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| MEETING | Full Council |
| DATE | 4 March 2021 |
| TITLE | Council Plan 2018-23: 2021/22 Review |
| PURPOSE | To approve an update on the Council Plan |
| CABINET MEMBER | Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn |
| CONTACT OFFICER | Dewi W. Jones, Council Business Support Service Manager |

1. Decision Sought

- 1.1. The Council is asked to adopt the **Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2021/22 Review** to be implemented during 2021/22.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The Council Plan for 2018-23 was originally adopted by the Full Council at its meeting on 8 March 2018. Since then, we have been reviewing its contents annually in order to ensure that we as a Council are continuing to prioritise our work according to the needs of the people of Gwynedd.
- 2.2. We now need to review the Plan in order to state what the Council intends to achieve during 2021/22, which is the fourth year of the five year plan.
- 2.3. To review the plan properly, we needed to consider what has changed since last year, and to examine the social, economic, environmental and policy issues that influence the Council, and which are likely to influence the well-being of the people of Gwynedd in the future.
- 2.4. At its meeting on 16 February, the Cabinet approved the **Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2021/22 Review (the Plan)**, subject to modifications to the wording of Priority 4 and Priority 7, to be submitted to the Council meeting on 4 March 2021.

3. Background

- 3.1. As with the current version, the **Council Plan 2018-23: 2021/22 Review** has been divided into two main parts, namely the **Improvement Priorities** and the individual **Department Plans**. A copy of the amended Plan is included in **Appendix 1**.

- 3.2. The **Improvement Priorities** (also published as a separate designed document in **Appendix 2**) identify our Well-being Objectives and our Priority Projects for the period in question. They outline all the areas which we will give specific attention to make the greatest difference possible to our residents' lives. Under each Improvement Priority is a summary of what we intend to deliver.
- 3.3. A description of the Departments' day-to-day work is included within the **Department Plans**. These also address what we are doing in response to the matters that were highlighted by Councillors as Local Priorities back in autumn 2017.
- 3.4. Over the past months many of our efforts as a Council have focused on responding to the Covid-19 crisis, but we are now planning for stabilising and re-building the future.
- 3.5. Therefore, and as we are also more than half way through the Plan period, it was timely for us to consult more widely with the remaining Elected Members. Engagement sessions were held at the beginning of February to ensure that the priorities continued to address the needs of the people of Gwynedd and the main issues raised are summarised under point 5 in this report.

4. Changes since the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2020/21 Review

- 4.1. Much work has been undertaken in identifying the areas that should be prioritised, giving consideration to what matters to the people of Gwynedd as we stabilise and re-build following the Covid-19 crisis. By now the scope of a number of projects has been extended to include the matters identified.
- 4.2. The main changes are summarised below. The information includes an explanation of which projects are new to the plan, and which projects are a continuation of those in the current plan or that have changed slightly (e.g. extending a previous project, or changing its focus).
- 4.3. The following projects are newly-added. It should be noted that many of the fields noted, such as Transfer of holiday units from Council Tax to Business Rates, have been receiving attention as part of the Council's work for many years. However, specific challenges have emerged in light of the Covid-19 crisis which have made the problems even more apparent, meaning that they have been elevated to be included in the Plan's main priorities.
 - Regeneration: forming a regeneration plan for our areas
 - The Gap in Welfare and Attainment of Children and Young People
 - Digital Learning Strategy
 - The transfer of holiday units from Council Tax to Business Rates
 - Native Welsh Place Names
 - A Suitable and Sustainable Care Provision for the future
 - Keeping Families Together Strategy
 - Ensuring specialist appropriate local provision for children with the most complex needs

- Ensuring that families and children with autism have access to the support they need to thrive
- Public Protection Capacity
- Ensuring that managers practice their Health and Safety role effectively
- Realising Savings
- Clean and Tidy Communities
- Strengthening Communication and Engagement

4.4. In addition, the scope or content of the following projects has changed:

- **Benefiting from Tourism** has now been extended and re-named **Tourism - creating a Sustainable Tourism Plan**
- The scope of the **Businesses Receiving Support to Prosper** project has been extended as a result of the need for additional support for businesses following the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis
- **Post-16 Provision, Bangor Catchment Area, Treforthyr Catchment Area (Cricieth), Meirionnydd Strategic Collaboration** has been split into four individual projects, namely:
 - **Post-16 Education Provision in Arfon**
 - **Bangor Catchment Area**
 - **Cricieth Catchment Area** and
 - **Meirionnydd Collaboration**
- The scope of the **Supporting People's Well-being** project has been extended in light of different needs emerging in our communities during the Covid-19 crisis
- The scope of the **More Gwynedd residents playing a full part in the World of Work** project has been extended as a result of increased unemployment following the Covid-19 crisis
- The **'Homes for the People of Gwynedd' Strategy 2019-24** has been changed to focus on three additional projects that are covered by the strategy, namely:
 - **A shortage of suitable homes for the people of Gwynedd: Secure approval for the Housing Plan and begin implementation.**
 - **Easy and clear access to an advice and enquiries service on housing matters: Establishing a single front door and helpdesk for the public in order to help them with their housing problems; and**
 - **Allocating social housing to local people: Creating a new allocations policy for the county which will give greater priority to local people.**
- The scope of the **Promoting Use of the Welsh language by Children and Young People** project has been changed because of the need to take into account the impact of lockdown on Welsh learners' skills and confidence
- The **Community Resilience** project has been incorporated as part of the **Supporting People's Well-being** project
- The scope of the **Apprenticeships Scheme** has been extended and re-named **Planning the Workforce**
- The **Gwynedd Businesses to use the Welsh Language** project is now being addressed as part of the day-to-day work of both the Corporate Support and Economy and Community Departments.

4.5. The remaining projects under the Improvement Priorities will carry on from 2020/21 to 2021/22.

5. Engagement sessions with Elected Members

5.1. Engagement sessions on the priorities were held with Elected Members at the beginning of February and they were attended by 28 members. Generally, there was agreement to the draft priorities along with welcoming the opportunity to be able to feed into the process before submitting the Plan formally to the Cabinet and the Full Council.

5.2. Below is a summary of the main messages that emerged from the engagement sessions:

- **'People helping people'** - need to remember the positive aspects of the Covid-19 situation and the way in which the communities and people of Gwynedd helped each other when they were in need. Need to keep the momentum for the future.
- **Tidy communities** - Gwynedd residents have become much more aware of their own square mile during the lockdown period and have therefore appreciated the local natural environment. On the other hand, there was disappointment that problems such as dog fouling and littering has continued throughout the period. This suggests that local people are contributing to the problem and that it is not solely linked to visitors. *(There are projects within the Plan that respond to these problems).*
- **Local Regeneration Plans** - members welcomed the idea of creating plans that respond to the specific needs of local areas as priorities vary across the County.

5.3. In addition, a number of observations were made on specific projects and we will pass these on to the Leaders of the relevant projects.

6. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)

6.1. The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of people. As part of the duty, public bodies are required to publish well-being objectives that outline how they will improve well-being of their areas.

6.2. We consulted with the Elected Members and the public regarding the matters that affect their well-being as part of the development of the original Plan (and with Elected Members during February 2021) and we also analysed the findings of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board's Well-being Assessment.

6.3. As the evidence used to form the well-being objectives for 2018/19 continues to be relevant it is suggested that those objectives continue for 2021/22. A list of the well-being objectives can be seen on page 5 of the Plan.

7. Equality Act 2010

- 7.1. There is a statutory requirement to prepare an equality impact assessment and consider its findings when preparing the Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as is implemented in Wales. The assessment is included in **Appendix 3**.
- 7.2. The assessment of the Plan in its entirety does not identify any impacts which would justify deviating from the recommendation and it is anticipated that there are elements which would have a positive impact. The Project Leaders will be responsible for undertaking a full Equality Impact Assessment on individual projects.

8. Any Consultations Undertaken Prior to Recommending the Decision

8.1 Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. The Head of Finance Department

The Council Plan is a key document, which sets out what Gwynedd Council aims to do over the next three years. The Transformation Fund remains in place in order to finance the Plan's priorities, but a proportion of this fund has already been committed. There is a likelihood that resource requirements for all the improvement priorities in the Plan is greater than the money available to them, whilst financial propriety means that it must be ensured that a funding source has been identified for any commitment to spend. I expect that the Cabinet will continue to consider each business case individually before agreeing to fund suggested schemes, and on those occasions I will update the Cabinet on the adequacy of the Fund.

ii. The Monitoring Officer:

Within the Council Plan there are statutory aspects which are addressed, specifically in relation to Improvement Objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Wellbeing Objectives established under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. By reviewing the Plan the Council addresses annual requirements which relate to these. I support the recommendation from a propriety perspective

8.2 Local Member's views

Not a local matter.

8.3 Results of Any Consultation:

The Equality Impact Assessments can be seen in Appendix 3.

A summary of the engagement sessions held with Elected Members has been included under point 5 in the report.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Council Plan 2018-23: Review 2021/22

Appendix 2 - Improvement Priorities

Appendix 3 - Equality Assessments