



Complete Agenda

Chief Executive's Department
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

THE COUNCIL

Date and Time

1.00 pm, THURSDAY, 14TH MAY, 2015

*** NOTE**

This meeting will be webcast

<http://www.gwynedd.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Location

Siambr Dafydd Orwig - Council Offices, Caernarfon, LL55 1SH

Contact Point

Eirian Roberts

01286 679018

maireirianroberts@gwynedd.gov.uk

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**Dilwyn Williams
Chief Executive**

www.gwynedd.gov.uk

WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2015

Dear Councillor,

MEETING OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL – THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2015

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of **GWYNEDD COUNCIL** which will be held at **1.00 pm** on **THURSDAY, 14TH MAY, 2015** in **SIAMBR DAFYDD ORWIG - COUNCIL OFFICES, COUNCIL OFFICES, CAERNARFON** to consider the matters mentioned in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,



Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive

The following rooms will be available for the political groups during the morning:-

Plaid Cymru - Siambr Dafydd Orwig
Independent – Siambr Hywel Dda
Llais Gwynedd – Ystafell Gwyrfai
Liberal Democrats - Ystafell Peris
Labour – Rear of Siambr Dafydd Orwig

AGENDA

1. CHAIRMAN

Elect a Chairman for 2015/16.

2. VICE-CHAIRMAN

Elect a Vice-chairman for 2015/16.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. MINUTES

1 - 20

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 5 March, 2015 be signed as a true record. (attached)

5. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

6. THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chairman's announcements.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS OR OTHER BUSINESS

To receive any correspondence, communications or other business brought forward at the request of the Chairman.

8. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items which are urgent business in the opinion of the Chairman so they may be considered.

9. QUESTIONS

To consider any questions the appropriate notice for which have been given under Section 4.19 of the Constitution.

10. AMENDING THE OFFICERS' SCHEME OF DELEGATION

21 - 24

To submit the report of the Council Leader (attached).

11. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

25 - 28

To submit the report of the Council Leader (attached).

12. ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE WITH REGARDS TO SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS 29 - 36

- (a) To consider the report of Councillor Lesley Day, Chairman of the Democratic Services Committee for 2014/15 (attached).
- (b) To select a Chairman for 2015/16.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION 37 - 42

- (a) In accordance with the Notice of Motion received under the Procedural Rules, Councillor Sian Gwenllian will propose as follows:-

“I call on the council to express disappointment regarding the decision of Trinity Mirror, newspaper publishers, to close the Herald office in Caernarfon, putting an end to a presence in the town which expands over 180 years, and to show full support to the journalists and the other staff members who will be affected.

This is the office of the Daily Post, the Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald, the Holyhead and Anglesey Mail, the Bangor and Anglesey Mail and *Yr Herald Gymraeg*. Caernarfon is a traditional home for the press and is an important municipal, cultural and historical centre. Caernarfon is home to a crown court, a county court and a magistrates' court, as well as the north-west Wales coroner and Gwynedd Council headquarters.

I also call on the Council to do everything in its power to ensure the continuation of the presence of Trinity Mirror staff in an office in Caernarfon. Reporters work in the communities they serve, from a local news room, creating good journalism - a vital element of local democracy and a valuable source of information for residents from Gwynedd and beyond. I worry that closing the existing office would represent a further decrease in Trinity Mirror's commitment to local journalism in the region, and that it would pave the way towards closing down newspapers that we value and are at the heart of the community.”

- (b) To submit, for information, a letter from the Treasury in response to Councillor Sian Gwenllian's notice of motion to the December meeting regarding tax avoidance (attached).
- (c) To submit, for information, a letter from the First Minister for Wales in response to Councillor R.H.Wyn Williams'

notice of motion to the last meeting regarding Trident (attached).

- (ch) To submit, for information, a letter from the Welsh Government in response to Councillor Craig ab Iago's notice of motion to the last meeting regarding the Traws Link Cymru campaign to reopen the railway line between North and South Wales (attached).

THE COUNCIL, 05.03.15

Present: Councillor Dewi Owen (Chairman);
Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Vice-chairman).

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Stephen Churchman, Annwen Daniels, Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Edward Dogan, Gwynfor Edwards, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwellian, Annwen Hughes, Chris Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W.Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, Sion Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Linda Morgan, Christopher O'Neal, Michael Sol Owen, W.Roy Owen, W.Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Peter Read, E.Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, W.Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R.H.Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies, Robert J.Wright and Eurig Wyn.

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Arwyn Thomas (Head of Education Department), Geraint George (Head of Strategic and Improvement Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer), Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor/Deputy Monitoring Officer), Arwel E.Jones (Senior Manager – Corporate Commissioning Service), William E.Jones (Senior Finance Manager), Geraint Owen (Senior Manager Human Resources), Gareth Jones (Senior Manager - Planning and Environment), Nia Davies (Planning Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Planning Policy Unit) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Gwen Griffith, Louise Hughes, Aeron Jones and Llywarch Bowen Jones.

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

1. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 4 December 2014 as a true record.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Members were advised by the Monitoring Officer to declare an interest in item 8 on the agenda (Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16) and to withdraw from the chamber if a very close member of their family benefitted from one of the specific proposals in the report.

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

The Monitoring Officer also drew attention to the fact that this item affected all the chief officers present. Therefore, it was proposed to deal with the matter in two parts, namely:-

- (1) All the CHIEF officers apart from the Chief Executive would declare an interest and withdraw from the chamber throughout the discussion;
- (2) The Chief Executive, if required, to withdraw from the chamber to provide an opportunity for members to raise any points regarding the Chief Executive's salary.

The Chief Executive, the Corporate Director, the Head of Finance Department, the Head of Education Department, the Head of Strategic and Improvement Department and the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer declared an interest in this item as the report involved their salaries.

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

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Condolences:

Councillor Ioan Thomas paid tribute to the late Councillor Huw Edwards, former chairman of the Council, who had represented Cadnant Ward for many years and sympathy was conveyed to his family in their bereavement.

Condolences were expressed to the following:-

The families of:-

Mr Isgoed Williams, Trawsfynydd, former member of Gwynedd County Council;

John Rowlands, novelist and literary adjudicator;

Dr Meredydd Edwards, a prominent figure in Welsh public life as a performer, a specialist in folk singing and language campaigner;

Dr John Davies, the historian and broadcaster.

It was also noted that the Council wished to remember others in the county's communities who had recently lost loved ones.

The Council stood as a mark of respect.

(2) Congratulations

Councillor Mair Rowlands was congratulated on being shortlisted as the LGA's Young Councillor of the Year.

(3) Note

It was noted that there were a few tickets remaining for the Chairman's Charity Concert which would be held on Sunday evening, 8 March in the Community Centre, Porthmadog with the proceeds for the Hope House charity.

It was noted that the Welsh Government would be holding two briefing and engagement sessions on the White Paper, *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People* in Venue Cymru, Llandudno on Monday 16 March, with one session commencing at 10.00a.m and the other at 2.00pm.

4. QUESTIONS

(The written answer of the Cabinet Member had been distributed to the members at their group meetings on the morning of the Council.)

A question by Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd

“Given that the public consultation period on the deposit draft Joint Local Development Plan is underway, would the relevant portfolio holder disclose how any responses received during the consultation will be incorporated in the Plan and what will be the fate of the Plan when the consultation period ends and the responses have been incorporated appropriately?”

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory

“The question is timely and you have all seen the response. It is very important that we all respond to the consultation period. It is very important that everyone knows about the Local Development Plan and it explains what the land-use plan is for the next fifteen years.”

A supplementary question by Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd

“As the current Cabinet Member will be adopting the plan, does he really believe that the Deposit Plan of the Joint Local Development Plan satisfies the purpose and is fit for purpose in today’s Gwynedd to promote the Welsh language and our vulnerable communities?”

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory

“The Local Development Plan’s process commenced in 2010. It is a very thorough process. There has been much consultation. There has been a previous consultation period in 2013 and there is a current consultation period and I wish to emphasise how important it is that we all respond to the consultation. There has been an opportunity for Gwynedd residents to do this, along with community councils and individuals across the county. Therefore I wish to emphasise how important it is for us to respond to the consultation. It is up to the people of Gwynedd to give their opinions during this consultation period and I will be giving my opinion like many others and I hope that all of us will do the same.”

5. PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2015/16

Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources recommending the Council to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16 in accordance with Section 38(i) of the Localism Act 2011, which incorporated the Cabinet’s decision to increase the pay of Council staff receiving the lowest pay by deleting the lowest pay point from the Council’s pay structure as a further step towards a ‘Living Wage’.

The Council was also requested to:-

- (i) Consider the recommendation of the Chief Officers Appointments Committee that it was inappropriate to review the actual pay of Chief Officers in the context of the existing benchmark levels in view of the financial climate facing the Council and its impact on staff and that the next consideration would be given to re-grading actual

pay to benchmark levels when reviewing the Pay Policy for 2016/17 and annually thereafter.

- (ii) To approve the amendment to the Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 as a result of the fact that the national pay increase for Chief Officers had been back-dated to 1 January 2015.

Members were given an opportunity to submit their observations or to ask questions on every aspect of the report except for the Chief Executive's salary. During the discussion:-

- (i) The report was welcomed and the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member were congratulated on their guidance when restructuring the senior management of the Council within the challenging context that faced the Council.
- (ii) The suggestion was welcomed that the lowest salary point be deleted from the Council's pay structure as a step forwards to introducing a 'Living Wage' as a minimum pay and to close the gap between the pay of those on the top and those on the lowest level.
- (iii) It was enquired how many Council staff were on zero hours contracts and the the Chief Executive agreed to try to find the figure and send it to the member who had raised the question.
- (iv) Guidance was requested regarding whom to contact following the restructuring and the Chief Executive gave his assurance that the information would appear in *Rhaeadr*.

The Chief Executive withdrew from the Chamber so that the Council could raise any matter regarding the Chief Executive's salary. As a consequence, all the chief officers had withdrawn from the chamber during the vote on the matter.

The Cabinet Member for Resources explained that there was no recommendation to amend the Chief Executive's salary and this was in agreement with the Chief Executive's wishes.

RESOLVED

- (a) To increase the pay of Council staff receiving the lowest pay by deleting the lowest pay point from the Council's pay structure.**
- (b) To adopt the Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16 (Appendix A of the report).**
- (c) The next consideration is to be given to re-grading actual pay to benchmark levels when reviewing the Pay Policy for 2016/17 and annually thereafter.**
- (ch) To approve the amendment to the Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 as a result of the fact that the national pay increase for Chief Officers is back-dated to 1 January 2015.**

6. 2015/16 BUDGET

Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, recommending a budget for the Council to adopt for 2015/16 together with an appendix detailing all the relevant matters that needed to be considered when establishing the budget along with those matters that influenced establishing a strategy for the future.

Concern was expressed that cutting £4.3m from the schools budget would affect children by leading to changes to the curriculum and to the structure and quality of the county's education, and an amendment to reduce the cut from £4.3m to £3.4m was proposed and seconded and using £900,000 from the balances to fund this.

A registered vote was called for on the amendment.

In response to the amendment:-

- (i) The Cabinet Member for Resources explained that it was not proposed to cut £4.3m from the schools budget in 2015/16 and that the savings target was to be achieved over the next three years. In 2015/16, the schools saving would be £952,000 and the Schools Funding Forum had agreed to this.
- (ii) The Chief Executive warned against using more of the balances because in future, those balances would be needed to buy more time to bridge the period when the Council faced very difficult decisions. He noted also that not reducing the education budget as much as what was in the current strategy would mean further cutting the budgets of other services, and this could not be done without knowing what the implications would be for those services. He added that the education strategy could be revisited this time next year when the choices and the implications of those choices were known.
- (iii) The Head of Education Department explained that a cut of £952,000 would lead to some increase in the pupil/teacher ratio in the primary and secondary sectors. He explained that there was no evidence of a direct link between education standards and funding. The main elements were the quality of the leadership and teaching in the schools.

An amendment was proposed and seconded to reduce the cut in the schools budget in 2015/16 from £952,000 to £600,000 and to use £300,000 from the balances to fund this.

As one amendment had already been proposed and seconded on this matter, the permission of the meeting and the seconder was received to withdraw that amendment and the new amendment replaced the original amendment.

In response to the amendment, the Chief Executive emphasised that using balances was not a permanent solution and the amendment would mean transferring the permanent implications to other services without knowing what those implications would be. He drew attention that the Wales Audit Office noted (paragraph 8.7 of the report) that it would not usually be appropriate to fund regular expenditure from reserves and that some Councils were overly dependent on general reserves to deal with a budgetary deficit, rather than trying to adopt more sustainable methods.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- (i) Prudence was necessary so as not to establish an *ad hoc* budget.
- (ii) Not making the schools saving would hit other services, such as children and vulnerable adults, much harder.
- (iii) The budget and the allocation for schools satisfied the requirements of the Minister and the Welsh Government by ensuring that there was an addition in the schools budget.
- (iv) Gwynedd had protected the schools budget along the years and in adopting the proposed budget, this Council would continue to be amongst the most generous in terms of funding education in Wales.
- v) Using more from the balances would place the Council in a very difficult situation in the future.

The Cabinet Member for Education noted that there had been agreement in the Schools Savings Targets Working Group, which included head teachers of primary and secondary schools, governors and officers, on the target of £952,000 in 2015/16 along with an agreement to continue looking at how to achieve £4.3m over three years with the least effect on pupils' education.

A registered vote was called for on the amendment.

In accordance with Procedural Rules the following vote was recorded on the amendment:-

For: (3) Councillors Gwynfor Edwards, Brian Jones and Sion Jones.

Abstain: (0)

Against: (65) Councillors Craig ab Iago, Stephen Churchman, Annwen Daniels, Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Edward Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Siân Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, Chris Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Peredur Jenkins, Anne Lloyd Jones, Charles W.Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Linda Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Christopher O'Neal, Dewi Owen, Michael Sol Owen, W.Roy Owen, W.Tudor Owen, Nigel Pickavance, Peter Read, E.Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, W.Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R.H.Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies, Robert J.Wright and Eurig Wyn.

During the discussion on the remainder of the report, it was noted:-

- (i) Unfortunately, Central Government cuts and a grant reduction from the Welsh Government meant that this Council had no choice but to accept the budget.
- (ii) That Gwynedd was a poor area and should campaign for a better settlement for local government in Wales.
- (iii) That the Council Tax in Gwynedd had increased 30% since 2008 and none of the residents had received a pay rise that corresponded to this.
- (iv) That a lot of thorough work had gone into establishing the budget and that it was important that all members showed their support to the Cabinet Member.

It was proposed and seconded to adopt the proposed budget, which meant a 4.5% increase in Council Tax.

It was noted that the families that were being hit the hardest should be considered and a motion to increase Council Tax by 3.5% was proposed and seconded.

In response to the amendments, the Chief Executive noted that increasing the Council Tax by 3.5% would mean using an additional £500,000 from the balances and would add £500,000 to the £15m cuts currently needed, thus affecting those very same people who were dependent on Council services.

During the discussion on the amendment, it was noted:-

- (i) That it was very hard for people who were on low incomes, but not eligible to receive support to pay the tax.
- (ii) That people saw themselves having to pay more Council Tax, only to receive fewer services.
- (iii) That inflation was currently at only 1%.
- (iv) That the Welsh Government did not understand the higher cost of providing services in rural areas and it was agreed to refer the matter to the next meeting of the Business Group in order for group leaders to work together on presenting this case to the Government.

- (v) All in all, the Council Tax did address people's financial circumstances and therefore the proposed budget and the tax level did strike the right balance and would assist the Council in protecting crucial services for people who were dependent on public services.
- (vi) That reducing the Council Tax increase by 1% in order to help people who were able to pay, and to do so at the expense of poor people who were dependent on Council services, could not be justified.
- (vii) There was room to push for further savings.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it fell.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet, i.e:-
 - (a) Set a budget of £228,193,060 for 2015/16 to be funded by £168,311,990 of Government Grant and an increase of 4.5% in Council Tax which would generate Council Tax income of £57,862,480 with the remaining gap being funded by utilizing £2,018,590 of Council balances.
 - (b) Also, to establish a capital programme of £19.179m in 2015/16 and £21.270m in 2016/17 to be funded from sources noted in clause 9.4 of the appendix.
 - (c) Note the continuation of the medium term strategy to consult on the proposals to address the funding gap facing us over the next three years.
- (2) That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Resources, in a decision notice dated 12 November 2014, approved the calculation of the following amounts for 2015/16 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("The Act"):-
 - (a) 49,835.48 being the amount calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.
 - (b) Part of the Council's Area - Community -

Aberdaron	525.98	Llanddeiniolen	1,794.90
Aberdyfi	931.68	Llandderfel	486.08
Abergwyngregyn	116.15	Llanegryn	144.81
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,093.59	Llanelltyd	282.93
Arthog	614.79	Llanengan	1,960.68
Y Bala	756.08	Llanfair	311.38
Bangor	3,608.02	Llanfihangel y Pennant	204.98
Beddgelert	320.68	Llanfrothen	214.50
Betws Garmon	134.48	Llangelynnin	397.91
Bethesda	1,634.46	Llangywer	130.25
Bontnewydd	430.35	Llanllechid	334.79
Botwnnog	432.68	Llanllyfni	1,371.38
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	398.56	Llannor	891.02
Bryncrug	334.92	Llanrug	1,115.40
Buan	223.33	Llanuwchllyn	304.11

Caernarfon	3,445.11	Llanwnda	750.93
Clynnog Fawr	429.51	Llanycil	192.33
Corris	294.79	Llanystumdwy	847.24
Criccieth	915.96	Maentwrog	272.13
Dolbenmaen	583.37	Mawddwy	334.83
Dolgellau	1,185.48	Nefyn	1,378.94
Dyffryn Ardudwy	800.89	Pennal	211.52
Y Felinheli	1,086.37	Penrhyndeudraeth	751.97
Ffestiniog	1,674.54	Pentir	971.32
Y Ganllwyd	84.72	Pistyll	241.12
Harlech	730.80	Porthmadog	1,954.94
Llanaelhaearn	427.98	Pwllheli	1,694.74
Llanbedr	303.81	Talsarnau	308.46
Llanbedrog	685.55	Trawsfynydd	492.27
Llanberis	763.90	Tudweiliog	445.56
Llandwrog	998.48	Tywyn	1,544.18
Llandygai	962.41	Waunfawr	568.46

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

(3) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Act:-

- (a) £342,268,670 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2)(a) to (e) of the Act (gross expenditure).
- (b) £114,676,350 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3)(a) to (c) of the Act (income).
- (c) £227,592,320 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32 (4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year (net budget).
- (ch) £168,052,539 Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its council fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, less the estimated cost to the Council of discretionary non-domestic rate relief granted.
- (d) £1,194.73 Being the amount at 3 (c) above less the amount at 3 (ch) above, all divided by the amount at 2 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year. (Gwynedd Council tax and average community council tax).
- (dd) £1,677,300 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in

Section 34 (1) of the Act (community council precepts).

- (e) £1,161.07 Being the amount at 3 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3 (dd) above by the amount at 2 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates (Band D for Gwynedd Council tax only).

(f) Part of the Council's Area - Community

Aberdaron	1,176.28	Llanddeiniolen	1,168.31
Aberdyfi	1,186.12	Llandderfel	1,175.27
Abergwyngregyn	1,178.29	Llanegryn	1,188.69
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,199.26	Llanelltyd	1,184.04
Arthog	1,174.90	Llanengan	1,184.02
Y Bala	1,182.89	Llanfair	1,183.55
Bangor	1,249.47	Llanfihangel y Pennant	1,184.27
Beddgelert	1,185.99	Llanfrothen	1,182.52
Betws Garmon	1,170.74	Llangelynnin	1,176.15
Bethesda	1,193.80	Llangywer	1,191.78
Bontnewydd	1,194.76	Llanllechid	1,178.99
Botwnnog	1,171.47	Llanllfyni	1,189.10
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	1,176.12	Llannor	1,176.96
Bryncrug	1,182.00	Llanrug	1,182.59
Buan	1,177.86	Llanuwchllyn	1,190.01
Caernarfon	1,217.01	Llanwnda	1,185.31
Clynnog Fawr	1,179.70	Llanycil	1,178.23
Corris	1,180.65	Llanystumdwy	1,178.77
Criccieth	1,198.19	Maentwrog	1,181.28
Dolbenmaen	1,178.21	Mawddwy	1,176.75
Dolgellau	1,202.40	Nefyn	1,196.74
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,186.04	Pennal	1,189.44
Y Felinheli	1,188.68	Penrhyndeudraeth	1,206.28
Ffestiniog	1,217.80	Pentir	1,190.81
Y Ganllwyd	1,196.48	Pistyll	1,179.73
Harlech	1,182.96	Porthmadog	1,188.18
Llanaelhaearn	1,196.12	Pwllheli	1,202.08
Llanbedr	1,193.99	Talsarnau	1,193.49
Llanbedrog	1,184.41	Trawsfynydd	1,185.45
Llanberis	1,185.94	Tudweiliog	1,174.09
Llandwrog	1,197.12	Tywyn	1,196.69
Llandygai	1,181.81	Waunfawr	1,182.18

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

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

(ff) In respect of part of the Council's area, the figures noted in Appendix 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the sums specified in 3(f) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(4) That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales have stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
156.96	183.12	209.28	235.44	287.76	340.08	392.40	470.88	549.36

(5) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3 (ff) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the amounts noted in Appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown therein.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2015/16

Submitted - the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources requesting that the Council adopted the proposed strategies.

The chair of the Audit Committee confirmed that the committee had discussed the strategies at a seminar and in a formal committee meeting, and supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED to adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendices A, B and C), the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16 (Appendix CH), the Prudential Indicators (Appendix D), the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (Appendix DD) and the merger arrangements with the Pension Fund for the investment of daily cash flow.

8. THE CONSTITUTION

8(a) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS ACT 2013 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (AMENDMENT) (GOVERNANCE) REGULATIONS 2015

The Cabinet Member for Resources and the Head of Finance submitted:-

- (1) a report recommending that the Council reviewed sections of the Constitution that related to the Local Government Pension Fund to ensure that the Council, as the Administrating Authority for the Gwynedd Local Government Pension Fund, complied with the requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the

Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 regarding the establishment of a Local Pension Board.

- (2) an appended report to the Audit Committee on 17 February setting the background and the details.

The chair of the Audit Committee confirmed that that committee agreed with the recommendations.

The officers and members who were involved in the Pension Fund were thanked and the Pensions Committee's readiness to collaborate with the new Board was expressed.

RESOLVED

- (a) **To review sections of the Constitution that relate to the Local Government Pension Fund to ensure that the Council, as the Administrating Authority for the Gwynedd Local Pension Fund, complies with the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015.**
- (b) **To establish the Gwynedd Pension Fund Pension Board in accordance with the report, based on the Terms of Reference and Governance, with delegated powers to the Head of Finance Department, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to make minor amendments to the governance arrangements of the Local Pension Board should the need arise.**

8(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Leader submitted a report, for information, on amendments to the Constitution:-

- (1) in light of re-arranging the Portfolios of Cabinet Members in January, and
 (2) to ensure clarity regarding notice periods.

During the discussion:-

- (i) The fact that women had been appointed to the Cabinet was welcomed and the Leader noted that he had also sought to get more young people on it, so that the membership was a better reflection of the county's population.
- (ii) Dissatisfaction was expressed that only one party was represented on the Cabinet and that it was completely undemocratic as that party did not have a majority on the Council. In response, the Leader noted that he was openminded in terms of which members should be on the Cabinet, and that he would encourage any member who felt that he had a contribution to make to contact him. The Monitoring Officer added that the Leader and Cabinet procedure that was implemented in Gwynedd meant that it was a matter for the Leader to appoint a Cabinet and that this was being reflected in the Consitution.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

9. HUNANIAITH LANGUAGE STRATEGY

A presentation on the Hunaniaith Language Strategy was received. The context was set by the Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language, and the Welsh Language Officer gave a statistical presentation on Welsh language situation in Gwynedd, providing details on Hunaniaith's role and purpose and the strategy's priority fields.

A response was given to a series of questions/observations by members regarding:-

- (i) The feasibility of the aim to ensure an increase of 5% in the percentage of the population able to speak Welsh in Gwynedd by 2021.
- (ii) The importance of strengthening the economy to strengthen the language.
- (iii) Slowness in achieving the appropriate standards that were expected of private and public bodies, and the need for Gwynedd Council, the Language Committee and other committees that were involved in the language and the progression of Welsh speakers across Gwynedd to persuade the Welsh Government, and in general, so that the standards were met soon.
- (v) The importance of being ambitious and setting challenges in terms of the Welsh language.
- (vi) In terms of measuring effect, the idea of looking at what was happening in other areas and countries, and possibly working with universities.
- (vii) The importance of ensuring that children established the habit of using information technology through the medium of Welsh from a very early age.
- (viii) The need to have open minds regarding the policies that could promote and maintain the Welsh language, e.g. the possible influence of the housing field.
- (ix) The Welsh language was not affected by a single policy, rather it was affected by every policy across the Council and the remainder of the public sector in the county, and if the growth and protection of the language is to be ensured, the remainder of the sector must also make their contribution.
- (x) The importance of discussing the county's housing needs for the future in order to ensure that the accurate types of houses were built.
- (xi) The importance of children using the Welsh language and concern regarding the reluctance of some parents to pass on the Welsh language to the next generation.
- (xii) Post-16 plans.
- (xiii) The idea of creating a Language Champion in every community across Wales.
- (xiv) Members' responsibility to make use of the simultaneous translation service at meetings through continuing to speak Welsh rather than reverting to English.

The Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language noted:-

- (i) That members, as governors, had a responsibility to keep an eye on the implementation of the Language Strategy in their schools.
- (ii) That he was disappointed that young people did not make use of social media, television and radio through the medium of Welsh.
- (ii) That he would like to thank Sharon Warnes who had been responsible for undertaking much of the background work to ensure that the Language Strategy had seen light of day.

It was noted that Gwynedd was pioneering in terms of the Welsh Language, and the Cabinet Member, the Welsh Language Officer and the Hunaniaith Team were thanked for all their work on the various schemes, especially the work with the schools on the Language Charter and for arranging several local events to promote the Welsh language.

10. COMMITTEES CALENDAR 2015/16

The Leader submitted the calendar of dates of Council meetings for 2015/16.

RESOLVED to adopt the Committees Calendar for 2015/16.

11. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

The Leader submitted the report reviewing the Council's political balance.

RESOLVED to adopt seat allocation on the Council's committees in accordance with the table below:-

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Corporate	9	4	3	1	1	
Communities	8	4	3	1	1	1
Services	9	4	3	1		1
Audit	9	5	3	1		

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Democratic Services	7	4	3	1		
Language	8	4	3			
Planning	7	3	3	1	1	
Central Licensing	7	4	3			1
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1		1
Chief Officers Appointment	7	4	2	1	1	

Number of seats	74	37	27	8	4	4	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	3	2	1		1	
Local Consultative Joint Committee	6	2	2	1		
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1		
SACRE	3	2	2			

Total seats	93	47	34	10	5	5	194
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12. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Leader submitted a report requesting that the Council considered and decided on the recommendation of the Consultative Committee to appoint independent members to the Standards Committee as a result of the fact that the second term of office of two of the current independent members had come to an end in February this year.

The Monitoring Officer noted that the Consultative Committee had interviewed seven applicants following a detailed and statutory process and that they recommended that the Council appointed Jacqueline Hughes from Nantlle, who worked for the Health Trust as a Radiologist, but had a Trade Union background, and David Wareing from Groeslon, who was a retired police officer, as members of the Standards Committee.

During the discussion:-

- (i) It was suggested that letters should be sent to both independent members who had retired from the Standards Committee thanking them for their years of service.
- (ii) In response to an enquiry, the Monitoring Officer noted that neither of the applicants who had been recommended to be appointed on the Standards Committee could speak Welsh and that only one of the seven applicants who had been interviewed could speak Welsh. He explained that there were criteria that the panel had to consider while appointing to the Standards Committee, and although the discussion on skills balance had been held, perhaps there was work to be done for the future to encourage a broader range of applicants.

RESOLVED to appoint Jacqueline Hughes and David Wareing as independent members of the Standards Committee.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (A) The following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Craig ab Iago, in accordance with the Procedure Rules, and it was seconded.

“I call on Gwynedd County Council to support the Traws Link Cymru campaign to reopen the railway line between North and South Wales. Reopening the line would require significant investment and collaboration with all levels of Government. This project would bring investment to Gwynedd which would greatly benefit the local economy and Wales’ economic prospects. It would secure a sustainable transport option for employment and tourism. I propose that Gwynedd Council supports the undertaking of a professional feasibility study and agrees to write to the Minister, Edwina Hart and the First Minister, Carwyn Jones to endorse the Council’s view.”

RESOLVED to accept the motion.

- (B) The following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor R. H. Wyn Williams, in accordance with the Procedural Rules, and it was seconded.

“I call on this Council and other county councils throughout Wales, as well as the Welsh Government, to support the call for the Westminster Government to scrap the Trident project in order to secure a fairer society by prioritising spending on poverty prevention, care, education, health and the economy”.

During the discussion, it was suggested that a letter should be sent to every council in Wales calling on them to support the call for the Westminster Government to scrap the Trident project.

An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded, namely that this Council re-affirm its anti-nuclear stance and underlined this motion through re-subscribing with Nuclear Free Local Authorities and thereby adding pressure on a national level to the campaign to get rid of nuclear weapons, and that the spending came from the democracy budget.

In response to the amendment, it was noted:-

- (i) That the Council had previously made a decision not to subscribe to this society as part of the savings strategy and that there was potential to complicate the matter.
- (ii) That any member was free to join the society as an individual.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it fell.

The opinion that nuclear weapons had kept the peace in Europe since the end of the Second World War was noted, and that they were necessary in order to be a member of NATO.

An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded, namely that this Council would write to every county council in Wales calling on them to support the call for the Westminster Government to scrap the Trident project.

During the discussion on the amendment, it was noted:-

- (i) That nuclear weapons were immoral and that the proposal would be supported 100%.
- (ii) That this proposal was amongst the most important that this Council would discuss for several reasons and that nuclear weapons were a threat to the type of world we sought to create, namely a world where there was international collaboration and a world where there was collaboration across country borders where support was extended from rich countries to poor countries.
- (iii) That nuclear weapons had not prevented any of the 250 wars that had occurred since the Second World War.

The proposer of the original motion supported the amendment, repeating the motion as amended, namely:-

"I call on this Council to support the call for the Westminster Government to scrap the Trident project in order to secure a fairer society by prioritising spending on poverty prevention, care, education, health and the economy. A letter should also be sent to every county council throughout Wales, calling on them, as well as the Welsh Government, to support the call in the same way."

He further noted that 150 countries had done away with any spending on nuclear weapons and he expressed his hope that a seed had been planted at this meeting and that it would grow through Wales before proceeding to London.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it was carried.

RESOLVED to accept the amended motion.

- (C) Submitted – for information, a letter received from Derek Vaughan, MEP, in response to Councillor Elin Walker Jones’s notice of motion to the previous meeting regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

RESOLVED to note the letter.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 5.05pm.

Treth Cyngor: Cyngor Gwynedd + Cyngor Cymuned
Council Tax : Cyngor Gwynedd + Community Council

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
Aberdaron	784.19	914.88	1,045.58	1,176.28	1,437.68	1,699.07	1,960.47	2,352.56	2,744.65
Aberdyfi	790.75	922.54	1,054.33	1,186.12	1,449.70	1,713.28	1,976.87	2,372.24	2,767.61
Abergwyngregyn	785.53	916.45	1,047.37	1,178.29	1,440.13	1,701.97	1,963.82	2,356.58	2,749.34
Abermaw	799.51	932.76	1,066.01	1,199.26	1,465.76	1,732.26	1,998.77	2,398.52	2,798.27
Arthog	783.27	913.81	1,044.36	1,174.90	1,435.99	1,697.08	1,958.17	2,349.80	2,741.43
Bala	788.59	920.03	1,051.46	1,182.89	1,445.75	1,708.62	1,971.48	2,365.78	2,760.08
Bangor	832.98	971.81	1,110.64	1,249.47	1,527.13	1,804.79	2,082.45	2,498.94	2,915.43
Beddgelert	790.66	922.44	1,054.21	1,185.99	1,449.54	1,713.10	1,976.65	2,371.98	2,767.31
Betws Garmon	780.49	910.58	1,040.66	1,170.74	1,430.90	1,691.07	1,951.23	2,341.48	2,731.73
Bethesda	795.87	928.51	1,061.16	1,193.80	1,459.09	1,724.38	1,989.67	2,387.60	2,785.53
Bontnewydd	796.51	929.26	1,062.01	1,194.76	1,460.26	1,725.76	1,991.27	2,389.52	2,787.77
Botwnnog	780.98	911.14	1,041.31	1,171.47	1,431.80	1,692.12	1,952.45	2,342.94	2,733.43
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	784.08	914.76	1,045.44	1,176.12	1,437.48	1,698.84	1,960.20	2,352.24	2,744.28
Bryncrug	788.00	919.33	1,050.67	1,182.00	1,444.67	1,707.33	1,970.00	2,364.00	2,758.00
Buan	785.24	916.11	1,046.99	1,177.86	1,439.61	1,701.35	1,963.10	2,355.72	2,748.34
Caernarfon	811.34	946.56	1,081.79	1,217.01	1,487.46	1,757.90	2,028.35	2,434.02	2,839.69
Clynnog Fawr	786.47	917.54	1,048.62	1,179.70	1,441.86	1,704.01	1,966.17	2,359.40	2,752.63
Corris	787.10	918.28	1,049.47	1,180.65	1,443.02	1,705.38	1,967.75	2,361.30	2,754.85
Criccieth	798.79	931.93	1,065.06	1,198.19	1,464.45	1,730.72	1,996.98	2,396.38	2,795.78
Dolbenmaen	785.47	916.39	1,047.30	1,178.21	1,440.03	1,701.86	1,963.68	2,356.42	2,749.16
Dolgellau	801.60	935.20	1,068.80	1,202.40	1,469.60	1,736.80	2,004.00	2,404.80	2,805.60
Dyffryn Ardudwy	790.69	922.48	1,054.26	1,186.04	1,449.60	1,713.17	1,976.73	2,372.08	2,767.43
Y Felinheli	792.45	924.53	1,056.60	1,188.68	1,452.83	1,716.98	1,981.13	2,377.36	2,773.59
Ffestiniog	811.87	947.18	1,082.49	1,217.80	1,488.42	1,759.04	2,029.67	2,435.60	2,841.53
Y Ganllwyd	797.65	930.60	1,063.54	1,196.48	1,462.36	1,728.25	1,994.13	2,392.96	2,791.79
Harlech	788.64	920.08	1,051.52	1,182.96	1,445.84	1,708.72	1,971.60	2,365.92	2,760.24
Llanaelhaearn	797.41	930.32	1,063.22	1,196.12	1,461.92	1,727.73	1,993.53	2,392.24	2,790.95
Llanbedr	795.99	928.66	1,061.32	1,193.99	1,459.32	1,724.65	1,989.98	2,387.98	2,785.98
Llanbedrog	789.61	921.21	1,052.81	1,184.41	1,447.61	1,710.81	1,974.02	2,368.82	2,763.62
Llanberis	790.63	922.40	1,054.17	1,185.94	1,449.48	1,713.02	1,976.57	2,371.88	2,767.19
Llandwrog	798.08	931.09	1,064.11	1,197.12	1,463.15	1,729.17	1,995.20	2,394.24	2,793.28
Llandygai	787.87	919.19	1,050.50	1,181.81	1,444.43	1,707.06	1,969.68	2,363.62	2,757.56
Llanddeiniolen	778.87	908.69	1,038.50	1,168.31	1,427.93	1,687.56	1,947.18	2,336.62	2,726.06
Llandderfel	783.51	914.10	1,044.68	1,175.27	1,436.44	1,697.61	1,958.78	2,350.54	2,742.30
Llanegryn	792.46	924.54	1,056.61	1,188.69	1,452.84	1,717.00	1,981.15	2,377.38	2,773.61
Llanelltyd	789.36	920.92	1,052.48	1,184.04	1,447.16	1,710.28	1,973.40	2,368.08	2,762.76
Llanengan	789.35	920.90	1,052.46	1,184.02	1,447.14	1,710.25	1,973.37	2,368.04	2,762.71
Llanfair	789.03	920.54	1,052.04	1,183.55	1,446.56	1,709.57	1,972.58	2,367.10	2,761.62
Llanfihangel y Pennant	789.51	921.10	1,052.68	1,184.27	1,447.44	1,710.61	1,973.78	2,368.54	2,763.30
Llanfrothen	788.35	919.74	1,051.13	1,182.52	1,445.30	1,708.08	1,970.87	2,365.04	2,759.21
Llangelynnin	784.10	914.78	1,045.47	1,176.15	1,437.52	1,698.88	1,960.25	2,352.30	2,744.35
Llangywer	794.52	926.94	1,059.36	1,191.78	1,456.62	1,721.46	1,986.30	2,383.56	2,780.82
Llanllechid	785.99	916.99	1,047.99	1,178.99	1,440.99	1,702.99	1,964.98	2,357.98	2,750.98
Llanllfni	792.73	924.86	1,056.98	1,189.10	1,453.34	1,717.59	1,981.83	2,378.20	2,774.57
Llannor	784.64	915.41	1,046.19	1,176.96	1,438.51	1,700.05	1,961.60	2,353.92	2,746.24
Llanrug	788.39	919.79	1,051.19	1,182.59	1,445.39	1,708.19	1,970.98	2,365.18	2,759.38
Llanuwchllyn	793.34	925.56	1,057.79	1,190.01	1,454.46	1,718.90	1,983.35	2,380.02	2,776.69
Llanwnda	790.21	921.91	1,053.61	1,185.31	1,448.71	1,712.11	1,975.52	2,370.62	2,765.72
Llanycil	785.49	916.40	1,047.32	1,178.23	1,440.06	1,701.89	1,963.72	2,356.46	2,749.20
Llanystumdwy	785.85	916.82	1,047.80	1,178.77	1,440.72	1,702.67	1,964.62	2,357.54	2,750.46
Maentwrog	787.52	918.77	1,050.03	1,181.28	1,443.79	1,706.29	1,968.80	2,362.56	2,756.32
Mawddwy	784.50	915.25	1,046.00	1,176.75	1,438.25	1,699.75	1,961.25	2,353.50	2,745.75
Nefyn	797.83	930.80	1,063.77	1,196.74	1,462.68	1,728.62	1,994.57	2,393.48	2,792.39
Pennal	792.96	925.12	1,057.28	1,189.44	1,453.76	1,718.08	1,982.40	2,378.88	2,775.36
Penrhyndeudraeth	804.19	938.22	1,072.25	1,206.28	1,474.34	1,742.40	2,010.47	2,412.56	2,814.65
Pentir	793.87	926.19	1,058.50	1,190.81	1,455.43	1,720.06	1,984.68	2,381.62	2,778.56
Pistyll	786.49	917.57	1,048.65	1,179.73	1,441.89	1,704.05	1,966.22	2,359.46	2,752.70
Porthmadog	792.12	924.14	1,056.16	1,188.18	1,452.22	1,716.26	1,980.30	2,376.36	2,772.42
Pwllheli	801.39	934.95	1,068.52	1,202.08	1,469.21	1,736.34	2,003.47	2,404.16	2,804.85
Talsarnau	795.66	928.27	1,060.88	1,193.49	1,458.71	1,723.93	1,989.15	2,386.98	2,784.81
Trawsfynydd	790.30	922.02	1,053.73	1,185.45	1,448.88	1,712.32	1,975.75	2,370.90	2,766.05
Tudweiliog	782.73	913.18	1,043.64	1,174.09	1,435.00	1,695.91	1,956.82	2,348.18	2,739.54
Tywyn	797.79	930.76	1,063.72	1,196.69	1,462.62	1,728.55	1,994.48	2,393.38	2,792.28
Waunfawr	788.12	919.47	1,050.85	1,181.18	1,444.89	1,707.59	1,970.30	2,364.36	2,758.42

Treth Cyngor: Cyngor Gwynedd + Cyngor Cymuned + Heddlu
Council Tax : Cyngor Gwynedd + Community Council + Police

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
Aberdaron	941.15	1,098.00	1,254.86	1,411.72	1,725.44	2,039.15	2,352.87	2,823.44	3,294.01
Aberdyfi	947.71	1,105.66	1,263.61	1,421.56	1,737.46	2,053.36	2,369.27	2,843.12	3,316.97
Abergwyngregyn	942.49	1,099.57	1,256.65	1,413.73	1,727.89	2,042.05	2,356.22	2,827.46	3,298.70
Abermaw	956.47	1,115.88	1,275.29	1,434.70	1,753.52	2,072.34	2,391.17	2,869.40	3,347.63
Arthog	940.23	1,096.93	1,253.64	1,410.34	1,723.75	2,037.16	2,350.57	2,820.68	3,290.79
Bala	945.55	1,103.15	1,260.74	1,418.33	1,733.51	2,048.70	2,363.88	2,836.66	3,309.44
Bangor	989.94	1,154.93	1,319.92	1,484.91	1,814.89	2,144.87	2,474.85	2,969.82	3,464.79
Beddgelert	947.62	1,105.56	1,263.49	1,421.43	1,737.30	2,053.18	2,369.05	2,842.86	3,316.67
Betws Garmon	937.45	1,093.70	1,249.94	1,406.18	1,718.66	2,031.15	2,343.63	2,812.36	3,281.09
Bethesda	952.83	1,111.63	1,270.44	1,429.24	1,746.85	2,064.46	2,382.07	2,858.48	3,334.89
Bontnewydd	953.47	1,112.38	1,271.29	1,430.20	1,748.02	2,065.84	2,383.67	2,860.40	3,337.13
Botwnnog	937.94	1,094.26	1,250.59	1,406.91	1,719.56	2,032.20	2,344.85	2,813.82	3,282.79
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	941.04	1,097.88	1,254.72	1,411.56	1,725.24	2,038.92	2,352.60	2,823.12	3,293.64
Bryncrug	944.96	1,102.45	1,259.95	1,417.44	1,732.43	2,047.41	2,362.40	2,834.88	3,307.36
Buan	942.20	1,099.23	1,256.27	1,413.30	1,727.37	2,041.43	2,355.50	2,826.60	3,297.70
Caernarfon	968.30	1,129.68	1,291.07	1,452.45	1,775.22	2,097.98	2,420.75	2,904.90	3,389.05
Clynnog Fawr	943.43	1,100.66	1,257.90	1,415.14	1,729.62	2,044.09	2,358.57	2,830.28	3,301.99
Corris	944.06	1,101.40	1,258.75	1,416.09	1,730.78	2,045.46	2,360.15	2,832.18	3,304.21
Criccieth	955.75	1,115.05	1,274.34	1,433.63	1,752.21	2,070.80	2,389.38	2,867.26	3,345.14
Dolbenmaen	942.43	1,099.51	1,256.58	1,413.65	1,727.79	2,041.94	2,356.08	2,827.30	3,298.52
Dolgellau	958.56	1,118.32	1,278.08	1,437.84	1,757.36	2,076.88	2,396.40	2,875.68	3,354.96
Dyffryn Ardudwy	947.65	1,105.60	1,263.54	1,421.48	1,737.36	2,053.25	2,369.13	2,842.96	3,316.79
Y Felinheli	949.41	1,107.65	1,265.88	1,424.12	1,740.59	2,057.06	2,373.53	2,848.24	3,322.95
Ffestiniog	968.83	1,130.30	1,291.77	1,453.24	1,776.18	2,099.12	2,422.07	2,906.48	3,390.89
Y Ganllwyd	954.61	1,113.72	1,272.82	1,431.92	1,750.12	2,068.33	2,386.53	2,863.84	3,341.15
Harlech	945.60	1,103.20	1,260.80	1,418.40	1,733.60	2,048.80	2,364.00	2,836.80	3,309.60
Llanaelhaearn	954.37	1,113.44	1,272.50	1,431.56	1,749.68	2,067.81	2,385.93	2,863.12	3,340.31
Llanbedr	952.95	1,111.78	1,270.60	1,429.43	1,747.08	2,064.73	2,382.38	2,858.86	3,335.34
Llanbedrog	946.57	1,104.33	1,262.09	1,419.85	1,735.37	2,050.89	2,366.42	2,839.70	3,312.98
Llanberis	947.59	1,105.52	1,263.45	1,421.38	1,737.24	2,053.10	2,368.97	2,842.76	3,316.55
Llandwrog	955.04	1,114.21	1,273.39	1,432.56	1,750.91	2,069.25	2,387.60	2,865.12	3,342.64
Llandygai	944.83	1,102.31	1,259.78	1,417.25	1,732.19	2,047.14	2,362.08	2,834.50	3,306.92
Llanddeiniolen	935.83	1,091.81	1,247.78	1,403.75	1,715.69	2,027.64	2,339.58	2,807.50	3,275.42
Llandderfel	940.47	1,097.22	1,253.96	1,410.71	1,724.20	2,037.69	2,351.18	2,821.42	3,291.66
Llanegryn	949.42	1,107.66	1,265.89	1,424.13	1,740.60	2,057.08	2,373.55	2,848.26	3,322.97
Llanelltyd	946.32	1,104.04	1,261.76	1,419.48	1,734.92	2,050.36	2,365.80	2,838.96	3,312.12
Llanengan	946.31	1,104.02	1,261.74	1,419.46	1,734.90	2,050.33	2,365.77	2,838.92	3,312.07
Llanfair	945.99	1,103.66	1,261.32	1,418.99	1,734.32	2,049.65	2,364.98	2,837.98	3,310.98
Llanfihangel y Pennant	946.47	1,104.22	1,261.96	1,419.71	1,735.20	2,050.69	2,366.18	2,839.42	3,312.66
Llanfrothen	945.31	1,102.86	1,260.41	1,417.96	1,733.06	2,048.16	2,363.27	2,835.92	3,308.57
Llangelynnin	941.06	1,097.90	1,254.75	1,411.59	1,725.28	2,038.96	2,352.65	2,823.18	3,293.71
Llangywer	951.48	1,110.06	1,268.64	1,427.22	1,744.38	2,061.54	2,378.70	2,854.44	3,330.18
Llanllechid	942.95	1,100.11	1,257.27	1,414.43	1,728.75	2,043.07	2,357.38	2,828.86	3,300.34
Llanllyfni	949.69	1,107.98	1,266.26	1,424.54	1,741.10	2,057.67	2,374.23	2,849.08	3,323.93
Llanor	941.60	1,098.53	1,255.47	1,412.40	1,726.27	2,040.13	2,354.00	2,824.80	3,295.60
Llanrug	945.35	1,102.91	1,260.47	1,418.03	1,733.15	2,048.27	2,363.38	2,836.06	3,308.74
Llanuwchllyn	950.30	1,108.68	1,267.07	1,425.45	1,742.22	2,058.98	2,375.75	2,850.90	3,326.05
Llanwnda	947.17	1,105.03	1,262.89	1,420.75	1,736.47	2,052.19	2,367.92	2,841.50	3,315.08
Llanycil	942.45	1,099.52	1,256.60	1,413.67	1,727.82	2,041.97	2,356.12	2,827.34	3,298.56
Llanystumdwy	942.81	1,099.94	1,257.08	1,414.21	1,728.48	2,042.75	2,357.02	2,828.42	3,299.82
Maentwrog	944.48	1,101.89	1,259.31	1,416.72	1,731.55	2,046.37	2,361.20	2,833.44	3,305.68
Mawddwy	941.46	1,098.37	1,255.28	1,412.19	1,726.01	2,039.83	2,353.65	2,824.38	3,295.11
Nefyn	954.79	1,113.92	1,273.05	1,432.18	1,750.44	2,068.70	2,386.97	2,864.36	3,341.75
Pennal	949.92	1,108.24	1,266.56	1,424.88	1,741.52	2,058.16	2,374.80	2,849.76	3,324.72
Penrhyndeudraeth	961.15	1,121.34	1,281.53	1,441.72	1,762.10	2,082.48	2,402.87	2,883.44	3,364.01
Pentir	950.83	1,109.31	1,267.78	1,426.25	1,743.19	2,060.14	2,377.08	2,852.50	3,327.92
Pistyll	943.45	1,100.69	1,257.93	1,415.17	1,729.65	2,044.13	2,358.62	2,830.34	3,302.06
Porthmadog	949.08	1,107.26	1,265.44	1,423.62	1,739.98	2,056.34	2,372.70	2,847.24	3,321.78
Pwllheli	958.35	1,118.07	1,277.80	1,437.52	1,756.97	2,076.42	2,395.87	2,875.04	3,354.21
Talsarnau	952.62	1,111.39	1,270.16	1,428.93	1,746.47	2,064.01	2,381.55	2,857.86	3,334.17
Trawsfynydd	947.26	1,105.14	1,263.01	1,420.89	1,736.64	2,052.40	2,368.15	2,841.78	3,315.41
Tudweiliog	939.69	1,096.30	1,252.92	1,409.53	1,722.76	2,035.99	2,349.22	2,819.06	3,288.90
Tywyn	954.75	1,113.88	1,273.00	1,432.13	1,750.38	2,068.63	2,386.88	2,864.26	3,341.64
Waunfawr	945.08	1,102.59	1,260.11	1,417.62	1,732.65	2,047.67	2,362.70	2,835.24	3,307.78

Agenda Item 10

MEETING	COUNCIL
DATE	14 MAY 2015
TITLE	AMENDING THE OFFICERS SCHEME OF DELEGATION
PWRPAS	To amend and report on changes to the Officers Scheme of Delegation following the re-structuring of the Councils senior management.
RECOMMENDATION	That the Council accepts the report, amends the Scheme of Delegation to Officers in accordance with the report and delegates power to the Head of Legal Services to make consequential editorial changes to the Constitution
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr. Dyfed Edwards, Council Leader
AUTHOR	Iwan G D Evans – Head of Legal Services – Monitoring Officer.

Introduction

As a consequence of the re-structuring of the Human Resources and Strategic and Improvement Departments in order to create the Corporate Support Department it is necessary to revise the scheme of delegation in response to the new structure. In the same vein changes are needed to provide clarity in relation to the Head of Finance following the re-structuring. Appendix 1 sets out the changes to the scheme. Some of the Changes are in relation to Cabinet functions and these have already been actioned and are reported on for information. The Democratic Services Committee has also designated the Head of Corporate Support to be the statutory Head of Democratic Services. Delegated power is also sought to make editorial changes to the Constitution in order to ensure that these changes are reflected throughout the document.

Recommendation

That the Council accepts the report, amends the Scheme of Delegation to Officers in accordance with the report and delegates power to the Head of Legal Services to make consequential editorial changes to the Constitution.

SECTION 13 PART 3

3. Head of Corporate Support

In the "Scheme of Delegation to Committees" in Appendix 3 to Section 13 of the Constitution, it is noted where functions that are not the responsibility of the Executive have been delegated to Chief Officers. Where no chief officer has been named in that document, the power has not been delegated rather it has been reserved by the committee.

Functions delegated by the Council

- 3.1 To act as Head of Democratic Services.
- 3.2 The right to authorise members to attend seminars or outside conferences that are not on the approved list.
- 3.3 To determine, on behalf of the employer, stage 1 of an appeal under the internal dispute resolution procedure of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Functions delegated by the Cabinet

- 3.4 To act on a day to day basis and within the scheme in the following areas:-
 - Improvement Programme
 - Priorities
 - Policy overview
 - Single Integrated Plan
 - Procurement
 - Scrutiny
 - Research
 - Community Safety
 - Democratic service
 - Equality plan.
 - Language policy.
 - Translation
 - Internal and External Communications
 - Cabinet Support

- Work terms and conditions
 - Industrial relations
 - Staff training and development
 - Recruitment and appointment procedure
 - Employer's responsibility relating to health and safety matters
 - Printing
- 3.5 To be the proper officer for signing applications for checks with the Criminal Records Bureau.
- 3.6 To decide on re-grading applications (to be discharged through the job evaluation procedure).
- 3.7 The right to give consent under Section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (the use of dispersal orders).
- 3.8 To exercise the Council's powers under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in relation to appointing members to serve on committees.

5. Head of Finance Department

In the "Scheme of Delegation to Committees" in Appendix 3 to Section 13 of the Constitution, it is noted where functions that are not the responsibility of the Executive have been delegated to Chief Officers. Where no chief officer has been named in that document, the power has not been delegated rather it has been reserved by the committee.

Functions Delegated by Council

- 5.1 To be the proper officer for the purpose of Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 and Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Functions Delegated by Cabinet

- 5.2 To act on a day to day basis and within the scheme in the following areas:-
- Internal Audit
 - Accountancy and **Budgeting**
 - Risk Management and Insurance
 - The Pension Scheme and the (Pension Fund **including the investment strategy**)
 - Treasury Management (the **Councils** investments)
 - Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates
 - Housing Benefits and Council Tax Reductions
 - Payments
 - Income and creditors
 - Payroll
 - Information Technology.
- 5.3 To be the proper officer for the purposes of Section 115 and 146 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 5.4 The right to sign a certificate that contracts comply with the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997.
- 5.5 To authorise the write-off of debts up to the amounts noted in the Financial Procedure Rules.
- 5.6 To be the Authorising Officer for the purposes of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and may authorise other officers within their service similarly to be an Authorised Officer.

Agenda Item 11

MEETING OF	THE COUNCIL
DATE	14 May 2015
TITLE OF THE REPORT	THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	To review the Council's Political Balance
RECOMMENDATION	Allocation of seats on the Council's Committees
AUTHOR	Councillor Dyfed Edwards
RELEVANT OFFICER	Head of Democratic Services

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As a result of the by-election in ward Cadnant, Caernarfon, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	35
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	13
Labour	5
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	2
Total	75

2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

2.1 To remind members, the four main rules included in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in relation to the allocation of seats are noted here:-

2.2 (a) Every seat on a committee cannot be allocated to the same political group;

(b) The majority of seats on a committee must be allocated to a political group if the number of persons who are members of that group constitute a majority of the Council's members;

(c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on ordinary committees allocated to each political group will be the same as the number of all seats that members of that group has on the Council;

(ch) Subject to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on a committee allocated to each political group will be the same proportion of seats on the committee as the number of seats that members of that group has on the Council.

2.3 In order to ensure that these rules are adhered to, the Council has been dealing with committees in different blocks in the past. Also, this makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.2 above is adhered to.

3. CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 3.1 The change to the political balance means that the Labour Group gains a seat on the Audit Community at the expense of the Plaid Cymru Group.
- 3.2 It also means that the Labour Group gains a seat on the Language Committee at the expense of the Plaid Cymru Group which loses a seat on the Language Committee.
- 3.3 It also means that the Labour Group gains a seat on the Pensions Committee at the expense of the Plaid Cymru Group which loses a seat on the Pensions Committee.

(See **Appendix A**)

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to:

- discuss and agree to the change in the allocation of seats on the committees as noted in 3.1 – 3.3 above in accordance with the agreement of the Business Group.

APPENDIX A

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Corporate	9	4	3	1	1	
Communities	8	4	3	1	1	1
Services	9	4	3	1		1
Audit	8	5	3	2		

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Democratic Services	7	4	3	1		
Language	7	4	3	1		
Planning	7	3	3	1	1	
Central Licensing	7	4	3			1
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1		1
Appointment of Principal Officers	7	4	2	1	1	

Number of seats	72	37	27	10	4	4	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	2	2	1	1	1	
Local Consultative Joint Committee	6	2	2	1		
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1		
SACRE	3	2	2			

Total seats	90	47	34	13	5	5	194
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Agenda Item 12

MEETING	Full Council
DATE	14 May 2015
SUBJECT	Annual Report from the Head of Democratic Services on behalf of the Democratic Services Committee with regards to support for members
PURPOSE	To submit an update to members regarding the support available and developments realised and those in progress.
AUTHORS	Councillor Lesley Day Chair – Democratic Services Committee
RELEVANT OFFICER	Geraint Owen Head of Democratic Services

1. Under the new 2011 Local Government (Wales) Measure, the Democratic Services Committee is responsible for specific matters (Under Section 11), as follows:
 - Fulfil the local authority's role to appoint a Head of Democratic Services
 - Review the support available with regards to staff, buildings and other resources available to the Head of Democratic Services, in order to ensure they are sufficient for the requirements of the role
 - Produce a report, at least annually, to be presented to the Full Council in relation to the above.
2. As you are aware, two departments within the Council were amalgamated at the beginning of 2015/16 and Geraint Owen was appointed as Head of the Corporate Support Department. The Democratic Services Committee, in its meeting on the 10th March 2015 decided that the Head of the new Department would be appointed to the role of Head of Democratic Services. As the outgoing Chair of Democratic Services, I would like to pay a personal tribute to Mr Geraint George for the way he undertook that role since the inception of the Democratic Services Committee and to wish Mr Geraint Owen every success in his new role.
3. On 17 July 2014, a report was submitted to the Full Council outlining the support available for the Head of Democratic Services and elected members, including the support which was being developed.
4. The following provides an update of the current situation with regards to support for members.
 - A. **Supporting effective communication?**
 1. **Information / Workshops/ Consultation** – Once again this year, several workshops have been held for Elected Members, notably including vital workshops on the Financial Strategy, led by the Cabinet Member for Finance. The workshops proved particularly valuable in establishing a significant degree of

shared understanding on the issues related to the Financial Strategy, prior to the discussion of the issue at the Full Council. The informal feedback from members was overwhelmingly positive although there were some concerns that their timing meant that it was difficult for councillors who have work commitments to attend. This has been noted and will inform any future arrangements.

2. **Champions** – A generic job description for the “champions role” is in place and the following have been appointed:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Older People | Selwyn Griffiths |
| • Carers | Eryl Jones Williams |
| • Autism | Elin Walker Jones |
| • Member Development | Chair of Democratic Services
Committee (Lesley Day) |
| • Scrutiny | Chair of Scrutiny Committee (Peter
Read) |
| • Disability | Peter Read |
| • Poverty Prevention | Brian Jones |
| • The Welsh Language | Craig ab Iago |
| • Voice of Children and You People | Gethin Glyn Williams |
| • Equality and Diversity | Gwen Griffith |
| • Fairtrade | R Hefin Williams |
| • Biodiversity | Angela Russell |
| • Sustainability | Aled Evans |
| • Small Businesses | Sian Gwenllian |

3. **Area Forums** – Following the review undertaken in 2013/14 the Area Forums have continued in the same form during 2014/15. The four Area Forums (Bangor / Ogwen, Gwyrfai, Dwyfor (Area Committee) and Meirionnydd) have been operational during 2014/15 and overall, they were seen mostly as a success.

4. **Electronic Information and Communication** - Every elected member has received the offer and the opportunity to receive an i-pad. Over the last few years basic training on how to use it, further sessions on how to make better use of the i-pad and/or 1:1 sessions with the elected members have been offered to those members who wished to participate. A number of members have requested further training to make better use of the ipad and develop their skills, and arrangements have been made to undertake a pilot of such training.

By now, nearly 70 of the 75 members have received an i-pad to assist them with their work as elected members and a substantial number use them as their main method of communication and they report that they receive information far more easily and in a timely manner through the i-pad.

Some elected members have no i-pad provision and others have made specific requests to receive paper copies of the documentation for some committees. Since implementing the system we have seen a gradual increase in the number of

members who request paper copies despite the fact that they have an i-pad and we are keeping an eye on the situation.

It seems that the technical difficulties with the ipads are decreasing, however, if members do have some difficulties it is crucial for members to contact the IT Help Desk on 01286 679 114 for assistance.

5. **Information Bulletins** – During the past year, a total of 333 main articles were published in *Rhaeadr*, which corresponds on average to 28 articles a month. These articles usually contain information about what the Cabinet and Individual Cabinet members are doing, member support issues, what is happening more widely within the Council (latest news/press releases) and matters within wards (road works / disposal of properties / planning etc.) In addition, information on matters such as committee agendas and cabinet members decisions are published every few days. On average, the main articles published receive 875 views every month. This means that the Councillors who have access to the web, on average click into around 12 articles each per month.

Based on the review undertaken last year it was decided to continue to publish *Rhaeadr* every fortnight for an additional year and to fund it from a one-off budget for that year.

6. **Cabinet Members' Reports to the Council** – The system of having an individual Cabinet member reporting on an element of his / her work at every Council meeting, with an opportunity for questions remains in operation, although the current cycle of presentations has finished.
7. **Meetings between Scrutiny Chairs and the Cabinet** - The relationship between Scrutiny and Cabinet continues to develop, and is established on ensuring respect and collaboration in order to achieve the best for the residents of Gwynedd. Meetings are held between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet with the discussions being open and constructive to assess progress to date and share lessons learnt by the Scrutinisers and Cabinet. By now, the direction of scrutiny has adjusted slightly, which includes pre-scrutiny prior to matters being presented to Cabinet as well as scrutinising the effect of policies which are already operational, with continuous focus on the effect on the people of Gwynedd. This is already being reflected in the draft scrutiny programme for the coming year.
8. **Social Media** – The Full Council has, of course adopted a protocol on the use of social media by councillors to give members guidance on the opportunities and potential pitfalls in such use, and training in this field has already been offered with arrangements being made also for further training.
9. **Web-casting and Community Council websites** – In order to increase democratic accountability and public awareness of the work of the Council, one of the main developments this year has been the move to web-casting some of the Council's committees. Prior to going live with the web-castings in January 2015, training

was provided to members offering guidance on important matters to remember whilst web-casting, and a further workshop was held with Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

The Council has an annual agreement to web-cast up to 60 hours, and by now over 35 hours have been webcast from various committees. The viewing figures vary from committee to committee, but the numbers increase continuously, with many viewing the archive rather than the live webcast. The web-castings can be viewed by following the link below:

<http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/en/Council/Councillors-and-committees/Councillors-and-Committees.aspx>

At the same time the Council has been promoting the development of Town and Community Council web-sites, using a Welsh Government grant to do so. A total of 43 Town and Community Councils have received a formal grant offer via Cist Gwynedd to develop or establish their own individual website; with 20 Councils also expressing an interest in working with neighbouring councils to procure web-provision jointly. The Information Technology Department has recently prepared a specification to help with that.

B. Support for elected members to undertake their specific duties

- 10. Personal Development Interviews** – For the first time this year, members outside the Cabinet were offered the chance of a Personal Development Interview to provide an opportunity to assess their development needs. 20 members took advantage of the opportunity, and interviews were held in September and October of 2014. The outputs of the interviews have been key in shaping the training programme offered in 2015/16. Please note that a number of themes are already included in the current training programme for elected members, and the interviews have been a way of increasing awareness of some of the courses.

The Democratic Services Committee has started to assess the value of the personal development reviews, and the comments received with regards to the interviews were positive, noting that members appreciated the chance to have an informal discussion and hearing. The Committee will soon report on how the members who were part of the process have benefited, if at all.

An invitation will be sent to elected members shortly to express an interest in a Personal Development Review for the period September/October 2015.

- 11. Developments in the local area** - Some such information is included in *Rhaeadr* but this is an area requiring further attention. A joint Task Group of elected members and officers looked at the matter during 2014/15. They acknowledged that it is a vast and complex area, and the group came to a consensus on two main areas:

Big Strategic Changes eg Gwynedd Challenge – a consensus that pre-scrutiny was to be used more extensively, a commitment from Cabinet Members and officers

to contact local members who may be affected early in the process, and a requirement from individual members to respect trust and confidentiality until new proposals are ready to be published and consulted upon.

Operational Contact Arrangements – it is deficiencies in this area that causes the greatest frustration amongst members, and it was decided, amongst other things, to encourage members to make use, in the first place, of Galw Gwynedd because of the effectiveness of their tracking system for enquiries.

12. **Responding to enquiries or complaints by Local Members** - A procedure is already in place to ensure that a local member contacts the specific service first to seek an answer to an enquiry. If the answer provided is not adequate, the specific matter should be referred to the attention of the relevant Cabinet Member to ensure a response is received. Members have been urged to use the appropriate systems as it is more likely to lead to a resolution to the enquiry.
13. **Individual Member's Right in Cabinet meetings** - The local member is invited to be present if a local matter arises. It is the Cabinet Team's responsibility to identify local members for local items and the local member's responsibility to ensure that he / she is aware of the content of the Cabinet's agenda.
14. **Promoting the role of the Councillor** – The Welsh Government's White Paper, Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People, (consultation until 28 April 2015) notes that there is a lack of diversity amongst Local Government Candidates, in terms of young people, ethnic minorities and women. A national task group has been set up looking at widening participation. In Gwynedd, a small group of councillors has been asked by the Democratic Services Committee to look at the area and to prepare ideas for specific actions. The working group has started its work considering data on the extent to which the body of elected councillors in Gwynedd reflects the population as a whole. This will assist the group by providing a framework for any proposals that can be developed over the coming months. In the longer term, steps are being taken to promote understanding of democracy within local government amongst children and young people, and to raise awareness of the role they could play to make a difference. We are also looking at identifying the obstacles for young people and women within local government, in order to try and encourage these groups - which are under-represented at present - to play a more prominent role within local government in the future.
15. **Disabled Access** – During the year, Councillor Peter Read, the Disability Champion and Geraint George, the Head of Democratic Services commissioned a report on accessibility to the Council Offices. The Democratic Services Committee has approved a sensible programme of adaptations to improve this. Many of those changes, including, the provision of ramps within the Dafydd Orwig Chamber and widening doors around the suite of meeting rooms at the Headquarters, have been completed.

C. Support for scrutiny members and other committees

16. **Independent advice and guidance for the Chairs and members of the Scrutiny Committees** – The Head of Democratic Services, Senior Manager (Corporate Commissioning) and the team within the Corporate Support Department advise the committees on their work programme, hold preparatory meetings and advise on the live work programme to ensure that scrutiny adds value.

The three Scrutiny Committees have received training on their role and receive independent advice and guidance. This year, whilst planning the 2015/16 work programme, Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet Members have agreed to use pre-scrutiny more extensively and that there is regular dialogue on issues that could be dealt with in this way. Additionally, the Scrutiny Forum, considers the work programme and priority fields across all committees, with the preparatory meetings considering performance issues, and including any issues of concern into the work programme.

17. **Administer and record minutes of meetings and publish the minutes** (scrutiny and others) – The Support Team arrange and minute in brief the work of the scrutiny committees, Cabinet and other committees. The style of committee minutes are under review currently following observations in the governance review of the Audit Committee to make them more concise and clear.

Modernisation work in the chambers prepares us further for the future requirements in the context of remote attendance.

18. **Scrutiny Investigations** – The Investigations undertake work to examine the effect of policies on the ground. During 2014/15, members of the Scrutiny Committees supported by the Democratic Service Unit and the Senior Officers of the former Strategic and Improvement Department undertook several ‘start and finish’ scrutiny investigations. Here are the Scrutiny Investigations for 2014/15:

Services Scrutiny Committee

- From Hospital to Home (part 1) - completed
- From Hospital to Home (part 2) – in progress
- Welsh Language Education – in progress

Communities Scrutiny Committee

- Post 16 Education Transport - completed
- Homelessness – in progress

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

- No scrutiny investigation was undertaken by the committee during the year.

Ch. Support for all members – administrative, practical and developmental

19. **Administrative support for the political groups** - Administrative support for political groups is implemented in accordance with the Council's decision in May 2012 with the three largest groups receiving administrative support according to their size.
20. **Administering, processing and paying wages and travelling costs** - Wages and travelling costs are administered, processed and paid in line with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales's guidelines. The claiming guidelines are on the website. I will take this opportunity to remind members of the guidelines and the need for them to submit their applications on a monthly basis. Information with regards to members remuneration will be published on the Council's website annually in accordance with the guidelines.
21. **Annual reports from elected members** – The Council must make arrangements to enable elected members to produce and publish annual reports but it is not compulsory for any member to prepare such a report. A standard template to assist members in producing annual reports was produced in 2013/14 with data on the number of committees attended and the number of training sessions attended by each individual member already included. 26 elected members produced and published an annual report last year. A note will be sent out soon through *Rhaeadr* to Members containing the details for publishing the annual reports for 2014/15.
22. **A comprehensive programme of training** – As noted previously, the output of the Personal Development Reviews identified the areas of training that members wished to see and the Learning and Development Service continued with plans and adapted the training programme for members based on the work of the findings along with any other feedback they had received.

During 2014/15, a varied programme was offered to members, but attendance has been a matter of concern. The content and delivery of sessions are regularly reviewed in order to make them as useful and attractive as possible for members. Further work is ongoing at the moment to develop e-learning for members, which will, hopefully, provide an alternative option and increase participation in training.

Agenda Item 13



HM Treasury

Correspondence & Enquiry Unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Councillor Dewi Owen
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
Caemarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

April 2015

Our reference: TO2015/00059

Your reference: ER

Dear Councillor Owen,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 December about tax avoidance, which the Prime Minister has passed onto the Treasury. As it is not practical for Ministers to respond to all the letters they receive, I have been asked to reply on their behalf.

I would like to apologise for the delay you have experienced in receiving a response to your letter.

Let me assure you that the Government takes tax avoidance extremely seriously. We want a competitive tax regime with simple and fair rules to ensure that all taxpayers pay their share.

The UK system is based on internationally agreed principles, which determine how much profit each country should tax. The current international tax rules were first developed in the 1920s and now need updating.

The UK is at the forefront of multilateral action through the G20 and Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) to reform the international tax standards to prevent profit shifting by multinationals. It is essential that these issues are looked at in a comprehensive and coordinated manner to come up with effective solutions. The OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan, which was fully endorsed by G20 Leaders at their 2013 summit in St Petersburg, sets out a detailed work programme covering 15 specific items spread over a 2 year period.

As expected, the first outputs of the project have been agreed by September 2014, including work on a standardised reporting template and hybrid mismatch arrangements.

The UK is working collaboratively with the G20, OECD and other countries to take this forward with officials from HM Treasury and HMRC involved in all OECD working parties and the newly established Digital Economy Taskforce. A copy of the BEPS Action Plan is available online at: www.oecd.org/ctp/BEPSActionPlan.pdf.

To demonstrate our commitment to this project, the UK, together with Germany and France, has contributed €550,000 each to the OECD to ensure continued progress. The UK has used its Presidency of the G8 to successfully build international support for this work, and to ensure that the needs of developing countries are taken into consideration. At the G8 summit in Lough Erne in June, political leaders strongly endorsed the work by the OECD on BEPS and stated their commitment to take the necessary individual and collective action to address these issues.

This Government has been relentless in its crackdown on tax avoidance and has taken a range of action to prevent avoidance at the outset, and to detect and counter it effectively where it persists. Supported by the Government's investment of £1 billion in HMRC to tackle tax avoidance, evasion and non-compliance, HMRC has secured over £85 billion in compliance yield since the start of this Parliament. As part of this, since April 2010 HMRC has secured around £31 billion from large businesses.

As emphasised during our Presidency of the G8 we want developing countries to benefit from greater transparency and to enhance their capacity to mobilize domestic resources. The G20 has reiterated this commitment, and asked the Development Working Group (DWG) to develop a Report identifying the major sources of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting in developing countries, as well as how the G20 can help developing countries address them. The UK is a co-facilitator of the DWG's Domestic Resource Mobilisation work-stream and is closely involved in this work.

The most effective way to help developing countries collect the tax they are due is to provide technical support to their tax administrations to help them to maintain sustainable domestic taxation systems. HMRC's Capacity Building Unit is working in partnership with developing countries to provide support and assistance over the long term, including by placing experienced HMRC tax experts on the ground. This is in addition to around £20 million a year the Department for International Development spends on tax capacity building through its country programmes.

The UK also funds tax capacity projects through and works with international organisations such as the African Tax Administration Forum, the World Bank and the OECD. In November 2013, the Secretary of State for International Development announced £6 million to support projects delivered by International Organisations. This includes £3 million for expert advice, provided by the OECD and the International Finance Corporation, to enable more effective assessments of transfer pricing by multinational companies and £200 000 to establish the OECD's Tax Inspectors without Borders programme, which puts tax auditors in the field to work alongside their colleagues in developing countries to audit complex cases.

Thank you for taking the trouble to make us aware of these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E Fatkoja', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

E Fatkoja
Correspondence & Information Rights Team
HM Treasury



Ein cyf/Our ref:FM -/00290/15

Y Cynghorydd Dyfed Edwards, Y Cynghorydd Dewi Owen

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.gov.uk

20 April 2015

Dear Dewi Owen

I am writing in response to your letter on the UK Government Trident Replacement Programme and the motion passed by Gwynedd Council on 5 March.

We had a passionate debate on Trident in the Assembly on the 25 March, despite it being a non devolved matter, at which many different views were expressed. A strong, integrated defence policy and a seamless and effective defence capability are vital to the security of the United Kingdom and that is why the responsibility remains at the UK level.

The Welsh Government is supportive of the call for additional investment in services to support the people of Wales especially the vulnerable but it is important to note changes in the budget of the Ministry of Defence do not automatically result in changes to Welsh Government funding. There are no guarantees the funds saved by not renewing Trident would automatically increase investment in public services in Wales.

While the international community has yet to remove nuclear weapons from the planet, it remains important for the UK to pursue a policy on multi-lateral disarmament and non-proliferation. There are strong and differing views and a serious debate needs to take place on the UK defence requirements during the period up to the next strategic defence and security review which will examine all capabilities, including nuclear.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cyng Dewi Owen
Eirianroberts3@gwynedd.gov.uk

May 2015

Eich cyf . Your ref
Ein cyf . Our ref TO/EH/01476/15

Dear Cllr Owen

Thank you for your letters of 27 March addressed to the First Minister and the Minister for the Economy, Science and Transport regarding the campaign to rebuild the rail link between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth. I apologise for the delay in you receiving this response, it is due to an administration error.

The support for this proposal is noted. Rail infrastructure is not devolved to the Welsh Government and funding provided for new rail infrastructure is provided by the UK Government. That said, the Welsh Government has a key role to play in informing Network Rail's priorities in Wales and this is reflected in the priorities we set out for Network Rail which inform the development of the Wales Route Study. We remain committed to working with Network Rail and others to investigate the available opportunities.

Gareth Morgan
Deputy Director of Public Transport Division
Department for the Economy, Science & Transport

Parc Cathays
Caerdydd
CF10 3NQ

Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ffôn • Tel: 029 20826252
GTN: 1208 6252
E-bost • Email: gr.morgan@wales.gsi.gov.uk