

GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	25 October 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.	9 November 2022

SUBJECT

Item 6: ANNUAL COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2021-22

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Cabinet is required to ensure effective arrangements to deal with complaints within the Council.

In accordance with the Council's Concerns and Complaints Policy, a report is submitted every six months to the Cabinet to summarise the situation and developments in respect of Complaints and Service Improvements.

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 7: DISCRETIONARY COST OF LIVING SUPPORT SCHEME

DECISION

To adopt the Discretionary Cost of Living Support Scheme.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The need to create a Scheme in order to consider an appropriate way of awarding specific payments was announced to be funded by the Welsh Government and administered by Gwynedd Council, namely

- Payments of £150 based on Council Tax
 - Funding the Supporting People Hub Network and Food Banks.
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DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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SUBJECT

Item 8: REVENUE BUDGET REPORT - END OF AUGUST 2022 REVIEW

DECISION

To accept the report on the end of August 2022 review of the Revenue Budget, and consider the latest financial position regarding the budgets of each department/service.

To note that the financial impact of Covid on some fields continued in 2022/23, although the impact is not as substantial in 2022/23 compared to the last two years, which are a combination of additional costs, income losses and a slippage in the savings programme.

To note that significant overspend is anticipated in the Adults, Health and Well-being Department, Education Department, Economy and Community Department, Highways and Municipal Department and the Housing and Property Department this year. The specific reasons that affect departments are detailed in section 5 of the report, but the impact of increased inflation and electricity prices is a particularly prominent factor.

Given the substantial overspend anticipated by the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and the Highways and Municipal Department, the Chief Executive's intention to convene a meeting with the relevant officers was noted in an attempt to get to the root of the overspend, to ensure that definitive steps are taken in an attempt to bring the situation under control before the end of the financial year, and to report to the Cabinet on the response plan.

Although it was premature to transfer money from funds until the financial position is finalised at the end of the year, it is recommended that the procedure in terms of using funds to fund the financial deficit at the time will be:

- firstly, use School Balances to fund the increase in electricity prices in schools
- secondly, use £4.5 million from the post-Covid recovery arrangements fund established to fund the associated financial challenges that face the Council
- finally, finance the rest from the Financial Strategy Reserve.

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).

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

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Item 9: SAVINGS OVERVIEW REPORT - END OF AUGUST 2022 REVIEW

DECISION

To accept the information in the report and to note the progress towards realising the savings schemes for 2022/23, 2021/22 and previous years.

To note that the impact of Covid-19 had contributed to a slippage in the savings programme, as the Council had given the utmost priority to safeguarding the health and lives of the people of Gwynedd in response to the crisis.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Realising the individual schemes is the responsibility of the relevant Cabinet members who challenge the performance of the relevant departments, including the progress of the savings schemes. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Finance to maintain an overview of the full picture.

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

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Item 10: CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 - END OF AUGUST REVIEW

DECISION

To accept the report on the end of August review (31 August 2020 position) of the capital programme.

To approve the revised financing as presented in part 4 of the report, as follows:

- use of various sources, worth a total of £26,751,000, to fund actual slippages from 2021/22,
 - no change in the use of borrowing,
 - an increase of £7,396,000 in the use of grants and contributions,
 - no change in the use of capital receipts,
 - an increase of £2,156,000 in the use of revenue contributions,
 - an increase of £13,000 in the use of the capital reserve, and
 - an increase of £538,000 in the use of renewal and other reserves.
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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).

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