
THE CABINET 12/06/18

Present-

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Dafydd Meurig, Craig ab Iago, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Nia Wyn Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, W. Gareth Roberts, Gareth Thomas and Ioan Thomas

Also present: Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director).

Item 6: Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Supporting Families Department), Catrin Thomas (Community Learning Senior Manager), Nia Morris (Youth Services Manager).

Item 7 and 8: Garem Jackson (Head of Education Department) and Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Property Manager).

Item 9: Sioned Owen (Flying Start Service Manager) and Rachel Jones (Gwynedd and Anglesey Childcare Strategic Officer)

Item 10: Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

An apology was received from Councillor Dilwyn Morgan and the Chief Executive, Dilwyn Williams.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor W. Gareth Roberts declared a personal interest in item 6 as his son-in-law worked for the Youth Service. It was a prejudicial interest and he withdrew from the meeting for this item.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn and Cllr Peredur Jenkins on the item as both were members of the Ysgol Bro Idris Governing Body. It was not a prejudicial 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. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2018

The Chair signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22 May 2018, as a true record.

6. REMODELLING THE YOUTH SERVICE

The item was submitted by Cllr Craig ab Iago

RESOLVED

1. To accept the report and allocate up to £50,000 from the Transformation Fund to set up a fund to assist the Community Councils that wish to retain a Youth Club to bridge the financial situation until they have established their own funding arrangements for 1 April 2019.
2. To delegate the right to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture in consultation with the Head of Children and Supporting Families Department to establish a prudential management procedure to manage the fund's expenditure.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting that the members were aware of the background to this item. It was added that a Notice of Motion had been submitted during the Full Council on 3 March which asked the Cabinet to reconsider elements of the new model. The Cabinet looked at every element individually.

Change of emphasis from the community to the welfare of individuals

It was emphasised that it was a statutory change by the Government that the Youth Services supported young people with their learning and teaching, focusing on young people not in employment, training or education. Nevertheless, it was noted that the new service would offer a service to everyone, and not to these individuals only. It was added that 14% of young people went to clubs, and the need to target more young people across the county was therefore noted.

It was added that:

- A consultation had been held by the Corporate Support Department, asking what was important to young people. It was noted that the top three things were Mental Health, Housing and Alcohol and Drugs Problems, which coincided with the observations received when discussing the Youth Service with young people.
- Activities had taken place in Porthmadog, and the feedback was

satisfactory but it was asked what the feedback was across the county. A programme of activities had been arranged for the summer, and they were in the process of arranging forums so that it would be possible to have a discussion about the type of activities with young people.

- Connections in England was mentioned - a project that failed. This was a national project that was specifically for careers, and not for Youth Services. It had failed, but the Youth Service was offering much more than careers only.

The impact on deprived areas

It was noted that Maesgeirchen and Caernarfon were seen as deprived areas in accordance with Welsh Government's definition, but it was added that there were deprived areas across the county. Nevertheless, it was added that the Equality Assessment had identified the impact that would be had on both areas, and that the service was working with the Town Council in Caernarfon to look at options, and that they were hoping to do the same in Maesgeirchen.

It was added that:

- Two petitions had been presented to the Council in Caernarfon, specifically about Caernarfon. The SPLASH project would continue during the holidays and activities would be held more frequently in the area.
- It was asked what kind of access would be available to the youth service for young people. The staff had a role in discussing the needs of young people, especially in the areas where young people did not have access to the former service.

Impact on the Welsh language

It was noted that the language had been discussed as part of the consultation, and that 0.2% felt that the new youth service would be detrimental to the language. It was expressed that the Equality Impact Assessment noted that the remodelling by holding more activities in the community would promote the language. It was added that there were opportunities to promote the language through the new service.

It was added that:

- The new service could be linked to the work of the language charter, which was being implemented in primary and secondary schools. The youth service would promote the use of the Welsh language socially.
- A meeting had been organised with Hunaniaith to further discuss how to use and influence young people to use the language.

Cooperating with Town and Community Councils

Following the observations of the Scrutiny Committee in January, it was noted that a discussion was needed with some community and town councils on identifying ways of cooperating. Nevertheless, it was emphasised that it was now too late in the process to discuss this. Despite this, it was noted that 32 Town Councils had received a letter, and 11 of these were eager to discuss further. It was added that a further discussion was needed with the Councils, and that the department would welcome a discussion on how it would be possible to provide a social club.

It was added:

- Whether it would be possible to discuss with the Councils how the former service could be bridged with the new service. Some clubs had not been updated for around 20 years, and that the world had now changed. Nevertheless, if there was a desire to keep the club, it should be endeavoured to do so but, a fund might need to be secured to bridge both periods.

Appropriate Help for the Youth Organisations that were Receiving Funding

It was noted that the officers were working with the organisations - specifically the main three, namely the Snowdonia Young Farmers, Meirionnydd Young Farmers and the Urdd. The relationship was positive and it would be possible to collaborate with the organisations to provide a service for young people.

It was asked:

- If a member of staff was working specifically with the organisations. It was expressed that the Regeneration Officer and the Youth Service Manager were currently the contact points.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was asked when the next language and equality assessments would be held on the new service. It was noted that there was a continuous review but it was intended to create an assessment at the end of the first year, namely September 2019.
- It was noted that the elected members and young people needed to be informed of what was happening, and that progress reports would be required. It was explained that this would be adopted immediately, emphasising that if the communicating was weak, the new service would not work.
- It was expressed that there was funding available in the Transformation Fund to aid the bridging period to facilitate negotiation with Town and Community Councils. It was resolved to allocate £50,000 specifically for this.

7. SURVEY OF THE PROCEDURE OF DEVELOPING YSGOL BRO IDRIS, DOLGELLAU

The item was submitted by Cllr Gareth Thomas

DECISION

Generally, to adopt the recommendations deriving from Gareth Williams's independent report to enable the Education Department to incorporate them as a core part of the reorganisation processes it implements jointly with other stakeholders in other catchment areas for the future.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that the main reason for carrying out the

independent survey on the procedure of developing Ysgol Bro Idris was to learn lessons, particularly due to the fact that the length and breadth of this scheme was unique. It was reiterated that the commission was also an opportunity to address some concerns expressed by former members of staff regarding some aspects of the process of establishing the school.

It was added that the procedure of establishing a new school was a partnership between the Authority and the Shadow Governing Body. It was added that the Authority was responsible for the decision to open a school and finish the building, but it was the Governing Body that was responsible for ensuring that the school was in order, that a Headteacher had been appointed and that a staffing structure was in operation. It was acknowledged that a multi-site all-through school led to more challenges as a result of the effect arrangements would have on the physical location. It was noted that the Department had considered all recommendations and had accepted them. It was expressed that, in adopting the recommendations, the Department, alongside other stakeholders, would be able to incorporate them as a core part of the reorganisation processes.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the school was innovative and that steps were in place for the Bright Future principles. It was added that, despite the problems that had arisen, the Headteacher and teachers were thanked for their work.
- It was expressed that when things went wrong, there was a need to ensure that the department learned lessons and to ensure that things would be done differently.

8. BAND B TWENTY FIRST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The item was submitted by Cllr Gareth Thomas

DECISION

- To approve in principle initial priorities for Band B of the Twenty First Century Schools Programme.
- To await the result of the process of establishing the Council's Asset Management Plan before adopting a final programme.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that Welsh Government's Twenty First Century Schools Programme was now reaching the end of the first phase of its project (Band A). It was added that Gwynedd Council had been identified as one of the most successful authorities in achieving its programme thus far and, consequently, the Government had given an additional allocation of £12m in residual funding to Gwynedd to review the primary education provision in Bangor.

It was explained that the Government was now focusing on the second phase, that would commence in April 2019. A request was received by the Government, asking that the Authorities establish their priorities at short notice. It was noted that the Council would need to contribute 50% of the funding, and attention was also drawn to the fact that it was pleasing to see children being taught using the latest resources.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the difficulty of the project would be to find funding, as the expenditure requirements of the Council would be higher, but there would be a need to prioritise.

9. 30 HOUR CHILDCARE OFFER FOR 3-4 YEAR OLDS

The item was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

DECISION

- To agree for the Gwynedd and Anglesey childcare unit, Children and Families Department to co-operate with Conwy Council to act as Lead Authority to administrate the 30 hour childcare offer for 3-4-year olds, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.
- Implementing this is subject to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People confirming the inter-authority governance arrangements and ensuring that an appropriate partnership agreement between Gwynedd Council and Anglesey and Conwy Councils is in place.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that the project had now been operative for nearly a year and, since April 2018, the Government had included all areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey. It was added that the project had been very popular and many families had taken the opportunity to have free care provision for children aged 3-4. It was expressed that the sector had also taken the opportunity and there had been a clear development in the field.

The second phase of the project was explained, noting that the Government was eager for Gwynedd and Anglesey to take the lead role, and Conwy to opt into the project.

Observations arising from the discussion

- The members congratulated the team on its work, emphasising that it was excellent that the team was able to use software to ensure that funding reached the businesses in the sector on time, and that this had led to a development in the sector.
- It was asked whether more staff would need to be appointed if Gwynedd was taking the lead role. It was noted that there would be an additional Administrative Officer and one of the officers who worked on

the project would be bought by Conwy Council to do the work of setting up the system there.

- It was added that the project was to be welcomed as it encouraged mothers to return to work. It was expressed that the Government was in the process of conducting research to discover the outcomes of the first year of the projects.

10. GWYNEDD COUNCIL PLAN 2018-23: BID FOR RESOURCES FROM THE TRANSFORMATION FUND

The item was submitted by Cllr Nia Jeffreys

DECISION

To assign £104,747 from the Transformation Fund, namely £51,690 in 2018/19 and £53,057 in 2019/20, to support the implementation of the 'Realising Savings' priority within the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that this was a bid to employ a Project Manager for a two year period to support the new programme of realising savings. It was noted that the funding came from the transformation fund and that investing one-off funding to find permanent savings was the purpose of the post.

Observations arising from the discussion:

- It was added that it needed to be ensured that the individual discovered efficiency savings and to be innovative in order to safeguard services.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.00 pm

CHAIRMAN