

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	20 February 2024
Date decision will come into force and be implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Cyngor Gwynedd Constitution.	6 March 2024
SUBJECT Item 6: SAFEGUARDING POLICY REVIEW	
DECISION To adopt the amended 'Policy and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect' together with the Terms of Reference for the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION The Policy sets out how the Council intends to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults who are at risk in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Because the current version was an adaptation of a Policy created in 2013, it was timely to prepare a new policy rather than updating the document in accordance with the usual procedure.	
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 7: DELIVERY AGREEMENT, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD	
DECISION The Cabinet agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Present the amended Draft Delivery Agreement to the Full Council for approval.ii. Delegate the right to the Head of Department to make editorial changes for accuracy as required.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION Preparing and receiving approval of the Delivery Agreement is the statutory first step associated with the process of preparing a new Local Development Plan for the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority area. In accordance with the governance arrangement relating to the preparation of the new Local Development Plan and other Planning Policy matters, the Delivery Agreement has already been presented to the Planning Policy Working Group for their consideration. Dependent upon the decision of Cabinet, the Delivery Agreement will be presented to the Full Council for final approval to submit the document to Welsh Government.	
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 8: WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: 'WHITE PAPER ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN WALES'	
DECISION The content of the draft response to the Government's consultation on ending homelessness in Wales was approved.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION Welsh Government had published a white paper on 'ending homelessness in Wales' and a draft response had been prepared on behalf of the Council. The Cabinet is giving its seal of approval to the draft response because of the possible side effects the proposed changes may have on the Councils' resources and budgets.	
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 9: COLLABORATION PLAN APPROVAL (WALES COASTAL MONITORING CENTRE)	
DECISION The Cabinet agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Give Gwynedd approval to continue to work with and devote resources to the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre.ii. Delegate the authority to the Head of the Highways, Engineering and YGC Department in consultation with the Head of the Legal Department to approve the Collaboration Agreement.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION Confirmation was needed of Gwynedd's contribution as a Board Member of the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre, by presenting the Collaboration Agreement drawn up by the Consortium and to formally accept it.	
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SUBJECT Item 10: REFORMING THE COUNCIL TAX REGIME - WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: FAIRER COUNCIL TAX: STAGE 2	
DECISION The content of the draft response to the Government's consultation on reforming Council Tax in Wales was approved.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION The Welsh Government is consulting on Council Tax reforms in Wales, mainly on how far reform should go, and how quickly this should be undertaken. The Cabinet's seal of approval was needed to the draft response because of the potential repercussions the proposed changes could have on Gwynedd residents and the Council's budget.	
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: CYNGOR GWYNEDD PLAN 2023-2028 – 2024/25 REVIEW	
DECISION The Cabinet approved the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 – 2024/25 Review (the Plan) to be submitted to Council on 7 March 2024.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION The Council Plan 2023-28 was originally adopted by the Full Council at its meeting on 2 March 2023. The purpose of reviewing the Plan is to look at where the Council has reached after a year of implementation, as well as to make sure we continue to do the right things. There is a need to ensure that there is agreement on the content of the Plan, including any updates that have been made to it, before it is presented to a meeting of the Full Council for adoption at its meeting on 7 March 2024.	
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SUBJECT Item 12: 2024/25 SAVINGS PLAN	
DECISION The Cabinet agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Approve the savings and cuts listed in Appendix A (£4.4M) to be used as a contribution towards our 2024/25 financial deficit, and commission the Departments to move forward to implement the plans taking note of the issues highlighted in the report.b) Set a balanced budget in 2024/25, to approve the value of the cuts and savings listed in Appendix B (£0.8M) and note that further steps will be required before a final decision can be reached to implement them, as outlined in 2.13, and use reserves to bridge the savings that could not be realised in 24/25.c) Make provision of £0.52M to meet the risk level involved in realising this cuts plan.d) Delegate the right to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make adjustments to this Savings Plan as the maturity of the schemes listed in Appendix A and B develops, within the financial totals.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION The Council now knows what its Welsh Government Revenue Support Grant (RSG) level will be for 2024/25, and that it will be significantly below the level of inflation and well below what the Council will need to maintain the current level of services. It is noted that the Council is facing a situation where departments are overspending, mainly due to continued increases in demand for their services and that it is now impossible for some services such as homelessness, childcare services, adults care services and school transport to be able to operate within their current budget. The result of increased demand, the need to provide a higher budget for departments that are now unable to cope with their current budget, and the Government's low RSG, is that the Council faces a funding gap this year of £14.9M. As a result, the report outlines how the Council will go about identifying these cuts and	

secure the Cabinet's approval to implement them so that the 2024/25 budget can be set.

**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: BUDGET 2024/25	
DECISION <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To set a budget of £330,590,040 and any additional funding received in the final settlement for 2024/25, to be funded by £232,092,110, of Government Grant and any increase in the grant received in the final settlement, and £98,497,930 of Council Tax income (which is an increase of 9.54%).2) To establish a capital programme of £85,224,800 in 2024/25 to be funded from the sources set out in Appendix 4 of the report.3) That the final additional Government Grant received above £232,092,110 - estimated to be approximately £969,000 - be used to reduce the use of £2m shortfall that has not been met in our financial schemes in 2024/25 and must be bridged from funds for this year as referred to in paragraph 5.4.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION The Full Council must set a balanced budget for 2024/25. This budget is set at a time when Welsh local authorities are facing financial challenges, particularly in the context of overall inflation having reached levels in 2022/23 and 2023/24 unprecedented for decades, the impact of which has worked its way through to the 2024/25 budget. It is a matter for the Full Council to consider the budget and set the Council Tax for 2024/25 based on the issues noted in the report. The detailed report sets out the factors influencing the proposed revenue budget for 2024/25, and outlines the main changes since 2023/24.	
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 14: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY	
DECISION To accept and note the information in the report.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION In order to ensure effective and transparent performance management, Cabinet Members are required to report periodically on the performance of the field for which they are responsible to the Cabinet.	
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 15: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SUPPORT AND LEGAL SERVICE	
DECISION To accept and note the information in the report.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION In order to ensure effective and transparent performance management, Cabinet Members are required to report periodically on the performance of the field for which they are responsible to the Cabinet.	
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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