

# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 5 :THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020 AND RELEVANT AUDIT

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## **DECISION**

(a) That the Joint Committee accepts, notes and approves the information in the appendices to the report, namely -

- 'ISA260' report by Deloitte on behalf of Auditor General for Wales;
- Statement of accounts 2019/20 (following audit), with the late amendments noted in the meeting as requested by the external auditors, following the Statement release to Joint Committee members.

(b) That the Chair of the meeting, along with Gwynedd Council Head of Finance (as GwE Statutory Finance Officer), electronically sign the Representation Letter (Appendix 1 to the Auditor General for Wales report) once the information in the appendices has been considered by the Joint Committee.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Deloitte, the external auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales, is auditing GwE's Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, as presented to the 15 July 2020 meeting of the Joint Committee. Therefore, this meeting of the Joint Committee needed to discuss the information in the 'ISA260' report by the Auditor General for Wales, which elaborated on the main findings by Deloitte, together with the final version (following audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20.

Once the Joint Committee had considered the above, the meeting Chair together with Gwynedd Council Head of Finance (as GwE's Statutory Finance Officer), were required to electronically sign the Representation Letter (Appendix 1 to the Auditor General for Wales report).

Following the publication of the Joint Committee programme, the external auditors informed us that GwE's accounts, as an employer in Gwynedd's Pension Fund, needed to reflect the general pricing uncertainty related to property investment funds in the Pension

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Fund's asset portfolio on 31 March 2020.

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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.

Statutory Officers were consulted for their views, which have been included in the report.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 6 :BUDGET - QUARTER 1 MONITORING

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## **DECISION**

To accept the report.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The need to update Joint Committee members on the latest financial review of GWE's budget for the 2020/21 financial year, also explaining the reasons behind the main variations foreseen.

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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.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 7 :INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - GWE TRAVELLING EXPENSES

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## **DECISION**

(a) That the Joint Committee confirms that it is certain that GwE:

- Follows the change in policy by Gwynedd Council since July 2018;
- Supports the requirement for GwE managers to review travelling expenses claims.

(b) To ask GwE's Managing Director, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Head of Finance at Gwynedd Council, to review the governance arrangements and report back to the Joint Committee.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The Joint Committee needed assurance that GwE has been complying with Gwynedd Council's policy for repaying travelling expenses, where officers claim reimbursement only for the number of business miles travelled in addition to the number of miles travelled between the home and place of work/place of work and home after consultation with Gwynedd Council's Human Resources (HR) Department and reaching a full agreement with that department. Furthermore, assurance was needed that GwE has addressed the mitigation measure arising from the Internal Audit Report, i.e. 'Remind managers to review travelling expenses claims'.

Given that GwE is developing and changing, the Joint Committee was also of the opinion that it was now timely to consider reviewing its governance arrangements.

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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.

Consultation was held with the Human Resources Department, Gwynedd Council, GwE Staff and GwE Management Board.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 8 :RISK ASSESSMENTS: OFFICES, SCHOOL VISITS AND STAFF

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## **DECISION**

- (a) To approve the content of the Risk Assessments.
- (b) Give authority for GwE Management Board to approve any changes to the Risk Assessments in response to the Covid-19 situation, in compliance with the Coronavirus regulations, Welsh Government guidelines and Health & Safety legislation, including the safe return to offices, schools and face-to-face training.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

GwE is legally obliged to manage risks in the workplace, including Covid-19 risks, in accordance with the Welsh Government's Coronavirus Regulations for businesses entitled to operate, or settings that are entitled to open to do so safely, as well as other legal obligations on employers (such as Health & Safety legislation).

As the risk assessments are live and regularly reviewed documents, GwE Management Board was authorised to approve any changes, in order to ensure that the measures remain effective and respond to the Covid-19 situation.

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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.

GwE Staff and GwE Management Board were consulted.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 9 :2020 OUTCOMES - EDUCATION MINISTER'S INDEPENDENT REVIEW

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## **DECISION**

- (a) To note the content of the paper and ensure input to the independent review.
- (b) That the Chair sends a letter at once to Qualifications Wales, WJEC, the Welsh Education Minister and Prime Minister highlighting the Joint Committee's concerns regarding the 2021 examination series, and noting that an imminent decision should be made to use centre assessed grades for the 2021 series, rather than delay any further.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The need to raise the Joint Committee's awareness of the Independent Review of the arrangements for Awarding Qualifications in Wales in 2020, and to insure input.

The Joint Committee's concern that lessons arising from the Independent Review will be too late to have any impact on the 2021 examination series.

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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.

Consultation took place with GwE Management Board and the Regional Secondary Executive Group of Head teachers.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 10 :GWE WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES

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## **DECISION**

To approve the content of the report, GwE work programme and draft priorities that will be continually reviewed in response to the Covid-19 situation and Government guidelines and regulations.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The need to present an updated report to Joint Committee members regarding GwE's work programme during the Summer Term 2020, and to outline priorities in moving forwards.

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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.

Consultation took place with GwE Management Board and the Joint Committee.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 11 :PROFESSIONAL LEARNING - GWE OFFER TO SCHOOLS SUMMER TERM 2020

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## **DECISION**

To approve the content of the report and GwE Professional Learning Officer in response to Covid-19.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The need to present information to Joint Committee Members regarding GwE's Professional Learning Offer for schools during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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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.

Consultation took place with GwE Management Board and the Joint Committee.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 12 :ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMME

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## **DECISION**

To note and accept the content of the report and support the regional approach and model in relation to the Accelerated Learning Programme for North Wales.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The need to share further information with Joint Committee members regarding the Accelerated Learning Programme for North Wales, further outlining the Accelerating Learning Resources developed in the region, inclusive of evidence of Informed Teaching and Learning Materials.

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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.

Consultation took place with GwE Management Board.

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# GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



**Date of meeting:**

**15/09/20**

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## **SUBJECT**

Item 13 :ESTYN THEMATIC REVIEW

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## **DECISION**

To note the content of the report.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The need to present information to Joint Committee Members regarding Estyn's proposed Thematic Review, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

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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.

Consultation took place with GwE Management Board.

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