

## **GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

<b>Date of Cabinet Meeting:</b>	2 April 2019
<b>Date decision will come into force</b> and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution.	17 April 2019

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 6: RESTRUCTURING OF GWYNEDD LANGUAGE CENTRES

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### **DECISION**

Resolved

- i. To implement a teacher and assistant staffing structure pilot, increasing the teacher : pupil ratio at one Language Centre for a year, and to monitor it closely to identify whether it affects the quality of the education and the children's attainment.
  - ii. To remove the TLR allowance for teachers at every Language Centre, and incorporate the after-care as part of the core Language Centres provision, thus abolishing the existing after-care post.
  - iii. To enable more time to consider the pilot findings, to approve funding to bridge the gap that will continue to exist after implementing ii above until the findings of the pilot are known.
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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Historically, the Language Centres were funded by a grant from the Welsh Language Board, with the Council providing match funding. When the Welsh Language Board was abolished, the Language Centres were funded in the same way through the Welsh in Education Grant (Welsh Government) and the Council continuing to provide the match funding.

In 2015, Welsh Government brought 11 education grants together under the heading of the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) and this included Welsh in Education Grant. By now, Welsh Government funds the EIG through the regional consortia (GwE), and every authority contributes match funding to the region, before the EIG is then transferred from the regional consortia back to the authorities.

Inflation and an annual reduction have been applied to the Education Improvement Grant since 2014/15, however, the Language Centres have been protected through all of these cuts. In 2018/19, Welsh Government cut the Education Improvement Grant by 10%, leading to a £61,000 deficit in the budget from 2018/19 onwards. In 2018/19, we succeeded in bridging this shortfall for the Language Centres.

Although we have received better news than we expected regarding the EIG, in light of inflation to teacher salaries and pensions, this means a further shortfall of £35,000 in the Language Centres budget. To maintain the existing staffing situation, the Department

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would need to identify an alternative budget to address the financial deficit. As the Department had not identified a financial source to enable this, it has identified the need to restructure the service to be able to provide the same service for latecomers to the county more cost effectively and within the budget.

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#### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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#### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views,

A consultation was held with the Language Centres' staff, and their observations can be seen in the report.

The matter was discussed at the Welsh Language Committee, the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee and at the Full Council, and the observations raised can be seen in the report.

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 7: REVIEW OF THE GWYNEDD STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONSTITUTION

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### **DECISION**

To change the membership of Group A in the constitution as follows:

- Group A - Christianity - keep at 6  
Propose to invite one representative from the Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and the Humanist beliefs
- Group B - Representation of Teachers and Headteachers - keep at 5
- Group C - Elected Members - keep at 7
- Co-opted - SACRE Committee to retain the right to co-opt members
- there are 3 votes, namely 1 for each Group - the Co-opted members do not have a vote

It was resolved to approve the Humanists' request to join Group A on the Gwynedd SACRE committee.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

SACRE's constitution has not changed since 1996, and a letter from the Education Minister confirms that it is possible to appoint representatives from non-religious belief systems to Group A to ensure that SACRE reflects the beliefs of the community and to conform to current legislation.

The Committee has received a request from Bangor Humanists to join as member(s) of Group A on the Gwynedd SACRE Committee. In considering the request of the Humanists to join, it is timely to give consideration to other beliefs to cover the variety of beliefs in Gwynedd on the SACRE committee. This will ensure that SACRE is inclusive, containing a variety of broader religious traditions than as it currently stands.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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## **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

The Gwynedd SACRE Committee and the Wales Association of SACREs were consulted on the matter.

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 8: BEGIN LOCAL DISCUSSIONS ON OPENING A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CRICIETH

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### **DECISION**

Resolved

- a) To approve the right to commence local discussions in order to identify options for the construction of a new primary school in Cricieth, due to the poor condition of Ysgol Treferyth's existing buildings.
- b) To approve the inclusion of Ysgol Llanystumdwy in the local discussions.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Surveys in relation to the condition of Ysgol Treferyth's buildings have identified several matters that mean that a number of significant defects to the structure will require attention within the next five years. On this basis, the school has been designated to category C in relation to its condition.

Welsh Government has now commenced its second phase of the 21st Century Schools Programme (Band B) which will begin in April 2019 and will run until 2026. The need to improve primary provision in Cricieth was identified as part of this application, after the Council carried out a prioritising exercise.

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### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 9: FURTHER EFFICIENCY SAVINGS 2019/20

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### **DECISION**

Resolved to utilise £1,666,560 from the Transformation Fund to repay the loan used to carry out the LED lamps saving scheme and to bridge the period for delivering the scheme to take the whole of the £184, 5000 saving into account in 2019/20.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The Council's Financial Strategy is based on delivering a series of savings to limit the Council Tax increase to 5.8%. To limit this increase the Council also has a scheme that envisages the need to find further efficiency savings of £500,000.

One way of finding further efficiency savings is to change the procedure for repaying the scheme to install LED lamps in the remainder of the Highways Departments' street lights.

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 11: CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/2, 2020/21 AND 2021/22

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### **DECISION**

The schemes shown in Appendix A were included in the capital programme for the three year period 2019/20; 2020/21 and 2021/22.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

On 7 March, the Full Council adopted the Assets Plan for the next ten years. Normally, the capital programme for the next three years is included in the report on the budget but as the Council had not yet adopted the Assets Plan, it was not possible to do this in detail. However, as noted in Appendix 4 of the Budget Report, specific amounts would be provided for the next three years for schemes within the Assets Plan.

Following consultation with the relevant departments, a profile has been established for the individual schemes within the Assets Plan, and therefore the Council approves the schemes noted in Appendix A of the capital programme for the next three years.

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 11: CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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### **DECISION**

The Forward Work Programme included with the meeting papers was approved.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In accordance with Section 14.13 of the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet will share its Forward Work Programme for the subsequent period of six months with the public. The Forward Work Programme will be published on the Council's website.

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The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views.

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