

MEETING: AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 11 FEBRUARY 2021

TITLE: THE SAVINGS POSITION

PURPOSE: Report on the latest position

ACTION: Receive the information, consider the general risks arising from slippages, and scrutinise the Cabinet's decisions regarding the savings position

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR IOAN THOMAS

CONTACT OFFICER: DAFYDD L EDWARDS, HEAD OF FINANCE

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Audit and Governance Committee is expected to scrutinise some financial matters as appropriate.
2. The attached report (The Savings Position) was submitted to the Cabinet on 26 January 2021.
3. The Cabinet Member for Finance, and the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee have asked us to present this report to the Audit and Governance Committee to be scrutinised, together with the relevant decision notice which is on the next page.
4. The Audit and Governance Committee is requested to note the position and the relevant risks regarding the savings position, consider the Cabinet's decisions and comment as necessary.

Appendices:

Cabinet Decision Notice 26/01/2021

Cabinet report 26/01/2021: The Savings Position

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	26 January 2021
Date decision will come into force and be implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution	10 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 12: THE SAVINGS POSITION

DECISION

- i. To accept the conclusions of the Chief Executive on the individual schemes as noted in Appendix 1 and 2.
 - ii. In accordance with what was noted in Appendix 1, to move the delivery profile for schemes valued at £1,012,750 to 2022/23 and to recognise that the situation had now changed so much that it was not possible to deliver savings schemes valued at £848,040 and to eliminate them from the budget.
 - iii. To use the £1.6m provision set aside in the 2020/21 budget in order to do so, and to achieve the residual gap with the first use of savings planned for 2021/22.
 - iv. When preparing the 2021/22 budget, to agree that the delivery profile for schemes valued at £511,250 should be moved to 2022/23 and to recognise that the situation had now changed so much that it was not possible to deliver savings schemes valued at £595,450 and that £705,930 in savings should be used for the budget as noted in Appendix 2.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

At its meeting in October, the Cabinet considered a report which noted the composite position in delivering the savings, which included savings for the 2020/21 financial year. Risks associated with schemes valued at £3.4m were highlighted, and in light of the priority given to dealing with the Covid crisis, there was a risk of failing to close this gap in a short period.

It was noted that the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance Department had met Cabinet Members and the Heads of Department to discuss how it would be possible to resume the procedure of delivering the proposed savings. The report noted the findings and recommendations that derived from these meetings.

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 have been included in the report.
