

THE COUNCIL THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2020

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**Present:** Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen (Chair);  
Councillor Simon Glyn (Vice-chair).

**Councillors:** Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Freya Hannah Bentham, Dylan Bullard, Stephen Churchman, Steve Collings, Annwen Daniels, R. Glyn Daniels, Elwyn Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Dylan Fernley, Peter Antony Garlick, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, R. Medwyn Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Nia Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aled Wyn Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Elwyn Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Gareth Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dafydd Owen, W.Roy Owen, Jason Parry, Nigel Pickavance, Rheinallt Puw, Dewi Wyn Roberts, Elfed P.Roberts, Gareth A.Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Hefin Underwood, Catrin Wager, Cemlyn Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gareth Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams and Owain Williams.

**Also in attendance:** Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Service / Monitoring Officer), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department / Head of Democracy Service), Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor / Deputy Monitoring Officer), Ffion Madog Evans (Senior Finance Manager), Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Manager), Eurig Williams (Human Resources Advisory Services Manager) (for item 8), Dewi Jones (Council Business Support Service Manager) (for item 9), Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor – Corporate) (for item 13) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

**1. APOLOGIES**

Councillors Anwen Davies, Selwyn Griffiths, Charles W. Jones, Aeron Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Dewi Owen, Peter Read and Angela Russell.

**2. MINUTES**

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 19 December 2019 as a true record.

**3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

The Monitoring Officer declared a personal interest in item 8 - Annual Review - Council's Pay Policy 2020/21 - on behalf of the chief officers who were present as the report involved their salaries.

He was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and, along with the Head of Finance Department and the Head of Corporate Support, the Monitoring Officer left the meeting during the discussion on the item.

**4. THE CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Condolences were expressed to the following:-

- Councillor Linda Ann Jones on the recent loss of her husband;
- Councillor Angela Russell on the recent loss of her father;

- The family of Bob Daimond, the former Highways Director at Gwynedd Council, who had died recently.

It was also noted that the Council wished to sympathise with everyone within the county's communities who had recently lost loved ones.

The Council stood as a mark of respect.

Councillor Linda Morgan was welcomed to the meeting following recent ill-health.

Best wishes were extended to the following:-

- Councillor Charles W. Jones, who was currently undergoing treatment.
- Councillor Aeron Jones following recent ill-health.

Elfyn Evans was congratulated on becoming the first Briton to win the Swedish Rally. It was noted that he was currently leading the world championship, and he was wished the best of luck over the rest of the championship.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, OR ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None to note.

## **6. URGENT ITEMS**

None to note.

## **7. QUESTIONS**

*(The Cabinet Members' written responses to the questions had been distributed to the members in advance).*

### **(1) Question by Councillor Annwen Hughes**

"Following the recent announcement that harm will be caused to the agriculture industry and the rural economy if county councils continue to sell their stock of farms, I hereby ask you today for certainty that this Council is not considering selling the small-holdings in its ownership?"

#### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Craig ab Iago**

"This Small-holding Estate gives us power over the shaping of the economy, the environment and the language in these areas, therefore, there is no intention to do so at all."

#### **Supplementary Question by Councillor Annwen Hughes**

"Could you tell us how much income the Council makes from these small-holdings annually?"

#### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Craig ab Iago**

"10 years ago, we were losing £17,000 a year, and last year, I believe we earned £31,000. This is all down to the good work done by the staff, and I wish to thank them for that."

### **(2) Question by Councillor Dewi Roberts**

"What plans have been provided by the Council regarding Coronavirus and are these plans and information available to staff and councillors?"

The member thanked the Chief Executive for sending a message out to the councillors and staff since he had sent in his question.

**Response by the Leader, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn**

"This is obviously a very timely question and this is a matter of daily discussion and concern to us.

Every Member will now have received a message from the Chief Executive summarising the Council's efforts to prepare and respond to the potential spread of Coronavirus to Gwynedd. That message emphasises that Public Health Wales is responsible for responding to the virus and that this Council has a supporting role, along with all other local authorities.

It is noted that the Council has taken the following steps to date:

- Convened a meeting of heads of department / senior officers from every department in order to coordinate our preparations and response - the group has already met twice and will meet on a weekly basis from now on;
- Provided guidance for managers in terms of what to do if they receive enquiries about the virus from staff or by members of the public, including a link to Public Health Wales's web pages;
- Information has been shared with the majority of the Council's staff also - this was done via the managers' network, the intranet, the staff's Facebook group and by displaying posters around work locations. Additional information will be shared if and when it will be published by Public Health Wales.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to refer you to Public Health Wales's website for the latest advice. The link to that website has been included in the message sent to you by the Chief Executive."

**Supplementary question by Councillor Dewi Roberts**

"When will the emergency plan regarding Coronavirus be available, and does the Council have sufficient resources to respond to the situation in the future?"

**Response by the Leader, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn**

"I have trust in our heads of department to act on this and the Chief Executive can elaborate if he feels the need to do so. I have been involved in discussions between local authorities, via the WLGA, and there is collaboration between councils to understand what each other are doing. It is a new field and questions are arising daily regarding the Council's powers and who takes action etc. One message that I would convey is that we need to follow the expert scientific and medical advice in this situation, and this will be made clear to us. I also understand that Public Health Wales are in daily contact with the Council in order to convey information, and as this develops, we will need to look at the situation. If we are looking at the worst case scenario, ultimately we do not have enough resources, and we will have to do the best with what we have. However, how we will maintain services that are so essential to the most vulnerable people is cause for concern. Additional financial resources would be of assistance, but ultimately, we probably do not have the human resources to undertake all the work. However, I believe that the message is for us to take things day by day, monitor what we have, the procedures we have and adapt as the disease develops, in the genuine hope that

we do not reach the worst extremes. As I said, there is close collaboration going on. Today, I received a poster from one of the heads of department, a poster from Public Health Wales and Welsh Government, and we will share this type of information as it is received."

#### **Further response by the Chief Executive**

"The emergency plan is already available if you wish to see it. I wish to underline that this is an operational plan to respond to a more generic flu pandemic - it does not refer to the Coronavirus - however; we as officers are revisiting it and are testing it against the advice we are receiving from the scientific officers in order to see whether it is going to hold up against what we are expecting. I could make arrangements for you, and for any other member, to receive a copy at any time should you so wish."

#### **(3) Question by Councillor Paul Rowlinson**

"In December 2017, the Council approved the following motion:

*"RESOLVED that Gwynedd Council calls for arrangements to be made for Welsh history to be given priority in history lessons in all schools in Wales. The current situation of basic failings in teaching our own history and identity is unacceptable. The development of the Successful Future curriculum is an opportunity to rectify this step and there will be a need to develop bilingual essential resources to enable teachers to teach Welsh history to the children. We therefore call upon Welsh Government to take the necessary steps, including developing bilingual resources, to correct this failing without delay."*

Can the Cabinet Member for Education give us an update on what our Director of Education is doing and what GwE is doing to ensure that Welsh history is given the place it deserves in the new curriculum that is being developed and that appropriate resources, in Welsh and English, are developed at the right time to allow this to happen?"

#### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Cemlyn Williams**

"I welcome the comments and the question, and agree entirely that Welsh history should be given priority in history lessons in all schools in Wales.

I note, however, in response to the consultation on the new curriculum, a more general concern about the lack of a bilingual workforce, and that it will not be possible to teach Welsh history unless we have an adequate number of Welsh-medium teachers to teach, and to ensure that we assist Welsh Government in its aim of reaching a million Welsh-speakers by 2050 through the education system.

We are very fortunate in Gwynedd that we have an able, bilingual workforce within the education system; a workforce which is eager to uphold a sense of Welshness and an awareness of Welsh history and identity among our children and young people.

The Language Charter started here in Gwynedd with a strong desire to promote the Welsh language and identity among our children and to raise awareness of our culture and history and to encourage and raise the confidence of our children to speak Welsh.

I hope to see Welsh history becoming a core part of the new curriculum when it comes into force, and I look forward to the continuation of the hard work of our

schools' workforce to ensure Welshness and an awareness of Welsh identity, history and heritage amongst our children and young people."

**Supplementary question by Councillor Paul Rowlinson**

"Do you agree with the Assembly's Committee for Culture, the Welsh Language and Communication that guidance should be included which identifies a general body of information for all pupils who are studying history, and will you be pressing on the Minister to accept this important recommendation, and also seeking support from other education authorities and the WLGA?"

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Cemlyn Williams**

"It is explicitly clear to me that the Minister does not appreciate Welsh history, and I intend to write to the Minister and take account of the member's comments."

**(4) Question by Councillor Gareth Jones**

"Each year, Gwynedd Council sends an 'Annual Household Enquiry' form to every home for the resident to check that the names of voting-age people living in the house are accurate. Under the heading 'Nationality', the word 'British' is printed. Therefore, every year, the residents of Gwynedd must accept 'Prydeinig / British' or pay a fine of £1,000. According to many constituents who have contacted me, it is about time this unpopular imposition is changed and that a choice is offered to people rather than forcing everyone to slavishly accept the label of 'British'.

What steps is the innovative and inclusive Gwynedd Council taking to ensure that the current system is changed and to recognise and respect the range of people living in Gwynedd by giving the citizens a choice to state their identity as Welsh / British / Scottish / French / Irish / ..... ? "

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Councillor Nia Jeffreys**

"The Electoral Registration Officer, a statutory post held by the Chief Executive, undertakes the annual statutory canvass for electoral registration. This is achieved through the Elections Team in the Legal Services. As part of the process, a Household Enquiry Form is presented to every residential property in Gwynedd, noting what is included on the register. The Electoral Registration Officer is not entitled to amend the specific contents of the letter. 'British' is taken straight off the Electoral Register which is reproduced in the form and derives from the statutory definition of nationality.

A Notice of Motion was adopted by the Council in October 2015, criticising the form of the letter and asking for a letter to be sent to the Minister for Amending the Constitution at the time, John Penrose MP, requesting for the legislation to be amended. No response to the letter was received. I believe that this is a matter that should be followed up with our Members of Parliament, and I will do this without delay."

**A supplementary question by Councillor Gareth Jones**

"Whilst I am grateful to hear that the Council has robust plans to continue to press for changing the old and unacceptable process, what other new plans has the Council and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for equality and equal opportunity within the Council in order to give a voice and right to people who wish to declare, without prejudice, their identity on official forms, and also the right to

note 'Wales' as a country on a passport and include the red dragon on driving licences in Wales?"

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Councillor Nia Jeffreys**

"Ultimately, this is another disgraceful symptom of the shortcomings of the British regime that presides over Wales and it is an insult to our people that we have to campaign for such a basic right as the right to note that we are Welsh on official forms. Hopefully we have succeeded, by placing huge pressure on the Office for National Statistics, to see changes in the Census, but how on earth did a body such as the Office for National Statistics believe that it was acceptable in the first place to not give Welsh people the right to note that? It breaks my heart that we have to campaign time and time again in order to be acknowledged, even on a form, by Westminster. Westminster does not work for the people of Wales, and it has never worked for the people of Wales. Thank heavens, the people of Wales, both young and old, across our nation, are waking up to this, however, the only real answer to this insult is independence and that every decision about forms and everything else which affects us in Wales, is made by the people of Wales. Therefore, the only real answer to this, and the only effective and long-term answer to this, is a free Wales, and I will continue to campaign on this specific point, and more broadly on the point of independence for our nation."

**(5) Question by Councillor Menna Baines**

"Last week, Welsh Government published new population projections per local authority. These suggested that there would only be a small increase, 0.8%, in the population of Gwynedd in the period between 2018 and 2028; and that there would be a reduction of 2.6% in the population of Anglesey in the same period. How does this compare with the projections that form the basis for the Local Development Plan in both counties?"

**Response from the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Gareth Griffith**

"When the Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) was being prepared, estimates based on 2011 applied at the time. These showed that during the period between 2011 and 2026, namely the lifespan of the JLDP, there would be an approximate 5% increase in the population of Gwynedd and an approximate reduction of 0.1% in the population of Anglesey.

Consequently, consideration will be given to the latest estimates as part of the JLDP's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) process which will be published in October 2020. Regardless of the results of the 2020 AMR, based on the requirement to review the Local Development Plan within 4 years of its adoption, a review of the JLDP will be carried out in 2021."

**8. ANNUAL REVIEW - COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY 2020/21**

The Chair of the Chief Officer Appointment Committee presented a report recommending that the Council approves the recommendation of the Chief Officer Appointment Committee to adopt the Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21.

**RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of the Chief Officer Appointment Committee to adopt the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 in Appendix 1 of the report.**

9. COUNCIL PLAN 2018-23 - 2020/2021 REVIEW

The Leader presented a report inviting the Council to adopt the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 (2020/21 Review).

It was noted that it was intended to commence the process of reviewing the Plan later on next year.

It was noted that the recent flooding emergency had emphasised the role of the Council and local members. Gratitude was expressed for the work undertaken, and the residents and communities that had suffered from flooding were wished well.

During the discussion the following matters were raised by individual members:-

- It was noted, although it was acknowledged that delivering the Climate Change Action Plan was a responsibility on all Council departments (page 53 of the programme), that one person needed to be appointed to lead on the work on behalf of the Council in order to ensure a consistent implementation method. In response, it was noted that there was an intention to report to the Cabinet soon on the work of the sub-group that was addressing climate change. Possibly, the Cabinet would establish a board with a Chair and a specific officer serving the Board, so that the field received attention on the same level as the Regeneration Board and the Supporting People Board.
- It was noted that the Council's ambition to see the residents of Gwynedd earning a sufficient salary to be able to maintain themselves and their families was praiseworthy, but a question was asked about the definition of a 'sufficient wage' and the achievability of that. In response, it was noted that the current economy development plan defined high paid jobs as jobs with a salary of over £26,000, but that the Council, through its economy development work, was seeking jobs with much higher salaries than that. Very few employment opportunities were available in a rural area such as Gwynedd, and it was required to continue with the work of developing the economy in order to reach for the aim of securing good employment for people in Gwynedd. It was believed that the aim was achievable in the long-term. It was considered that the Council was going in the right direction despite the circumstances that were difficult to overcome; however, much of what was affecting the poverty levels in our areas depended on what happened in Westminster.
- It was enquired whether the Cabinet had considered re-taking Council houses over as money was available and interest rates were low. In response, it was explained that although there may possibly be an argument in favour of taking back the housing stock, this was not a priority for Gwynedd, and the Council had an important role in terms of developing different and innovative ideas on how to provide housing in the correct places and as people needed them. There was a variety of ways to do so, and the forthcoming Housing Action Plan was eagerly awaited.
- The Women in Leadership Scheme (Improvement Priority 3) was welcomed, and the Cabinet Member was asked to elaborate on the progress made with the work. In response, it was noted that there were two workshops - one for women and the other for men, had highlighted that a lack of confidence, caring responsibilities and work-life balance were the main barriers that prevented women from applying for higher jobs within the Council. Following the workshops, a joint draft action plan had been developed, and one of the main priorities of that scheme would be to develop a programme for developing potential for women. It was also intended to review the recruitment and appointment arrangements to consider whether the Council went far enough to address the barriers of caring for children and relatives when women were considering their careers. In addition, it was intended to look in more detail at the flexible working arrangements, paternity and maternity leave, etc., contribute to

## **THE COUNCIL Thursday, 5 March 2020**

the Council's Working Conditions Project Group and offer guidance on the perspective of women in the workforce. It was also intended to create a Forum for women and there was a political role for the Group of Women Councillors to be encouraging more women to be councillors.

- The Cabinet Member referred to some steps that were taken within the Highways and Municipal Department and Gwynedd Consultancy to bring the climate emergency into the Council Plan. The statutory and timely function of Gwynedd Consultancy as the county's flooding authority was elaborated upon. Those communities that had suffered from flooding recently were sympathised with and gratitude was expressed to the Council's employees who had been out in awful conditions attempting to ensure that the county's communities remained safe. It was noted that the Highways and Municipal Department already contributed to the work of reducing carbon emissions in the county, i.e. by changing street lighting to LED lights, looking at decarbonising vehicles, including investigating hydrogen as a potential fuel and looking into the potential of offering community use of the fleet. It was also noted that the Council was likely to reach its recycling target of 64% by the end of the month, and over the next year, it was intended to develop a new waste strategy that would place the emphasis on reusing as well as maximising recycling. There was a wish to discuss ideas with the members and the communities they represented, and there was also a desire to take every opportunity to maximise the importance of biodiversity.
- The introduction of Welsh Government's Self-build fund was welcomed, however, it was noted that this conflicted with the difficulties that some young people in the Llŷn area had faced when going through the planning process. It was enquired whether it was intended to reconsider the policies in order to see whether this type of people could be considered to secure suitable and quality homes within communities. In response, it was noted that the Local Development Plan was reviewed regularly, and that there would be an opportunity for members to look at every policy within that scheme. Although the introduction of the self-build fund was eagerly awaited, some of the restrictions placed on the fund by the Government meant that it was not as flexible as that. Nevertheless, the Council was looking at every opportunity to benefit from the fund and it was understood that it was possible to press on with one potential scheme.

### **RESOLVED to adopt the Council Plan 2019-23 (2020/21 Review).**

#### **10. 2020/21 BUDGET**

The Cabinet Member for Finance submitted:-

- A report recommending a budget for the Council's approval for 2020/21;
- The draft decision on the Council Tax based on the Cabinet's recommendation to the Council (based on an increase of 3.9%), along with tables showing the Council Tax level and the increase per community.

The Cabinet Member thanked the staff of the Finance Department, and specifically the Senior Finance Manager and the rest of the support team, for all of their work during the Head of Finance's absence.

During the discussion the following matters were raised by individual members:-

- It was noted that Fairbourne had become known worldwide as the village without a future, and that the effect of the Council's Shoreline Management Plan meant that houses in Fairbourne had almost lost a third of their value. The Community Council was angry that the Council Tax continued to rise, although the village had been condemned by Gwynedd Council, and they called for a reduction in the Tax. In response, it was noted that it was important to underline that it was not



## THE COUNCIL Thursday, 5 March 2020

the Council who had condemned Fairbourne. What the Council had done; however, was highlight the risk that the village was facing in the future. In relation to the Council Tax, the only way of receiving a reduction would be for the Valuer to reconsider the bands, and it was vowed that the Council would contact the Valuer on behalf of the people of Fairbourne to ask them to come there to consider the situation.

- It was noted that the Council had been facing cuts and more cuts for 12 years now, and that the continuous increases in the Tax were having a serious impact on those people on low salaries. An enquiry was made asking when the Council intended to stand as one against the cuts that were coming from the direction of Cardiff and Westminster. In response, it was noted that the observations were understood, but that the Council had to set a balanced budget, and that it was lobbying constantly via the WLGA and a number of other bodies.
- It was noted that Band D Council Tax in Gwynedd had risen from £889 in 2004 to £1,699 in 2018. Only five other Councils in Wales had higher Band D tax levels than Gwynedd, and this county had very deprived areas. The salaries of the general population in Gwynedd had not increased, and although Council staff had recently received a pay raise, this was taken away from them through the increase in the tax. The impact of increasing taxes, as well as charging for parking in the towns, was having a huge impact on the businesses of Gwynedd. It was felt that nobody was taking responsibility for taxes in Wales and Welsh Government was continuing with the model of giving councils the freedom to increase the rates without noticing the impact this had on people. A reduced disposable income meant that less expenditure happened in our economy, and this, in turn, led to fewer jobs for people, fewer people paying rates, etc.
- It was noted that the Council's main expenditure was in the care field, in particular in the older people field, and from understanding that, it was not possible to see how the public could object to the increase in the Council Tax. The officers were also thanked for listening to the views of the care scrutinisers and for doing their best for the people of Gwynedd.
- It was noted that the Council had lost approximately £70m of its budget over the past 10 years, and that major work undertaken through the WLGA in an attempt to convince the decision-making politicians in Cardiff of the need for local government to be appropriately funded. Local government had been at the bottom of the list every time; however, this year, as a result of presenting a very strong case to the Government, we had succeeded to obtain a slightly fairer grant settlement. It was emphasised that pride should be taken in the effectiveness of this Council and its budgetary solidity, and it was noted that Gwynedd Council was being acknowledged as one of the most prudent and responsible councils in Wales.
- In response to an observation that the recommendation to increase the tax by 3.9% was much higher than general inflation, which was slightly over 2.5%, it was explained that an increase in the demand in the fields of children and adults was mainly to account for this.
- It was noted that the Westminster Government did not look after Wales at all. Wales had the worst child poverty levels in Britain and a quarter of the population of Wales now lived in poverty. The people of Wales had the lowest life expectancy and Wales was the most economically deprived country in Britain, and had the dampest and coldest housing in Europe. Children's health in Wales was worsening annually and Wales was also losing its language.
- It was emphasised that nobody wished to see an increase in the Council Tax, but the Council had no other choice as the Barnett Formula placed Wales at the bottom of the pile every time. It was also noted that it was important to make public to the county that this Chamber and this Council were challenging the formula.
- With reference to capital bid 1 - Provision of public vehicle charging points (Appendix 2c to the report), it was noticed that many car parks were not eligible for a grant, and an enquiry was made regarding the criteria for qualifying for the

grant. In response, it was noted that a grant was available from the Government to provide some charging points; however, the Council, and the National Park Authority, wished to supply charging points in places that were not eligible for the grant funding.

- It was noted that a lengthy and beneficial discussion had been held at the Audit and Governance Committee about the method of setting the tax, and it had been agreed there that a 3.5% increase would strike a deal. Soon after those discussions, an additional bid had been received from the Housing Department, and it was understood that this was the reason for the recommended increase of 3.9% in the Tax, which was 0.4% higher than what had been recommended originally. The objective of the additional bid was unclear, but it was not believed that it would justify supporting a 3.9% increase in the Tax. For that purpose, the member who made that comment noted that he would propose an increase of 3.5%. In response, it was explained that the purpose of the Housing Department's bid was to fund temporary accommodation for homeless people, and unless the Council would fund the bid, those people would remain homeless. It was also explained that the bid had come to hand on the day after the first in a series of member workshops held to discuss the budget, and that this had been communicated via e-mail to the members who had attended that first workshop, by the date of the Audit and Governance Committee, where the proposal to increase 3.9% was supported. In terms of proposing amendments to the budget and the Tax increase, it was explained that the procedure asked for 2 days' written notice of any amendments proposed, so as to enable a fair opportunity to consider the implications.
- It was noted that the Council had voted unanimously earlier on when adopting the Council Plan 2019-23 (2020/21 Review), therefore, it would be sensible for the members to vote in favour of the budget that would allow the Council to realise those plans.

Whilst reiterating the substantial concerns that the Council had had to make cuts year on year, and whilst agreeing that it was completely necessary to continue to challenge the Cardiff and Westminster governments, many members expressed their willingness to support the budget; however, that they did so with a heavy heart.

**RESOLVED**

1. **To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet as noted in the report.**
2. **It be noted that the Cabinet Member for Finance, in a decision notice dated 11 November 2019, approved the calculation of the following amounts for 2020/21 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("The Act"):-**
  - (a) **51,917.91 being the amount calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.**
  - (b) **Parts of the Council's Area – Communities Tax Base -**

<b>Aberdaron</b>	<b>547.61</b>	<b>Llanddeiniolen</b>	<b>1,832.47</b>
<b>Aberdyfi</b>	<b>981.63</b>	<b>Llandderfel</b>	<b>497.41</b>
<b>Abergwyngregyn</b>	<b>117.58</b>	<b>Llanegryn</b>	<b>162.93</b>
<b>Abermaw (Barmouth)</b>	<b>1,154.44</b>	<b>Llanelltyd</b>	<b>292.05</b>
<b>Arthog</b>	<b>629.90</b>	<b>Llanengan</b>	<b>2,110.47</b>
<b>Y Bala</b>	<b>780.58</b>	<b>Llanfair</b>	<b>306.29</b>
<b>Bangor</b>	<b>3,844.14</b>	<b>Llanfihangel y Pennant</b>	<b>218.27</b>
<b>Beddgelert</b>	<b>306.63</b>	<b>Llanfrothen</b>	<b>224.99</b>
<b>Betws Garmon</b>	<b>134.95</b>	<b>Llangelynnin</b>	<b>413.24</b>

THE COUNCIL Thursday, 5 March 2020

Bethesda	1,664.32	Llangywer	137.48
Bontnewydd	437.65	Llanllechid	344.29
Botwnnog	444.04	Llanllyfni	1,405.19
Brithdir	a		
Llanfachreth	419.04	Llannor	901.31
Bryncrug	337.30	Llanrug	1,124.21
Buan	224.70	Llanuwchllyn	307.41
Caernarfon	3,556.57	Llanwnda	796.76
Clynnog Fawr	449.14	Llanycil	193.56
Corris	301.71	Llanystumdwy	866.96
Criccieth	944.20	Maentwrog	281.18
Dolbenmaen	618.47	Mawddwy	352.78
Dolgellau	1,224.77	Nefyn	1,453.53
Dyffryn Ardudwy	802.28	Pennal	220.28
Y Felinheli	1,146.20	Penrhyndeudraeth	781.77
Ffestiniog	1,735.84	Pentir	1,243.77
Y Ganllwyd	91.23	Pistyll	249.91
Harlech	775.51	Porthmadog	2,022.66
Llanaelhaearn	443.62	Pwllheli	1,736.18
Llanbedr	329.38	Talsarnau	327.52
Llanbedrog	720.23	Trawsfynydd	498.88
Llanberis	773.86	Tudweiliog	464.83
Llandwrog	1,033.56	Tywyn	1,617.43
Llandygai	996.31	Waunfawr	564.51

being the amounts calculated as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Act:-

- (a) £392,527,390 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act (gross expenditure).
- (b) £128,663,670 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act (income).
- (c) £263,863,720 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year (net budget).
- (ch) £187,100,978 Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable during the year into its fund in respect of the National Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, less the estimated cost to the Council of discretionary non-domestic rate relief granted.
- (d) £1,478.54 Being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(ch) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year. (Gwynedd Council tax and average community council tax).

(dd) £2,504,030 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (community council precepts).

(e) £1,430.31 Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(dd) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates (Band D for Gwynedd Council tax only).

(f) Parts of the Council's Area – Community

Aberdaron	1,457.70	Llanddeiniolen	1,447.66
Aberdyfi	1,467.79	Llandderfel	1,448.40
Abergwyngregyn	1,455.82	Llanegryn	1,464.07
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,482.28	Llanelltyd	1,455.99
Arthog	1,450.15	Llanengan	1,456.37
Y Bala	1,462.34	Llanfair	1,482.55
		Llanfihangel	y
Bangor	1,531.29	Pennant	1,482.08
Beddgelert	1,466.18	Llanfrothen	1,467.20
Betws Garmon	1,449.58	Llangelynnin	1,454.03
Bethesda	1,499.74	Llangywer	1,459.41
Bontnewydd	1,472.58	Llanllechid	1,473.88
Botwnnog	1,444.95	Llanllyfni	1,465.06
Brithdir	a		
Llanfachreth	1,451.79	Llannor	1,450.46
Bryncrug	1,467.69	Llanrug	1,483.68
Buan	1,447.00	Llanuwchllyn	1,466.09
Caernarfon	1,486.12	Llanwnda	1,465.45
Clynnog Fawr	1,465.93	Llanycil	1,450.98
Corris	1,461.23	Llanystumdwy	1,451.07
Criccieth	1,474.79	Maentwrog	1,451.83
Dolbenmaen	1,459.41	Mawddwy	1,455.31
Dolgellau	1,487.46	Nefyn	1,481.91
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,492.63	Pennal	1,459.18
Y Felinheli	1,465.21	Penrhyndeudraeth	1,480.84
Ffestiniog	1,565.69	Pentir	1,470.51
Y Ganllwyd	1,463.19	Pistyll	1,476.33
Harlech	1,520.57	Porthmadog	1,461.25
Llanaelhaearn	1,486.66	Pwllheli	1,475.24
Llanbedr	1,475.85	Talsarnau	1,497.48
Llanbedrog	1,460.16	Trawsfynydd	1,470.40
Llanberis	1,469.08	Tudweiliog	1,447.52
Llandwrog	1,492.23	Tywyn	1,486.16
Llandygai	1,455.81	Waunfawr	1,451.57

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(e) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount of 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of

its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(ff) In respect of parts of the Council's area, the figures noted in Appendix 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the sums specified in 3(f) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales have stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
193.74	226.03	258.32	290.61	355.19	419.77	484.35	581.22	678.09

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(ff) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the amounts noted in Appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown therein.

#### 11. 2020/21 CAPITAL STRATEGY

The Cabinet Member for Finance submitted a report, providing a high level overview on the manner capital expenditure, capital funding and the treasury's management activity contributed to the provision of local public services. The report also gave an overview of the way associated risks could be managed, and the implications for future financial sustainability.

**RESOLVED to adopt the Capital Strategy for 2020/21.**

#### 12. AMENDING OFFICERS' DELEGATED RIGHTS SCHEME

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report on changes to the officer delegation scheme, following the establishment of the Housing and Property Department.

**RESOLVED to accept the report.**

#### 13. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report seeking the Council's approval to the outcomes of a review of polling districts and polling places in the Arfon and Dwyfor Meirionnydd parliamentary constituencies.

**RESOLVED to approve the outcomes of the review of polling districts and polling places in the Arfon and Dwyfor Meirionnydd parliamentary constituencies.**

#### 14. COMMITTEES CALENDAR 2020/21

The Head of Democratic Services presented a calendar for the dates of Council meetings for 2020/21.

**RESOLVED to adopt the Committees Calendar for 2020/21.**

**15. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION**

**(A) RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION OF COUNCILLOR OWAIN WILLIAMS**

Submitted, for information - a letter from Welsh Government, in response to Councillor Owain Williams's notice of motion to the meeting on 19 December 2019, in relation to the National Anthem.

**(B) RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION OF COUNCILLOR GRUFFYDD WILLIAMS**

Submitted, for information - a letter from Welsh Government and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in response to Councillor Gruffydd Williams's notice of motion at the meeting on 19 December 2019, in relation to the Palestinian Territories.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.10 pm

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**CHAIRMAN**