

Complete Agenda

CABINET

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE	Tuesday, 21st November, 2017
TIME	1.00 pm
LOCATION	Siambwr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH
CONTACT POINT	Annes Siôn 01286 679490 cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

Members	
Dyfrig L. Siencyn	Leader
Mair Rowlands	Deputy Leader
Craig ab Iago	Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture
Gareth Wyn Griffith	Cabinet Member of Highways and Municipal
Peredur Jenkins	Cabinet Member for Finance
Dafydd Meurig	Cabinet Member for the Environment
Dilwyn Morgan	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
W. Gareth Roberts	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Gareth Thomas	Cabinet Member for Education
Ioan Thomas	Cabinet Member for Economic Development

AGENDA

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THE CABINET 24/10/17

Present-

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Mair Rowlands, Craig ab Iago, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Peredur Jenkins, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, W. Gareth Roberts, Gareth Thomas and Ioan Thomas

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services)

Item 3: Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Corporate Property Manager), Llyr Beaumont Jones (Economy and Community Senior Manager), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department).

Item 6: Catrin Thomas (Senior Community Learning Manager), Sioned Williams (Head of Economy and Community Department)

Item 7 and 8: Garem Jackson (Acting Head of Education Department), Hedd Tomos (Modernising Education Programme Manager), Debbie Anne Jones (Area Education Officer (Temporary))

Item 9: Gareth Jones (Senior Planning Service Manager), Rhun ap Iarhos (Senior Solicitor)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.
No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest:

Cllr Ioan Thomas for item 3 as he was the Chair of the Harbour Trust.

Cllr W. Gareth Roberts for item 6 as his son-in-law worked for the Youth Service.

Cllr Dilwyn Morgan for item 7 as his grandson attended Ysgol Bro Tegid.

They were all prejudicial interests and they withdrew from the meeting for the items.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There was one urgent item to discuss.

WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY STATION, CAERNARFON

The item was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

DECISION

1. Subject to 2 and 3 below, to authorise the Senior Manager in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance Department to surrender the ban and restriction on the sale of food and retail within the Lease for the Caernarfon Welsh Highland Railway Station.
2. That the full premium to be calculated in accordance with the Lease terms was payable by the company for the permission.
3. To delegate the right for the Senior Property Manager in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance Department to agree on a payment plan over a reasonable period with the tenant if required.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting that the Welsh Highland Railway Company held a parcel of land on St Helen's Road, Caernarfon since 1999, on a lease from the Council for a period of 1,000 years. The lease had been given in order to allow the company to develop a railway from Caernarfon to Dinas, using the plot of land to create the station in Caernarfon.

The lease contains a specific clause which stipulates that the company cannot sell food and drink on site without seeking express permission from the Council and that a further payment would be payable from the tenant should the Council be willing to give such permission. The detailed mechanism of the lease outlines how the payment would be calculated.

The application had come from the company requesting the Council not to claim the fee due under the lease for such a permission and thus to waive the amount on a one-off basis.

This matter was considered to be an urgent matter due to the timetabling requirements of the project and in accordance with paragraph 7.25.2 of the Council's Constitution and with the permission of the Council's Chairman this decision was exempted from the calling in procedure and will come into effect on the date of the meeting and decision.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER AND 03 OCTOBER 2017

The Chair signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 September and 3 October, 2017, as a true record.

6. RE-MODELLING THE YOUTH SERVICE

The item was submitted by Cllr Craig ab Iago

RESOLVED

The report was accepted and the Head of Economy and Community was authorised to conduct a consultation on the future format of the Youth Service, identifying Option 3 as the favoured option.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that they were asking for permission to consult on the favoured model. It was emphasised that the department had been engaging with children and young people since the Gwynedd Challenge. It was explained that option three was being favoured by the young people as it provided a fair provision to all young persons across the county.

It was noted that clubs were currently closing and that this was as a result of staff recruitment problems. Option three would provide an opportunity to create jobs, but they would be full-time jobs that would give staff an opportunity to develop the service.

Observations arising from the discussion

- From the discussion with Young People, it was noted that the service did not respond to the needs of the young people. It was noted that a youth worker needed to be available during the day. It was emphasised that the use of technology needed to be developed.
- It was asked about the role of the third sector in the form of a new service going into consultation - it was noted that the reality was that there was not as much money and that there was a need for fairness with the organisations that did and did not receive money. Discussions had been held with the third sector organisations. In addition, it was noted that prioritisation would be placed on the needs of young people and if option three would be accepted following consultation, the third sector would be commissioned to discuss specific fields of the service. This would ensure that expertise would be used in order to address the priorities of the young people.
- It was emphasised that it was important that all young persons in the county received a service, regardless of where they lived.

A discussion was held on the consultation that would be conducted on-line; however, it was noted clearly that nobody would be closed out and that the consultation would be carried out in various ways to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to have their say.

7. REORGANISATION OF THE PROVISION IN Y BERWYN CATCHMENT AREA

The item was submitted by Cllr Gareth Thomas

RESOLVED

To conduct a statutory consultation in accordance with Section 48 Schools Standards Act (Wales) 2013, in the Berwyn catchment area on the favoured model, namely the proposal to close the schools of Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn in the town of Bala and establish a 3-19 Welsh Medium Learning Campus, with community status on the existing Ysgol y Berwyn site to be implemented from September 2019.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the Cabinet had resolved on 27 June 2017 to withdraw the application to establish a Voluntary Controlled (VC Church in Wales) 3-19 Lifelong Learning Campus, and request a further report to submit an alternative model for consultation which addressed and corresponded to the requirements of the Business Case. By following the statutory steps, the next step was the consultation.

A pre-consultation had been held with the Church in Wales and it was noted that the needs of pupils was their priority - consequently they would work with the school and the community to bring the matter to an end.

It was noted that the timetable for opening the school had slipped although the construction work would be completed on time. There would be a bridging period of one year where the schools could make use of the new building before it would open in September 2019.

Observations from the discussion

- It was noted that the schools were enthusiastic about the bridging year and were looking forward to use the building. Gratitude was expressed to the staff and pupils regarding the way they had dealt with the matter.

8. GWYNEDD SECONDARY SECTOR LANGUAGE STRATEGY

The report was submitted by Cllr Gareth Thomas

RESOLVED

To adopt the Gwynedd Secondary Language Strategy as a document which sets a strategic and clear direction for all secondary schools in the county to have a positive influence on pupils' social use of the Welsh language within and outside the school.

For Councillors Mair Rowlands and Gareth Thomas to write to the relevant Welsh Government Cabinet Secretaries requesting that they provide the £120,000 (£40,000 a year for three years 2018/19 - 2020/21) to fund the Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy Coordinator post to lead on further

progress in pupils' social and curricular use of the Welsh language. If the Government is not willing to fund this, to authorise the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance Department to seek to identify alternative ways of obtaining the necessary resource.

DISCUSSION

The Council's Primary Language Charter had now been rolled-out across the whole of Wales and this was the next step to develop and move to work with the secondary sector. It was noted that the strategy looked at the use of the Welsh language within Education and outside the School.

It was explained that the Charter had been divided into four main fields - Welsh First Language, Welsh Second Language, Welsh Medium Provision and the Social Use of the Welsh Language by Young People. It was emphasised that the work had been developed from the bottom up by discussing with young people, teachers and headteachers. A Conference event had been held during the week which was a conference for the pupils of Gwynedd secondary schools to discuss the charter.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was emphasised that the Strategy was essential and that it was important to build upon the good work of the Primary Language Charter.

A discussion was held on the funding of the Post and it was noted that it would be a good idea to contact the relevant Secretaries at Welsh Government to ask them to provide £120,000 to fund the post.

9. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE AND SUPPORT A JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR GWYNEDD AND THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

The report was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

RESOLVED

To authorise the Head of Environment and Head of Legal Services to prepare and implement an Agreement between Gwynedd Council and Anglesey Council in order to formally re-establish the Joint Planning Policy Committee for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

To delegate the functions of the Cabinet in the context of the matters referred to in part 6 of the Report to the Joint Planning Policy Committee for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was explained that the Cabinet had approved the proposal to continue to provide the Joint Planning Policy Service with the Isle of Anglesey County Council since its establishment in 2011. On 31 July, the

Committee's role ended when the Joint Local Development Plan had been established. Due to the agreement and as the collaboration agreement was continuing, there was a need to re-establish the role of the Joint Planning Policy Committee.

It was emphasised that there was similarity in the agreement and functions compared with the previous agreement; however, the plan would be amended every four years. It was noted that there had been a change in membership as seven members from each county would be a part of the plan but no substitutes would be appointed.

Observations from the discussion:

- It was explained that new membership to the Joint Planning Committee had been appointed in May 2017, following the Election.

10. NORTH WALES GRWTH DEAL BID - PROGRESS REPORT

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

RESOLVED

- The progress of the development of a Growth Deal bid for the region was noted and supported.
- The preferred governance model of a Statutory Joint-Committee was supported in principle for further development with a full report on the constitution and terms of reference, supported by an Inter-Authority Agreement, to follow later in the year.
- To authorise the Leader to act as the Gwynedd member of a Shadow Joint-Committee in the interim period.
- That the Leader, as one of the Leaders of the six Councils represented on the Shadow Joint-Committee, is granted authority to enter into negotiations with Welsh Government and the UK Government regarding the scale and outline content of the Growth Deal bid, noting that no financial or other commitments will be agreed in the initial stages of negotiations.
- That the Chief Executive is delegated authority to secure an initial financial contribution of up to £50,000 in 2017/18 to prepare a bid for finance from the Growth Deal.
- To re-report this Council's wish to receive assurance in terms of establishing the Project Office and obtain an understanding of the structure and method of funding that Office when approving any constitution / agreement.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the six counties in the north had agreed to develop the strategy as a bid for the 'Growth Deal' to ensure a financial investment and transfer Governing powers to the region.

It was explained that there were two elements to the Growth Deal, namely a financial investment for projects leading to economic growth and devolution of forces or powers from Central Government in order to make decisions on a Regional level. It was seen that steps had been taken and that legal grounds were in place. It was emphasised that there would be a need to ensure that the substantial investment coming as a result of the 'Growth Deal' would be shared fairly between the counties.

It was noted that it was hoped that everything would be in place by April.

Observations arising from the discussion

It was emphasised that there was an emphasis on North Wales and it was asked whether work would be done to collaborate with Ceredigion and Powys, in particular in respect of transportation. It was explained that there was work and potential to work with mid Wales, but that there was work to be done.

The meeting commenced at 13:00 and concluded at 14:40

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 6

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	21 November 2017
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Contact Officer:	Dewi W. Jones
Contact Telephone Number:	01286 679233
Title of Item:	Consultation Document on the proposed priorities for the Council Plan 2018-2023

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. The Cabinet's approval for the consultation document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23 and agreement to hold a six-week consultation period on the document from 27 November 2017.
- 1.2. Agreement to the arrangements outlined in order to identify solutions and any resource requirements attached to the priorities outlined with a report back on the findings to the Cabinet in January.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. In order to ensure agreement on the content and style of the consultation document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23 before moving ahead to the next steps.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. As part of the process of drawing up the Council Plan for 2018-23, a series of eight area meetings were held during July to which all the Council's Elected Members were invited in order to highlight any issues requiring attention in those areas. In addition, members of the Scrutiny Committees identified matters that they believed that should be included within the Council Plan in the future.
- 3.2. Following these meetings, a further four workshop sessions were held with members in September in Caernarfon, Penrhyndeudraeth, Dolgellau and Pwllheli. The purpose of these workshops was to give the Members a further opportunity to make observations on the priorities identified for each area.
- 3.3. It was also an opportunity for them to offer observations on matters included within the Council's existing plan, the matters highlighted by the Scrutiny Committees and identify any matters that were missing and which required attention in the Plan for the future.

- 3.4. The material from these consultation sessions form the priorities within the Consultation Document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23. A copy of the document can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.5. It can be seen that the priorities have been split to County-wide Priorities and Local Priorities.
- 3.6. The majority of the County-wide Priorities are based on projects which have already been included within the Council Plan 2017-18 and they are listed under the themes which appear within that Plan in this document.
- 3.7. The Local Priorities have been split into 10 areas, based on the eight Well-being Areas which have already been identified as part of the Well-being Plan. The Bangor Area has been split into two, namely Bangor and Dyffryn Ogwen and the Caernarfon Area has also been split into two, namely Caernarfon and Dyffryn Nantlle owing to the size of the population and the diversity between the areas.

4. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. *County-wide Priorities* - In order to be able to implement and respond to some of these priorities, additional resources will be required. Though some work has been carried out to identify needs, further work will need to be carried out with the Departments in order to identify the likely resource requirements. It is suggested that a report is submitted to the Cabinet in January outlining all the resource requirements involved with the priorities in order to consider whether it is possible to proceed or not.
- 4.2. *Local Priorities* - Further work will be needed in order to identify possible solutions and resource requirements for the matters identified on a local level. It is suggested that they are included as a priority in this document but that the findings of the work to identify possible solutions and resource requirements are presented to the Cabinet in January.
- 4.3. *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* - The Act applies to the work associated with the development of the Council's plan and the revision of the well-being objectives and further work will be required as work progresses to incorporate the requirements of the Act and associated Guidance.
- 4.4. There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider an equality impact assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. A copy of the assessment is provided in **Appendix 2**. The assessment has not discovered any impacts which would justify deviating from the recommendation.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1. If the document is approved, we will publish the consultation document and begin the six-week consultation period which will last until the beginning of January. In addition to the public consultation, we will target the contribution of specific groups such as the Third Sector Liaison Group and the Equality Group.

5.2. Following the consultation period, work will proceed to create the Council Plan, with a report back to the Cabinet on 13 February 2018 to approve the Plan to be submitted to the Full Council for adoption on 1 March 2018.

6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

6.1. As noted previously, all Council Elected Members have had an opportunity to take part in two workshop sessions in order to voice their opinion on what should be included as priorities.

6.2. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

Consultation on the Council's improvement objectives continues to be a statutory requirement at present. However, the recommendation to consult is based on broader reasons than this. I can approve the proposal as an appropriate step in the process of producing the Council's Plan.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

The report seeks to identify the Council's priorities for 2018-23. As a result of a decision on the draft version, it is intended to ask the Council's departments to identify whether the priorities could be achieved within their existing resources. If the departments require additional funding to implement the priorities, they are expected to submit timely bids for specific amounts. The Cabinet will then be able to prioritise the projects within the total amount of money available. The Cabinet will have to consider those bids and assess them in light of the existing challenging financial circumstances, bearing in mind that these priorities will be competing for resources alongside several other obligatory matters.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Consultation Document on the priorities for the Council Plan 2018-2023

Appendix 2 - Equality Assessment

Appendix I

What's important to you?

Identifying Priorities for the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018 - 2023



You can take part in this consultation by filling in the questionnaire either on-line - go to www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ymgyngori or by filling in the paper questionnaire which is available in your local library or the Council's offices in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Dolgellau.

If you would like to receive this document in a different language or format, please phone 01766 771000 or e-mail equality@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Introduction

Gwynedd Council's main objective is to put the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything we do. If we are to provide the most suitable services of the highest possible standard to our residents, we need to know exactly what the actual needs of the people of Gwynedd are, and try to achieve this despite the difficult financial situation which we face.

It must be borne in mind that Gwynedd Council, like every other Council, receives continuing reductions in funding from Welsh Government and other sources to pay for our services. The current financial situation is challenging, but we must look and plan ahead and decide in which fields we wish to focus our scarce human and financial resources.

By March 2018, the Council will publish the *Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023*, namely a public document which will note our priorities and everyday work over the period of five years. However, before deciding on the final Plan, we wish to publish this questionnaire in order to gather opinion and information about the possible work which the Council will need to focus on. Therefore, we wish to ask you as the residents of Gwynedd, or partners working with us, what's important to you. **The fundamental question is can we implement all the priorities noted within this document with the resources that will be available? We will consider this when deciding on the content of the *Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023*.**

As part of the preparatory work to create the Plan, Elected Members have already been given an opportunity to prioritise the matters they believe are important locally. Those priorities have been noted in the Section on [Local Priorities](#).

The Section on [County-wide Priorities](#) lists the matters prioritised by the Elected Members on a County-wide level and where there is a desire to improve.

However, a great deal of the Council's work is statutory and it is mandatory that we do it, such as safeguarding children and adults or providing education, and therefore this work will continue. The 'day to day' work, such as waste collection, the planning service and provision of libraries will also continue. In addition, in order to maintain services for our residents, we are looking at innovative and alternative ways of providing some services, looking at new models to provide Leisure Facilities and Youth Services in the future. **As this work is already underway, we are not consulting on them at present.**

The purpose of this document is to highlight where the Council wishes to take action beyond this basic work carried out on a day to day basis or where we are of the opinion that more of a priority should be given to a particular field.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act places a responsibility on public bodies to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being and implementing the priorities within this document will contribute to improving the well-being of the residents of Gwynedd. After agreeing on our final priorities, the *Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023* document will elaborate on our well-being goals and how our work will contribute to the principles of the Act.

In order for us to have a full picture of the needs of our residents, I urge any individual or organisation or community receiving a service from Gwynedd Council, or a partner that works with us, to fill in this questionnaire. At the end of every section, there will be an opportunity for you to present observations on the content, or offer new ideas.

It is only by hearing the voice of the people of Gwynedd that we can provide what you need today and to the future.

Thank you in advance for your observations; I look forward to reading them.

Dyfrig Siencyn
Leader of Gwynedd Council

Expressing my opinion

You can take part in this consultation by filling in the questionnaire either on-line - go to www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ymgyngori, or by filling in the paper questionnaire which is available in your local library or the Council's offices in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Dolgellau.

The questionnaire is split into two main parts -

- County-wide Priorities
- Local Priorities

Within these, there are various units which provide more detail about the specific work field or area. At the end of every section, there will be an opportunity for you to give your observations. You may offer observations on what you have read, or offer new ideas.

County-wide Priorities

For ease, these have been split into different units. The priorities described here are either work already underway or are new developments

Children, Young People and Families
Poverty, Economy, Housing
Financial Planning

Care and Community Well-being
The Welsh Language

Local Priorities

For the purpose of this Plan, Gwynedd has been split into 10 areas as listed below, based on the eight Well-being Areas which have already been identified as part of the Well-being Plan. The Bangor Area has been split into two, namely Bangor and Dyffryn Ogwen and the Caernarfon Area has also been split into two, namely Caernarfon and Dyffryn Nantlle owing to the size of the population and the diversity between the areas.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bangor Area | 2. Dyffryn Ogwen Area |
| 3. Caernarfon Area | 4. Dyffryn Nantlle Area |
| 5. Llŷn Area | 6. Porthmadog Area |
| 7. Ffestiniog Area | 8. Penllyn Area |
| 9. Dolgellau Area | 10. Tywyn Area |

We want to know what you think are the most important matters which require attention in these individual areas. You may focus on the areas in which you live or work, but it would be useful if you could provide observations about why you believe a matter is important to you.

Then, as a Council, we will consider the ways in which we can respond to the matters arising as part of the process of developing the *Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023*.

If you have any additional observations, or if you want to elaborate on previous answers, there is space to do so at the end of the questionnaire. If you have any questions or observations about this questionnaire, please get in touch via the following methods:

Further information:

Please contact the Gwynedd Council Business Support Team:

Tel: 01766 771 000

E-mail: youropinion@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

County-wide Priorities



Children, Young People and Families

Supporting Families Strategy

Offering support and assistance to children and young people who need it has always been a priority for the Council. However, while we are very good at safeguarding those children who need to be safeguarded, we are eager to ensure that we provide appropriate and timely assistance to those who require it. We will review our existing arrangements in this field in order to do more of what works to meet the needs of children and their families. Offering support to some families before matters become serious will be essential in order to help children and families to prosper and to reduce the need for more intense services.

We will ensure that we have a clear vision with key partners such as the Health Board, together with our communities and the Third Sector in order to provide the best outcomes for those children, young people and families who need our support.

Corporate Parenting

The Council is responsible for the safety and welfare of looked-after children and, consequently, the Council has a responsibility to act as a parent for those children. We have a Corporate Parent Panel which has already developed a strategy in order to secure the best opportunities for children and young people under our care and to probe further into some issues such as health, emotional well-being and stability of children and young people. With the increase in the number of looked-after children we will be focusing particularly on ensuring that our children are given every opportunity to succeed in life.

As corporate parents we will aim to improve the opportunities for our children in all aspects of their lives. By listening to and seeking the views of children in our care, we will ensure that the support provided by us meets their needs and that we take action to close any gaps. We will also ensure that those leaving our care are prepared and empowered for life as adults, ensuring that they receive suitable support to assist them to realise their potential. This could include agreeing on arrangements with our Housing partners to ensure that they receive every support to live independently.

Transforming the schools system

We have recently consulted on the sustainability of the education system in Gwynedd and there are general concerns that the existing schools system is not sustainable given the significant challenges ahead.

We have consulted on a series of principles which should be a basis for any future changes and we will establish a scheme to embed those principles in order to ensure a viable education system which will ensure that every child in the county is given a fair opportunity to develop his or her potential.

Strengthening Leadership

Recruiting and retaining head teachers is becoming an increasing problem in Gwynedd. Though we have many good Leaders, there aren't enough qualified leaders at present to ensure the quality of the leadership in our schools, and there aren't enough individuals that have been prepared and developed for the increasing number of various leadership roles.

We have already put together a successful support package; however, we need to continue to strengthen the leadership of our schools as well as identify, train, develop and recruit the best people to lead our schools now and in the future.

We will continue to encourage and promote the professional development of existing leaders in our schools, while committing to the available leadership development programmes. We will also identify and target future leaders, ensuring that they have access to these programmes.

Area Education Offices

For some time now, there has been considerable concern among head teachers regarding their working conditions, as they have to fulfil a number of different roles; as leaders, managers, teachers and administrators. Without exception, Estyn inspections show that effective leadership, together with adequate resources and time, results in a good education and high standards.

We will continue to develop the Area Education Offices in order to develop support and backing for our schools, as well as rationalise and share the management requirements. This will be done by developing the role of the Business and Services Officers to co-ordinate and facilitate partnership work between the schools themselves and between Council departments, in order to reduce the management and administrative workload of head teachers and teachers.

Transforming the provision of Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

Work has already been completed on transforming the additional learning needs and inclusion service, in order to ensure that children and young people who need it have access to the most suitable support to enable them to fulfil their potential. We will now develop the support in the classroom, pre-school provision, post-16 provision and Special Schools. We will also build on the existing partnership work between our Special Schools and with the authority's mainstream schools in order to improve the learning experiences of children with severe and complex needs.

Bangor Catchment Area

A number of primary schools in the Bangor catchment area (and in particular the Penrhosgarnedd area) are full to bursting.

We have managed to attract funding from Welsh Government to be invested in education provision in the catchment area but we will have to provide half the money. We will review the education provision in Bangor while looking to put a new scheme in place which will improve the provision in the future.

Y Berwyn Catchment Area

The Council has already decided to reorganise education in the Berwyn catchment area in order to rationalise the schools system and improve the education provision and standards.

The construction work is already underway, and we opened an all-weather football pitch at Maes Tegid, Bala which will be a resource for all schools in the catchment area as well as the wider community.

We will complete the work of establishing the Welsh-medium Learning Campus for pupils aged 3-19 on the Ysgol y Berwyn site, Bala which will also offer services for the local community, by September 2019. This involves completing the process of establishing the governing body, completing the construction work and assisting with arrangements for opening the new Learning Campus.

Secondary Sector Language Strategy

The Language Charter has been operational in our primary schools for some years, with the aim of getting more children to use the Welsh language. Welsh Government has now disseminated the use of the charter to other counties in Wales. As a result of the success of the Charter, there have been increasing calls to ensure a successor for it in secondary schools. Evidence from research commissioned by the Education Department proves the need for a plan and a strategy to promote the curricular and social use of the Welsh language in our secondary schools.

We will continue to employ a Secondary Sector Language Strategy Co-ordinator who will provide the appropriate challenge and support to our secondary schools. Every secondary school will have an individual and unique action plan which will reflect the linguistic context of the school and the surrounding community. The young people themselves will also develop a programme of informal and exciting activities for their peers, in order to raise the status and increase the informal opportunities for young people to use the Welsh language socially.

If you have any observations on the aforementioned priorities, please note them here:



Care and Community Well-being

The care services provided by us is generally good, but, an ageing population, dispersed geography, increasing need and ongoing difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff create a challenging situation in the field of health and care. With financial pressures affecting us also, the traditional modes of operation no longer address the actual needs of our people. We have already carried out considerable work on trying to establish different ways of satisfying the demand on us. In recent years, we have been trying to improve the ways we support adults who receive health and care services. Good progress has been made with this work but there is much further work to be done.

In Gwynedd Council, we are committed to finding practical solutions to the challenges ahead. We will continue to work jointly with the Health Board and the Third Sector and will co-ordinate our services on a more local level. This will allow us to work more closely with partners such as volunteers and unpaid carers to try to find the best solutions to the needs of those who require support. This approach will be different to the traditional way of working by investing in preventative services and promoting independent living.

Community Resilience

Over the last five years, we have tried to ensure that the people of Gwynedd are clear regarding the challenge facing them within the care field and in doing so, encouraging and supporting communities to be more resilient. This work has led to preventative solutions which have increased the care options for local people. Our intention over the coming years is to continue to look at opportunities to build on the strengths within our communities and try to co-produce a full range of preventative support in order to make it easier for people to continue to live independently in their communities. This will include working closely with our unpaid carers to try to reach the right solutions in the interests of those who need care.

We will develop preventative services which are aimed at supporting residents, linking people with support within their communities and focusing on five areas during the first year and making them Dementia Friendly. A key part of community resilience is how different generations co-habit and socialise and we will build on the success of the work behind the 'Hen Blant Bach' programme which was an opportunity to look at how bringing nursery-aged children and older people together would work.

Re-designing Care Services

It is important that we work in a way which focuses on what matters to people who receive health and care services. We have been working with the Health Board and trialling new and

innovative ways of working such as the work that's been happening at Ysbyty Alltwen in order to ensure that we achieve this. We are on an ambitious and challenging journey, however, the successes of recent years show the ability we have to develop health and care services which are suitable for the future.

We will continue with this work and establish five local teams jointly with our partners which will ensure effective services focused on the individual and ensure that our arrangements for leaving hospital are effective and are in keeping with what matters to that individual.

As part of our work with our care services providers, we will experiment with new ways of commissioning home care packages and will also invest in our care homes in order to improve our more acute care provision. In addition, we will collaborate with the Health Board in order to strengthen mental health services locally and will look at innovative ways of improving learning disability services.

The Workforce and Recruitment within the Care Field

Recruiting to the Care field is challenging for various reasons and while we have an effective and committed workforce, we must ensure that we have enough workers with the necessary skills to meet the increasing need. Over the years, several recruitment efforts have been made in the field but further attention will be needed in order to ensure that we understand the problem fully and respond in the best way.

Before being able to establish an action plan to resolve the problem, we need to ensure that we really understand the problem, and we will investigate the existing situation in Gwynedd, the pressures on our workforce and for the Council and will look at implementing the solutions which become apparent. We will also work on raising the profile and status of care workers by reviewing existing career paths, so that a career in social care work is a positive career choice and we will promote the care field as a career by disseminating appropriate information to local organisations. We will also review our Apprenticeship scheme within the Council to seek to influence the number of apprentices within the care field.

If you have any observations on the aforementioned priorities, please note them here:



Poverty, Economy, Housing

Working Together against Poverty

Poverty affects a number of residents and communities in Gwynedd with a high percentage of households living below the poverty line.

While we have a number of services which seek to help people to come out of poverty and try to alleviate its impact, over the coming months, we will look at putting new arrangements in place in order to co-ordinate the Council's efforts and those of partners in the field while also looking at the interventions which are likely to be most effective so that they can be focused on.

We will also continue with the work to help residents to gain skills and cope with managing household income and debts, to access on-line information and services and implement schemes which will give work opportunities for people who are not part of the labour market. We will also provide support for people to cope with changes in the welfare and benefits field.

Keeping the Benefits Local

The Council is responsible for buying a number of goods and services and is eager to try to ensure that local businesses can compete and win these contracts in order to ensure that as much of the Council's expenditure as possible remains local.

Much work has already been done and new arrangements have been introduced to buy goods and services in more innovative and efficient ways and steps have been taken in order to facilitate the businesses' ability to compete for contracts. In 2016/17, the Council purchased goods and services which were worth over £59.8million to the local economy.

We are eager to try to build on this work further by trying to increase the Council's expenditure with local businesses and raise awareness and understanding among businesses of the Council's procurement procedures and support them to compete for and win contracts with the Council and beyond.

Creating High Value Jobs (£26,500 + salary)

Low salaries are an obvious characteristic of the county, with the weekly salary in Gwynedd (£410) being the second lowest in Wales, and the low pay at its worst in our rural communities (£375), making them among the lowest in the UK.

In order to address this, one of the Council's main priorities is working with partners in the public and private sectors to create more, better-paid jobs.

We will look at targeting sectors which pay well by creating an environment which supports new businesses, grows existing businesses and attracts additional investment. One way to do this is by creating the conditions to attract investment in strategic sites such as the Trawsfynydd Power Station, Llanbedr Airfield and Parc Bryn Cegin/ Parc Menai. Good work has already started to attract investments to sites at Trawsfynydd and Llanbedr, but this momentum needs to be sustained.

Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig

The nature of our rural economy means that 79% of Gwynedd businesses do not employ more than one person and as there are too many jobs within sectors which don't pay well, there is a threat in terms of the sustainability of our rural communities.

Ensuring digital connectivity for our rural communities, and that the workforce and rural businesses have the skills to take advantage of them are matters which require attention if we are to have prosperous communities.

We have already attracted £4million from the Wales Rural Development Programme to the County to develop innovative approaches and a range of exciting developments in order to target the rural communities.

Our intention is to build on the work which has already been done to transform the rural economy by introducing innovation within traditional sectors (such as agriculture and tourism) giving particular attention to the Dwyfor and Meirionnydd areas.

Implementing the Gwynedd Slate Heritage

Many of the most needy communities in Gwynedd are rich in heritage and are home to existing or proposed World Heritage Sites, such as the former traditional slate areas.

This is an opportunity to use the World Heritage Site designation as a tool to regenerate communities and to increase the value of the tourist industry. We will be looking at realising a programme of regeneration activities in these areas which will lead to an increase in residents' ownership of their heritage, the form and appearance of communities and the quality of tourists' experience.

Increasing the Benefits of Major Events

Public events offer a commercial opportunity for local businesses to provide services locally. By holding events, it is possible to raise the profile of Gwynedd and market it for tourists as an exciting and vibrant place and an ideal location for businesses to invest.

We have already been successful in attracting a number of national and international high-profile events to the County which brought in an investment of £6.7m in 2016/17. We are eager to continue with this and ensure that local businesses benefit from the events. This will lead to an increase in the number of visitors to the County and an increase in the number of opportunities for local companies to work at or offer services to the events.

More Gwynedd residents playing a full part in the world of work

The weekly salary in Gwynedd (£410) is the second lowest in Wales, and is 78% of the UK average (£525). Being outside the world of work and unemployment is higher in Arfon than the county average.

Being outside the world of work could lead to reducing residents' wealth and increasing the demand on public services and preventing this is a key part of the anti-poverty agenda. There are direct benefits from being in work in terms of increasing earnings, but there are also wider benefits in terms of health, children's life opportunities and pride in communities.

We will be looking at focusing on a series of activities in order to get more Gwynedd residents into full-time work thereby reducing inactivity and unemployment.

Benefiting from Tourism

Tourism is one of Gwynedd's main economic sectors and the sector contributes £1 billion to the economy annually and employs over 15,000 in the county.

Despite this, visitors put a significant added pressure on the infrastructure of the county's destinations, a cost which is mainly shouldered by Gwynedd residents.

Our intention is to look at the possibility of getting visitors to contribute financially to maintaining and enhancing Gwynedd destinations and raising the standards of the tourism sector. By doing so, we will improve the provision of the county's destinations and increase the standard of the provision for the tourist industry.

A Council which Delivers for Local Businesses

The county's businesses are involved with and receive a service from several of the Council's Departments, including rates, planning, trading standards, building control and procurement.

By adopting an operational approach which places the needs of businesses at the centre and attempts to do away with obstacles, businesses can be supported and encouraged to establish and grow in the county.

Over the coming years, we will review how these services are provided in order to consider whether there is room for improvement and will implement any lessons which become apparent to ensure that businesses are assisted to prosper.

Housing Field

Suitable and Affordable Housing

We know that the foundation for living well is having an affordable, good quality home. Gwynedd Council has committed to securing suitable and affordable housing, together with good quality housing which meet the needs of our residents.

During the year, as a Council we have been working to increase the supply and variety of housing available in order to ensure that they are suitable for the needs of the people of Gwynedd. We must continue to take action in this important field.

In doing so, we will ensure a wide range of advantages in terms of the health and well-being of our residents and will give a foundation for individuals and families to thrive. We are also aware that improving the standard of housing will lead to reducing the pressures on health and care services.

Gwynedd faces several challenges in the housing field including an ageing population and changes in benefits, but opportunities also exist. Our intention is to ensure that we have a detailed understanding of the nature of the demand for housing within our communities in order to prioritise our efforts to generate the biggest social benefits. We will do so by mapping out the demand for housing in our areas which will prepare the way to creating a programme to respond to the demand.

Once we understand the demand, we will consider whether our existing programmes address that need or whether we need to do something different.

We will target areas where different types of houses need to be developed (including extra care housing) particularly for older people and young people.

Identifying and Promoting Housing Schemes and Initiatives

We have been focusing on seeking to prevent homelessness in the first instance by assisting and offering stability to a number of families in difficult times and our general efforts to prevent homelessness have been successful. The picture in terms of the assistance involving housing needs is complex and the challenges which face people vary greatly and, consequently, we must respond in a better way.

Our intention is to improve residents' access to support in relation to housing needs while identifying schemes and initiatives that are available to assist them. We will also reach a decision on the best way of promoting these schemes and initiatives and regarding the need to develop further specific support.

If you have any observations on the aforementioned priorities, please note them here:



The Welsh Language

The Welsh language and public services

At present there is inconsistency in the provision of bilingual services by public bodies in Gwynedd which means that it is not always possible for residents to use the Welsh language naturally when communicating with public bodies.

Some work has already been carried out in order to discover what level every public body is at in terms of their ability to offer the first contact to the citizens of Gwynedd through the medium of Welsh. We will be looking at improving the situation by collaborating with public organisations in the County in order to enable and encourage Gwynedd residents to use the Welsh language when contacting the organisations and ensuring consistency in the provision.

Gwynedd Businesses using the Welsh language

Gwynedd businesses have a role to play in promoting and using the Welsh language and our intention will be to encourage businesses to use the language when offering services.

We will need to consider how the Council will be able to promote this and what activities are likely to be most effective in the field.

Promoting the use of the Welsh language within the Council's services

Gwynedd Council has been prominent in terms of ensuring that services are available through the medium of Welsh and ensuring that the Council's internal work happens through the medium of Welsh. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that we are in a challenging period and that we need to work continually to push the boundaries and make sure that the provision is consistent across all our services.

Work has been underway with four departments within the Council to identify gaps and areas for improvement in terms of the Welsh language provision. Our intention is to build on this work by working with departments to look at the way they respond to the public's demand for Welsh-language services, consider their success in normalising the Welsh language and the ways they could be promoting the use of the Welsh language amongst their users.

If you have any observations on the aforementioned priorities, please note them here:



Financial Planning

Realising Savings

The cuts in funding that the Council receives from the Government means that we must cope with receiving less money to maintain our services. Over the last eight years, we have had to cut £48m from the Council's budget.

Despite this, we have been fairly successful in keeping the effects on the residents of Gwynedd to a minimum, but the cuts have started to take effect by now. There are no signs that the continued cuts in funding from Welsh Government to pay for key services that we provide will come to an end in the near future.

We will, therefore, continue with the work of ensuring that we realise those savings which have already been approved and ensuring that we plan to find savings in the future. During 2018/19, we will develop savings options for 2019/20 onwards in order to respond to the financial challenges facing the Council. Naturally, we will consult with the residents of Gwynedd on those options.

If you have any observations on the aforementioned priorities, please note them here:

Local Priorities

Some of the County-wide Priorities are local in nature, such as developing the education provision in the Bangor and Bala catchment areas, or developing the potential of the former traditional slate areas. In addition to the work which has already been identified, the Elected Members for the various areas in Gwynedd prioritised a number of matters for each local area as ones which require attention or which cause concern in those areas.

Over the coming months, further work will be undertaken in order to consider whether or not we can respond to them.

Priorities for the Bangor Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. There is concern that there is a **high number of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs)** in Bangor, which negatively affect the appearance of the city, with placards displayed throughout the year and an increase in litter. There is also concern that the situation leads to a higher than usual number of empty homes, with the side-effect of this reducing the housing market for local residents.
2. Litter being left behind after **rubbish and recycling collections** makes the city look unkempt, therefore this problem needs to be alleviated.
3. There is a need to consider working with local businesses, Town and Community Councils and partners to **generate an income to improve the appearance of the local area**, which in turn would support local businesses and tradespeople.

Priorities for the Dyffryn Ogwen Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. There is a feeling of a shortage of suitable homes for the local population, including older people and, therefore, **ensuring a sufficient supply of suitable housing**, including extra care housing, is a priority for local people.
2. There is concern that **a lack of public parking spaces for local people** leads to safety problems as well as being inconvenient.
3. Consideration should be given to developing a policy in order to **promote and regenerate the Bethesda High Street** in order to develop the local economy and benefit from an increase in tourism.

Priorities for the Caernarfon Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. One of the main matters which is a cause of concern in the area is **road safety** particularly on Llanbeblig Road, Llanberis Road and the roads near Ysgol Llanberis.
2. There is a desire to improve **the visual image of the area** including **grass that needs cutting, litter and dog fouling**. In addition, there is a strong feeling that the mess that is left behind after **rubbish and recycling collections** makes the area look unkempt, with the general mess in the area disheartening for local people.
3. There is concern that **a lack of public parking spaces for local people** causes safety problems as well as being inconvenient.

Priorities for the Dyffryn Nantlle Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. There is a strong feeling that there is a need to improve **the unkempt appearance of the area** including **grass that needs cutting, litter and dog fouling on streets, footpaths and parks**, which have a negative impact on the area.
2. There is a desire locally to work with the Council to change **the negative image** of Dyffryn Nantlle in order to realise the major potential that exists there.
3. One of the main matters which is a cause of concern in Dyffryn Nantlle is **road safety** in the area, including the general roads of Dyffryn Nantlle as well as King's Road in Penygroes.

Priorities for the Llŷn Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. There is concern locally about **the provision and sustainability of our homes and nursing homes for the elderly** across the County. As the population of Gwynedd becomes older, and their needs become more acute, there is a need to ensure that appropriate care provision is available.
2. There is a perception that there is a lack of **care and health provision** in the area, including nurses, GPs and home carers. The opinion of the local councillors is that we need to work with our partners to attract and retain qualified workers in order to strengthen the health care services in the area.
3. There is a strong feeling that **not cutting grass makes the area untidy**. The local opinion is that overgrown grass has a negative effect on the area's communities and the mess is disheartening for local people.

Priorities for the Porthmadog Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. There is a feeling that attempts should be made to try to attract **more stable, long-term jobs which pay a good salary** in order to improve the economic situation of local residents. The opinion is that the geographical position of Porthmadog, in the middle of the County, offers itself to be an **economic hub** to attract businesses and organisations.
2. The local opinion is that **the condition of the coast path should be improved** in order to attract more walkers and cyclists to the area, which in turn would lead to increasing economic opportunities in the interests of local residents.
3. There is concern about the condition of **redundant sites** in the area such as Bron y Garth, Y Felin, Tŷ Moelwyn, the Coliseum and Hen Danerdy (Tremadog), and **their appearance should be improved** and new appropriate use for these sites should be planned.

Priorities for the Ffestiniog Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. In order to improve the economic situation of the areas, there is local opinion that **more stable jobs which pay a good salary need to be attracted**, including a scheme to **redesign and regenerate the High Street**.
2. There is great concern in the area regarding **the future of the Community Centre**, specifically the future of the Day Centre and the Youth Club.
3. There is a perception locally of a shortage of suitable homes for the older population and, therefore, **ensuring a sufficient supply of suitable housing** is a priority for the area.

Priorities for the Dolgellau Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. Improving **connectivity and standard broadband provision and mobile phone coverage** is a priority for local people.
2. The feeling that there is a **lack of appropriate care provision** in the area is a concern for local people. As the population of Gwynedd grows older, and their needs become more acute, there is a need to ensure that appropriate care provision is available.
3. Due to the perception that there is a shortage of suitable homes for young families, **ensuring a sufficient supply of suitable housing**, is a priority for local people.

Priorities for the Penllyn Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. There is a desire locally for the Council **to collaborate with the Penllyn Partnership** to trial an arrangement in which they would accept responsibility for resources within the community, such as car parks, in order to use the income to maintain local services such as toilets.
2. In order to improve the economic situation of the area, there is local opinion that **more stable jobs which pay a good salary need to be attracted.**
3. A **lack of parking spaces for workers on the Bala industrial estate** is a concern for local people. Other options and locations need to be identified for the workers.

Priorities for the Tywyn Area

The following matters have been identified as the fields which most need attention. What's important to you? Please note your observations at the end of this chapter.

1. There is a feeling locally that there is a **shortage** of qualified workers to fill **jobs such as Home Carers or Carers in homes for the elderly.** This is also true of workers with Welsh language skills. This could lead to problems which mean that we cannot provide the best possible care for our residents at present, or plan the provision adequately for the future.
2. The local opinion is that **the cycle path between Tywyn and Aberdyfi needs to be completed,** in case we miss an opportunity to benefit economically from the tourism industry, and in order to give the best opportunities for local residents to keep fit and health by using the local natural resources.
3. There is a desire locally to **improve the visual image of the area,** as general mess is disheartening for local people and is likely to have a negative effect on tourism. The situation has come about as a result of general problems such as litter, weeds and dog fouling.

If you have any observations on the aforementioned priorities, please note them here:

If you have any further observations, please note them here:

About you:

We would be grateful if you could provide the following information. We collect this information for monitoring purposes only, and every response will be completely confidential.

You can choose not to answer any question or questions if you do not wish to do so.

i) On whose behalf are you completing the questionnaire?

As an individual

On behalf of an organisation or business, please note the name of the organisation or business _____

ii) Please note your Post Code: _____

iii) Please note your sex:

Male

Female

Other - please note: _____

I prefer not to say

iv) Which age group do you belong to?

Under 16 - *if you are under 16, please answer questions i - vii only*

18 – 29

30 – 39

40 - 49

50 – 59

60 – 69

70 or older

I prefer not to say

v) How would you describe your national identity?

Welsh

English

Scottish

Northern Irish

British

Other - please note: _____

I prefer not to say

vi) Describe your ethnic origin:

White

Mixed / several ethnic groups

Asian

Black / African / Caribbean

Other - please note: _____

I prefer not to say

Equality Impact Assessment

See the *How to Complete an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet for assistance to complete this form. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708, or delythgadlyswilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru for further assistance

I Details

I.1 What is title of the engagement in question?

Council Plan 2018-23

I.2 What is the purpose of the engagement being created or changed? What changes are being considered?

The purpose of the Council's Plan is to identify priorities and key areas to implement between 2018 and 2023.

Before adopting the Plan, the Council is eager to discuss with Gwynedd residents and to hear their views on the draft priorities and projects it intends to implement from 2018/19 onwards.

The Plan is reviewed annually and re-published with any necessary adaptations.

I.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Dewi Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager.

I.4 When did you begin the assessment? What version is this?

Version 1 - 27 June 2017, relating to the engagement
Version 2 - 25 October 2017, relating to the engagement

We will carry out a full assessment following the results of the engagement exercise.

2) Implementation

2.1 Who are the partners that will have to work with them to carry out this assessment?

Members, service users, Gwynedd residents, partners on Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board.

2.2 What steps have you taken to engage with people with equality features?

We have not engaged yet, this assessment will look at the process to check that we include everyone.

We will submit and explain the draft priorities to the public, partners and local organisations and raise awareness of the opportunity for them to participate in the exercise by completing a short on-line questionnaire available on www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/consultations. Paper copies will also be available in local libraries and Siop Gwynedd.

We will encourage as many Gwynedd residents as possible to complete and return the questionnaire by using the Council's website, the local press, disseminating the message through our partners, social media and Rhaeadr - the elected members' e-newsletter.

We will provide appropriate opportunities for individuals, interest groups and protected characteristic groups to participate in the exercise by contacting them to inform them of the questionnaire.

2.3 What was the result of the engagement?

N/A

2.4 Based on what other evidence do you operate?

As part of the process of drawing up the Council's Plan for 2018-23, a series of 8 area meetings were held during July in order to give local members an opportunity to highlight any issues requiring attention in those areas. In addition, members of the Scrutiny Committees had identified matters that they believed that should be included within the Council's Plan in the future.

A further four workshop sessions had been held with members in September in Caernarfon, Penrhyndeudraeth, Dolgellau and Pwllheli. The purpose of these workshops was to give them an opportunity to identify the county priorities to be included within the Council's Plan and make further observations on the priorities identified per area.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be gathered?

The need to consult broadly with the public, which will be met soon.

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 What is the impact that engagement will have on people with equality features?

Characteristics	Additional work needed?	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including ethnicity)	Yes	There will be a need to be prepared to create documents in various languages as required. Make direct contact with organisations representing the characteristic.
The Welsh language	None	Everything will be provided in Welsh and English with translators at meetings as required in accordance with the Council's Language Policy.
Disability	Yes	There will be a need to be prepared to create documents in suitable formats. Make direct contact with organisations representing the characteristic.
Gender	None	No additional work is required but we can make direct contact with organisations representing the characteristic.
Age	Yes	There will be a need to ensure that any documentation will be suitable for older people and young people. There will also be a need to ensure that people of all ages will participate in the engagement.
Sexual orientation	None	No additional work is required but we can make direct contact with organisations representing the characteristic.
Religion or belief (or lack of belief)	None	No additional work is required but we can make direct contact with organisations representing the characteristic.
Gender reassignment	None	No additional work is required but we can make direct contact with organisations representing the characteristic.
Pregnancy and maternity	None	No additional work is required.
Marriage and civil partnership	None	No additional work is required.

3.2 Does the engagement answer these General Duties?

General Duties of the Equality Act	The irrelevant ones should be removed	In what way? What is the evidence?
Removing illegal discrimination, harassment and persecution	Yes	We will give everyone an opportunity to express their views and say how we can remove any potential discrimination
Promoting equal opportunities	Yes	By giving everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion and act on that view, we will ensure that we promote equal opportunities.
Encouraging good relationships	Yes	By giving everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion and act on that view, we can identify any opportunity to encourage equal opportunities.

4) Analysing the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duties and what is the reason for this?

Yes as we wish to encourage people with different equality characteristics to participate, and are prepared to provide documents in alternative formats as required. In addition, we will, by using the equality monitoring form, be able to identify any patterns being highlighted from what is being said. We will ensure that we then use this information when drawing up a comprehensive equalities impact assessment that will help us when creating the finished Plan.

4.2 Is the engagement therefore likely to have a substantial, negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or General Duties and what is the reason for this?

The engagement is unlikely to have a negative impact.

4.3 What should be done?

Select one of the following:

Continue with the engagement as it is sound	X
Adapt the engagement to remove any obstacles	
Prevent and remove the engagement as the harmful impact is too great	
Continue with the engagement because any harmful impact can be justified	

4.4 What steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

As has been identified already, there will be a need to make direct contact with some groups and possibly in a particular method.

4.5 If you do not take further action to remove or reduce negative impacts, explain why here.

N/A

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the engagement (action plan)?

This equality impact assessment is a document under development and therefore it will be updated regularly.

Cabinet Report

21st of November 2017

Cabinet Member : Cllr. Craig ap Iago

Area : Housing (Strategy Unit)

Officer Contact : Arwel Wyn Owen

Contact Number :34896

E-mail Contact : arwelwynowen@gwynedd.gov.uk

Service / Department : Adults, Health and Well-being

Title : Increasing the supply of social and affordable Housing by strengthening strategic capacity.

Decision Sought:

To approve an allocation of £45,646 per year over the next 3 years (total of approximately £140,000), as a first call against the council tax premium to be levied against 'second homes' and 'empty homes' which will be applied from April 2018 allowing the Head of Adult, Health and Wellbeing to appoint an additional officer within the Strategic Housing Unit to support the Council to take full advantage of grant funding allocated by Welsh Government to increase the supply of social and affordable Housing in Gwynedd.

Main issues to be considered by the Cabinet:

1.0. What is the Demand?

1.1 The Welsh Government has allocated additional capital resources to assist Local Government in Wales secure an additional 20,000 homes. This means that Gwynedd's allocation could increase from £4.2m between 2014-17 up to £ 16.2 between 2017-20, an increase of 285%. Although the allocation is welcomed, the situation creates a significant challenge as there is a requirement to develop and prepare bids to attract additional resources and to monitor developments. An additional resource is therefore sought to

Cyswilt:

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GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

support efforts to increase the number of social and affordable housing units.

1.2 Capacity within the Housing Strategic Unit has reduced from 3 officers to 1 officer as a consequence of efficiency savings and service cuts. When these changes were initiated budgets were fairly stable or reducing and it was anticipated that the service could shoulder the change. However, over the last year, expectations and responsibilities have increased significantly, and the current situation is not sustainable. There is a possibility without an additional resource that the Council will not be able to take full advantage of the opportunities available at a time when there is a growing demand due to changes in the Welfare State.

1.3 The Department's recent efforts have focused on maintaining current schemes and there is no capacity within the Unit to undertake preparatory work necessary to bring plans to maturity. This could mean that Gwynedd miss out on significant funds and deprive the county of opportunities to attract resources to help respond to new challenges and be proactive and creative.

1.4 In addition to an additional Social Housing Grant allocation, several other grant programs have been announced, including an Innovative Housing development program and Health and Care Housing Scheme. We are also aware of opportunities to present applications for Energy Efficiency programs in deprived communities. Gwynedd will need to compete with other local authority areas and proposals will need to be developed to support the applications and then to implement programmes. Between 2017-21 there will also be challenges between 2017 -21 to prepare for Wylfa Newydd and a need to apply for mitigation measures.

1.5 Gwynedd Council's housing capacity is now much smaller than other authorities, and the differential is more prominent as an authority without housing stock. Resources are not protected in the same way as authorities with a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and our situation is also weak compared to other authorities that have transferred their housing stock. In recent months the lack of capacity has impacted upon our ability to respond to some opportunities.

1.6 An additional resource would enable us to apply for additional capital funds and to maximize our allocation.

2.0 Budget Required

2.1 No revenue funding has been reserved as part of the financial

allocation and the capital money within the program cannot be used to undertake additional duties attached to the individual schemes. Local government is expected to shoulder these responsibilities and operate within the resources or to fund within existing resources.

2.2 Gwynedd Council has decided to raise a council tax premium on 'second homes' and 'long term empty properties' and it is expected that this decision will result in an increase in council tax income from April 2018 onwards.

2.3 Although the Council has not yet decided how the additional resource generated will be allocated, it is suggested that one option would be to consider financing an appointment as a first call on that resource. "

Cost of Housing Strategic Officer Scale (36-39)

Total with costs of £ 45,646

Three year commitment initially with an option to extend following a review

3. Risks and Other Considerations.

3.1 If we cannot identify a resource to assist with the work there is a danger that we will

- miss a golden opportunities to increase housing supply
- face the possibility of having to refuse or return capital money back to the Welsh Government
- expect that our performance will fall below other local authorities

3.2 There are dangers that the current spending program is too dependent on one officer, leaving us vulnerable in the event of a change of circumstances due to loss of continuity and expertise in this area.

3.3 It also means that we will probably fail to adapt and respond to changes within the Welfare State which in turn could result in additional costs in other areas.

3.4 Securing a supply of quality housing is essential to assist efforts to support vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals within society. If there is no

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

suitable provision, people with health problems, older people, disabled people, families with children, will be more vulnerable and likely to have a bigger impact on other services areas and cost.

Timetable :

It would be possible to establish a staffing structure and commence recruiting immediately if support was forthcoming.

CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Monitoring Officer:

When the introduction of the council tax premium was supported it was highlighted that a percentage of the receipts would be used to support the provision of houses with the community. This report and recommendation is consistent with that aim.

Head of Finance:

The Social Housing Grant allocation available over the next 3 years (2017-20) is expected to increase significantly, along with other grant funding opportunities to support Housing development. Approving the decision sought here, would assist the service to take full advantage of the available grant funding, which could benefit disadvantaged residents in Gwynedd. I confirm that the financial figures presented within the report are accurate and that the author has consulted appropriately before proposing the funding source, I thereby support the recommendation

Agenda Item 8

REPORT TO THE CABINET

21 November 2017

Cabinet Member: Councillor Peredur Jenkins, Finance Cabinet Member

Subject: Revenue Budget 2017/18 –
Second Quarter Review (September 2017)

Contact Officer: Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance

1. The decision sought

The Cabinet is requested to:

- Accept the report on the end of the second quarter review (30 September 2017 position) of the Revenue Budget, and consider the latest financial position in respect of all departments / service, and requesting the Cabinet Members and the heads of the relative departments to take appropriate steps in respect of the matters under their leadership/ management.
- With the approval of the Head of Environment Department, transfer (£282k) from the Environment Department to the Financial Strategy Reserve.
- With the approval of the Head of Corporate Support Department, transfer (£54k) from the Corporate Support Department to the Financial Strategy Reserve.
- That (£200k) from the favourable Council Tax receipts, (£800k) from the underspend on Council Tax Reduction, (£406k) savings realised early, (£444k) one-off underspend on bids and (£697k) from favourable conditions on other Council budgets, and transfer it to the Financial Strategy Reserve to assist with unavoidable one-off pressures on the Council's budgets.

2. Introduction / Background

It is the Cabinet's responsibility to take steps, as necessary, to ensure appropriate management over the Council's budgets (e.g. approving substantial transfers or additional budgets).

The first quarter review report was presented to the Cabinet on 18 July 2017. The report before you today is much more detailed.

This quarterly report is presented based upon the latest review of the Council revenue budget for 2017/18, and a summary of the position by Department is outlined in **Appendix 1**.

In **Appendix 2**, further details are given in respect of the main matters and budget headings where substantial variances are forecasted, together with specific recommendations where appropriate.

2.1 Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department

Overspend by the Provider services together with the failure to realise some savings are the main reasons for the Department overspend. The report by the Head of Department and the Cabinet Member to re-package their savings schemes in order that they are realised is still awaited.

2.2 Children and Families Department

The trend of overspending seen in the first quarter continues, with an overspend on placement and operational services.

2.3 Education Department

Additional pressure on school taxi transport, and also catering and cleaning, is responsible for the overspend. In the first quarter review, the Education Cabinet Member was requested to ensure that the Head of Education, in consultation with the Head of Environment, review the increase in spending on school taxis and take steps to manage the position, or to report on the situation. As the relative financial position has deteriorated, the Cabinet Member is requested to report on the matter directly to Cabinet.

2.4 Highways and Municipal Department

The overspending problems have deepened significantly during the quarter due to a combination of an income shortfall, slippage in realising savings, and increasing costs of handling and transport of recyclable materials. The Head of Department and the Cabinet Member are giving attention to the matters that are contributing to the financial position.

2.5 Environment Department

The Department's services are underspending as a result of savings from the proposed re-structuring, together with exceeding income targets. This favourable position this year enables the Department to transfer the underspend in excess of £100k to the Financial Strategy Reserve.

2.6 Corporate

There was an underspend from the collection of more Council Tax, less claims for Council Tax Reduction, savings realised early, bids that will not be used this year, and an underspend resulting from recent favourable circumstances. It is recommended that it is transferred to the Financial Strategy Reserve to assist with unavoidable one-off pressures on the Council's budgets.

3. General

On the whole, the second quarter review of the budgets reflect an acceptable level of financial management by a number of the Council's departments, but a combination of specific implementation steps is recommended for the Education Department, Adults Health and Wellbeing, Children and Families, and Highways and Municipal, to ensure management of their budgets by 31 March 2018.

4. Next steps and timetable

Implement the presented recommendations and present an updating report to Cabinet on 13 February 2018 on the third quarter review.

Local member's views

Not relevant

Opinion of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Head of Finance:

I have collaborated with the Cabinet Member in the preparation of this report and I confirm the content.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Summary of each department's position

Appendix 2 - Budget details and substantial variances

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Summary of position by Department

	Second Quarter Review				<i>First Quarter Review</i>
	Proposed Budget 2017/18 £'000	Gross Over / (Under) spend 2017/18 £ '000	Recommended Adjustments £'000	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend) £ '000	
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	50,783	216	0	216	147
Children and Supporting Families	13,961	396	0	396	290
Education	89,927	264	0	264	358
Economy and Community	11,389	(33)	0	(33)	(26)
Highways and Municipal	23,362	600	0	600	149
Environment	8,015	(382)	282	(100)	(134)
Gwynedd Consultancy	1,108	35	0	35	85
Corporate Management Team and Legal	667	(71)	0	(71)	0
Finance (and Information Technology)	850	(68)	0	(68)	(40)
Corporate Support	357	(154)	54	(100)	(20)
Corporate Budgets <i>(Variances only)</i>	*	(2,912)	2,547	(365)	(380)
Totals (net)	200,419	(2,109)	2,883	774	429

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults Services						
Older Peoples Services						
Residential and Nursing - Homes	10,461	10,508	47	0	47	(316)
Home Care	6,223	6,017	(206)	0	(206)	126
Other	2,850	2,596	(254)	0	(254)	(147)
	19,534	19,121	(413)	0	(413)	(337)
Physical Disability Services						
Residential and Nursing	492	478	(14)	0	(14)	(20)
Home Care	998	1,067	69	0	69	90
Other	709	573	(136)	0	(136)	(100)
	2,199	2,118	(81)	0	(81)	(30)
Learning Disability Services	14,950	14,731	(219)	0	(219)	(228)
Mental Health Services						
Residential and Nursing	1,492	1,712	220	0	220	236
Other	1,983	1,888	(95)	0	(95)	(97)
	3,475	3,600	125	0	125	139
Other Services (Adults)						
Management	418	413	(5)	0	(5)	0
Older People and Physical Disability Team	2,378	2,408	30	0	30	0
	2,796	2,821	25	0	25	0
Adults Services Total	42,954	42,391	(563)	0	(563)	(456)

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Provider Services (showing net budget)</u>						
Residential Care	9	193	184	0	184	75
Day Care	5	65	60	0	60	0
Community Care	2	333	331	0	331	200
Other	0	(66)	(66)	0	(66)	(10)
<u>Total Provider Services</u>	16	525	509	0	509	265
<u>Other Services</u>						
Housing Services	4,393	4,442	49	0	49	38
Departmental Central Services (including the Department's savings schemes)	3,420	3,641	221	0	221	300
<u>Total Other Services</u>	7,813	8,083	270	0	270	338
<u>Adults, Health and Wellbeing Total</u>	50,783	50,999	216	0	216	147

Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Older Peoples Services - a number of factors are responsible for the reduction in costs, which include a reduction in the packages where there is a need for two home carers.

Physical Disability Services - an underspend on direct payments and supported accommodation has assisted in reducing the overspend effect on home care.

Learning Disability Services - an underspend position is forecasted on residential and nursing, supported accommodation and day services, but an overspend on support packages, partly due to slippage with the savings schemes.

Mental Health Services - the trend continues with an overspend of £125k on residential and nursing, but an underspend on vacant jobs and receipt of a grant on other services somewhat mitigates the position.

Provider Services - a continuation of the overspend trend since 2016/17 due to additional staffing costs, with travelling costs also responsible for £108k of the overspend on community care.

Other Services - Central Services - the above forecasts reflect a risk that it will not be possible to realise £436k of savings, with a number of savings schemes having slipped from 2016/17. The report by the Head of Department and the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing to re-package their savings schemes, in order that they are realised, is still awaited. Vacant jobs, additional grant and higher income reduces the overspend reported to £221k.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Children and Families Department	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Service Management	511	490	(21)	0	(21)	(10)
Operational Services	1,995	2,133	138	0	138	100
Placement Services						
Out of County Placements	1,947	2,160	213	0	213	20
Agency Fostering	928	1,042	114	0	114	205
Internal Fostering	1,675	1,706	31	0	31	75
Other Support services	1,573	1,616	43	0	43	30
	6,123	6,524	401	0	401	330
Post-16 Services	913	879	(34)	0	(34)	(75)
Specialist Services/Derwen	1,565	1,608	43	0	43	5
Youth Justice Services	234	203	(31)	0	(31)	(25)
Early Years Services	126	72	(54)	0	(54)	(35)
Other Services	2,494	2,448	(46)	0	(46)	0
Children and Families Total	13,961	14,357	396	0	396	290

Children and Families

Operational Services - an overspend of £138k is forecasted, although the Department budget has been increased in 2017/18. The overspend continues as a result of an increase in the number of children in care but not in fostering placements, together with an overspend on staff costs.

Placement Services - an overspend of £213k on out of county placements and £114k on agency fostering. One new case and one package which has accentuate are responsible for the out of county increase, whilst there were five new internal fostering cases at the beginning of the year, but three cases have now ended. The pressure from the number of cases and failure to realise savings targets have also led to the overspend.

Early Years Services - it is forecasted there will be an underspend of (£54k) following receipt of a new child care grant.

It is requested that the Cabinet Member for Children and Youth and the Head of Department ensure that decisive steps are taken to reduce the overspend and ensure that the budget is under control by year end.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Education Department	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Delegated Schools	73,208	73,208	0	0	0	0
Transport	4,246	4,510	264	0	264	200
Redundancy and Early Retirement	358	364	6	0	6	0
Out of County	953	953	0	0	0	0
Catering and Cleaning	294	440	146	0	146	95
Nursery Education	600	596	(4)	0	(4)	0
School Improvement Grant	564	524	(40)	0	(40)	(40)
Management	1,569	1,503	(66)	0	(66)	(41)
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion	3,053	3,067	14	0	14	190
Further Education	24	17	(7)	0	(7)	0
Education Contribution to Joint-Committees	1,202	1,168	(34)	0	(34)	(23)
Other	3,856	3,841	(15)	0	(15)	(23)
Education Total	89,927	90,191	264	0	264	358

Education

The latest forecasts suggest a reduction in the overspend to £264k, compared to £358k reported in the first quarter. The main areas contributing to this position are:

Transport - the overspend trend continues since the first quarter review, and has by now increased to £264k, with a shortfall of £50k on the sale of post-16 transport tickets, an underspend of (£17k) on school buses, but a £230k overspend on school taxi transport following an increase in requests since establishing the budget. In the first quarter review, the Education Cabinet Member was requested to ensure that the Head of Education, in consultation with the Head of Environment, review the increase in spending on school taxis and take steps to manage the position or to report on the situation. As the relative financial position has deteriorated, the Cabinet Member is requested to report on the matter directly to Cabinet.

Catering and Cleaning - a £146k overspend is forecasted, mainly due to costs emanating from illness and staffing matters, together with loss of a grant and the delay in realising the savings from the Free Breakfast scheme.

Management - an underspend of (£66k) as a result of staff turnover.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Economy and Community Department	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	875	875	0	0	0	0
Community Learning	3,458	3,418	(40)	0	(40)	(3)
Tourism and Heritage	1,434	1,446	12	0	12	5
Economy and Community	2,117	2,113	(4)	0	(4)	0
Healthy Communities	3,505	3,504	(1)	0	(1)	(28)
Economy and Community Total	11,389	11,356	(33)	0	(33)	(26)

Economy and Community

The latest forecasts suggest an underspend of (£33k) by the year end by the Economy Department. Within this position, it is forecasted that some services will overspend, including Marine, Galleries and Musuems, but balanced by an underspend in other areas such as Country Parks, Business Support and Halls.

Community Learning - and underspend of (£40k) is envisaged, which is a combination of an underspend of (£20k) on the Youth Service, as there is a reduction in the youth club provision, and (£20k) on Community Regeneration due to staff turnover.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Highways and Municipal Department (including Trunk Roads Agency)	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Highways Services (including Trunk Roads)	9,938	10,213	275	0	275	71
Engineering Services	401	490	89	0	89	13
Municipal Services						
Waste	9,324	9,537	213	0	213	48
Other	3,713	3,762	49	0	49	17
Municipal Provider Units	(14)	(40)	(26)	0	(26)	0
<u>Highways and Municipal Total (including Trunk Roads Agency)</u>	23,362	23,962	600	0	600	149

Highways and Municipal (including Trunk Roads Agency)

Highways Services - forecasts suggest that income from external contracts will be less than the target, together with slippage on Highways and Lighting savings.

Engineering Services - a combination of failure to realise savings schemes, staffing matters and loss of an external contract are responsible for the overspend of £89k forecasted.

Waste - a number of matters responsible for the overspend, including lack of income, increasing recycled material handling and transport costs.

In the first quarter review, it was reported there was an expectation that the Highways and Municipal Cabinet Member and the Head of Department would take decisive steps during the year to ensure they operated within the budget. As the financial position has deteriorated considerably, it is therefore requested that the Cabinet Member reports on the matter directly to Cabinet.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Environment Department	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Department Management	539	526	(13)	0	(13)	0
Planning Services						
Development Control	372	351	(21)	0	(21)	0
Other	(39)	(54)	(15)	0	(15)	0
	333	297	(36)	0	(36)	0
Street Works and Transport Services						
Forward Planning	2,439	2,439	0	0	0	0
Road Safety	255	222	(33)	0	(33)	0
Traffic and Statutory Arrangenets	567	504	(63)	0	(63)	0
Parking and Parking Enforcement	(1,429)	(1,428)	1	0	1	(134)
Integrated Transport	2,069	1,934	(135)	0	(135)	0
Enforcement and Traffic	175	131	(44)	0	(44)	0
	4,076	3,802	(274)	0	(274)	(134)
Countryside and Access Services	999	1,020	21	0	21	0
Joint Planning Policy Unit	288	288	0	0	0	0
Public Protection Services	1,745	1,675	(70)	0	(70)	0
Catering, Cleaning and Caretakers	3	2	(1)	0	(1)	0
Property	32	23	(9)	0	(9)	0
Budget Harvesting				282	282	0
Environment Total	8,015	7,633	(382)	282	(100)	(134)

Environment

Street Works and Transport Services - a one-off underspend of (£274k) is forecasted which is a combination of a number of vacant posts as part of the proposed re-structuring together with exceeding the income target.

Public Protection - income in excess of budget mainly responsible for the underspend (£70k) forecasted, with various underspends on service running costs also responsible for the favourable financial position.

As a result of the promising one-off forecast this year by the Department, it is suggested that (£282k) of the underspend that is in excess of (£100k) should be released for the Council purposes.

It is recommended, with the approval of the Head of Environment Department, that (£282k) from the Environment Department is transferred to the Financial Strategy Reserve.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Consultancy Department	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Roads and Engineering Services	(66)	(106)	(40)	0	(40)	10
Building Services	39	109	70	0	70	73
Flood Risk Management Unit Services	935	935	0	0	0	0
Building Control	200	205	5	0	5	2
Consultancy Total	1,108	1,143	35	0	35	85

Consultancy

Roads and Engineering Services - the latest forecasts suggest an underspend of (£40k) following the Department's success in attracting additional income through a combination of internal and external work.

Building Services - the service continues to tender for work from external establishments to attract income, but based upon the current position, a shortfall of income of £70k is forecasted by the end of the year, which is £30k better than this period last year.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Central Departments	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate Management Team and Legal	667	596	(71)	0	(71)	0
Finance	850	782	(68)	0	(68)	(40)
Corporate Support	357	203	(154)	54	(100)	(20)
Central Departments Total	1,874	1,581	(293)	54	(239)	(60)

Central Departments

Corporate Management Team and Legal - a forecasted underspend of (£71k) with (£52k) of this from receipt of additional income by the Legal Unit, and (£9k) of savings realised early and (£9k) within Emergency Planning.

Finance (and Information Technology) - one-off underspend on staff costs within the Department continues, together with attracting income in excess of the budget.

Corporate Support - an increase in the underspend forecasted to (£154k), which is a combination of one-off staffing savings as a result of staff turnover and the success of the department in attracting external income in excess of the budget in numerous areas. As the level of the forecasted underspend is in excess of (£100k), it is recommended that (£54k) is harvested from the favourable position forecasted to assist with the changes facing us as a Council.

It is recommended, with the approval of the Head of Corporate Support Department, that the underspend of (£54k) by Corporate Support is transferred to the Financial Strategy Reserve.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 - Second Quarter Review						
Corporate (Only reflects headings where an overspend/(underspend) position is forecasted)	Proposed Budget 2017/18	Estimated Final Position 2017/18	Estimated Overspend / (Underspend) 2017/18	Use of Other Sources or Other Recommended Adjustments	Adjusted Overspend / (Underspend)	Net Overspend / (Underspend) Quarter 1
Area:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Tax	*	*	(200)	200	0	(380)
Council Tax Reduction	*	*	(800)	800	0	0
Net Interest Receipts	*	*	(7)		(7)	0
Savings Realised Early	*	*	(406)	406	0	0
Bids returned by Departments	*	*	(444)	444	0	0
Other	*	*	(1,055)	697	(358)	0
Corporate Total	*	*	(2,912)	2,547	(365)	(380)

Corporate

A favourable position is forecasted from the higher level of Council Tax (£200k) as a result of a reduction in the number of exemptions to reduce Council Tax, including single person discounts. An underspend of (£800k) on the Council Tax Reduction scheme, with a reduction in the number of applications, a trend also seen by other North Wales Councils. Various savings realised early were (£406k), and (£444k) of bids that will not be used this year, mainly (£317k) in Adults, Health and Wellbeing, were released.

The latest projection suggests it will be possible to release £697k as a result of a change in legislation/grant after setting the budget, including an increase in the cap on fees in the elderly care field (£198k), receipt of a grant from the Welsh Government means it will be possible to release the adult demography budget (£300k) and the land charges litigation budget (£50k).

It is recommended to harvest (£200k) from the favourable Council Tax receipts, (£800k) from the underspend on Council Tax Reduction, (£406k) savings realised early, (£444k) one-off underspend on bids and (£697k) from favourable conditions on other Council budgets, with these being transferred to the Financial Strategy Reserve to assist with unavoidable one-off pressures on the Council's budgets.

Agenda Item 9

REPORT TO THE CABINET

21 November 2017

Cabinet Member: Councillor Peredur Jenkins - Finance Cabinet Member

Subject: Capital Programme 2017/18 –
Second Quarter Review (30 September 2017 position)

Contact Officer: Dafydd L Edwards - Head of Finance

The decision sought / Purpose of the report

To accept the report on the second quarter review (30 September 2017 position) of the capital programme, and approve the revised financing as shown in part 4 of the report, that is:

- £1,121,000 increase in the use of borrowing
 - (£389,000) decrease in the use of grants and contributions
 - £78,000 increase in the use of capital receipts
 - £118,000 increase in the use of revenue contributions
 - (£663,000) decrease in the use of renewal and other reserves
 - (£48,000) decrease in the use of the capital reserve
-

1. Introduction / Summary

This technical report is presented as part of the 2017/18 budget monitoring procedure. The main purpose of the report is to present the revised capital programme and to approve the relevant financing sources. There is a summary in parts 3 and 4 of the report, with the recommendation in part 5:

Part 3: Analysis by Department of the £46.942m capital programme for the 3 years 2017/18 – 2019/20.

Part 4: The sources of finance for the net increase of approximately £0.217m since the previous review.

The Cabinet has the authority to adapt the capital programme. Approval is sought for the programme (part 3) and financing (part 4).

The remainder of the report is for information:

- Appendix A: Main changes per source of finance
- Appendix B: Movement from 2017/18 to 2018/19
- Appendix C: First 6 months expenditure in 2017/18

2. Main Findings:

The main conclusions that arise from the revised position are:

- There are firm schemes in place to invest approximately £33.4m in 2017/18, with £5.4m of it being financed by attracting specific grants.

3. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 to 2019/20

See below the revised proposed capital programme.

DEPARTMENT	END OF SEPTEMBER REVIEW				INCREASE/ (DECREASE) SINCE THE OPENING BUDGET £'000
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Education	13,029	399	-	13,428	(84)
Environment	7,215	3,187	-	10,402	103
Corporate Support	143	9	-	152	21
Finance (and Information Technology)	547	709	-	1,256	-
Economy and Community	1,061	10	200	1,271	379
Adults, Health and Wellbeing - Housing Unit	3,063	3,607	-	6,670	9
Adults, Health and Wellbeing - Other	947	-	-	947	449
Children and Families	157	-	-	157	88
Highways and Municipal	6,957	2,460	2,406	11,823	(748)
Consultancy	27	17	-	44	-
Corporate	222	570	-	792	-
TOTAL	33,368	10,968	2,606	46,942	217

4. CHANGES TO THE SOURCES OF FINANCE

The budget for the three year programme shows an increase of £0.217m since the first quarter review position. The proposed sources of financing for this are noted below:

SOURCE OF FINANCE	END OF SEPTEMBER REVIEW				INCREASE/ (DECREASE) SINCE THE OPENING BUDGET £'000
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Supported Borrowing	6,675	6,399	-	13,074	-
Other Borrowing	8,526	415	992	9,933	1,121
Grants and Contributions	5,441	750	200	6,391	(389)
Capital Receipts	1,206	196	-	1,402	78
Departmental & Corporate Revenue	2,285	-	-	2,285	118
Capital Fund	1,116	1,290	-	2,406	(48)
Renewals & Other Funds	8,119	1,918	1,414	11,451	(663)
TOTAL	33,368	10,968	2,606	46,942	217

Please note: the increase in 'other borrowing' does not create an additional commitment against the Council's revenue budgets. The support for this borrowing has already been provided for by the Welsh Government (see Appendix A for further details).

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

- accept the 2017/18 to 2019/20 revised programme and
- approve the relevant sources of finance (para. 4 above).

6. Reasons for recommending the decision

It is necessary to ensure appropriate financing arrangements for the Council's plans to spend on capital, and the Cabinet must approve the capital programme and its sources of funding.

Incorporating funding via grant is a point of order, but it is also necessary to deal with situations where there has been a change in expenditure profiles between years and the value of capital receipts and contributions.

These are recommendations to ensure definite sources of funding for the 2017/18 – 2019/20 capital schemes.

7. Relevant considerations

These are technical issues regarding the financing of schemes and relevant implications and debates have already been addressed when the individual schemes were adopted.

8. Next steps and timetable

To implement the recommendations to finance the programme.

View of the Local Member

Not relevant.

Views of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Head of Finance:

I have collaborated with the Cabinet Member in the preparation of this report and I confirm the content.

Appendix

Appendices A, B and C.

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MAIN CHANGES PER SOURCE OF FINANCING:

See below the relevant schemes that have caused the main changes to the sources of finance during the last quarter:

	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £,000
Other Borrowing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st Century Schools (Education Department) – an increase in borrowing due to a technical adjustment to the source of financing to reduce the level of grant and increase the level of supported borrowing following an instruction received annually from the Welsh Government (see also Grants and Contributions below). This technical adjustment to the financing will not impact on the schemes at all, and the Welsh Government will still finance 50% of the cost. 	1,241	
Grants and Contributions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st Century Schools (Education Department) – a reduction in the level of grant, see Other Borrowing above for details. 	(1,241)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Llys Cadfan (Adults, Health and Wellbeing department) - a grant received from the Welsh Government for adaptations to Llys Cadfan care home to admit dementia and specialised care beds. 	400	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caernarfon Town and Waterfront Regeneration Scheme (Economy and Community Department) – additional grant from the Welsh Government towards the Vibrant and Viable Places framework 	336	
Capital Receipts		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various minor schemes 	78	
Departmental Revenue		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various minor schemes 	118	
Capital Reserve		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various minor schemes 	(48)	
Renewals and Other Funds		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling Vehicles' Renewal Scheme (Highways and Municipal Department) – the price for purchasing 5 vehicles in 17/18 was better than expected, and 3 vehicles were renewed last year instead of in 18/19 as scheduled. 	(229)	(565)

Budget Re-profiling – Main Schemes:

See below the main schemes that have been re-profiled since the original budget:

	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000
Housing Grant Schemes (Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department – Housing Unit)	(758)	758
Computer Renewal Schemes (Finance and Information Technology Department)	(360)	360
Resurfacing of car parks (Environment Department)	(219)	219
Bro Llifon School (Education Department)	(122)	122

Note:

The above re-profiling will not result in any loss in grant.

There is a variety of valid reasons behind the re-profiling in many cases, but the delay prior to implementing these schemes can mean that the services have to cope for longer with current assets which have not been improved.

APPENDIX C

Capital Expenditure First 6 Months 2017/18

SUMMARY	CAPITAL PROGRAMME FULL YEAR (reviewed September)	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE 6 MONTHS TO
	2017/18 £'000	30/09/2017 £'000
Education	13,029	4,335
Environment	7,215	2,059
Corporate Support	143	6
Finance (and Information Technology)	547	326
Economy and Community	1,061	317
Adults, Health and Wellbeing - Housing Unit	3,063	616
Adults, Health and Wellbeing - Other	947	388
Children and Families	157	33
Highways and Municipal	6,957	1,592
Consultancy	27	-
Corporate	222	-
TOTAL	33,368	9,672

Note: The percentage that has been spent this year (29%) is comparably lower than the position this time last year (36%).