

# Complete Agenda

# CABINET

## CYNGOR GWYNEDD

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>DATE</b>          | Thursday, 20th July, 2023                                  |
| <b>TIME</b>          | 10.00 am   |
| <b>LOCATION</b>      | Cyfarfod Rhithiol / Virtual Meeting                        |
| <b>CONTACT POINT</b> | Rhodri Jones<br>01286 679256<br>cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru |

### GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

| <b>Members</b>     |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Dyfrig Siencyn     | Leader of the Council                            |
| Nia Wyn Jeffreys   | Deputy Leader                                    |
| Craig ab Iago      | Cabinet Member for Housing                       |
| Beca Brown         | Cabinet Member for Education                     |
| Berwyn Parry Jones | Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC |
| Dafydd Meurig      | Cabinet Member for Environment                   |
| Dilwyn Morgan      | Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing  |
| Elin Walker Jones  | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People     |
| Ioan Thomas        | Cabinet Member for Finance                       |
| Menna Trenholme    | Cabinet Member for Corporate Support             |

## AGENDA

|   | Item  | Submitted by         | Officer  | Page   |
|---|---|----------------------|--|--------|
| 1 | APOLOGIES   |                      |  |        |
| 2 | DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST  |                      |  |        |
| 4 | MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  |                      |  |        |
| 5 | <p>UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: COMMITMENTS FROM THE GWYNEDD ALLOCATION</p> <p>Appendix 1 and 2 are separate for Cabinet members only.</p> <p>Both appendices are exempt under paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p> <p>There is an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It is also acknowledged that there are occasions, in order to protect the financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information need to be discussed without being publicised. The appendices to the report deal specifically with financial and business matter and related discussions. Publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the applicants and undermine the confidence of others in sharing sensitive information for consideration. This would be contrary to the</p> | Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn | Dylan Griffiths (Shared Prosperity Fund North Wales Manager) and Siwan Lisa Evans (Manager Shared Prosperity Fund Gwynedd) | 4 - 11 |

|   |   |                      |   |            |
|---|---|----------------------|---|------------|
|   | wider public interest of securing the best overall outcome. For those reasons I am satisfied that the matter should be exempt in the public interest.   |                      |   |            |
| 6 | ASSISTANT HEAD - TRANSPORT  | Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn | Dafydd Gibbard<br>(Chief Executive)   | 12 -<br>14 |
| 7 | <p><b>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>The Chairman shall propose that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion on the following items due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. – Information relating to the Financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that Information).</p> <p>There is an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It is also acknowledged that there are occasions, in order to protect the financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information need to be discussed without being publicised. The report deals specifically with financial and business matters and related discussions. Publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the Council. This would be contrary to the wider public interest of securing the best overall outcome. For those reasons I am satisfied that the matter should be exempt in the public interest.</p> |                      |   |            |
| 8 | <p><b>BANGOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING CENTRE</b></p> <p>(Documents for Cabinet members only)</p>  | Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn | Llŷr Beaumont Jones<br>(Assistant Head of Economy and Community) and Lowri Roberts<br>(Estates Manager, Housing and Property) |            |

# Agenda Item 5

## CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



### Report to a meeting of the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Date of meeting:</b> | 20 July 2023   |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>  | Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn,<br>Council Leader   |
| <b>Contact officer:</b> | Dylan Griffiths, Economy Development Service<br>Manager<br><br>Siwan Evans, Shared Prosperity Fund Manager:<br>Gwynedd   |
| <b>Contact details:</b> | <a href="mailto:dylanrhysgriffiths@gwynedd.llyw.cymru">dylanrhysgriffiths@gwynedd.llyw.cymru</a><br>01286 679611   <a href="#">MSTeams</a><br><br><a href="mailto:siwanlisaevans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru">siwanlisaevans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru</a><br>01286 679394   <a href="#">MSTeams</a> |
| <b>Title of Item:</b>   | UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND:<br>COMMITMENTS FROM THE GWYNEDD ALLOCATION  |

#### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. To agree to commit a total of £21,352,966 of Gwynedd's allocation from the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund to the schemes listed in Appendix 1 of the report in accordance with the amounts noted.
- 1.2. To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department, in consultation with the Head of Legal Service, the Head of Finance Department and the Chief Executive, to authorise the release of offer letters to the schemes subject to completing final checks and receiving the approval of the Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Panel to any special conditions.
- 1.3. To agree to establish four Enabling Funds (with a total budget of £6,131,000) to distribute smaller amounts of Shared Prosperity Fund monies to enterprises and communities in the county and to authorise the implementation of three funds under the management of Cyngor Gwynedd.
- 1.4. To ask the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee to carry out an investigation into the work area of supporting community / social enterprises to increase the Council's understanding and to ensure that the efforts of the organisations assimilate and reinforce each other.

## 2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. At the Cabinet [meeting on 24 January 2023 \(item 6\)](#), a procedure was established to administrate the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) in Gwynedd and to determine applications for funding from the Fund within the county.
- 2.2. A 'Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Panel' was established (which included the Council Leader and Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Chief Executive, the Head of Economy and Community Department, the Head of Finance Department and the Head of Legal Services) to confirm which schemes would be selected to receive funding.
- 2.3. It was noted that Elected Members on the Panel would exclude themselves from discussing a scheme located within their constituency or where they had a personal interest in the application. It was also noted that consideration should be given to refer such a situation to the Cabinet for a decision in order to ensure propriety and transparency.
- 2.4. In accordance with the above, the Panel has decided to refer their recommendations, along with which schemes should be selected to receive funding to the attention of the Cabinet for a decision.

## 3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. The [prospectus of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) (UKSPF) was published on 13 April 2022. The Fund will distribute £2.6 billion across the UK by March 2025.
- 3.2. All parts of the UK will receive some of the funding, which has been allocated to individual areas based on a formula.
- 3.3. In England, funding will go directly to individual counties to be used or distributed to other organisations. In Wales, it is a requirement for local areas to collaborate with others within their region (North Wales in Gwynedd's case) and that one 'lead authority' is accountable for the funding on behalf of the region. Cyngor Gwynedd is the 'lead authority' for North Wales.
- 3.4. Gwynedd's allocation for the period up to March 2025 is £24.4 million. £2.9 million of the total has been ring-fenced to support adults to improve their numeracy skills<sup>1</sup> (the Multiply Programme) with the rest of the allocation (£21.5 million) available for other Fund priorities and to be managed / administrated (Core SPF).
- 3.5. The allocation for Gwynedd is part of £126.46 million that has been allocated to the North Wales counties. It should be noted that the

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<sup>1</sup> This amount has been reduced by £1.3 million following a decision by the UK Government to allow the redirection of the amount to other parts of the Shared Prosperity Fund.

allocation is for the period in its entirety, but the UK Government confirms funding on an annual basis. In practice, it should also be noted that schemes receiving funding from the Fund will need to complete their activity by the end of 2024 to allow the closure of the Fund in good time before 31 March 2025.

- 3.6. Although there is emphasis on regional collaboration in the context of the UKSPF, the task is to make a difference to the lives of *local* residents, and each county in North Wales has agreed:
- that areas need to benefit in line with the value of their individual allocation;
  - it is a matter for local authorities to decide on the use of their allocation; and
  - local areas need to choose to be part of schemes that wish to operate across the counties.

### The application process

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- 3.7. North Wales counties agreed that funding should be allocated via competitive grants as usual (with a discretion for individual counties to choose to use alternative methods should the need arise).
- 3.8. To ensure consistency, to reduce the administration cost and to allow schemes to operate across one or more counties, one application process for SPF was established in North Wales.
- 3.9. In order to rationalise the number of schemes that directly receive SPF funding, North Wales counties also agreed that schemes should be applying for £250,000 or more SPF funding in the first instance to be eligible.
- 3.10. In parallel, in order to allocate amounts under £250,000 of SPF funding to enterprises and communities, the concept of creating 'Enabling Funds' was established to allow smaller projects to benefit from the SPF (see section 3.22 below).
- 3.11. [Details of the application process are available on the Council website](#), here is an outline of the key steps in the process:

#### Step one

Applicants submit outline applications (Step 1) summarising their scheme.

#### Step two

Counties to assess outline applications and prioritise schemes

#### Step three

Prioritised schemes submit a detailed application (Step 2)

#### Step four

Counties to assess detailed applications and confirm which schemes will receive funding

#### Step five

Release of a formal funding agreement to selected applicants.

- 3.12. Applicants were given an opportunity to submit outline applications during January / February 2023.
- 3.13. 114 outline applications were received for schemes wishing to operate in Gwynedd (45 wished to work in Gwynedd only and 68 wished to operate across more than one county, including Gwynedd). The schemes requested a total of £2.56 million of Multiply funding (87% of Gwynedd's Multiply allocation) and £49.2 million of Core SPF funding (237% of Gwynedd's Core SPF allocation).

#### The application selection process

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- 3.14. In accordance with the system established by the Cabinet in January 2023, the following steps were followed to select from amongst the brief applications that had been received:
  1. All received applications were verified by Council officers to check that the applicant and proposed activity was eligible.
  2. A workshop was held on 24 March 2023 with members of the 'Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Consultative Group' - which included stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors - to assess applications individually against published criteria and to prioritise schemes that would be appropriate / they wished to support.
  3. The assessments of the Consultative Group were verified by officers to ensure consistency in the assessment
  4. The Consultative Group's list was submitted to the attention of the Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Panel
- 3.15. The total required by the schemes prioritised by the Consultative Group for Multiply funding was within Gwynedd's allocation (£1.2 million / 41%) but the Core SPF requirement called for the vast majority of Gwynedd's allocation (£19.5 million / 94%).
- 3.16. Based on the suggestions of the Consultative Group, the Shared Prosperity Fund Gwynedd Panel resolved:
  - To invite the single eligible scheme that required Multiply funding to submit a detailed application (multi-county scheme).
  - To invite a total of 41 schemes that required Core SPF funding to submit a detailed application (23 schemes wished to operate in Gwynedd only and 18 multi-county schemes); *and ask applicants to reconsider and reduce their requested SPF funding.*
- 3.17. Following the decisions of the Panel (and the decisions of other relevant counties in the case of multi-~~Page 7~~ applications), some schemes have

been amalgamated or adapted and others have been withdrawn. As a result, 37 schemes are under consideration for the second stage of the application process.

- 3.18. 35 applications have been received. Two multi-county applications are yet to be submitted following the decisions of other counties, these applications will be addressed in accordance with procedure after they have been received.
- 3.19. The following steps were followed to select from amongst the detailed applications<sup>2</sup>:
1. The applications were verified by Council Officers who considered:
    - Suitability and circumstances of the applicant and their capability
    - Details of the application and the scheme
    - Any subsidy control implications associated with the application
    - Applicant's risk assessment
    - The scheme's risk to the Council and any measures necessary to manage it
  2. The application's scoring against the published criteria was reviewed by Council Officers to check that they continued to assimilate with Council wishes following any adaptations during the process of preparing the detailed applications.
  3. Recommendations were drawn up for the attention of the Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Panel
- 3.20. The recommendations were reviewed by the Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Panel, challenging the individual schemes and considering the pack of activities in its entirety.
- 3.21. The Panel concluded with a decision to recommend approving 34 schemes by the Cabinet, committing £1,224,276 of the Multiply funding available for Gwynedd as well as £13,997,690 of Core SPF funding.
- 3.22. Appendix 1 lists the recommended schemes together with the financial commitments and Appendix 2 includes a brief description of the individual schemes.

### Enabling Funds

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- 3.23. A number of counties in North Wales intend to establish 'Enablem Funds' in order to allocate amounts under £250,000 of SPF funding for local enterprises and communities.
- 3.24. Trough discussion, the Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Consultative Group recommended that four Funds should be established in

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<sup>2</sup> It is noted that some multi-county schemes are continuing to provide final details after receiving confirmation of other counties' wishes.



Gwynedd, reflecting the county's priorities and areas of activity that are eligible for the Shared Prosperity Fund:

- Regeneration Support Fund - Cyngor Gwynedd to manage
- Supporting Culture, Events and Living Healthily and Active Fund (Diwylliesiant Fund) - Cyngor Gwynedd to manage
- Business Support Fund - Cyngor Gwynedd to manage
- Supporting the Voluntary Sector Fund - Mantell Gwynedd to manage

3.25. Based on the above, with the agreement of the Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Panel, Cyngor Gwynedd and Mantell Gwynedd were invited to develop the Funds by providing full details in the same way as the schemes that had been submitted via the competitive process. The proposals have been verified and assessed in accordance with the process outlined in 3.18.

3.26. The Panel recommends that the Cabinet commits a further £6,131,000 of Core SPF allocation for the funds. Again, Appendix 1 lists the financial commitments and Appendix 2 includes a brief description of the individual schemes.

#### **Scrutinising the supporting community / social enterprises field of work**

3.27. The process of selecting schemes has highlighted to the Panel the need to increase the Council's understanding of the supporting community / social enterprises field of work. To this end, it is recommended to ask the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee to carry out an investigation into the area to ensure that the efforts of organisations reinforce each other.

#### **4. THE REASONING AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

4.1. The individual schemes along with the Enabling Funds offer a comprehensive package of interventions that are practical given the short period available to deliver them.

4.2. The package of 38 schemes includes 9 schemes that will operate across more than one county in North Wales where this will bring wider benefits in terms of results and savings in realisation costs.

#### **Anticipated results**

4.3. Despite the practical constraints, it is anticipated that the activity package will deliver substantial results to residents and communities, which includes:

- Providing financial aid to 961 businesses, enterprises and organisations in the county

- Supporting 400 local residents to improve their numeracy skills
- Help 3,100 homes to save energy
- Support the creation or protection of 292 jobs in the county
- Help 728 people from Gwynedd to gain a qualification
- Assist 172 local residents with health challenges to return to work

### **Equality Act (2010)**

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- 4.4. In accordance with the statutory duties under the Equality Act (2010) here, when making decisions, due consideration must be given to the need (1) to eliminate illegal discrimination; (2) promote equal opportunities and (3) develop good relations based on the protected characteristics. As the recommendation falls within decisions which can be considered strategic, the duty is to give due regard to operating in a means which is designed to reduce inequalities derived from 'socio economic' disadvantage. Every applicant is required to conduct an equality assessment (including impact on the Welsh language) of their proposal as part of the second stage of the application process and will be part of the funding agreement.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

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- 4.5. The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, economic and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act places a wellbeing duty on public bodies aimed at realising the 7 wellbeing goals of; a prosperous Wales; a resilient Wales; a healthier Wales; a more equal Wales; a Wales of more cohesive communities; a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and a globally responsible Wales. Every applicant was required to show how their scheme aligned with the principles of the Future Generations (Wales) Act during the first stage of the application process. Bearing the circumstances in mind, the recommendations are aligned with this duty.
- 4.6. Monitoring the performance of schemes against the Generations Act and maintaining an impact assessment will form part of the programme's management arrangements.

## **5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. After confirming the Cabinet's decision, to issue funding agreements to the applicants, which include special conditions if appropriate to protect the Council's interests.

6. **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

6.1. The proposals as outlined in the report have included the consultation via the Shared Prosperity Fund: Gwynedd Consultative Group.

6.2. Monitoring Officer's Observations:

*"The recommendations are the result of a detailed assessment process to establish a list of projects which could meet the requirements of the Shared Prosperity Fund. The report explains that this was undertaken in accordance with the arrangements adopted by the Cabinet in January 2023. The Terms of reference left the door open to refer the matter to the Cabinet for a final decision. The report is intended to appropriately ask the Cabinet to approve the proposals."*

6.3. Observations of the Head of Finance Department:

*"I believe that the decision sought is justified and I support the contents of the report. I am satisfied that the steps that have been taken to reach the final list which appear in the appendices are transparent and robust, and I can confirm the accuracy of the financial figures appearing in the report. Cyngor Gwynedd has received an adequate allocation to fund the schemes listed, and the main financial risk is being able to complete the projects in such a short space of time."*

# Agenda Item 6

## CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Date of meeting:</b> | 20 July 2023                     |
| <b>Cabinet member:</b>  | Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | Dafydd Gibbard – Chief Executive |
| <b>Item title:</b>      | Assistant Head - Transport       |

### Report to a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

#### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

That the Council releases £265,000 from the transformation fund to finance the position of Assistant Head of Transport for a period of 3 years to begin with.

#### 2. REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

In accordance with the procedure for approving expenditure from the Transformation Fund, any application to the fund above £100,000 is required to receive the Cabinet's formal approval.

#### 3. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

3.1 As a result of a management review, the position of Senior Transport Manager was abolished in 2019, and the view at the time was that we should try to manage without the role.

3.2 Since then, the area of work has grown and the pressure and demand on the department has increased.

3.3 The type of issues that create pressure on the department in the transport field include:

##### a) Ardudwy Green Corridor

The "Ardudwy Green Corridor" is the package of improvements to promote active travel and green travel, along the A496 corridor, from Llandecwyn to Barmouth. The objective of the Plan is to improve access to public transport (buses and trains) in Meirionnydd, improve safety and traffic control in the village of Llanbedr and develop infrastructure in order to maximise economic potential, for the whole area, from Llanbedr Airport to the future. These works include the development of the Llanbedr low speed bypass.

**b) Active travel**

As one of our strategic priorities in the Council's Plan, the Department is responsible for developing and maintaining a network of active travel routes to promote the use of cycling and walking throughout the County.

**c) Public Transport and the bus emergency scheme**

The Department is responsible for the County's bus contracts and providing quality transport to the residents of Gwynedd in a cost effective and sustainable manner. With a significant increase in fuel costs over the past year, the Department has been key to discussions with the service providers and the Welsh Government to ensure that services continue to run despite the challenge and to administer the bus emergency scheme payments.

**d) Public Transport review**

One of the strategic projects of the Council's Plan for the next five years is to review the current public transport provision with the aim of developing a public transport network that will be convenient, reliable, and reasonably priced in order to allow the residents of Gwynedd to travel easily every day of the week. This plan will also introduce new electric buses.

**e) 20mph scheme**

The Department is responsible for introducing 20mph speed limits in urban areas, which come into force in Wales in September 2023. The work to implement this involves significant consultation work and the introduction of traffic orders.

**f) Car parks and parking enforcement**

In addition to the County's public car parks, the Department deals with requests for yellow lines to overcome parking problems in specific areas. Similar to the 20mph scheme, the introduction of yellow lines requires a lengthy statutory process. With an increase in visitors to the area since the start of the lockdown period, the number of enquiries the unit receives have increased significantly.

**g) Matters arising from the Wales Transport Commission report**

The report presents recommendations in order to alter travel patterns in north Wales in order to reduce carbon emissions resulting from travel.

**h) Electric Vehicle charging network**

Our Climate and Nature Plan is also one of the Council's priorities and is included in the Council's Plan. The Department leads on a project to develop the electric vehicle charging network throughout the County, which is one of the work streams of the Climate and Nature Plan and is vital to the resilience of the County's infrastructure for electric vehicles.

**i) North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) and the regional transport plan**

The Department is expected to collaborate and contribute to the development of the CJC and regional transport plan, which is now a regional requirement in accordance with the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021.

- 3.4 In addition to the above, over the last two years, I have been visiting elected members to discuss their ward matters. Transport related issues are raised regularly by members, and for many, at the top of their list of priorities. It is an area that affects everyone, and it has become apparent that there has been significant increase in demand for the services.
- 3.5 Considering how this area has developed and the feedback I have received from elected Members about their local concerns, I am of the opinion that investment is needed in order to be able to achieve more in these areas. It is now clear that the experiment of trying to cope without this role was not successful, and that instead we failed to achieve as much as we would have liked. Our current structure, which has a significant gap between the role of the head of department and the role of service managers, does not allow us to to make the most of opportunities and fulfil the Department and the Council's aspirations in this important area.
- 3.6 To this end and following a discussion with the Head of Department, I have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to establish the post of Assistant Head to lead transport matters as a whole. Although the purpose of this report is a request for temporary resources the intention is to identify a permanent funding source when the opportunity arises.

#### **4. ANY CONSULTATIONS HELD PRIOR TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DECISION**

The views of the Statutory Officers:

##### **Monitoring Officer:**

*No observations to add in relation to propriety*

##### **Head of Finance:**

*The Transformation Fund is in place to support the Council's priorities. The Council's draft Accounts show that £11.2m was in the fund as at 31 March 2023, but much of this has already been committed to various schemes, including the one-off bids for 2023-24 that were approved by Cabinet on 28 March 2023. This means there is £4.3m in the Transformation Fund uncommitted and available to fund this bid.*

*Therefore, from a financial proprietary perspective adequate resources are in place to fund the Assistance Head post for three years, and it is a matter for Cabinet members to decide if this is a priority for the use of the Fund.*