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**COUNCIL CABINET  
MINUTES  
19 February 2015**

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**Present –**

Councillors: Dyfed Edwards (Leader), Peredur Jenkins, John Wynn Jones, Dafydd Meurig, W Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Mandy Williams-Davies.

**Also present –**

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Iwan G D Evans (Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), William Jones (Senior Finance Manager), Dewi Morgan (Senior Finance Manager), Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department), Dafydd Williams (Senior Transport Manager), Guto Rhys Huws (Lead Manager for Primary Schools Reorganisation), Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Manager – Corporate Property), Arwel Ellis Jones (Senior Manager – Corporate Commissioning Service), Debbie Anne Williams Jones (Members' Manager – Democracy Service), Bethan Richardson (Cabinet Support Team Leader – Taking the minutes).

**1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES**

The Cabinet members, members of the Press, the public and the officers were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies – Councillors Dilwyn Morgan, Elwyn Edwards and Alan Evans Jones.

**2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Councillor Mair Rowlands declared an interest in item 12 as she served on the Bangor Language Initiative Board.

The member was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and she withdrew from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

**3. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

There were no matters arising from scrutiny committees.

## **5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 January 2015.

## **6. 2015/16 BUDGET AND 2015/16 – 2017/18 FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The report was submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins.

### **DECISION**

1. To recommend to the Council -
  - i. That a budget of £228,193,060 should be set for 2015/16 to be funded through £168,311,989 of Government Grant and an increase of 4.5% in the Council Tax which would generate Council Tax income of £57,862,389 with the remaining deficit being funded by using £2,018,682 of Council balances.
  - ii. Also, to establish a capital programme of £19.179m in 2015/16 and £21.270m in 2016/17 to be funded from sources noted in clause 9.4 of the report.
  - iii. To note the continuation of the medium term strategy to consult on the proposals to deal with the financial deficit which we are facing for the next three years.
2. To accept the proposals of the Schools Funding Forum for delivering £952,000 of savings from the schools budget in 2015/16 and comply with the funding promise for schools, using "Model B" to reduce the primary sector teaching staff allocation by £60,131 and to reduce the secondary sector teaching staff allocation by £25,771.
3. To ask the Schools Funding Forum to continue to review education services and organisation in order to discover the remaining savings target beyond the £952,000 for 2015/16 and to await its recommendation regarding how the entire £4.3m could be realised over the period from 2015/16 - 2018/19.
4. To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to encourage individual school governing bodies to consider how they could use their schools' balances as part of a package to address their financial deficit in a planned way.

## **7. REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 – THIRD QUARTER REVIEW**

The report was submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins.

## **DECISION**

To accept the report on the third quarter review of the Revenue Budget (2014/15 projections based on the position at 31 December 2014) and after consideration of the latest financial situation with regard to the budgets of every department/service, to request the Cabinet Members and the relevant heads of department to take the appropriate steps regarding matters under their leadership/management.

### **8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 – 2016/17 – THIRD QUARTER REVIEW**

The report was submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins.

## **DECISION**

1. To accept the report on the end of the third quarter review (31 December 2014 position) of the capital programme, and approve the revised financing, namely:
  - i. a decrease of £95,000 in the use of grants and contributions
  - ii. an increase of £34,000 in the use of capital receipts
  - iii. an increase of £246,000 in the use of revenue contributions
  - iv. an increase of £163,000 in the use of other reserves.
2. By implementing the above recommendations, to finance a programme in order to achieve capital projects worth over £92m in 2014/15 – 2016/17.

### **9. PARKING REVIEW**

The report was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig.

## **DECISION**

1. To approve the proposed parking management procedure and the parking fees structure as presented in the report, including –
  - i. setting bands in order to differentiate logically between parking fees in different areas, and a scheme with Community Councils in order to increase or provide a fees subsidy in the interests of the community (sections 3-5 of the report),
  - ii. additional car parks to become pay and display car parks (section 7 of the report), and
  - iii. introducing a system of paying for on-street parking (section 9 of the report),
  - iv. introducing a free parking system over the Christmas period (section 6 of the report),
  - v. establishing a system for charging for on-street parking in the areas noted (section 9 of the report).

2. That the new fees structure will become operational from 1 April 2015 and that a system is established to review the fees annually.
3. Subject to conducting a full equality impact assessment, that an annual permit scheme for blue-badge holders is developed over the next 12 months, where the income is reinvested in improvements to facilitate access.

## **10. REORGANISATION OF EDUCATION IN THE BERWYN CATCHMENT AREA**

The report was submitted by Councillor Gareth Thomas.

### **DECISION**

1. To undertake a process of statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013, to close the schools of Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn. The intention is that the schools will close on 31 August 2018.
2. To undertake a process of statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 on the preferred option, namely to establish a Welsh Medium 3-19 Lifelong Learning Campus with voluntary controlled status (VC) on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site. The intention is that the school will open on 1 September 2018.
3. To undertake a process of statutory consultation on the federalisation of three rural schools in the Berwyn catchment area namely, the schools of Bro Tryweryn, Ffridd y Llyn and OM Edwards.

## **11. ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE 2013/14 – CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE WALES (CSSIW)**

The report was submitted by Cllr Mair Rowlands.

### **DECISION**

To approve the work programme which responds to the CSSIW recommendations and areas for improvement as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report submitted.

## **12. TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION TO DEVELOP A WELSH LANGUAGE CENTRE AT THE OLD CLINIC, SACKVILLE ROAD, BANGOR**

The report was submitted by Cllr Ioan Thomas.

## **DECISION**

To agree to support a grant application, to develop the Old Clinic, Sackville Road, and accept the possible risk the Council would be taking in respect of the lease from doing so.

### **13. PAY POLICY**

The report was submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins.

## **DECISION**

1. To recommend to the full Council -
  - a) to increase the pay of the Council's lowest paid staff by deleting the two lowest pay points from the Council pay structure, and
  - b) to incorporate this change in the Council's pay policy statement for 2015/16.
2. To fund the above change through further savings that have been achieved above the target by reducing the Council's senior management costs.

### **14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Leader proposed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion on the following item due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12, Section 4, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The paragraph applied because the report contained information about an individual's situation within the Council, and this individual's situation was central to the opportunity arising for reorganisation and creating further savings. The two could not be separated without the report becoming meaningless, therefore the report needed to be exempt.

## **DECISION**

To exclude the press and public.

### **15. EXEMPT ITEM – THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

The report was submitted by the Chief Executive.

## **DECISION**

1. On the basis that the financial gain is greater than the possible risks, to support what the Chief Executive has in mind for changing the Council's senior management structure, namely –

- a) Subject to the Council agreeing to the change in the Pay Policy in respect of the revised salary of the Head of Finance Department, that he will delete the post of Director of Resources (and the associated support) and transfer some functions to the Head of Finance, creating a net saving of £138,080.
  - b) As part of their flexible retirement schemes, with the agreement of both officers, that he moves the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department and the Head of Human Resources Department to the posts of Special Programme Leaders for three days a week, to be funded using one-off reserves. Once this has been agreed by them, he intends to delete the two posts and merge the two Departments under the management of the new post of Head of Corporate Support and Organisational Development to be advertised internally, thus saving a further £73,100.
2. That £45,000 of the additional saving being achieved above the target (namely £102,600) should be used to fund the next step towards the aim of paying the living wage, with the remainder of the additional saving going towards the Council's savings target.

The meeting commenced at 1pm and concluded at 3.05pm.

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**CHAIR**