

GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	19 July 2022
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	3 August 2022

SUBJECT

Item 6: WELSH GOVERNMENT'S WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS

DECISION

It was agreed to proceed to submit full business cases to the Welsh Government to secure funding from the Welsh-medium Education Capital Grant scheme to deliver the purposes of the projects below:

- a) Project 1- Invest over £1.1m to increase capacity and improve the learning environment of Gwynedd Language Centres - the second phase.
- b) Project 2 - Invest over £1.5m in capital funding and £0.3m in revenue funding to increase the capacity of three schools (Llanllechid, Bro Lleu and Chwilog), in order to support Welsh communities of linguistic significance (i.e. the communities with over 70% of Welsh speakers) to thrive.

It was agreed to conduct a statutory consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog to 95, which is an increase of over 25% to the existing capacity, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and report back to the Cabinet following the completion of the consultation.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In 2021, the Welsh Government submitted a proposal inviting Local Authorities to apply for funding from the Welsh-medium Capital Grant scheme. The Welsh Government's main aim for the grant was to support investments that would facilitate growth in Welsh-medium education and the use of Welsh, aiming specifically towards projects that would make a prominent contribution to achieving the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The Education Department submitted a bid to fund two projects, and back in February confirmation was received from the Welsh Government that they had given their approval in principle to fund 100% of the capital and revenue funding towards the two projects submitted in the bid.

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 department consulted the Local Councillors and their views can be seen in the report.

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

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SUBJECT

Item 7: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

DECISION

To grant approval for the Council to undertake the 'lead authority' role for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the purpose of submitting the 'Regional Investment Plan' required by the UK Government on behalf of the six north Wales counties.

To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department - in consultation with the Head of Finance Department, the Head of Legal Services and the Chief Executive - to agree with other north Wales counties on administrative arrangements and appropriate action to protect the Council's interests.

To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department – in consultation with the Leader, the Head of Finance and the Chief Executive – to agree on the content of the 'Regional Investment Plan'.

To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department - in consultation with the Head of Finance Department, the Head of Legal Services and the Chief Executive - to establish appropriate arrangements for delivering the programme in Gwynedd.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is one of the alternative funds the UK Government established following departure from the European Union. It was noted that the financial allocation for Gwynedd had been announced as part of the north Wales allocation. In order to ensure access to the finance a 'Regional Investment Plan' needed to be submitted before 1 August 2022 outlining the priorities to use the finance and the proposal for its administration.

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 were included in the report.

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Item 8: SECOND PHASE OF THE ARFOR PROGRAMME

DECISION

To approve the second phase of the Programme as outlined in the report and authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department – in consultation with the Leader, the Head of Finance and the Chief Executive – to agree on the content of the final programme.

To agree for Gwynedd Council to lead on the second phase of the ARFOR Programme on behalf of Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire Councils in terms of managing the Welsh Government's financial agreement, realising the joint schemes within the Programme and coordinating/administrating the Programme in its entirety.

To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department - with the Head of Finance Department and the Head of Legal Services - to review and update the governance arrangements between the four counties and to submit a further report if required.

On the basis of receiving an agreement in principle from the Welsh Government on the second phase of the Programme, to allow to proceed with the appointment of an ARFOR Regional Manager.

To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department to establish appropriate arrangements for delivering the programme in Gwynedd.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Following the success of the ARFOR Programme, £11 million has been committed from the Welsh Government for the next phase of the Programme until March 2025. It was noted that the Welsh Government wished to receive an offer from Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire Councils regarding use of the budget and management of the Programme.

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 were included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 9: THE LEVELLING UP FUND

DECISION

- a) To support the intention of targeting the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund for the Bywiogi Bangor, Llewyrch o'r Llechi, and Arduwy Green Corridor projects;
 - b) To authorise the Head of Finance with the Head of Economy and Community Department and the Head of Environment to agree upon the details of the bids, to sign the applications and the offer letters if successful, for the Gwynedd Levelling Up schemes;
 - c) To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department, the Head of Environment and the Head of Finance to sign the applications and the offer letters when targeting the full funding packages to deliver these schemes.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

On 23 March 2022, the British Government announced the details of the second round of the Levelling Up Fund, which is one of a package of funds launched as a result of leaving the European Union. It was explained that the Economy and Community Department and the Environment Department have prepared three significant bids, and the Cabinet's permission is sought to submit these to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund.

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

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SUBJECT

Item 10: THE CASE FOR CHANGE : PROVISION OF NURSING PLACEMENTS AS PART OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

DECISION

The case for change was approved and to ask the Adults, Health and Well-being Department to present an Outline Strategic Business Case by October 2022, to create a public sector partnership development on a site/sites in Gwynedd, in partnership with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It was stated that the Council was already a residential care provider for the county's residents, and currently provides 50% of the entire provision, with the independent sector providing the rest. It was noted that the county's entire nursing homes provision was provided by the independent sector. It was explained that the reason for this was that it has not been legally possible for Local Authorities to provide nursing care.

It was noted that until recently, Welsh Government policies, together with the expectations of inspectors had encouraged Local Authorities to externalise their care provisions to the independent sector. However, it was stated that the Government's view had recently changed considerably. As a result, it was noted that the Council was eager to develop provisions that are as local as possible and can enable the entire range of services that individuals need, and that being a nursing care provider was an essential part of this vision.

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

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ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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

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Item 11: FUTURE OF THE JOINT PLANNING POLICY UNIT (GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY)

DECISION

It was agreed:

1. To extend the current collaboration agreement for the provision of the Joint Planning Policy Service until 31 March 2023;
2. That the collaboration agreement, and therefore the Joint Planning Policy Service and the Joint Planning Policy Committee is terminated after 31 March 2023, and that a new Planning Policy Service is created for the Gwynedd planning authority area;
3. That the new Planning Policy Service prepares an Amended Local Development Plan for the Gwynedd planning authority area only;
4. That arrangements for supporting and making decisions on the process of preparing an Amended Local Development Plan and relevant planning policy matters are drawn up for the Gwynedd planning authority area;
5. To delegate powers to the Head of Environment Department to agree on collaboration arrangements with Anglesey to ensure that the Council continues to meet the statutory requirements (and any associated work) required to monitor the Joint Local Development Plan;
6. Since this is a matter of the highest priority, the Cabinet is requested to prejudge the annual bids process and approve a bid for £70,000 from the permanent revenue budget now, to address the additional cost of establishing the Gwynedd Planning Policy Service.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It was noted that a collaboration agreement that is in place between Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council to provide the Joint Planning Policy Service, will end on 31 July 2022, and consequently a decision was needed regarding the future Service provision.

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

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ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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

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SUBJECT

Item 12: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To ensure effective and transparent performance management, a Cabinet Member is required to periodically report to the Cabinet on the performance of the field for which the Member is responsible.

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 were included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 13: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND MUNICIPAL AND GWYNEDD CONSULTANCY

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To ensure effective and transparent performance management, a Cabinet Member is required to periodically report to the Cabinet on the performance of the field for which the Member is responsible.

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 were included in the report.
