
THE COUNCIL THURSDAY, 3 MAY 2018

Present: Councillor Annwen Hughes (Chair);
Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen (Vice-chair).

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Freya Hannah Bentham, Dylan Bullard, Stephen Churchman, Steve Collings, Annwen Daniels, R.Glyn Daniels, Anwen Davies, Elwyn Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Dylan Fernley, Peter Antony Garlick, Simon Glyn, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, R.Medwyn Hughes, Sian Wyn Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Nia Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M.Jones, Aled Wyn Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Charles W.Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Elwyn Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Linda A.W. Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Linda Morgan, Dafydd Owen, Dewi Owen, W.Roy Owen, Jason Parry, Rheinallt Puw, Dewi Wyn Roberts, Elfed P.Roberts, Gareth A.Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W.Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Angela Russell, 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), Morwena Edwards and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Directors), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department), Sioned Williams (Head of Economy and Community Department), Gwyn Morris Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal Department), Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor / Deputy Monitoring Officer), Vera Jones (Democracy Manager), Cara Owen (Planning Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officer).

Councillor Annwen Daniels, the Chair for 2017/18, addressed the meeting.

1. CHAIR

Councillor Annwen Hughes was elected chair for 2018/19.

Councillor Annwen Hughes signed a declaration accepting the post of Chair of Gwynedd Council for 2018/19.

2. VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen was elected vice-chair for 2018/19.

Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen signed a declaration accepting the post of Vice-chair of Gwynedd Council for 2018/19.

3. APOLOGIES

Councillors Eric Merfyn Jones, Dilwyn Morgan, Nigel Pickavance and Peter Read.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 8 March, 2018 as a true record.

5. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Members had received a briefing note from the Monitoring Officer in advance about item 13 on the agenda – Financial Remuneration for Elected Members. Because of the nature of the report, and in order to comply with the requirements of the Code of Conduct, the Chair declared a personal interest in the item on behalf of all members present but, as it was not a prejudicial interest, members would have the right to participate in the discussion and vote on the matter.

Councillor W. Gareth Roberts declared a personal interest in item 17(b) on the agenda - Notice of Motion by Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd, as his son-in-law worked for the Youth Service.

The member was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and he withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sympathy was extended to the families of the following:-

- Beryl Ellis, a staff member from the Environment Department for many years, who had passed away recently.
- The former councillor, Tecwyn Thomas, who had been a member of this Council between 1999 and 2004. Councillor Sion Jones paid tribute to him.

It was also noted that the Council wished to express condolences to everyone in the county's communities who had lost loved ones recently.

The Council stood as a mark of respect.

Best wishes were extended to Councillor Eric Merfyn Jones, who had been ill recently and would be undergoing surgery today.

Councillors Dilwyn Lloyd and Stephen Churchman were congratulated for raising £440 towards the Air Ambulance by publishing and selling a humorous calendar of Gwynedd Councillors in December last year. The money had been presented to the charity at Caernarfon Airport in February.

Councillors Dilwyn Lloyd and Stephen Churchman noted their thanks to everyone, especially those who had agreed to have their photographs included.

The choirs from Gwynedd who had been successful at the Pan Celtic Festival recently were congratulated.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, OR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None to note.

8. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

9. QUESTIONS

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

(1) Question from Councillor Mike Stevens

"As a result of the fact that Kingdom's trial period came to an end prematurely and where an attempt was made to deal with a problem described by Welsh Government as environmental crimes, e.g. generating litter, fly tipping and the most concerning, dog fouling, what steps do Council officers intend to take to prevent Gwynedd residents from drowning under a mountain of dog mess?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal, Councillor Gareth Griffith

"This matter was submitted to the Communities Scrutiny Committee a fortnight ago today, and consequently the scrutiny committee has proposed to examine three steps:-

- i) Collaborate with other neighbouring counties to improve the provision.
- ii) Reconsider the existing staffing levels in the Street Enforcement Unit.
- iii) Extend the interdepartmental collaboration where staff from other Council departments receive delegated street enforcement rights."

A supplementary question by Councillor Mike Stevens

"What can we do to ensure that officers act on these recommendations?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal, Councillor Gareth Griffith

"You are a member of the Communities Scrutiny Committee, but from what I remember, you were not present at the meeting in question. In the short period of time since the scrutiny committee, I have met with the head of department on Tuesday morning and I can say that a meeting will soon be held with Anglesey, which is one of the closest councils to us. In terms of the six wardens currently employed by the Maritime Department, I can also say that this matter has been taken a step further. Once training has been provided and systems put into place, we hope to roll this out, and obviously this would also include your area as you are on the coast, and during the short time since the scrutiny committee, the Council has made progress with this."

(2) Question from Councillor Sion Jones

"What discussions between members, officers and Welsh Government have and are taking place to ensure that Gwynedd is protected after leaving the EU, and to ensure continuation of jobs for our citizens and EU-funded investments for the county?"

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

"A very timely question. It's a very worrying time for us in the Welsh countryside. The uncertainty and the lack of answers to quite basic questions is causing concern. A list is included in the written response of various committees,

working groups and meetings that have been held in the past. I can assure you that one of my main aims as Council Leader is to be a voice for rural Wales. This is why I was appointed Joint Chair of the Welsh Local Government Association Rural Forum and I hope to use this forum as a strong voice, not only for Gwynedd, but also for the Welsh countryside. Therefore, courageous efforts are being made in very complex circumstances. I recently attended a meeting with the Secretary of State for Wales where he submitted his report on the latest situation in Westminster and at the time there was no agreement between Welsh Government and Westminster. It's quite disappointing that Welsh Government has now surrendered the powers to Westminster, and this adds to the concern, and how any remaining funds available to us after we leave Europe, will be distributed. It concerns me greatly that there is a lack of understanding and a lack of very basic information among ministers and civil servants in Westminster, and this makes me even more concerned that we will not receive our fair share of whatever money is available to us after we leave Europe."

A supplementary question by Councillor Sion Jones

"What direct support does this Council provide for businesses in Gwynedd?"

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

"A great deal of work is taking place with the North Wales Ambition Board, and the private sector is a large part of that work. In fact, they are central to the whole thing. The north Wales Growth Plan is involved with economic growth and I believe that we need to focus on rural communities. There is work to be done to develop policies that provide regeneration support to rural communities which, if they exist at all, are currently weak. This is the type of discussion I will have. Also, Lesley Griffiths, AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs has formed what she calls a round table of individuals who are interested in the field to discuss Brexit matters. The Chair of Powys and I as Joint Chairs of the Rural Forum have requested membership of that board, but unfortunately, she has turned down our application stating that the officer's contribution is sufficient to represent local government. We will meet with her very soon and I want to put her back on the right track and in the meantime, perhaps the member can also have a word with her. Regarding the matter of business support, I don't have the facts before me, therefore, can I ask the Head of Economy and Community Department to provide direction on this?"

Response from the Head of Economy and Community Department

"Direct support for businesses has fallen substantially over the past few years. The main fund we used was funded by European funding. That fund no longer operates which means that Gwynedd Council does not have a direct pot of grants for businesses. However, we have two officers working to support businesses to gain access to funds from different sources. We have a direct loans fund. This fund is available for businesses who cannot secure a loan to invest from any other fund which means that we examine the risk, as there is a higher risk for those businesses, and the interest rates reflect this. However, we do not have direct funds for businesses except for the loans fund. A number of funds are available for businesses on a national level, from Welsh Government and various organisations. Unfortunately, this is extremely complicated for businesses. Businesses need to access the internet and search, and gaining access to information can be a highly complex undertaking. Our officers' role is to help businesses to obtain the most appropriate support for them. It varies

across sectors, from small businesses to large businesses to rural businesses, therefore, the main support now available from the Council is this indirect support to help businesses find their way."

(3) Question from Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen

"The Welsh Labour Government has recently abolished a number of school grants. I believe that the school uniform grant for children from deprived backgrounds, given when a child starts his/her secondary education, is one of these. How many Gwynedd children have received this grant in the past two years and has the Council got schemes in place to assist families that will be affected by this?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Gareth Thomas

"It's very fitting to mention the cuts made to school grants by Welsh Government. For a government that states that it supports education, it is astonishing how many cuts they make to grants, which of course affect schools. The grants mentioned by the member are for the most disadvantaged people, namely the children who receive free school meals, and these grants provided £105 for children who were starting secondary school; and, as I have noted in the response, there were 151 of such children in Gwynedd in 2016/17, and 174 in 2017/18. Those are the numbers, but these are the most deprived families and I find it repugnant that the Labour Government has cut this money for the most deprived families. However, I am very proud that this Council is going to continue with these grants from Council coffers. We submitted an application to continue to support these most disadvantaged families and I am very pleased that this well-informed Council can continue with the grants."

A supplementary question by Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen

"What is the Council doing to help these children as they grow older?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Gareth Thomas

"When a child was starting secondary school, the grant was £105, but the Council has also been supporting these families as children grow older at school by also providing £45 a year for school uniform. It is this Council that has been offering this support over the years, not Welsh Government. In terms of numbers, 691 children have received the £45 during 2016/17 and 636 this year, which gives a total of 842 in 2016 and 810 in 2017. Therefore, over 800 children per year receive financial support towards school uniform from Gwynedd Council and all the money in future will come from Gwynedd Council as the grant has been abolished."

At the end of this item, Councillor Owain Williams expressed his dissatisfaction after understanding that a question he submitted to Council offices on 26 April would not be allowed. He also noted that he had intended to ask the same question at the Business Group meeting, but that aforementioned meeting had been cancelled.

In response, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the question had been received at the Council offices the previous week, but inadvertently, it had not

been brought to his attention until late on the morning of the Council meeting, and therefore, it was not possible to deal with the question at this meeting. He added that he would send a letter of apology to the member and contact him to ensure that his question would be submitted to the next Council meeting in July.

10. WELSH GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER - "STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: DELIVERING FOR PEOPLE"

Submitted - the Leader's report inviting a discussion on a series of principles the Council should adopt in terms of any future discussion so that a response to the consultation paper could be formulated which was consistent with the Council's viewpoint.

During the discussion, it was noted that:-

- It was not possible for community councils to take on more responsibilities without increasing their precepts, and in turn, this would place an additional financial burden on families that were already finding it difficult to cope.
- Some community councils were likely to be more willing to help than others and how could this be resolved?
- It was a difficult time to realise these proposals as there were more cuts and challenges on the horizon. Also, the process of merging councils was costly and it was unclear where money for that would come from.
- No evidence was seen that merging would be better than the current system.
- It was a shame that the Williams Commission had not examined the public sector in its entirety.
- There was an opinion that Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board was too large and that this was why it faced so many problems. If they had to merge, it should be done so in a meaningful and relevant manner for our citizens.
- Merging councils and centralising everything would deprive people across Wales of the power to make decisions locally and that collaboration between authorities was the way forward.
- The document was very vague. The contents could be interpreted in a number of different ways, more direction was needed and the aims should be clearer.
- The document focused on merging instead of collaborating.
- A radical change in how community and town councils in Wales worked was needed, with consideration given to the type of powers they required in order to act for their communities.
- A concern regarding the impact of cuts on the third sector and the need to drive a clear message to the Boundary Commission and the Government stating that the time had come to end re-organisation and to collaborate and focus on people within our communities.
- Gwynedd Council was very willing to listen to the voice of young people.
- The principle of a voluntary merger with Isle of Anglesey County Council instead of being forced to merge with more councils was supported. This would save money and avoid the duplication of work and it must also be borne in mind that many existing councils had a larger population than Gwynedd and Anglesey combined.
- There were arguments in favour of merging councils and savings could possibly derive from it, but more evidence of this would initially need to be seen.
- Too many orders came from the centre, and councils themselves should be free to decide what the best arrangement was, be it a merger or collaboration with others, and also the level of any collaboration.

- If the government moved further away from the people as a result of merging county councils, a more intimate layer of government must be ensured, namely the community councils, but it was believed that they would not be able to cope with providing services as things stood at present. Therefore, the question of merging was also possible in that regard.

RESOLVED to adopt the principles.

11. THE HEAD OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES' ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted - the annual report of the Head of Corporate Support Department on behalf of the Democratic Services Committee with regards to the support that had been proposed for members thus far over the term of this Council, along with the elements that were still being developed.

The Head of Department thanked the chairman of the committee, Councillor Dewi Roberts, and the remaining committee members for their support and also the team that was being led by the Democracy Manager.

He also noted that the work undertaken, and the provision to support members in their roles, had been independently assessed by the Welsh Local Government Association this year and that he was pleased to report that Gwynedd Council had been awarded "The Wales Charter for Member Support and Development", informally known as the Members Charter.

The Chairman of the Democratic Services Committee, Councillor Dewi Roberts said a few words, and thanked the Head of Corporate Support Department, the Democracy Manager, committee members and team members for their work.

During the discussion, it was noted that:-

- It had been noticed that webcast viewing figures showed that the extraordinary meeting of the Council in July last year to discuss the Joint Local Development Plan had been of particular interest to the public.
- Lack of response to e-mails from officers was unacceptable and that the protocol on contact between members and officers should now be in place.

12. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Council was invited to appoint a chair for the Democratic Services Committee for 2018/19.

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Dewi Owen as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee for 2018/19.

13. FINANCIAL REMUNERATION FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Submitted - a report by the Head of Democratic Services asking the Council to determine the higher salaries to be paid for the coming year, and the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee, Councillor Dewi Roberts, proposed the recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee.

During the discussion, it was noted that:-

- It was not believed that it was wise for members to accept any salary increase, especially considering that staff had not received much of an increase in their salaries. In response, the Chief Executive explained that staff would be given a minimum increase of 2% in their salaries this year, with those on the lowest salaries receiving up to 9%. Members would receive an increase of 1.49%. He had seen a comment recently which meant that members would actually be paid below the minimum wage after taking into account all of the hours they worked.
- There was a need to pay fair salaries to councillors, especially if the Council was going to attract people from deprived backgrounds to become members.
- The recommendation to set the civic salary for the Chair of the Council at Level 1 was a step too far in the current climate and an amendment was proposed and seconded to retain the Chair's salary at Level 2. To the contrary, it was noted that the Chair represented the Council on all types of important occasions and therefore, the post's salary deserved to be set at Level 1.
- It was dangerous to start putting pressures on councillors to accept a reduction in their salaries and that the increase, although small, was justifiable.
- The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales had stated themselves, according to the index, that a councillor should receive a basic salary of £15,000.
- Councillors would not have to keep the extra £200 and that anyone was free to contribute the amount towards activities in their community if they so wished.
- The duties of the Chair of the Care Scrutiny Committee were much broader than those listed in Appendix 1.

A vote was taken on the amendment to retain the salary of the Chair of the Council at Level 2 and it was passed.

RESOLVED

(a) Continue to pay senior salaries to the 18 roles listed in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

(b) Civic salary for the Chair of the Council should be at Level 2 (£21,800).

(c) Civic salary for the Vice-chair of the Council should be at Level 2 (£16,300).

14. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

Submitted - a report by the Head of Democratic Services on the Council's political balance and relevant matters.

A member referred to the fact that two members of the United Independent Group for Gwynedd had stated that they did not wish to serve on any committees. In response, the Monitoring Officer explained that these seats would be offered to the groups, and the Council would be able to review the situation if those seats had not been filled after three weeks.

RESOLVED

(a) Adopt the seats allocation in accordance with what is noted in the appendix to these minutes.

(b) Delegate the power to the Head of Democratic Services to make appointments to the committees based on political balance and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.

(c) Allocate the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees on the basis of political balance as follows:

15. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Submitted - a report by the Monitoring Officer inviting the Council to adopt the amendments to the Planning Delegation Scheme, Section 13 Appendix 3 Part 11 Head of the Regulatory Department in accordance with what was noted in Appendix 1 of the report.

During the discussion, it was noted that:-

- It was believed that what was being proposed was reasonable but there was a need to ensure that local people had an input into any planning application.
- there was concern that the opinions and rights of individuals and councillors were being undermined. In response, the Monitoring Officer explained that the right of members to call-in an application remained.
- Some applications were submitted to the Planning Committee unnecessarily and that was why these minor changes to the delegation scheme would make a difference.
- It was not a matter of officers being given more powers, rather a matter of regulating the situation and that the Communities Scrutiny Committee had asked officers to be given more responsibilities for efficiency reasons.

RESOLVED to adopt the adaptations to the Planning Delegation Scheme, Section 13 Appendix 3 Part 11 Head of the Regulatory Department, in accordance with what is noted in Appendix 1 of the report.

16. GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY WELL-BEING PLAN

Submitted - a report by the Leader inviting the Council to approve the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan.

RESOLVED to approve the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan.

17. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Judith Humphreys, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:-

“This Council notes that:

- **That European Union Citizenship gives individuals the right to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU.**
- **That the range of rights and protections afforded to individuals as European Union citizens are integral to a person’s European identity.**
- **That thousands of people in Wales have voiced concern about losing their European Union citizenship as a result of the 2016 EU Referendum decision to leave the EU and the UK government's decision to leave the EU.**
- **That the vast majority of the population of Gwynedd voted to Remain in the EU.**

- A study was released by Jill Evans MEP and conducted by Professor Volker Roeben of Swansea University entitled "The Feasibility of Associate EU Citizenship for UK Citizens Post-Brexit".

This Council further notes the main findings of this report:

- That continued European Union Citizenship for Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish and English citizens is possible under European and International law.
- That this can be achieved through EU legislation and the withdrawal agreement between the UK and EU.
- That no revision of EU Treaties is needed to achieve this.
- That UK citizenship law is flexible and accepts the principle that people should not be stripped of their citizenship against their will.

This Council welcomes:

That a Plaid Cymru motion calling on the UK Government to ensure that UK citizens' right to EU citizenship is retained was passed by the House of Commons.

This Council calls on:

- the UK Government to put forward the proposal of Associate European Union Citizenship during Brexit negotiations.
- the Welsh Government to demand, through the Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations), that the UK Government includes Associate EU Citizenship in its negotiating position."

During the discussion, several members expressed support for the proposal on the grounds that they felt that they had European identity and the right as European citizens to travel and study in Europe and to be protected by European rights, and that they were unwilling to be stripped of those rights.

Others noted, although they had no objection to the proposal as such, that they believed that it would not change anything.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion.

(B) Prior to commencing a discussion on this item, Councillor Jason Parry presented a petition to the Chair. The Chair thanked the member for the petition, noting that she would pass it on to the relevant department.

Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:-

"That this Council request that the Council Cabinet re-consider the future of the County's Youth Service with a presumption in favour of retaining youth clubs and continuing with the financial support given traditionally to voluntary organisations such as the Urdd and Federation of Young Farmers."

The proposer of the notice of motion further noted:-

- That he was proposing the motion in light of the Cabinet's decision to close all Gwynedd youth clubs and to set a new county arrangement in its place, one which had not been proven to be viable or of any value.
- The county club would involve losing the expertise of experienced youth workers and increase the central full time officers from the existing five to nearly 20.
- It appeared that the consultation with young people was invalid, and possibly illegal, as there had been no mention in it about the possibility of closing existing clubs.
- The consultation with community councils had been insufficient, with some being deprived of any correspondence on the matter.
- If any policy ever needed to be remitted or reconsidered, this was it.
- The Council was willing to keep youth clubs open on the condition that a contribution was made by community councils toward this, but he could not see that the new county service had any faith that this would succeed.
- There was no record of informal discussions with the police and agencies involved with lawbreaking when formulating the new county model.
- He was concerned that the new system was discriminatory and created an elite system and went against the ideals of the founders of the service.
- The Council took pride in the successes of the county's young people at the Urdd Eisteddfod and the Young Farmers' Eisteddfod; therefore, where was the justification in preventing some money from going to those organisations?
- The contribution of these organisations to the viability of the Welsh language in our communities and to the establishment of the Language Charter had been critical, and it would also be progressive to extend the Charter to youth clubs.
- The petition received showed that over 6000 people were dissatisfied with the changes to the service.

During the discussion, it was noted that:-

- It was essential that the Cabinet reconsider, as children and young people built confidence within these organisations.
- The service fulfilled a crucial function and that closing youth clubs was an attack on future generations.
- It was not appropriate to locate these clubs in schools and that buildings were required for them.
- Could the 11,000 students in Bangor, who do not contribute anything towards Council funds, contribute in any way, e.g. by increasing their rents?
- Everyone wanted to ensure the best possible service within the difficult climate.
- The new model needed to be tailored to meet the needs of the young people of Gwynedd and Gwynedd's very diverse communities. Also, since there were two strands of work in question, a model was needed that allowed a place for the traditional within the new model and ensured that all focus was correct. Acknowledging the concerns, an amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded which went into more detail than the original motion, but was similar, namely:-

"That this Council also asks that the Council Cabinet reconsider specific elements of the new model for the Youth Service in the County because of our concerns on three counts:-

- 1) change of emphasis from the community to the welfare of individuals**
- 2) the impact on the most deprived areas of the county**
- 3) Impact on the Welsh language**

We, therefore, ask that the Cabinet hold urgent discussions, by the end of this month if possible, with all the town, community, and city councils along with other relevant agencies. The purpose of this is to look at ways of cooperating in order to fund the continuation of as many youth clubs in the county as possible, where this is desired, over the transitional period and in order to offer appropriate support for the voluntary youth organisations that, until recently, received funding.

We also ask that the Cabinet conduct a language assessment of the impact of the restructure and an assessment of its community impact on the most deprived areas of the county."

During the discussion on the amendment, it was noted:-

- There was concern that the amendment was an attempt to weaken the motion and push the matter to one side in the hope that it would be forgotten.
- An appropriate service should be in place for the needs of young people and youth clubs should give young people the opportunity to come together to socialise and build connections with a wide range of young people across society and also an opportunity to protect the language and culture of the community.
- The decision to eradicate the service had sneaked in through the back door.
- Contributions had been requested from community and town councils after they had set their precepts for 2018/19 and at a time when their budgets were tight.
- Youth clubs were the heart of the Youth Service in Gwynedd.
- Members had a role to represent people in their communities, and from speaking to people locally, it was clear that there was no desire for an after-school club.
- As a result of the difficult decision in 2016 to cut £270,000 from the service, the option was to re-model or close the majority of clubs.
- The department had consulted extensively on the proposals and asked young people what was important to them, and they had responded to it by proposing a programme of activities.
- The new arrangements would be available for young people throughout the year in every part of the county; and, therefore, it would surpass the current provision, where most of the young people did not have access to youth clubs in their villages.
- A number of community councils were considering running clubs locally, or had already decided to do so.
- It was believed that the amendment was a reasonable compromise which strengthened, rather than weakened, the original motion.
- It was acknowledged that the Council was in this position due to the failures of Westminster and Welsh Governments to transfer the grant increase to councils.
- New arrangements would mean that traditional clubs would run concurrently with the new model and give community councils an opportunity to take responsibility for what was taking place in their own communities.
- This was an opportunity for members who were not part of the decision in 2016 to voice their opinions. There had been no talk of closing the clubs when members canvassed during the 2017 elections and it also appeared that some of the youth officers themselves were not aware that this was in the pipeline. It was also thought that there had been no mention of closing the clubs at the time of giving the presentation on the new proposals to area forums in December last year.

- Despite the concern that many of the young people that currently attended youth clubs in deprived areas were likely to disengage with society in general, since the club offered them shelter from alcohol, drugs, and in some cases, domestic violence, ongoing discussions with community councils to ensure a traditional service, in addition to the model's other principles, were welcomed.
- It must be recognised that the existing service would not be sustainable for the future due to the financial situation that we faced and that it was unsuitable to meet the needs of young people in every community in the county and young people of all ages between 11 and 25.
- Only 14% of the county's young people currently used the service. Having spoken to young people, it was clear that the existing service did not appeal to them, especially the older young people in the 16-25 age range, and that they were eager to have access to youth workers throughout the week, through the school and in their communities on weekends and during school holidays.
- Young people, and not buildings, were the heart of the youth service.
- It was not fair to say that the new model would destroy the service.
- Remaining with the current system would mean that some clubs would have to close entirely while the new model would lead to holding activities in every community.
- Thanks were paid to the third sector organisations for holding discussions with the Council and also to the Regeneration Service for their support to the organisations.
- The amendment meant undertaking a fair assessment of the effect the new model would have on the Welsh language; and by employing more full time workers, the Council would have more control over activities, and it was trusted that the Welsh language would be stronger within that which would be offered by the service.
- The current service reached less than 25% of young people and that objectors were trying to protect the minority. In contrast, the amendment proposed a new scheme that would reach much more than 25% of young people.
- Keeping the clubs open in their own wards was a matter for members.
- It was believed that the amendment would do justice with the Urdd and the Federation of Young Farmers.
- There was concern that closing the clubs would lead to bored children and young people hanging about on street corners and committing minor offences.
- There was concern that the Council had failed to contact community councils in a proper and timely manner to explain what was about to happen, but the amendment was a way to get back to community councils to discuss further.
- Young people received support with personal problems at the clubs.
- Much expertise was required these days to work with young people with mental health problems, and as a result, there was a need for training, professional jobs and support etc. Young people needed every support that could be given to them and the new model was an opportunity to do so.
- Even if a financial cut was not required, the Council would have had to address this field and, in 2007, there was talk of a need to transform the service to meet the needs of young people in the twenty first century.
- It was believed that some existing youth clubs undermined the Council's language policy and that the new system would reinforce the language policy.
- With the new system, the situation should be reviewed regularly, taking into account any concerns and investigating whether or not there were grounds for those concerns.
- There was no wish to have a situation of confusion and delay and that the amendment referred to urgent discussions in order to ensure the best for children and young people.

- The service worked to protect the future of the clubs that people wished to keep open.
- The new positive and innovative model had been drawn up by officers who had years of experience of working in the field.

A registered vote was called on the amendment and over a quarter of members voted in favour of it.

In accordance with Procedural Rules, the following vote was recorded on the amendment:-

In favour (39)

Councillors Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Dylan Bullard, Steve Collings, Elwyn Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Simon Glyn, Gareth Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Annwen Hughes, Sian Wyn Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Nia Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aled Wyn Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Charles W.Jones. Elin Walker Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Linda A.W.Jones, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dafydd Meurig, Linda Morgan, Dafydd Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Rheinallt Puw, Gareth A.Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Catrin Wager, Cemlyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams and Gruffydd Williams.

Against (30)

Councillors Freya Bentham, Stephen Churchman, R.Glyn Daniels, Anwen Davies, Dylan Fernley, Peter Garlick, Alwyn Gruffydd, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, R.Medwyn Hughes, Aeron M.Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Elwyn Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dewi Owen, W.Roy Owen, Jason Parry, Dewi Roberts, Elfed Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Angela Russell, Mike Stevens, Hefin Underwood, Eirwyn Williams, Gareth Williams and Owain Williams.

Abstaining (1)

Councillor Annwen Daniels

As the amendment was carried, the Monitoring Officer explained that the motion had changed and that a further vote needed to be taken with the wording of the amendment as opposed to the original motion. The majority voted in favour of the motion.

RESOLVED that this Council also asks that the Council Cabinet reconsider specific elements of the new model for the Youth Service in the County because of our concerns on three counts:-

- 1) change of emphasis from the community to the welfare of individuals**
- 2) the impact on the most deprived areas of the county**
- 3) Impact on the Welsh language**

We, therefore, ask that the Cabinet hold urgent discussions, by the end of this month if possible, with all the town, community, and city councils along with other relevant agencies. The purpose of this is to look at ways of cooperating in order to fund the continuation of as many youth clubs in the county as possible, where this is desired, over the transitional period and in order to offer appropriate support for the voluntary youth organisations that, until recently, received funding.

We also ask that the Cabinet conduct a language assessment of the impact of the restructure and an assessment of its community impact on the most deprived areas of the county."

The proposer of the original motion noted that his motion simply requested that the Cabinet reconsider its decision and that this was, essentially, what the amendment also comprised of. On account of this, he did not object to the amendment as it was contained within his motion. However, he warned that he would be keeping a close eye on the situation and would return the matter to the Council if the Cabinet did not give this serious consideration, prejudicing against the closure of youth clubs and also prejudicing against providing funding to voluntary organisations.

(c) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Catrin Wager, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:-

"This Council recognises that sanitary items are as essential as toilet paper for the personal hygiene of female pupils, and welcomes the revenue funding offered by Welsh Government to provide free sanitary provision in schools. However, the Council notes that the £29,497 of funding offered for 2017/18 is unlikely to meet the cost of provision in Gwynedd. The Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Education investigate the implied costs and the best possible means of making sanitary items freely available to school age women, giving all young women in Gwynedd access to essential sanitary items without embarrassment, and regardless of family income."

Support for the motion was expressed by several members on the grounds that young women felt very embarrassed to raise the subject and that they preferred to go home from school rather than ask teachers for sanitary items. Hope was expressed that funding would also be available for appropriate disposal equipment.

The Cabinet Member for Education noted that he would be very willing to look into this matter along with the detailed research undertaken by the proposer.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 5.00pm.

CHAIR

APPENDIX

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour Liberal Democrats	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2	0	1		18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2	1	0		18
Care Scrutiny Committee	10	5	1	0	1	1	18
Audit and Governance	10	5	1	1	1		18

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour Liberal Democrats	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Democratic Services	8	5	1	0	1		15
Planning	8	4	1	1	1		15
Central Licensing	8	4	1	1	0	1	15
Language	8	5	1	0	1		15
Chief Officers Appointment	8	5	2	0	0		15
Employment Appeals	4	2	1	0	0		7
Number of seats	84	45	13	4	6	2	154

C	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour Liberal Democrats	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Pensions	4	2	0	1	0		7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	6	3	1	0	1		11
SACRE	4	3	0	0	0		7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	5	2	1	0	0		8

Total seats	103	55	15	5	7	2	187
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