Government silos are clear for all to see. It is evidence of Welsh Government's disinterest in rural matters and ignorance thereof, and this has manifested itself many times during the discussions I have had over the years.

This matter will be discussed at the Welsh Local Government Rural Forum held in the final week of October and a response will be sent on behalf of all rural counties in Wales from that forum also. I can, therefore, assure you that strong responses will be put forward.

No work has been carried out to model the impact this would have on the countryside, and without considering those impacts, we have to respond as firmly as we can. I would almost go as far as to tell the Labour ministers that the possible repercussions from this are as bad as what happened to the South Wales coalmines many years ago. It is that far-reaching in my view, and if they do not take seriously that statement, they ought to be held accountable for their indifference to rural Wales. Thus, we have a responsibility. In addition, I feel very strongly, not because of the diminutive sum of money I receive - being the small-scale farmer that I am - but because of its consequences on the structure of the farming industry, and subsequent impact on the whole fabric of rural society, including the economy, social aspects, and the Welsh language, of course.

It is, therefore, one of the most important papers we should consider. I am aware of the pitfalls, and if I see Lesley Griffiths anywhere, I will tell her, with frankness, my thoughts on this paper in its current form. What we have here, of course, is the complete transfer of the European agricultural policy from Europe to Cardiff. We are now responsible for Wales' agricultural policy and its rural policies. We may yet remain in Europe if we get another referendum, but we shall not go chasing that rainbow! Welsh Government has an opportunity to grasp rural policies and agricultural policies and consider them in detail and declare, "these are our plans for agriculture." We believe that food production is important. The environment is important but we must have producers on the land to protect that environment. However, I'm afraid that Welsh Government is capable of nothing, but of putting forward a proposal to which little thought has been given. Therefore, rest assured that this Council will issue a staunch response, and so will any other organisation to which I belong."

8. NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE: FINANCIAL UPDATE AND CONSULTATION 2019/20

The following officers from the Fire and Rescue Service were welcomed to the meeting to give a presentation and answer members' questions:

- Richard Fairhead (Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Fire Service) (*responsible for operational aspects*)
- Shân Morris (Assistant Chief Officer) (*responsible for policy and corporate planning*)
- Helen MacArthur (Assistant Chief Officer) (*responsible for finance and resources*)

Following the presentation, the following points by individual members were noted:-

- The service was thanked for its work on behalf of the residents of Gwynedd and it was noted that the presentation, which showed the importance of the service and the difficulty of operating in this difficult financial climate, was very powerful)
- It was noted that any increase in levy in 2018/19 would mean that every Council would have to make further cuts to their services and it was asked whether the Fire and Rescue service was moving forward with the cost saving plan by 2019/20. In response, it was noted that all managers had to review their budgets and that they were aware of the need to reduce their basic costs. The aim was to manage the costs without changing the front line services. As part of the work of planning for 2019/20, a meeting was held with the Authority's Members at which many cost-reducing options were considered, including closing part-time stations, changing 24-hour stations to daytime stations and changing daytime stations to part-time stations. However, the decision made by Members in June of this year was not to change the service delivery model in North Wales at present.
- Confirmation was sought about the situation of the Caernarfon Fire Station and the service to rural areas of Gwynedd. In response, it was noted that Caernarfon was a daytime station (staff present between noon and 10pm, which are the busiest times) and that the service was staffed by part-time and full-time workers, on duty at home outside those hours. It was confirmed that the aim was to keep the station at that level this year. It was also confirmed that the new high volume pump located in Caernarfon would be used for large fires and floods across the whole of Gwynedd.
- The need to fill the deputy post was questioned, since the post had been vacant for a whole year. In response, it was explained that the current post did not correspond exactly with the old post. The practicality of the role and internal skill set was considered, but a Certified Accountant was needed to complete the work.
- It was suggested that the service could save £250,000 (which corresponded to 7.5% of their administrative costs) through reverting to the old arrangement where the firefighters themselves would clean the stations between fires. In response, it was explained that the workers used to receive additional pay for this work, so there was a cost to the service anyway. It was further noted that much of the preventative work was now being carried out by ancillary staff, rather than the firefighters themselves, and that this was more cost effective for the service.
- Appreciation for the perseverance and the highly professional, inventive and effective way the Fire Authority dealt with all the challenges it faced was noted. Over recent years, the Authority had extended its services to include dealing with the effects of climate change and preventative work, which not only made the service more effective, but had also saved hundreds of lives across north Wales.
- The service was thanked for its work in dealing with the severe fire on Mynydd y Cilgwyn in July and it was noted that there was no desire for them to receive less funding from the Council.
- In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that the Fire and Rescue Service shared several hubs with the Ambulance Service across north Wales and that it was considering similar arrangements with North Wales Police and other partners.

- An enquiry was made into what the service did to convince people that the practice of lighting fires on the uplands was entirely antisocial and how could the Council and Members assist with this. In response, it was explained that the service worked closely with the farming community to advise it about controlled fires. Discussions had been held with the National Park Authority to ensure the appropriate advice was given to visitors and regular discussions were also taking place with the schools. Additionally, it was noted that the service would appreciate all the help it could get to spread the message.
- In response to an enquiry, it was noted that the phone number for contacting the service in a non-emergency was 0800 169 1234. It was also possible to contact the service via Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- In response to an enquiry, it was noted that recruiting part-time firefighters was difficult in all parts of the UK. There had been success with recruitment in some areas, but the challenge continued.
- It was enquired as to how prepared businesses were to release people to be fire fighters. In response, it was noted that the pressure on businesses was understandable but that the service worked closely with them to promote the benefits of having a fire fighter work for them, e.g. experience with first aid, fire safety and health and safety.
- Concern was expressed that narrow streets and parking problems could create barriers to a fire engine responding to an emergency call. In response, it was noted that the service had special vehicles for narrow accesses and that they had identified those areas where access was difficult. A request was made that any member who was concerned about somewhere in his/her ward contact the service so that the service could attend to make an assessment.

The Chair thanked the officers of the Authority for their fascinating presentation and added that copies of the presentation slides would be sent to the members.

9. WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION PLAN FOR GWYNEDD 2018-2023

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Councillor Nia Jeffreys, presented a report recommending that the Council accept the Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd 2018-2023 and the associated action plan and to approve commencing the action.

The following points by individual members were raised:-

- It was noted that it was this Council that led and pioneered in terms of the Welsh language and that pride should be taken in this strategy which was one of the Council's priorities.
- Though the Council pioneered in terms of the Primary Language Charter and the Secondary Sector Language Strategy, that there was a gap in terms of the post-compulsory education and that it was important that the Council collaborated with its partners in that respect also.
- Given the substantial contribution of some of the Council's partners to the success of specific elements of the strategy, it was asked what part those partners played in the consultation and how it was intended to collaborate with them to deliver the strategy. In response, it was noted that the Local Services Board was an important part of this and that the Leader and Chief Executive were bound to push this forward. It was also noted that conversations had already been held with some of the partners who had responded directly to the consultation in order to see what to include on the work programme. Further discussions would be held with some partners and the aim was to establish one group which would bring all partners together as a starting point to discuss the strategy and the work programme in its entirety and then break it down to the thematic fields and bring the specific partners in.

- It was noted that the document was mediocre, which met the Council's requirement to provide such a plan and noting what was expected by a council operating in the most naturally Welsh area in the world. However, due to the demographic certainty that Gwynedd enjoyed, it was easy to fall into a condition of self-righteousness which, unfortunately, filled the pages of the document and that passion, desire and aspiration were needed to get things done. It was added that the changes in the Council over the recent years had not always given priority to the Welsh language, e.g. during the last year, the Council had adopted planning policies which, if implemented, would undermine our Welsh-speaking communities. It had also closed youth clubs, transferred the leisure centres to an arm's length company and adopted an economic plan, key fields which should be central to this plan if the Welsh language was to be normalised in this county. It was further noted that, of the £52m allocated recently by Welsh Government towards Welsh education, only a little over £1m had come to Gwynedd, which was approximately 2% of the total, and that was because the bid submitted to the Government was for only 2%. If the Council had the desire and vision to make the Welsh language essential in Gwynedd, we would have submitted bids worth £20m at least, and though many of those plans would likely have been refused, the action in itself would have sent a message to the Government that Gwynedd did not want to avoid giving the priority to our language that it deserved. An opportunity which we could little afford to lose had been lost due to a lack of desire, a lack of aspiration and a lack of ambition. It was also believed that the plan missed an opportunity. Time after time, there was reference to giving language choice to school pupils, but that wasn't what was happening in the Basque Country, Catalonia or parts of Ireland. Unfortunately, at present, a third of Welsh-speaking pupils in Gwynedd were sitting their GCSEs through the medium of English and that had a direct impact on the county's bilingual education policy. Though Welsh education was growing in several parts of Wales, this did not appear to be true of Gwynedd. It was understood that not one secondary school in Gwynedd had received any of the Welsh text books provided by the Government, though these books were being used extensively in several other areas. The Language Committee should be central to implementing the content of this plan, but this was the most powerless committee ever seen. It received and discussed reports, but knew nothing of the outcomes of those discussions and the committee could not even discuss language complaints from the public. This plan identified the challenges, recognised the opportunities and identified some solutions, but much more than this was needed.
- Great disappointment was expressed regarding the negative attitude of the previous speaker towards what the Council was doing for the language. It was stressed that the accusation of a lack of passion and a lack of aspiration for the Welsh language was incorrect and that the Welsh language was a priority for this Council. The development of the Welsh-medium education policy from 1974 onwards had taken strength and determination and it was an ongoing process, and our role in Gwynedd was to prove to the world and his wife that we were proud of using the Welsh language and encouraged everyone else to do so. It was not accepted that the plan was full of self-satisfaction. It was recognised that there was room for improvement and that we would be looking at ourselves, but not in a self-fulfilling way by any means.
- Though the success of the Education Department's Language Strategy was recognised, there was work to do to educate at home, before children started at school, and also after they left. In response, it was agreed that there was a need to focus on parents as well and try to encourage children leaving school to have the confidence in their ability to speak Welsh. Years of work had gone in to developing our language policies, and statistics showed that the education system in Gwynedd was succeeding, with 92% of the county's children and young people able to speak Welsh.
- The importance of celebrating success was stressed, and it was noted that the Welsh language had survived better in Gwynedd than anywhere else. It was also

suggested that peddling the idea that the language was on its deathbed played to the hands of those who opposed the language.

- The importance of teaching Welsh history more thoroughly in the schools was stressed, as people saw no purpose in learning the language if they were not aware of their history and culture.
- It was noted that the language in Gwynedd would be in a much worse position without the Council's language policies, and as a result of the observations at this meeting, any opportunity to strengthen some of these policies should be sought. Despite the difference of opinion in the Chamber, it was clear that everyone was in agreement in terms of their desire to see the Welsh language prospering in Gwynedd, and everyone should work together in order to ensure the best possible policies.

RESOLVED to accept the Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd 2018-23 and the associated action plan and to approve commencing the action.

10. GWYNEDD COUNCIL ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2017/18

The following officers from the Wales Audit Office were welcomed to the meeting to give a presentation first and then answer members' questions.

- Jeremy Evans (Local Government Performance Audit Manager)
- Non Jenkins (Local Government Performance Audit Manager) - *who would be succeeding Jeremy Evans as the new manager for Gwynedd from then on.*

The following points by individual members were raised:-

- It was asked what would happen as a result of the second recommendation on page 61 of the agenda, namely that public bodies would review their procurement strategies and policies during 2017-18 and annually thereafter to ensure that they reflected the broader changes to policies and legislation and support continuous improvement. In response, it was explained that the national reports contained a series of recommendations and that it was a matter for the Council to decide whether this was relevant to them and whether any processes needed to be changed as a result.
- It was noted that there was great praise for the Council's financial work in the report and the Department's staff, under the leadership of the Head of Finance, were thanked for their thorough and conscientious work.
- The fact that the report acknowledged the improvements to the overview and scrutiny arrangements was welcomed, but it was enquired what evidence there was of that. In response, it was explained that the Council had reviewed its scrutiny arrangements through a self-evaluation and that scrutiny had now been clearly defined within the Constitution in terms of the roles of members and officers. Some scrutiny work happened outside formal committees, though this needed to be developed further in order to ensure a more comprehensive and complete approach, and planning work had improved, though there was room for further improvement in this regard by doing things in more innovative ways. There was also a need for clarification regarding the role of members at the performance challenge meetings.
- In response to an enquiry regarding the cost of producing the Annual Improvement Report, it was explained the total cost of all audit work across the finance and performance fields was £400,000. The report was a summary of the work only and far more detailed individual reports were available should the members wish to read them. The fees had been maintained at the same level over the past seven years and this appeared to be a continuing commitment.

The Leader thanked the auditors for their work and noted that the report's recommendations had either been addressed already or that work was afoot to do so.

Non Jenkins introduced herself to the members, as the new manager for Gwynedd from then on, and gave an outline of her work programme for this year. It was noted that this would be Jeremy Evans' last time appearing before the Council and he was wished well for the future.

RESOLVED to accept the Annual Improvement Report 2017/18.

11. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2017/18

Dr Einir Young, Chair of the Standards Committee, was welcomed to the meeting to present the committee's annual report for 2017/18.

In presenting the report, Dr Einir Young thanked the Monitoring Officer and his team for their guidance and their ongoing work with the County Council and the Community Councils.

In response to a concern expressed by a member regarding maintaining the system in view of the lower level of investigations by the Ombudsman, the Monitoring Officer explained that the Ombudsman now operated a public interest test which was based on prioritising resources between complaints on matters including health and other public authorities. The threshold for investigating Code of Conduct complaints was now much higher and it was reasonable to expect that the Ombudsman would prioritise e.g. a death in a hospital versus conflict in a community council. Nevertheless, the fact that an investigation was carried out or not did not mean that those people about whom complaints were made were free from the Code of Conduct and there was work to do to communicate and uphold the Code of Conduct.

It was noted that the Welsh and English versions of Appendix 1 to the report - The Standards Committee's Work Programme 2017-18 did not correspond. The Monitoring Officer noted that he would standardise both versions prior to publishing the final report.

Dr Einir Young was thanked for her presentation.

12. MEMBER OFFICER RELATIONS PROTOCOL

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, on behalf of the Standards Committee, recommending that the Council adopt a series of amendments to the Member Officer Relations Protocol.

The following points by individual members were raised:-

- In light of some of the earlier discussions at this meeting, attention was drawn to 21.9.1 of the protocol which stressed the importance of maintaining the Council's reputation and making an effort not to criticise fellow members.
- The timetable for responding to correspondence from a member within 5 working days was welcomed, though it was understood that this would not always be possible.
- It was noted that it was important that officers informed local members of anything happening in their wards.

RESOLVED to adopt the amendments to the Protocol for Member Officer Relations included in Appendix 1 to the report.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Catrin Wager, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:-

“This Council notes that:

- According to Census data from 2011, 3,724 Gwynedd residents (or 3.1% of the population) have been born outside the UK. In some areas of Bangor, this rises to 20.9% of the population.
- Just under 30,000 people a year are detained in the UK under immigration laws; with around 3,000 in detention at any given time.
- The UK is the only country in Western Europe that detains individuals indefinitely under immigration powers.
- It costs, on average, more than £31,000 to detain a person for one year. The total annual cost was £164.4 million in the year 2013/14. In the years 2011-2014, the government spent £13.8 million compensating former detainees for unlawful detention.
- There are, at present, 10 detention centres in the UK, including short term holding facilities.
- Over 50% of those held in immigration detention will be released into the community in the UK.
- Immigration detention is for administrative purposes.
- In 2016, as part of the Shaw Review, Professor Mary Bosworth conducted a systematic review of studies investigating the impact of detention on the mental health of those detained. The studies showed that the critical point for a negative impact on mental health was 30 days.
- In July 2018, Stephen Shaw produced his Assessment of the government’s action following his 2016 Report. In this, he underlines the urgent need for detention reform.

This Council further notes that:

- In March 2015, the Joint Inquiry on the APPG on Refugees and APPG on Migration into the use of Immigration Detention in the UK (the first-ever parliamentary inquiry into the use of immigration detention in the UK) recommended that the government introduce a maximum time limit of 28 days on the length of time anyone can be detained in immigration detention
- In March 2016, the House of Lords voted to introduce a 28 day time limit for immigration detention though this was not extended to those persons with a prison sentence of 12 months or more.
- The 2016-2017 Annual Report HM Inspectorate of Prisons 2017a states “there remains a pressing need for a maximum time limit on immigration detention”

This Council believes:

- That the Westminster government should bring the indefinite detention of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to an end.
- That a time limit of 28 days should be introduced for detention under immigration powers.

- That necessitation of a new Immigration Act as part of Brexit provides an opportunity to introduce a time limit.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Home Office stating that we, as Gwynedd Council, wish to see an end to the indefinite detention of migrants under immigration powers, and ask that a 28 day time limit is introduced as part of the new Immigration Act"

Members expressed their enthusiastic support to the motion.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion.

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

CHAIR