

THE COUNCIL THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018

Present: Councillor Annwen Daniels (Chair);
Councillor Annwen Hughes (Vice-chair).

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Freya Hannah Bentham, Dylan Bullard, Stephen Churchman, Steve Collings, 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, R. Medwyn Hughes, Sian Wyn Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Nia Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M. Jones, Aled Wyn Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Charles W. Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Elwyn Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Cai Larsen, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dafydd Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, W. Roy Owen, Jason Parry, Nigel Pickavance, 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 and Gruffydd Williams.

Also in attendance: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department), Rhun ap Iared (Senior Solicitor / Deputy Monitoring Officer), Ffion Madog Evans (Senior Finance Manager), Vera Jones (Democratic Manager), Eirwyn Williams (Human Resources Advisory Services Manager), Caroline Roberts (Investment Manager), Dewi Jones (Council Business Service Support Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Louise Hughes, Anne Lloyd Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Beth Lawton, Dewi Owen, Peter Read and Owain Williams.

2. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2017 as a true record.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer declared a personal interest in item 9, 'Annual Review - Council's Pay Policy 2018/19' on behalf of the chief officers who were present as the report involved their salaries.

He was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and, along with the Head of Finance Department and the Head of Corporate Support, the Monitoring Officer left the meeting during the discussion on the item.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences were extended to Councillor Simon Glyn following the loss of his father.

Condolences were also expressed with the families of two staff members, namely:

- Iwan Huws from the Consultancy Department who had died recently following an accident.

- Daffni Eynon Williams from the Children's Services Department who had died suddenly approximately a fortnight ago.

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.

The following were congratulated:

- Councillor Ioan Thomas on becoming a grandfather to a little girl.
- Sue Owen, Lili Wen florist in Porthmadog, on winning the Welsh Weddings Award Cymru competition for the best florist in North Wales.

The members were thanked for their flexibility as a result of having to change the arrangements of this meeting of the Council at short notice and the Council staff who had gone the extra mile to support the county's communities during the recent severe weather were thanked.

The members were thanked for agreeing to have their photographs taken to celebrate the fact that today was the International Women's Day. Everyone was also encouraged to look on social media to see photographs of many famous women from Gwynedd and to join in on the celebrations by nominating more of them.

Reference was made to the 'Dathlu ein Cymreictod' video which had been shown to the members before the beginning of the meeting. It was explained that the Education Department had commissioned the 'Cewri Cymru' work to support the Secondary Language Charter to promote the sense of Welsh identity.

5. SUBMISSION OF A PETITION

Councillor Cemlyn Williams submitted a petition to the Chair on behalf of nearly 300 children and young people of the Caernarfon area, calling on the Council to keep the Penrallt Youth Club open.

The Chair thanked the member for the petition, noting that he would refer it to the relevant department.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNITATIONS, OR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None to note.

7. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

8. QUESTIONS

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

(1) Question by Councillor Nia Jeffreys

"What steps does Gwynedd Council take to enforce developers who own land or buildings in Gwynedd to look after their sites and keep them tidy and safe?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Dafydd Meurig

"The Council does have some equipment in the toolkit for things like this but, obviously, if we're talking about private land, this would be the owner's responsibility in the long run, but there are some specific tools. There are public protection powers in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 should anything pose a hazard to health and to be able to do something about it, to enforce. Also, there are powers under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. There are enforcement powers if somewhere is very untidy, but I assume that what's probably behind this is the fact that the Member has been concerned about the untidiness of the Colosseum site in Porthmadog and I think, although this is private land, there has been some movement there and things have now been resolved."

A supplementary question by Councillor Nia Jeffreys.

"What can the Council do about buildings, e.g. the Old Mill building or the Seion Chapel building in my ward where local people are concerned about the public's safety as these buildings attract children and young people into them, and also is there something pro-active that the Council can do with the site, e.g. Tŷ Moelwyn in Porthmadog, to prevent the building from deteriorating to such a state in the first instance, once the Revenue and Customs staff have vacated the building?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Dafydd Meurig

"In terms of safety, ensuring the site's safety is a specific matter for the landowner. The Council can use the discretion of these powers to go after the owner if required, but I think, with many similar matters, it is a matter of contacting the department and I to go after things like this if they arise, but we will definitely do so if there's a problem."

(2) Question from Councillor Sion Jones

"What's the Cabinet Member's opinion on the future of our County's community and town councils?"

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

"I'm not sure how much my opinion matters, and I've had an opinion for many years as a member of the Dolgellau Town Council. The answer is there and is legible. There were talks at one point that the Government in Cardiff would place the responsibility of reorganising community councils in the hands of county councils and when I heard this, I was shocked, because I wouldn't wish for the Council to have that responsibility, but then again there is an argument for doing so."

A supplementary question by Councillor Sion Jones

"Is it time for us as Gwynedd Council to ask for a radical change in the way community and town councils operate in our communities in Gwynedd and Wales?"

Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

"I like radical changes, and I agree with the member, if local government reorganisation is to happen, there is scope to begin with town and community councils and efforts have been voluntarily made, although they are rare examples, across the county and Wales. There are places in Wales where there is no community council at all and there is a question about their value. When the

regionalisation agenda is progressing as it is, and we are unsure of what direction it is taking (we are waiting to hear from the new Minister), there is concern that this democratic accountability goes further and further from the electors. You could argue that this Council is too far away from its electors but I believe that we must have councils of an appropriate size where they can employ and implement. When you give a council responsibility, it then becomes more than a talking shop, it becomes more operational, but having the accountability there is important. I have referred to our viewpoint as a county council. I believe that we have scope to work and develop ideas on the well-being areas that we have and that we should be using those as a forum to listen to the local opinion and share information locally, but I'm unsure - we might be confusing two things here."

(3) Question from Councillor Mike Stevens

"Why are members not allowed to have the direct phone numbers of some officers and, therefore, have to contact them via the call centre?"

Response - The Deputy Leader, Councillor Mair Rowlands

"You are all aware that the Council has developed the Members' Portal as a means of sharing information with Councillors. A group of Councillors worked with officers in order to identify the most important information to be included on the portal, and one of the requirements identified at that time by the members was the need for a current list of officers for each field of responsibility, including an e-mail address and direct phone number to be able to contact them. A list of officers on manager level has been identified and included on the Portal and the information is regularly updated by departments in order to ensure that it is up-to-date, when officers might change.

Members may choose to contact officers via the call centre if they so wish, or via e-mail. It's possible to see officers' phone numbers on the e-mail directory on the Surface. However, I encourage the members to use the list of officers on the members portal in the first instance, if they have an issue that requires their attention. Also, I'm aware that a sub-group of the Democratic Services Committee is looking at further developing the Portal to make it easier for members to use."

A supplementary question by Councillor Mike Stevens

"Is it possible for us as Councillors to have the phone numbers of all officers somewhere on the Portal so that we can contact them directly?"

Response - The Deputy Leader, Councillor Mair Rowlands

"Many officers do field work and are not available in their offices all hours of the day and that's why sometimes we contact on manager level. But I accept your point. We'll look into the matter to see how we can develop what we already have on the portal to make it easier for members to reach more staff."

9. ANNUAL REVIEW - COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY 2018/19

The Deputy Leader submitted a report recommending that the Council approved the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19.

During the discussion, responses were given to questions from members in relation to the Council's attainment in terms of the commitment to pay the living wage to its staff and the logic behind this amendment to the policy for claiming travelling expenses for Officers. Also, in response to an inquiry, it was confirmed that the amendments to the travelling expenses policy would not affect home carers.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of the Chief Officer Appointment Committee to adopt the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19 in Appendix 1 of the report.

10. 2018/19 BUDGET AND 2018/19 - 2020/21 FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Cabinet Member for Finance submitted:

- A report recommending a budget for the Council's approval for 2018/19
- A medium term plan to cope with the financial deficit 2018/19 - 2020/21.
- The draft decision on the Council Tax based on the Cabinet's recommendation to the Council (based on an increase of 4.8%), along with tables showing the Council Tax level and the increase per community.

He thanked all the staff of the Finance Department, under the leadership of the Head of Finance Department, for their thorough work throughout the year in preparing and leading the Council towards establishing a balanced budget.

During the discussion the following matters were raised:

- Concern about the under-funding as a result of the Barnett Formula and the need to increase the pressure being put on Welsh Government to have a better financial settlement for Gwynedd. It was noted that the current situation was unsustainable and it was suggested that this Council should send a letter to Welsh Government to call for a review of the tax system in its entirety. It was also suggested that, in addition to the continuous lobbying by the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance Department, it would be beneficial to send a delegation of councillors down to Cardiff to meet the Minister. All members were also encouraged to apply pressure on their Assembly Members.
- The fact that an increase of only 0.6% in the Government Grant had been received for 2018/19, although Welsh Government had received a 2.6% grant increase by Westminster Government, and the need to make it clear to the taxpayers that the Council would not have to increase the Council Tax if it had received a sufficient grant from Welsh Government.
- Concern about the Government's method of funding education by giving with one hand and taking away with the other, and the lack of consistency between the Minister's messages and what was happening on the ground.
- The need to put all Gwynedd residents at the centre of every Council service despite the difficult climate.
- Concern that people found it increasingly difficult to pay the Council Tax and reference was made specifically to the people who were slightly above the threshold to claim Council Tax Support.
- Concern that more and more holiday home owners would transfer to business rates in order to avoid the Council Tax Premium on their houses.
- Concern about the impact of the Council Tax Premium on people who were attempting to sell houses inherited by them as a result of a family member's death.
- A revenue bid to appoint two additional Council Tax inspectors - it was confirmed that the Head of Finance Department would not receive any additional funding for the responsibility of this new task, but that the taxation officer who would be undertaking additional supervision duties would receive a very small increase to reflect this.
- The need for the Council to look at alternative ways to increase income, e.g. by charging a fee for services on caravan owners and offering mortgages for local

people who need houses. It was also noted that there was an overemphasis on privatising services when the Council would be able to do the work itself and make a profit from it.

- Allegations of waste by the Council. The Chief Executive responded that the Audit and Governance Committee was the place to raise such matters, rather than making unfounded allegations in the Council.
- A figure of £190,000 for affordable housing inspectors - it was confirmed that no fees had gone to external companies.
- Propriety of contributing £25,000 to respond to the Wylfa Newydd Plan in the current financial climate.

Many members noted that although they were unhappy with the situation, they were not of the opinion that the Council had any choice but to accept the budget in the situation as it was.

RESOLVED

1. Establish a budget of £242,862,930 for 2018/19, to be funded by £175,127,330 of Government Grant and £67,735,600 Council Tax income, with an increase of 4.8%.
2. Establish a capital programme of £8.389m in 2018/19 to be funded from the sources noted in clause 9.4 of the report.
3. That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Finance, in a decision notice dated 13 November 2017, approved the calculation of the following amounts for 2018/2019 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("The Act"):

- (a) 52,083.07 being the amount calculated as Gwynedd's Tax Base in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

- (b) Part of the Council's Area - Community Tax Base -

Aberdaron	558.08	Llanddeiniolen	1,846.18
Aberdyfi	1,004.77	Llandderfel	513.32
Abergwyngregyn	115.92	Llanegryn	158.47
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,149.17	Llanelltyd	289.10
Arthog	633.10	Llanengan	2,159.63
Bala	774.81	Llanfair	321.03
Bangor	3,855.89	Llanfihangel y Pennant	217.76
Beddgelert	332.99	Llanfrothen	225.29
Betws Garmon	136.30	Llangelynnin	408.83
Bethesda	1,669.25	Llangywer	144.05
Bontnewydd	434.36	Llanllechid	344.45
Botwnnog	455.84	Llanllyfni	1,418.05
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	422.14	Llannor	916.27
Bryncrug	342.88	Llanrug	1,138.32
Buan	229.85	Llanuwchllyn	317.47
Caernarfon	3,522.60	Llanwnda	782.81
Clynnog Fawr	448.12	Llanycil	196.34
Corris	306.43	Llanystumdwy	875.24
Cricieth	937.64	Maentwrog	284.74
Dolbenmaen	618.87	Mawddwy	344.88

Dolgellau	1,237.33	Nefyn	1,467.95
Dyffryn Ardudwy	798.44	Pennal	226.79
Y Felinheli	1,152.14	Penrhyndeudraeth	780.08
Ffestiniog	1,742.49	Pentir	1,138.01
Y Ganllwyd	89.93	Pistyll	253.87
Harlech	787.85	Porthmadog	2,054.96
Llanaelhaearn	450.97	Pwllheli	1,758.31
Llanbedr	321.91	Talsarnau	325.14
Llanbedrog	714.05	Trawsfynydd	506.72
Llanberis	772.34	Tudweiliog	469.37
Llandwrog	1,017.19	Tywyn	1,623.87
Llandygai	968.30	Waunfawr	573.82

namely the amounts calculated as the Council Tax Base amounts for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

4. That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Act:

- (a) £360,509,480 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act (gross expenditure).
- (b) £115,832,220 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3)(a) to (c) of the Act (income).
- (c) £244,677,260 Being the sum that corresponds with the difference between the above aggregate 3 (a) and the above aggregate 3 (b) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budgetary requirements for the year (net budget).
- (ch) £174,734,334 Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its fund in respect of redistributed Non-domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, less the estimated cost to the Council of discretionary Non-domestic rate relief granted.
- (d) £1,342.91 Being the amount in 3(c) above, less the sum in 3(ch) above, all divided by the sum noted in 2(a) above, that was calculated by the Council in accordance with 33(1) of the Act, which is the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (Gwynedd Council tax and the average community council tax).
- (dd) £2,207,330 Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act (community council precepts).
- (e) £1,300.53 Being the sum in 3 (d) above, less the result of dividing the amount in 3(dd) above divided by the amount in 2(a) above, that was calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates (Band D for Gwynedd Council Tax only).

(f) For parts of the Council's area -

Aberdaron	1,327.41	Llanddeiniolen	1,314.88
Aberdyfi	1,335.32	Llandderfel	1,318.06
Abergwyngregyn	1,326.41	Llanegryn	1,332.08
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,348.04	Llanelltyd	1,326.47
Arthog	1,319.48	Llanengan	1,323.68
Bala	1,331.51	Llanfair	1,341.02
Bangor	1,399.26	Llanfihangel y Pennant	1,349.92
Beddgelert	1,327.26	Llanfrothen	1,328.49
Betws Garmon	1,319.61	Llangelynnin	1,324.50
Bethesda	1,340.70	Llangywer	1,328.30
Bontnewydd	1,338.52	Llanllechid	1,322.30
Botwnnog	1,312.60	Llanllyfni	1,328.99
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	1,314.74	Llannor	1,318.71
Bryncrug	1,335.53	Llanrug	1,337.43
Buan	1,316.85	Llanuwchllyn	1,332.03
Caernarfon	1,356.88	Llanwnda	1,332.47
Clynnog Fawr	1,327.31	Llanycil	1,320.90
Corris	1,324.79	Llanystumdwy	1,317.67
Cricieth	1,338.92	Maentwrog	1,321.78
Dolbenmaen	1,319.92	Mawddwy	1,324.89
Dolgellau	1,344.17	Nefyn	1,341.78
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,337.78	Pennal	1,326.99
Y Felinheli	1,330.91	Penrhyndeudraeth	1,346.68
Ffestiniog	1,415.31	Pentir	1,344.47
Y Ganllwyd	1,333.89	Pistyll	1,334.01
Harlech	1,389.38	Porthmadog	1,328.42
Llanaelhaearn	1,355.97	Pwllheli	1,342.05
Llanbedr	1,344.62	Talsarnau	1,362.04
Llanbedrog	1,325.46	Trawsfynydd	1,336.05
Llanberis	1,331.60	Tudweiliog	1,313.31
Llandwrog	1,347.72	Tywyn	1,355.03
Llandygai	1,322.64	Waunfawr	1,321.44

being the amounts given by adding the amounts of the item or special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above, to the sum given in 3(e) above, divided in each case by the amount of 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (ff) For parts of the Council's area, the figures noted in Appendix 1, being the amounts given by multiplying the sums specified in 3(f) above by the number which, in the proportions set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with

Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

5. That it be noted that for the year 2018/2019 the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
172.08	200.76	229.44	258.12	315.48	372.84	430.20	516.24	602.28

6. Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3 (ff) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act, hereby sets the amounts noted in Appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018/2019 for each of the categories of dwellings shown in the Appendix.

11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STRATEGY AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2018/19

Submitted - the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance requesting that the Council adopted the proposed strategy.

Referring to the fact that this Council gave loans to local authorities in England, it was asked whether there was a risk that some of those councils could become bankrupt. In response, the Head of Finance Department explained that these councils were credit-rated and that the risk had been spread widely. Also, the loans were temporary and it was 'high impossible' for a council to become bankrupt because it could charge more tax.

RESOLVED to adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19 (Appendix A of the report), the Prudential Indicators (Appendix B), the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (Appendix C) and the merger arrangements with the Pension Fund for the investment of daily cash flow.

12. GWYNEDD COUNCIL PLAN 2018/23

Submitted - the Leader's report inviting the Council to adopt the Gwynedd Council Plan 2017/23.

The officers were thanked for all their work in preparing the report. An apology was expressed that the Corporate Support Department's plan had been left out of the Department's Plan due to an oversight. The members had received a separate copy and the document would be incorporated in the final version of the Council Plan that would be published. Some minor editorial errors would also need to be amended, in addition to adding a paragraph stating that all matters in the plan complied with the Council's Financial Strategy, although it could be impossible to realise all priorities due to the financial context.

During the discussion the following matters were raised:

- It was noted that parents had received a text message from a primary school Headteacher after 9am on two occasions recently, saying that the school was closing as they had no gas, and asking them to return to fetch their children. It

was asked why the parents were not being informed of situations like this earlier, as the school knew about the gas problem before 9am. The Leader responded that this was a matter for the Governors.

- It was asked whether the Derwen Team had plans to extend their criteria to ensure that every child with disabilities in Gwynedd could take advantage of the specialist service that they were offering. The Leader noted that he would forward the question to the Team and the member would receive the answer directly.
- It was asked how much pressure the Council was putting on ensuring an adequate supply of rented housing. The Leader responded that the housing matter was a fundamental priority for him and that discussions had already taken place with housing associations to move this on further. In identifying where there was a need and what the need was, it would be possible to research how the Council could assist the housing associations and he was eager to see buildings up and let.
- In response to an enquiry, the Leader noted that this plan was not only a wish list, and that there were many more details available on the individual plans than what was included in the document. It was an action plan and there was development on details. It would be developed regularly and would possibly change direction.
- It was asked whether the Planning Department had been contacted regarding Improvement Priority 4 - Ensure a greater supply of suitable housing available to our residents. The Leader responded that the planning policy had been discussed as a completely separate matter. Planning matters impacted matters such as these, but the Council had no choice but to act within its policies. The planning question had arisen in the discussions on economic growth and planning touched upon everything. If the Council's planning policies were too stringent, there was room to also review this and the Joint Planning Policy Committee could look at them.
- Concern was expressed that local planning policies were often restricted by national policies which was reflected in the decisions of the Planning Inspectorate.
- The 'Children First' pilot scheme in the Maesgeirchen, Bangor area was welcomed, and a desire was expressed to see the scheme being rolled out to other deprived areas in Bangor such as the Maestryfan Estate, Station Houses and Coed Mawr. The Leader responded that he assumed that this plan was funded by the Government and was therefore dependent on additional funding from Welsh Government, but that he accepted the observation.
- Disappointment was expressed that only 86 of the 245 houses approved in Penrhosgarnedd were affordable housing.
- It was noted that the plan referred to what the individual departments had achieved and a desire was expressed to see more of an emphasis on collaboration between the departments.
- In response to an enquiry, the Leader confirmed that he had complete faith that remodelling the Youth Service would give a better provision to meet the needs of young people of the county, but it would be required to keep an eye on how it would be implemented and what the outcome of the new arrangements would be.
- In response to an enquiry, the Leader explained that he could not guarantee that the Lloyd George Museum, Llanystumdwy would be open forever, but he truly hoped that it would continue. It was more of a national responsibility than this Council's responsibility only, and if the Council could offer any support to ensure the future of the museum, it would do so. It was asked what progress had been made in terms of seeking funding towards establishing the building as a national museum. The Leader responded that he could come back with more details on any steps that would be taken.
- It was asked how taking money away from the Young Farmers would improve support to children and young people in the countryside. The Leader responded

that the new system would target more young people than were previously included. He added that the Council had already extended their support for a year and would extend it for a further nine months, and had also offered the Regeneration Service's support to attempt to aid them with facing the cut.

RESOLVED to adopt the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023.

13. A SURVEY OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Deputy Leader presented a report inviting the Council to respond to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission's draft proposals for the review on electoral arrangements for Gwynedd Council.

During the discussion, the following observations were noted:

- That the Commission's draft proposals went against the recommendations of this Council and the community councils.
- Concern about combining some wards - the Chief Executive confirmed that he would present a strong argument to the Commission against two member constituencies.
- Concern that the timetable for a response to the Commission's draft proposals was very tight.
- Lack of clarity about what had been agreed about the Abersoch Ward and some other wards and, in light of this, it was suggested to refuse the Commission's report in its entirety. The Chief Executive responded that refusing the report was not an option, and the only other choice was to confirm the original proposals presented before the Commission in June 2017. However, the recommendation to hold discussions with the local members in the places where the local members considered that it would be prudent to propose an alternative option, would give members in these areas a better outcome.
- Concern that including Llanfrothen within the Tremadog Ward would mean that the new ward would include parts of four different communities and would bridge the Dwyfor and Meirionnydd areas.
- Some of the Commission's proposals did not take the natural boundary between wards into consideration.
- That the Commission's proposal to keep the Dyffryn Ardudwy Ward as it was and to combine the Llanbedr and Harlech Wards was better than what had been originally put forward by the Council, which was to combine Dyffryn Ardudwy with Llanbedr. The Chief Executive responded that if the members felt that some of the Commission's proposals were better than what the Council had presented, that the Council's proposals could not be pushed so strongly, but that the discussion needed to be had.

RESOLVED

- (a) **That the Council agrees to respond by re-stating the Council's proposals and pressing on the Commission to accept what was in our original proposals, but authorising the Chief Executive to hold discussions with local members in the places where the local members consider it would be prudent to offer an alternative option, and to authorise the Cabinet to include this alternative option in the formal response if all local members are unanimous in their opinion.**
- (b) **That the Council authorises the Cabinet to suggest different names for wards to what is in the Commission's proposals, if there is a local desire to do so.**

14. COMMITTEES CALENDAR 2018/19

The Leader submitted the calendar of dates of Council meetings for 2018/19.

RESOLVED to adopt the Committees Calendar for 2018/19.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Elin Walker Jones, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution and it was seconded.

"This Council notes that:

- **Plastic pollution is an enormous environmental problem which endangers marine life.**
- **12.7 million tonnes of plastic goes into our seas each year. This equates to a truck full of waste every minute.**
- **Pieces of plastic cause the death of a million sea birds and 100,000 aquatic mammals, according to UNESCO.**
- **Plastic waste is a plague on the beautiful landscape, beaches and seas of Wales.**

The Council further notes that:

- **Wales' innovative action to charge a fee on single-use bags has led to a 71% reduction in the use of single-use bags within the first three years of the scheme.**
- **International environmental organisations such as Greenpeace had recently called on Welsh Government to take steps to charge a toll on plastic waste such as coffee cups that cannot be recycled.**
- **The Assembly has recently voted in favour of Plaid Cymru's amendment to support schemes to charge a toll on single-use plastics in Wales.**

The Council calls on Welsh Government:

To take urgent action to implement a toll on single-use plastics in Wales and also to consider charging a toll on all plastics to ensure that the seas of Wales are healthy, safe, productive and biodiverse."

Strong support was expressed to the proposal from many members, and it was proposed to add the following wording to the original proposal:

"That we carry out an investigation into Gwynedd Council's use of single-use plastic in order to assess how and where we can reduce this use with the aim of becoming a plastic free council."

The proposer of the original proposal agreed to amend the proposal on these grounds with the Council's consent.

Keep Wales Tidy was thanked for organising a session to tidy up the Hell's Mouth Beach recently.

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

- **Plastic pollution is an enormous environmental problem which endangers marine life.**
- **12.7 million tonnes of plastic goes into our seas each year. This equates to a truck full of waste every minute.**
- **Pieces of plastic cause the death of a million sea birds and 100,000 aquatic mammals, according to UNESCO.**

- Plastic waste is a plague on the beautiful landscape, beaches and seas of Wales.

The Council further notes that:

- Wales' innovative action to charge a fee on single-use bags has led to a 71% reduction in the use of single-use bags within the first three years of the scheme.
- International environmental organisations such as Greenpeace had recently called on Welsh Government to take steps to charge a toll on plastic waste such as coffee cups that cannot be recycled.
- The Assembly has recently voted in favour of Plaid Cymru's amendment to support schemes to charge a toll on single-use plastics in Wales.

This Council calls on Welsh Government:

To take urgent action to implement a toll on single-use plastics in Wales and also to consider charging a toll on all plastics to ensure that the seas of Wales are healthy, safe, productive and biodiverse.

That we carry out an investigation into Gwynedd Council's use of single-use plastic in order to assess how and where we can reduce this use with the aim of becoming a plastic free council.

16. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted, for information:

- (a) A letter from the Foreign Office and the Commonwealth, in response to Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn's notice of motion to the meeting on 14 December 2017, in relation to the situation in Catalonia.
- (b) A letter from Welsh Government, in response to Councillor Owain Williams's notice of motion to the meeting on 14 December 2017, in relation to Welsh history education.
- (c) A letter from Welsh Government, in response to Councillor Craig ab Iago's notice of motion to the meeting on 14 December 2017, in relation to Universal Credit.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the letters.

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and concluded at 5.40pm.

CHAIR