

THE CABINET 9/01/18

Present-

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Mair Rowlands, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Peredur Jenkins, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, W. Gareth Roberts, Gareth Thomas and Ioan Thomas

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Rhun ap Iwan (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Dewi Morgan (Senior Manager - Revenue and Risk)

Item 5: Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Corporate Property Manager)

Item 6: Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Supporting Families Department)

Item 7: Gwyn Morris Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal Department)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.
Apologies had been received from Cllr Craig ab Iago.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. LEASE OF CANOLFAN HENBLAS, BALA TO CWMNI PUM PLWY PENLLYN

The item was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

RESOLVED

Resolved to:

- Use powers under General Disposal Consent (Wales) 2003 to lease the Henblas Building, Bala, directly to Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn Cyf. for less than the market value in order to ensure social, economic and environmental benefits.
- Delegate the right to the Senior Property Manager to agree on the terms with the company.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that this matter was quite straightforward. It was expressed that Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn Cyf. had had a five year lease on the building in Bala since 2013, and they had carried out significant construction work on the building since obtaining the lease. Now, the Company was eager to obtain the lease for 25 years in order to be able to submit an application to fund the work of upgrading the rest of the building.

It was emphasised that the building offered suitable space which facilitated the presence of health, welfare and voluntary advocacy services in the area. As a result of the building, Bala residents could gain access to services provided by the third sector. It was emphasised that this application asked the Council to decide that the property would be leased specifically in order to facilitate a partnership between Gwynedd Council and Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn to provide public services in the area of five Community Councils. In addition to this, the General Disposal Consent (Wales) 2003, gave the Council the legal right to lease for less than market value.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that Bala residents and local companies were very supportive of the application

6. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The item was submitted by Cllr Dilwyn Morgan

RESOLVED

To accept and note the information in the report and to request that the Directors raise the matter of attendance by the Police at case conferences at the North Wales Safety Partnership and to report back if there is no suitable solution.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that the Cabinet Member was satisfied with the majority of projects. It was emphasised that a number of the performance measures showed a general increase as a result of an increase in the number of looked-after children seen nationally.

It was noted that the Department was facing an exciting period by forming a fresh service for the future. In the past, it had been mandatory to spend Welsh Government grants in pockets of fields or areas. It was expressed that the department's new Strategy would ensure more integration and would enable the department to give new priority and reference that would be ambitious and innovative. The strategy would transform traditional fields of providing services that would focus on early intervention.

It was expressed that work was ongoing to recommission the Families First scheme. The service providers and the Council had been meeting to discuss the purpose of the New Scheme and the tendering process was currently being followed.

It was noted that, on the whole, when looking at performance, the Cabinet Member was quite satisfied, and it was added that work was being carried out to improve service, where needed. The department had been working on creating new purposes in order to refine and ensure that measures were measuring the correct things. It was noted that the performance of the Child Protection Conferences had shown a decline, with various reasons for this but, it was noted that the Police's lack of commitment to attend the Conferences was a main reason. It was emphasised that there had been an increase in the performance in relation to placing children, but that more intensive care need had impacted the figures. However, it was emphasised that this was not a unique situation for Gwynedd and that the matter had been escalated to the Regional Commissioning Board.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was asked why SOGS Assessments were now irrelevant, and it was noted that it had been the Government's decision to drop the Measure.
- The decline in Child Protection Conferences was discussed. It was emphasised that the lack of commitment shown by the Police in terms of attending conferences had led to meetings that were not quorate and quorum was needed in order for them to be conducted. It was noted that this had already been escalated to the Regional Safeguarding Board. Consideration was given to how the matter could be resolved and whether there was a need to contact the Commissioner. It was suggested that it would be an idea in the first instance to ask the Director to raise the matter of attendance by the Police at case conferences at the North Wales Safety Partnership and to report back if there was no suitable solution.
- Use of the 'Capita' information system was welcomed, which was a system to help identify needs and to improve the arrangements when transferring children from Nursery to Primary education. It was noted that a tracking system had been created and the department was in discussions with the Education Department to help develop the system.
- In relation to the Families First tender, a member asked how it would be possible to send a tender out without having the new strategy in place. It was expressed that the Government's guidelines for Families First were strict, but that the tenders were being drawn up in a way that was likely to be consistent with the strategy and more integrated for the department.

7. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY AND MUNICIPAL AND GWYNEDD CONSULTANCY

The report was presented by Cllr Gareth Griffith

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that he was satisfied with the performance in the Departments. It was noted that the work of the Streetscene Unit ensured that streets were clean and tidy, but there had been a fall in the performance, specifically when looking at Street Cleanliness and Appearance. These falls in performance could be attributed to the impact of the cuts.

When looking at waste levels, it was expressed that there had been a fall in recycling/composting rates by businesses. National requirements made it mandatory for traders to sort their waste, and a Task Group had been established which looked at the process and the work plan in order to make it more financially attractive for the company and to improve the performance of this measure.

It was emphasised that with the Reducing Frequency of Cuts and Urban Grass Collection Procedure scheme, there was concern that the implications of continuing to cut the budget would likely be greater than what was anticipated. Consequently, there would be a discussion by the Scrutiny Committee for alternative options in order to realise the saving.

It was noted that the Consultancy Department's projections on the latest NET situation showed a higher profit than the target of £9,470 and, as a result, the situation was positive. The member thanked staff for their good work, specifically in his ward - Felinheli - following a landslide before Christmas.

Observations arising from the discussion

- The department's employees were thanked, specifically for going the extra mile.
- Commercial recycling/composting levels were discussed, and it was emphasised that it was mainly food that was being composted. It was noted that although the performance was 40% and it was good, there was room for improvement. It was noted that it was difficult to get businesses to recycle more but that it was in the process of looking at the fees to see whether it was possible to make it more attractive to companies.
- When looking at recycling results, it would appear that the residents of the county were prepared to recycle. It was noted that burning waste would bring the county to the recycling target. It was noted that although the numbers were good, there was room for improvement, particularly when looking at food collections

8. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

The report was presented by Cllr Peredur Jenkins

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that he was comfortable with the performance of the Information Technology Strategy action plan. It was noted that there had been developments in the Council's Digital Channel as it had been launched recently. The next step in the development would be an app that would allow the public to send in photographs including geographical information in order to report problems.

It was noted that the EDRMS was still in progress, but extending the use of the Adults, Health and Well-being and Children and Supporting Families Departments had involved work that was more complicated than anticipated. This meant that the timetable had slipped and it was hoped that the iGwynedd system would be extended to all Council departments by the end of summer 2018. It was also noted that there had been computer problems during the summer, and it was noted that problems with telephone exchanges had caused two out of the four problems. It was

explained that work on improving the network's resilience was ongoing.

It was noted that there had been progress when looking at the Protecting the taxpayer's financial interests: Percentage of public accountability claims made by the Insurance Unit performance measure. It was noted that the department had defended six out of seven claims successfully; one claim involved damage made to the vehicle of a Gwynedd resident when carrying out work nearby.

The meeting commenced at 13:00 and concluded at 14:00

CHAIRMAN