
THE COUNCIL, 6.03.14

Present: Councillor Huw Edwards (Chairman);
Councillor Dewi Owen (Vice-chairman).

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Stephen Churchman, Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Eddie Dogan, Gwynfor Edwards, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Simon Glyn, Alwyn Gruffydd, Sian Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W. Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Christopher O'Neal, Michael Sol Owen, W. Roy Owen, William Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R. H. Wyn Williams, Robert J. Wright and Eurig Wyn.

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

Apologies: Councillors Endaf Cooke, Simon Glyn, Chris Hughes, Elin Walker Jones, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Dafydd Meurig, Peter Read, Liz Saville Roberts, Mair Rowlands and Mandy Williams-Davies.

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor John Wynn Jones.

1. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 5 December, 2013 as a true record.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Members had received a guidance note from the Monitoring Officer in advance regarding item 9 on the agenda – Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15.

Members were advised to declare an interest in the item and leave the chamber if they had a very close family member who would be affected by the proposal in the pay policy statement.

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

Attention was also drawn by the Monitoring Officer to the fact that this item affected all officers who were present, especially the chief officers, and that they would withdraw from the chamber during the entire discussion on this item, with the exception of the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance Department, who were required to lead the members

through part of the report which dealt with the proposal for the lowest paid staff, before withdrawing from the chamber afterwards in case any matter affected them.

Although there was no proposal to modify their terms, the Chief Executive, the three Corporate Directors and the Head of Democracy and Legal Department / Monitoring Officer, the Head of Finance Department and the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department declared a personal interest in this item as the report related to their salaries.

They were of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and the three Corporate Directors and the Head of Democracy and Legal Department / Monitoring Officer and the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department withdrew from the room during the entire discussion, and the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance Department during part of the discussion on the item.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Condolences

Condolences were expressed to the family of former Councillor Emyr Pugh who had died recently.

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) Congratulations / Best Wishes / Thanks

The following were congratulated:-

- (i) Haf Thomas, Clerical Assistant in the Human Resources Department, on her success in raising over £45,000 towards charities and good causes.
- (ii) Mirain Evans from Chwillog on winning *Song for Wales 2014*. She was wished every success representing Wales in the Pan-Celtic Festival.

Best wishes were extended to Llyr Hughes from Rhydyclafdy who was aiming for the title of 'The World's Strongest Man'.

The Council's workforce were thanked for their hard work in responding to the problems caused by the recent period of severe weather.

(c) Note

Members were encouraged to support the Fair Trade Fortnight. It was noted that one of the objectives of Fair Trade was to ensure that workers in the developing world received a fair price for their work and had better access to markets in the richer countries.

It was noted that there were some tickets left for the Chairman's Charity Concert on 8 March in Galeri, Caernarfon. It promised to be a memorable night and profits would go towards the Alzheimer's Society. Sian Ellis Williams, the Civic Officer, was thanked for facilitating the arrangements.

4. QUESTIONS

A question by Councillor Sion Jones

“What has the Council done to ensure investment for Caernarfon since 2012?”

Response from Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

“The Council was successful in securing capital investment worth approximately £3.5m for the Caernarfon Town Centre Scheme as part of the 2007-13 European Convergence Programme which was implemented prior to 2012.

Since 2012, the Council’s efforts to secure investment for the town include:

- Support from the Local Investment Fund offering grants worth £58,645 to 7 businesses leading to investments of £187,939.
- Support from the Town Improvement Scheme offering grants worth £664,904 leading to investments of approximately £1.5m and improvements to 26 properties within the town centre.
- Working with various partners as part of the Caernarfon Waterfront Initiative, which has already secured investments worth £1.1m primarily through the Môn Menai Programme and private investment.
- Disposal of the Goleuad Building leading to its £2m redevelopment.
- Since 2013, the Council has also been responsible for administering the Communities First Programme which targets resources within specific wards within the town.

In addition to the above, investment have also been secured by various services across the Council (e.g. £9.3m investment in Ysgol yr Hendre which brought a lot of local investment and local work).

The Council’s own investment resources are limited, therefore any success to attract investment is dependent on external resources.

The Council also submitted a bid in July 2013 as part of the Welsh Government Regeneration Framework. The bid was based on the wider Caernarfon Catchment area, and targeting £11m from the Regeneration Fund which included an investment package of £34.5m to the area – but the bid was not approved by the Welsh Government.”

A supplementary question by Councillor Sion Jones

“Can you assure me that more work will be done to secure funding for Caernarfon and towns throughout Gwynedd the next time this funding pot will be open?”

Response from Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

“As a Council, we are doing our best to obtain this funding. Gwynedd’s application was a very strong one and we are yet to be informed by the Welsh Labour Government why we did not receive it. We have persistently asked why it has not come to Gwynedd and has gone to other areas, and that is what we need to know.”

5. PRESENTATION BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTHY GWYNEDD

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Councillor Paul Thomas, Cabinet Member for Healthy Gwynedd, on the Council’s work to improve the health of the population, which highlighted the challenges and the possibilities in terms of influencing.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions or make observations. During the discussion the following main matters were highlighted:-

- (i) Referring to the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS), it was suggested, although the Council was expected to provide the facilities, that the Health Service were the ones benefitting from this. In response, the Cabinet Member noted that there was a risk of getting into factions with that way of thinking and that the aim was to get people to start associating their health with visiting a leisure centre rather than a hospital.
- (ii) It was suggested that elected members should aim to become health champions within their communities.
- (iii) It was noted that children from poor families could not take advantage of the Free Swimming scheme as parents had to pay to swim with their children. The Cabinet Member responded by noting that there was an opportunity for disadvantaged children to receive free swimming lessons.
- (iv) It was noted that disadvantaged people did not have the money to buy the best food and that they depended on processed foods, that contained a lot of sugar, which led to various health conditions. The Cabinet Member responded by stating that there was a clear link between disadvantaged areas and specific health conditions, and although the Council did not have much influence on a number of these fields, it should do the best it could to influence in a positive way.
- (v) It was noted that the recent decision of the Planning Committee to refuse an application to construct a small weightlifting room was contrary to the Council's objective to improve the population's health. The Cabinet Member replied that he could not comment on the planning application, but that there were plenty of opportunities for people to undertake weightlifting within the county.
- (vi) As the Council was expected to subsidise the Health Service and provide a service that would benefit them, a suggestion was made to ask the Government for financial support to do that. The Cabinet Member agreed with the observation and noted that there was evidence that being healthy led to savings for the Health Service. However, this evidence was currently insufficient to change the minds of ministers.
- (vii) Concern was expressed that sugary drinks and snacks were being sold to children in vending machines and cafes at the leisure centres. The Cabinet Member replied that quite a substantial financial loss had been made at the leisure centres due to the decision to remove unhealthy foods from the vending machines, but it was hoped to remove them completely next year so that it would be a neutral cost. At the moment, café menus could not be changed as some of the tenders had some years left to run, but the matter would be addressed at the appropriate time.
- (viii) It was noted that schemes such as NERS could be very beneficial, but there was not enough information available regarding how to go about such things. The Cabinet Member explained that people were currently referred to the NERS scheme by their GP. He added that the work was being done by a small specialist team at the leisure centres and that the ultimate aim was to ensure that all staff at the centres specialised in these fields. He also noted that there was an attempt to combine this with the work being undertaken by the Gyda'n Gilydd Team and Families First in the hope of reaching more people and referring them to expertise that could assist them with any health conditions.

The Cabinet Member for Healthy Gwynedd was thanked for his presentation.

6. PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2014/15

Submitted – a report by the Leader recommending that the Council approved the Pay Policy Statement in accordance with Section 38(i) Localism Act 2011, as well as the

Cabinet's recommendation to increase the pay of the Council's lowest paid staff by deleting the two lowest pay points from the Council pay structure.

Consideration was first given to the recommendation to increase the pay of the lowest paid staff so that the Head of Finance Department could be present to respond to any questions / observations.

Great support was expressed by several members to the recommendation but, although supportive of the principle to pay more to staff receiving the lowest salaries, others either questioned the timing of the proposal and the fact that it was funded by an increase in Council Tax or were concerned that it was not going far enough. During the discussion the following main matters were highlighted:-

- (i) It was enquired when would the Council catch up with those councils that already paid the living wage to their staff. The Chief Executive responded by stating that this was a matter for members, and he trusted that making the decision this year to delete the two lowest points from the pay structure meant that it would be possible to review the situation next year. However, he warned against undermining the work that had been done during the Job Evaluation period. The Leader added that a number of councils had tried to implement a living wage policy and that this Council should retain it as an aim. However, some of those councils had also made hundreds of workers redundant at the same time and he did not wish to see Gwynedd implementing a policy that offered a living wage on the one hand and made workers redundant on the other. The aim of this Council was to offer an honourable salary to the entire workforce and it was possible to do this one step at a time over a period of time.
- (ii) Concern was expressed regarding the timing of the proposal on the basis that the Westminster Government already intended to increase the national minimum wage from £6.31 to £6.50 per hour. As this would be higher than the minimum of £6.49 currently paid by this Council, the Council did not have much choice in the matter. It was further noted that the salaries paid to these workers were much too low and it was asked whether or not it would be possible to give more than what was recommended to them. In response, the Leader noted that the total cost of the proposal for 2,000 workers was £250,000. This was the only proposal put forward, but he was willing to examine the situation on an annual basis.
- (iii) It was suggested that the national minimum wage kept wages down and that the Council was being fair with the workforce by increasing salaries above this. It was acknowledged that this would affect Council Tax, but this was money that would be directly invested within Gwynedd communities.
- (iv) Concern was expressed that the timing of the proposal was associated with the decision on Council Tax and that a 0.4% additional increase in the tax would pay for it. Although it was accepted that it was right for the Council workers to receive fair pay, the rest of the Gwynedd workforce would have to remain on the national minimum wage of £6.31 per hour and face the increase in tax. In response, the Head of Finance Department explained that the proposal had been coupled with the higher tax increase in order to be able to increase the salaries of staff on the lowest level without having to make other staff redundant to finance this..
- (v) It was enquired what impact would implementing a living wage policy have on the Council Tax level. The Head of Finance Department replied that the cost of deleting two additional pay points would be in the region of £1,250,000 as there would be implications for many more staff by separating posts on adjacent scales. £250,000 equated to an increase of 0.4% in tax, therefore, an additional £1,000,000 would take the Council over the 5% cap set by the Welsh Government.

Although no changes to the salaries of chief officers had been recommended, the Head of Finance Department withdrew from the chamber before the rest of the report was discussed.

In response to an enquiry from a member, the Chief Executive explained that the Chief Officer Appointment Committee was responsible for developing the Pay Policy for the Council's attention and that no matter had been raised regarding the salaries of senior officers at the meeting on 26 February.

The Chief Executive withdrew from the chamber so that the Council could discuss any other matters, such as the salary of the Chief Executive. As a result, all chief officers left the chamber during the vote on the matter.

It was proposed and seconded to accept the recommendation to increase the salaries of the lowest paid staff and to increase the Council Tax by an additional 0.4% to finance the change, and to review the policy on an annual basis.

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

In favour: (63) Councillors Craig ab Iago, Stephen Churchman, Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Eddie Dogan, Gwynfor Edwards, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Huw Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Sian Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Peredur Jenkins, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W. Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Christopher O'Neal, Dewi Owen, Michael Sol Owen, W. Roy Owen, William Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R. H. Wyn Williams, Robert J. Wright and Eurig Wyn.

Against: (0)

Abstentions: (1) Councillor Jason Humphreys

The Chairman reported that the proposal had been carried.

It was proposed and seconded to adopt the Pay Policy Statement and not to make any changes to the salaries of chief officers.

An amendment was proposed and seconded to remove the first clause under the heading "Redeployment" from the Statement on the basis that former officers who had received redundancy payments should not be re-employed, and that young people seeking employment in the county should be employed instead.

In response to the amendment, the Senior Human Resources Manager explained that there was a legal precedent based on equality and discrimination which meant that this clause had to be included in the Pay Policy Statement. He also noted that only 11 former officers had been re-employed during 2012/13, not including matters involving schools, and that each one of them had been employed on an occasional basis and had worked for a very small number of hours or for a very short-term fixed period.

In response to a request from a member, the Senior Human Resources Manager agreed to provide statistics regarding the number of people re-employed by schools and within the Education Department.

In light of legal requirements regarding the clause, the Legal Services Manager advised the Council that they should not proceed with the amendment.

The seconder of the amendment noted that she was withdrawing her support to the amendment based on the legal advice received.

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

RESOLVED

- (a) To increase the pay of the Council's lowest paid staff by deleting the two lowest pay points from the Council pay structure.**
- (b) To incorporate this change in the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 and to increase the Council Tax by an additional 0.4% to finance the change, and to review the policy on an annual basis.**
- (c) To adopt the Pay Policy Statement (Appendix A of the report) provided that the necessary finance for the change in the lowest pay points is included in next year's financial strategy.**
- (ch) Not to make any changes to the salaries of chief officers.**

7. 2014/15 BUDGET

Submitted – a report by the Cabinet Member for Resources on the budget to be set for 2014/15. He noted that, historically, and in accordance with best practice, this Council had established its annual budget within the context of the medium-term financial strategy in order to ensure that the budget was prepared for the situation ahead rather than meeting the requirements of one year at a time. This had proven to be of benefit as it was possible for the Council to plan any required savings in a rational way without having to take rash decisions, which could lead to the wrong decisions in terms of the benefits to our citizens. To conclude, he thanked the officers for their prudential work to try and keep the Council on a firm foundation.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions or make observations.

The Cabinet Member and the staff were congratulated for their work and it was noted that the fact that there was no recommendation in the 2014/15 budget to cut services or make staff redundant was a sign of the careful financial planning that had taken place over the past few years.

It was proposed and seconded that the Council Tax should be increased by 3.9%.

It was noted that what had not been referred to in the budget was the cause for concern, particularly the measures the Council could undertake to increase income and compensate for some of the losses. As an example of this, reference was made to demography costs, especially in caring for the elderly. A substantial increase had been seen in the number of people who came to Gwynedd to retire and this placed additional serious pressures on Council services. The situation was not sustainable and it was enquired whether efforts were being made to trace these people's roots. It was also noted that house prices in the countryside were beyond the reach of local people and as a method of assisting the county's rural communities, it was suggested that the Council could create a fund to establish a joint equity scheme or offer local people a mortgage. Under such a scheme, should someone be unable to pay the mortgage, the Council would

step in, sell on the property and reclaim its money. It was further noted that Gwynedd was the poorest county in Western Europe and that it was unfair to expect the county's residents to pay an additional 0.4% in Council Tax in order to increase the salaries of 2,000 Council staff members.

An amendment was proposed and seconded to increase the Council Tax by 3.5% and that the £250,000 required to increase the pay of the Council's lowest paid staff came from the balances.

In response, Dilwyn Williams, Corporate Director, explained that balances could not be used to fund permanent expenditure and although, technically, it was possible to do this for one year only, it would ultimately lead to more savings.

During the subsequent discussion, the following main observations were noted:-

- (i) Increases in the Council Tax did not affect the poorest within society as they did not pay the tax. The richest people contributed the most towards protecting the services that were so important to the poor people.
- (ii) There was too much talk of the poor and the rich and that the majority of the county's population were in the middle, or the lowest middle, and were having difficulties facing the increase in Council Tax.
- (iii) The balances were reserves and this was very important money. The county could face further inclement weather and have to use the balances again.
- (iv) Jobs were already being lost and it was time for the Leadership to realise that they had a huge task ahead. In response, the Cabinet Member for Resources emphasised that the Cabinet fully realised the extent of the problem and that there was a need for everyone to be part of this.
- (v) It was very easy to pull figures out of thin air. Sufficient opportunity for discussion had been provided at the member seminars and that it was now too late. It had been believed that the report struck a balance between ensuring efficiency savings and protecting services.
- (vi) It would make sense to use the balances as a solution to the problem for one year only as there was talk that the economy was improving.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it fell.

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

RESOLVED

(1) To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet, namely:-

- (a) A budget of £231,860,660 should be set for 2014/15 to be funded by £174,970,570 of Government Grant and an increase of 3.9% in the Council Tax which would generate Council Tax income of £55,186,100 with the remaining gap being funded by utilising £1,703,990 of Council balances.**
- (b) A capital programme of £16.193m should also be established in 2014/15 and £17.974m in 2015/16 to be funded from the following sources:-**

| £'000 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Capital requirements | 16,193 | 17,974 |
| To be funded by | | |
| Capital provision in the settlement | 6,630 | 6,630 |
| Grant towards schools | 724 | 5,503 |
| Capital receipts | 1,476 | 930 |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Revenue contribution | 1,988 | 2,860 |
| Prudential borrowing | 5,375 | 2,051 |
| Funding total | <u>16,193</u> | <u>17,974</u> |

- (2) That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Resources, in a decision notice dated 7 November 2013, approved the calculation of the following amounts for 2014/2015 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“The Act”):-

(a) 49,669.55 being the amount calculated 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 -

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Aberdaron | 527.00 | Llanegryn | 151.58 |
| Aberdyfi | 934.66 | Llanelltyd | 279.33 |
| Abergwyngregyn | 113.64 | Llanengan | 1,963.04 |
| Abermaw | 1,094.53 | Llanfair | 314.56 |
| Arthog | 610.39 | Llanfihangel y Pennant | 210.18 |
| Bala | 752.60 | Llanfrothen | 215.34 |
| Bangor | 3,547.47 | Llangelynnin | 395.03 |
| Beddgelert | 314.13 | Llangywair | 127.18 |
| Bethesda | 1,633.31 | Llanllechid | 330.18 |
| Betws Garmon | 132.11 | Llanllyfni | 1,361.97 |
| Bontnewydd | 436.15 | Llannor | 883.51 |
| Botwnnog | 433.86 | Llanrug | 1,103.16 |
| Brithdir a Llanfachreth | 396.31 | Llanuwchllyn | 308.36 |
| Bryncrug | 328.58 | Llanwnda | 765.56 |
| Buan | 224.79 | Llanycil | 192.12 |
| Caernarfon | 3,429.57 | Llanystumdwy | 854.90 |
| Clynnog Fawr | 429.16 | Maentwrog | 279.91 |
| Corris | 294.42 | Mawddwy | 335.21 |
| Criccieth | 924.85 | Nefyn | 1,379.36 |
| Dolbenmaen | 607.33 | Pennal | 212.68 |
| Dolgellau | 1,189.94 | Penrhyndeudraeth | 737.36 |
| Dyffryn Ardudwy | 793.90 | Pentir | 964.63 |
| Ffestiniog | 1,662.17 | Pistyll | 238.74 |
| Harlech | 742.30 | Porthmadog | 1,956.57 |
| Llanaelhaearn | 428.08 | Pwllheli | 1,664.21 |
| Llanbedr | 312.06 | Talsarnau | 307.26 |
| Llanbedrog | 684.27 | Trawsfynydd | 501.03 |
| Llanberis | 756.11 | Tudweiliog | 444.48 |
| Llanddeiniolen | 1,781.23 | Tywyn | 1,541.52 |
| Llandderfel | 490.73 | Waunfawr | 555.55 |
| Llandwrog | 985.92 | Y Felinheli | 1,055.79 |
| Llandygai | 962.52 | Y Ganllwyd | 85.16 |

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

- (3) That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Act.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| (a) £347,872,620 | 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) £116,365,580 | 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) £231,507,040 | 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) £174,722,289 | Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its council fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, along with the Council Tax reduction scheme grant less the estimated cost to the Council of discretionary non-domestic rate relief granted. |
| (d) £1,143.25 | Being the amount at 3 (c) above less the amount at 3 (ch) above, all divided by the amount at 2 (a) above, 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) £1,598,520 | Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act. |
| (e) £1,111.07 | Being the amount at 3 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 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) Parts of the Council's area - Community

| | £ | | £ |
|-------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Aberdaron | 1,126.25 | Llanegryn | 1,137.46 |
| Aberdyfi | 1,135.91 | Llanelltyd | 1,132.55 |
| Abergwyngregyn | 1,128.67 | Llanengan | 1,133.99 |
| Abermaw | 1,147.07 | Llanfair | 1,131.73 |
| Arthog | 1,126.63 | Llanfihangel y Pennant | 1,131.65 |
| Bala | 1,132.99 | Llanfrothen | 1,131.97 |
| Bangor | 1,195.34 | Llangelynnin | 1,126.26 |
| Beddgelert | 1,136.04 | Llangywair | 1,127.91 |
| Bethesda | 1,143.86 | Llanllechid | 1,124.70 |
| Betws Garmon | 1,120.91 | Llanllyfni | 1,138.19 |
| Bontnewydd | 1,139.73 | Llannor | 1,125.40 |
| Botwnnog | 1,120.29 | Llanrug | 1,132.37 |
| Brithdir a Llanfachreth | 1,126.21 | Llanuwchllyn | 1,139.61 |
| Bryncrug | 1,131.38 | Llanwnda | 1,134.84 |
| Buan | 1,127.75 | Llanycil | 1,128.25 |
| Caernarfon | 1,165.64 | Llanystumdwy | 1,128.62 |
| Clynnog Fawr | 1,127.38 | Maentwrog | 1,130.72 |
| Corris | 1,130.67 | Mawddwy | 1,125.24 |
| Criccieth | 1,147.83 | Nefyn | 1,146.17 |
| Dolbenmaen | 1,127.54 | Pennal | 1,136.46 |
| Dolgellau | 1,152.25 | Penrhyndeudraeth | 1,157.18 |
| Dyffryn Ardudwy | 1,135.00 | Pentir | 1,141.01 |
| Ffestiniog | 1,157.09 | Pistyll | 1,129.92 |
| Harlech | 1,132.62 | Porthmadog | 1,138.16 |
| Llanaelhaearn | 1,141.44 | Pwllheli | 1,152.23 |
| Llanbedr | 1,143.12 | Talsarnau | 1,143.62 |
| Llanbedrog | 1,132.92 | Trawsfynydd | 1,135.02 |
| Llanberis | 1,136.20 | Tudweiliog | 1,124.12 |
| Llanddeiniolen | 1,118.37 | Tywyn | 1,140.91 |
| Llandderfel | 1,125.13 | Waunfawr | 1,132.67 |
| Llandwrog | 1,145.56 | Y Felinheli | 1,136.64 |
| Llandygai | 1,131.81 | Y Ganllwyd | 1,146.30 |

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 2014/2015 the Police Commissioner's Office 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 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 151.74 | 177.03 | 202.32 | 227.61 | 278.19 | 328.77 | 379.35 | 455.22 | 531.09 |

- (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, 2013, hereby sets the amounts noted in Appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/2015 for each of the categories of dwellings shown therein.

8. 2014/15 – 2017/18 – FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Submitted – a report by the Cabinet Member for Resources outlining the Cabinet's intention to deal with the medium term financial situation in order to obtain the Council's opinion on it.

It was noted that there was no reference in the report to the possibility of merging with other councils and that this would change all figures and projections. In response, the Cabinet Member for Resources noted that the table in point 2.2 of the report referred to the Williams Commission, but it was not considered that there would be a great shift forward on this during the financial programme over the next four years.

The Cabinet's proposal was noted, viz:-

- (a) In relation to the position over the next 4 years, we should find the £34m funding gap projected for the period by keeping all options open (including the possibility of raising the Council Tax by more than 3.5% and finding savings from the schools budget) and that we should find the majority of the gap by maximising efficiency savings and demand management we can deliver.
- (b) An inclusive system should be established in order to establish efficiency savings plans and prioritisation which needs to be made in order to establish where we should cut services.
- (c) In the meantime, advantage must be taken of any opportunity to deliver savings even if it means not waiting for the regime in question so as not to lose the opportunity.

RESOLVED to support the Cabinet's Financial Strategy.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2014/15

Submitted – the report of the Head of Finance Department by the Cabinet Member for Resources asking the Council to adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15, the Prudential Indicators, the Minimum Revenue

Provision Strategy and the merger arrangements with the Pension Fund in terms of investing daily cash flow.

The Vice-chair of the Audit Committee noted that the committee had examined the risks and that they were satisfied with the situation.

RESOLVED to adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15 (Appendix A), the Prudential Indicators (Appendix C), the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (Appendix D) and the merger arrangements with the Pension Fund for the investment of daily cash flow.

10. COMMITTEES CALENDAR 2014/15

The Leader submitted the calendar of dates of Council meetings for 2014/15.

RESOLVED to adopt the Committees Calendar for 2014/15.

11. NON-ATTENDANCE OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

The Head of Democracy and Legal Department / Monitoring Officer explained that there was no need for the Council to consider this item as Councillor Nigel Pickavance had managed to attend this meeting.

12. PROTOCOL ON THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY COUNCILLORS

The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee submitted a protocol and attached appendices on the use of social media by Councillors for the Council's approval.

Members were invited to make observations on the contents of the document.

- (i) It was noted that the observation in paragraph 10 that this protocol was relevant to members in their roles as councillors and also as private members was contrary to national guidelines and a legally set precedent, namely that every member had the right to a private life that was separate to their life as a councillor. In response, the Head of Democracy and Legal Department / Monitoring Officer noted that the Code of Conduct stated clearly that a councillor could bring the Council or his/her function as a councillor into disrepute when acting as a councillor or when acting as a private individual. Either case would be contrary to the Code of Conduct and the Ombudsman would have an interest in both types of scenarios.
- (ii) The purpose of the third bullet point in paragraph 12 was not understood, namely that the details of meetings should not be tweeted, as the Council intended to webcast its meetings in any case.

RESOLVED to adopt the Protocol on the Use of Social Media by Councillors.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted – for information, a letter received from the Department for Work and Pensions' Ministerial Correspondence Team in response to Councillor Dilwyn Morgan's notice of motion to the last meeting regarding reforms to Housing Benefit.

RESOLVED to note the letter.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 4.30pm.