

Complete Agenda

CABINET



GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE	Tuesday, 6th November, 2018
TIME	1.00 pm
LOCATION	Siambr 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
Dafydd Meurig	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for the Environment
Craig ab Iago	Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture
Gareth Wyn Griffith	Cabinet Member of Highways and Municipal
Nia Wyn Jeffreys	Cabinet Member for Corporate Support
Peredur Jenkins	Cabinet Member for Finance
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

	Item	Submitted by	Officer	Page
1	APOLOGIES			
2	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST			
3	URGENT ITEMS			
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY			
5	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 AND 16 OCTOBER			4 - 18
6	REORGANISATION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE BANGOR CATCHMENT AREA	Cyng / Cllr Gareth Thomas	Diane Jones	19 - 45
7	TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME: BANGOR CITY CENTRE REGENERATION STRATEGY	Cyng / Cllr Ioan Thomas	Llyr B Jones	46 - 52

THE CABINET 2/10/18

Present-

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Dafydd Meurig, Craig ab Iago, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Nia Wyn Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Dilwyn Morgan, Gareth Thomas and Ioan Thomas

Also present:

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Dewi Morgan (Senior Manager - Revenue and Risk) and Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director).

Item 5: Ceryl Davies (Senior Manager - Complex Needs)

Item 6: Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Supporting Families Department)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

An apology was received from Cllr W Gareth Roberts and Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department)

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The report was submitted by Morwena Edwards

RESOLVED

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that the department's performance was positive on the whole. It was added that the department had an ambitious challenge and it was emphasised that it was not possible for the department to

fulfil its challenges without the support of its partners. It was emphasised that what mattered to the individual motivated the service and it was now the department's principal measure. It was stressed that this was a new measure but that it was not easy to compare performance against previous years.

Attention was drawn to Community Resilience noting that five teams worked on a cross-departmental and cross-organisational basis which made it easier for people to continue living independently in their communities.

It was noted that the main work was transferring people to the community following a period in hospital. It was added that the main problem for the field was obtaining care packages due to a lack of capacity in homes and staff recruitment issues.

It was noted that work was being done to examine the workforce and to recruit within the Care field. It was added that a piece of work was being commissioned in order to improve the department's understanding of recruitment problems. It was reiterated that a domiciliary care project had been operational in Bethesda which had been working in a different way.

Attention was drawn to the results of the National Questionnaire which showed that Gwynedd's performance compared well against the performance of Wales. It was emphasised that the questionnaire had drawn attention to the need to support carers, and it was added that a Regional Carers Strategy was currently being developed.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Recruitment was discussed noting that we had been discussing this field since January and that it seemed that we could not get to the bottom of the matter so we could put actions in place; we also needed to consider whether or not this matter was being given sufficient priority. It was noted that work was being done on the paper and it was hoped that a report would soon be submitted.
- It was noted that arrangements to measure whether or not savings schemes were successful depended on the budget review rather than an analysis of the financial value of the individual steps being taken and it was challenged whether there was a need for more refined arrangements. It was noted that this would be addressed.
- Attention was drawn to the tables noting that one emphasised 'targets'. It was noted that this did not correspond with Ffordd Gwynedd principles as we should not be aiming towards quantitative targets unless they had a real critical meaning.
- A discussion was held on the closure of the Penisarwaun Residential Home at short notice, it was enquired how much attention the department gave to Private Residential Homes. It was noted that Care Inspectorate Wales would monitor financial matters and that they were not obliged to share information with the Council. However, it was added that a visit had been held a week prior to the closure of the Home and that no problems had been highlighted.

6. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The item was submitted by Cllr Dilwyn Morgan

RESOLVED

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that the general practice and performance in the Field of Children was robust on the whole. It was noted that a Full Inspection Report by the Care Inspectorate Wales confirmed the performance of the department. It was added that the report noted that the service had substantial strengths and a committed and robust workforce. It was added that the inspection had identified four fields for development but that these corresponded with priorities in the Council Plan.

Attention was drawn to the review of the 'End to End' scheme, noting that the number of residential placements had decreased. Although numbers were reducing, it was stressed that the inspection had not taken the increase in placement costs into consideration. It was reiterated that this was the main reason for the department's overspend and it was added that a specific report on this was being prepared by the department, on a joint basis with the Finance Department, to explain the matter in more detail.

The department's priorities were emphasised noting that they corresponded with the three improvement plans included in the Council Plan. It was added that the initial work of the Gwynedd Supporting Families Strategy had commenced and that the department had identified the demand for support for families and had also mapped what provision was available. It was expressed that an initial discussion with key partners would have taken place by the next reporting Cycle about the Strategy.

Attention was drawn to the fact that Tackling Poverty work had now been transferred to the Children and Supporting Families Department. As the timetable for introducing Universal Credit in the county had slipped, it was added that the project would live up to the end of March in order to support people to cope with the changes.

It was noted that it was encouraging to see the Care Inspectorate Wales describing the Corporate Parent Panel as ambitious for the Looked after Children. It was added that further work had taken place to attempt to identify where there was a need to improve and identify good practice through the established task groups. Concern was expressed that just over half of elected members had attended the 'Corporate Parenting' training, and it was noted that more sessions would be held in order for members to understand their responsibilities in the field.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the department was now examining their measures and their purpose as some measures had now been abolished as you did not measure data that was important to Gwynedd residents.
- The cost of out-of-county placements was discussed and it was asked whether or not there was anything the department could do to avoid the costs. It was noted that numbers had reduced as more support was available at home. It was added that there was an increase in cost as problems that needed to be dealt with within placements were more complex which consequently led to providers charging a higher amount. It was added that this was a national problem and that a regional discussion to look into the matter was being held.
- Attention was drawn to the fact that overspend within the department was not a new problem and the question was raised whether or not the budgetary presumption at the beginning of the financial year was accurate. It was expressed that it was not possible to anticipate the number of young people who would require out-of-county placements, nor the increase in costs, and that setting a robust budget for the department was difficult as a result. It was added that the Head of Finance Department and the Research and Analytics Service were currently looking into inflation levels used in budgets and other comparative information.

The meeting commenced at 1:00pm and concluded at 1:50pm

CHAIRMAN

THE CABINET, TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER, 2018

Present -

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn Dafydd Meurig, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Nia Wyn Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Dilwyn Morgan, Gareth Thomas, Catrin Wager (Local Member for Item 7) and Gethin Glyn Williams (Local Member representing the Council on the Fire Authority for item 10).

Also present-

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director) and Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director).

Item 7: Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Public Protection Service Manager)

Item 7 and 8: Catherine Roberts (Community Safety Delivery Manager)

Item 11: Garem Jackson (Head of Education Department)

Item 12: Arwel Owen (Senior Housing and Well-being Manager)

Item 9-13: Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Supporting Families Department)

Item 12-15: Ffion Madog Evans (Senior Finance Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from the following Cabinet Members - Cllr Craig ab Iago, Cllr W. Gareth Roberts and Cllr Ioan Thomas.

An apology was received from the following Local Members - Cllr Gareth A Roberts, Cllr Mair Rowlands and Cllr Elin Walker-Jones for item 7.

Apologies were received from the following Elected Members who served on the Fire Authority - Cllr Annwen Daniels, Cllr John B. Hughes and Cllr Dilwyn Lloyd for item 10.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny..

5. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11 AND 18 SEPTEMBER

The Chair signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 July 2018, as a true record

6. GROWTH DEAL FOR THE ECONOMY OF NORTH WALES: THE PROPOSITION DOCUMENT

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

RESOLVED

Subject to the decision not committing the Council to financial investment at this stage and that the financial risks and benefits are considered in full when the final Deal is submitted to the Council for approval:

That the Cabinet endorse the Proposition Document to be approved for adoption by the Council as

1. A basis for a longer-term regional strategy for economic growth
2. The regional bid for the priority programmes and projects used to create the content of the Growth Deal at the Heads of Terms stage with the Governments.

Authorise the Leader to commit the Council to Heads of Terms with the Governments alongside the political and professional leaders from the nine other statutory partners represented on the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and the North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council, with the Proposition Document forming the boundaries for the Heads of Terms agreement.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the Proposition Document was the fruit of months of regional work across the north. It was added that the Plan was a partnership project that included six Local Authorities, two Universities and two Higher Education Colleges. It was reiterated that the private sector role was central to the Plan and a number of sessions had been held to discuss the Plan with them.

It was expressed that historically, there had been 15 to 20 Economic Plans across the region; however, as a result of the Growth Deal, there would only be a single Plan. It was emphasised that the vision and ambition in the scheme was clear, namely to disseminate growth projects and plans across the north Wales region. It was added that the Document provided a foundation to encourage further resources to invest in order to develop the north Wales economy for the coming years.

It was noted that 16 projects provided the basis to the plan, and this would ensure that the investment would be divided across the north. The projects were elaborated upon and it was noted that some would be site specific and some would be for the entire region.

It was explained that the Document had been submitted at the Education and Economy Scrutiny committee meeting and that the scrutinisers had approved it following a constructive discussion and challenging questions. It was added that sessions had been held for the private sector, which had shown enthusiasm towards the plan. It was expressed that the Proposition Document would be submitted before the Full Council before the end of the month; however, it was emphasised that the Council's support to the document would be sought at that time, and that the current decision would not lead to a financial commitment, and that a subsequent recommendation would be brought before the Council again, with more definite information regarding the cost. By supporting the Proposition Document, it would be possible to trigger the discussion regarding the Plan with the Westminster Government and Welsh Government, and that one strong voice would be discussing the economy for the north Wales region.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Support was expressed for the deal and the need to attract money and jobs to Gwynedd, but a question was raised in relation to how it would be possible to attract resources specifically to the south of the county. It was reiterated that the objective of the Deal was for projects to be disseminated across North Wales. It was added that there were some site-specific projects but it was expressed that projects such as the Transport Programme, the Pathway to Skills and Employment Programme and the Digital Connectivity Programme would be disseminated to all parts of the county. Specific investment would be made in various areas across the county and it was added that specific attention would be given to Meirionnydd.
- The importance of not committing any funding at present was discussed. It was confirmed that funding would not be committed with this current decision, and that work on expenditure profiling, income sources and potential joint-funding arrangements would continue prior to submitting a subsequent recommendation with more definite information about the cost. However, it was noted that initial discussions had been held with both Governments with a view to securing a deal that would be as close to selffunding as possible. It was added that there was an opportunity to attract income as a consequence of the Deal.
- It was noted that this level of investment was good news, and that good work was being undertaken by the Ambition Board across the region geographically and across sectors.
- It was reported that the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee had considered the report and had highlighted matters which reflected risks that would be addressed. It was reported that they were supportive of proceeding with the bid.

7. VOLUNTARY CODE FOR THE CONTROL OF TO LET SIGNS IN BANGOR

The item was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

RESOLVED

The Voluntary Code for the control of to let signs in Bangor was adopted and powers were delegated to the Senior Planning and Public Protection Service Manager to put arrangements in place to implement the Voluntary Code.

That the success of the Voluntary Code will be monitored and assessed before the end of March 2020 and the conclusions will be reported back to the Cabinet before September 2020.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that Bangor's population doubled during the year as a result of students moving into the city. Consequently, it was added that a number of houses were available to let. It was expressed that local residents felt that the signs were erected throughout the year and thus had a serious negative impact on specific areas and a negative impact on the image of the City and the University as a place to live, work and study.

It was expressed that local campaigns had been held to change this and following further work, the department was now in a position to adopt a Code for Estate Agents. It was added that the regulations had not been updated since 1992, and consequently they had not responded to the changes that had occurred to the type of accommodation being let or the advertisement methods. It was explained that consultation work had been undertaken, discussing the code with the agencies, which noted when it would be possible to advertise, the streets affected by the code and where on houses it would be possible to advertise. It was added that there would be no additional cost to the Council as a result of the Code but there would be a need to monitor the situation and the department would submit a report detailing the changes in September 2020.

Observations arising from the discussion

- The Local Member added that residents felt strongly about this item. It was noted that To Let signs could be seen on every house on some streets in Bangor and it was reiterated that it projected a wrong image of Bangor. It was explained that the houses where the signs could be seen were more often occupied than not, and that the signs were merely being used as advertisements. It was expressed that the houses with To Let signs displayed on them were twice as likely to have someone breaking into the house. She expressed that she hoped that the scheme would work as Bangor was an economic hub and there was a need to ensure that it did not appear as if every house in the city was To Let.
- It was noted that it was a good idea and that the way the department was dealing with the problem was very beneficial. Discussions were held on how the scheme would be monitored, and how it would ensure that the advertisements were bilingual. It was added that the monitoring would be undertaken by the department.

8. NORTH WALES REGIONAL STRATEGY BOARD; VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The item was submitted by Cllr Nia Jeffreys

DECISION

To adopt a North Wales Strategy for Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) formally as one of the responsible authorities designated under legislation.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, placed a duty on every Local Authority, Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Trust and Fire and Rescue Services to enact this legislation. It was noted that the Government favoured a regional method in relation to the legislative requirements, and therefore this was the strategy for north Wales.

The strategy's vision was noted, namely for the people of north Wales to be able to live safe, equal, non-violent lives, in communities where there is no violence against women, domestic abuse or sexual violence. It was added that the nature of Welsh Government's act emphasised that society needed to be aware of what was acceptable in society.

Observations arising from the discussion

- A discussion was held on how awareness would be raised on this issue; it was noted that an action plan had been created which noted plans and training that would be held and the strategy would be included on the website.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLDING A MANAGERIAL REVIEW

The report was submitted by Cllr Nia Jeffreys

DECISION

To accept the idea that the Cabinet sits in on the challenge sessions that the Chief Executive intends to hold and consent to the idea of inviting the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Scrutiny Committees (including the Audit Committee) to these sessions.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the Cabinet, on 22 May this year, had discussed the projections for the Council's financial position for the coming period. A Managerial Review had been commissioned to consider whether there was a need to further restrict the managerial function within the Council.

As part of the task of drawing-up a report, the Chief Executive would be holding appropriate challenging sessions with Heads of Department in order to challenge the relevant arrangements. It was added that in order to be as inclusive as possible, the Chief Executive was eager for the Cabinet Members, Chairs and

Vice-chairs of the Scrutiny Committees to be involved in the challenging sessions in order to ascertain their views before drawing-up his recommendations.

CONSULTATION OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY

10.

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

DECISION

The Cabinet identified the principles for responding to the public consultation by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and it was resolved that the Leader and the Chief Executive would draw up a full response to the consultation within the timeframe.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting that the Fire Authority had attended the previous meeting of the Full Council to discuss their public consultation. It was added that due to the Authority's financial pressures, the context of the consultation was to increase the precept by 6%.

The Elected Member representing the Council on the Fire Authority noted that the authority was under financial pressure and that £1.9 million needed to be found if the service was to continue at the same level. It was added that unless the Authority would find the additional money, the service available would have to be reduced. It was reiterated that the consultation was triggering a discussion regarding the value of the service, and whether or not the public wished to see the same level of service or a reduced service in the future. It was noted that increasing the precept by 6% could mean an increase of 0.5% to Council Tax.

It was explained that the settlement that had been announced during the past weeks meant a reduction to the Council and this could mean that the Council would need to find a financial deficit of up to £13 million during 2019/20. It was emphasised that any cuts would make a huge difference to the level of service available to the residents of Gwynedd.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the work carried out by the Fire Authority was excellent; however, it was felt that the Authority needed to carry out further work to look for efficiency savings.

PERFORMANCE REPORT: CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

11. The item was submitted by Cllr Gareth Thomas

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that all matters had already been the

subject of discussions and had been scrutinised at the Departmental Performance Challenging meetings. He added that the department had started to implement the Council's Plan.

Attention was drawn to the financial situation, noting that a slippage had occurred in the implementation of the scheme to charge a fee for care before the free breakfast session in 2017/18 and that it was anticipated that the care fee income target would be achieved in full by 2018/19. It was added that £3,738,010 had been realised from the 'Schools Efficiency Savings' scheme that was to save £4.3m. It was reiterated that the Cabinet had already agreed to defer the implementation of Secondary Schools savings of £298,990 from the 2017/18 financial year to 2019/20. It was added that the schools were fully aware of the amended timing of the cut.

It was noted that the Transport Field was complex, as the department continued to overspend in the field. It was noted that there were various reasons why children received transport to schools and it was added that they were valid reasons. It was expressed that the department had commissioned work to give detailed attention to the overspend and initial recommendations and actions were in place. It was reiterated that additional work needed to be done and to look at the transport provision on a trans-departmental level.

The summer results were discussed and it was noted that a national drop had been seen in the foundation phase results. It was added that good performance could be seen in Key Stages 2 and 3 on the whole. However, it was noted that substantial changes had been made to the pattern and results of English GCSEs, with a reduction of 12.1% seen. This was due to changes of 20 marks to the marking thresholds. He added that discussions had been held with Qualifications Wales regarding this issue.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- A discussion was held on the English GCSE results - noting that all Headteachers in Gwynedd, Welsh Authorities and GwE had contacted Qualifications Wales regarding the issue. It was added that a response had been received, noting that the 20 mark difference had not made a difference to the young people. It was added that the matter would be escalated to Welsh Government, noting that the situation was unfair and unfortunately made it difficult for schools and the department to compare one year to the next.
- Attention was drawn to the fact that the current offer for developing leadership was not fit for purpose and reiterated that the department was working with GwE to develop a training plan. It was added that many of the leadership posts within schools were new ones within the past 10 years.
- Attention was drawn to Ysgol Tywyn as they had won the Daily Post Award for the Best School in the Community and for the praise given to the ethos of increasing the use of Welsh within the school.
- Work continued to encourage schools to fly the National Flag outside the schools.

PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING,

CULTURE AND LEISURE

12. The item was submitted by Morwena Edwards and Iwan Trefor Jones

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

To approve re-profiling the leisure facilities' savings for the sum of £157k as these savings will not be achieved in 2018-19 as the Byw'n lach company is not in operation until 1 April 2019.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that all matters had been discussed at the performance meetings. It was added that the main element when looking at the housing field was the proposal of bringing the Housing Strategy to the Cabinet. It was added that the scheme was behind schedule and it was hoped that it would be discussed in the coming months. It was expressed that obtaining a clear understanding was needed of areas' needs, ensuring that the strategy outlined the main priority for the Housing Field. It was acknowledged that there was a need to specifically look in more detail at the Homelessness field.

Attention was drawn to the Libraries and Information Service, emphasising that a new-look Library had opened in Bala. It was expressed that a positive response had been received to the new Library. It was noted that Libraries had been trialling self-service machines and that this released staff's time. It was expressed that the service had been gathering information about the enquiries they received in libraries and it had shown that half the people who come to the Libraries do not go there to borrow a book. It was explained that libraries were now basically used as a 'one-stop-shop'.

It was noted that the percentage of 11 year old children who had attained the National Curriculum Standard for swimming increased annually and that exceptional work had been achieved in the catchment area of Bro Dysynni centre. It was added that the Cabinet was required to approve the re-profiling of leisure facilities savings as they would not be achieved in 2018-19 as the Byw'n lach Company would not be operational until April 2019.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Attention was drawn to the average number of calendar days taken to issue a disabled facilities grant indicator that was noted as 170 days. It was added that the number of days was too long and it was added that there was a need to take a more detailed look at the number of days, adding that the department was eager to find a simpler way of working.
- A discussion was held on the number of Library visits, noting that the figure needed to be reviewed. It was added that collaboration was needed with local communities in order to see the continuation of the Library provision.

REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19 - END OF AUGUST 2018 REVIEW

13. Submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins

DECISION

- . To accept the report on the end of August 2018 review of the Revenue Budget and consider the latest financial situation regarding the budgets of each department/service.
- To ask the Cabinet Members for Children, Education and Highways and Municipal services to ensure that the departments have a clear implementation plan to reduce the financial deficit and to discuss those plans with me so that I can be confident that they are reasonable.
- Reimburse the Economy and Community Department £40k which is the income loss resulting from the closure of the Arfon swimming pool over the summer.
- Harvest (£1,904) of the net underspend on Corporate budgets with (£40k) to be used to reimburse the Economy and Community Department for the income loss while the Arfon swimming pool was closed. With the remainder (£1,864) to be transferred to the Supporting the Financial Strategy Reserve to support the inevitable one-off pressure on the Council's budget.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that the report detailed the latest review of the Council's revenue budget, along with the projections for the end of the financial year. It was added that since 2015, the Council had faced a challenging period with savings of £27 million made during the period.

It was reiterated that the budgets at the end of August showed a mixed picture with acceptable financial control in a number of departments. It was added that the projections by the end of March indicated that five departments would be overspending and five departments would be underspending. As a result of overspending, it was noted that some departments would have to take firm action to ensure control of their budgets by 31 March 2019, namely the Education Department, Children and Supporting Families Department and Highways and Municipal Department. It was noted that the Cabinet Member for Education had made his comments regarding the underspend in the performance report.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families noted that the department's budget was very challenging. He added that the budget was not practical, specifically when considering profound and complex cases. He elaborated by noting that overspending in Children Departments was a National and Regional problem. He expressed that the department was seeking a resolution and that a detailed report would be prepared to face the challenges in order to move forward.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal Department noted that there had been an increase in operational costs and that overspending associated with sickness continued to cause problems. It was added that the department had

taken steps to seek a resolution but that there was further work to do. He added that income had been lost on the commercial waste side as a result of external competition and business closures. He noted that he hoped that it would be possible to operate within the current budget by the end of the financial year.

CAPITAL BUDGET 2018/19 - END OF AUGUST 2018 REVIEW

14. Submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins

DECISION

To accept the report on the end of August review (as at 31 August 2018) of the capital programme, and approve the revised financing as shown in part 4 of the report, namely:

- £8,444,000 in various sources to fund actual slippages from 2017/18
- £10,000 increase in the use of borrowing
- £10,988,000 increase in the use of grants and contributions
- £789,000 increase in the use of capital receipts
- £187,000 increase in the use of revenue contributions
- £4,859,000 increase in the use of renewal and other reserves.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that the report included an analysis per Department of the three-year capital programme for 2018/19 - 2020/21 which stood at £47.022m. It was added that there had been a net increase of approximately £25.277m since the opening budget and it was reiterated that £8.444m of this was due to slippages from 2017/18. It was expressed that the main reason for the slippages was the late receipt of grants during the year to the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and Highways and Municipal Department.

It was noted that firm plans were in place to invest approximately £28.6m in 2018/19, with 34% of it funded by attracting specific grants. The departments' staff were thanked for their hard work.

SAVINGS OVERVIEW: PROGRESS REPORT ON REALISING SAVINGS SCHEMES

Submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins

DECISION

15.

To accept the report and note the encouraging progress towards realising the savings schemes during 2018/19 and previous years.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that 95%, namely £23m of the £24m for 2015/16 - 2017/18 had now been realised. It was added that some slippage had been seen with some of the schemes, with a number of them from the Adults, Health and Well-being Department, where the challenge of delivering some

schemes continued. It was also noted that there had been some slippages in the Highways and Municipal Department, and on 11 September 2018, the Cabinet had approved some alternative schemes and deferred action on the Recycling Centre schemes.

It was expressed that when looking at departmental schemes for 2018/19, it was noted that of the 26 schemes, 11 had already been realised in full or in part, and it was encouraging that only two schemes were anticipated to slip. The schemes where slippage would be seen, namely the End to End scheme and Leisure Scheme, were elaborated upon. In relation to the remainder of the schemes, it was noted that the projections of realising the schemes were generally promising.

Staff were thanked for their hard work in identifying savings, adding that the departments had taken ownership of the savings schemes. A discussion was held on the financial situation of other Local Authorities, noting that Gwynedd had room to take pride in its efforts to identify savings.

THE CABINET'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

DECISION

16. To approve the Forward Work Programme included with the meeting papers.

DISCUSSION

The forward work programme was submitted.

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

CHAIR

Agenda Item 6

CABINET REPORT

6 November 2018

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Thomas

Subject: Reorganisation of Primary Education Provision in the Bangor catchment area

Contact Officer: Diane Jones – Bangor Project Leader

THE DECISION SOUGHT

Implement the proposal published 4 September 2018 to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420 on 1 September 2020.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** At the end of 2016, the Welsh Government reported that there was an opportunity for Local Authorities with the capacity to carry out additional projects within Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme. The Welsh Government has recognised Gwynedd as one of the most successful Authorities delivering its Programme, demonstrating good practice in its implementation of projects. As a consequence, the Authority was successful in a bid to re-organise primary education in the Bangor catchment area under Band A.
- 1.2** The size of the package available to modernise primary education provision in the city of Bangor is an important element of the project. Following the beginning of discussions in the catchment area, a programme of capital investment was adopted by the Welsh Government under the 21st Century Schools Programme. This would be likely to include a total investment of £12.7 million, with £6.35 million being a grant from the Welsh Government. There is also a commitment from a housing development company, as part of an agreement for the new Goetre Uchaf development in Penrhosgarnedd.
- 1.3** As part of the process, a number of objectives have been identified for consideration relating to provision in the Bangor catchment area, namely:
- Ensure enough places for each child in the appropriate locations;
 - Ensure that no school is overcrowded;
 - Ensure that no school building is assessed to be in condition C or worse;
 - Reduce surplus places in schools significantly or increase efficiency;
 - Reduce the range of cost per head for the provision of education in the catchment area;
 - Ensure that class sizes are appropriate in the primary schools;
 - Ensure that there are no more than 25 pupils of the same age in one class;
 - Ensure there are no more than 20 pupils of different ages in one class;
 - Reconcile the quality of education in the catchment area;
 - Ensure that no head spends more than 20% of his/her time teaching;
 - Develop the use of schools as a community resource;
 - Improve additional learning needs provision in the catchment area.

- 1.4** A report was presented to Cabinet on 17 January 2017 and a recommendation was approved, 'to request the right to initiate local discussions in accordance with the report regarding the review of primary education provision in Bangor'.
- 1.5** The Bangor Catchment Area Review Panel (CRP) was established during June 2017, with four meetings held between June and November, the last being held on 29 November 2017. Representatives from each school in the catchment area were invited, including a head teacher, Chair of Governors and parent governors. Invitations were also given to the Local Members and to the representatives of the Church in Wales (the Diocese of Bangor) and the Catholic Church.
- 1.6** A number of options were discussed before the long list was established. The rationale underpinning the options was to consider each school in the catchment area, seeking ways that would improve and maintain the quality of education. The options included,
- A collaboration/federation between some or all existing schools without school closures
 - A collaboration/federation between schools following the closure of some schools
 - Closure of some primary schools by transferring pupils to neighbouring schools without capital investment or collaboration between the remaining schools
 - Closure of some primary schools transferring pupils to neighbouring schools without capital investment, and establishing a collaboration between the remaining schools
 - Closure of some primary schools and establishing an area school(s) following capital investment
 - Establishing one school for 3-16 or 3-18 on one site for all pupils in the catchment area
- 1.7** A further report was presented to the Cabinet on 13 March 2017 and a recommendation was approved to hold a statutory consultation on the process to re-organise the primary school education provision in the Bangor Catchment Area.

2.0 Statutory Consultation Period

- 2.1** In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the statutory requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013), a statutory consultation period was held on the proposal with relevant consultees between 10 April 2018 and 13:00hrs on 22 May 2018.
- 2.2** A statutory consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013). A copy of the document was distributed to all relevant consultees, either in hard copy or by sending an email that included a link to a dedicated page on the Council's website (www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation).
- 2.3** The Council received **68** responses to the statutory consultation, including responses from pupils, staff, governors, residents and individual as well as from several bodies.
- 2.4** During the Consultation Period two “drop in” sessions were held at Neuadd Reichel, Bangor University. An exhibition of the information in the consultation document was held, and officers from relevant departments (e.g. Education, Property, Human Resources etc.) were available to explain and respond to enquiries. There was also an opportunity for those attending to receive a hard copy of any documentation relevant to the proposal, and to submit written comments. **33** people attended the drop-in sessions.

2.5 A consultation document for primary school children was created with associated questionnaires. An arrangement was made for a facilitator to visit the schools which were part of the consultation to hold sessions with the pupils and obtain their views.

2.6 On 3 July, 2018, a report was again made to the Cabinet, in order to present the main stakeholder comments made during the statutory consultation, as well as the Council's response to those comments. At its meeting, the Cabinet resolved to:

- i. Approve the proposal for the closure of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.*
- ii. Approve the issue of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013*

3.0 Objection period

3.1 In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and guidance in the School Organisation Code (006/2013) and the decision by the Cabinet on the 3 July, 2018, statutory notices were published on 4 September 2018 and a statutory objection period on the proposal was held between 4 September and 2 October 2018.

3.2 The statutory notices were published on 4 September, 2018 and copies were placed on the gates of the 3 schools, which are Ysgol Glanadda, Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol y Garnedd, and on the Council's website www.gwynedd.gov.uk/modernisingeducation. Electronic and hard copies of the notices were distributed in accordance with the requirements of the Schools Organisation Code. It was clearly stated in the notices that it was possible for anyone to object and how to do so.

3.3 The statutory notice is summarised below:-

- (a) **DISCONTINUE** YSGOL GLANADDA, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4SG on **31 August 2020**
- (b) **DISCONTINUE** YSGOL BABANOD COEDMAWR, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 4TL on **31 August 2020**
- (c) **EXTEND** YSGOL Y GARNEDD, Penrhos Road, Bangor, LL57 2LX, by increasing its capacity to 420 reception to year 6 pupils and 30 full time nursery pupils. It is intended to do this by transferring the school to a new building to be built on the site adjacent to the existing building.

3.4 Following the objection period, the Cabinet is required to consider a formal report of the objections together with a response to these objections before making a final decision to implement the proposal or not.

4.0 Objections received during the objection period

4.1 The purpose of this section of the report is to present a summary of the objections received during the objection period as well as the Council's response to them. The objection period came to an end on 2 October 2018 and **1** objection was received on paper.

- 4.2** Following the receipt of 1 objection, it was then analysed. Comments were received relating to Traffic, Child Safety, Finance, Welsh Language and Educational issues, with some comments raised as part of the statutory consultation which had already been discussed at the Cabinet meeting held on 3 July 2018. A full breakdown of the objection together with the full response from the Council is available in **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 4.3** Following consideration of all the comments received during the statutory consultation period **Appendix 2** and the objection received during the objection period, the Council continues to hold the view that the proposal offers the best option for the future of education in the Bangor catchment area.
- 4.4** The Bangor catchment area is facing a number of challenges at present which this proposal will be able to address, responding in particular to the demand for places in the Penrhosgarnedd area and improving the provision for learners in the City. The proposed investment will enable the Council to:
- Achieve a better consistency in the standard and quality of education provided in the catchment area
 - Improve the efficiency of the school estate by reducing the number of buildings in poor condition
 - Make a significant contribution towards reducing surplus places
 - Release funding to be spent on children within the education system rather than on buildings
 - Rationalise the cost per pupil in schools.
 - Ensure strong leadership and management
 - Improve the learning environment for more pupils and increase the number of pupils who will benefit from a 21st Century learning environment.
 - Achieve a better consistency in the size of classes and a reduction in the age range within primary school classes.

5.0 Summary

- 5.1** This recommendation is the result of a consideration of a wide range of possible options. These proposals were condensed to a long list of possible options, and these options were fully evaluated through comparing key advantages and disadvantages against specific factors. The factors included in the 'Primary Education of the Highest Quality for Gwynedd Children' strategy, the Code of Organisation, the Bangor catchment vision, and other relevant factors were used.
- 5.2** As part of this options appraisal, the findings of the Community, Linguistic and Equality impact assessments were also used. These assessments and all the background documentation of the proposal are available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. The Education Department has a role to promote well-being goals within the Future Generations Act 2015 among pupils of the County through activities and projects. Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Act, it is concluded that this direction intertwines with the 7 well-being aims of the Act, and the Council's well-being objectives.
- 5.3** If the Cabinet decides to support the recommendation in this report, it will be possible to proceed with the process of closing Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr in August 2020 and building a new school for Ysgol y Garnedd to open officially in September 2020.

6.0 The next steps

- 6.1 Subject to the Cabinet's decision, the next stages of the process together with an outline timetable are shown below;

Steps on the journey	Outline timetable
Final decision by Gwynedd Council Cabinet (subject to the proposal being referred to the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Education following the Cabinet decision)	November 2018
Start the process of transferring to the new building	June 2020
Opening of the school	1 September 2020

7.0 Recommendations

It is recommended therefore to:

- i. Approve the proposal for the closure of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.

Local Members' Views

Any comments from the Local Members will be presented at the meeting.

Statutory Officers' View

Monitoring Officer

The report has been the subject of input from the Legal Service therefore I have no observations to be added from a propriety perspective.

Head of Finance

I support action in accordance with the decision sought in the Bangor area, whilst encouraging the relevant members and officers to continue with the wider project to review and modernize school organisation without delay.

Appendices

Appendix 1	The Council's analysis and response to the objections received during the statutory objections period.
Appendix 2	Cabinet Report 3 July, 2018

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

All background documents relevant to the proposal can be seen on the Council's website by following this link www.gwynedd.gov.uk/modernisingeducation.

The background documents include:

- Schools Organisation Code 006/2013
- Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013
- Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd Strategy
- Statistics Pack 2017-2018
- Language and Community Impact Assessment Report
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice– January 2017
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice– March 2018
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice– July 2018
- Statutory Consultation Document 10 April – 22 May 2018
- Consultation Documents with the Primary pupils effected by the proposal
- The Council's analysis and response to the observations received during the statutory Consultation period
- Statutory Notices published on 4 September 2018

Objections to closing Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda and building a new school for Ysgol y Garnedd by increasing the capacity to 420.

(4 September 2018 – 2 October 2018)

Comments		Response from Gwynedd Council
1	Traffic	
	<p>I would first of all like to draw your attention to the fact that the proposed changes do not improve the worrying and dangerous situation that exists along Penrhos Road during key times of the day. As I am sure you are aware, traffic is extremely heavy in the morning on this road as educational centres such as Coleg Menai, Ysgol Tryfan, Ysgol Cae Top, Ysgol Friars, Ysgol y Faenol and Ysgol y Garnedd (as it is at present) all attempt to get children and students to their centres in the morning.</p>	<p>Traffic surveys have been conducted on Penrhos Road and surveys of how pupils travel to the school have been completed. The design team has considered these in creating the designs, with the intention of mitigating traffic flow risks, for pedestrians and cyclists and creating safe routes to school. This is one of the main objectives of the project.</p> <p>The car parks and the children drop off areas have now been designed and the new development will contribute to improving the current traffic situation in two ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will provide over 30 parking spaces in addition to the existing availability. 2. A new loop system will enable vehicles to easily turn off Penrhos Road and await their turn within the site rather than on Penrhos Road which is the current situation. The design of the roads within the site will enable a significant number of cars to be removed from Penrhos Road at peak times. Parents will be able to drop their children off within a reasonable walking distance of the school entrance. <p>The two factors above should lead to an improvement not only for parents and staff of Ysgol y Garnedd, but for all individuals who use this part of Penrhos Road during peak hours.</p>
	<p>We believe that consideration should be given to reopening the way from Holyhead Road up Bryn Tawel Hill to give a choice of access to many of the education centres noted above. This would reduce the need for everyone to use Penrhos Road and therefore alleviate a great deal of the problem described above. As there is now a roundabout at the Nantporth football field entrance, it is suggested that passengers from the direction of the Antelope would go to this roundabout to make a U-turn then go up Bryn Tawel Hill</p>	<p>The ability to reopen the road is beyond the scope of the Project and there is no direct link with the site. The Transport Unit has confirmed that the road was initially closed because of the dangers of the junction/traffic crossing, the weight restrictions on the railway bridge and the impact on overall traffic flow in the Holyhead Road area.</p>

	safely without having to cross the flow of traffic. We ask that you give serious consideration to the above.	
2	Pupil safety / travelling to school	
	Although some effort has been made for the institutions to start at different times, it has not affected the situation much if at all, as the situation will worsen due to the increase in the number of pupils attending in this area. The situation will also get worse as there is an expectation that children from Coed Mawr and Glanadda will cross this road to gain access to the school.	The situation regarding the starting times of the schools could possibly be re-examined to gauge whether a further change would improve safety. Traffic surveys have been conducted on Penrhos Road and surveys of how pupils travel to the school have been completed. The design team will be working to mitigate traffic flow risks, for pedestrians and cyclists and creating safe routes to school.
3	Finance	
Page 25	Turning to the situation of the two schools which are recommended for closure, as you are aware, the schools have now again merged on the Glanadda site under the leadership of a new Head Teacher, Ms Caren Rowlands, who is on secondment from Ysgol Glancegin. This has provided a feeling of unity amongst staff, and pupils receive wider experiences in terms of curricular and extra-curricular activities. When the Cabinet considered the situation at the beginning of the summer of 2018, it was emphasised that both schools had an unacceptable number of vacancies and that the cost per head was much higher than in other schools in the city. By joining together at one site, this is no longer the case, with the number of surplus spaces similar, if not less, than many of the other schools in the county. Also, with staff restructuring, the cost per head is much closer to the norm. Therefore, the situation of the school is closer to many other schools within the county and, in terms of both headings, is surely viable.	Locating Ysgol Glanadda and Coedmawr on one site has contributed to a reduction in surplus spaces, however the schools continue to be separate legal entities and both schools continue to be financed separately in line with the Authority's primary education finance formula. As a consequence, there is no reduction in the cost per pupil and Ysgol Coedmawr continues to receive a minimum staffing protection of £32,520.
4	Facilities / Maintenance	
	I believe, contrary to the Cabinet's wish, that Ysgol Glanadda should be kept open, giving children in the area the choice of having a more local education and on a site that has facilities such as a football field and a building, which despite its age, is in a much better condition than many schools in Gwynedd. The County Council during Summer 2018 has spent on adapting the school to receive Foundation Phase children and this provision is working well. It would be a shame to see the investment being wasted in the short term in a climate where every penny counts.	There has been some expenditure during the summer holidays to adapt the building to admit Foundation Phase learners from the Coed Mawr site. The decision was taken to facilitate the move through the minimum amount of work to keep the costs as low as possible. The work done meets the needs in the short term, but if the facility needed to be in place for a few years, then a significant amount of work would need to be done to the building, e.g. the modification of toilets.

5	Admissions	
	I also understand from the beginning of the term that the school continues to receive applications for pupils transferring and therefore it is projected that numbers will continue to rise during the year. Therefore, the criteria put forward at the beginning of the summer as the basis for the debate over the closure of these two schools should be reconsidered.	As no final decisions been taken, the Council will continue to process applications for entry/transfer for the schools. This will have an impact on pupil numbers.
6	Ein Harglwyddes	
	In addition to the above, I believe that there are plans in the pipeline when the new tier of Welsh Government funding arrives to improve schools which includes relocating Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes. In the Council's discussions with all of the Bangor Catchment Area Schools, the condition and dangers of Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes were highlighted and a promise was made that a new school would be offered when the money was received from the Government. I understand that building a new school will not cost Gwynedd Council as the money received from the Government and the Catholic Church would bear the burden of the cost. By closing Ysgol Glanadda in two years, the site will become vacant and would therefore be a great place to establish the new school. On the face of it, this is a sensible theory.	There is an intention to consider a new building for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes as part of the vision for the Bangor Catchment Area which addresses the safety and entrance to the school. However, no decision has been made regarding possible sites at this stage.
7	The Welsh Language	
	We must remember that Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes teaches and administrates in the English language which, contrary to basic principles of Gwynedd Council, is still being tolerated. The language element here appeals to a large percentage of the population in this part of Bangor. Our concern is if parents of the area were able to choose between the new Ysgol y Garnedd a Welsh medium school and the new Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes which will operate through the English language, they will choose the most local school which is the second choice. We therefore object the closure of Ysgol Glanadda on the principle that we see this as a huge step back in the effort to try to promote the Welsh language in the City and of course a negative step in the Welsh Government's efforts of obtaining a million Welsh speakers. If the Cabinet runs with the plan as it stands by closing Ysgol Glanadda, the Cabinet we believe are making a decision to promote education through the medium of English in this area of	Gwynedd Council has developed a Language Policy in order to ensure that the Council and Council Staff continue to promote the Welsh language. The Language Policy is the same for all Gwynedd primary schools, and it is expected to be implemented by all schools. It is expected that all education institutions in the County, reflect and reinforce the Language Policy in their administration, social life and pastoral arrangements as well as in their curricular provision. The Council has also developed the Language Charter as a specific scheme which operates in every primary school in Gwynedd to encourage the social use of Welsh by children and to promote awareness of the schools' Welsh language culture.

	Bangor and neither I nor the could favour doing so. Promises of strong efforts to change the language situation in Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes will not persuade us because it has not happened in the last 30 years despite valiant efforts	
8	Educational	
	The schools have not had any extended period of stability in leadership with ten and more heads appointed. You will understand that this affects every aspect of the administration of the schools and, of course, makes parents lose confidence in the school without even talking about the school's reputation in the community. Over the period it is fair to say that quite critical reports have been issued by inspectors to do with leadership. Over the past year, the school has made concrete steps to improve the situation and the GwE monitoring reports are evidence of this and it is expected for this good work to continue into the future. We believe that the above comments are enough reasons to re-consider the decision to close the schools. We believe that no final decision on the fate of the schools should be taken without letting them operate for at least eighteen months without the threat of closure over their heads.	It is true to say that the school has found it hard to recruit and retain a permanent Headteacher, and this possibly could have had an impact on the standards. As a consequence, the Authority and GwE have planned intensive support for the schools with the support of the Governing Body, and the schools have made progress. However, the schools' current situation is dependant on continuing the high level of support.

CABINET REPORT

3 July, 2018

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Thomas

Subject: Reorganisation of Primary Education Provision in the Bangor catchment area

Contact Officer: Diane Jones – Bangor Project Leader

THE DECISION SOUGHT

The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments received during the statutory consultation period and the response to those comments, and decide if it should:

- i. Approve the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.
 - ii. Approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
-

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to report to Cabinet following a statutory consultation on the proposed closure of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.

1. INTRODUCTION

A report was presented to Cabinet on 17 January 2017; a recommendation was approved, 'to request the right to initiate local discussions in accordance with the report regarding the review of primary education provision in Bangor'.

- 1.1** At a Cabinet meeting in March 2018, a report was presented to Cabinet where the decision was approved to:

Conduct a statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, in the Bangor catchment area on a proposal to close Glanadda and Babanod Coedmawr schools on the 31st August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.

- 1.2** At the end of 2016, the Welsh Government reported that there was an opportunity for Local Authorities with the capacity to carry out additional projects within Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme. As a result, the Welsh Government has recognised Gwynedd as one of the most successful Authorities in delivering their Programme to date and we take pride that we are referred to as an example of good practice in this area.

- 1.3** The Bangor Catchment Area Review Panel (CRP) was established during June 2017, with four meetings held between June and November, the last being on 29 November 2017. Representatives

from each school in the catchment area were invited, including a head teacher, Chair of Governors and parent governors. Invitation was also given to the Local Members and to the representation of the Church in Wales (the Diocese of Bangor) and the Catholic Church.

1.4 During the meetings, several options for primary education in Bangor were considered to ensure sustainable provision for the future, responding specifically to the need for an increase in demand for places in the Penrhosgarnedd area, and improving provision for the city's learners.

1.5 As part of the process, a number of objectives have been identified to consider for provision in the Bangor catchment area, namely:

- Ensure enough places for each child in the appropriate locations;
- Ensure that no school is overcrowded;
- Ensure that no school is assessed to be in condition C or worse;
- Reduce surplus places in schools significantly or increase efficiency;
- Reduce the range of cost per head for the provision of education in the catchment area;
- Ensuring class sizes are appropriate in the primary schools;
- Ensure that there are no more than 25 pupils of the same age in one class;
- Ensure there are no more than 20 pupils of different ages in one class;
- Reconcile the quality of education in the catchment area;
- Ensure that no head spends more than 20% of his/her time teaching;
- Develop the use of schools as a community resource;
- Improve the additional learning needs provision in the catchment area.

1.6 An important context is the size of the package available to modernise primary education provision in the city of Bangor. Since the start of discussions in the catchment area, a Programme of capital investment was adopted by the Welsh Government under the 21st Schools Programme banner. It would be likely to include an investment of a total of £12.7 million, with £6.35 million of that amount being a grant from the Welsh Government. There is also a commitment from a housing development company, as part of an agreement for the new Goetre Uchaf development in Penrhosgarnedd.

2. Background - choosing a preferred model

2.1 A number of options were discussed before the long list was created. The rationale behind the options was to consider each school in the catchment area, seeking ways that would improve and maintain the quality of education in the catchment area.

- Option of collaboration/federation between some or all existing schools without school closures
- Option of collaboration/federation between schools following closure of some schools
- Closure of some primary schools by transferring pupils to neighbouring schools without capital investment or collaboration between the remaining schools
- Closure of some primary schools transferring pupils to neighbouring schools without capital investment, and establishing collaboration between the remaining schools
- Closure of some primary schools and establishing an area school(s) following capital investment
- Establish one school for 3-16 or 3-18 on one site for all pupils in the catchment area

2.3 The main issues identified by members of the CRP were;

- The need for any option to include improvements and capacity building for some Bangor school buildings
- That any impact on the transport situation in Penrhosgarnedd be considered
- Consideration of language issues
- Ensuring appropriate arrangements for children of Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda
- Consideration of any suitable development sites available in Bangor.

2.4 Following discussions with the CRP members, a long list of options was created. Although the case for change has been established, the 'Status Quo' model is included for comparison purposes:

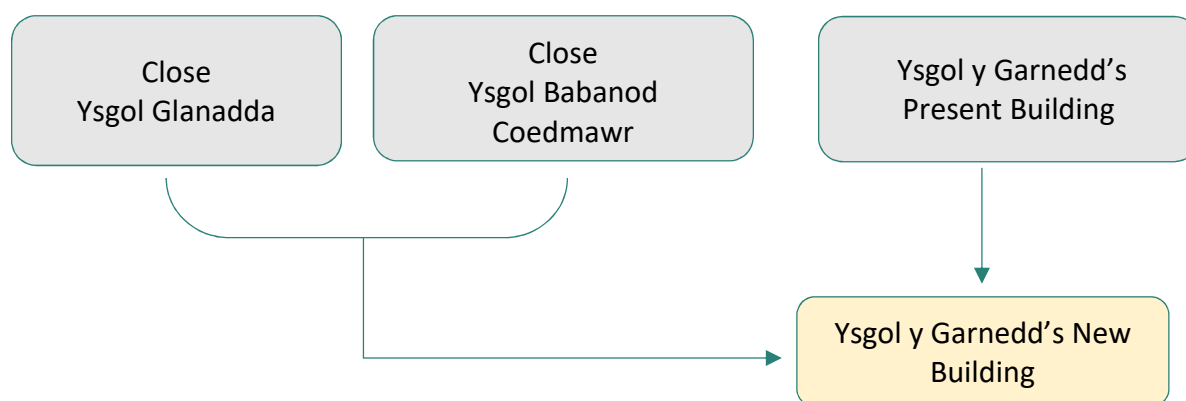
Status Quo	Do nothing.
Option 1	Extend Y Faenol increasing the capacity from 186 to 270. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Establish a new school on 2 sites (infant and junior) with the infants at Coed Mawr (180) and juniors at the Garnedd site (240). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements made to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 2	Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda, Y Faenol and Garnedd. Establish a new school with a capacity of 690. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements made to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 3	Extend Y Faenol increasing capacity from 186 to 315. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 420. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 4	New build for Garnedd, capacity from 350 to 380. New school for Coed Mawr and Glanadda to include places for additional children from Pen y Ffridd (Goetre Uchaf). Extend Y Faenol to c.250 and address traffic problems. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 5	One lifelong learning school in Bangor (2,746 + 306). Close all existing primary and secondary schools.
Option 6	Combine Ysgol Tryfan and Ysgol Friars and establish a new Welsh medium school (1,347 + 306) building a new primary school on the current Tryfan site (420) and extending Ysgol Y Faenol (270). Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils.

	Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. New build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 7	Combine Ysgol Tryfan and Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen on a new site (700 + 150?). New primary school built on the current Tryfan site (420) and Ysgol Y Faenol (270) extended. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. New build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 8	Close Glanadda and Coed Mawr. Extend Ysgol Y Faenol (270). New build for Garnedd (380-420 children). New Building for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes (120) during the second phase (through Church in Wales funding). Establish community sports facilities shared by Garnedd, Friars, Cae Top (as at Parc Eirias). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings.
Option 9	Rebuild Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes on the current site (120). Provide an extension for Glanadda (90) to merge with Ysgol Coed Mawr. Rebuild Coed Mawr to accommodate the overflow from Faenol and Garnedd (240). Possibly Parc Cegin. Re-introduce bus service for pupils. Ensure enough capacity for population growth. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings.
Option 10	Increase Y Faenol capacity (270). Garnedd to move to a new site and capacity increased (330). Modify the Glanadda site to accept Coed Mawr pupils (90). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 11	New build for Y Faenol (270). Garnedd to move to a new site and capacity increased (420). Close Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 12	Extend Y Faenol to increase the capacity from 186 to 360. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 330. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda with pupils sent to Ysgol Y Faenol. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.

- 2.5** Following consideration, a short list of options was included, which included the options that addressed most of the investment objectives in full, and could be achieved within the limits of practical considerations. The three options (in addition to the status quo) that came top were options 3, 8, and 10. These options were discussed during CRP 3, and a questionnaire was sent to the CRP members presenting the comments of relevant schools regarding the proposed options in order to identify the preferred option.
- 2.6** The different options were evaluated and a further comparison of the models can be seen against factors agreed at the first CRP meeting. The full options appraisal can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.7** This was reported to Cabinet on 13 March 2018, where the recommendations were approved to hold a statutory consultation period on **option 3**, namely the closure of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1** This proposal means that Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda will close, and that a new building will be built for Ysgol y Garnedd.



- 3.2** The aim is that the proposed investment will address the strategic aspirations of Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government to provide sustainable education; this would include:

- Improved consistency in the standard and quality of education provided in the catchment area
- Improved efficiency of the school estate, reducing the number of buildings in poor condition
- Make a significant contribution to reducing a number of surplus places
- Release a budget to spend on children within the education system rather than buildings
- Reconcile the number of schools to address demand
- Rationalise the cost per pupil in schools. Reduce the cost per pupil to equal or better than the County average of £3,777 for Primary.
- Improved consistency in class sizes and reduce the age range within primary school classes
- Improve the learning environment for more pupils and increase the number of pupils who will benefit from the 21st Century learning environment
- Ensure sound leadership and management

3.3 As part of the reorganisation process involving Bangor primary schools, full consideration will be given to the Education Department's Language Policy. Which sets the ambitious aim of ensuring that all the County's pupils have appropriate language skills in Welsh and English, to enable them to be complete members of the bilingual society of which they are part. This aligns well with the main aim of the Welsh Language Strategic Plan, which is to ensure the development of Welsh as a subject and pre-school learning medium, as well as promoting the use by our children and young people of Welsh as a social language.

3.4 Class sizes and age ranges within classes

The Education Department is planning to secure arrangements that will enable appropriate class sizes for the County's schools. Increasing the size of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420 would mean a structure that would include two classes for all ages i.e. access for 60 children in each year group, between Reception and Year 6 groups. It is anticipated that age range limits within existing classes in schools will disappear, which can help to overcome the challenges and effective teaching and learning problems that can occur when there is a wide age range in one class.

3.5 Number of pupils and surplus places

Pupil numbers in schools have changed significantly since 1980, with a 62% reduction in Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and 68% at Ysgol Glanadda. During the same period, Y Garnedd numbers increased by 55%.

4. Statutory Consultation

- 4.1** In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the statutory requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013), a statutory consultation period was held on the proposal with relevant consultees between 10 April 2018 and 13:00hrs on 22 May 2018.
- 4.2** A statutory consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013). A copy of the document was distributed to all relevant consultees, either in hard copy or by sending an email that included a link to a dedicated page on the Council's website (www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation).
- 4.3** Hard copies of the consultation document were sent to the 3 schools that are part of the consultation, requesting that head teachers distribute these to the parents/ guardians of each pupil, members of staff and members of the governing body of the schools.
- 4.4** A background pack was also published, which included impact assessments of the proposal on the language, community and equality. Hard copies of the background packs and consultation document were distributed to all Catchment schools, local libraries, Bangor Leisure Centre and Siop Gwynedd Dolgellau, Pwllheli and Caernarfon, so that they were available for inspection by any member of the public. The document was also available to download from the Council's website.
- 4.5** During the consultation period, Gwynedd Council officers held "drop-in" sessions to discuss the proposal with Governors, teaching and support staff, parents/ guardians and the public. As part of the sessions, an exhibition of the information in the consultation document was held, and officers from relevant departments (e.g. education, property, Human Resources etc.) were available to

explain and respond to enquiries. There was also an opportunity for those attending to receive a hard copy of any documentation relevant to the proposal, and to submit written comments. 33 people attended the drop-in sessions.

The timetable for the sessions was as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Monday 30 April 2018	16:00 – 20:00	Neuadd Reichel, Ffordd Ffriddoedd, Bangor, LL57 2TR
Tuesday 1 May 2018	14:00 – 18:00	Neuadd Reichel, Ffordd Ffriddoedd, Bangor, LL57 2TR

- 4.6** In addition, a consultation document for primary school children was created with related questionnaires. It was arranged for a facilitator to visit the schools that were part of the consultation to hold sessions with the pupils, to glean their opinions, in consultation with the children of Ysgol y Garnedd Council and Ysgol Glanadda Council on behalf of the Bro Ddewi Federation. The facilitator's analysis of these sessions is available in **appendix 2** to this report.

In addition, additional questionnaires were received from Ysgol y Garnedd, in accordance with a session held directly with the Head teacher and pupils.

- 4.7** We received **68** responses to the statutory consultation, including responses from pupils, staff, governors, residents and individual as well as the following organisations.

- Estyn
- NASUWT
- Governing Body of Ysgol y Garnedd
- Staff at Ysgol y Garnedd
- Staff of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr
- Representatives of Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes
- Representatives of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr

- 4.8** This table sets out the number of responses received according to their connection with a specific school

Number of responses noted and connection with the school.						
Ysgol y Garnedd	Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr/Glanadda	Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes	Ysgol Glancegin	Ysgol y Faenol	Ysgol Hiracl	Ysgol Llandygai
15	6*	37*		1*	1*	
Ysgol Cae Top	Ysgol Tryfan	Ysgol Friars	Other			
	1*	3*	10			

* Note that some individuals responded on behalf of more than one school

5. Comments received during the Statutory Consultation

5.1 The purpose of this part of the report is to present some of the main points that emerged during the statutory consultation period. It is not possible to respond to all comments in detail in the body of this report; however, a copy of a table containing all the comments as well as the Council's response is attached. This information is in **appendix 1** of this report.

5.2 As noted above, Gwynedd Council's analysis of the comments received in response to the consultation has been included in this report. Full/ original copies of the responses can be viewed at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation - the personal information on some of the responses has been redacted in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

5.3 The responses received detailed the following issues

- Support for the proposal
- Transport/traffic issues
- Language issues
- The consultation process/the consultation document/The Proposal
- Educational
- Design and resources of the new building
- Other (staffing/ funding)
- Estyn

5.4 Support for the proposal

5.4.1 A number of responses welcoming the investment was received, with the majority announcing support for the new proposed plans for a new building for Ysgol y Garnedd. Specifically, several comments welcoming a new building for Ysgol y Garnedd, such as: "Very happy that Ysgol y Garnedd is receiving a new School, it is clear from the evidence presented that a new building is required at Ysgol y Garnedd." In addition, it was noted that the project was a positive one for the local area, and in the long run that it will be a success.

5.4.2 As stated in the statutory consultation document, the Council believes that a proposed investment will address the strategic aspirations of Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government to provide education provision, this would include:

- Improved consistency in the standard and quality of education provided in the catchment area
- Improved efficiency of the school estate, reducing the number of buildings in poor condition
- Make a significant contribution to reducing a number of surplus places
- Release a budget to spend on children within the education system rather than buildings
- Reconcile the number of schools to address demand
- Rationalise the cost per pupil in schools. Reduce the cost per pupil to equal or better than the County average of £3,777 for Primary.
- Improved consistency in class sizes and reduce the age range within primary school classes
- Improve the learning environment for more pupils and increase the number of pupils that will benefit from the 21st Century learning environment

- Ensure sound leadership and management

5.4.3 A response received from Estyn, stated that the proposal was likely to at least maintain the current standards of education, provision and leadership and management.

5.5 Transport/traffic issues

5.5.1 Several comments were received regarding concerns about Penrhos Road, stating that the lane was dangerous and extremely busy during specific times. The Council agrees that there is currently traffic issues in the area and that the plan needs to ensure that the traffic flow is managed better than it is at present.

5.5.2 Surveys looking into how pupils travel to school have been carried out. In addition, traffic surveys have also been carried out on Penrhos Road. The design team will work to mitigate risks relating to the traffic flow, pedestrians and cyclists and create safe routes to the School. There are already a number of options being developed that will allow traffic to be removed off the highway quickly and easily so that congestion can be avoided on Penrhos Road. This plan will therefore be an opportunity to improve the current situation.

5.6 Language issues

5.6.1 Comments were received noting concern about the continuation of the Welsh language ethos at Ysgol y Garnedd e.g. *The Welsh language situation in the Bangor area is fragile, and it is essential that the proposed reorganisation does not inhibit the ability of the school to ensure that children achieve academically and be able to socialise through the medium of Welsh within and outside the school.* It is recognised that the change in language practices is a process that happens over time, with a number of different factors responsible for influencing the language habits of individuals. However, it is reasonable to expect that new pupils from non-welsh speaking families will benefit from the Welsh culture of Ysgol y Garnedd, which has a successful experience of promoting and using the Welsh language within the school.

5.6.2 It should be acknowledged that Gwynedd has led nationally on encouraging and influencing the social use of the Welsh language by children, by means of the introduction of the Welsh Language Charter that operates in every school in Gwynedd, and is a scheme that has now been extended nationally.

5.6.3 The same Language Policy applies to all Gwynedd primary schools. Looking at the evidence, and in accordance with the Language Policy, the medium of curricular provision is expected to be the same across primary schools, and all Bangor primary schools (apart from Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes) are successful in getting a significant percentage of the pupils to achieve the expected level in Welsh (first language) in the Foundation Phase and KS2.

The aim of the Language Policy “is to ensure that all the county’s pupils possess the appropriate linguistic skills in Welsh and in English”. This well matches the principal objective of the Welsh Strategic Plan namely to ensure the development of Welsh as a subject and learning medium from pre-school age onwards and promote our children and young people’s use of Welsh as a social language. To achieve this ambitious programme, every establishment is expected to address the following matters.

- Establish firm foundations in Welsh in the Early Years, ensuring that pupils from an English speaking background have an opportunity to learn Welsh as soon as possible.
- At the Foundation Phase, build on the foundation laid at the nursery and reception stage through continuing to develop pupils' grasp of Welsh, and commence the process of developing their skills in English. In practice, this implies that the majority of schools will commence introducing English as a subject in the final term at the end of the Foundation Phase, focussing on developing reading, orally and writing skills in that language. Welsh will be the official language of assessment at the school at the end of the Foundation Phase.
- At KS2, continue to develop pupils' grasp of Welsh focusing on developing their skills in both languages. Pupils' progress in Welsh and English is assessed at the end of the key stage.
- At KS3, ensure that every pupil achieving level 3+ at the end of KS2 continues to follow Welsh as First Language to ensure appropriate progression and continuity.
- At KS4, ensure that every pupil studies Welsh as a subject until the end of Y11 and is assessed in Welsh at the end of KS4.
- At KS3 and KS4, use the information on previous achievement to ensure that every pupil continues to develop skills in Welsh and English through using both languages as learning medium.
- Ensure that pupils who learn Welsh at KS2 and KS3 learn Welsh as soon as possible and use Welsh as a learning medium.
- Improve pupils' knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and language features of Wales.
- Develop the pupils to be responsible citizens so that they make a significant contribution to their bilingual community.

5.6.4 We received a response from Estyn connected to the Welsh language assessment that noted:

"The proposer has given very detailed consideration to the impact on the Welsh language by fully analysing the language charter data and by considering the 2011 census data to look at the linguistic profile of the Bangor and Pentir wards. It is difficult to predict accurately any impact on the Welsh language, but it is reasonable to expect that the new pupils of non-Welsh speaking families will be influenced by the Welsh culture of Ysgol y Garnedd, which has a successful experience of promoting and using the Welsh language within the school."

5.6.5 According to the language assessment, it shows (in addition to Ysgol y Garnedd) very high percentage of the children of Ysgol Glanadda believed that it was very important to speak Welsh. See the table below:

Percentage of children who think it is important to speak Welsh

I think it is important to speak Welsh	Very important	Important	Quite important	Not important	Not at all important
Ysgol Y Garnedd	84.4%	11.9%	3.8%	0%	0%
Ysgol Glanadda	95.2%	4.8%	0%	0%	0%

5.7 The consultation process/the consultation document/the Proposal

5.7.1 Some comments were received regarding the consultation process, specifically regarding the contents of the statutory consultation document. The relevant corrections are set out in the responses table in **appendix 1** (points 7.1 – 7.7).

5.7.2 Some comments received involving the proposed proposal which was the subject of the consultation, with some respondents indicating that they preferred option 10. It was noted that the Council had considered a range of different options before deciding to carry out a statutory consultation on option 3. All the options from the long list of options were evaluated to compare the main advantages and disadvantages of the options under consideration, and based on the results of that evaluation, it became apparent that option 3 would meet the requirements for primary education provision at Bangor, in line with the key factors prioritised by the Catchment Area Review Panel. It was also noted that option 3 meant that more pupils were likely to benefit from a world-class learning environment and resources.

5.8 Addysgol

5.8.1 Regarding the proposed size of Ysgol y Garnedd, comments were received about the proposal to build a new school with a capacity of 420. In response to these comments, the lack of capacity and poor condition of the existing Ysgol y Garnedd building has been one of the main drivers to reorganise the Bangor area. The Education Department considers that the capacity in question is appropriate and offers better opportunities to facilitate the arrangements of the new school's classrooms, as well as responding to the growing demand for future predicted places.

5.8.2 There were some comments indicating concerns about the proposed admission arrangements for the proposal. In response, if the proposal to close Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda is implemented, the Authority will provide places for the pupils of the existing schools (subject to parental choice) at Ysgol y Garnedd. It is intended to use the same closing dates for applications, and the same date of decision for all applications and transfers.

5.9 Design and resources of the new building

5.9.1 Several comments were received regarding the design and resources that will be available as part of the new building for Ysgol y Garnedd.

5.9.2 Several people were concerned that the school's playing field was too far from the school building. They also noted concerns that no toilets had been provided on the playing fields for the pupils. In response to the comments, it was noted that the design team is giving consideration to providing toilets on the field. It was also noted that the plan includes several playing areas near the building for pupils from Ysgol y Garnedd. There will only be a need to walk to the formal playing field and this is located within a reasonable distance, and it will be similar to the situation in a number of schools across the County.

5.9.3 Some comments indicate concern about the plan for the car park at the new building, and the need to be close to the building in order to facilitate the transport of resources. It is intended that a designated parking for staff would be located within a reasonable distance. It was noted also that there would be unloading areas located near the school building.

5.9.4 In addition, comments were received regarding the design of the drop off location for children, along with one comment requesting protected use of the car park for Ysgol y Garnedd parents only. Careful consideration will be made as part of the design process and it is intended to place signs in the car park in order to identify any parking restrictions.

5.9.5 Two comments were received noting the need for an external learning area for the Foundation phase. In response to the comments, it was noted that this has been brought to the attention of the design team and that the current plans will include the installation of a canopy and fenced area for the Foundation phase.

5.10 Other

5.10.1 Some comments regarding staffing issues were received. Some of the responses from staff indicate concerns about posts should the proposed proposal be approved to close Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda. There was also a response regarding the staffing of Ysgol y Garnedd following the opening of the new building.

5.10.2 As the proposal only includes a new building (and increasing capacity) for Ysgol y Garnedd, it is not anticipated that there would be a change to school staffing unless there is an increase in the number of pupils, and that the staffing structure needs to be reviewed to meet the need.

5.10.3 If Ysgol Babanod Coed Mawr and Ysgol Glanadda close, then existing staff posts will terminate. The Council will make every possible effort to try and support staff to relocate. In addition, it is the governing body's right in any school is to determine who they appoint to their schools, so the Council is not in a position to require a governing body to appoint specific staff.

5.10.4 Comments were received in relation to financial matters, including the cost per head for pupils. Based on the total allocation for a school, the 'cost per pupil' difference can vary from school to school due to a variety of factors, including minimum staffing, ALN, and the number of pupils eligible for free dinners.

5.11 Responses to the consultation with children and young people

As noted in paragraph 4.6 above, consultation sessions were held with a representation of primary pupils subject to this statutory consultation. It was arranged for a children and young people's facilitator to visit the schools to hold sessions with the pupils to find out their opinions. The facilitator's analysis of these sessions is available in **appendix 2** of this report.

The main points raised during the consultation with children and young people were as follows:

Ysgol Y Garnedd	Ysgol Glanadda
Majority in favour of the change.	Majority against the change.
Having friends is very important.	Worry what would happen to school and teachers.
Eager to have every possible opportunity with the best equipment/resources possible.	Eager to have every possible opportunity with the best equipment/resources possible.
Expand the opportunities available.	Worry about traffic due to location and numbers.

5.12 Estyn

5.12.1 Comments received from Estyn were noted as part of the consultation. They included:

“In deciding on this proposal, the proposer has considered in detail twelve different options for education reorganisation in the city of Bangor. The proposer has evaluated the options fairly against the advantages and disadvantages of a number of criteria, including; ensuring enough places for each pupil in the appropriate location, reducing surplus places, reducing the range of cost per head, ensuring a suitable size for classes, ensuring that head teachers do not spend more than 20% of their time teaching, and developing the school's use in the community.”

“The proposer has provided tables showing the percentage of pupils achieving the expected outcome at key stage 2 for Ysgol y Garnedd and Ysgol Glanadda, and the foundation phase for the Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr. They show corresponding figures for Gwynedd and Wales for 2017. However, the proposer has not provided a summary analysis of the performance of the schools.”

5.12.2 In response to the comment regarding the lack of analysis of the performance of the schools, it is noted that an appraisal of the performance of Garnedd, Babanod Coedmawr and Glanadda schools can be seen on pages 20 and 21 of the consultation document, and the findings are based mainly on the school's latest Estyn reports. In addition, on page 20, there is a table setting out the performance of the three schools in relation to the national system for the categorisation of schools.

6. Future Generations Act

6.1 The Education Department has a role to promote well-being goals within the Act among pupils of the County through activities and projects. The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, the Council has published its well-being objectives in “Gwynedd Plan 2018-2023” which outlines how it will improve well-being.

6.2 Section 3.1 above sets out the proposed reorganisation provision for primary education in the Bangor catchment area. Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Act, it is concluded that this direction intertwines with the 7 well-being aims of the Act, and the Council's well-being objectives. This direction will allow us to respond to and meet the needs of children today, and also strengthen their well-being for the future. The proposed reorganisation will ensure that children in the area are educated on a modern site that provides a learning environment that is fit for the 21st century.

7. Summary

7.1 It is therefore recommended that statutory notices be released on the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and offer places to pupils in Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420. The intention is that the schools will close on 31 August 2020 and the new Ysgol y Garnedd building will open on 1 September 2020.

7.2 This recommendation follows the consideration of a wide range of possible options. These proposals were condensed to a long list of possible options, and these options were fully evaluated

when comparing major advantages and disadvantages against specific factors. The factors of the 'Primary Education of the Highest Quality for Gwynedd Children' strategy, factors in the Code of Organisation, the Bangor catchment vision, and other relevant factors were used.

The factors included, but were not limited to:

- Quality of Education
- Class sizes and age ranges within classes
- Pupil numbers and surplus places
- Learning Environment - quality and construction suitability
- Status/School Category
- Leadership and staffing
- The Community
- The Welsh Language
- Equality Impact
- Financial Resources
- Geographical Factors

This full options appraisal has already been submitted to the Cabinet for consideration on 13 March 2018, and can be found in **appendix 3**.

7.3 As part of this options appraisal, the findings of the **Community, Linguistic and Equality impact assessments** were also used. These assessments are included in **appendix 4**, and all the background documentation of the proposal is available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, an equality impact assessment was carried out regarding the proposals. The assessments set out the current situation and showed that there are policies and arrangements in place that would ensure that the proposal considered corresponded to equal rights. Having taken into account the relevant factors, it is concluded that there is a guarantee that equal opportunities will be promoted positively as a result of the proposal, and that measures are in place to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination and harassment. There are also arrangements in place to monitor and review the situation. Therefore it is considered that the findings of the assessments remain current and relevant to a recommendation. *(Note that a correction has been made to Table 14 in the Community Impact Assessment: Community use of school facilities, this is due to an error in the original information published.)*

7.4 Following consideration of all the comments received during the statutory consultation period, it is considered that the proposal consulted upon continues to offer the best option for the future of education in the Bangor catchment area. An analysis of the comments received is contained in section 5 and **appendix 1** of this report, and the full responses are available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru

8 The next steps

8.1 If the Cabinet decides to support the recommendations presented in this report, statutory notices will be required in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the guidance of the School Organisation Code (006/2013).

- 8.2** The statutory notices would be published on a school day and there will be an objection period of 28 days from the publication of the notices. Anyone can object to the proposal.
- 8.3** Following the objection period, a report will be presented to Cabinet for a final decision. It must be remembered that there are some situations where the final decision of the Council can be referred to the Minister for Education and Skills, the Welsh Government in accordance with the School Organisation Code (006/2013).
- 8.4** Subject to Cabinet's decisions, here are the next stages of the process, with an outline timetable;

Steps on the journey	Outline timetable
Cabinet report following statutory consultation	3 July 2018
Publication of Statutory Notices and opportunity for consultees to object	September 2018
Final decision by the Council's Cabinet (possible for the proposal to be referred to the Welsh Government Minister for Education and Skills after this decision)	October / November 2018
Start the process of transferring to the new building	June 2020
Opening of the school	1 September 2020

9 Recommendations

It is recommended therefore to:

- iii. Approve the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.
- i. Approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Local Members' Views

Any comments from the Local Members will be presented at the meeting.

Statutory Officers' View

Monitoring Officer

"The contents of this report has been the subject of legal advice by the Legal Service. No further comments regarding propriety"

Head of Finance

"I support the decision sought, and I encourage the relevant members and officers to continue with the wider project to review school organisation without delay."

Appendices

Appendix 1	Analysis of the consultation's responses
Appendix 2	Children and Young People's Consultation
Appendix 3	Options Appraisal
Appendix 4	Language, Community and Equality Impact Assessments

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



A report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	6th November 2018
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ioan Thomas
Contact Officer:	Llŷr Jones, Economy and Community Senior Manager
Contact Telephone:	Ext 32219
Title of Item:	Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme : Bangor City Centre Regeneration Strategy

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- a) To support the intention of applying for funds from the Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme to develop and implement projects within the Bangor City Centre Regeneration Strategy
- b) That the Council commits £250k from its Match-funding Fund which was established to provide match funding for external funding programmes
- c) To authorise the Head of Finance to sign individual applications as requested by the relevant Cabinet Member on condition that full details of the application have been completed

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

- 2.1 On May 22nd this year, the Cabinet approved the North Wales Regional Regeneration Strategy which had been prepared as part of Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme. It was noted that further work was required to consider possible opportunities arising from the TRI Programme, and a further report would be presented to Cabinet outlining the proposals.

3. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme

- 3.1 In October 2017, the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme was launched by Welsh Government. This programme follows the Vibrant Viable Places (VVP) programme, and has a total of up to £100 million capital funding available over an initial 3-year phase for the period for 2018-21.
- 3.2 The Programme also provides a notional allocation on a regional basis for the period 2018-21. Based on the quality of projects, it is envisaged that up to £22m of the capital budget could be allocated to North Wales.

- 3.3 A requirement of this programme is for robust regional partnership and governance arrangements to be in place at the outset to agree an overall plan for regeneration, to prioritise investment proposals and to provide assurance around decision-making.
- 3.4 The TRI Programme also requires a Regional Plan for Regeneration including a strategic framework and context for proposals. It also states Regional Plans are required to be presented and approved before Welsh Government before any proposals are put forward seeking Investment.

North Wales Regional Regeneration Strategy

- 3.5 Based on the TRI Programme guidelines, the North Wales Regeneration Officer Group and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Management Group worked together to prepare a Regeneration Strategy for North Wales. This Strategy was endorsed by the Cabinet on 22nd May, and has been approved by every local authority in North Wales.
- 3.6 In order to identify areas of need, the Strategy mainly refers to data linked with the Welsh Index for Multiple deprivation. It also applies cluster analysis methodology to identify those areas (towns) that have the greatest concentration of residents living within the 10% most deprived communities in Wales.
- 3.7 In terms of priorities for the TRI programme during the period 2018-21, the Strategy identifies town centre regeneration proposals for the 4 settlements at the top of the list, which are Rhyl, Wrexham, Bangor and Colwyn Bay.
- 3.8 In addition, the Strategy also identifies priority projects based on thematic proposals
- Housing Theme (empty properties) – respond to housing and regeneration needs to renovate properties including the private rented sector
 - Housing Theme (renewal areas) – including continuation of Housing Renewal Area programmes
 - Important Buildings – support for proposals to redevelop or reuse important buildings outside the four priority settlements for regeneration purposes
- 3.9 As part of the regional discussions, notional allocations have been discussed based on the current TRI budget to implement the activities identified in the regional Strategy:

	Activity / Priority	Indicative Allocation	Total
1.	Town Centre Regeneration		£11.25m
	<i>Rhyl</i>	<i>£4m</i>	
	<i>Wrexham</i>	<i>£2m</i>	
	<i>Bangor</i>	<i>£3m</i>	
	<i>Colwyn Bay</i>	<i>2.25m</i>	
2.	Housing : Empty Properties / Renewal Areas		£9.2m
	<i>Gwynedd</i>	<i>£1.5m</i>	
	<i>Anglesey</i>	<i>£1.8m</i>	
	<i>Denbighshire</i>	<i>£1.5m</i>	
	<i>Flintshire</i>	<i>£0.9m</i>	
	<i>Conwy BC</i>	<i>£1.5m</i>	

	<i>Wrexham BC</i>	<i>£2.0m</i>	
3.	Important Buildings		2.5m
	Details to be developed	<i>£2.5m</i>	
	Total		£22.95m

- 3.10 It should be emphasised that these are merely notional allocations, and any funding commitment would be dependent on presenting detailed Project Plans which would meet the requirements of the TRI Programme. It should also be noted that the delivery Plan within the draft Regional Strategy does include a possible Investment of £29m from the TRI programme to highlight the need for further Investment in the region, and the ambition to attract further Investment to North Wales.
- 3.11 The indicative regional allocation for TRI Programme funding in Gwynedd therefore includes approximately £3m for Bangor City Centre Regeneration, and approximately £1.5m in respect of the housing theme (empty properties) which would contribute towards priorities within the Regional Strategy.

Bangor City Centre Regeneration Strategy

- 3.12 In 2016, the Bangor City Partnership was established which brings together a wider range of partner organisations seeking to work on a collaborative basis to develop and implement a new strategy for the city. The partnership includes representatives from a number of organisations including Gwynedd Council, Bangor City Council, Welsh Government, Bangor University, Pontio, Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, Housing Partnership, Llandrillo Menai Group and the city's Business Improvement District.
- 3.13 Following the establishment of the Partnership, a Regeneration Strategy was prepared by the city, and more recently during the summer the Partnership's work programme and priorities were reviewed. Whilst further work is required, it seems that a number of the Partnership's priorities also contribute towards the TRI Programme's objectives and guidelines, including :
- i) Property Renovation and Improvement Scheme targeting the High Street area: which would offer support package (loans and grants) targeting empty premises within the city's main commercial area
 - ii) Urban Access and Linkages Scheme: including proposals to develop strategic linkages between key locations within the city Centre. Opportunities to incorporate the work with various development sites including possible investments by the University through the proposed Growth Deal
 - iii) Bangor Health Hub : proposals being considered by the Health Board and Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd looking at community health Services within the city Centre and new residential units
 - iv) Improving and extending community or social provisions: initial Concepts have been identified such as Maesgeirchen Integrated Family Centre which would provide support in a deprived area. Another Concept would be a Centre for the Homeless which would provide multi-agency support and provisions.
 - v) Empty Property (Housing) Scheme: which would provide a package of measures to bring empty buildings to residential use.

- 3.14 This list includes a wide range of possible project, many of which require further preliminary work to develop them into detailed proposals.

4. REASONING AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

- 4.1 The Regional Regeneration Strategy identifies Bangor city as a priority, and as a result, an opportunity exists to target resources from the TRI Programme to implement eligible regeneration projects.
- 4.2 Contrary to previous regeneration programmes, submissions for TRI funding are invited on a project basis, instead of one bid consisting a package of projects.
- 4.3 Individual applications for TRI funding will be submitted to the Welsh Government and will be considered based on the programme's guidelines and requirements. In addition, proposals will also be considered by the North Wales Regeneration Officers Group acting on behalf of the North Wales Ambition Board Executive Group. Each application must be signed by the Section 151 Officer, confirming that the details are accurate and the project has been endorsed by the regional partnership.

Financial Considerations

- 4.4 The TRI Programme provides capital funding and the maximum Welsh Government intervention rate per project is 70%. This means that at least 30% of match funding is required.
- 4.5 It is expected that the details of individual projects would be developed by individual organisations acting as lead body. Whilst partnership working is a key characteristic in each of the projects, the lead body would be responsible for developing the details of the project including the proposed funding package and securing the match funding.
- 4.6 In terms of the list of projects referred to in 3.13, it is suggested that Gwynedd Council would be responsible for leading on the following projects :
- a) Property Renovation and Improvement Scheme targeting the High Street area
- 4.6.1 The proposal would involve utilising resources from the TRI Programme as grant support to be incorporated within the town Centre loan scheme currently in operation in the city of Bangor. The estimated total cost of the project would be £2.1m, including £1.2m TRI; £250k from Town Centre Loan Funds, and £660k private Investment.
- 4.6.2 Details of the Scheme have been prepared, and would become operational from 1st April 2019.
- b) Urban Access and Linkages Project
- 4.6.3 A multi-agency Project Group has recently been set up with a view of working to develop full details of the project. The estimated project cost is £2.2m including £750k TRI, a commitment of £250k from Gwynedd Council. It is also

expected that Investment from local organisations would also be incorporated into the project which would be the subject of detailed preliminary work.

- 4.6.4 A commitment of £250k from the Council's Match-funding Fund is requested towards the project costs. This would also demonstrate the Council's support and commitment to the wider initiative.

c) Empty Property (Housing) Scheme

- 4.6.5 The Scheme offers a package of measures aimed towards bringing vacant buildings into residential use and is managed by the Housing Service within the Adults, Health and Well-being Department. The package includes first time buyer's support, and assistance to landlords who wish to bring their empty into residential use. Under certain circumstances, the package could also enable the Council to purchase and renovate empty Properties directly.
- 4.6.6 The scheme forms part of a regional priority and theme involving renovating empty Properties. In this instance, Anglesey Council is acting as lead body in submitting an application to Welsh Government, and an agreement between Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils to be completed as part of the governance arrangements.

Outputs

- 4.7 Should the list of priority projects identified by the Bangor Partnership be successfully implemented, it would involve a significant Investment to the city of Bangor. However, the details of all the projects have not yet been developed, and it would be premature to estimate the totals outputs at this stage.
- 4.8 Nevertheless, as regards those projects which would be led by the Council, it is expected that the activities would contribute in achieving the following outputs (which are based on TRI Programme outputs)

Outputs	Number
Gross jobs created	21
Number of Jobs accommodated	48
Enterprises accommodated	15
Number of non-residential premises created or refurbished	17
Investment induced	£2.5m
Number of households helped towards securing improvement in the energy performance of their homes	35
Number of empty homes brought back into use	60
Number of new housing units created	23
Number of SMEs based in Wales successful in securing contracts/sub contracts	78

- 4.9 Arrangements to monitor outputs will be incorporated to each individual project. The Council will co-ordinate the Bangor City Centre Regeneration Strategy and will present regular monitoring reports to Welsh Government.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1 Subject to receiving the Cabinet's support, it is intended to submit funding applications to Welsh Government in order to secure TRI funding during the period 2018-21.
- 5.2 It is intended to submit an application in respect of the Property Renovation and Improvement Scheme targeting the High Street immediately, and put relevant arrangements in place for the project to be operational by 1st April 2019.
- 5.3 It is intended to carry out further preliminary work in respect of the Urban Access and linkages project, working collaboratively with other members of the Bangor Partnership. It is hoped that a detailed application would be submitted early in the 2019/20 period.

6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

6.1 Views of Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer

The report notes that the recommendation to release the funds builds on the Cabinet decision in May 2018 in relation to the Strategy. The report appropriately weighs up the basis for the recommendation.

ii. Head of Finance

The Property Renovation and Improvement Scheme targeting the High Street area is the first project to be presented as part of package of regeneration proposals for Bangor city centre. I can confirm that I am satisfied with the propriety of the funding arrangements in respect of this first project, with funding sources having been identified. I am also clear, following discussions with officers from the Economy and Community Department, that the maturity of other projects (referred to in part 3.13 of the report) are currently at different stages of development.

I confirm that there are sufficient resources within the Match-funding Fund to commit £250,000 as match-funding for the Bangor City Centre Regeneration Strategy. Should the Cabinet agree to this, there would be £250,000 remaining in the Fund.

I am familiar with the Welsh Government application form for these grants, and can confirm that the authority of the Statutory Finance Officer is required. Therefore, if the Cabinet is satisfied, it would be appropriate for me to sign the application forms on behalf of the Council as part of this programme, but only after receiving firm assurances and evidence from the relevant officers to show that the information detailed in these applications are accurate, and that the Regional Partnership have endorsed the individual applications.

6.2 Views of Local Member

Not a local matter

6.3 Results of any consultation

Nothing to note