

MEETING	Cabinet
DATE	16 February 2016
TITLE	Strategic Plan 2016-17
PURPOSE	To ensure the Cabinet's approval to the plan
AUTHOR	Councillor Dyfed Edwards
CONTACT OFFICER	Hawis Jones, Strategic Planning and Performance Manager

1. The decision sought

The approval of the Cabinet to the Strategic Plan 2016-17 for submission to the Council on 3 March 2016.

2. Introduction

2.1 The original strategic plan for 2013-17 was adopted by the Council in May 2013.

2.2 The purpose of reviewing the plan this year was to look at where we have reached following three years of implementing the strategic plan, as well as making sure that we are continuing to do the right things for the final year of the plan. In order to review fully, it was necessary for us to consider what had changed since last year, looking at the social, economic, environmental and policy matters which influence the Council and which are likely to influence the welfare of the people of Gwynedd for the future.

2.3 The plan sets out the priority fields for the Council for the duration of the plan, the situation that we wish to see for those fields, and describes what the Council will do to reach that situation during the coming year. It also includes our improvement objectives which focus on the matters to which we will give most attention during the timespan of the plan.

2.4 The plan this year has been created during a time of preparing for around £5million in cuts to be implemented over the coming two years, and therefore it was necessary to consider that context. When reviewing the plan, we sought the opinion of the people of Gwynedd regarding the challenge which has been set for us as a Council to continue doing our best for the people of Gwynedd despite the fact that we have less finances than ever and that the demand for our services continues to increase. Over 2,000 Gwynedd residents responded to the Gwynedd Challenge consultation, and we have used the information from those sessions when reviewing the plan.

3. Relevant considerations

Noted below are the matters that Cabinet members need to consider before the plan is approved:

3.1 Completed projects

The following projects are not included in the Strategic Plan 2016-17 as they have now been completed:

- Ysgol Bro Llifon
- Outcome Agreement
- Cuts. Project CA1: Realising Savings will now focus on realising the decisions to be made on cuts as well as efficiency savings.
- Older People Accommodation Strategy. Implementing the Older People Accommodation Strategy has now been incorporated in projects G4: Extra Care Housing, G6: Internal Provision and G7: Capacity and sustainability of the care and health arrangements

3.2 New projects

3.2.1 A new project is included in the Care field, namely G7: Capacity and sustainability of the care and health arrangements. In incorporating this project in the plan, we are confident that projects G1-G4 will place us in a firm position to achieve the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act.

3.2.2 The field of Poverty, Deprivation, Economy and Housing will also include a new project, T7: High profile and strategic events in order to focus on attracting national or international high profile events to Gwynedd in order to take advantage of the economic and social benefit which will ensue.

3.3 All projects include a reference to where we have reached thus far and their wording has been reviewed to express what exactly we are going to do in order to reach the situation we want to see.

3.4 Cuts

Any decisions made on the cuts will need to be consistent with what has been agreed to be implemented through the strategic plan.

3.5 Well-being of Future Generations Act

Referenced towards the requirements of the act's principles have been incorporated in the section on Reviewing the Plan, and also in the section which outlines the Vision of the Plan.

3.6 Consultation with other Council members

The remainder of the Council's members were invited to offer comments on that which is offered in the plan, and a verbal report will be made in the meeting on any comments received.

4. Reasons for recommending the decision

4.1 The draft plan submitted for the attention of the Cabinet reflects the results of the review, and is a natural progression of the Strategic Plan 2015-16. Its focus will continue to be on improving the Council's ability to ensure the best for the people of Gwynedd. We will do this by transforming services to services that we will be able to maintain for the future.

4.2 There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider the findings of the equality impact assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as enacted in Wales. The assessment is attached in Appendix 2. The assessment does not discover any impact which would justify deviating from the recommendation and elements with a positive effect are foreseen.

5. Next steps and timetable

In approving the plan, it is intended that it is submitted for adoption to the next full meeting of the Council on 3 March 2016.

6. Appendices/Bibliography

6.1 Strategic Plan 2016-17

Appendix 1

Measures

Appendix 2

Equality Impact Assessment

6.2 Bibliography

Strategic Plan 2015-16

Views of the statutory officers

The Chief Executive:

Obviously, it is a necessity that we adopt such a plan for the future. What is more difficult, of course, this year, is to strike the right balance between the ambition of this plan on one hand and the reality of the Her Gwynedd process and the cuts that we must implement on the other. I believe that the plan strikes that balance appropriately and I approve it for the attention of the Cabinet.

The Monitoring Officer:

It is a statutory requirement that the Council establishes or reviews improvement objectives on an annual basis and the report together with the recommendations addresses this.

I also note that there has been consultation with the public as part of the review through Her Gwynedd.

The Head of Finance Department:

It is beneficial that the Strategic Plan is submitted in the same cycle as the 2016/17 budget and the new version of the medium-term financial plan (Financial Strategy 2016/17-2019/20), which has been incorporated in the Strategic Plan under 'Financial Planning'. I have worked with the author of the Strategic Plan on the content of that aspect, and I confirm the accuracy of its content. Furthermore, I note that the report 'Budget 2016/17' on the agenda of this meetings notes "that the main priorities of the Council (developmental matters to make a difference) are financed and commissioned separately [to the report on the budget], through the Strategic Plan".