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## THE COUNCIL 1/3/11

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**Present:** Councillor W Tudor Owen (Chairman)  
Councillor John Gwilym Jones (Vice-chairman)

**Councillors:** Anwen Davies, E T Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Dylan Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trevor Edwards, T G Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Alun Wyn Evans, Gwen Griffith, Jean Forsyth, Seimon Glyn, Keith Greenly-Jones, Gwen Griffith, Margaret Griffith, E Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwenllïan, Christopher Hughes, Huw Price Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sylvia Humphreys, O P Huws, Aeron M Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, Charles Wyn Jones, Dai Rees Jones, Dyfrig Wynn Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Evie Morgan Jones, John Wynn Jones, J R Jones, Linda Wyn 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, Dewi Owen, W Roy Owen, Arwel Pierce, Peter Read, E Caerwyn Roberts, Glyn Roberts, Ieuan Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, Siôn Selwyn Roberts, Trevor Roberts, W Gareth Roberts, Dyfrig Siencyn, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Guto Rhys Thomas, Ann Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gwilym Williams, J. W. Williams, R H Wyn Williams and Robert J Wright.

**Also present:** Harry Thomas (Chief Executive), Dilwyn O. Williams, Dafydd Lewis and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Directors), Dilys Phillips (Monitoring Officer/Head of Democracy and Legal Department), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Legal Services Manager), Geraint George (Head of Strategic and Improvement Department), Arwel Ellis Jones (Senior Manager – Performance and Scrutiny), Dewi Jones (Head of Education Department), Gwenan Parry (Head of Customer Care Department), Dafydd Gibbard (Corporate Property Manager) and Eleri Parry (Committees Team Leader).

**Apologies:** Councillors Richard Lloyd Jones, Linda Morgan and Owain Williams.

### 1 PRAYER

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

### 2 MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 December 2010 as a true record, subject to noting the following additional information:

#### Item 10 – Collaboration

A member explained that he had raised a factually correct issue at the Council's last meeting, namely that Snowdonia National Park had not received a response to its request to collaborate with Gwynedd Council, and that an officer had doubted his word.

The member explained that he had evidence that confirmed that the Park had not received a response from Gwynedd Council until 15 January 2011. He emphasised that he was very unhappy that his word had been doubted and that he wished to obtain a full explanation on the issue.

**RESOLVED to accept that the member's word was true, that a misunderstanding had happened and that the member should receive a full explanation from the relevant officer regarding what had led to the misunderstanding.**

### 3 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

- (i) Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Monitoring Officer had circulated a briefing note amongst the members regarding the following issues:-

**Business Planning 2011/12 – Revenue and Capital Bids** – it was noted that it was required for members who had an interest in a specific bid within the pack to declare their interest at the start of the discussion.

**Council Tax: Discretionary powers to allow discounts** – it was explained that the item related to two categories of property, namely, second homes (holiday homes) that were empty but furnished, and houses that had been empty and unfurnished for six months or more.

If a member had a house in Gwynedd that fell into either of the two categories, and that they paid council tax on that house (not non-domestic rates), it was noted that they were required to declare an interest in the item and leave the Chamber.

**Reorganisation of Tywyn catchment area schools** – it was noted that members who had a personal interest had received individual advice. Also, it was explained that the governors of the schools in question needed to declare an interest, but that they would be permitted to speak and vote on the proposals.

- (i) Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones declared a personal interest in the items, “Establishment of an Area School at Llanegryn” and “Proposed Closure of Ysgol Aberdyfi”, because she was the chair of the governing body of Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn.

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

- (ii) Councillor Louise Hughes declared a personal interest in the item ‘Establishment of an Area School in Llanegryn’, because her daughter attended Ysgol Llanegryn.

The member explained that she had been granted a dispensation to speak on Ysgol Llanegryn by the Standards Committee in the past. She noted that she was very disappointed that her recent application to the Standards Committee, for permission to be present in the Chamber’s public gallery to listen to the discussion, had been refused.

She added that Llanegryn community council and the governing bodies of Ysgol Llanegryn and Llwyngwril were also dissatisfied with the decision.

The Head of Democracy and Legal Department explained that the Standards Committee had given full consideration to the member’s request and had decided to refuse the application because there had been legal cases in the past where members with an interest had been prohibited from remaining in the public gallery. Also, approving this application would set a precedent for all other cases in the future.

The member withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

- (iii) Councillor Alun Wyn Evans declared a personal interest in the items, “Establishment of an Area School at Llanegryn” and “Proposed Closure of Ysgol Aberdyfi”, because his wife was a teacher at Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn.

Councillors Anwen Davies, John Gwilym Jones, Dewi Llewelyn, Dyfrig Siencyn and Gethin Glyn Williams declared a personal interest in the item, Council Tax: Discretionary Powers to Allow Discounts because they owned empty properties.

The members were of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the items.

- (iv) The Head of Democracy and Legal Department declared an interest in the item Collaboration, on her own behalf, and on behalf of the officers present, as the matter could affect their posts in due course.

#### 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) Condolences were expressed to Councillor Owain Williams as his brother had passed away recently.

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

- (ii) The Gwynedd Fair Trade Group was congratulated on retaining Fair Trade status for the County for the next two years and Cllr Wyn Williams and the Council's officers were thanked for their work on the venture.
- (iii) In accordance with Procedural Rule 15(1), the Chairman received a petition from Councillors Gwen Griffith (Tregarth and Mynydd Llandygai member) and John Wyn Williams (Pentir member). The petition had been signed by 300 residents in the area who were concerned about the termination of the number 6 bus route from Bethesda – Mynydd Llandygai, Sling, Tregarth, Glasinfryn – Bangor, and they called on Gwynedd Council to provide this essential service. Over 100 residents had signed an online petition also.

Both members explained that the area's residents were very concerned about the situation. It was noted that many elderly people and youths in the area were completely dependent on the service, and they were appealing for the Council to continue with the service to these villages.

The Chairman gave thanks for the petition which would be transferred to the relevant service.

#### 5 URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman agreed, under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to include the issue relating to a member's absence due to ill-health as an urgent item, because no confirmation of the situation had been received at the time when the agenda had been distributed. The member would have been absent for a period of more than 6 months by the next Council.

##### MEMBER'S ABSENCE

The Head of Democracy and Legal Department reported that Councillor Linda Morgan had not attended a Council meeting or any of its committees since September 16, 2010, due to ill-health. She explained that Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that a member ceased being a Council member should he/she fail to attend any meeting for a period of six months; unless the Council approved the reason for the absence before the end of the six month period. That period would end within a fortnight and the Council was asked to approve the reason for the member's absence.

**RESOLVED to approve the reason for the absence of Councillor Linda Morgan.**

#### 6 QUESTIONS

Question from Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams

***“What action is the Education Department taking to combat the serious shortage of Maths “supply” teachers for Secondary Schools, especially in the Meirionnydd area, when teachers are off work?”***

***Reply by Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, Portfolio Leader – Education and Language***

“I wish to thank Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams for his question which expresses direct concern regarding the situation in the Meirionnydd area in particular. I appreciate his concern and I understand the problems facing the schools.

- 1.2 Although the problem is not Meirionnydd's alone, it is apparent that it is acute on occasions, especially the need to teach through the medium of Welsh.
- 1.3 I have already suggested the following to the schools:
- Schools to contact each other to share information and to ascertain whether there are teachers who could be contacted.
  - Consider contacting the University to see whether they would be prepared to release prospective teachers over certain timescales. (They could refer to the fact that such an arrangement would offer extra experiences for prospective teachers).
  - Schools to co-operate with one another in an area in order to avoid emergencies.
  - Arrange extra classes out of usual hours under the care of teacher/teachers from other schools.
- 1.4 I understand that two of the schools in the area have made adequate temporary arrangements and I have contacted them to express my gratitude.
- 1.5 I wish to note that representation of the staff from the Education Department attended the Students Recruitment Fair held by the University in Bangor. An opportunity arose at the event to express information to graduates about teaching as a profession and especially the need for Mathematics teachers.
- 1.6 Whilst the General Teaching Council for Wales are undertaking work regarding the problems of teacher recruitment, the subject need for this area was made apparent. (In this context I must point out that recruitment to the profession in various subjects is more difficult in this part of the County).
- 1.7 The Welsh Assembly Government at present is in consultation with regard to the Continuous Professional Development of Teachers. I will be asking the Consortium Co-ordinator to write to the Assembly Government stressing the need for financial resources to offer opportunities for teachers to update their skills in specific curriculum fields. Mathematics will be referred to as one field in which to ensure provision for training.
- 1.8 The need for teachers to teach Mathematics (especially through the medium of Welsh) is emphasised to young people at our schools whilst they receive career advice and information for jobs for the future.

### **Supplementary Question**

Thanks. I accept the answer and I ask the Education Portfolio Leader and relevant officers within the Education and Customer Care services to discuss the issue and release a press statement in an attempt to resolve the issue.

## **7 MATTERS TO BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL BOARD – 22 FEBRUARY 2011**

#### **(A) THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND PRIORITIES 2011/12**

##### **(i) BUSINESS PLANNING 2011/12 – REVENUE AND CAPITAL BIDS**

Submitted:-

- (a) The report of the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department on the process of prioritising the revenue and capital bids as part of the key process of identifying and agreeing on the Council's budget and priorities for 2010/11;
- (b) An excerpt from the minutes of the Council Board on 22 February 2011, regarding the revenue and capital bids;

- (c) It was reported that the Board, at its meeting on 22 February 2011, had resolved as follows in relation to the 2011/12 bids:-
- (a) *to approve the revenue bids outlined in the report of the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department, subject to moving bid no. Rhe05 – Community Transport Officer – from Appendix C to Appendix B since the matter has been identified as a possible priority project in the Council's three year plan.*
  - (b) *to approve the capital bids outlined in the report of the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department, including commitment to funding in full bid GOF02 over the next five year period.*
- (ch) The background and context of the reports was set out by the Council Leader, and the thorough process of prioritising the bids was expanded upon.
- (d) The following matters were raised by members:-

GofC05 – Introducing a Microsoft software licensing scheme

A member asked the Customer Care Department to consider not using Microsoft software as a number of other software was available free of charge.

In response, the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department explained that the bid was not being supported at present, that it was intended to undertake a full assessment of options during the year, and to submit recommendations to the next prioritisation cycle.

PaB01 – Prevent structural deterioration of Promenade Road, Barmouth

A member noted that he was very dissatisfied that the bid to prevent deterioration caused by the impact of the sea in Barmouth had been refused. He explained that concern had been expressed regarding sea erosion in Barmouth at the preparatory meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

He added that he welcomed the pilot scheme that was in progress in Pwllheli, but he emphasised that there was a need to give attention to Barmouth, along with other parts of the Gwynedd coastline, soon.

He asked officers to present a detailed report on the issue to the next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

DaCh05 – Print Room Machinery

A member noted that he was disappointed that the bid to upgrade the machinery of the print room had been refused.

He referred to a report that had been submitted to the Audit Committee which showed that the print room was not being used to its full potential, with much of the work being given to external companies. He noted that refusing the bid meant that work continued to be undertaken by external companies at a higher cost to the Council.

In response, the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department reported that they were in the process of developing a business case for the print room and that the considerations submitted to the Audit Committee would be considered in order to agree upon the way forward.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) **to approve the revenue bids outlined in the report of the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department, subject to moving bid no. Rhe05 – Community Transport Officer – from Appendix C to Appendix B since the matter has been identified as a possible priority project in the Council's three year plan.**

- (b) to approve the capital bids outlined in the report of the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department, including commitment to funding in full bid GOF02 over the next five year period.**

**(ii) FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/12 – 2014/15**

Submitted:-

- (a) The report of Dilwyn Williams, Corporate Director on the financial strategy 2010/11
- (b) An extract of the minutes of the Council Board meeting held on 22 February 2011 regarding the Financial Strategy which included recommending an increase in the Council Tax of 3.9% for 2011/12;
- (c) Draft decision on setting the Council Tax for 2011/12 and a statement of the increase in the Band D Council Tax per community.
- (ch) It was reported that the Board, at its meeting on 22 February 2011, had resolved as follows in relation to the 2011/12 budget:-
- (i) *to adopt the budget for 2011/12, in accordance with the details in the Director's report, but noting that the capital programme's total will be £22.698m, with prudential loans increasing to £9.918m;*
- (ii) *to introduce a 3.9% increase to the Council Tax level in 2011/12;*
- (iii) *to add £100,000 to the Class Size Fund, in order to alleviate the problems of medium-sized and large schools;*
- (iv) *that this should be funded from the permanent resources produced in 2010/11 in order to contribute to the financial deficit (mentioned in clause 2.8 of the report) and to use £100,000 of balances from 2011/12 to fund one-off bids;*
- (v) *to adopt the strategy for addressing the financial deficit during the next four years, in accordance with the details in the Director's report, amended to reflect decisions (ii), (iii) and (iv) above.*
- (d) The background and context to the report was set out by the Head of Finance Department and an outline was given of the issues to be considered in order to establish the budget for 2011/12, to agree on the level of increase in the Council Tax, to provide assistance to large and medium sized schools and to agree on a strategy in order to close the financial deficit.

It was explained that closing the financial deficit and identifying savings of over £37m was a substantial challenge to the Council and that the situation had come about because of the Westminster Government's policies to squeeze the public sector, in order to solve the country's financial problems.

It was noted that the budgets of services that cared for the vulnerable residents of the county were dwindling, and that the situation was critical here in Gwynedd because the number of people requiring assistance from the Council was increasing. Also, a high percentage of the county's residents worked in the public sector.

It was explained that there was emphasis in the strategy on attempting to achieve efficiency savings, keeping cuts to services as low as possible and safeguarding as many jobs as possible. To this end, it was explained that the Principal Scrutiny Committee had recommended an increase of 3.9% in the Council Tax, in order to strike a balance between maintaining services and not to place too much pressure on the county's taxpayers.

It was emphasised that less of an increase in the Council Tax meant more savings/cuts and there was a need to balance the situation carefully.

The Head of Finance Department reported further that he shared the concerns regarding the budgetary situation of primary schools and he pressed for support to add £100,000 to the Class Size Fund in order to create a fund of £300,000 in order to mitigate the problems of large and medium sized schools in the county.

The importance of careful long-term planning was emphasised, and it was noted that it was intended to include elected members and Gwynedd residents in the process.

- (d) Aspects of the budget and the associated recommendations were discussed in detail, the Director expanded upon technical aspects of the strategy and the following comments were made:-
- (i) A member referred to the fact that there was no addition to the Council Tax in England or Scotland. He noted that the Council Tax in Wales had doubled over the past 12 years and that he was reluctant to burden the residents of Gwynedd with an increase of 3.9%. He proposed that the Council Tax should be frozen at its current level and that the tax should not be increased this year.
- (ii) Another member noted that he was of the opinion that an increase of 3.9%, namely a payment of almost £1,300.00 per annum for residents in Band D, was excessive. Although the majority of residents were in Band D or less, he emphasised that only 10% of them received benefits, with 5% receiving full benefits and 5% receiving some benefits.

The member referred further to the possibility of using balances or reserve funds in order to keep the increase in the tax lower so that the residents of the county were given an opportunity to cope with the recession. He proposed that the Council Tax should be increased by 3.2%.

In response, the Corporate Director explained that the Council had balances of approximately £8m that were free to be spent. However, he explained that there would be a need to pay staff redundancy costs from the general balances in the future. Should the balances not be available, he emphasised that cuts would have to be identified in order to pay redundancy costs.

In terms of the reserve funds, he explained that the money had already been earmarked for specific headings, such as capital expenditure and insurance costs and that they were not free to be spent.

A number of members expressed a wish to reduce the burden on the residents of the county and see a lower increase in the Council Tax.

The Senior Leader – Resources emphasised that freezing the Council Tax at its present level or increasing it by less than 3.9% would result in further savings/cuts and that this would be very difficult.

A number of members noted that they were of the opinion that an increase of 3.9% was acceptable in order to protect services and jobs.

An amendment to freeze the Council tax at its current level failed.

A further amendment to increase the Council Tax by 3.2% failed.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. To approve the Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget for 2011/2012 and beyond as recommended by the Council Board at its meeting on 22 February 2011 including the approval to a net budget in 2011/12 including community council precepts of £217,525,540 and a revised capital programme of £22.698m for 2011/12.**
- 2. That it be noted that at its meeting on 23 November 2010, the Council Board calculated the following amounts for 2011/12 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“The Act”):-**

- (a) **49,585.48** being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

(b) **Part of the Council's Area - Community**

Aberdyfi	948.68	Llanelltyd	287.90
Abergwyngregyn	112.33	Llanengan	1,928.64
Abermaw	1,095.26	Llanfair	311.33
Arthog	608.32	Llanfihangel y Pennant	211.87
Bala	741.90	Llanfrothen	211.44
Bangor	3,690.25	Llangelynnin	396.55
Beddgelert	313.59	Llangywair	125.61
Bethesda	1,612.12	Llanllechid	330.49
Betws Garmon	133.99	Llanllyfni	1,343.94
Bontnewydd	434.39	Llannor	888.31
Botwnnog	413.92	Llanrug	1,095.39
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	395.89	Llanuwchllyn	305.25
Bryncrug	333.39	Llanwnda	757.81
Buan	227.28	Llanycil	189.83
Caemarfon	3,413.98	Llanystumdwy	854.37
Clynnog Fawr	440.67	Maentwrog	271.00
Corris	293.55	Mawddwy	331.04
Criccieth	918.93	Nefyn	1,376.29
Dolbenmaen	598.02	Pennal	206.74
Dolgellau	1,156.89	Penrhyndeudraeth	742.39
Dyffryn Ardudwy	794.96	Pentir	971.85
Ffestiniog	1,673.84	Pistyll	233.92
Harlech	730.51	Porthmadog	1,975.36
Llanaelhaearn	422.84	Pwllheli	1,680.35
Llanbedr	307.93	Talsarnau	301.94
Llanbedrog	675.81	Trawsfynydd	502.98
Llanberis	759.00	Tudweiliog	439.95
Llanddeiniolen	1,771.60	Tywyn	1,519.34
Llandderfel	493.30	Waunfawr	555.74
Llandwrog	984.61	Y Felinheli	1,035.09
Llandygai	955.72	Y Ganllwyd	84.52

being the amounts calculated by the Board, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/2011 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Act.
- (a) **£331,729,970** Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
- (b) **£112,983,860** Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- (c) **£218,746,110** Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.



- (ch) **£167,805,860** Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its fund in respect of redistributed National Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, less the estimated cost to the Council of non-domestic rate relief granted.
- (d) **£1,027.32** Being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(ch) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, and calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (dd)**£1,441,010** Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (e) **£998.26** Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount in 3(dd) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (f) **Part of the Council's Area -**

Aberdaron	1,010.81	Llanegryn	1,025.51
Aberdyfi	1,020.77	Llanelltyd	1,019.10
Abergwyngregyn	1,006.72	Llanengan	1,016.25
Abermaw	1,023.37	Llanfair	1,014.32
Arthog	1,012.23	Llanfihangel y Pennant	1,018.08
Bala	1,020.50	Llanfrothen	1,016.70
Bangor	1,071.35	Llangelynnin	1,013.39
Beddgelert	1,017.39	Llangywair	1,014.18
Bethesda	1,030.04	Llanllechid	1,011.88
Betws Garmon	1,005.72	Llanllyfni	1,023.51
Bontnewydd	1,023.58	Llannor	1,010.64
Botwnnog	1,007.92	Llanrug	1,015.15
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	1,017.20	Llanuwchllyn	1,023.81
Bryncrug	1,016.39	Llanwnda	1,020.30
Buan	1,014.76	Llanycil	1,012.48
Caemarfon	1,053.08	Llanystumdwy	1,012.89
Clynnog Fawr	1,012.33	Maentwrog	1,011.18
Corris	1,017.92	Mawddwy	1,012.61
Criccieth	1,033.08	Nefyn	1,024.18
Dolbenmaen	1,014.98	Pennal	1,015.67
Dolgellau	1,034.56	Penrhyndeudraeth	1,044.06
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,022.16	Pentir	1,024.37
Ffestiniog	1,041.27	Pistyll	1,017.50
Harlech	1,017.42	Porthmadog	1,022.85
Llanaelhaearn	1,021.91	Pwllheli	1,036.94
Llanbedr	1,024.24	Talsarnau	1,031.38
Llanbedrog	1,016.02	Trawsfynydd	1,021.12
Llanberis	1,021.98	Tudweiliog	1,010.53
Llanddeiniolen	1,003.90	Tywyn	1,027.88
Llandderfel	1,010.42	Waunfawr	1,008.80
Llandwrog	1,024.16	Y Felinheli	1,023.38
Llandygai	1,016.01	Y Ganllwyd	1,030.21

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(e) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount of 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (ff) In respect of part of the Council's area, the figures noted in Appendix 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the sums specified in 3(f) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.
4. That it be noted that for the year 2011/2012 the North Wales Police Authority has stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
139.56	162.82	186.08	209.34	255.86	302.38	348.90	418.68	488.46

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(ff) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the amounts noted in Appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2011/2012 for each of the categories of dwellings shown therein.

**(B) TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

- (i) **REVISION OF THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF A REVISED CODE BY CIPFA**
- (ii) **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT/MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY/ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2011/12**

Submitted - the report of the Head of Finance Department that was submitted to the Council Board on 22 February 2011.

The Head of Finance Department explained that there was a mistake in the English document on page 35, in the first sentence of the "Borrowing Strategy". It was noted that the sentence should read "Against a backdrop of interest rates remaining *lower for longer than borrowing long term funds as they are required will remain appropriate.*"

The Finance Leader set out the background and context of the report.

It was reported that the issue had been scrutinised in detail by the Principal Scrutiny Committee. It was explained that the members were glad that almost all of the Iceland investment would return to the Council. They were eager for the public to be aware of what was happening to the investment and it was agreed to publish the information in the next edition of Newyddion Gwynedd.

**RESOLVED to adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendices A, B and C to the report), Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12 (Appendix Ch),**

**Prudential Indicators (Appendix D) and changes to the Treasury Management Schedules (Appendix Dd).**

**8 COUNCIL TAX: DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS**

Submitted – the report of the Head of Finance Department to formally confirm for 2011/12 and beyond the previous decisions made not to allow discounts for second homes and empty properties.

The Finance Leader set out the background and context of the report.

It was reported that a number of members had suggested that more than 100% of the Council Tax payable normally on second homes should be charged by using a 'premium' rather than a discount. To this end, a change to the Regulations would be required.

It was explained that the Council, jointly with other authorities, would lobby to encourage such a development, and Councillor R H Wyn Williams was thanked for his tireless work in the field.

The policy not to allow discounts on empty properties was greatly welcomed as it was an additional tool in order to encourage bringing empty properties back into use.

A member noted that the Meirionnydd Area Committee had asked officers to provide information to local members on projects that brought empty properties back into use in their areas, but that the information had not reached them. The Corporate Director vowed that he would discuss with the member in order to agree upon the information to be provided.

**RESOLVED that Gwynedd Council, for 2011/12, allows NO discount under Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1992 to the two categories of second homes (classes A and B), as defined in the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwellings) Regulations, and that Gwynedd Council allows NO discount in the context of empty homes (class C).**

**9 PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AREA SCHOOL IN LLANEGRYN BY 1 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Submitted – the report of Iwan Trefor Jones, Corporate Director, on the statutory consultation to establish an area school in Llanegryn to serve the current catchment areas of Abergynolwyn, Bryncreg, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriil schools.

- (i) The background and context to the report was set out by the Education Leader and the additional elements associated with school transportation, community use of Ysgol Bryncreg and the superiority of the Llanegryn site were expanded upon.

It was reported that the Council had agreed to provide temporary supervisors, along with safety belts on the bus that would transport children to the new area school. Also, although the Bryncreg children were not eligible to receive free school transport, it was explained that the Council was prepared to provide free transport for the children of Bryncreg for a period of two years and that the situation would be reviewed at the end of the period.

Also, as there was no community centre in the village of Bryncreg, it was explained that the Council was committed to collaborate with the community to ensure the continuation of a sustainable community resource for the Bryncreg area.

The Leader noted that a neutral site had been agreed upon originally which was favoured by the local community. However, due to various reasons, it had not been possible to develop the site and another site on the outskirts of Llanegryn had been agreed – about half a mile from the original site. It was emphasised that the site had been selected because of its central location within the catchment area and that it offered education in a

Welsh, rural Community. Also, locating the school in Llanegryn was less likely to attract children from Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn.

It was noted that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had supported the recommendations.

The Development Senior Leader thanked the Education Leader for her exceptional work in the field and he also thanked the residents and elected members of the area.

- (ii) The local member representing Bryncreg and Llanfihangel reported that much support had been given across the communities to changing the schools' organisation and to establish an area school on a neutral site in Bro Dysynni. However, he explained that the location of the school had created major tensions in the local area, and that the residents of Bryncreg and Abergynolwyn had been disappointed and outraged with the decision not to establish the area school in Bryncreg. He suggested that a site should be selected as the first step in the process of reviewing the remaining catchment areas in the county.

He noted that a central location, a suitable site and a desire to collaborate were critical elements in order to ensure a prosperous area school and he emphasised that Bryncreg possessed all those elements.

He elaborated that Bryncreg was geographically central and was a centre point for the area's activities because of its central location.

He explained that there was another suitable site in Bryncreg behind the existing school and that the residents of the area supported this site. He emphasised that it would result in a capital saving for the Council as the site was already owned by the Council, and he explained that there were convenient services there already as the Council had spent much money to improve the entrance and to create a safe route to the school.

He expressed grave concern that the village of Bryncreg would have no direction without an effective community resource.

He noted that there were major differences between these communities now, and that there was a considerable challenge to get the communities to work together. He was of the opinion that building the area school in Bryncreg would be an important step towards bringing the communities together, and he pressed for the members' support to locate the area school in Bryncreg rather than in Llanegryn.

- (iii) Many members were of the opinion that there was no justification for purchasing a private site when the Council already owned a site in Bryncreg.
- (iv) Another member noted that the village of Llwyngwriil was also part of the process and that the residents of Llwyngwriil had also fought for their school and community but that their voice had been ignored. The member explained that the parents of Ysgol Llwyngwriil, at the beginning of the process, had offered to work with Ysgol y Friog, located near Llwyngwriil, but that this had not been permitted as Y Friog was in a different catchment area. It was understood that collaboration between schools in different catchment areas was now allowed, and an amendment was proposed to exclude Ysgol Llwyngwriil from the process and to reconsider the future of the school. The amendment was not allowed because it was irrelevant to the proposal before the Council.
- (v) Many members expressed concern that the Council had split and created rifts in communities and had wronged residents as the local opinion had been ignored. It was emphasised that not a single letter in the documentation supported the plan and concern was expressed that the correspondence was full of bad feeling towards the Council. It was proposed that the entire plan should be reconsidered.
- (vi) In response, a member emphasised that the Council had consulted voluntarily before consulting statutorily. The member noted that the process of reorganising schools in Bro

Dysynni had been long and clumsy and that it had been a very difficult period for the residents of the area. It was emphasised that overturning the recommendation and starting the consultation afresh would add to the pain and concern of communities.

Also, the member emphasised that the Council had succeeded to obtain £5.4m from the Assembly to develop the new area school and that the money was available in 2011-14. It was explained that the money was subject to the completion of the statutory consultation process and that identifying another site would result in reopening the statutory consultation process and would increase the risk regarding the availability of the Assembly's capital money.

Furthermore, a member noted that the catchment areas of Tywyn and Bala had been very fortunate to receive capital funding for the construction of a new area school. However, budgets were dwindling, and the member feared that the same opportunities would not be available for the remaining catchment areas in the county. The member expressed concern that schools would close and that nothing would replace them. He pressed on members to support the recommendation in order to avoid increasing the risk of losing the money.

Many members expressed support to establishing an area school in Llanegryn because the site in Llanegryn was central to the catchment area. Also, it offered an education in a rural and Welsh environment and was less likely to attract children from Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn. In addition, there was concern that further delay would endanger the Assembly's capital funding.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) **to approve the proposal to establish an area Community School at Llanegryn by 1 September 2013 to admit pupils of the age range 3-11 and to issue the statutory notices pursuant to Section 28 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 to that effect.**
- (ii) **that the Council provides free school transport to the children of Brynchrug for a period of two years, and that it reviews the situation at the end of the period.**
- (iii) **that the Council commits to collaborating with the community in order to secure the continuation of a sustainable community resource for the Brynchrug area.**

#### **10 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF YSGOL ABERDYFI BY 31 AUGUST 2013**

Submitted – the report of Iwan Trefor Jones, Corporate Director, on the statutory consultation on a proposal to close Ysgol Aberdyfi by 31 August 2013.

The Education Leader set out the background and context of the report.

It was reported that the Council, in December 2010, had decided that the closing date of Ysgol Aberdyfi should be extended from August 2011 to August 2013, so that work to improve Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn could be completed first. Also, the new date corresponded with the timing of the opening of the new area school in Llanegryn and the parents in the area were eager for the changes to happen at the same time. It was noted that changing the implementation date meant that it was required to hold a new statutory consultation.

The local member representing Aberdyfi and the Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee said that they had been very fortunate to obtain capital funding from the Assembly towards the schools of Bro Dysynni and he thanked officers for their work to secure the money. He emphasised that it would be more difficult to obtain money for the other catchment areas in the county, and he expressed general concern regarding the situation.

**RESOLVED to approve the closure of Ysgol Aberdyfi by 31 August 2013 and to provide places for the children of the catchment area in Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn, and to issue statutory notices pursuant to Section 29 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to that effect.**

## 11 MEMBER TRAINING STRATEGY

Submitted – the report of the Head of Democracy and Legal Department and Training Manager to adopt the description of the role and responsibility of members, along with competencies and behaviours.

The background and context of the report was set out by the Council Leader and members were encouraged to adhere to the values.

A member noted that new governance arrangements would be in place by May 2012 and that it would mean changing the role and responsibilities of many members. It was suggested that preparations for the change should be made soon, in order to ensure that new arrangements would be in place by the start of the new Council.

**RESOLVED to adopt the following documents as part of the Member Training Strategy:-**

- **Description of the Role and Responsibility for Chairs and Vice-chairs;**
- **Description of the Role and Responsibility for Scrutiny Members;**
- **Competencies and Conducts for Chairs and Vice-chairs;**
- **Competencies and Conducts for Scrutiny Members.**

## 12 COLLABORATION

Submitted – the oral report of the Chief Executive to provide an update of the situation regarding collaborating with Isle of Anglesey Council.

It was reported that the Council, at its meeting in December 2010, had agreed to a request from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, to participate in a scoping study to identify collaboration opportunities on a large scale with Isle of Anglesey Council.

It was explained that the political situation in Isle of Anglesey Council had now changed and that there was uncertainty regarding the future of the Council's political leadership. It was noted that the Minister had asked the Auditor General for Wales to re-audit the Council urgently, before the Minister decided on further intervention.

Also, the Acting Managing Director of Isle of Anglesey Council had sent a letter to staff advising them that the scoping report with Gwynedd was not continuing at the moment.

Following consultation with the Council's Business Group, the Chief Executive reported that there was agreement that it would be wise not to proceed with the scoping report at the moment as the current climate did not provide grounds for effective, successful collaboration on a large scale.

It was noted that it was intended to search for opportunities to collaborate in specific fields on a smaller scale.

A member expressed concern that collaborating on a large scale would result in centralising resources and losing a local feel.

**RESOLVED to accept the report and freeze the decision to participate in the scoping study to collaborate on a large scale with Anglesey Council, but to continue investigating opportunities to collaborate on a smaller scale.**

## 13 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2011/12

The dates of Council meetings for 2011/12 were submitted for adoption by the Council.

**RESOLVED to adopt the meeting diary of the Council for 2011/12 and to give powers to the Head of Democracy and Legal Department to amend the diary as required.**

**14 REPORTING BACK ON NOTICES OF MOTION**

Submitted – for information, the report of the Head of Economy and Community Department on a notice of motion adopted by the Council on 15 July 2010, to write to the Grant Thornton Company, namely the administrators of Cwmni Barcud Derwen, asking them to ensure a meeting of the Company's creditors in Caernarfon.

**RESOLVED to accept the report.**

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.30 pm.

	<b>Band A</b>	<b>Band B</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Band E</b>	<b>Band F</b>	<b>Band G</b>	<b>Band H</b>	<b>Band I</b>
Aberdaron	673.87	786.19	898.50	1,010.81	1,235.43	1,460.06	1,684.68	2,021.62	2,358.56
Aberdyfi	680.51	793.93	907.35	1,020.77	1,247.61	1,474.45	1,701.28	2,041.54	2,381.80
Abergwyngregyn	671.15	783.00	894.86	1,006.72	1,230.44	1,454.15	1,677.87	2,013.44	2,349.01
Abermaw	682.25	795.95	909.66	1,023.37	1,250.79	1,478.20	1,705.62	2,046.74	2,387.86
Arthog	674.82	787.29	899.76	1,012.23	1,237.17	1,462.11	1,687.05	2,024.46	2,361.87
Bala	680.33	793.72	907.11	1,020.50	1,247.28	1,474.06	1,700.83	2,041.00	2,381.17
Bangor	714.23	833.27	952.31	1,071.35	1,309.43	1,547.51	1,785.58	2,142.70	2,499.82
Beddgelert	678.26	791.30	904.35	1,017.39	1,243.48	1,469.56	1,695.65	2,034.78	2,373.91
Bethesda	686.69	801.14	915.59	1,030.04	1,258.94	1,487.84	1,716.73	2,060.08	2,403.43
Betws Garmon	670.48	782.23	893.97	1,005.72	1,229.21	1,452.71	1,676.20	2,011.44	2,346.68
Bontnewydd	682.39	796.12	909.85	1,023.58	1,251.04	1,478.50	1,705.97	2,047.16	2,388.35
Botwnnog	671.95	783.94	895.93	1,007.92	1,231.90	1,455.88	1,679.87	2,015.84	2,351.81
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	678.13	791.16	904.18	1,017.20	1,243.24	1,469.29	1,695.33	2,034.40	2,373.47
Bryncrug	677.59	790.53	903.46	1,016.39	1,242.25	1,468.12	1,693.98	2,032.78	2,371.58
Buan	676.51	789.26	902.01	1,014.76	1,240.26	1,465.76	1,691.27	2,029.52	2,367.77
Caernarfon	702.05	819.06	936.07	1,053.08	1,287.10	1,521.12	1,755.13	2,106.16	2,457.19
Clynnog Fawr	674.89	787.37	899.85	1,012.33	1,237.29	1,462.25	1,687.22	2,024.66	2,362.10
Corris	678.61	791.72	904.82	1,017.92	1,244.12	1,470.33	1,696.53	2,035.84	2,375.15
Criccieth	688.72	803.51	918.29	1,033.08	1,262.65	1,492.23	1,721.80	2,066.16	2,410.52
Dolbenmaen	676.65	789.43	902.20	1,014.98	1,240.53	1,466.08	1,691.63	2,029.96	2,368.29
Dolgellau	689.71	804.66	919.61	1,034.56	1,264.46	1,494.36	1,724.27	2,069.12	2,413.97
Dyffryn Ardudwy	681.44	795.01	908.59	1,022.16	1,249.31	1,476.45	1,703.60	2,044.32	2,385.04
Ffestiniog	694.18	809.88	925.57	1,041.27	1,272.66	1,504.06	1,735.45	2,082.54	2,429.63
Harlech	678.28	791.33	904.37	1,017.42	1,243.51	1,469.61	1,695.70	2,034.84	2,373.98
Llanaelhaearn	681.27	794.82	908.36	1,021.91	1,249.00	1,476.09	1,703.18	2,043.82	2,384.46
Llanbedr	682.83	796.63	910.44	1,024.24	1,251.85	1,479.46	1,707.07	2,048.48	2,389.89
Llanbedrog	677.35	790.24	903.13	1,016.02	1,241.80	1,467.58	1,693.37	2,032.04	2,370.71
Llanberis	681.32	794.87	908.43	1,021.98	1,249.09	1,476.19	1,703.30	2,043.96	2,384.62
Llanddeiniolen	669.27	780.81	892.36	1,003.90	1,226.99	1,450.08	1,673.17	2,007.80	2,342.43
Llandderfel	673.61	785.88	898.15	1,010.42	1,234.96	1,459.50	1,684.03	2,020.84	2,357.65
Llandwrog	682.77	796.57	910.36	1,024.16	1,251.75	1,479.34	1,706.93	2,048.32	2,389.71
Llandygai	677.34	790.23	903.12	1,016.01	1,241.79	1,467.57	1,693.35	2,032.02	2,370.69
Llanegryn	683.67	797.62	911.56	1,025.51	1,253.40	1,481.29	1,709.18	2,051.02	2,392.86
Llanelltyd	679.40	792.63	905.87	1,019.10	1,245.57	1,472.03	1,698.50	2,038.20	2,377.90
Llanengan	677.50	790.42	903.33	1,016.25	1,242.08	1,467.92	1,693.75	2,032.50	2,371.25
Llanfair	676.21	788.92	901.62	1,014.32	1,239.72	1,465.13	1,690.53	2,028.64	2,366.75
Llanfihangel y Pennant	678.72	791.84	904.96	1,018.08	1,244.32	1,470.56	1,696.80	2,036.16	2,375.52
Llanfrothen	677.80	790.77	903.73	1,016.70	1,242.63	1,468.57	1,694.50	2,033.40	2,372.30
Llangelynnin	675.59	788.19	900.79	1,013.39	1,238.59	1,463.79	1,688.98	2,026.78	2,364.58
Llangywair	676.12	788.81	901.49	1,014.18	1,239.55	1,464.93	1,690.30	2,028.36	2,366.42
Llanllechid	674.59	787.02	899.45	1,011.88	1,236.74	1,461.60	1,686.47	2,023.76	2,361.05
Llanllfyni	682.34	796.06	909.79	1,023.51	1,250.96	1,478.40	1,705.85	2,047.02	2,388.19



Llannor	673.76	786.05	898.35	1,010.64	1,235.23	1,459.81	1,684.40	2,021.28	2,358.16
Llanrug	676.77	789.56	902.36	1,015.15	1,240.74	1,466.33	1,691.92	2,030.30	2,368.68
Llanuwchllyn	682.54	796.30	910.05	1,023.81	1,251.32	1,478.84	1,706.35	2,047.62	2,388.89
Llanwnda	680.20	793.57	906.93	1,020.30	1,247.03	1,473.77	1,700.50	2,040.60	2,380.70
Llanycil	674.99	787.48	899.98	1,012.48	1,237.48	1,462.47	1,687.47	2,024.96	2,362.45
Llanystumdwy	675.26	787.80	900.35	1,012.89	1,237.98	1,463.06	1,688.15	2,025.78	2,363.41
Maentwrog	674.12	786.47	898.83	1,011.18	1,235.89	1,460.59	1,685.30	2,022.36	2,359.42
Mawddwy	675.07	787.59	900.10	1,012.61	1,237.63	1,462.66	1,687.68	2,025.22	2,362.76
Nefyn	682.79	796.58	910.38	1,024.18	1,251.78	1,479.37	1,706.97	2,048.36	2,389.75
Pennal	677.11	789.97	902.82	1,015.67	1,241.37	1,467.08	1,692.78	2,031.34	2,369.90
Penrhyndeudraeth	696.04	812.05	928.05	1,044.06	1,276.07	1,508.09	1,740.10	2,088.12	2,436.14
Pentir	682.91	796.73	910.55	1,024.37	1,252.01	1,479.65	1,707.28	2,048.74	2,390.20
Pistyll	678.33	791.39	904.44	1,017.50	1,243.61	1,469.72	1,695.83	2,035.00	2,374.17
Porthmadog	681.90	795.55	909.20	1,022.85	1,250.15	1,477.45	1,704.75	2,045.70	2,386.65
Pwllheli	691.29	806.51	921.72	1,036.94	1,267.37	1,497.80	1,728.23	2,073.88	2,419.53
Talsarnau	687.59	802.18	916.78	1,031.38	1,260.58	1,489.77	1,718.97	2,062.76	2,406.55
Trawsfynydd	680.75	794.20	907.66	1,021.12	1,248.04	1,474.95	1,701.87	2,042.24	2,382.61
Tudweiliog	673.69	785.97	898.25	1,010.53	1,235.09	1,459.65	1,684.22	2,021.06	2,357.90
Tywyn	685.25	799.46	913.67	1,027.88	1,256.30	1,484.72	1,713.13	2,055.76	2,398.39
Waunfawr	672.53	784.62	896.71	1,008.80	1,232.98	1,457.16	1,681.33	2,017.60	2,353.87
Y Felinheli	682.25	795.96	909.67	1,023.38	1,250.80	1,478.22	1,705.63	2,046.76	2,387.89
Y Ganllwyd	686.81	801.27	915.74	1,030.21	1,259.15	1,488.08	1,717.02	2,060.42	2,403.82