

THE CABINET 19/12/23

Present-

Councillors: Dyfrig Siencyn, Nia Jeffreys, Beca Brown, Berwyn Parry Jones, Craig ab Iago, Dafydd Meurig, Elin Walker Jones and Ioan Thomas.

Also present-

Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Huw Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services), Geraint Owen (Corporate Director), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services), Dewi Aeron Morgan (Head of Finance Department) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

- Item 6: Daron Marged Owens (Senior Operational Officer Community Safety Partnership).
- Item 7: Bethan Richardson (Climate Change Programme Manager) and David Mark Lewis (Energy and Commercial Services Manager)
- Item 8: Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department)
- Item 9: Steffan Jones (Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC Department)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Menna Trenholme and Dilwyn Morgan.

The Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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 28 NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2023 were accepted as a true record.

6. CAERNARFON, PWLLHELI AND CRICIETH PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

The report was presented by the Senior Operational Officer Community Safety Partnership

DECISION

- a. **To approve the undertaking of the process of considering the introduction of a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for specific areas in Caernarfon, Cricieth and Pwllheli, in accordance with the draft Proposed Order in Appendix 1.**
- b. **To authorise the Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department to undertake a consultation process for a period of 28 days, with the matter to return to Cabinet in due course for a decision whether a PSPO should be introduced in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Cricieth.**

DISCUSSION

It was explained that the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides the powers for Local Authorities to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to deal with particular nuisance or problems in a specific area. It was confirmed that the police had been in contact with the Council to try and introduce a PSPO in areas in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Cricieth. Orders are intended to deal with specific problems in specific areas that are harmful to the quality of life. It was explained that the proposed PSPO areas have been noted because of the impact of behaviour on the community, businesses and visitors.

It was detailed that the Local Authority must be satisfied that there is reasonable ground for believing that these behaviours in a public place have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental impact on the quality of life of people in the neighbourhood. It was also explained that the activities needed to be persistent in nature and unreasonable. It was explained that the police had provided impact assessments from officers and businesses in these areas, noting evidence that antisocial behaviour by young individuals and adults included substance misuse, threatening behaviour and violence. It was detailed that this led to some individuals in the community avoiding going into businesses, and avoiding using bus shelters etc.

It was confirmed that the Council had consulted with Local Members and the relevant town councils. It was ensured that full support was given to the orders, as well as support from Arfon and Dwyfor Meirionnydd Members of Parliament. It was explained that the Council would hold a public consultation regarding the PSPO if they were approved, before presenting a further report to the Cabinet

when timely to do so. It was recognised that other options should be considered before introducing the PSPO and the Council has received comprehensive information by the police of their various commitments and the Council was satisfied that they had already used every method to address these behaviours.

It was reported that the restrictions under PSPO consideration had been developed specifically to deal with these types of behaviours that caused the most problems, and the following restrictions were considered suitable:

- A person shall not follow a course of conduct which causes, or which can reasonably be perceived to cause harassment, alarm, nuisance or distress.
- A person shall not consume alcohol, or anything which an Authorised Person reasonably believes to be alcohol or a container holding alcohol, if the Authorised Person asks the person to stop drinking or to surrender the alcohol or container.
- A person shall not loiter in a state of intoxication through consumption of alcohol or drugs. If an Authorised Person asks a person to leave the area in circumstances where the person has contravened this restriction, the person shall leave immediately.

It was emphasised that it is only when people who drink alcohol cause antisocial behaviour or likely to cause antisocial behaviour that officers will enforce this ban. It was learned that it is not a crime to drink alcohol in a PSPO area, but it was a crime to not cooperate with a request to stop drinking or surrender alcohol. It was confirmed that the order would not impact events such as the Food Festival in Caernarfon, unless individuals caused antisocial behaviour whilst drinking.

It was confirmed that the Equality Act 2010 set legal requirements to prepare an impact assessment for the PSPO and it was noted that there was no reason to not continue with the process deriving from the Council's impact assessment.

7. CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN: ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 CYNGOR GWYNEDD

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn.

DECISION

The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Cyngor Gwynedd Annual Report 2022/23, was considered and approved.

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan had been adopted by the Council on 8 March 2023 following a Cabinet meeting.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the plan included two steps. It was detailed that the first phase was to implement the Council's projects to reduce the use of energy and reduce the Council's carbon emissions and the second phase would

be to look at the wider impact on the county, considering how the Council could help communities and how the county could respond to the impact of climate change.

It was emphasised that the Council had been working on measures to reduce carbon emissions for over 10 years and had succeeded to reduce the total carbon emissions by 43%. It was detailed that the Council had succeeded to do this by implementing in each area, including streetlights that has reduced 76% of the related carbon emissions, and changes to the fleet, reducing related carbon emissions by 23%.

It was explained that the Council's changes contributed towards the climate change emergency and contributed to the Council's aim to be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030. It was also noted that these changes led to the Council's financial savings. It was elaborated that the Council saw financial benefits when tackling the climate and nature emergency, saving around £15 million since 2010. It was emphasised that this meant that more cuts would need to be made as a result of the Council's current financial situation unless the work on the climate change and nature emergency had not been delivered, because there would be a need to meet £4.3million in additional costs. It was recognised that new considerations needed to be considered by now, such as challenges in the scrutiny field and the fact that more of the council's workforce worked from home.

Reference was made to a variety of projects within the plan's seven main workstreams namely: Buildings and energy, moving and transportation, waste, governance, scrutiny, land use and ecology. Attention was given to a solar panel project that was already underway with £2.8 million invested in solar panels to put on the Council's offices to save money in the future. It was also explained that the Council's fleet would be upgraded in the future to be electric vehicles in order to reduce the carbon emissions that the current vehicles released.

Concern was expressed regarding the method of calculating carbon emissions nationally. It was explained that buying local goods was calculated in the same way as buying goods from across the country, because the system focused on expenditure, despite the fact that there were major differences in the true carbon emissions. It was noted that this could impact the local economy in areas as there was no encouragement to buy locally. There was concern that it would not be possible to reach targets of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 if this calculating method would not be amended. It was confirmed that work was being done nationally to rectify this mistake to help local members to achieve their goal.

Thanks was given to the Communities Scrutiny Committee for their observations on the annual report, which had been taken into their consideration and implemented.

8. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn.

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9. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, ENGINEERING AND YGC

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The meeting commenced at 1pm and concluded at 2:10pm

CHAIRMAN