

## **GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Date of Cabinet Meeting:</b>                                                                                                                                     | 13 October 2020 |
| <b>Date decision will come into force</b> and be implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution | 28 October 2020 |

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 6: NEW SCHOOL IN CRICIETH

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### **DECISION**

Permission was granted to conduct a statutory consultation, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Treferythyr to 150 and to relocate the school to an alternative site, referred to as the A497 site, on 1 September 2023, reporting back to the Cabinet following the completion of the consultation.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

On 2 April 2019, the Cabinet supported a recommendation to commence local discussions in order to identify options for the construction of a new primary school in Cricieth, due to the poor condition of Ysgol Treferythyr's existing buildings, and to include Ysgol Llanystumdwy in the initial discussions.

This report seeks permission to carry out a statutory consultation following local discussions.

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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 and the Local Member were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 7: VOLUNTARY CODE OF THE CONTROL OF TO LET SIGNS IN BANGOR

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### **DECISION**

To accept the information in the report that confirms the outcome of the monitoring work and the success of the Voluntary Code for the management of to let signs in Bangor, adopted by the Cabinet on 16 October 2018.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In accordance with the Cabinet's decision on 16 October 2018 to report back following the monitoring work.

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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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### **SUBJECT**

Item 8: COVID-19 - PREPARATIONS FOR A SECOND WAVE

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### **DECISION**

To accept the update on the arrangements that are in place in preparation for a possible second wave of Covid-19.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The latest data demonstrates that several areas in Wales are facing an increasing number of Covid-19 cases, which has led to further restrictions in specific areas.

There is a need to update the Cabinet on the arrangements that are in place for a possible second wave of Covid-19.

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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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### **SUBJECT**

Item 9: ADULT CARE SERVICES WORKFORCE PLAN

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### **DECISION**

- To approve the allocation of up to £375,000 of a one-off resource (analysed in the table in section 4 of the report) to the Adults Department 2020/21 budget, together with a further one-off resource of £390,000 to the 2021/22 budget, with the exact sum of the allocations to be reviewed at the end of the relevant two financial years.
  - To support the proposal to spend the above additional budget on the cost of employing the workforce beyond the normal staffing budget levels, in response to the inevitable increase in demand for a social care service to safeguard the people of Gwynedd and to fill staffing gaps that occur as a result of Covid19.
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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The department has identified the need to increase the size of the care workforce in the Adults field in response to workforce shortages to ensure the continuation of the service in the short term. It will enable us to plan to respond to a second wave of the Covid19 virus that may hit the county.

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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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### **SUBJECT**

Item 10: SAVINGS OVERVIEW : PROGRESS REPORT ON REALISING SAVING SCHEMES

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### **DECISION**

- To accept the information in the report and to note the progress towards realising the savings schemes for 2020/21, 2019/20 and previous years.
  - To approve the alternative plans outlined in Section 6 and Appendix 5 to replace the historic schemes that cannot be delivered.
  - It was noted that the impact of Covid-19 has contributed to a slippage in the savings programme, as the Council has given the utmost priority to safeguarding the health and lives of the people of Gwynedd in response to the crisis, which means that it was not possible to continue with the performance challenging and savings arrangements during the crisis period.
  - To support the intention of the Chief Executive and Head of Finance Department to meet with each Cabinet Member and their Head of Department, to discuss how it will be possible to resume the procedure of delivering the proposed savings, so that the Council can proceed with a proportion of the savings programme, despite the crisis.
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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Realising the individual schemes is the responsibility of the relevant Cabinet members, and Members' performance reports are presented regularly to Cabinet meetings, detailing the progress of individual savings schemes within their portfolios, and the position at the time. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Finance to keep an overview of the full picture.

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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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### SUBJECT

Item 11: REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 - END OF AUGUST REVIEW

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### DECISION

- To accept the report on the end of August 2020 review of the Revenue Budget, and consider the latest financial situation regarding the budgets of each department/service.
  - To note the financial impact of Covid-19, which is a combination of additional costs, income losses and slippage in the savings programme, as the Council has given the utmost priority to safeguarding the health and lives of the people of Gwynedd in response to the crisis, which means that it was not possible to continue with the performance challenging and savings arrangements during the crisis period.
  - To support the intention of the Chief Executive and Head of Finance Department to meet with each Cabinet Member and their Head of Department, to discuss how it will be possible to resume the procedure of delivering the proposed savings, so that the Council can proceed with a proportion of the savings programme, despite the crisis.
  - To note that there is significant overspend by the Adults, Health and Well-being Department this year, as complex details need to be clarified in Adult care; the Chief Executive has already commissioned work to obtain a better understanding of the matters and a clear response programme.
  - To note that the Chief Executive has commissioned the Children's Budget Taskforce to address serious financial matters within the Children and Families Department to get to the root of the Department's overspend, with the intention of submitting a report to the Cabinet that will detail the response plan.
  - To approve the following recommendations and financial virements (as outlined in Appendix 2).
    - On Corporate budgets, that:
      - (£250k) relating to capital costs has been transferred to a capital programme fund. - the net underspend of (£1,127k) on Corporate budgets will go towards the Council's general balances to assist in facing the financial challenge that lies ahead for the Council, especially in light of the Covid-19 crisis.-
      - That grant receipts from the Government to compensate for additional expenditure and loss of income in relation to the Covid-19 crisis will be allocated to the relevant departments in accordance with what is noted in Appendix 1.
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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

It is the Cabinet's responsibility to take action, as necessary, to secure appropriate control over the Council's budgets (e.g. approval of significant virements or supplementary budgets) and to allow the formal final accounts to be completed.

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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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### **SUBJECT**

Item 12: CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 - END OF AUGUST REVIEW

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### **DECISION**

- To accept the report on the end of August review (31 August 2020 position) of the capital programme.
  - To approve funding the revisions as shown in part 4 of the report, namely:
    - use of various sources, worth a total of £3,646,000, to fund actual slippages from 2019/20,
    - a decrease of £558,000 in the use of borrowing,
    - an increase of £7,105,000 in the use of grants and contributions,
    - no change in the use of capital receipts,
    - an increase of £53,000 in the use of revenue contributions,
    - no change in the use of the capital reserve, and
    - an increase of £283,000 in the use of renewal funds and others.
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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

It is the Cabinet's responsibility to take action, as necessary, in order to secure appropriate control over the Council's budgets (e.g. approval of significant virements or supplementary budgets) and in order to allow the formal final accounts to be completed.

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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**

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 13: 2021/22 BUDGET STRATEGY

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### **DECISION**

Approved the procedure and timetable to construct the 2021/22 Budget, while noting that financial planning is extremely challenging, and therefore if there is a funding gap to balance the 2021/22 budget, that the Council will use contingencies and reserves to mitigate resource losses in the short term.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

It is the Cabinet's responsibility to take action, as necessary, to secure appropriate control over the Council's budgets (e.g. approval of significant virements or supplementary budgets) and to plan for future Budgets.

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

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 15: APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SENIOR CORONER

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### **DECISION**

- 1) To authorise the Head of Legal Services, subject to the confirmation of the Chief Coroner and the Lord Chancellor, to determine conditions and to appoint Kate Sutherland, the existing Assistant Coroner of the North West Wales Area to act as a Senior Coroner until the authority has addressed the question of merging areas and until a permanent Senior Coroner has been appointed.
- 2) To authorise the Head of Legal Services to hold a review to consider the propriety of merging the North West Wales Coroner area with other areas, including commencing discussions with the North Wales Councils, along with any other relevant stakeholders, the Chief Coroner and the Ministry of Justice, and to emphasise the importance of having a Senior Coroner that can maintain the service through the medium of Welsh and await a report back on the findings and the way forward.

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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The existing Senior Coroner for the North West Wales Area has submitted a notice that he will retire on 30 November 2020. Gwynedd Council, as the relevant authority for the area, must appoint a Senior Coroner in his place.

An Assistant Coroner will be needed to assist while the current Assistant Coroner acts as Senior Coroner. When the Senior Coroner post becomes vacant, consideration must be given to merging the area with one or more other coroner areas before proceeding to appoint a new permanent Senior Coroner.

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

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