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# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, 07/05/09

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

**Councillors:** Bob Anderson, Stephen Churchman, Anwen Davies, E T Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Dylan Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trevor Edwards, T G Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Simon Glyn, Keith Greenly-Jones, Gwen Griffith, Margaret Griffith, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwenllïan, Christopher Hughes, Dafydd Ll Hughes, Huw Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sylvia Humphreys, Aeron M Jones, Charles Jones, Dai Rees Jones, Dyfrig Wynn Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Evie Morgan Jones, John Gwilym Jones, J R Jones, John Wynn Jones, R L Jones, Penri Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, P.G.Larsen, Dewi Lewis, Dewi Llewelyn, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Keith Marshall, J Wynn Meredith, Llinos Merks, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, W Roy Owen, Arwel Pierce, Peter Read, Dafydd W Roberts, Caerwyn Roberts, Glyn Roberts, Gwilym Euros Roberts, Ieuan Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Siôn Selwyn Roberts, Gareth Roberts, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ioan 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 Williams (Corporate Director), Dafydd Lewis (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance), Dilys Phillips (Monitoring Officer/Head of Democracy and Legal Department), Geraint George (Head of Strategic and Improvement Department), Iwan Evans (Legal Services Manager), Arwel Ellis Jones (Senior Performance and Scrutiny Manager), Meinir Owen (Corporate Efficiency Manager), Gareth James (Scrutiny Manager), Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department) and Eleri Parry (Senior Committee Officer)

**Apologies:** Councillors Alun Wyn Evans, Jean Forsyth, Selwyn Griffiths, O P Huws, Brian Jones, Linda Wyn Jones and Trevor Roberts

## 1 PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor Aeron M Jones.

The prayer was followed with an address by Councillor Evie Morgan Jones, Chairman 2008/09.

## 2 CHAIR

Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones was elected as Chair for 2009/2010.

Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones signed a declaration accepting the post of the Chair of Gwynedd Council for 2009/2010.

## 3 VICE-CHAIR

Councillor W Tudor Owen was elected as Vice-chair for 2009/2010.

Councillor W Tudor Owen signed a declaration accepting the post of the Vice-chair of Gwynedd Council for 2009/2010.

#### **4 MINUTES**

The Chair signed the minutes of the Council meetings held on 26 February 2009 and 2 April 2009 as a true record.

#### **5 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

- (a) Prior to the committee, a briefing note from the Monitoring Officer had been distributed to members regarding an item before the Council relating to making amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Under the Code of Conduct, it was explained that every member had a personal interest in this item; that it was not a prejudicial interest and that members were entitled to participate in the discussion and vote on the matter.

- (c) The members present declared a personal interest in the item regarding the Constitution and amending the Members' Allowances Scheme, because, as members, they received an allowance and therefore had a direct and financial interest in the item.

It was not a prejudicial interest, they did not withdraw from the meeting and they participated in full in the discussion and vote on the matter.

#### **6 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (i) Condolences were expressed to the family of the late former councillor Handel Morgan, Llangefni, who was a member of the former Gwynedd County Council until 1996 and Chairman of the Education Committee from 1991-96.

Councillor Evie Morgan Jones referred to the recent death of John Tudor, Dolgellau and he expressed his condolences with the family, along with the Chair of the Council on the death of her uncle.

He paid a tribute to John Tudor. He referred to his education at Bro Dysynni and Liverpool Veterinary College; to his career as a veterinary surgeon in Meirionnydd; and to his huge contribution to local government, as a member of Gwynedd County Council between 1974 and 99, the Chairman of the County Council in 1979-80, and Chairman of Snowdonia National Park for 25 years. Reference was also made to his work with the Royal Welsh Show.

It was noted that John Tudor had been Chairman of the Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor Governing Body for many years, and reference was made to his pride in the students' success.

He sympathised with the family in their loss.

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

- (ii) Councillor John Gwilym Jones was congratulated on becoming a grandfather for the first time, along with Councillor Dyfrig Jones on his appointment to the S4C Board.

Also, Bangor City Football Club was congratulated on winning the Welsh Cup, along with Bala Football Club on their promotion to the Welsh premier football league.

## **11 SAVINGS STRATEGY 2010-2013**

- (a) Submitted, for the Council's approval – an amended savings strategy for 2010-2013.
- (b) A PowerPoint presentation was received from the Corporate Director on the latest situation.

It was explained that public expenditure would be much lower in Britain in the future. The situation had worsened as a result of the Chancellor's recent budget, and it was likely that the economy would not improve until at least 2017.

It was noted that there was a general relationship between public expenditure in Britain and the local government grant. Nevertheless, it was anticipated that the relationship would worsen and he projected a very low grant increase in coming years and it would continue to be low until 2017 at least.

Reference was made to the long-term projections. Because of the possibility that the Council would receive a substantially lower grant in 2010/11 and 2011/12, it was explained that more savings would need to be identified. At present, the Council was planning to identify savings of £15m over the next three years, but because of the possibility that the grant increase would be very low, it was possible that savings of £16m would need to be identified over two years, and that there was a need to prepare for this.

Whilst noting that there was no certainty regarding the situation, he anticipated a very bleak period for years to come.

- (c) A PowerPoint presentation was received from the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department on the strategy's regime and process.

It was explained that the Council had a savings strategy in place since 2005/06 and that £14.4m of financial savings had been realised since then, and that the strategy had been amended regularly in response to the context. Comparatively small individual plans had been achieved in the past, and because it was increasingly difficult to identify savings, there was a need to agree on a new strategy for the challenging situation that faced the Council.

In addition to a target of 0.5% annual financial efficiency for every Head and for schools, it was explained that it was intended to draw up a menu of savings of approximately twice the amount of the target in the strategy, so that members could select and prioritise the plans to be actioned.

The Head expanded on the various elements of the strategy and added that there was now agreement that the Board would consider and approve the draft menu, prior to submitting it for scrutiny. He also explained that it was intended to seek the opinion of residents and staff on the options prior to submitting them for the approval of the Principal Scrutiny Committee, the Board and the full Council.

He emphasised that the leadership of members and senior officers was key in order to cope with the challenge, and that consensus was needed on the strategy, in order to achieve the plans and implement the changes.

- (ch) A PowerPoint presentation was received from the Chief Executive on how the Council would achieve the challenging changes.

He explained that the foundation of the Council's resources would change very substantially over the next years, that there would be a need to change in order to respond to the challenge and that there was a need to lead and manage the change.

He expanded on the leadership responsibilities. He referred to the need to face reality regarding the difficult situation facing the Council, and to the need to identify savings across the services and that gradual changes and numerous minor changes were insufficient.

He also referred to the need to continue to change culture and empower staff to identify and achieve savings; operate strategically and planning for future threats and opportunities; create a one Council culture in order to face challenges successfully; speed-up the process of change and create an affirmative and positive environment so as to promote creativity and enterprise.

He emphasised the need to collaborate across political parties and with officers in order to achieve the changes so as to restrict the damage and maximise the opportunities.

- (d) The Strategy and associated matters were discussed and the following observations were noted:-

Members were eager to respond to the challenge and participate in full in the process.

A member noted that difficult choices and decisions faced them and that it was important that there was freedom for members to think broadly about possible plans, in order to ensure a vast choice in the menu.

The Chief Executive explained that there was an opportunity for members to have extensive input to the menu and to choose from the menu. It was noted that the arrangements had been amended in accordance with members' wishes to act within the Council's procedures and to ensure extensive scrutiny opportunities.

**RESOLVED to approve the amended savings strategy.**

## **12 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- (a) Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department on amendments to the Council's constitution as a result of corporate restructuring and other developments.
- (b) Councillor Simon Glyn, the Chairman of the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee, explained that the scrutiny committee had given thorough and comprehensive attention to various aspects of the Constitution. He explained that there was agreement about every amendment, except for the reference up procedure. Despite the fact that

members were in agreement that there was a need to exercise better discipline when referring matters up, there was no consensus regarding the best way of doing so.

The matter had also been discussed at the Business Group and options were presented to the Council.

- (b) The proposal to increase the number required for referring up to 25 (from the existing 15) and request that those who refer up ensure that the new decision was within the Council's policies and budget, was proposed and seconded. Any notice leading to a decision contrary to policy or budget would not be accepted. (Option 1)

It was noted that the scrutiny committee recommended the arrangements from a small majority.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the proposed amendments to Procedural Rule 21 were not complete in the English documents. She apologised for the mistake and noted that the accurate English copies had been distributed to the relevant members. She noted that the Welsh version was the accurate original version.

- (ch) A number of members expressed an objection to increasing the number to 25 and it was suggested that it would be more reasonable to increase the number to 21 as it would give smaller groups a fairer opportunity to refer a matter to the full Council.
- (d) Others were of the opinion that the current procedure of 15 should be adhered to. It was noted that increasing it to 25, or even 21, would make it very difficult for general members, members of smaller groups and members who represented rural areas to collect sufficient names. The observation was made that increasing the number was contrary to democracy and members were encouraged to adhere to the status quo by voting against the proposal.

Also, reference was made to the fact that the previous Council had reduced the number from 18 to 15.

A member noted that he agreed that there was a need to ensure a procedure which gave an opportunity to a general member of the Council to bring a matter which was of relevance to him / her, to the attention of his / her fellow members. Nevertheless, it was noted that many unnecessary things were being called up to the full Council, rather than being called to the Principal Scrutiny Committee and other committees.

The proposal to increase the number required for referring up to 21 (from the existing 15) and request that those who refer up ensure that the new decision was within the Council's policies and budget, and that any notice would not be accepted if it would, subject to adoption, lead to a decision that was contrary to policy or budget, was proposed and seconded.

In accordance with Procedural Rule 19 (6), the following vote was recorded on the above-mentioned amendment:-

**In favour: (42)** Councillors Bob Anderson, Stephen Churchman, E T Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Dylan Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Keith Greenly-Jones, Margaret Griffith, Siân Gwenllïan, Huw Hughes, Sylvia Humphreys, Anne Lloyd Jones, Charles Jones, Dai Rees Jones, Dyfrig Wynn Jones, Evie Morgan Jones, J R Jones, John Wynn Jones, R L Jones, Penri Jones, P.G.Larsen, Dewi Lewis, Dewi Llewelyn, June Marshall,

Keith Marshall, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, W Tudor Owen, Arwel Pierce, Caerwyn Roberts, Glyn Roberts, Ieuan Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Gareth Roberts, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, J.W. Williams and R H Wyn Williams

**Against: (24)** Councillors Anwen Davies, Trevor Edwards, T G Ellis, Simon Glyn, Alwyn Gruffydd, Christopher Hughes, Dafydd Ll Hughes, Louise Hughes, Aeron M Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Gwilym Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Dilwyn Lloyd, J Wynn Meredith, Llinos Merks, W Roy Owen, Peter Read, Dafydd W Roberts, Gwilym Euros Roberts, Siôn Selwyn Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gwilym Williams, Owain Williams and Robert J Wright.

**Abstentions (0):**

The Chair reported that the amendment had been carried and that the proposal as amended had replaced the original proposal.

- (dd) A number of members expressed strong objection to giving officers permission to restrict and prevent matters which had been referred up by the appropriate number of members, should it be contrary to policy or budget. It was noted that the arrangement would be contrary to democracy.

Proposed, seconded and carried – an amendment not to permit officers to prevent the appropriate number of officers from referring the matter up to the Council should it be contrary to policy or budget.

The Chair reported that the amendment, as further amended, had replaced the original proposal.

- (e) Because the number of members needed to refer up had increased to 21, a request was made for the reference up period to be increased from 5 to 7 working days. It was noted that it would be more difficult, in a dispersed county, to gather 21 names in 5 days.

Proposed, seconded and carried – an amendment to extend the reference up period to 7 days in order to give a fair opportunity to contact a higher number of members.

The Chair reported that the amendment, as further amended, had replaced the original proposal.

A vote was held on the original proposal as amended.

- (f) Doubt was expressed in relation to the need to transfer the reference up and overview duties of the Principle Scrutiny Committee to the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee. In response, it was explained that this was a sensible change as it was the committee's present work to take an overview of corporate issues and therefore, taking an overview of the work of other scrutiny committees and challenging the Board's decisions would sit comfortably within its terms of reference.

The Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee was thanked for its thorough work on amending the Constitution.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) **In relation to Procedural Rule 21, and the calling in procedure, to increase the number needed for reference up to the Council to 21, and that the written notices are to hand no**

later than 7 working days after the meeting where the decision was made (or in the case of the Board, no later than 7 working days after the notices are sent out).

- (ii) To adopt the amendments to the Constitution in accordance with the details noted in the table below:

Title of Document	The amended part	Implications
Article 6 – Scrutiny Committees	Principal Scrutiny Committee terms of reference.	To transfer the Principal Scrutiny Committee’s call-in and overview functions to the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee rather than to the Development Scrutiny Committee.
Article 9 – The Standards Committee	9.02 – a,b,c,dd and f.	To add another lay member to the Committee taking the total membership to 9.  Other amendments to comply with amended regulations.
Article 12 - Officers	12.1(b)	Changes to the description of the Corporate Leadership Team to comply with the new structure of the Council.
Schemes for Delegation to Committees	2.4.9	To give Conwy and Anglesey co-opted members a vote on the Pensions Committee.  To delete the Môn-Arfon Waste Joint Committee.
Schemes for Delegations to Officers	3.13 4.3.4 4.9 4.11 4.13 4.14 4.15 4.16 4.17 4.18 4.20 4.21	Changes to comply with the new structure. Title of a number of posts changing; responsibility fields moving from one head to another in a number of cases and descriptions of other work fields that have been tidied up. Update the legislation list that is enforced by the Public Protection officers. Update.
Procedural Rules	5(8) 12(6) 13(7) 16(6) 18 21 27	To re-establish the rule of not re-discussing a matter in the Council within six months; to amend the reference up procedure (in accordance with (i) above); to introduce the right to give a written reply to a question; and other minor amendments.

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Procedural Rules</b>	1 2 10 17	<b>Amendments to the wording to comply with changing the Principal Scrutiny Committee; ensuring consultation with the Chairman if a member submits a request to include an item on the agenda.</b>
<b>Financial Rules</b>	1.4, 3, 4.1, 7.8, 7.21, 7.22, 7.37, 7.38, 20.12, 20.13, 23.3 and other minor amendments	<b>To be in accordance with the new structure; update revenue and capital transfer thresholds, reduce thresholds in order to increase capital receipts to the corporate fund, regularise terminology and simplify for clarity.</b>
<b>Contracts Procedural Rules</b>	All of the rules	<b>Re-write rules to be in accordance with modern procurement arrangements and in accordance with relevant regulations.</b>
<b>Members' Allowance Scheme</b>	The whole scheme	<b>Amendments in accordance with the decision of the Full Council to introduce a co-opted members' allowance and care allowance. An increase in the basic allowance of £600 to come nearer to the recommendations of the independent panel. Increasing the allowances of the Council's Chair and Vice-chair to reflect the allowances paid to chairs and vice-chairs of committees. Introducing travelling allowances for bicycles and one daily amount for subsistence. Adding inflation to all allowances in accordance with the recommendation of the independent panel.</b>

- (iii) **To delegate powers to the Head of Democracy and Legal Department to make the appropriate arrangements to convene the interview panel for an additional lay member of the Standards Committee and submit a recommendation on the appointment to the full Council.**

### **13 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STRATEGY 2009-2012**

- (a) Submitted, for the Council's approval – Overview and Scrutiny Strategy 2009-2012.
- (b) A PowerPoint presentation was received from Councillor Simon Glyn, Chairman of the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the context and content of the Strategy.

It was explained that the Council's scrutiny arrangements needed to be improved and that the proposed strategy expressed a clear and understandable vision for the Council's overview and scrutiny work for the next three years. It set out firm criteria to follow when



selecting matters to scrutinise and gave more responsibility and powers to elected members.

He referred to the four aims that had been noted in the Council's Three Year Plan, noting that members, by means of the Scrutiny Committees, Council Board and full Council, needed to work together to realise the aims in order to Improve Gwynedd.

He gave details of the Strategy's main objectives, namely to identify the most important matters to scrutinise, placing emphasis on making a difference to the people of Gwynedd and improving input from the public, partners and communities by effective communication.

Reference was made to the new arrangements in relation to programming the work and preparing to scrutinise and he elaborated on the discussions of the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee in relation to the new arrangements.

- (c) A member expressed strong objection to using external experts and consultants in order to support scrutiny because of the costs associated with this. The member noted that the Council's professional officers should be used for the work, and suggested that the use of external consultants should be cut-back in general in order to make savings. The Head of Strategic and Improvement Department emphasised that it would be a matter for members to decide on the type of assistance they would need and the cost of that assistance.
- (ch) A member of the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee noted that he welcomed the strategy. Nevertheless, in relation to programming the committee's work, he explained that he was not in a position to earmark half a day for discussing items to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting, and encouraged officers to make full use of the video conferencing equipment.

**RESOLVED to approve the Overview and Scrutiny Strategy for 2009-2012, and give the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department permission to make minor editorial amendments to the document.**

## **14 POLITICAL BALANCE**

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department regarding the Council's political balance and associated issues.

It was reported that the Council was required to ensure that the constitution of its committees and sub-committees reflected the strength of the Council's various political groups.

It was explained that the Môn-Arfon Waste Joint Committee had ended which resulted in a reduction in the number of seats on the Council's committees, and that there was a need to amend the allocation of seats.

Also, as the Council had changed the terms of reference of the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee to be the Principal Scrutiny Committee, it was explained that the Independent Group lost one seat to the Labour Group on that committee, and the Labour Group lost a seat to the Independent Group on the Development Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that the Council's Business

Group supported these changes.

In addition, it was explained that a member of the same political group as the chairman of the Board could not be the chair or vice-chair of the Principal Scrutiny Committee. As a result of the Council's decision to give the Principal Scrutiny Committee's remit to the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee, there was a need to exchange the vice-chairmanships of the two committees.

#### RESOLVED

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

Plaid Cymru	35
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	13
Liberal Democrats	5
Labour	4

- (ii) to adopt the allocation outlined in accordance with 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
Resources and Corporate (Principal Scrutiny Committee)	7	3	3	1	1

#### OTHER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Development	7	4	3	1	
Environment	7	3	3	1	1
Children and Young People	7	3	3	1	1
Care	7	4	2	1	1

#### OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Audit	7	4	3		1
Complaints	4	2	1		
Pensions	2	2	1	1	1
Central	5	3	1	1	1

<b>Planning</b>					
<b>Central Licensing</b>	5	3	2	1	
<b>Employment Appeals</b>	3	1	1	1	1
<b>Human Resources</b>	6	2	2	1	
<b>SACRE</b>	3	2	1	1	
<b>Local Joint Committee</b>	5	2	2	1	1
<b>Special Education Joint Committee</b>	3	2	1		1
<b>Charities</b>	4	2	2	1	
<b>Language</b>	3	2	2		
<b>Non Domestic Taxes</b>	3	1	1		
<b>Introductory Tenancy</b>	2	1			

(ii) To exchange the vice-chair of the Development Scrutiny Committee and Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee and adopt the chairmanships and vice-chairmanships allocation in accordance with the table noted below:

	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-chair</b>
1	<b>Council Board</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>
2	<b>Resources and Corporate (Principal Scrutiny Committee)</b>	<b>Llais Gwynedd</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>
3	<b>Children and Young People</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Independent</b>
4	<b>Environment</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>
5	<b>Care</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Llais Gwynedd</b>
6	<b>Development</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>
7	<b>Audit</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>
8	<b>Complaints</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>
9	<b>Central Planning</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Independent</b>
10	<b>Central Licensing</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	<b>Independent</b>
11	<b>Pensions</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Labour</b>

12	Human Resources	Plaid Cymru	Independent
13	Employment Appeals	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
14	Arfon Area	Labour	Plaid Cymru
15	Dwyfor Area	Plaid Cymru	Llais Gwynedd
16	Meirionnydd Area	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru

## 15 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING STRATEGY

- (a) Submitted for the full Council's approval – the Member Development and Training Strategy.
- (b) The Head explained that the intention of the strategy was to assist members to achieve their duties and responsibilities within a structured framework. Reference was made to the difficult years ahead and it was noted that the strategy would empower members to face the challenge successfully.

It was also noted that the Strategy would be a means of contributing to work towards the Charter for Member Support and Development that the Council had committed to. It was explained that adopting a framework for developing and training members was one of the requirements of the Charter. The Welsh Local Government Association's review team would be visiting Gwynedd Council at the end of May in order to assess the Council's progress in relation to working towards the Charter, and the Strategy would be an important part of achieving the standard.

It was explained that members had been consulted broadly in order to develop the Strategy and it was noted that further input would be needed from members to develop the elements, in order to ensure that they were in keeping with the needs.

It was intended to implement the strategy in full for leaders during 2009/10 and for the remainder of the members in 2010/11.

It was noted that the cost of the training would come from a budget that was already available. Also, it was noted that the Welsh Local Government Association was of the opinion that the Strategy was advanced, and that support was available from the WLGA in terms of a financial contribution and officer time in order to assist with the development of the Strategy.

- (c) A short presentation was received on the content of the strategy by the Training Manager.

It was reported that the strategy was ambitious and aimed to provide an effective and professional service and support of the highest quality.

He explained that elected members would make a substantial contribution towards the steps in the strategy. It was emphasised that it was important that the scheme was

appropriate and met the needs of individual members and that there were a number of detailed steps in the strategy in order to ensure this.

It was noted that the strategy itself was very detailed. The various elements of the strategy were expanded upon, along with the steps to be developed with the WLGA, namely to define the role and responsibility, competencies and conduct of members. The training matrix was expanded upon, namely a list of the training that would be available for members, along with the process of drawing up an Individual Development Programme.

(ch) The strategy and associated matters were extensively discussed and the following observations made by members were noted:-

- that training was important, and that members should attend training when possible, but that it should not be mandatory;
- it should be ensured that prospective members realised that they would be expected to attend training in order to have the necessary information and skills;
- need to ensure that the arrangements were convenient in terms of timing and location. A request was made to avoid clashes with Council committees; to consider holding some sessions in the evening and to arrange training on more than one subject at a time;
- training needed to be appropriate and purposeful; A request was made for the training to be provided in various ways; to distribute the papers before hand and send relevant information to members who were unable to attend the training;
- the training should be held in the Council's buildings, not in private establishments, in order to avoid unnecessary costs;

The Portfolio Leader – Human Resources thanked the Training Manager and training team for their work in bringing the ambitious strategy before the Council and he encouraged all Council members to take advantage of the training.

**RESOLVED to approve the Member Training and Development Strategy, to be actioned in accordance with the timetable.**

## **16 REFERENCE UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURAL RULE 21**

It was reported that the appropriate numbers of members had given written notice that they wished to refer the following matter up.

### **CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE - 26 MARCH 2009**

#### **Item 6 – Planning Applications**

#### **Application C08A/0617/15/AM – land at Groeslon, Glynrhonwy, Llanberis, Caernarfon**

(i) It was reported that the Central Planning Committee, at its meeting on 26 March 2009, had resolved as follows:-

**RESOLVED to refuse the application on the grounds that it is contrary to national planning policies and the advice in the Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement 01/2006; Technical Advice Note 6; policy CH7 of the Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan (draft as amended) August 2008; policy A1 of the Gwynedd Structure Plan and policy 4Ff of the Rural Arfon Local Plan.**

- (ii) The local member asked for the item to be deferred in order to give an opportunity to present further information to members.

**RESOLVED to defer the discussion on the item in order to give an opportunity to present further information to members.**

The meeting commenced at 2:00pm and concluded at 5:05pm