

HOLYHEAD TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2025-2026



CONTEXT

During the year 2025-2026, the council comprised of 16 councillors who were fully committed to representing the residents of the 7 Wards making up the council. The councillors who were in office during the year were as follows:

Councillor Cadi Evanson (Mayor)

Councillor Adrienne Edwards (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Hywel Williams

Councillor Keith Roberts

Councillor Glyn Haynes

Councillor Charlotte Morrison

Councillor Alan Williams

Councillor Pip O'Neill

Councillor John Chorlton

Councillor Beryl Warner BEM

Councillor Ann Kennedy

Councillor Ailia Lewis MBE

Councillor Sue McGinn

Councillor David Hughes

Councillor Richard Parry

Councillor Vaughan Williams

The council has a number of standing committees and councillors are appointed to serve on these. The standing committees are

Finance and Property

Public Relations Tourism and Events

Staffing and Audit

Communities and Leisure

A year of investment, delivery and community activity

During 2025-2026 Holyhead Town Council continued to invest in services, facilities, events and commercial activity for the benefit of residents, visitors and the wider Holyhead community.

About the Council

Holyhead Town Council is a large and proactive Town Council serving the town of Holyhead. The Council has 16 Town Councillors representing 7 wards, supported by 26 members of staff. Together, elected members and staff work to deliver local services, manage community assets, support events and strengthen the town's commercial and community offer.

The Council operates with one of the larger precepts and income-generated budgets within the town and community council sector in Wales. This scale allows the Council to take a proactive approach to local delivery, while also placing a strong emphasis on value for money, commercial sustainability and responsible management of public resources.

Our Services and Assets

The Town Council owns and manages a range of commercial and community properties and aims to provide high-quality services at reasonable and accessible prices. Key facilities and assets include:

- The Empire Complex – a major community and commercial venue incorporating cinema and leisure facilities.
- Y Parc – a growing leisure and recreation offer for the town.
- Seven play areas located around Holyhead, providing accessible outdoor facilities for children and families.

Environmental Services

The Council has its own environmental team, which undertakes environmental improvement work across the town and also delivers contract work on behalf of the Town Council. The team contributes to maintaining public spaces, supporting local projects and improving the appearance and usability of areas used by residents and visitors.

Services Provided by the Town Council

In addition to the services and assets highlighted above, the Town Council provides, manages or supports the following facilities, services and community functions:

1. Finance 87% of the cost of running Maeshyfryd Cemetery, with the remaining 13% financed by Trearddur Bay Community Council.
2. Town Hall, including hall hire, Chamber hire and office hire.
3. Empire Cinema.
4. Empire Play Centre.
5. Y Parc.
6. The Cenotaph.
7. Part responsibility for the Town Clock.
8. The Dutch commemorative plaque at Newry Beach.
9. Public toilets at Swift Square in the town center and at Newry Beach.
10. The CCTV system for the town.
11. Management of the six Penrhos Almshouses bungalows in Kingsland for elderly residents.
12. Newry Beach play area.
13. Kingsland play area.
14. London Road play area.
15. Llanfawr Road play area.
16. Old School Road play area, Llaingoch.
17. Lon Newydd play area, Llaingoch.
18. Peibio play area.
19. Checks on play equipment at Gwelfor Community Centre.
20. Various horticultural contracts with local authorities and businesses.
21. Most of the bus shelters around Holyhead.
22. Litter picking on the Celtic Gateway Bridge and cleaning its steelwork under contract to Anglesey County Council.
23. Donations to local charitable causes, including the Holyhead Leisure/Maritime Festival.
24. Provision of 26 sustainable jobs in the town.
25. 75 allotments at Plas Road.
26. Christmas lights in the town.
27. Consultation on planning applications for the town. Final decisions are taken by the County Council's Planning Committee.
28. The 16 Town Councilors give their time to serve the community and can claim a £150 annual allowance plus an attendance allowance.
29. Working closely with developers wishing to come to Holyhead to help ensure local people are given priority for jobs created and, wherever possible, that the town receives community benefit.
30. Council meetings are open to the public, and minutes are published on the Council website for information.
31. Each primary school child moving up to high school is presented with a dictionary by the Town Council.
32. Various community days are held throughout the year.

Investment and Commercial Development

A major focus during 2025-2026 was strengthening the Council's commercial base and improving the facilities available to the community. This work is intended to create sustainable income streams while ensuring that Council-owned assets continue to serve Holyhead effectively.

Empire Complex Development

The Council completed a significant phase of development at the Empire Complex during the year. The works included the creation of a new multi-use play centre and the refurbishment of the cinema. This represented a major investment in the future of the complex and forms part of the Council's wider ambition to improve local leisure provision and increase commercial resilience.

The refurbishment period required the Empire Complex to close for part of the year, creating a temporary loss of income and additional operational pressures. Despite this, the Council maintained its wider services and continued progressing the development programme.

Y Parc and the New Dog Park

During the financial year the Council opened Y Bark, a dedicated dog park operating through a booking system. The facility has proved to be a commercial success and demonstrates how the Council can combine a practical community service with income generation. The Council will continue to review opportunities to develop Y Parc and broaden its offer.

A Stronger Commercial Approach

The Council has continued to look for ways to improve its commercial activity, maximise the use of Council-owned property and create new income streams. The aim is to reduce pressure on the precept where possible while maintaining good-quality services at reasonable prices.

Commercial priorities

The Council's approach is to balance community benefit with sustainable income generation. Investment in the Empire Complex, Y Parc and other assets is intended to strengthen the Council's long-term financial position.

Play Areas and Community Facilities

The Council continues to maintain seven play areas around the town. These facilities are an important part of the Council's commitment to families, children, health and wellbeing, and accessible community spaces.

Community Events and Activities

Holyhead Town Council is well known for organising and supporting local events throughout the year. These activities bring residents together, support families, attract visitors and contribute to the identity and vibrancy of Holyhead.

Halloween Trail

Easter Trail

Party in Y Parc

Remembrance Sunday

Christmas dinners for the over 50s

Fit and Fed

Summer Camps

Cruise ship welcomes

Party in Y Parc

The 2025-2026 financial year saw the Town Council deliver the very first Party in Y Parc, a one-day music festival featuring headline acts. The event was a major success and marked an important new addition to Holyhead's events programme. Planning for Party in Y Parc 2026 is already well underway, with the Council aiming to build on the success of the inaugural event.

Financial Position

The year was financially challenging, particularly because of the temporary closure of the Empire Complex during refurbishment and the level of investment and expenditure undertaken across Council services and projects. The financial year ended with a £66,000 deficit. Given the scale of disruption, investment and operational activity during the year, the Council considers this to be a manageable outcome and will continue to monitor expenditure and income generation closely.

Year-end position

Reported deficit for 2025-2026: £66,000. The Council's focus for 2026-2027 will include strengthening commercial income, streamlining costs and maximising the value of Council-owned assets.

Biodiversity and Welsh Language

The Council maintains its own Biodiversity Plan, setting out its approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity through its activities and management of local spaces. The plan can be accessed here -

<https://www.holyheadtowncouncil.com/images/downloads/Bio%20Diversity%20plan.pdf>

The Council also has its own Welsh Language Plan, reflecting its commitment to supporting the Welsh language in Council services and activities. The plan can be accessed here -

<https://www.holyheadtowncouncil.com/images/downloads/Welsh%20Language%20Policy.pdf>

Looking Ahead: 2026-2027

The Council enters 2026-2027 with a clear focus on growth, service improvement and long-term sustainability. Priorities for the year ahead include:

- Purchase of additional commercial premises to strengthen the Council's asset base and future income generation.
- Staff development and further employment opportunities to support service delivery and organisational growth.
- Development of new events for residents and visitors.
- Delivery of Party in Y Parc 2026, building on the success of the first event.
- Streamlining commercial activities under a more consistent cost and supply structure to improve efficiency and purchasing control.
- A new website for the Empire Complex.
- A new website for Holyhead Town Council.
- A new website for Y Parc.

Our Continuing Commitment

Holyhead Town Council remains committed to being an ambitious, visible and responsive local council. The Council will continue to invest in community facilities, support local events, improve commercial performance and deliver services that provide practical value to the people of Holyhead.

The achievements of 2025-2026 were made possible by the work of councillors, staff, volunteers, partners, local organisations and residents. The Council thanks everyone who has contributed to the town during the year and looks forward to continuing this work throughout 2026-2027.

Holyhead Town Council

Council website: www.holyheadtowncouncil.co.uk

Annual Report period: 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Publication

This Annual Report summarises the Council's priorities, activities and achievements during the 2025-2026 financial year and is intended to provide residents and stakeholders with a clear overview of the Council's work.

This Annual Report is dated August 2026 due to a delay in receiving the completed internal audit. The Council needed to receive the internal audit before it could finalise the financial statement for the 2025-2026 financial year and complete this report.