

GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	26 January 2021
Date decision will come into force and be implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution	10 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 6: NEW SCHOOL IN CRICIETH

DECISION

To approve the issue of statutory notices on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Treferythyr to 150, relocating the school to an alternative site referred to as the A497 site, on 1 September 2023, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

At its meeting in April 2019, the Cabinet approved the right to commence local discussions in order to identify options for the construction of a new primary school in Cricieth, due to the poor condition of Ysgol Treferythyr's existing buildings.

In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the statutory requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018), a period of statutory consultation on the proposal was held with relevant consultees between 6 November 2020 and 18 December 2020.

The report submitted highlighted the observations received during the statutory consultation period. A decision was needed on proceeding to issue a proposal following the completion of the consultation.

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

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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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Item 7: INFORMATION PLAN

DECISION

The Information Plan was adopted.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council has plans for its essential assets namely finance, people, property but information is also an essential asset in today's world. The need was expressed for a plan to set out the Council's priorities in the field over the next five years.

The plan outlined a strategic direction on how the Council would handle and manage information over the years to come.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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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Item 8: CLIMATE CHANGE

DECISION

It was resolved to establish a Climate Change Board to steer the work of formulating and acting upon a Climate Change Action Plan and provide £58,990 from the Transformation Fund in order to employ a Project Manager to coordinate the work.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Following the Council's decision to declare a climate emergency the Cabinet established a task group to consider the practical steps which could be taken to respond to that emergency.

The intention was that the task group would formulate an Action Plan and that this work would by now have been completed. In light of the Covid crisis, this work was slowed down and there is now a need to re-address the field of work to ensure an action plan is implemented as soon as possible.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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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Item 9: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RETIREMENT

DECISION

It was resolved that there was a need to recruit and appoint a Chief Executive on a permanent basis.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Chief Executive informed the Council of his intention to retire on the 31 March this year. In order to fill this post, a decision is needed in order to proceed promptly with arrangements to recruit and appoint an individual to undertake the work.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received. However, officers withdrew from the meeting for this item.

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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Item 10: REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 - END OF NOVEMBER 2020 REVIEW

DECISION

- The report on the end of November 2020 review of the Revenue Budget was accepted, and the latest financial situation regarding the budgets of each department / service was considered.
- The financial impact of Covid-19, which is a combination of additional costs, income losses and a slippage in the savings programme, was noted as the Council had given the utmost priority to safeguarding the health and lives of the people of Gwynedd in response to the crisis.
- It was noted that there was a significant overspend in the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and the Children and Families Department this year. The work of gaining a better understanding of these matters is ongoing.
- The following recommendations and financial virements (as outlined in Appendix 2) were approved.
 - On Corporate budgets, that:
 - An underspend of (£613k) relating to capital costs was transferred to the capital programme fund.
 - The net underspend of (£1,177k) on Corporate budgets will go towards the Council's general balances to assist in facing the financial challenge ahead of the Council at the end of 2020/21, 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.

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.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS

APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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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Item 11: CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW (30 NOVEMBER 2020 POSITION)

DECISION

- To accept the report on the end of November review (30 November 2020 position) of the capital programme.
- To approve the revised financing as shown in part 4 of the report, namely:
 - an increase of £2,000 in the use of borrowing,
 - an increase of £3,019,000 in the use of grants and contributions,
 - no change in the use of capital receipts,
 - an increase of £313,000 in the use of revenue contributions,
 - no change in the use of the capital reserve, and
 - a decrease of £14,000 in the use of renewal and other reserves.

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.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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: THE SAVINGS POSITION

DECISION

- i. To accept the conclusions of the Chief Executive on the individual schemes as noted in Appendix 1 and 2.
 - ii. In accordance with what was noted in Appendix 1, to move the delivery profile for schemes valued at £1,012,750 to 2022/23 and to recognise that the situation had now changed so much that it was not possible to deliver savings schemes valued at £848,040 and to eliminate them from the budget.
 - iii. To use the £1.6m provision set aside in the 2020/21 budget in order to do so, and to achieve the residual gap with the first use of savings planned for 2021/22.
 - iv. When preparing the 2021/22 budget, to agree that the delivery profile for schemes valued at £511,250 should be moved to 2022/23 and to recognise that the situation had now changed so much that it was not possible to deliver savings schemes valued at £595,450 and that £705,930 in savings should be used for the budget as noted in Appendix 2.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

At its meeting in October, the Cabinet considered a report which noted the composite position in delivering the savings, which included savings for the 2020/21 financial year. Risks associated with schemes valued at £3.4m were highlighted, and in light of the priority given to dealing with the Covid crisis, there was a risk of failing to close this gap in a short period.

It was noted that the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance Department had met Cabinet Members and the Heads of Department to discuss how it would be possible to resume the procedure of delivering the proposed savings. The report noted the findings and recommendations that derived from these meetings.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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