
THE COUNCIL, 17.07.14

Present: Councillor Dewi Owen (Chairman);
Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Vice-chairman).

Councillors: Craig ag Iago, Stephen Churchman, Lesley Day, Edward Dogan, Gwynfor Edwards, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, Chris Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June E. Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Linda Morgan, Christopher O'Neal, W. Roy Owen, William Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Peter Read, Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R.H. Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies and Eurig Wyn.

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive Designate), Morwena Edwards and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Directors), Dilys Phillips (Head of Democracy and Legal Department / Monitoring Officer), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Arwel E. Jones (Senior Manager – Corporate Commissioning Service), Iwan Evans (Legal Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Anwen Davies, Brian Jones, Charles W. Jones, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Michael Sol Owen, W. Gareth Roberts, Mike Stevens, Gruffydd Williams and Robert J. Wright.

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

1. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 1 May, 2014 as a true record.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor Linda Wyn Jones declared a personal interest in item 13 on the agenda – Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 2013/14 – as she was the director of Cwmni Seren.

The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and she participated fully in the discussion on the item.

Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams declared a personal interest in item 13 on the agenda – Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 2013/14 – because his wife was receiving a service from the department.

The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and he participated fully in the discussion on the item.

The Chief Executive Designate and the Legal Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer declared a personal interest in item 12 on the agenda – Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer – as the report referred to them, and they left the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Condolences

Condolences were expressed to the family of the Chief Bard Gerallt Lloyd Owen.

It was also noted that the Council wished to remember others within the county's communities who had lost loved ones recently.

The Council members stood as a mark of respect.

(b) Thanks

Gratitude was expressed to all the Council staff who had been involved with the arrangements for the Urdd Eisteddfod in Meirionnydd this year. It had been a very successful Eisteddfod and the Council was asked to pass on their appreciation to those officers.

(c) Congratulations

The following were congratulated:-

Mr Edmund Bailey, Llanbedr, Harlech on his appointment as the new Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd as successor to his Honour Huw Morgan Daniel.

All the youth of the county who had succeeded at the Urdd Eisteddfod this year, and it was noted that three of the main awards had come to Gwynedd.

Athletes from Gwynedd who had succeeded in becoming part of the Wales Team for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow at the end of the month.

The following on their success in the School Sports Awards Ceremony, and their teachers for teaching them:-

- Primary Boy of the Year – Cai Llwyd Jones – Ysgol Bethel
- Secondary Girl of the Year – Mari Davies – Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen
- School of the Year – Ysgol Sarn Bach
- Pupil of the Year, Active Young People Team – Elfed Selman – Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn
- Teams of the Year – Under 16 Football Team – Ysgol Eifionydd, and Under 16 Hockey Team – Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn.
- Volunteer of the Year – David Johnson
- Coach of the Year – Owain Williams – Ysgol Bro Tegid

(ch) Note

It was noted that all the members had received a copy of the Welsh Language in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17 and the Gwynedd Primary Schools Language Charter, and they were encouraged to read them.

4. PETITIONS

(a) It was noted that a request to submit a petition had been received from Councillor Louise Hughes, in accordance with Procedural Rule 13. The member was invited to submit the petition, summarise its purpose and to make any observations to endorse its contents. She noted the following:-

- Syniad Sothach (Rubbish Idea) were calling on the Council to reconsider the proposal to collect rubbish every three weeks.
- Over 2,000 people had signed the paper petition, with thousands more having signed it on-line.
- Environmental experts had warned that the rubbish would attract rats and vermin that would stay close to food supplies, thus bringing rats closer to people's houses.
- Rat droppings would spread diseases and endanger public health.
- Syniad Sothach had other plans to increase Recycling without moving to three weekly collections, and a meeting had been arranged with Russell Owens, Head of the Cooperative Change Programme, Welsh Government to discuss this.
- The Leader was asked to allow a discussion to take place in the full Council, so that every member had a democratic vote on the matter.

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Gareth Roberts, the Leader, Councillor Dyfed Edwards, responded to the presentation and noted:-

- The Council's intention was not to collect waste every three weeks only, and the blue boxes and the brown bins etc. would continue to be collected every week, with only the residual waste being collected every three weeks.
- Only half the population of the county recycled, and the arrangement had to be changed in order to encourage more people to recycle.
- The full Council had already adopted a Waste Strategy and had prioritised the field as part of its Strategic Plan, and the Cabinet had a responsibility to act in accordance with that.
- He also had a petition, which was the weight on his shoulders from tomorrow's generation who pressed on us to protect the environment and its natural resources and to not throw waste into large holes in the ground.
- He took the responsibility seriously, and no doubt that the rest of the county wished to live up to the label of a Green Gwynedd.

It was noted that the petition would be handed to the Cabinet Member for attention.

(b) It was noted that a request to submit a petition had been received from Councillor Stephen Churchman, in accordance with Procedural Rule 13. The member was invited to submit the petition, summarise its purpose and to make any observations to endorse its contents. He noted the following:-

- The petition, which had been organised by the residents of Pentrefelin and signed by 229 people, related to their concern regarding traffic along the A497 between Cricieth and Porthmadog.
- He had been corresponding with the Council and the Assembly Members etc. regarding this matter since 2002.

- A vehicle-stimulated sign that had been installed in Pentrefelin some years ago had alleviated the problem, but the sign had been lent temporarily to the Trunk Road Agency to be reused in Penmorfa.
- After the sign was damaged by a vehicle that had lost control, a new sign had been installed in its place on the insurance, and the residents were calling for this sign to be returned to Pentrefelin.
- The residents would be willing to share the use of the sign with Penmorfa, but since it had been in Penmorfa for a longer time than expected, it was high time for it to be returned to Pentrefelin.
- Leaving such a sign in the same place permanently reduced its effect, and it had a greater impact if it was there for some months at a time only.

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Gareth Roberts, the Leader, Councillor Dyfed Edwards, responded to the presentation and noted:-

- That he accepted that this was an important matter for the people of the area, and that the petition would be handed to the Cabinet Member for attention.
- He suggested that the member discussed with the Cabinet Member to see if it was possible to move forward positively.

5. QUESTIONS

A question from Councillor Dafydd Meurig

“The decision of the Education Department to abolish the bus for Talybont children to Ysgol Llandygai raises major questions about the way the department makes and implements decisions regarding the education transport policy. Is the Council willing to review a decision that would lead to children as young as five years old having to use a busy main road that has no pavement, and in the context of significant cuts faced by it over the coming years, is the Council happy that its arrangements for engagement and consultation with the residents of Gwynedd are fit for purpose?”

A reply from Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Education

(The Cabinet Member’s written answer had been distributed to the members in the group meetings on the morning of the Council meeting.)

“I acknowledge that the changes that are happening with regard to the transport of children to school are causing concern to a number of communities. It is the policy of this full Council that is being implemented here, and it is based on Government guidelines. The Education Department receives the professional opinion of the Transport Department, that determines which homes are within or outside the two or three miles, and it also receives the professional opinion of the officers of the Traffic Department on the safety of routes to schools. Parents in Talybont argue that the route is unsafe, but by using the guidelines from the Government, the only thing the Education Department had to consider was the officer’s report. There are new guidelines out by now, and I have asked the officers to carry out another assessment under these new guidelines. These guidelines enable two parents to be with the assessor making the assessment, and it also involves asking the children’s opinion. The assessment was conducted yesterday morning, and Councillor Dafydd Meurig was a part of it with two parents, and work on gathering the children’s opinions is taking place this week. We have not yet received the result but we hope to receive it quite soon. This is the third assessment that has been undertaken. The

department accepts that the communication with the parents could be better and we have learned lessons from this, and the lessons will be taken up.”

A supplementary question from Councillor Dafydd Meurig

“The problem in Maesgeirchen has been looked at again. Common sense has obviously come into it. Can you confirm that common sense will come into relooking at the decision in Talybont as well?”

A reply from Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Education

“I am pleased that a solution was found in Maesgeirchen, but that is due to a private company spotting an opportunity. The officers have been working closely with these companies and we hope that this type of thing can happen in other areas also. As I noted, we have requested an assessment under the new guidelines and we will see what will be the result of that in due course.”

6. A PRESENTATION BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING

A presentation was received from Councillor John Wyn Williams, Cabinet Member for Planning, providing details of his responsibilities in the field of planning, housing, trading standards and community safety.

In response to specific questions, the Cabinet Member responded as follows:-

- He acknowledged that there was further developmental work to be completed in relation to implementing Tai Teg.
- In terms of the Active Travel Bill, the work had been commenced in Bangor and would continue.
- He had not referred specifically to the economy in his presentation as the Council would receive a presentation from the Cabinet Member for the Economy in due course, and although no reference had been made to the Local Development Plan, the Joint Planning Policy Committee were continuously looking at the regeneration field.
- He agreed that a clear statement should be issued emphasising that the food hygiene report criticised the Council’s internal recording system, not the standard of the individual businesses. He also confirmed that the department's procedures were being looked at following the release of the report.
- He was surprised that the numbers on the waiting list for a house had decreased to 2,800, as the figure had been much higher than this in the past, and the Cabinet’s vision was to construct hundreds of social houses in order to meet people’s needs, and to also bring empty houses back into use.
- As the Council had succeeded in obtaining a grant to assist tenants temporarily, rent arrears had not increased as much as expected as a result of the bedroom tax, but there were concerns as to what would happen after the grant had ended.
- He was very willing to hold discussions with the officers regarding the restrictions of the TAN 15 (Flooding) in Porthmadog as there was a need to build more affordable homes there.
- He could not accept the comment that constructing hundreds of additional houses would serve only to meet the needs of people from outside the county. There was a need for houses in Gwynedd, but it was important to

- build them in the right places, and there had to be evidence of the need before they were built.
- In respect of the comment that section 106 agreements made it difficult for local people to construct houses, the guidelines had already been relaxed somewhat, and the period of local residence had now reduced to three years. If it were reduced further, it would not serve any purpose and would lead to an open market situation. The section 106 agreement was being looked at and the housing situation was under constant consideration.

In response to a question regarding the viewpoint of planning officers in appeals, the Monitoring Officer explained that the officers' recommendations to the Planning Committee were based on their professional opinion on applications, and should the committee make a decision that was contrary to the officers' recommendation, it would be difficult for those officers to publicly support an opinion that was contrary to their professional opinion at any subsequent appeal. Consequently, the procedure being implemented was that a member represented the committee in an appeal where a decision that was contrary to the officer's recommendation had been made.

The Cabinet Member was thanked for his presentation.

7. ADJUSTMENT TO THE PAY POLICY

The Cabinet Member for Resources submitted a report, recommending an adjustment to the Pay Policy, in order to facilitate the appointment of the Head of Education Department.

The recommendation was proposed by the Cabinet Member, and was seconded.

During the discussion the following main observations were highlighted:-

- The Council should be very careful if it intended to raise the salary of the Head of Education Department during a period of job cuts across the Council.
- A question was raised regarding the method of advertising the post in light of the fact that only two candidates had applied, but the Cabinet Member for Resources confirmed that the Council had advertised extensively, and that there was no problem in respect of marketing the post.
- The Cabinet's decision to allow heads of department to retire early and to then request a pay rise for their successor, was challenged, and it was enquired whether it would not be better to form an Employment Strategy initially and presume that they would have to go out to the market to search. The Chief Executive Designate replied that the Council's debt to the Head of Education Department was very large and he was entitled to retire anyway because of his age. The request was approved to allow time to go out to the market.
- It was suggested that it made no sense that some school heads earned more than the Head of Education who is responsible for the whole county's education system and it was noted that the proposed adjustment to the pay policy would mean that the Head of Education Department's salary would be higher than the salaries of all school head teachers in the county.
- They appreciated the fact that this matter had been brought before the full Council.
- It was emphasised that the salary must be increased in order to attract the best possible candidates.
- It was noted that the situation raised serious questions about the Council's structure. This was one of the Council's most important posts with a budget of £90m, namely half the Council's budget. This was a statutory post and the Council was placing it secondary within the system.

- In response to an enquiry, the Chief Executive Designate confirmed that the proposed increase would need to be funded from savings, but if the Council did not succeed to fill the post of the Head of Education Department, the cost to the Council would be much higher.

In the current climate and in light of the Williams report and the collaboration that was already happening in the education field, an amendment was proposed and seconded to add the following words to the original proposal:-

“The Chief Officers Appointment Committee is also asked to open discussions with neighbouring education authorities in order to see whether it is possible to collaborate at a senior management level in the education field, and the committee is given the operational right to decide on the best way of filling the post of the Head of Education Department.”

Support was expressed for the amendment on the grounds that this left every option on the table. On the contrary, it was suggested that it was premature to collaborate at the most senior level and that this Council should lead, rather than follow, other councils.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it was carried.

A vote was taken on the original proposal with the amendment and it was carried.

RESOLVED to adopt the recommendation of the Chief Officers Appointment Panel and change the Council’s Pay Policy in respect of the Head of Education post such that the maximum of the pay scale is consistent with the median benchmark. The Chief Officers Appointment Committee is also asked to open discussions with neighbouring education authorities in order to see whether it is possible to collaborate at a senior management level in the education field, and the committee is given the operational right to decide on the best way of filling the post of the Head of Education Department.

8. THE NEW CONSTITUTION

The Chairman of the Audit Committee submitted a report asking the Council to adopt the amendments to the Constitution following a review.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer explained that the Council needed to decide whether the Cabinet or the full Council would have the right to make decisions on proposals to close or establish individual schools under the schools’ organisation plan, and he provided the background to the arrangements.

The recommendations of the Audit Committee were proposed by the Chairman of the Committee, and they were seconded.

- (A) Referring to the right to appoint up to two co-opted members, without a vote, on every scrutiny committee (section 7.7 of the Constitution), an amendment was proposed and seconded that any co-opting of members was limited to a period of one year at a time as the scrutiny committees dealt with a broad range of subjects, and it would be beneficial to have experts from various fields serving on them.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it was carried.

A notice of a further amendment was given.

It was noted that there was a risk of focusing entirely on one or two matters only, and it was suggested that every member should receive a full copy of the Constitution and be encouraged to read it.

(B) An amendment was proposed and seconded that the Cabinet should make decisions on proposals to close or establish individual schools under the schools' organisation plan for the following reasons:-

- This was purely a constitutional matter. The Council had been forced to move to a Cabinet procedure, and in doing so, it had no choice but to accept the accompanying system, namely that the Council had a Cabinet, which acted, and the rest of the Council, which held the Cabinet to account.
- As the Cabinet was accountable, it was not appropriate to move one part of its work to the full Council.
- They did not wish to see this platform being used for political purposes.
- There was room to protect the local members so that they were not drawn into these matters.

Objection was expressed to the amendment for the following reasons:-

- If there was any doubt regarding the Council's engagement arrangements, it must be ensured that this was dealt with and scrutinised appropriately.
- The ethos of the amendment suggested that the ordinary member would be restricted even more.
- The amendment was not democratic and every member of the Council had a right to decide on matters that were important to the communities of the county.
- The local members did not wish to be protected from being drawn into these matters.

In their closing statement, the proposer of the amendment noted that the Council ran an arrangement where there was a clear difference between the executive role and the scrutiny role. The Cabinet should implement the education strategy that had been adopted by the Council, but should the right to decide on one education matter be taken from the Cabinet and given to the full Council, it would not be possible to hold the Council to account as there would be no right to call in.

In accordance with Procedural Rule 22(6), the following vote was recorded.

In favour of the amendment: (32) Councillors Craig ab Iago, Edward Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Sian Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, Peredur Jenkins, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Beth Lawton, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, Caerwyn Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Ann Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, R.H. Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies and Eurig Wyn.

Abstaining: (2) Councillors Selwyn Griffiths and Anne Lloyd Jones.

Against: (28) Councillors Stephen Churchman, Lesley Day, Gwynfor Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Alwyn Gruffydd, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Aeron Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-

Williams, Dilwyn Lloyd, June E. Marshall, Christopher O'Neal, W. Roy Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Peter Read, John Pughe Roberts, Angela Russell, Eirwyn Williams and Owain Williams.

- (C) Referring to the intention to delegate the right to a corporate director (or a head of department nominated by the corporate director), in consultation with a member of the Employment Appeals Committee and Human Resources Advisor, to determine appeals lodged by staff against disciplinary steps taken against them or appeals under any of the Council's employment policies where the right of appeal is permitted (section 13 of the Constitution), it was proposed and seconded that the procedure should be kept as it was, with the Employment Appeals Committee determining these matters.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it was carried.

A vote was taken on the entire Constitution and it was carried.

RESOLVED to adopt the new Constitution in accordance with the recommendations of the Audit Committee and the summary given in the appendices to the report, subject to the following:-

- (a) **Setting a time limit of 4 hours on meetings of the full Council, but giving the Chairman the discretion to continue the meeting beyond that if he is of the view that this is appropriate.**
- (b) **That the Cabinet should make decisions on proposals to close or establish an individual school under the schools' organisation plan.**
- (c) **That there is a right to appoint up to two co-opted members, without a vote, on each scrutiny committee for a period of a year at a time.**
- (ch) **To continue with the current procedure where the Employment Appeals Committee determines appeals lodged by staff against disciplinary steps taken against them in appeals under any of the Council's employment policies where the right of appeal is permitted.**

9. ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER / RETURNING OFFICER

The Cabinet Member for Customer Care submitted a report, recommending that the Council appointed an Electoral Registration Officer / Returning Officer from 1 September, 2014, as the current post-holder was retiring.

The recommendation was proposed by the Cabinet Member, and was seconded.

In response to an enquiry, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that there were no further financial implications for either post.

A vote was taken on the proposal and it carried.

RESOLVED

- (a) **To appoint the Chief Executive as Electoral Registration Officer for every constituency and part of a constituency within the County in accordance with Section 8(2A) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.**
- (b) **To appoint the Monitoring Officer as Deputy Registration Officer for the purposes mentioned in (a) above in accordance with Section 52(2) of the Act.**
- (c) **To appoint the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for the election of councillors to the Council and the election of community councillors within the County in accordance with Section 35(1A) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.**

All to be effective from 1 September 2014.

10. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2013/14 (INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CORPORATE PARENT PANEL AND THE SAFEGUARDING STRATEGIC PANEL)

Submitted – the Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 2013/14 incorporating the annual reports of the Corporate Parent Panel and the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

In her presentation, the Director reflected on the performance of the social services in Gwynedd during the past year, and reported on the priorities and aims for 2014/15. She emphasised that there was one clear message from everyone, namely that the Council's services and health services needed to be less complicated and more integrated in order to have the highest quality provision that was easily accessible when the need arose.

The Director thanked the staff, providers and partners for their commitment and hard work in ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults received the best possible services. She also thanked the Cabinet Member for Care for his tireless guidance and support throughout the year.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and offer their observations.

- In response to an enquiry regarding placing children out of county, the Director referred to the end-to-end work that had been completed in the children's field last year. She noted that there were children with very intensive care needs, and had the agencies been able to intervene earlier, it would have been possible to keep them locally.
- The importance of providing respite care and dementia care locally was emphasised.
- It was noted that those members who had failed to attend the training on corporate parenting earlier in the year should be invited to the next training session.
- The department and the carers were thanked for their invaluable work.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Director for her presentation and her leadership during a very challenging year, and he thanked the staff of the department for their hard work.

11. ANNUAL REPORT BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE WITH REGARDS TO SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee submitted the annual report, updating the members on the support that was available, the developments that had been realised and those which were ongoing.

She noted the savings that had been realised in the Democratic Services' budget and in individual departments' budgets since introducing the iPads to the members, and she appealed on the members not to request paper copies of committee agendas.

She noted that there was an invitation for women who were Gwynedd councillors to attend a Women's Forum in order to look at methods of attracting more women to stand as prospective councillors, network and possibly introduce support and mentoring groups to women councillors.

She congratulated Councillor Elin Walker Jones, Autism Champion, for putting the autistic community and Gwynedd on the map after being nominated in the Social Driver category in the Grassroot Diplomat Initiative Awards in London.

She thanked all the officers who supported the members.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and offer their observations.

- The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee was congratulated on her thorough and continuous work.
- It was noted that everything must be done to encourage more women, young people from every background and disabled people to stand in elections.
- It was noted that there weren't any women on the current Cabinet and it was enquired whether there was any intention to reorganise the Cabinet to include women. It was also noted that none of the political groups on the Council were led by women, and that very few committee chairs were women.
- The personal development interviews that were offered to members were welcomed.
- A member suggested the possibility of making a saving in the training budget by sending training material to members on their iPads rather than calling them into formal sessions. On the contrary, it was argued that attending training was part of a councillor's work, and it was suggested that reading material on an iPad / on paper could never be as effective as the experience of listening to a speaker and sharing ideas in a group.
- It was noted that councillors who were full time workers had as much to contribute to the post as people who had retired, although they had to make a difficult choice every day between their day-to-day work and their work as a councillor.

RESOLVED to note the report.

12. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

The Leader presented the report of the Head of Democratic Services reviewing the Council's political balance.

The recommendation was proposed by the Leader and was seconded.

It was noted that there was a need to correct the number of Llais Gwynedd seats at the end of the second block in Appendix A to 27.

A vote was taken on the proposal and it carried.

As the proposal was accepted, the Leader proposed further to appoint individual members to serve on different committees, and it was seconded.

A vote was taken on the proposal and it carried.

RESOLVED

(a) To adopt the allocation of seats on the Council's committees in accordance with the table below –

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
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Corporate	9	4	3	1	1	
Communities	8	4	3	1	1	1
Services	9	4	3	1		1
Audit	8	5	3	1		1

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Democratic Services	7	4	3	1		
Planning	7	3	3	1	1	
Central Licensing	7	4	3			1
Language	7	4	3			1
Chief Officers Appointment	7	4	2	1	1	
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1		1

Number of seats	74	37	27	8	4	2	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member	
Pensions	3	2	1		1		
SACRE	3	2	2				
Local Joint Consultative Committee	5	2	2	1		1	
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1	
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1			
Total seats	94	47	36	10	5	2	194

(b) To appoint the following individual members to serve on various committees:-

Block 1

Communities Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Louise Hughes

Services Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Linda Ann Jones

Audit Committee – Councillor Charles Jones

Block 2

Licensing Committee – Councillor Louise Hughes

Language Committee – Councillor Charles Jones
Employment Appeals Committee – Councillor Linda Ann Jones

Block 3

Local Joint Committee – Councillor Charles Jones
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee – Councillor Linda Ann Jones

13. A MATTER REFERRED FROM THE LANGUAGE COMMITTEE – ‘MYNYDDOEDD PAWB’ CAMPAIGN

Councillor Mair Rowlands, the Vice-chair of the Language Committee, submitted the report of the Language Development Officer to the Language Committee on 26 June, 2014, reporting that the committee had resolved as follows:-

“RESOLVED

- (a) To refer the matter to the full Council in order to give political strength to the campaign.*
- (b) To contact the Community Councils to remind them that it is important for them to give their support to the campaign.*
- (c) To nominate the Chair and Vice-chair of the Language Committee to be present at the next Conference of Mynyddoedd Pawb.”*

She proposed that the full Council gave its support to the campaign, and the proposal was seconded.

RESOLVED that Gwynedd Council gave its support to the objectives of the Mynyddoedd Pawb campaign which called on the relevant bodies in the statutory, public, voluntary and private sectors to take appropriate steps to protect Welsh place names.

14. THE COUNCIL’S STRATEGIC PLAN

The Leader submitted a revised version of the Strategic Plan which contained complete information for the majority of the indicators that required further attention, and inviting the Council to adopt the ambition that had been set for the indicators highlighted in the document on pages 14, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 28, 31, 33, 36 and 37.

RESOLVED to adopt the ambition for the indicators highlighted in the Strategic Plan.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with Procedural Rule 17, it was reported that a notice of motion had been received, along with a procedural motion, in accordance with Procedural Rule 17(12), from Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd, requesting that the following proposal be discussed at the full Council instead of being referred to a committee.

RESOLVED to discuss the motion at this meeting.

The following proposal was proposed and seconded:-

“That this Council extends its best wishes to the government and people of Scotland in the referendum on independence for their country in September, and that this Council hopes that the result of the referendum will bring unequivocal

victory to the campaign to enable Scotland to ensure its place amongst the world's nations as a free and unfettered country."

Although some members did not consider that the motion was relevant to Gwynedd, others were strongly of the view that the Council should look beyond the boundaries of the county, and discuss Scotland, as no matter what the results of the referendum would be, it would affect the future of the people of this county.

In accordance with Procedural Rule 22(6), the following vote was recorded:-

In favour of the proposal: (45) Craig ag Iago, Edward Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Sian Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, W. Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Peter Read, Caerwyn Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R.H. Wyn Williams and Mandy Williams-Davies.

Abstaining: (4) Councillors Trevor Edwards, Jean Forsyth, Gwen Griffith and Sion Wyn Jones.

Against: (8) Councillors Stephen Churchman, Lesley Day, John Brynmor Hughes, Anne Lloyd Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, June E. Marshall and W. Roy Owen.

RESOLVED to accept the motion.

At the end of the meeting, the Chief Executive, the Head of Education Department and the Head of Democracy and Legal Department / Monitoring Officer were wished a happy retirement and they were thanked for their commendable service and valuable leadership during a very challenging time.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 5.20pm.