

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	21 November 2017
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
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Title of Item:	Consultation Document on the proposed priorities for the Council Plan 2018-2023

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. The Cabinet's approval for the consultation document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23 and agreement to hold a six-week consultation period on the document from 27 November 2017.
- 1.2. Agreement to the arrangements outlined in order to identify solutions and any resource requirements attached to the priorities outlined with a report back on the findings to the Cabinet in January.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. In order to ensure agreement on the content and style of the consultation document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23 before moving ahead to the next steps.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. As part of the process of drawing up the Council Plan for 2018-23, a series of eight area meetings were held during July to which all the Council's Elected Members were invited in order to highlight any issues requiring attention in those areas. In addition, members of the Scrutiny Committees identified matters that they believed that should be included within the Council Plan in the future.
- 3.2. Following these meetings, a further four workshop sessions were held with members in September in Caernarfon, Penrhyndeudraeth, Dolgellau and Pwllheli. The purpose of these workshops was to give the Members a further opportunity to make observations on the priorities identified for each area.
- 3.3. It was also an opportunity for them to offer observations on matters included within the Council's existing plan, the matters highlighted by the Scrutiny Committees and identify any matters that were missing and which required attention in the Plan for the future.

- 3.4. The material from these consultation sessions form the priorities within the Consultation Document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23. A copy of the document can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.5. It can be seen that the priorities have been split to County-wide Priorities and Local Priorities.
- 3.6. The majority of the County-wide Priorities are based on projects which have already been included within the Council Plan 2017-18 and they are listed under the themes which appear within that Plan in this document.
- 3.7. The Local Priorities have been split into 10 areas, based on the eight Well-being Areas which have already been identified as part of the Well-being Plan. The Bangor Area has been split into two, namely Bangor and Dyffryn Ogwen and the Caernarfon Area has also been split into two, namely Caernarfon and Dyffryn Nantlle owing to the size of the population and the diversity between the areas.

4. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. *County-wide Priorities* - In order to be able to implement and respond to some of these priorities, additional resources will be required. Though some work has been carried out to identify needs, further work will need to be carried out with the Departments in order to identify the likely resource requirements. It is suggested that a report is submitted to the Cabinet in January outlining all the resource requirements involved with the priorities in order to consider whether it is possible to proceed or not.
- 4.2. *Local Priorities* - Further work will be needed in order to identify possible solutions and resource requirements for the matters identified on a local level. It is suggested that they are included as a priority in this document but that the findings of the work to identify possible solutions and resource requirements are presented to the Cabinet in January.
- 4.3. *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* - The Act applies to the work associated with the development of the Council's plan and the revision of the well-being objectives and further work will be required as work progresses to incorporate the requirements of the Act and associated Guidance.
- 4.4. There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider an equality impact assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. A copy of the assessment is provided in **Appendix 2**. The assessment has not discovered any impacts which would justify deviating from the recommendation.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1. If the document is approved, we will publish the consultation document and begin the six-week consultation period which will last until the beginning of January. In addition to the public consultation, we will target the contribution of specific groups such as the Third Sector Liaison Group and the Equality Group.

5.2. Following the consultation period, work will proceed to create the Council Plan, with a report back to the Cabinet on 13 February 2018 to approve the Plan to be submitted to the Full Council for adoption on 1 March 2018.

6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

6.1. As noted previously, all Council Elected Members have had an opportunity to take part in two workshop sessions in order to voice their opinion on what should be included as priorities.

6.2. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

Consultation on the Council's improvement objectives continues to be a statutory requirement at present. However, the recommendation to consult is based on broader reasons than this. I can approve the proposal as an appropriate step in the process of producing the Council's Plan.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

The report seeks to identify the Council's priorities for 2018-23. As a result of a decision on the draft version, it is intended to ask the Council's departments to identify whether the priorities could be achieved within their existing resources. If the departments require additional funding to implement the priorities, they are expected to submit timely bids for specific amounts. The Cabinet will then be able to prioritise the projects within the total amount of money available. The Cabinet will have to consider those bids and assess them in light of the existing challenging financial circumstances, bearing in mind that these priorities will be competing for resources alongside several other obligatory matters.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Consultation Document on the priorities for the Council Plan 2018-2023

Appendix 2 - Equality Assessment