

Complete Agenda

CABINET



GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE	Tuesday, 15th September, 2015
TIME	1.00 pm
LOCATION	Siambwr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. LL55 1SH Cyngor Gwynedd, Stryd y Jêl, CAERNARFON, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH
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GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

Members	
Dyfrig L. Siencyn	Deputy Leader
Peredur Jenkins	Cabinet Member for Resources
John Wynn Jones	Cabinet Member for the Environment
Dafydd Meurig	Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory
W. Gareth Roberts	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Mair Rowlands	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Gareth Thomas	Cabinet Member for Education
Ioan Thomas	Cabinet Member for Housing, Customer Care, Libraries, Deprivation and Equality
Mandy Williams-Davies	Cabinet Member for Economy and Community

AGENDA

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**GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET
MINUTES
30 July 2015**

Present –

Councillors: Dyfed Edwards (Chairman), Peredur Jenkins, John Wynn Jones, Dafydd Meurig, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Mandy Williams-Davies.

Also present –

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Iwan G D Evans (Legal Services Manager), Dafydd Edwards (Chief Finance Officer), Meinir Owen (Savings Programme Manager), Bethan Richardson (Cabinet Support Team Leader - Taking the minutes).

1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES

Cabinet members and officers were welcomed to the meeting.

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor W. Gareth Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 6 on the agenda, because his daughter worked for the Council's Property Department and his son-in-law worked for the Youth Department. As no matters which specifically affected these departments were discussed, and as it was not a prejudicial interest, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Councillor Ioan Thomas declared a personal interest in point 3.8.22 on Item 6 (Aber Bridge) on the agenda as he was a member of the Harbour Trust. The member was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and he withdrew from the Chamber during the discussion on this point.

Councillor Gareth Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 6 on the agenda because his son-in-law worked for the Council's Libraries Service. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, and as it was not a prejudicial interest, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Councillor Mair Rowlands declared a personal interest in Item 6 as she was a member of the Derwen Board and the Board of the Youth Justice Service. The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and she participated in the discussion on the item.

Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies declared a personal interest in point 3.8.1 in Item 6 (Free Breakfast) as her children received the provision. The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and she participated in the discussion on the item.

Dilwyn Williams declared a personal interest, on behalf of all Senior Officers in the Council, in point 3.8.60 in Item 6 (The Council's Senior Management). As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Dilwyn Williams declared a personal interest in point 3.8.53 in Item 6 (Finance and Accountancy) as his son worked for the Council's Finance Department. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Dafydd Edwards declared a personal interest in point 3.8.60 (as above) and in point 3.8.28 in Item 6 (Support-Derwen) as his wife occasionally worked for Derwen. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Iwan Evans declared a personal interest as there was reference to his Post in Appendix 1 to Item 6. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no matters arising from scrutiny committees.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 July 2015.

6. SEEKING THE PUBLIC OPINION ON POSSIBLE CUTS

The report was submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins.
It was seconded by Cllr W. Gareth Roberts.

DISCUSSION

The content of the table in part 3.8 of the report was discussed in different clusters. Items 1 to 26 were discussed first, followed by items 27 to 52 and finally items 53 to 65. The following are the observations for every individual item in the first cluster of items between 1 and 26 -

1. Free Breakfast

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -

The Chief Executive confirmed that this was a statutory provision but that there were conditions to it. These conditions did not prevent the consultation with the public.

2. Youth

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

There was a statutory requirement to provide a service for youth; however this need not necessarily happen through the Youth Service. A discussion with the third sector during the consultation period on alternative methods of providing the service would be welcomed.

3. Primary Catering

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was agreed to highlight any evidence which existed on the link between nutrition and educational achievement during the consultation period.

4. Provider – Leisure Centres and Healthy Living

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was noted that more information would be available following the completion of the process of seeking efficiency savings, and that there was a need to allow time to see if the Centres could be self-sufficient.

5. Cemeteries

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops.

6. Archives

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

7. Community Regeneration

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was agreed that, during consultation, information would need to be shared regarding the work and function of the Unit. The consultation documents would include information about the impact of cutting this service.

8. Maritime and Country Parks

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, but the following was noted -

It was agreed to try to find out where, geographically, the comments come from during the consultation process. This could be important as some items would influence some areas directly more than others.

9. Biodiversity

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

The consultation documents should fully explain what the impact of a cut in service would be. In this case, there was a need to understand the impact of cutting two posts in a unit of three posts. It was also agreed to discuss with external agencies about how to provide services, during the consultation period.

10. Autism Budget

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops.

11. Post -16

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops. It should be ensured that consultation was undertaken with the young people receiving the service. It should also be ensured that the impact of cutting the service would be highlighted.

12. Pollution Control

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops.

13. Libraries

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted. It was also agreed to add any relevant information from the consultation on the Libraries Service to the consultation document.

14. Delete support for children within Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog Women's Aid

It was agreed that it was difficult to measure the impact of such a cut to the future, but it was agreed that the fact that officers from the day and night teams continued to offer support in relation to child protection should be highlighted. However, it was agreed that there was a need to highlight the impact of the cut, including any evidence, in the consultation documents.

15. Tourism and Marketing

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following addition -

It was agreed that the context of the recommendations should be outlined, explaining the role of the Council in the field. Any other options to provide the service should also be highlighted.

16. Business Support

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

17. Operational Service (Children's Department)

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, but it was noted -

That information or evidence should be added to the consultation documents regarding how many cases would not be addressed following cutting two posts.

18. County and Trunk Road Lighting

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -

The title of the item should be corrected as the Council was not responsible for trunk road lighting.

19. Joint Planning Policy Unit

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was agreed that there was a need to be clear as to the impact of the cut on the Council's capacity to deliver the Joint Local Development Plan (which was a priority and was included in the Strategic Plan). When explaining the implications of the cut in the consultation documents, evidence about the different implications of the various options of cutting 1, 2 or 3 posts should be included.

20. Homelessness

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

21. Strategic Economic Projects

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted. Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed that non-statutory work fields such as this were to be considered for cuts, as they could contribute to preventative work in other Council services, and to developing sustainable communities.

22. Aber Bridge

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, but it was noted that the title of the item in the Welsh version needed to be changed to 'Pont yr Aber'.

23. Street Cleaning

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

24. Rates

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

25. Delete the Young Carers Plan

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -
It was agreed that the opinion of the service users (the Young Carers) should be presented in the consultation documents, as well as an objective opinion.

26. Youth Justice

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -
The consultation documents should explain the context of the work of the Youth Justice Service, explaining what the statutory elements were. It should be explained that it was partnership work with Anglesey Council, the Police and the Probation Service, with each partner contributing funding. It was also agreed that the nature of the post under consideration should be explained, as well as the implications of the possible cut.

Cluster of items from 27 to 52

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources on each item was accepted, but observations were added on the following items -

27. Public Transport

As the £300,000 of potential cut was funding currently used to subsidise some routes, information about which routes could be affected by the cut would be added to the consultation documents.

28. Support-Derwen

The consultation documents should give details as to who received this service (namely children with disabilities and their families) and what the nature of the work was.

Also during consultation, there should be a discussion with project partners (financial and practical) in order to understand how a potential cut would affect their role in the work.

It was also explained that Equality Impact Assessments would be submitted to the Council before it would make a decision, at the end of the journey, about the cuts.

32. The Arts and Museums

An observation was made that several of the projects that this Service provided were preventative in nature, which sometimes provided support for people in partnership with the Health Service. This should be highlighted in the consultation documents.

47. Barmouth Bridge

It was agreed that the consultation documents should explain that it was the Council's contribution to the bridge costs that was under consideration. As the bridge was not Council-owned, it would not be the Council making the eventual decision regarding whether or not to close it.

Cluster of items from 53 to 65

In addition to the decision noted below, it was agreed that the following points should be highlighted in the consultation documents -

Items 53 to 64 will not be included in the documents because the Cabinet Members are of the opinion that members of the public would not wish to prioritise the Council's internal operational mechanism ahead of front-line service provision. By not including the items on the list of potential cuts, which is already long, it should be easier for the public to understand the cuts that will be consulted upon. Nevertheless, it should be highlighted that the Cabinet Members are considering the Council's mechanism in order to achieve cuts, and the savings which have already been delivered should also be highlighted.

Discussion on points 3.4 – 3.7 in the committee report

In addition to the decision noted below, it was agreed that the following points should be highlighted in the consultation documents -

It is necessary to examine the education services due to the size of the budget, despite the fact that approximately 90% of the Council's education provision funding has been devolved to the schools.

DECISION

1. To seek the opinion of the public in Gwynedd about potential cuts in accordance with the recommendations submitted by the Cabinet Member for Resources on proposal numbers 1 to 52 in part 3.8 of the report for the meeting.

2. In addition to the above, it was also decided to seek opinion on proposals P5, PaB5, PaB6, PaB13, PaB20, Y1, Y3, Rh4, O15, O20, CG19, CG18 and C9 which have been included in Appendices 1 – 10 of the report for the meeting.
3. In light of the complexity of the process of seeking opinion, the need to ensure that it is a meaningful process and the fact that it is unlikely that the people of Gwynedd will prioritise support services above front line services, it was decided that the public's opinion on proposals 53 to 65 in part 3.8 of the report, and proposals Rh28, Rh30, O4, O23, CG1, CG10, CG12, CG20 and C13 which have been included in Appendices 1 – 10 of the report for the meeting should not be sought allowing the Council to weigh up the priority that should be given to these schemes against the other schemes when they will be considering the cuts.
4. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Education should be requested to move ahead to prepare a strategy to create an education system which will continue to give priority to maintain standards and strengthen leadership within the evident financial constraints that will face us, and the need in doing so to realise further efficiency savings.

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm and concluded at 5.30pm.

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 6

REPORT TO THE CABINET

15 September 2015

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Thomas

Subject: The Future of Education Provision in the Berwyn Catchment Area

Contact Officer: Iwan T Jones – Corporate Director

The decision sought

- i. To implement the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn in Bala on 31 August 2018 and establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, Welsh Medium¹, Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), (“The Campus”), on the existing Ysgol Y Berwyn site to open on 1 September 2018.
 - ii. That Gwynedd Council will conduct a review of the school’s performance which will include a review of the quality of education provided, educational progress, the pupils’ social and cultural experiences, the use of resources, and any effect of the Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), category on the above, following two years from the opening date of the Campus.
-

Local members’ views

Any observations by the Local Members will be presented at the meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the decision of the Council Cabinet to continue with the proposal to reorganise education provision in the Berwyn catchment area, Bala, or not. The Cabinet is requested:
 - i. To implement the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn in Bala on 31 August 2018 and establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, Welsh Medium, Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), on the existing Ysgol Y Berwyn site to open on 1 September 2018.
 - ii. That Gwynedd Council will conduct a review of the school’s performance which will include a review of the quality of education provided, educational progress, the pupils’ social and cultural experiences, the use of resources, and any effect of the Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), category on the above, following two years from the opening date of the Campus.
- 1.2 The Council has implemented the ‘*Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd*’ Strategy since it was adopted in April 2009. At its meeting on 9 October 2012, the Cabinet decided on a ‘*Priorities Plan – Education Reorganisation Field*’ based on this strategy.
- 1.3 A report was submitted before the Cabinet on 1 April 2014, where it was agreed:
 - i. *To give permission to extend the work to develop a range of models which will address strategic, regulatory, and/or governance arrangements for the entire catchment area, with the aim of presenting specific recommendations for statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.*

¹ The language status of the Campus will not differ from the current language status of the schools – Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn

- ii. *To authorise the undertaking of an assessment to identify and measure the need within the catchment area for education provision of a specific category and designation, and to meet the requirements of the process of identifying the recommendations as noted in i. Above.*
- iii. *As one of the schools in the catchment area is a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, (VA), to delegate to the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People the right to hold a pre-consultation with the Church in Wales in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013.*

- 1.4 Following this, the Catchment Review Panel (CRP) was re-established, and meetings were held on 6 May 2014 and 14 January 2015. During this period, 3 additional meetings with head teachers from the catchment area's schools were held, as well as meetings with Local Members.
- 1.5 Various discussions were held between April 2014 and January 2015. The most recent CRP meeting was held on 14 January 2015 where background work based on the entire catchment area was presented. This included a long list of models, the proposed way forward, (i.e. the current direction), and an explanation of the statutory processes.
- 1.6 Through the Welsh Government's programme - 'Twenty first Century Schools Programme' - a sum of £10.27million (contribution of £5.135m from the Welsh Government and £5.135 from Gwynedd Council) has been allocated for the Berwyn catchment area. A comprehensive business case will need to be submitted in three steps to attract the funding. The first step of the business case has been approved by the Welsh Government, but there was considerable challenge to the sustainability of the rural schools and the post-16 provision. Although the Welsh Government had been convinced of the need to keep the rural provision as well as the post-16 provision in the catchment area, it is possible that these matters will be challenged once again as the remaining parts of the business case are scrutinised by the Welsh Government. The final part of the business case was recently submitted to the Welsh Government and a formal decision is expected, this will be reported on verbally during the Cabinet.

2. STATUTORY CONSULTATION PERIOD

- 2.1 In accordance with the statutory requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013), and the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, a period of statutory consultation on the proposal was held with relevant consultees between 11 March and 28 April 2015.
- 2.2 A statutory consultation document was prepared, in accordance with the requirements and guidance of the Code. The document and all background documents are available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.gov.uk/schoolorganisation.
- 2.3 220 responses to the statutory consultation were received including responses from pupils, staff, governors and individual parents, as well as several bodies. These comments related to the quality of education, the community, staffing matters, the Welsh Language, design and plans for the building, the consultation with children and young people, the statutory processes, 3-19 school, nursery school, statistics and finance and the proposed legal status. A number of the responses were connected to the Campus' status, with some expressing concern about placing a Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales) status on the Campus.
- 2.4 An open day was held at Ysgol Y Berwyn on 26 March 2015. There was an exhibition of the information included in the consultation document and officers from relevant departments (e.g. education, property, personnel etc.) were available to explain and respond to enquiries. There was also an opportunity to receive copies of any documentation and to submit written comments. 93 people attended the open day.
- 2.5 A consultation document and questionnaire were created for primary and secondary children. A specialist facilitator was arranged to visit all the schools in order to hold sessions with the pupils to seek their opinions.
- 2.6 A response was received from Estyn during the consultation period which noted that the proposal was "likely to at least maintain the area's education standards as the proposed development was likely to ensure new stable leadership with focus on raising standards and improving the quality of the provision".

- 2.7 Following the consultation period, in order to alleviate concerns raised, the Church in Wales agreed to the following²:
- Representation on the Governing Body reduced to two seats from four, and offering two seats to other denominations in order to reflect the character and traditions of the area
 - The Church is completely open to supporting any name that the Shadow Governing Body gives the Campus
 - The Church is completely supportive of the development of the Campus as an establishment that will strengthen the Welsh language.

On 2 June 2015, a report was presented to the Cabinet which included all the observations received during the consultation period. At the meeting, it was resolved to:

- i. *Approve the proposal for the closure of Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn on 31 August 2018 and for a Voluntary Controlled (VC) Welsh Medium 3-19 Learning Campus to be established on the existing site of Ysgol Y Berwyn to open on 1 September 2018.*
- ii. *Approve the issue of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.*
- iii. *Approve the appointment and funding of a head teacher for the 3-19 Learning Campus from the scheme's savings, for at least a year before the school opens in September 2018.*

3. OBJECTION PERIOD

- 3.1 In accordance with the Schools Standards and Organisation Act 2013, and the Cabinet's decision on 2 June 2015, a statutory notice was published on 17 June 2015 and a statutory objection period was held from 17 June to 15 July 2015.
- 3.2 A Statutory Notice was issued on 17 June 2015 and posted on the gates of the three schools and on the Council's website www.gwynedd.gov.uk/schoolorganisation. Electronic and hard copies of the notices were distributed in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. It was clearly stated in the notices that it was possible for anybody to object and how it was possible to do so.
- 3.3 The following is a summary of the content of the Statutory Notice:
- (a) DISCONTINUE YSGOL Y BERWYN, Y Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7RU, YSGOL BRO TEGID, Y Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7BN, YSGOL BEUNO SANT, Y Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7UU (Voluntary Aided, Church in Wales School), on 31 August 2018.
 - (b) ESTABLISH a new 3-19 SCHOOL Welsh Medium, (Voluntary Controlled, Church in Wales School) on 1 September 2018. The 3-19 SCHOOL will be on one site, that is the current site of Ysgol Y Berwyn, Y Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7RU.
- 3.4 Following the objection period, the Cabinet then has to consider the objections and the response to them prior to reaching a final decision whether or not to implement the proposal. **Appendix 1** contains the Council's analysis and response to the comments received during the statutory objection period. The Cabinet is requested to consider them in detail, before coming to a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposal.

4 OBJECTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE OBJECTION PERIOD

- 4.0.1 The purpose of this part of the report is to present a summary of the objections received during the objection period.

² The Church has confirmed their desire and intention to work closely with the community in order to demonstrate their intention of co-operating in order to establish a Welsh Medium Christian school which will serve the whole community and provide high quality education.

4.1 The Objections

Number of Objections			
Correspondence (Letter or E-mail)	Postcards	Other	Total
63	154	1 Petition with 231 signatures	218

4.1.1 A total of 218 objections were received, 63 written objections either by letter or e-mail, 154 postcards and 1 petition with 231 signatures.

4.1.2 154 comments were received on postcards which agreed with the following statement:

"I ask that you consider the following as my official response to the Above Notice:

I am in favour of closing the schools in order to establish a lifelong school in Bala.

I am against the proposal to impose a (VC) church status on the proposed school.

I am in favour of a community school status that will not formally affiliate the school with any specific religious body."

4.1.3 An electronic petition was received with 179 signatures agreeing with the following statement:

"We call on Gwynedd Council to withdraw its recommendation to impose a church status on the proposed lifelong school (3-19) in Bala, and to announce its intention to establish it as a community school that is not formally affiliated with any specific religious body.

i. Such a status does not offer any educational advantage to the proposed school;

ii. A church status will not be compatible with the area's nonconformist history and traditions, and it is not an acceptable proposal in Penllyn;

iii. Establishing a lifelong (3-19) church school would force all Penllyn parents to send their children to a church establishment no matter what their religious beliefs may be, as no other school would be available in the area."

4.1.4 Following receiving the objections, they were analysed and sorted under the following headings:

- Proposed VC (Church in Wales) status of the Campus
- The Welsh Language
- Land Ownership
- Concern Over Losing The Investment
- A Review Suggested By The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn
- 3-19 Model
- The Statutory Process
- General

4.1.5 The vast majority of the objections noted a strong and clear objection to the intention of placing a Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), status on the Campus. Objections received to the Statutory Notice were numerous and stronger in nature, compared to the comments received during the consultation period.

4.1.6 As only one respondent expressed an objection to the 3-19 Model, it was the Campus' Church status which was clearly causing concern and not the educational model.

4.2 Proposed Voluntary Controlled (VC Church in Wales) Status of the Campus

4.2.1 In this part of the report, consideration is given to the specific matters that arose during the objection period in the context of the Church status. It is emphasised that this is a **summary** of the main reasons for objecting to the status, see **Appendix 1** for the details:

- there is no need for a Church school to nurture strong Christian values
- a Church education would be completely contrary to the area's ethos and history
- in 2015, children's education should not be influenced by any religious body
- Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Church school, and the quality of education there is poor, with the recent Estyn report noting the Governing Body's shortcomings

- as well as criticism of the education at Beuno Sant, it is an unpopular choice for the parents of the area
- the parents of the area have chosen not to send their children to the only Church school; Beuno Sant
- the Church in Wales is an English establishment
- parents of out-of-county children could decide not to send their children to a Church school, as they have other options in Denbighshire and Conwy
- there is no demand for Church education in Gwynedd - Faenol is the only Church school in Gwynedd without surplus places
- this removes parents' choice by forcing all children from Bala and Penllyn to receive education in an establishment that leans towards Anglicanism
- Penllyn has a nonconformist tradition and not a Church tradition
- in the interests of the future of our children's education and the community in general, the school in the Bala area should be a Community School, which is run entirely by the local Education Authority

4.2.2 It is worth reminding the Cabinet of the differences between Community, VA and VC categories. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act (Wales) 2013, schools are defined as:

- Community
- Voluntary Controlled (VC), with religious designation (Church in Wales)
- Voluntary Aided (VA), with religious designation (Church in Wales)

4.2.3 This table compares the categories:

Elements	CATEGORY		
	Community	Voluntary Controlled (VC) Church in Wales	Voluntary Aided (VA) Church in Wales
Land ownership and school buildings	Local Authority	The Church owns the school building, and the Local Authority owns the playing fields	The Church owns the school building, and the Local Authority owns the playing fields
Responsibility for finance	Local Authority	Local Authority	Local Authority financing the running costs 100%. Local Authority financing 85% of the capital work and the Church in Wales financing the rest
Employment and Recruitment Staff	Local Authority and Governing Body	Local Authority and Governing Body	The Governing Body
Admissions Policy	Local Authority	Local Authority	Governing Body
Governing Body	Parents' representation Education Authority Teachers Staff Community and Community Council	Parents' representation Education Authority Teachers Staff Community and Community Council Established (Church in Wales) – these governors would be in the minority	Parents' representation Education Authority Teachers Staff Community and Community Council Established (Church in Wales) – there should be 3 more governors appointed to the established category that there is in all other categories in a governing body of a secondary school.
Communal Worship	Satisfy legislative requirements for daily communal worship. The act of worship is of a wholly or mainly Christian nature	Satisfy legislative requirements for daily communal worship. The act of worship is of a wholly or mainly Christian nature	Satisfy legislative requirements for daily corporate worship. The act of worship is of a wholly or mainly Christian nature
Religious Studies	Religious Studies is a subject within the school curriculum Religious education syllabus agreed locally by SACRE	Christian values and ethics will be an important part of the operation of the school, but is largely dependent on the leadership of the Headteacher and Governors. Religious education syllabus agreed locally by SACRE	The school is responsible for religious education that is of a denominational character. Christian values and ethics will be an integral part of the operation and ethos of the school and an important part of school life
Inspections	Inspection by Estyn only	Inspection by Estyn. The Governing Body is responsible for inspecting the religious character of the school and worship	Inspection by Estyn. The Governing Body is responsible for inspecting the religious character of the school and worship

4.2.4 The above table demonstrates that schools with Community and Voluntary Controlled, (VC), status are very similar. The Voluntary Aided, (VA), status is significantly stronger in terms of the influence of the Church in Wales

4.2.5 It is worth reminding the Cabinet of the obligations of Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales) on the day to day running of the school:

- the Church in Wales would have a representation of two seats out of twenty on the Governing Body – **therefore they would not have the power to force decisions as they would be in the minority**
- although the land would transfer to the Church, this would be on specific and contingent terms and the land would revert to Cyngor Gwynedd if Church provision ceased on the site
- Gwynedd Council would have responsibility for school admissions
- Gwynedd Council and the governors would have responsibility for appointing staff
- the statutory requirements for communal worship would have to be complied with, with worship being wholly or partly of a Christian nature with the individual being able to be withdraw from such worship
- the Headteacher and the Management Team would have the responsibility of running the school from day to day

4.2.6 The need to determine the school's legal status is a matter that received detailed consideration during the consultation period, and in the Cabinet Report dated 2 June. Therefore, this reminds the Cabinet of the logic and the factors for consulting on imposing a Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), status on the Campus, and for issuing a Statutory Notice imposing a Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), status on the proposed Campus:

- the joint provision that currently exists in the catchment area , that is there is already Voluntary Aided provision (VA) in Ysgol Beuno Sant
- the viewpoint of the Church following a pre-consultation
- similarity of Community and Voluntary Controlled, (VC), categories
- the opinion that the quality of the education and resources is the most important factor in a school according to the initial assessment undertaken
- the strategic decision to ensure a continued choice of provision within a wider area in the south of the County

4.2.7 It is worth reminding the Cabinet that the Church in Wales have agreed to the following:

- that the Church in Wales will have only two designated governors on the Governing Body
- although the Church are stakeholders in the school, the governing body would have the responsibility and managing rights with the Council
- that the name of the Campus can be whatever name the Governing Body chooses
- the review suggested by the Governors of Ysgol Y Berwyn

4.2.8 As outlined above, the objections relating to the proposed status are stronger in nature and number than those received during the consultation period. The Cabinet needs to consider all relevant factors when making a final decision on the matter, including this specific aspect.

4.3 The Welsh Language

4.3.1 2 responses were received which were of the opinion that a Welsh-medium status should not be given to the Campus.

4.3.2 The concern was that allocating Welsh-medium status to the Campus would alienate those pupils who attend Ysgol Y Berwyn from more English eastern out-of-county areas such as Corwen. This could lead to a decline in the number of pupils who would attend the Campus.

- 4.3.3 The linguistic status of the Campus will not be different to the schools' existing linguistic status - Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn. Therefore, the concerns voiced in terms of the linguistic status of the Campus are ones that will not be realised.

4.4 Land Ownership

- 4.4.1 An objector suggested that one reason why the Council had consulted on affording Church status to the Campus was due to a legal requirement and implications involving land ownership (as Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn are so close in proximity to each other). This objector was of the opinion that these factors influenced the Council's decision to designate Voluntary Controlled status for the Campus.
- 4.4.2 The buildings of Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn border each other. However, both sites are completely separate, as the Church in Wales owns Ysgol Beuno Sant and Gwynedd Council owns Ysgol Y Berwyn. There is no factor in terms of land ownership rights that has influenced the Council's decision to designate Church status for the Campus.
- 4.4.3 Although the Ysgol Y Berwyn site would transfer to the Church in Wales if a Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales) Campus was established, this would be on specific and contingent terms in accordance with statute, and the site would revert to Cyngor Gwynedd should Church provision cease at the site

4.5 Concern over Losing the Investment

- 4.5.1 Two objectors responded by emphasising that they objected to affording Church status to the campus, but at the same time they were unwilling to see Bala lose the investment of £10.27m. The uncertainty over the last few years and the lack of capital spending on Ysgol Y Berwyn were noted as concerns.
- 4.5.2 They were of the opinion that the Church's influence in a church school would be minor, and therefore it would be better to secure the investment rather to risk losing it.

4.6 The Review Suggested By The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn

- 4.6.1 In order to ensure that there is no risk of losing the investment, nor for any further slippage to the timetable, the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn suggested that a review be undertaken of the educational quality and the Church status of the Campus within a reasonable time of its opening. Some of the responses received during the period to oppose the Statutory Notice supported this proposal.

4.7 3-19 Model

- 4.7.1 Very few objections to the idea of a 3-19 teaching model were received, i.e. a lifelong school model consisting of one school with an age range from 3 to 19. This objection was based on experiences in other places where classes were larger, discipline was lacking, truancy and bullying were increasing and less able pupils were left behind.
- 4.7.2 Although the number of lifelong schools 3-19 in Wales is small, there is no evidence that this model will lead to any of the disadvantages discussed in the above paragraph. In the case of the proposed 3-19 Campus, class sizes will be rationalised, i.e. they will be of a more appropriate size for teaching children of the same age. The primary and secondary age groups would be kept apart, and the Campus, (as in every other school in Gwynedd), would have an anti-bullying policy. The Campus would have improved and additional resources compared to the existing ones, along with the capacity to use teachers' expertise more flexibly across the sectors, which would enable more effective leadership and management. Furthermore, the 3-19 Model would have advantages over traditional primary and secondary schools that could be applied to ensure that less able pupils are not left behind.
- 4.7.3 The Council is confident that using the 3-19 Model would lead to an improved quality of education and pupil experience.

4.8 The Statutory Process

4.8.1 Several general responses were received which varied in their nature and relevance. However, more than one response was received which questioned the transparency of the consultation process held by Gwynedd Council, noting that the area's residents had not had an adequate opportunity to express their opinions on the Church status, therefore losing an opportunity to influence the process in a timely way. It was also suggested that discussions had occurred between Gwynedd Council and the Church in Wales, resulting in an agreement between both parties not to impose a Church status on the catchment area school in Dolgellau if the Campus in Bala received a Church status.

4.8.2 The table below details the meetings held locally to discuss the re-organisation

Date	Meeting	Invited	Nature of Discussion
11 December 2013	BCP	Local Members	Initial discussions
20 March 2014	BCP	Local Members	Church in Wales
6 May 2014	CRP	Headteachers, Chair of Governors, Parent Governors of all schools in the catchment, Local Members and representative of the Church in Wales	Church category an item on the agenda
20 May 2014	Headteachers	Headteachers of schools in the Catchment	Mentioned the possible different status
03 June 2014	Headteachers Meeting	Headteachers of schools in the Catchment	Mentioned the possible different status
12 June 2014	BCP	Local Members	Mentioned the possible different status
13 June 2014	Headteachers	Headteachers of Schools Catchment	Mentioned the possible different status
14 January 2015	CRP	Headteachers, Chair of Governors, Parent Governors of all schools in the catchment, Local Members and representative of the Church in Wales	PowerPoint presentation with a slide to compare the different categories
5 February 2015	Newsletter	Schools and CRP members	Identify the need for pre-consultation with the Church in Wales
11 March 2015	Pre-notice of the statutory consultation	Email to Head teachers of schools in the catchment area	Pre-notice that the statutory consultation period begins
13 March 2015	Consultation Document	Document to all consultees	Specific section on the Category
26 March 2015	Open day	Open to all	An opportunity for everyone to discuss, question officers, receive documentation

4.8.3 The Statutory Consultation document clearly noted the intention to designate Voluntary Controlled, (VC), status on the Campus. In addition, Section 6 specifically noted:

- the differences between the various legal categories
- other Church in Wales schools
- the statutory requirements to consult with the Church in Wales
- the factors to be considered when deciding on the legal category

4.8.4 The Council therefore completed the statutory processes in accordance with the Schools Organisation Code (006/2013) and the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

4.9 General

4.9.1 There were a small number of general comments, which varied in their nature

4.10 The Impact of the Proposal on Equality

4.10.1 In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, an equality impact assessment regarding the proposals was undertaken. The assessment notes the current situation, and demonstrates that policies and procedures are in place which would ensure that the proposal considers and is in keeping with equal rights. Having considered the relevant factors, it was concluded that the proposal positively ensures equal opportunities and that measures are in place to ensure there would be no unlawful discrimination or harassment. Arrangements are also in hand to monitor and review the situation.

4.10.2 The implications on equality have been further considered, following receipt of the comments made during the opposition period. It is considered that the conclusions of the assessment are still valid and relevant to the proposal. The Cabinet can refer to the full assessment which is available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.gov.uk/schoolorganisation as part of the background documents.

4.11 The Impact on the Community and the Welsh Language

4.11.1 In accordance with the Schools Organisation Code (006/2013), an impact assessment was undertaken regarding the impact of the proposed proposal on the community and the Welsh language. As no rural school is closing, there are no significant community impacts or implications on the community. For the same reason, there is no impact on the Welsh language. The language category of every school in the catchment area will remain the same, namely a Welsh-medium category. There is also an opportunity to further strengthen the implementation of Gwynedd's language policy by ensuring progression in the use of the Welsh language, both educationally and socially.

4.11.2 The implications on equality have been further considered, following receipt of the comments received during the opposition period. It is considered that the conclusions of the assessment are still valid and relevant to the proposal. The Cabinet can refer to the full assessment which is available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.gov.uk/schoolorganisation as part of the background documents.

5 WHETHER OR NOT TO APPROVE THE STATUTORY NOTICE

5.1 As has already been highlighted, there were no objections to the proposal of creating a 3-19 Campus in the town of Bala. The objection was to the Campus' legal status, and there is no doubt that the objection to that status was strong and vocal. The Cabinet needs to consider in detail before deciding whether to implement the Statutory Notice. Should the Statutory Notice be implemented, and the Voluntary Controlled category be designated to the Campus, or should the Campus be one with Community status? The Cabinet needs to carefully weigh up several aspects, including the original rationale for designating a Voluntary Controlled status to the Campus, the observations received during the objection period, and the responses to those observations (**Appendix 1**). There is a need to consider whether any new information or a valid reason been received during the objection period that undermines the original decision or justifies a change in direction.

5.2 There are different possible options:

- Not to confirm the statutory notice, which would lead to revisiting all the options including the current situation i.e. the '*status quo*'
- Confirm the statutory notice
- Confirm the statutory notice and implement recommendation (ii)

5.3 Decision Not To Confirm The Statutory Notice

5.3.1 If there was a decision not to confirm the statutory notice, then it would be necessary to review the situation and start the process of identifying an alternative option. Following a full options appraisal, it

would be possible to either present an alternative option or decide to continue with the current situation, the *'status quo'*, but any change in circumstance would influence this process.

- 5.3.2 Commencing the Process once again would result in a slippage of at least 10 months to the timetable. If the Church in Wales decided to refer the proposal to the Welsh Government, this could lead to further delays of 6-7 months. The Welsh Government could decide whether or not to accept or reject the proposal. There is therefore a risk that because of the significant slippage to the timetable, it would not be possible to ensure the spending of Welsh Government's financial contribution of £5.14m.
- 5.3.3 There is also the risk that the Welsh Government would revisit Cyngor Gwynedd's proposals for the catchment and challenge post 16 provision, and the rural schools within the catchment.
- 5.3.4 As any slippage to the timetable would increase the risk of losing Welsh Government's financial contribution, this factor should be carefully considered if a decision is made not to confirm the statutory notice and to commence the statutory process again.

5.4 Confirm the Statutory Notice

- 5.4.1 This would mean implementing the statutory notice and establishing a 3-19 Learning Campus, Welsh Medium, Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), in Bala to open on 1 September 2018.

5.5 Confirm the Statutory Notice and Implement Recommendation (ii)

- 5.5.1 If there was a decision to confirm the statutory notice, it is possible to choose to conduct a review of the performance of the school which would include the quality of education provided, educational progress, the pupils' social and cultural experiences, the use of resources, and any effect of the Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), category on the above, following two years from the opening date of the Campus.
- 5.5.2 This suggestion was recommended by the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn, and is supported by some objectors.
- 5.5.3 If any future review of the Campus were to lead to a change of status from Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), to Community, then it would be Gwynedd Council and **not** the Governing Body of the Campus which would have the legal power to invoke this change. The decision would have to follow the requirements and procedures of the legislation, that is the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and the School Organisation Code (006/13) to establish a new community school. The principal factor to consider if implementing any change would be the quality of education.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Gwynedd Council is currently facing a funding deficit of £33m over the next three years, and there is no doubt that public services will face unprecedented cuts in the foreseeable future.
- 6.2 This is an opportunity to ensure an Investment of £10.27m in Bala. Implementing this proposal would ensure the provision of the following for school, catchment and community use:
- ensuring the long term stability of the post-16 provision
 - ensuring the long term stability of the three rural schools in the catchment
 - a new library for Bala town and the catchment
 - theatre and cinema provision
 - facilities for community use
 - additional sporting facilities
 - 3G field

- 6.3** It is therefore important to understand that the re-organisation plans for Bala will not only lead to the establishment of a school with 21st Century resources, but also to a scheme which will secure other services in a rural area. The Model is one which could be used as a blueprint for similar provision in other catchment areas in the future, contributing to improving education quality and ensuring the viability and efficiency of public services by sharing and co-locating services.
- 6.4** The investment also ensures the long term future of post 16 provision and the rural schools in the catchment. It should be remembered that these two elements have been consistently challenged and scrutinised by the Welsh Government in the past. Their future would be in question once again, were this proposal not implemented.
- 6.5** It is also important to remember that the Statutory Notice objection period provides an opportunity to oppose, and therefore those in favour of the proposal and/or any element of it would not have the opportunity of making their views known. The objections received in relation to the legal status are stronger and more numerous than those received during the consultation period. However, the objections do not identify any new information since making the original decision to consult on a 3-19 Campus with Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), status. Therefore, when considering the case for issuing the proposal, it is not considered that the objections presented, although numerous, and considered against wider factors in favour of the proposal, justify not confirming the notice.
- 6.6** As is the case with every new school established in Gwynedd, the Council will review and assess the performance of the Campus. In the specific circumstances here, and because of the nature of the objections received, there is a specific recommendation that the Cabinet agrees to conduct a review of a variety of factors including the educational quality of the Campus and also any effect the Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), category has on these factors, two years following its opening. Such a review would provide an opportunity for the Council to consider the School's performance, and if any evidence was found that any element of the Model required review, then this would be addressed within this context.
- 6.7** Whilst considering and evaluating all the factors, including the status, it is still considered that the proposal to establish a 3-19 Campus, Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales) is the best option in order to ensure the future of education quality in Bala.

7 NEXT STEPS

- 7.1** If the Cabinet decide to accept the recommendations of this report, it would be possible to proceed with the construction and the establishment of the Campus with the intention of opening in September 2018. In certain circumstances, following the final decision of the Cabinet, it is possible for the following to refer the for consideration by the Welsh Government:
- A Local Authority which the proposal affects
 - The appropriate religious body for any school affected
 - The governing body of a voluntary or established school subject to proposals
 - A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or established school subject to proposals
 - A further education establishment which the proposal affects

The bodies making the referral will have to note why they believe that the decision made by the local authority is incorrect. The Welsh Government will decide whether the proposals affect the bodies and whether they need to consider the proposals. In the context of this situation, if the proposals of this report are accepted, the risk of referral exists, but it is very small.

7.2 If the final decision by the Cabinet is to proceed with the proposal and if the proposal is not referred, the timetable will be as follows:

Next Steps	Outline Timetable
Create a Communication Plan to share timely and relevant information with the main stakeholders	October 2015
Start the process of establishing the shadow governing body	Spring Term 2016
Commence construction work	Spring 2016
Appoint a Headteacher	1 September 2017
Close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn	31 August 2018
Open the 3-19 Learning Campus	1 September 2018

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is therefore recommended:

- i. To implement the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn in Bala on 31 August 2018 and establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, Welsh Medium, Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), ("The Campus"), on the existing Ysgol Y Berwyn site to open on 1 September 2018.
- ii. That Gwynedd Council will conduct a review of the school's performance which will include a review of the quality of education provided, educational progress, the pupils' social and cultural experiences, the use of resources, and any effect of the Voluntary Controlled, (VC, Church in Wales), category on the above, following two years from the opening date of the Campus.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

The Chief Executive:

"As the report and a number of the comments received during the consultation and objection period acknowledge, moving ahead with this pioneering proposal is key to improve the quality of education provision in the catchment.

It is clear that the status of the school has been the subject of some debate and very firm views. I believe that the proposals before the Cabinet which include "conducting a review of education quality.....within a reasonable period following its opening", a suggestion made by the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn, is a way forward."

The Monitoring Officer:

"When making a decision following the objection period and the publication of the proposal for schools in Bala, the Cabinet needs to consider the objections received before reaching a conclusion and confirming the published proposal. The Cabinet needs to be satisfied that the objections are considered and due and proper weight given to them before reaching a decision. In addition, they need to be considered within the more general context of the proposal for change when reaching a final decision. The report summarises the necessary information as well as the background documents which provided wider information regarding the proposal and the relevant considerations."

The Head of Finance Department:

"School Re-organisation in the Berwyn Catchment Area has a long history. I am convinced that the Business Case remains compelling, and there are obvious reasons to support the proposals. I note that further delay puts at risk the £5.135m grant from the Welsh Government, and as a result, the investment of over £10million."

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	The Council's analysis and response to the observations received during the objection period
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

All background documents relevant to the proposal can be seen on the Council's website by following this link www.gwynedd.gov.uk/schoolorganisation.

These are the main relevant background materials:

- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice 1 April 2014
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice 19 February 2014
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice 2 June 2015
- Statutory Consultation Document 11 March – 28 April 2015
- Language Impact Assessment Report
- Community Impact Assessment Report
- Equality Report
- An Assessment of the Need for Different Types of School
- Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd Strategy
- Statistics Pack
- Priorities Plan – Reorganisation of Education Provision
- Agenda and Minutes of the Berwyn Catchment Area Review Panel Meetings on 6 May 2014 and 14 January 2015
- Schools Organisation Code 006/2013
- Welsh Government Faith in Education document
- The Council's analysis and response to the observations received during the statutory consultation period
- Analysis of the consultation with children and young people by a specialist facilitator
- Statutory Notice issued on 17 July 2015

Objections to the Statutory Notices on the Proposal to Close the Schools of Bala Town and Establish a Voluntary Controlled Welsh Medium 3-19 Learning Campus (VC, Church in Wales), on the Existing Site of Ysgol Y Berwyn to open in September 2018

218 objections were received and they were arranged under the following headings:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Church Status | 4. Concern over losing the investment | 7. The Statutory Process |
| 2. The Welsh Language | 5. Ysgol Y Berwyn Governors' Suggestion of a Review | 8. General |
| 3. Land Ownership | 6. 3-19 Model | |

Comments Code	Comments	Number of objections including the comments	Gwynedd Council's Response
1	Voluntary Controlled Status (VC – Church in Wales)		
1.1 Page 22	<p>OBJECTIONS CARD</p> <p>I am in favour of closing the schools in order to establish a lifelong learning school in Bala. I am against the proposal to designate a (VC) church status for the proposed school.</p> <p>I am in favour of a community school status that will not formally affiliate the school with any specific religious body.</p>	154	<p>Gwynedd Council notes this comment and the objection to designate a Voluntary Controlled (VC) Church status for the 3-19 Learning Campus.</p> <p>See Gwynedd Council's response to the comments in paragraph 1.2-1.26 below.</p>
1.2	<p>I was astonished and concerned when I heard about the County Council's proposal to submit an education plan which would mean that all secondary and primary education in the Bala area would be provided in a church school! In Bala of all places, the breeding-ground of independence and Methodism and a town bordering on the area where the tithe trouble occurred. It is an entirely incomprehensible situation; it seems that the council and the church are sticking two fingers up at the people of Bala and the area. There is no justification for the school to be a church school. You have enraged people with the plan to such an extent that the council and the church's reputation will suffer for generations.</p>	1	<p>The need to determine the school's legal status is a matter that has received detailed consideration. This is a legal requirement and a period of pre-consultation must be held with the Church in Wales as part of the reorganisation process.</p> <p>Following initial consideration by the Cabinet in February 2015, it was decided to consult on imposing a Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the Learning Campus.</p> <p>A period of statutory consultation was held between 13 March and 28 April 2015 with an open day in Ysgol Y Berwyn on 26 March 2015.</p>
1.3	<p>It is the council's responsibility to provide services and education that are acceptable to the majority of the local population. Nobody can assume that you are fulfilling this in this respect. I ask the council to ensure that the new school is released from the shackles of the church as soon as</p>	1	<p>Section 6 of the consultation document notes the factors and logic for imposing a Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the Campus. The following were among the factors for imposing a Voluntary Controlled status on the Campus:</p>

	possible.			
1.4	I feel particularly disappointed that Gwynedd Council's Cabinet has recommended this status for the new school, rather than allowing it the freedom and right to reflect the character of the area. I fully oppose the possibility of placing a Church status on the education of children in Bala and Penllyn.	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the joint provision that currently exists in the catchment area and the fact that there is already VA provision in the area the viewpoint of the Church following the pre-consultation similarity of community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) categories the opinion that the quality of education and resources is the most important factor in a school according to the initial assessment that was undertaken the strategic decision to ensure a continued choice of provision within a wider area in the south of the County <p>In accordance with the Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, schools are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Voluntary Controlled (VC) with a religious designation (Church in Wales) Voluntary Aided (VA) with a religious designation (Church in Wales)
1.5	We are members of Capel Tegid and the children attend the Sunday School on a regular basis. We do not wish for the children to attend a church school. The area has a Welsh history and tradition which includes chapelry. We do not feel that the church can easily demand this.	1		
1.6	As the Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Tryweryn, we would like to express our support to establishing the Lifelong Learning School in the Berwyn catchment area and we welcome the long awaited investment in the area's education. We are completely unanimous as a Body that the proposed school should remain a community school as the existing secondary school and this school. That is, community provision as it stands in the area's current situation should be continued.	1		
1.7	As already expressed, the whole area is eagerly supportive of the proposed plans for the Berwyn campus to be realised. The structure of the site is in real need of investment and Ysgol Y Berwyn as an educational establishment needs to be re-established within its traditional boundaries. However, some concerns were recently raised about the new school, namely:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ysgol Beuno Sant is the only Church school in Penllyn and it has a small number of pupils. Again, the new secondary school, which will include secondary ages, will be a Church School. This eliminates the choice and forces all children and young people in Bala and Penllyn to receive education in an establishment which has an Anglican focus and in an area that has a strong nonconformist tradition. Opening a new lifelong school in an area where all Churches in the catchment area, with the exception of the church in the town of Bala itself, were closed is strange. 	1		
1.8	It is unwise for an educational establishment to be connected to any religious faction as education should be open and available on the same terms to everybody./ I strongly object designating Church status on Ysgol	3		

This table indicates the main differences between the 3 categories.

	Community Category	Church Category (Voluntary Controlled (VC) School)	Church Category (Voluntary Aided (VA) School)
Ownership of school land and buildings	Local Authority	The Church owns the school building and the Local Authority owns the playing fields	The Church owns the school building and the Local Authority owns the playing fields
Responsibility for funding	Local Authority	Local Authority	Local Authority funds the running costs. 85% grant towards capital works, the Church funds the rest.
Responsibility for employing and appointing staff	Local Authority	Local Authority	The Church
School Admissions Policy	Local Authority	Local Authority	Governing Body
Constitution of the Governing Body	Representatives on behalf of Parents, Education Authority, Teachers, Staff,	Church governors in the minority	Church governors in the majority

	Y Berwyn. I strongly believe that it should be a community school. I do not believe that religion and education should be mixed./ In this current age, religion and education should not be mixed, and young people should have freedom of thought to decide for themselves whether or not they wish to follow a religious creed or not.			Community and Community Council		
1.9	The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn fully supports the proposal of Gwynedd County Council's Cabinet to reorganise education in the Berwyn catchment area and open a new lifelong learning school on 1 September 2018. But we fiercely object to the clause in the proposal stating that it will be a school with Church status (voluntary controlled). Following several meetings with County officers it was made clear to us that it is not possible to change the wording of the proposal without having to go through another consultation on a new proposal. The officers are of the opinion that there is no time to do this and the entire plan and associated £10 million investment would be at risk which in turn would raise a question about the future of Ysgol Y Berwyn sixth form, as well as the future of Gwynedd primary schools outside of Bala.	1		Collective worship	Satisfy legislative requirements for daily collective worship. The act of worship wholly or mainly of Christian nature.	Satisfy legislative requirements for daily collective worship. The act of worship wholly or mainly of Christian nature. Worship will either be wholly or partly of Christian nature.
				Curriculum and Religious Education	Religious Education is a field within the school curriculum. Religious Education syllabus agreed locally through SACRE.	Christian values and ethics will be an important part of the school's operation but will depend to a vast degree on the leadership of the Head teacher and Governors. Religious Education taught according to the syllabus agreed locally through SACRE.
				Inspections	Inspection from Estyn only.	Inspection from Estyn. Governing Body responsible for inspecting the religious character and worship practices of the school.
1.11	It seems as though changing to be a lifelong school is logical because of the evolutionary nature of education and it involves saving money in the field of education. However, changing from a community school to a VC Church in Wales school is more difficult to comprehend. If there is only one small Church school in Bala (a school that is apparently facing a reduction in numbers), why is it logical or rational to merge a successful secondary school, a primary school, nursery and 11+ provision and three successful primary schools that are not Church schools under the Church in Wales wing. Let alone the 18+ provision onwards.	1	<p>The Council and the Church in Wales are joint education providers in the Berwyn catchment area. Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided (VA) School with a religious character (Church in Wales). This means that the Church has specific rights through the VA status, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Church has a majority on the Governing Body • the Church controls admissions • the Church is responsible for appointing staff • the school is responsible for Religious Education of denominational character. Christian values and ethics will infiltrate the school's operation and ethos and will be an important part of school life. <p>The above would not be relevant to the Voluntary Controlled VC category.</p> <p>In comparison – the Voluntary Controlled VC status is very similar to the Community status with some variations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a Voluntary Controlled VC School, the Church will have representation 			
1.11	I felt astonished and disappointed when I understood that the intention is to create a 'church' school. This would cause divisions whilst a non-denominational community school would unify the area. I was part of the discussions the last time (as a governor of Ysgol Bro Tegid) and I believe that all of the delay damages education in Penllyn but I am sure that it is possible to solve difficulties and to get the best answer for the area's youth.	1				
1.12	I am amazed that you and the Council are deciding to have a Church School as the only school in Bala and also for 11+ children in the parish of Penllyn. Every school should be free from every religious denomination	1				

	and therefore the Church in Wales should not be allowed to take the reins and force children in the area to receive education under its influence.		<p>on the Governing Body but this representation would be in the minority. At the moment, it is uncertain what size the Governing Body would be, but it is likely that it would have either 18 or 21 members and that the Church would have 4 out of 18 or 5 out of 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be a technical legal exercise of a conditional land transfer to the Church. Should the Church's educational provision terminate on the site the land will be returned to the ownership of Gwynedd Council. <p>Otherwise – the following is true for both categories (Community and Voluntary Controlled VC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council would control school admissions • the Council and governors would be responsible for appointing staff • in terms of collective worship, legislative requirements for daily collective worship will need to be met. Individuals have the right to be exempted from collective worship activities or religious education lesson the Head teacher and Management Team would be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school. <p>Following the consultation period, meetings were held with representatives of the Church in Wales and it was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the representation of the Church on the Governing Body to two seats out of four and offer the other two seats to other denominations to reflect the area's character and traditions. • The Church is completely open to supporting any name that the Shadow Governing Body gives the Campus. • The Church is completely supportive to the development of the Campus as an establishment that will strengthen the Welsh language. <p>Gwynedd Council notes the comments about Penllyn's dissenting and historical tradition. In response to these concerns, and following the statutory consultation period, the Church has noted that they are fully aware of the area's history and respect it. They are eager to ensure that the Campus reflects the area's history and traditions, and as noted above, following the statutory consultation period, they have proposed that a proportion of Governing Body representation comes from the dissenting tradition.</p>
1.13	I cannot comprehend how the Cabinet can decide that all Bala and Penllyn parents must send their children to a (VC) Church School from September 2018 onwards. Common sense shows that this is totally unfair. Indeed, forcing people to accept the beliefs of a single denomination alone is an unjust tyranny. This is a clear echo of the past prior to our democratic modern period today. I appeal to you to reconsider the situation without delay. Local opinion is that a Community School should be established which should have a non-denominational Christian ethos in all its activities.	1	
1.14	I am a parent of a child in Ysgol Y Berwyn and a member of staff at Ysgol OM Edwards. I am in favour of closing schools in the town of Bala and establishing a Lifelong School in Bala. I STRONGLY OBJECT to the proposal to impose a church status on the proposed school. I am in favour of a community school status that will not formally affiliate the school with any specific religious body.	1	
1.15	It is shameful that you are considering this, when the church at the beginning of the process had agreed to drop Ysgol Beuno Sant - should there be any mention of objection; this again demonstrates the power of the church against the wishes of local people	1	
1.16	I have previously drawn your attention to your underhand decision to designate the huge building as a Church School. The State Church has had very little influence on the Bala and Penllyn catchment area. It has been a nonconformist area for well over two centuries and the stalwarts of those denominations lived and worked hard here in order to cultivate and improve the residents' way of life here and beyond. By means of your deplorable decision, you are throwing all of this to the bottom of the waste basket of our area's history. Please open your eyes, read the history books and learn about what we are proud of here in Penllyn.	1	
1.17	You are taking for granted that everyone wants an ecclesiastical education. This is not true. Everyone has the right as individuals to follow religious beliefs or not, and therefore, it is not right that you are generalising future families/pupils.	1	
1.18	I find it difficult to believe that you are serious about imposing a church	1	

	status on Bala's new lifelong school. Only a small percentage of the community are members of the church and I believe that the majority of pupils, parents and residents in the area do not wish for the school to be designated a denominational status of any kind. I really cannot understand your decision to follow this path, but the truth will come out in time.		Similarly, the comments that education and religion should not be mixed have been noted, and they respond by stating that imposing a Voluntary Controlled status on the Campus would not give the Church in Wales control of the Campus. The Campus would be managed by the head teacher and the Governing Body in collaboration with Gwynedd Council.
1.19	I understand that the area's governing bodies were not supportive and I am yet to hear anyone speaking in favour of a Church status for the school.	1	Should the Cabinet decide that it wants to change the legal category, the following should be made.
1.20	If you proceed with this madness, a community's fury will demand answers and local and county councillors will have very complex questions to answer, let alone County Council officers who will be accountable for their decisions.	1	As part of the weighing up process, the Cabinet would need to assess the proposed model. This would be required in terms of a statutory arrangement to develop schools organisation proposals, but also, it would be required to do this in terms of the process to develop the business case which leads to a contribution from the Government towards the £10.27m required for the development. There are some models that currently cannot be achieved, for example - federalising the whole area because of the proposal to designate two different categories for the area. Schools from different categories cannot be federalised.
1.21	We will not be satisfied as a community until we understand exactly what is going on here, please wise up to this before it goes too far.	1	In terms of the process afterwards - a second process of pre-consultation would have to be held with the Church, and then report back to the Cabinet on the Church's response to any new proposal. The Cabinet would then need to consider holding a further public consultation, before receiving a further report to consider this consultation to release a statutory notice. This would be a time slippage of approximately 10 months from the point where we are now.
1.22	I write to object to the Council's proposal to impose a VC church status on the proposed new school in the Berwyn catchment area. I warmly welcome the intention to create a lifelong school in the catchment area, as there is a genuine need to move quickly to secure quality educational resources in the area. However, it is a great disappointment that the diocese has pressured the Council into creating a church school, it is an even greater disappointment to understand that the Council has succumbed to such pressure. If this school opens under church control, no matter how limited that control is, it will be a shameful reflection of a lack of transparency in the County's scrutiny process.	1	After statutory notices are issued - there would be a further report for the Cabinet before there would be a chance for the proposal to be referred to the Government for a decision. The Church has a specific right to refer proposals to the Government, and during the process they have noted that they would do this should they disagree with any recommended proposal. This referral would mean approximately 6/7 months of consideration by the Government. At the end of all this, the Minister can accept or refuse the proposal. Should the Minister refuse the proposal, the process of developing the proposal from the 1.24 start would then have to begin again and possibly the process of applying for funding from the Government. It is also possible for the proposal to become
1.23	I strongly believe that Bala needs to improve its education provision, and I do not want to prevent this. However, I am not of the opinion that our town needs a school that is based on religion. Bala has an excellent community that would benefit from a community school that would introduce our children to everything in life.	1	
1.24	As a member of the Berwyn governing body, the intention did not come to our attention until things went too far. Why give Church status to a school that provides education to the community of Berwyn?	1	

subject to a Judicial Review.

Changing direction would mean that the Learning Campus will not open until at least September 2019.

Should the Cabinet decide not to implement the Statutory Notice, the following will need to be considered:

- A slippage in the timetable
- The need to consider other new models
- Impact of the Church's referral
- Risk of the Government refusing the proposal
- Risk of judicial review

It is acknowledged that a number of strong objections have been received during the objection period and that the decision in this matter is not easy.

However, given the above and all factors which include:

- the logic for imposing a Voluntary Controlled VC status on the Campus
- that the Church's number of designated governors on the Governing Body will be in the minority
- the fact that there is no new information that undermines the original decision to consult on the Voluntary Controlled VC status
- the concessions made by the Church in Wales

Gwynedd Council continues to be of the opinion that imposing a Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the Campus is appropriate.

1.25	I cannot for the life of me understand why Gwynedd Council's Cabinet is thinking of designating a church status for the new school in Bala. The church has been closed for many years here in the village of Llanfor. The Church in Wales also owned the Village Hall. This was the meeting place for our community. At the turn of this century, the Church in Wales decided to sell the Hall and the Hall House. The community here in Llanfor has been ruined; we have nowhere to convene. And now here comes Gwynedd Council thinking of giving the new school a Church Status; to this establishment which considered money to be more important than rural Wales and its community. Remember our rich historic heritage.	2	<p>We note the comments – Gwynedd Council's Cabinet will need to consider all the comments received during the period for objecting to the Statutory Notice before deciding whether or not to implement the Notice.</p> <p>The reasoning for imposing a Voluntary Controlled status on the Campus is noted above.</p>
1.26	Should we continue with the proposed plan of a Lifelong School, the Church in Wales would have the right to appoint a proportion of the Governors (albeit not a majority). I doubt if this would be wise as the Estyn report on ysgol Beuno Sant (April 2014) notes the following: <i>Over a period of time, the governing body has not contributed effectively enough to determining the strategic direction of the school's work.</i> It was the Church in Wales that appointed the Governing Body of Ysgol Beuno Sant, and I ask would the governors appointed by the Church in Wales have a better understanding of their role in "determining the strategic direction of the work" of the Lifelong School? I now understand that the Church in Wales is willing enough to set aside its right to elect the number it would have the right to elect and is prepared to offer a seat to two from other denominations. Such insolence! How many other denominations does the Church in Wales assume there are in Penllyn? And in any case, my reason for objecting has nothing to do with my denomination not being represented, rather it is because the Dissenting Denominations in Wales have never called for schools with denomination status – despite Ieuan Gwynedd publishing essays on the matter once.	1	<p>It must be acknowledged that the Estyn Report on Ysgol Beuno Sant (April 2014) noted weaknesses in relation to the governing body of Ysgol Beuno Sant.</p> <p>Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided School (VA), therefore the Church Governors are in the majority. It is intended to impose a Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the Campus. Therefore the Church Governors will be in the minority on the Campus' Governing Body.</p> <p>The fact that Ysgol Beuno Sant has received a poor inspection from Estyn relatively recently does not set a precedent that would mean that the 3-19 Campus with a Voluntary Controlled status would perform badly educationally. A school is run and led by the Head teacher and the Governing Body in collaboration with the Council, be it a community status or a Voluntary Controlled (VC) school.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council's intention in reorganising the education provision in Bala is to ensure consistency and improvement in the quality of education. The school's leadership and management structure will be a strong tool to enable this.</p> <p>There is evidence for and against the quality of education in Church schools, and often numerous factors influence the quality of education.</p>
1.27	If it is mandatory to have a Church School, the Church should maintain it and all the spending on teachers' salaries and maintenance should come from the Church's treasure ship without assistance from Gwynedd	1	The arrangements for funding Church schools are determined by statute. It is not legally possible to have a Church Voluntary Controlled (VC) education provision where the responsibility for spending on teacher salaries and maintenance lies

	Council.		with the Church. In the case of a Voluntary Aided school, there would be a capital grant of 85% of the capital costs, payable by Welsh Government, and the Church would pay the remainder. The Local Authority would continue paying the running costs.
1.28	For me, the idea is foolish and the Authority will lose an opportunity to create a non-denominational school that will satisfy the wishes of every individual. More than anything, the proposal will create an adverse environment at the beginning of what could be a new and adventurous phase history of education in Penllyn. I will not go into the feeling of hatred that existed towards the Church's uniform attitude in the past, feelings that continue to this day, rather, I appeal to the Authority to use common sense and to create a system it can be proud of for years to come.	1	Gwynedd Council acknowledges that strong feelings have been expressed in terms of the Campus' Church status. However, the reasoning for imposing a Voluntary Controlled status on the Campus is noted in 1.2 above. The Council is confident that the local community will come together and support the Campus as it is established, and welcome the £10.27m investment in the Campus, thus ensuring educational standards of the 21st Century, and resources for the use of the Community.
1.29	We have completed a questionnaire about this before and are disappointed that there was no reference to the feelings of local people in the consultation document. It is known that the Church has changed its mind and agreed previously to drop the status. The numbers attending Ysgol Bro Tegid are increasing at the moment, and the numbers attending Ysgol Beuno Sant are dwindling. It does not make sense that such a minority will have such influence at the new school.	1	Paragraph 6.1 of the consultation document notes that Gwynedd Council has undertaken an assessment of the need for education from different categories in the Berwyn catchment area. This was done by distributing the questionnaire to the parents of pupils at each of the six schools in the Berwyn catchment area, and 160 questionnaires were received. The main conclusion of the assessment was that the quality of education was the most important factor for parents in choosing a school for their child – with 79% of the responders saying that this was the most important factor at a school.
1.30	I strongly support a 3-19 school in Bala, but I am very concerned that it will be a Voluntary Controlled School (Church in Wales). I write to strongly object to the decision and I do not wish for my child's education to have a strong Christian and discriminatory ethos as part of the school's curriculum or as part of its pastoral care of pupils, staff and families", "within a context of a strong commitment to be a Christian community that discriminates". Additionally, I am not supportive of the fact that the governing bodies of such schools include governors that have been nominated by the Church. Although the Local Authority, parents and staff would be able to nominate governors, I feel that this would still lead to unfair bias in favour of the church when it came to decision making.	1	The implications of a Voluntary Aided, (VA), status is significantly more on the ethos and nature of a school, than in a Voluntary Controlled, (VC), school. It will be the Head teacher and the Governing Body who will be primarily responsible for developing the ethos and nature of the Learning Campus, and it should be noted that the Church Governors will be in the minority in a Voluntary Controlled, (VC), school. The Church in Wales have affirmed their desire and intention to work closely with the community in order to show that the intention is to co-operate to establish a Welsh Medium Christian School which serves the whole community and provides a quality education to all.

			The number of Church Governors on the Governing Body of a Church school is determined by statute.
1.31	I recently read in the paper that Dr Andrew John, the Bishop of Bangor has confirmed a decline in Church membership and that the Church must aim towards the young. What is this apart from a relationship with a school to push its creed onto the children? Denominational religious schools should certainly be totally separate. I beg you to rethink and overturn the plan for the new school in Bala.	2	The comment is noted, but it must be borne in mind that current legislation includes Church schools in the education system.
1.32	We need the best education and opportunities for the area's children, and the community ethos of the rural schools, whose pupils will attend Ysgol Y Berwyn at 11 years old must also be considered. The parents of the area have chosen not to send their children to Ysgol Beuno Sant. They therefore need the option to choose not to send their children to a secondary school with a church status. Consideration should be given to the majority's wishes.	1	Before undertaking a statutory consultation on the matter, the Council held an assessment of the need for education from different categories in the Berwyn catchment area. This was done by distributing questionnaires to the parents of pupils at each of the 6 schools in the catchment area, and 160 questionnaires were received in response. The main conclusion of the assessment was that the quality of education was the most important factor for parents in choosing a school for their child – with 79% of the responders saying that this was the most important factor at a school.
1.33	My children currently attend a community primary school in the Penllyn area, when they move to secondary school I wish for them to continue to receive their education in a community school.	1	Gwynedd Council recognises that the decision to impose a Voluntary Controlled status, (VC), will not please everybody, and that it will not offer the option of a Community category education provision for pupils aged 11-19 in the catchment. Nevertheless, the rural schools in the catchment, Ffridd y Llyn, Bro Tryweryn ac OM Edwards yn parhau i gynnig darpariaeth Gymunedol ar gyfer oedran 3-11
1.34	I wish for my child to have access to community education within a neutral learning environment not restricted to any single type of religion, those who are not religious, or those who do not believe. I believe that a single faith school would undermine the social cohesion that a multi-cultural society needs. Having an impartial option is important and having one school that is based on one belief would reduce the choice. / I am very much in favour of establishing faith schools in large towns and cities where there is sufficient population to make the choice of school a possibility, BUT THE MAIN AND MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IS – they are in areas where the parents have the CHOICE between sending their children to a church school or to a Council-run school, a choice that would not be open to the people of Bala and Penllyn. / The result of a church status it to take the choice away from parents who wish to send their children to a school with no denomination, as Gwynedd Council does not provide non-denominational provision within reach of Bala.	3	However, the Voluntary Controlled (VC) category is very similar to the Community category, and the need to consider the Church provision in south Meirionnydd, in light of the reorganisation of the nearby Gader catchment area must be borne in mind. In a rural area such as South Meirionnydd, because of the population and the travelling distances it is not possible to have a provision which offers more than one choice for everyone.
1.35	In Bala town, parents had the choice to send their children to one of two	1	

	primary schools, with only a small percentage of the community now choosing a church education. If the Council's plans go ahead, the parents of secondary school pupils will not have this choice. Everyone will have to send their children to a church school, or arrange for their children to move to another catchment area. This causes sadness and concern for a large number of parents who have already contacted me to voice their concerns.		
1.36	I wish to express my categorical objection to the proposal to make the new school in Bala a Church in Wales / VC school. What right does the Church have to insist upon having a part in the education of our children? This is a secular society and there is no demand at all for the intervention of any religious establishment in our education system. Especially in a rural area where we cannot choose our schools.	3	
1.37	Not only does this impose a voluntary status on a primary school, it also imposes a voluntary status on a school with KS3 and KS4 pupils, pupils, of which some attend Sunday Schools and services at dissenting churches. This is not acceptable at all. Should the plan be given the go ahead, this would be the only Lifelong school in Wales with a voluntary status.	1	
2	The Welsh Language		
2.1	I am very concerned about the implications of changing the school's status from a naturally Welsh speaking school to a Welsh-medium school. In the subject of which I am responsible (Business), a high proportion choose to sit the exam through the medium of English. Forcing pupils to study through the Welsh language only could create difficulties for pupils from mainly English backgrounds, as well as for those who wish to study at Universities in England. More Sixth Form students now choose to study courses at English universities. I feel that the status of a Welsh-medium school could be a threat to several pupils that would be attracted here from the Corwen, Cynwyd areas etc.	1	There is no intention to change the linguistic status of any of the schools in question - Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant or Ysgol Y Berwyn. Therefore, the concerns raised in relation to the linguistic status of the Campus are ones which will not be realised.
	I would like to note that creating a Welsh School status in the Bala area, along with the recent trend to enforce 'Welshness' has and will affect people from the Corwen area and beyond. Of course, a lifelong school is needed in the Bala area which should be a naturally Welsh speaking community school.	1	
3	Land Ownership		
3.1	If there is any other consideration that is not known to the public, it	2	There is no legal matter involving land ownership at Ysgol Y Berwyn or Ysgol

	should be made known at once. Ysgol Y Berwyn and Ysgol Beuno Sant are currently on sites that are very close to each other. It was suggested in the press that something wasn't quite right. I wonder whether there is a legal matter involving the land which would mean relinquishing the new school to the supervision of the Church in Wales?		Beuno Sant which means that Gwynedd Council must, (or is pressurised or influenced to), designate a Voluntary Controlled (VC) status for the Campus. The reasoning for designating a Church status has been noted in Section 6 of the consultation document, and land ownership is not a part of any of those considerations.
4	Concern over losing the investment		
4.1	I would also like to express my concern regarding the funding/grants for this school being held back or even lost. Ysgol Y Berwyn really needs investment, and I would not like for any discussions regarding the school's status to affect plans to open this school in September 2018.	1	The Council agrees that it is necessary to invest in the educational provision in the town of Bala. The Council will have to consider many factors when deciding on the status of the Campus, and this includes the implications of the Voluntary Controlled status and the proposed timetable.
4.2	I hope that my objection to a church school in terms of status does not mean losing an investment for the Community school in Bala. However, the practical influence of the Church in Wales will be minor, as it will only have two nominated governors. At present, it is important to secure the procurement of the necessary funding to develop a new school. The uncertainty and lack of expenditure over the past years on Ysgol Y Berwyn has definitely negatively impacted the staff's spirit and the quality of the building.	1	
5	Ysgol Y Berwyn Governors' Suggestion of a Review		
5.1	I call on Gwynedd Council to commit to holding a further consultation process with the local community once the new school has been opened, to highlight the Community's desire regarding the school's status - and also to commit to change the status to a Community School if the result of the process shows that this is the Community's wish. Such a consultation should be held as soon as possible and most certainly within the first two years.	1	The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn suggested that Gwynedd Council review the success of the Campus within two years, of its opening, such a review to include education quality and the legal status Voluntary Controlled, (VC Church in Wales), of the Campus. It is a policy of Gwynedd Council to undertake a review of any new schools, following re-organisation, and that within a reasonable period of their opening
5.2	The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn have suggested a compromise, which is that the County, as part of the proposal to re-organise education in the area, binds itself legally (with a time limit of no more than 2 years), to consult with parents, proposed parents and citizens on the Church status of the school, and that they in an objective way measure their opinion. If the majority are in favour of changing the school status to a Community one, then Gwynedd Council will commence the process to ensure that. Without this guarantee, the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn will not support plans for education in Bala .	1	This is in order to ensure that schools provide quality education, a proficient pupil experience, and operate effectively. Such a review will be undertaken of the Campus, and if the Campus is designated Voluntary Controlled, (VC), any review will assess this aspect of the educational provision as well. Gwynedd Council will consider all comments received in this context when making a final decision in relation to the matter, that is to implement the

5.3	I write to you to support the compromise suggested by the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn, which is that the County, as part of the proposal to re-organise education in the area, binds itself legally (with a time limit of no more than 2 years following the opening of the new school), to consult with parents, proposed parents and citizens on the Church status of the school. I ask you to consider this very carefully in order to gain the support of many of the area's citizens.	1	Statutory Notice
5.4	I ask the Council to ensure that the new school is released from its Church constraints as soon as possible	1	
5.5	The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn fully support Gwynedd Council's proposal to re-organise education in the Berwyn catchment area and to open a new 3-19 school on 1 September 2018. However, we strongly oppose the clause which states that the school will be one with Church (voluntary controlled) status. Following a number of meetings with County officers, it was made clear to us that it is not possible to change the proposal without conducting a new consultation on a new proposal. It is the opinion of officials that there is no time to do this and that the whole proposal and investment of £10m will be at risk which will once again raise a question on the future of the 6th form at Ysgol Y Berwyn, in addition to the future to the primary schools in Gwynedd outside Bala	1	
5.6	Llanuwchllyn Community Council continue to strongly support the principle of re-organising education and welcome the long-awaited investment in Penllyn; and we do not wish to see any further delay in seeing the proposal coming to fruition. However , we ask for a guarantee that the question of Church status is reviewed within a reasonable time following the opening of the new school – a review which will consult fully with the citizens of Penllyn.	1	
5.7	It is clear from the letters that I have read in the press, that there is considerable concern regarding the future of Ysgol Y Berwyn and its Church status following education re-organisation in the Berwyn catchment area and the opening of a lifelong school in 2018. At this date the site and buildings of Ysgol Y Berwyn will be the property of the Church in Wales, although the public will be responsible for the maintenance and repairing costs. It is the intention of Gwynedd Council if need be following the views after consultation, is to commence on the	1	

	<p>process of changing the Church status during the following two year period.</p> <p>According to the Education Act 2011, it is the responsibility of the Governing Body to make an application to change the school status and not the Council. I wonder whether the new Governing Body of Ysgol Y Berwyn and its percentage of Church members will be happy to do this? If an application is made, the Church in Wales will not easily agree to lose some of its wealth. A number of questions need to be answered, and the citizens of Penllyn should be told the truth. It is the responsibility of Cyngor Gwynedd to operate transparently and for the benefit of the public, and not behind closed doors for its own benefit.</p>		
<p>5.8</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 34</p>	<p>I was disappointed to read the letter of the Chair of Governors in Y Cyfnod, which suggested that it would be better to accept the Church status at this time and to conduct another consultation in two years! What sense is it to do this at a time of austerity and cuts which the Council faces? The letter notes that it is not possible to change the wording without conducting another consultation and it is the opinion of officers that it is too late to do that and that the whole proposal would be at risk. Is it not Gwynedd officers who initially suggested the proposal in nay event without considering the local view nor consulting at that time? In addition on what basis do they say that the proposal is at risk and who at the Assembly is threatening this?</p> <p>There are a number of questions to be asked and councillors and officers will need to answer them one day. I therefore appeal to you to make the correct decision and not to designate Church status on the new lifelong school in Bala.</p>	<p>1</p>	
<p>5.9</p>	<p>I am surprised that Gwynedd Council have decided on the option of placing "Church" status on the Bala lifelong school. This is totally stupid in 2015! Nevertheless, I do not wish to put at risk the proposed investment as the Council have not spent any money on the buildings of Ysgol Y Berwyn for a number of years and the investment is one desperately needed. Because the Council have forced us to this decision I wish to declare my general support to the investment in the Lifelong school and ask the Cabinet to include a condition with the proposals to ensure that there will be a consultation with the community regarding the Church/Community status within a reasonable period of time of the</p>	<p>1</p>	

	school opening (2 years) in order to obtain the view of the area's citizens. I believe that the Council has acted unfairly in this matter and I suggest that an internal review should be undertaken in order to understand what has happened here.		
5.10	During a meeting held on 6 July 2015 between the Head of Gwynedd's Education Department and representatives of Penllyn school's governing bodies; it was made clear that it is not possible to oppose the Church status "voluntary controlled" to the proposed lifelong school without placing at risk the application by having to recommence the consultation process. Education Department officers failed to make it clear why this option was chosen, and although I oppose the "Church" status I do not wish to place at risk the proposed investment. Therefore I wish to make clear my general support to the investment in a lifelong school and ask the Cabinet to include a condition with the proposal to ensure that there will be a consultation with the community regarding the Church/Community status within a reasonable time of the opening of the school (that is 2 years) in order to obtain the true viewpoint of the citizens in the area.	1	
5.11	I hope that there will be certainty as to a review of the Church status once the lifelong school is opened.	1	
5.12	As a Board of Governors we are very keen to get rid of the Church status as soon as is legally possible. We plead that the Education Department add a condition to the legal agreement. That is that there will be a commitment to ascertain the views of parents and of the area, as to whether or not Church status should proceed, or should the school revert to a community school in the Berwyn catchment area.	1	
5.13	I have also heard that the best option is to accept the proposal at this time and within, say, two years, raise the matter again and seek to change the voluntary status of the school to that of a Community school. Is this correct? Is this how the citizens of Penllyn are supposed to operate? Is it by deceit that we ensure that we manage to secure a new school? I am surprised and embarrassed by such thoughts.	1	
6	3-19 Model		
6.1	Your plan to close the schools in the town of Bala and to merge them all on the Ysgol Y Berwyn site is a big mistake. From experiences of doing this in other towns the classes are larger, discipline is lacking, truancy and	1	Using a 3-19 Model will not lead to larger classes in the secondary age sector. In the primary age, merging the current primary provision will lead to improved consistency in class sizes and will increase the capacity for children of the same

	bullying increases, and less able pupils are left behind.		<p>age to be taught in the same classroom.</p> <p>Although the number of schools in Wales that use the 3-19 Model is limited at present, there is no evidence that discipline is lacking, that truancy and bullying are increasing and that less able pupils are being left behind.</p> <p>Securing an atmosphere and ethos that ensures that the school operates effectively and that the pupils are happy is an integral part of the work of establishing the 3-19 Campus by the Headteacher and the Shadow Governing Body, and also the teachers that will teach on the Campus every day after its opening.</p>
6.2	<p>As a parent in the area, I object to the plan to reorganise education in the Bala area. There is a significant increase in the number of children born in the area over the past three years and primary school places will be necessary and then secondary school places. Your data is dated, and therefore your plan and decisions are based on incorrect factors. In addition to this, acting on such an idea that will be analysed within our generation as a genuine worry will lead to reliable results from the children, parents and the future of our community. The model of Welsh education that has been used for generations has benefitted our children, our societies, our language and our country. Rather than looking into the structures of successful schools within the UK and in countries such as those in Scandinavia, or those based on the philosophical foundations of Therezita Pagani or Waldorf Steiner. Not much time has gone by since other countries looked at the system in Wales as a system to replicate. Unfortunately, your belief in restricting our country's national bank of academic intelligence by forcing each school to follow the national curriculum, and your recent trend of following the crowd rather than leading in the field will put our system at risk.</p>	1	<p>Gwynedd Council has considered the current available data that projects the demand for education in the Berwyn catchment area over the next years.</p> <p>Although the traditional model of education in Wales - namely education through primary and then secondary school has existed for some time in Wales - the educational provision in the town of Bala is inconsistent in terms of results and the use of resources, is dated and is unfit for purpose. It is not sensible to have two primary schools so close to each other, and the number of pupils at Ysgol Y Berwyn is comparatively small, and therefore it makes sense to merge the resources; not only the physical resources such as the school's structure and infrastructure, but the 3-19 Model also brings additional benefits in terms of improving the educational quality which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sharing staff expertise across all sectors - more appropriate class sizes with children of the same age being taught in the same class - pupils' achievement can be discussed across both age sectors and good practice can be shared - there would be improved continuation and consistency in every aspect of the curriculum due to it being programmed across the Campus
7	The Statutory Process		
7.1	<p>I write to you to urge you not to impose Church status on the Berwyn Lifelong School. I understand that this decision was made in a secretive and unfair way. I would like to know who started the discussion about the Church and who agreed with the Church that you will impose Church status on the school. Is this a compromise with the Church as there will be no Church status in the Gader catchment area???? I am very disappointed that the Councillors have let this happen – and have</p>	1	<p>The relevant legislation and the School Reorganisation Code makes it clear that the quality of education is the most important factor when re-organising education.</p> <p>There has been no agreement between Gwynedd Council and the Church in Wales to eliminate Church education provision in the Gader catchment area, provided that Church provision is part of any reorganisation in the Berwyn</p>

	jeopardised an area which genuinely needs a Community Lifelong School.		catchment area.
7.2	The agreement you have reached with the Church in Wales is the worst possible insult for us in Penllyn. There must be some at Gwynedd Council who have heard of Michael D. Jones and others who fought tirelessly against the influence of the Church? Have you not heard of the “revolt schools” that were established in locations such as Llawrybetws? This is as traitorous as <i>Brad y Llyfrau Gleision</i> (Treachery of the Blue Books) and I beg you to seriously reconsider.	1	The decision to consult on a 3-19 Voluntary Controlled Campus, (VC), and then to publish a Statutory Notice in order to implement the Proposal was not one of compromise. At no time have there been any discussions with Welsh Government regarding the legal status of the Campus – whether it be Community, Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Voluntary Aided (VA).
7.3	It is with great sadness that I read of Gwynedd Cabinet’s decision to designate Church status on the new school in Bala. I understand from one local Councillor that he was not at all aware of this intention. I ask where is democracy? Local Councillors should be aware of every decision made which affects any local development..	1	The decision to consult on the Voluntary Controlled (VC) Campus basis was made following consideration of the following factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the joint provision that currently exists in the catchment area and the fact that there is already a VA in the area • the viewpoint of the Church following a pre-consultation • similarity of community and Voluntary Controlled categories • the opinion that the quality of education and resources is the most important factor in a school according to the initial assessment that was undertaken • the strategic decision to ensure a continued choice of provision within a wider area in the south of the County
7.4	What has happened behind the scenes for something so odd to happen? Has Gwynedd Council’s Education Committee all together lost their senses?	1	
7.5	If your intention is realised, then as a Council and Councillors you will be guilty of sacrificing our history and traditions here in Penllyn on the altar of Church threats, and if the rumours are true, by our Assembly in Cardiff.	1	
7.6	The fact that the situation has developed gradually without much warning and only limited questioning raises the need to ask a number of questions.	1	Prior to holding a period of statutory consultation, Gwynedd Council held several meetings locally, between December 2013 and March 2015, and these included Catchment Area Review Panel meetings, meetings with local Councillors and meetings with local Head teachers.
7.7	I understand that the Governors of Ysgol Y Berwyn and the other schools which feed it, (with the exception of Ysgol Beuno Sant), and indeed local representatives on the County Council, were all at the beginning opposed to the Church having any role in the re-organisation, nevertheless there is no sign that Gwynedd Council’s Cabinet has responded appropriately. It is a matter of concern to everyone that local views should be respected, and I would very much appreciate if light was shed on the matter by those who are dealing with this matter.	1	During these meetings, the following were highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the joint provision in the catchment area • the statutory need to hold a period of pre-consultation with the Church in Wales • the differences between the various categories
7.8	I support the investment to establish a Welsh Medium learning campus for pupils aged 3-19 in Bala, BUT I am totally opposed to its church status. The school should be a community school which adheres to the traditional Christian ethos of Penllyn, and which is at the same time totally non-denominational and not a school, which if rumours are true,	1	As part of the statutory consultation, a 66-page document was produced explaining the consultation process and the intention in the catchment area. Section 6 of the document discussed specifically the need to decide on the legal category of any new provision, and noted specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the differences between the various legal categories

	which is established under pressure of threats and deceit.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other Church in Wales schools • the statutory requirement to consult with the Church in Wales • the factors to be considered when deciding on the legal category <p>Therefore, the Council has completed the statutory process in accordance with the Schools Organisation Code (006/2013) and the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Following the consultation period, comments in favour and against the proposed status were received, and following detailed consideration of all comments received, the Council decided to issue a Statutory Notice which noted the intention to establish a Voluntary Controlled (VC) Status 3-19 Campus in Bala.</p>
7.9	I plead with you, (if the gossip is true), to stop bargaining our children's secondary education on a foundation of deceit and threats, and to concentrate on the values we deserve and are familiar with	1	
7.10	It is quite clear from reading the letters that the Church has long and strong tentacles – and that they are making every effort to gain control of secondary education in Bala. It is totally disgraceful that we as a community are forced – because of lack of time to accept this status.	1	
7.11	All of this emanates from a secret plan between the church and the council when re-organising education in Dolgellau. At the very least, the Council should have informed the Berwyn governors of the plan in 2014 when an agreement was made with the church without consulting with anybody locally	1	
7.12	If the information as to how the decision was reached is correct in the letters published in the press, then I am of the opinion that how you have operated is totally unacceptable and disgraceful.	1	
7.12	It is with great sadness that I read of Gwynedd Cabinet's decision to designate Church status on the new school in Bala. I understand from one local Councillor that he was not at all aware of this intention. I ask where is democracy? Local Councillors should be aware of every decision made which affects any local development.	1	
7.14	I understand that the plan emanates from the decision of the Assembly to fund a new school on condition that the Governance of the school was VC; out of control of the local authority – that is society itself. This is totally stupid, and without any democratic reasoning	1	
7.15	I am concerned regarding the proposal to allow the Anglican Church to govern the new school, totally contrary to the non-conformist tradition in the area. I understand that the plan emanates from the decision of the Assembly to fund a new school on condition that the Governance of the school was VC; out of control of the local authority – that is society itself. This is totally stupid, and without any democratic reasoning. If the County Council is not suitable to run a school, then it should not transfer the responsibility to anybody or other system without society's agreement.	1	
7.16	Following correspondence published on the Council's website, and which has been drawn to the attention of a wider audience by a letter in local	1	

	papers, that our community here in Penllyn has been used as a hostage by the Council during discussions to re-organise schools in the Dolgellau area. This is DISGRACEFUL . In addition, some Councillors have quietly asserted that all of this has been arranged in Cardiff Bay (between Government officials and the Church in Wales?) only a year before the matter came to Gwynedd Council's attention. If this is true it is DISGRACEFUL . If this money has been allocated for school re-organisation here in Penllyn, then it is ours without having to be subject to the wishes and whim of the Church in Wales. Otherwise one can allege that our governing system is corrupt.		
7.17	The Church is conducting a cynical campaign, and its attitude and behaviour is totally arrogant. It was clear to me having read the original document that the Council had no intention from the beginning to consider giving us a community school, and that this was the decision long before there was any consultation with the local community. If a VC school is the result then we can justly accuse the Council of wasting public money by undertaking a fake and pointless consultation. Local people clearly strongly oppose the proposal but a number are afraid of making a fuss especially since our Councillors have been persuaded that keeping quiet is best. This is very sinister. I am still to meet anybody who supports a VC school, but perhaps I do not mix in the right circles. Democracy has been ignored here, and the Council are responsible for this.	1	
7.18	I understand that the Governors of Ysgol Y Berwyn and the other schools which feed it, (with the exception of Ysgol Beuno Sant), and indeed local representatives on the County Council, were all at the beginning opposed to the Church having nay role in the re-organisation, nevertheless there is no sign that Gwynedd Council's Cabinet has responded appropriately. It is a matter of concern to everyone that local views should be respected, and I would very much appreciate if light was shed on the matter by those who are dealing with this matter.	1	
7.19	Being forced to have a lifelong school with church status (voluntary controlled) is disgraceful and it seems to be part of a secret plan. A school with church status was refused in the Gader catchment area and it is totally unfair to promise to the Church in Wales that they will have a school in Penllyn. How can ill-considered promises by school organisation	1	

	officials be a democratic way of working? This is another example of officials misleading local people in the process of school re-organisation in order to get their own way.		
7.20	I also had a conversation with my local Councillor. He argues that if we do not accept this proposal then the entire issue of a new Lifelong School in Bala will be refused by the Assembly. I would like to ask if this is true and on what basis? And if it is true, who in Gwynedd Council's corridors says it? Who, if anyone, amongst Gwynedd Council Officers says it, and who in the Assembly in Cardiff says this?	1	<p>The reorganisation process is a complex one, as it is dependent on following a statutory process and securing a financial contribution of £5.13m from the Welsh Government.</p> <p>If Gwynedd Council's Cabinet decides not to implement the Notice then this would increase the risk of losing the investment and realising the plan, as it would be necessary to re-start the process and consult again. In addition, the Welsh Government's contribution must be spent within a specific spending window.</p> <p>It will be a matter for the Cabinet, when considering implementing the Notice, to assess the risk and implications of implementing the Notice or not.</p>
7.21	In 2007, there was no mention of a Lifelong School in Bala, but rather talk about merging both primary schools, namely Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant. We were in discussions - and keeping minutes of those discussions - with the Governors of Ysgol Bro Tegid, the Governors of Ysgol Beuno Sant and the St. Asaph Diocese Education Officer, along with the Rector of Christ Church, Bala and the Head teacher of Ysgol Beuno Sant at the time. Although there was no pressure from the Governors of Ysgol Bro Tegid, Governors of Ysgol Beuno Sant, the St. Asaph Diocese Education Officer, the Rector of Christ Church and the Head teacher of Ysgol Beuno Sant together with officers from the Education Department, agreed that the proposed school at that time would NOT be one with a Voluntary Status. Therefore, I would like to know, what has changed? Is it the intervention of people from the Bangor Diocese and personnel at the St. Asaph Diocese? Were there discussions between Gwynedd Council Officers, the Llanelwy Diocese and the Governors of Ysgol Y Berwyn, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Bro Tegid, not to mention the Governors of Ysgol Bro Tryweryn, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol O. M. Edwards (as the proposed status of the Lifelong school affects the children from those schools too when they are old enough to transfer to the Lifelong School)? If meetings were not held, why not? Was it to keep everyone in the dark? Keep everything quiet? I hope that this is not the case, but I would like answers.	1	<p>There were initial discussions in 2007, prior to the Welsh Government 21 Century Schools Programme coming to power. The discussions developed after that, with the closing of Ysgol y Parc and spending £1m on Ysgol O. M. Edwards. In 2011, the Cabinet decided to undertake a consultation on the Lifelong Campus in Bala, but the matter was not taken further, due to the need to prioritise projects in other catchment areas and a change in the Welsh Government's funding programme.</p> <p>At the time, there was no intention to place a Church status on the Campus, but it must be borne in mind that the matter did not go as far as a period of formal consultation, and the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and associated Code came to power following that.</p> <p>This meant that it was necessary to hold a period of statutory pre-consultation with the Church in Wales.</p> <p>When re-commencing the local discussions it was necessary to consider and consult yet again on the most appropriate model for the catchment area. This also meant considering developments and reorganisation in the nearby Gader catchment area, where the existing Church provision was coming to an end.</p> <p>Having re-commenced the discussion in the catchment area, several meetings</p>

			were held with local Councillors and with Headteachers and Governors, where the need to consider the Church provision in South Meirionnydd was highlighted, along with other factors that led to designating the Campus as a Voluntary Controlled status.																				
7.22	<p>Although I support the proposed investment for Bala in general, I am of the strong opinion that the consultation process was not clear enough in terms of the Council's intention to designate the new school as, 'Voluntary Controlled, Church in Wales' status, and that the area's residents did not have an adequate opportunity to voice their opinions on this specific aspect in time to influence the process. Also, from reviewing the public's responses to the proposal, it is clear that the Church in Wales has tried to unfairly influence the consultation process with several responses being submitted on behalf of the Diocese by people far from the community that the new school would serve, and that the Diocese had also threatened to stand against the reorganisation process in other parts of the county if the new School did not receive the preferred status. / The strong feelings of members of the (Llangywer) Community Council reflect the objections that are gathering Penllyn every day. Furthermore, it is regrettable that the situation has arisen at all. There is concern that there was a plan on behalf of an officer or officers to trick Councillors, Governors and parents about the church status and I request that Gwynedd Councillors hold a full investigation and take disciplinary action against those who allowed this situation to arise - and to report back to the Penllyn Councils on the investigation and the steps taken. The opinion was expressed that it seemed as though these Officer(s) had disrespected the area and had shown a lack of awareness of the area's history as a hub of Nonconformity.</p>		<p>Gwynedd Council disagrees with the comment that the consultation process was not clear enough in terms of noting the Council's intention to designate a "Voluntary Controlled" status for the 3-19 Learning Campus.</p> <p>Section 6 of the consultation document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the difference between the different categories of schools • Noted the location of other Church schools in Gwynedd • Explained the pre-consultation process that occurred with the Church in Wales • Noted the factors to be considered when deciding on the legal category <p>Gwynedd Council is satisfied that the consultation process was held transparently, and in accordance with the legal requirements of the Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2015 and the associated Schools Organisation Code (2006/13).</p> <p>Several meetings were held locally and the following table displays the meetings that took place:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Meeting</th> <th>Invited</th> <th>Nature of Discussion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11 December 2013</td> <td>BCP</td> <td>Local Members</td> <td>Initial discussions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 March 2014</td> <td>BCP</td> <td>Local Members</td> <td>Church in Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 May 2014</td> <td>CRP</td> <td>Headteachers, Governors chair, Parent Governors of all schools in the catchment in addition to; Local Members and representative of the Church in Wales</td> <td>Church category is an item on the agenda</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 May 2014</td> <td>Headteache</td> <td>Heads of Schools Catchment</td> <td>Mentioned the</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Meeting	Invited	Nature of Discussion	11 December 2013	BCP	Local Members	Initial discussions	20 March 2014	BCP	Local Members	Church in Wales	6 May 2014	CRP	Headteachers, Governors chair, Parent Governors of all schools in the catchment in addition to; Local Members and representative of the Church in Wales	Church category is an item on the agenda	20 May 2014	Headteache	Heads of Schools Catchment	Mentioned the
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7.23	We have already expressed our disappointment regarding the lack of communication that occurred between the Education department and the stakeholders in the context of this extremely damaging Church status.																						

7.24	As a stakeholder of Penllyn I was extremely sad to learn that dubious confidentiality had occurred surrounding Gwynedd Council's decision to receive this bribe from the State Church. I beg of you Councillors and education Officers, stand strong against this totally undemocratic decision. I can assure you that Penllyn residents will not accept this bribe as it is an insult to all residents of Penllyn and the catchment area of the proposed school.	4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>rs</td> <td></td> <td>possible different status</td> </tr> <tr> <td>03 June 2014</td> <td>Headteachers Meeting</td> <td>Heads of Schools Catchment</td> <td>Mentioned the possible different status</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 June 2014</td> <td>BCP</td> <td>Local Members</td> <td>Mentioned the possible different status</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 June 2014</td> <td>Headteachers</td> <td>Heads of Schools Catchment</td> <td>Mentioned the possible different status</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 January 2015</td> <td>CRP</td> <td>Headteachers, Governors chair, Parent Governors of all schools in the catchment in addition to; Local Members and representative of the Church in Wales</td> <td>PowerPoint presentation with a slide to compare the different categories</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 February 2015</td> <td>Newsletter</td> <td>Schools and CRP members</td> <td>Identify the need for pre-consultation with the Church in Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 March 2015</td> <td>premonition consultation</td> <td>Email to Heads of schools in the catchment area</td> <td>Premonition that the statutory consultation period begins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 March 2015</td> <td>Consultation Document</td> <td>Document to all consultees</td> <td>Specific section on the Category</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26 March 2015</td> <td>Open day</td> <td>Open to all</td> <td>An opportunity for everyone to discuss, question officers, receive documentation</td> </tr> </table>		rs		possible different status	03 June 2014	Headteachers Meeting	Heads of Schools Catchment	Mentioned the possible different status	12 June 2014	BCP	Local Members	Mentioned the possible different status	13 June 2014	Headteachers	Heads of Schools Catchment	Mentioned the possible different status	14 January 2015	CRP	Headteachers, Governors chair, Parent Governors of all schools in the catchment in addition to; Local Members and representative of the Church in Wales	PowerPoint presentation with a slide to compare the different categories	5 February 2015	Newsletter	Schools and CRP members	Identify the need for pre-consultation with the Church in Wales	11 March 2015	premonition consultation	Email to Heads of schools in the catchment area	Premonition that the statutory consultation period begins	13 March 2015	Consultation Document	Document to all consultees	Specific section on the Category	26 March 2015	Open day	Open to all	An opportunity for everyone to discuss, question officers, receive documentation
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7.25	It is not cost effective to close the town's schools and to build a new school. The only answer is to close all the catchment area's schools. Saying that they will be part of a federation is an excuse not to close the primary school in Llanuwchllyn, the school that no one can touch, as everyone knows.	2	<p>Establishing the Campus will bring about annual revenue savings. If all the catchment area's rural schools close, and the educational provision transfers to the Campus, the revenue savings would be higher. However, the additional costs of building more provision on-Campus need to be considered, as well as the additional cost of travelling for children from the rural schools to the Campus, and the fact that the educational provision of the rural schools is good and consistent. Keeping the rural schools open also protects the viability of the rural communities in the catchment area.</p> <p>Federalising and establishing a joint committee means that the rural schools can have the best possible benefit from the investment in the Campus, all the while keeping their identity and protecting rural communities</p>																																				

7.26	The fact that I have to write this letter to you worries me greatly. Two years ago, we were facing losing our valuable school in the Parc village and now we have to face that the so-called lifelong school that was meant to have been built by this year (2015) remains in the consultation stage (the second as far as I know), and is going to be transferred completely to the Church? I wonder if the Church of England is the aforementioned?	1	Gwynedd Council acknowledges that some delay has occurred in the reorganisation of schools in the Berwyn catchment area. This was due to the need to prioritise other projects and a change in the Welsh Government's funding programme. The delay is unfortunate, but since the beginning of 2014 the reorganisation process has re-started and has consistently and conscientiously followed a strict timetable. The Statutory Notice imposes a Voluntary Controlled (VC), Church in Wales status on the Campus. The reasoning for this was explained in the consultation document.
8	General		
8.1	No military influence should be allowed in the vicinity of any school. Think about the future of Wales and its people.	1	The comment is noted, but it is not relevant in the context of the proposed reorganisation in Bala town.
8.2	I would like to state that I am in favour of reorganising the schools of Penllyn.	10	The comment is noted.
8.3	The responses should be from residents of the area, prospective parents and the parents of the area.	1	Any individual has the right to submit an objection to the Statutory Notice. It will be a matter for the Council to weigh up every comment, in terms of the nature of any objection and the residence of the respondent.
8.4	It is high time that the town has a new Campus for the lifelong learning school. There has been a serious lack of funding for the maintenance of Ysgol Y Berwyn over the last ten years whilst discussions have taken place.	1	Cyngor Gwynedd note this view, and accept that there has been little spending on the maintenance of Ysgol Y Berwyn over the last few years. If the Campus was to come to fruition, then Bala town, other pupils of the catchment, as well as the public would have a new resource with high class facilities

Analysis of the Petition

As part of the objections, a petition was received with 231 signatories who agreed with the statement: *"We call upon Gwynedd Council to withdraw their recommendation to give church status to the proposed lifelong learning school (3-19) in Bala, and to announce its intention to establish the school as a community school that is not formally affiliated to any specific religious body."* Within this petition comments were given by some of the signatories and this is an analysis of those comments:

Comments	Gwynedd Council's Response
No council has the right to force a Church school on any area. The area's traditional Christian ethos can be a natural influence on the school whilst it is also officially non- denomination.	The comments received in the petition support the comments received in letters and e-mail correspondence that have been noted and have received a response in part 1 above of this document.
No school should have a strong link with any religious body. People have fought for this right.	

Traditionally the Church in Wales has been opposed to the Welsh Language.	
Gwynedd Council HAS made another decision on our behalf! Religion is an individual's choice not a Council's.	
If Penllyn is far from the offices of Gwynedd Council in Caernarfon, it is an area that should be carefully protected.	
There is no demand for a church school in the area. An impact assessment should be published on each part of this process, especially to consider discrimination on the basis of belief and the Welsh Language.	
Enforcing the church's influence on children's education in this day and age would be a disgrace.	
No sense at all! Gwynedd Council needs to go back to school and read about the history of Penllyn.	
The education system should not force any child to come under the influence of the church – being part of a religious body is a personal choice.	
I do not believe that schools should be associated with a religious denomination.	
As a Gwynedd ratepayer, I wish to state my objection to this inexplicable decision. This school does not need any type of religious status.	
Although I am a committed Christian, I believe in the principle of separating the church from the state.	
In Penllyn of all places, if you know anything of the history of religion in Wales then the school should be a state school, free from the shackles of any denomination.	
No place for religion in education!!!	
The new school in Bala should be a community school and not affiliated to any specific religion.	
A Community School for the community!	
Look at the world today – what good is religion? Man created god, god did not create man! There is no need to link religion with our children's education.	
Disgraceful. There's no need for religion in our schools.	
Education should not be associated with religion. Religion should be an optional and personal matter.	
Our children do not need any influence from the Church of England in Wales. Gwynedd Council needs to look at the history of this area and the history of Wales! Shame.	
The idea that the Church in Wales can be part of a school without even discussing this with the area's residents is offensive.	
I used to go to Ysgol Y Berwyn and I can't believe in this multi-cultural age that a non-affiliated faith school would seek to behave like one. Schools are for educating and broadening young minds not closing them down by signing them up to a single dogma.	
Daily, mandatory, state education should be non-denominational. This is the great principle that people fought hard to secure.	
If this plan proceeds then there will be another Tryweryn on the nation's conscience, only this time it will be our own people who will have betrayed us.	

I strongly believe that the lifelong school should be a Community School. The majority of the pupils attending the school will have nothing to do with the church therefore why give it a church status?
Tradition and the history of Penllyn and the wishes of the area's residents.
Religion should keep out of education, especially in the 21 st century.
As an area school receives children from all denominations and children without any association with any church, no specific denomination should be in control and every denomination should be equal.
Well, what a stupid idea.
Schools should be neutral places.
I don't want to teach nor have my children taught in any school that is controlled by the church.
It is not fair that the Lifelong Learning School is identified with one specific religious body at the expense of several other denominations which are more prominent in the area.
I don't agree with it being a church school it should be a community school for all faiths and religions.
I don't want my child to be sent to a Church school.
I have a right in a democratic country for my children to receive an education that is not affiliated to any religious beliefs.
I don't want a church school because if anything happens to the school we will have to start fund raising money for the school. Just let Gwynedd Council take the school over.
This should be a school for the community, not a denominational school and the church is not known for its strong support to the Welsh Language or for using Welsh.
No person should be forced to believe in any religion, not to mention young and vulnerable children of 3.
A Community Lifelong Learning School for our Community.
There is no state church in Wales and therefore a community school should not be affiliated to a religious body.
I object to the church status of the lifelong learning school at Bala.
Gwynedd Council has to talk with the people. There is no sense in church schools. Local people in Bala have been asking questions in 'Y Cyfnod', 'Y Cymro' and other newspapers – but there has been no response from the Council - Why? Ratepayers are entitled to answers. We do not live in the Romania of Ceauşecu.
I totally oppose the idea of calling the New School in Bala a Church School. Only 40 children attend the Church Primary School in Bala. There has always been anger in the Penllyn area towards the Church because of the Anglicised nature of the Estate and the English education presented by schools in the heyday of the Sir Watcyn Williams Wyn Estate. Also, consideration should be given to all the parents that might have a different religious background.
Grandmother to children in the school.
It is not fair that a lifelong learning school for the whole community is affiliated to one specific religious

PAGES 415

denomination.

I am not willing for my children to attend a church school.

How could you do this in BALA - the home of Thomas Charles of all places!!!

CABINET CYNGOR GWYNEDD

REPORT TO THE CABINET

15 September 2015

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

Subject: The Performance of Gwynedd Council 2014-15

Contact officer: Hawis Jones, Strategic Planning and Performance Manager

Decision sought

To recommend to the Full Council that they adopt the report on the 2014-15 performance of Gwynedd Council.

Local member's views

Not a local matter.

Introduction

In accordance with the Council's performance management arrangements, the performance report for 2014-15 is submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

Reasons for recommending the decision

The Cabinet must approve the report before it is adopted by the Full Council at its meeting on 8 October 2015. The report was also submitted for the attention of the Scrutiny Forum to scrutinise the balance of the report.

Relevant considerations

The report is based on reports on the performance which were submitted by the Project Leaders and addresses the achievement against the outcomes of the Council's Strategic Plan 2013-17.

The Wales Audit Office considers this report when preparing its assessment of the Council's performance. As usual, they will be searching for a balanced report, which addresses the aspects that failed to be achieved as well as the successful aspects.

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CABINET CYNGOR GWYNEDD

A 'brief' version has been prepared that addresses the main issues visually. It has been created to be easy to read by Gwynedd residents.

It will be arranged for the public to be informed of the report via the Council's usual media, including social media.

Next steps and timetable

The report will be considered further by:
The Full Council – 8 October 2015, for final approval

Views of the statutory officers

Chief Executive:

"It is a necessity for us to be accountable for what we have done as a Council as a result of the promises we have made in the 2013-17 Strategic Plan. In that respect, we are required to publish a report that is fair and balanced. I believe that to be true, and the Scrutiny Forum has looked specifically at that point. I am aware that the Forum had made several suggestions to make the report more understandable to the public.

I approve this report to the Cabinet as one that can be recommended to the Council."

Monitoring Officer:

"No comments to add from the perspective of appropriateness."

Head of Finance Department:

"Pages 31 and 55 of the 2014-15 performance report notes that the Council has managed to achieve efficiency savings of £3.3 million in 2014-15, by changing the way we deliver services and avoid having to cut services to the people of Gwynedd. While we will continue to maximise efficiencies, I confirm the Council Leaders' facts (Page. 4) that in subsequent years the Council will have to identify what we are really going to prioritise, within challenging times of shrinking in the money which comes from central government to the local government sector.

The report notes the success of projects and services across several areas. I'm glad that includes (Page. 54) effective tax collection, keeping within budget and prompt payment of invoices. In addition, it is encouraging to see (Pages 51 & 52) there has been

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improvement in the time taken to process claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, whilst also attracting £788,910 of additional funding to the Hardship Fund (Page. 28) and processing of payments to support 1,658 families (to mitigate the impact of the 'bedroom tax' etc.) in 2014-15."

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report on the Performance of Gwynedd Council 2014-15

Appendix 2 – Gwynedd Measure Data 2014-15

Appendix 3 – Brief Gwynedd Performance Report 2014-15

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Gwynedd

Performance Report 2014-15

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www.gwynedd.gov.uk/performance

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For further information, contact:

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For a copy of this document in large print, Braille, on audio tape or in another language, contact Hawis Jones on 01286 679661



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The Council's aim is to ensure

'THE BEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF GWYNEDD TODAY AND TOMORROW'

In 2010, the Values of the Council were revised and several suggestions were received from residents of the county, Council staff and members. After much analysis work and discussion, 5 values were adopted for Gwynedd Council based on the central principle.

The Council's Values

RESPECT

Respect our people, our language and our environment

POSITIVE

We will succeed by being positive

VALUE FOR MONEY

Making the best use of Gwynedd's resources

SERVING

Services of the best quality for our customers

WORKING AS A TEAM

Achieving for Gwynedd by working together

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement and to be accountable for it. We address this through the Strategic Plan and through our annual report on performance presented here.

The process of accountability for performance takes place in two stages:

Stage 1: The requirement for authorities to publish their plans for improvement, and to include a set of improvement objectives (our Strategic Plan).

Stage 2: The requirement for authorities to publish an assessment of performance relating to their plans and improvement objectives (Gwynedd Council's Performance Report 2014-15).



Dyfed Edwards
Council Leader

Page 5

The intention of this Annual Report, as in the past, is to attempt to summarise the performance of Gwynedd Council for the year 2014-15 in an objective and balanced way. Our aim is to ensure that the people of Gwynedd receive a full picture of how the Council performs in those key areas which count and make a difference, in particular the many areas which have been identified as our priorities in plans such as the Council's Strategic Plan.

I am very glad to report once again this year that the Council's performance is consistently good and that we achieve in accordance with our aims across a broad spectrum of services. And the thanks for that goes to our staff and officers as well as Cabinet Members and all other members of Gwynedd Council. Nevertheless, we need to continue to improve in some areas and quicken the transformation of the way in

which some services are delivered, e.g. in the care field. But whatever reports, tables and statistics demonstrate, we must remind ourselves that the goal every time is to provide services of the first rate which will meet the needs of the people of Gwynedd today and tomorrow.


As is apparent to all, maintaining quality public services is not easy at all in the current financial climate. And we – the Council and people of Gwynedd – need to be prepared to identify what we are to really prioritise during this time of financial constraints. This means working together with others in order to consider new ways of maintaining services. Less money from Central Government will no doubt lead to less priorities. But the challenge remains the same: working with others in order to develop the new exciting and unique Gwynedd. The journey continues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dyfed Edwards".

Follow us on Twitter [@cyngorgwynedd](https://twitter.com/cyngorgwynedd)



 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · April 3
Success in attracting European Cyfenter Funding to renovate Rhyd Ddu Open Air Center to enable outsourcing of the service to the Third Sector.

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · April 12
European funding to support economically inactive people, over age 25, to be ready for work. This targets people with mental health conditions or learning difficulties.

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · June 19
'O Ble Daw ein Bwyd?' by Gwynedd Environmental Partnership and the gardener Russell Jones has raised children's awareness of the origin of the food that they eat, and the environmental effect.

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · September 2
The Social Enterprises Forum has been officially launched to strengthen the relationship between enterprises and the Council.

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · September 24
GwyrriAD receives recognition for the high quality of the fertilizer produced by recycling food waste in Gwynedd.

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · October 15
If you live in the Dwyfor area of Gwynedd, your residual waste collection arrangements are changing on 20 October 2014!

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · October 23
Gwynedd identified as a Social Enterprise County by Social Enterprise Wales

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · November 10
Opportunity to learn more about exercise for people living with dementia in taster sessions next week.

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · December 15
Gwynedd Schools celebrating the use of the Welsh Language with @Siarterlaith

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · February 17
Insport Award to Gwynedd Healthy Communities Service. @BywllachGwynedd @dsw_news

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · February 19
Free classes to keep fit in Bangor, Talysarn and Caernarfon. @BywllachGwynedd

 **Gwynedd Council** @CyngorGwynedd · March 26
The Lloyd George Museum, Llanystumdwy will be re-opening its doors for the summer holiday Monday, 30 March 2015.

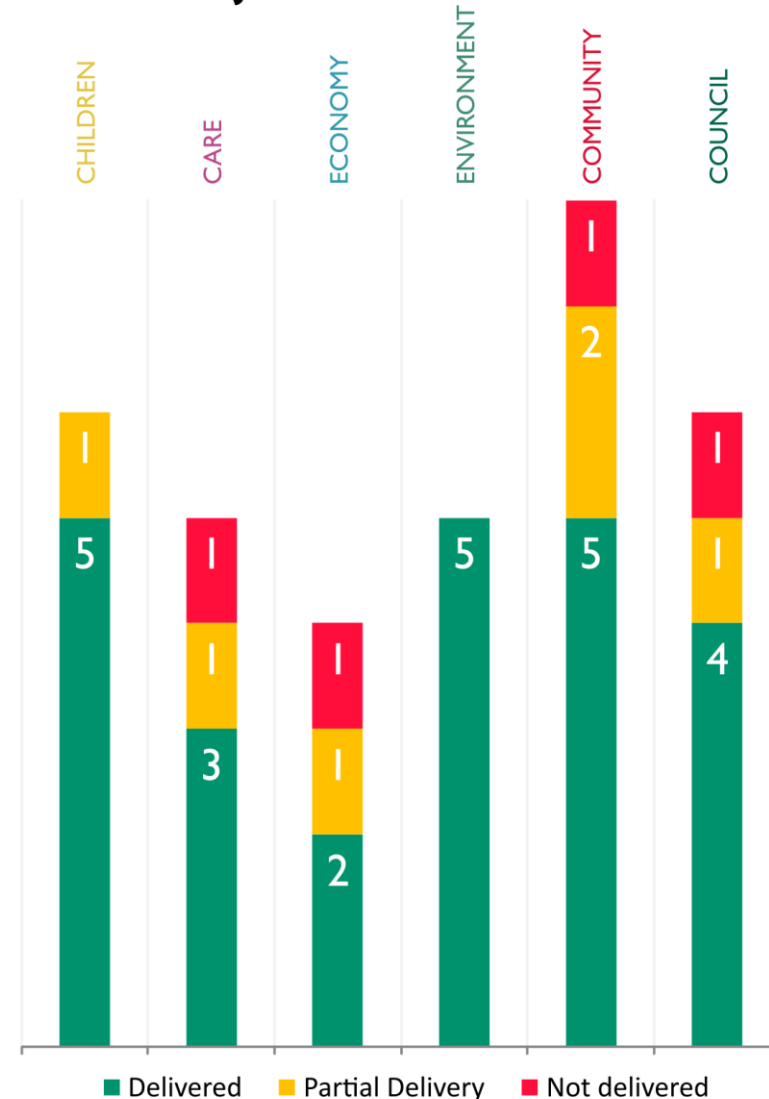
The 2013-17 Strategic Plan is Gwynedd Council's main plan, and our aim is to ensure **The Best for the People of Gwynedd Today and Tomorrow** through our day to day services and by prioritising what is important and what has the largest impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.

The demand for core services such as Education and Social Care continues to increase, whilst the budget we receive from the Government has reduced further in 2014-15 by around £7million, and is likely to reduce further. Therefore, the Council's main vision through our Strategic Plan is **Supporting the people of Gwynedd to prosper in difficult times.**

The 2014-15 national data publication shows that we have maintained or improved our performance since 2013-14 on 25 of the 42 (60%) measures which are compared with the rest of Wales, with over half of those measures performing above the Welsh average. We continually want to improve our performance, or to maintain it where that is not possible, despite the challenge facing us.

Although we've been implementing efficiency savings and rationalising our corporate management structures, as well as beginning to change our culture within the Council, the year's performance has been good. It also shows that we have progressed on our transformative projects while maintaining a high quality day to day service.

Project Performance



In the **Children and Young People** field, we have been working towards **supporting every child and young person to live fulfilling lives**. The work focussed on transforming the service, in order to ensure that most vulnerable pupils prove successful.

Progress was seen in our preventative work with the establishment of the Care Threshold Team to ensure early intervention for children and families with severe needs. As well as positively affecting the lives of children and families, the work has reduced the risk of children coming into the authority's care. **816 families received a preventative service through the Gyda'n Gilydd project, with 80% of those reporting a positive impact on their lives.**

The educational achievements are improving, with an increase in the percentage of pupils who gain five A*-C GCSE grades, including Mathematics, Welsh and English; from 58% in 2013-14 to 61%.

There was much progress in the work of developing a network of viable schools for the future, although national timetables and unsuccessful applications for funding had influenced some projects within the field. This work will support us to close the gap between the best school and the worst in terms of the percentage of 16 year old pupils who succeed in gaining five A*-C GCSE grades, as the largest gap between our schools at present is 27.60%. Although the performance of pupils continues to improve, the gap between children who are eligible for free school meals and other children continues.

Estyn undertook follow-up work after their original inspection of our education services in March 2013, and a letter was received in December 2014 which noted the final results of the post-inspection

monitoring, stating that adequate progress on the recommendations had occurred and that there would be no further action to follow.

Despite this good news, we need to give further attention to improve the quality of education to all children and young people in Gwynedd, as well as strengthening leadership in order to raise standards and attain a situation where the quality of education is more consistent across the county. This is prominent within the 2015-17 Strategic Plan.



It has been a challenging period for the **Care, Health and Well-being** field to work towards **supporting children and vulnerable people to live fulfilling lives and to inspire the people of Gwynedd to live healthy lives.**

The transformative work that has been implemented has been a way for us to set foundations for the future. Innovative work has been taking place between us and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to establish a completely integrated Multidisciplinary Team based on putting the people of Gwynedd at the centre. The 2015-17 Strategic Plan will continue with this work.

Four short-term units were also created in residential homes, which led to a reduction in hospital stays and patients being able to return home sooner. **This has enabled 27 people to be discharged from hospital and has prevented 89 from being admitted to hospital.** An improvement was also seen in the rate of delay when transferring from hospital for social care reasons from 1.55 per thousand of the 75+ year old population in 2013-14 to 1.05 this year.

User independence and safety has been promoted, with **65% of users reporting that telecare has enabled them to live independently at home.** Also, **453 enablement packages were provided in order to support vulnerable people. Over half of them did not require further care services.**

Emphasis was placed on improving and strengthening safeguarding procedures and awareness, and **100% of all staff members who work directly with children, young people and vulnerable adults have an up-to-date criminal record check.** The Safeguarding work will receive due focus in the 2015-17 Strategic Plan.

An Annual Review and a Performance Evaluation of our social services was received from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales in 2013-14. The review stated that "A slight improvement was seen in the social services in Gwynedd during 2013-14, with new services promoting independence in the services for adults, a continuous improvement in the performance of the children services and robust results for looked after children." The service has developed an action plan for improvement, and the 2015-17 Strategic Plan will reflect that.

In the **Economy** field, we have been working to **improve opportunities for the people of Gwynedd to live, work and**

succeed locally, and the success of the Digital Gwynedd project has meant that every business community can connect to a fast broadband network, with **53% of Gwynedd now having access to fast broadband.**

Public events have been supported with **12 having been held within the county, 232 companies benefitting and 1,303 young people benefitting from new experiences.** This contributed to the **£6million investment in the Gwynedd economy over the period.**

Numerous posts were created in the county as a result of the High Value Jobs project's direct intervention. **234.5 posts were created in the county** with 62% of these were in the Meirionnydd area where the primary need exists.

Unfortunately, we were not successful in establishing regional procurement arrangements as part of the Keeping the Benefit Local project: Council Procurement, and the percentage of council spending with local business reduced 2% to 39%. We will establish new procurement arrangements in order to be able to buy goods and services more efficiently during 2015-17.

There has been an increase in the number of visits to sports and leisure centres, an increase of 885, which is 6.85%.

In the **Environment** field, we have been working towards **promoting an appropriate supply of homes for the people of Gwynedd and promoting a safe and sustainable environment with convenient links.**

We have increased the number of affordable housing that is available in

Gwynedd, bringing **69 vacant housing units back into use, which means that 140 people have been homed.** Furthermore, **268 people have been homed in 143 established affordable housing units. 188 people (out of 268) have been homed in smaller units** in line with their wishes.

The total waste collected has decreased by 184 tonnes since 2011-12, whilst the rate of recycled waste has increased 9% to 55.14% during the same period. The recycling work continues to be a high priority for us, and we will continue to ensure that we meet our long-term target, which is 64% of waste being recycled/reused/composted by 2020.

The condition of 96.35% of our main roads (Category A and B Roads) is good or satisfactory, with only 3.65% in a bad condition.

Although we have succeeded to do better than we anticipated and **raised awareness 1,871 of coastal households about flood risks,** it is necessary to continue to work in this field in order to ensure that inhabitants that live in over a thousand other households are aware of the risks that they face, and that they can suitably respond to them.

In the **Strong Communities** field, we have been **working together to create a confident and Welsh future and to reduce the impact of deprivation on the people of Gwynedd.**

We have been able to **use funding from the Government's Hardship Fund to support 1,658 people.** We have also been able to **support 140 families with a rent deposit** to ensure that they avoid being homeless. **An improvement was seen in the number of**

days taken to process new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Benefits, from 21 days in 2013-14 to 19 days this year.

We have faced a challenge to prevent people from becoming homeless due to the increase of those who present themselves with more complex problems, e.g. mental health problems. It has been a challenge to identify stable placements for some individuals, especially those with a history of offending in previous accommodation (e.g. getting into debt, anti-social behaviour). It is also difficult to find private accommodation due to a lack of units for single people, especially affordable units.



We were unsuccessful in achieving the specific objectives with the Welsh language Strategic Project in Education, because the Education Quality Scrutiny Investigation was not complete, therefore an action plan was not agreed as a result. However, **97% of primary schools (94 out of 97) succeeded in gaining the Language Charter's Silver or Bronze award,** and collaboration commenced with the county's organisations to promote the use of the Welsh language socially. Measuring the pupils' use of the Welsh language socially shows that 318

(12.5%) pupils have increased their use of the Welsh language on the school playground. This work will continue in the 2015-17 Strategic Plan.

It has been a difficult period for us over the year to implement efficiency savings as well as maintaining the standard of services. In the field of the **Council's Culture and Business Arrangements**, we have been continuing with the vision of putting **the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything we do**, and we succeeded in realising £3.3 million of savings, as well as developing efficiency plans equivalent to over £6 million to be realised in 2015-18. The effect of this is to reduce the financial gap and to avoid cuts. Of course, changing the culture within such a big organisation takes time and is a long term plan, which means it is rather premature to report the impact of the work.

We have also succeeded in obtaining £1.3 million from the Government by coming to an agreement with them, the 'Outcome Agreement', on our performance on projects and associated measures. This has contributed to reduce the financial gap.

However, the rate of people in Gwynedd who state that they are pleased with our services has decreased, from 64% in 2013-14 to 52% in 2014-15. Only 28% of Gwynedd residents (compared to 32% last year) felt that they could influence decisions in their local community. We therefore need to improve our engagement with the people of Gwynedd on decisions that affect their lives and local communities, and we will be mindful of this when implementing our Engagement Strategy in 2015-16.

Scrutiny Work Overview

The role of scrutiny is to scrutinise the decision makers (the Cabinet) and bring them to account. The members of the scrutiny committees consist of those members who are not responsible for those decisions.

During 2014-15, the scrutinisers have kept an eye on the performance of the Council's services at their meetings and have worked on four different scrutiny investigations. Some examples are noted here:

Services Scrutiny Committee

- Scrutinise and challenging the opinions of external investigators, Estyn and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate on the Council's arrangements in the Education and Care fields
- Challenge progress on some important strategic projects such as the Enablement project and the Improving the Quality of Education project



- Scrutinise and challenging the Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board on the Health Board's plans for health services in Gwynedd
- Complete the first part of the scrutiny investigation on the care arrangements when patients leave hospital to go home and begin further work in the field
- To continue also to look at the implementation of the Welsh Language Education Policy in the county

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

- Scrutinise the Council's services' efficiency savings of £14.9m; some elements were scrutinised and challenged further before being implemented; some were referred to be considered as “cuts” rather than “efficiency savings”
- Scrutinise the Council’s proposals for taking advantage of its “purchasing power”; this led to offering a cheaper way for residents to buy energy
- Scrutinise the most recent work on implementing the recommendations of the scrutiny investigation to the council’s procurement arrangements which has now led to introducing “category management” arrangements
- Scrutinise the Council’s proposals in terms of improving its engagement arrangements with the county’s residents

Communities Scrutiny Committee

- Scrutinise progress on the Council’s project to change its recycling and residual waste collection arrangements
- Scrutinise and challenge the Council’s response to a critical review

on some aspects of the Council’s food hygiene work

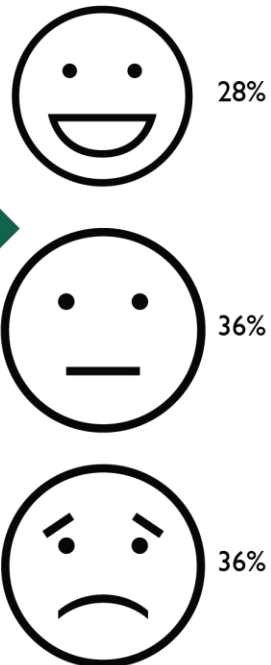
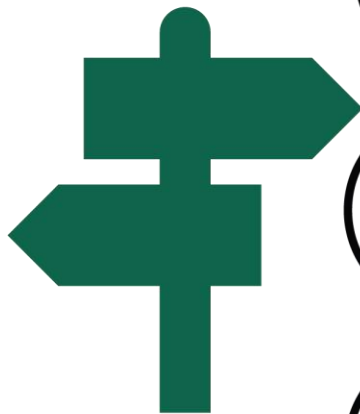
- Scrutinise the problems that arose during the year in terms of the work on the Briwet Bridge, Penrhyndeudraeth
- Complete a scrutiny investigation on transport arrangements for pupils who are over 16 years old and to submit recommendations to the Cabinet Member
- An investigation has begun on the way in which the Council responds to the homelessness problem in the county

Finally, the Wales Audit Office’s Annual Improvement Report 2014-15 came to the conclusion that: "the Council's commitment to become a more citizen-centered organisation and its track record in delivering its service and financial objectives, mean that it is well placed to secure continuous improvement in 2015-16."

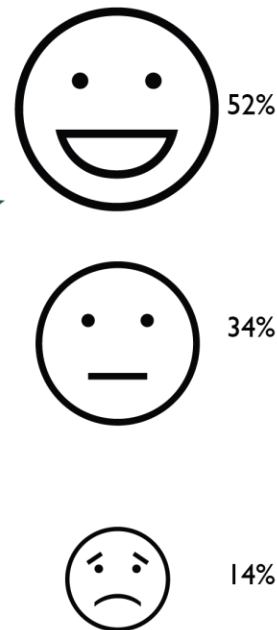
Our vision for the Council in 2015-17 is to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of the people of Gwynedd despite the fact that resources are becoming more scarce. The emphasis of our 2015-17 Strategic Plan will be on improving the Council’s ability to ensure the best for the people of Gwynedd and we will be able to do that by transforming services to become services that we can maintain for the future.

Gwynedd citizens were asked for their opinion focusing on these three questions:

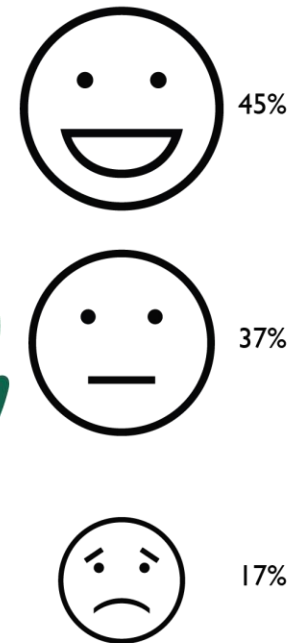
Do you feel that you are able to influence decisions in your local area?



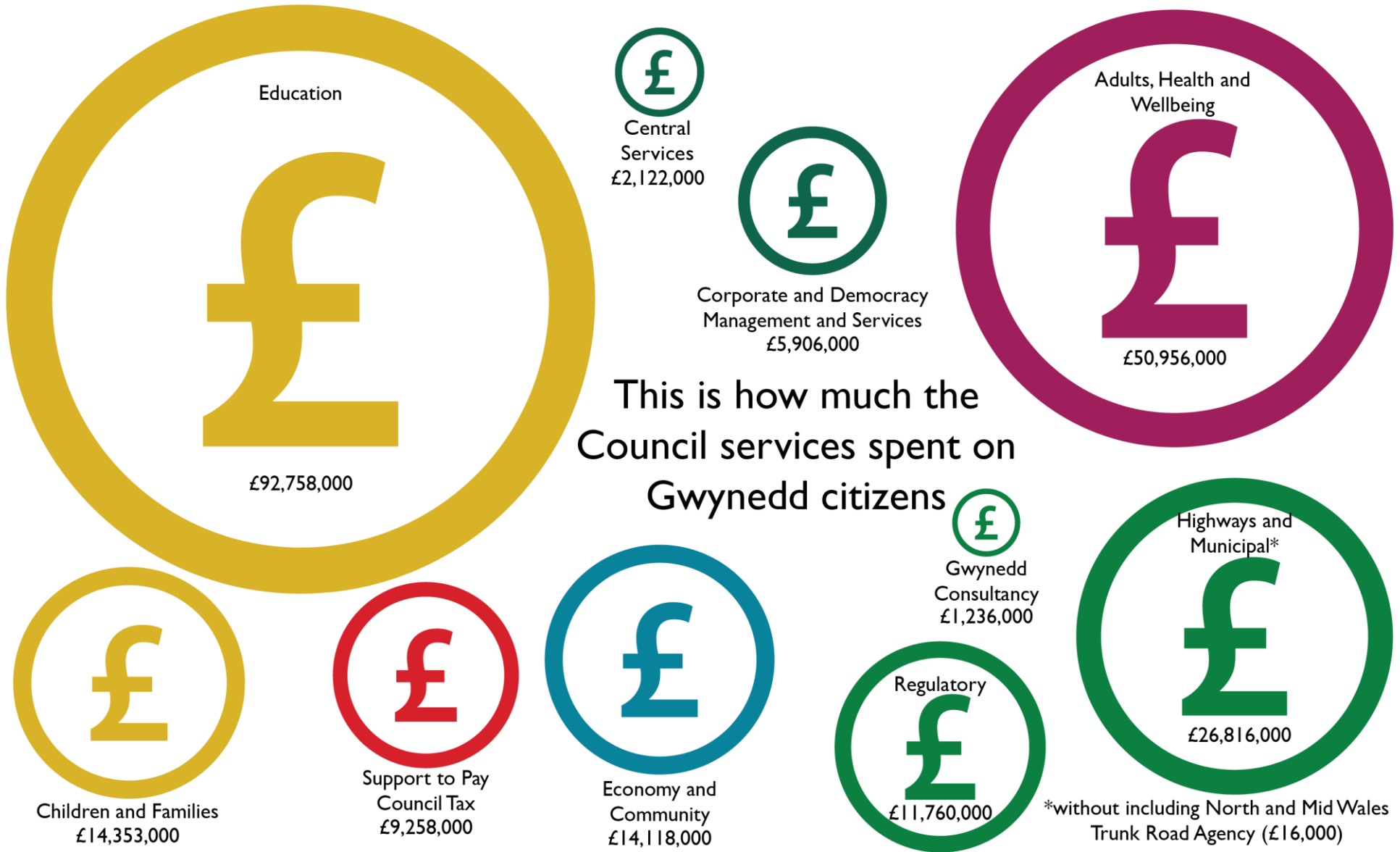
Generally, how do you feel about the way Gwynedd Council is running things?



Do you feel that Gwynedd Council offers value for money?



This response came from our Citizens Panel that contributes towards a number of surveys on Gwynedd Council services. If you would like to join the Citizens Panel, or for more information, contact the Citizens Panel Co-ordinator by going to gwynedd.gov.uk, emailing citizenspanel@gwynedd.gov.uk or calling 01766 771000.



This is how much the Council services spent on Gwynedd citizens

*without including North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (£16,000)

To find out more about our expenditure visit gwynedd.gov.uk

Supporting all children and young people to live fulfilled lives

We must ensure that all children and young people receive the same good standard of education within the county's schools, and that we can offer them the best learning environment. This means that we have focused on ensuring that there is a consistent quality of education on offer for the children and young people of the county, placing the emphasis on ensuring that the most vulnerable learners experience success. We have also reviewed and invested in our preventative and early intervention work for children and families in order to provide the right type of service which allows children and young people in the county to live more independently.

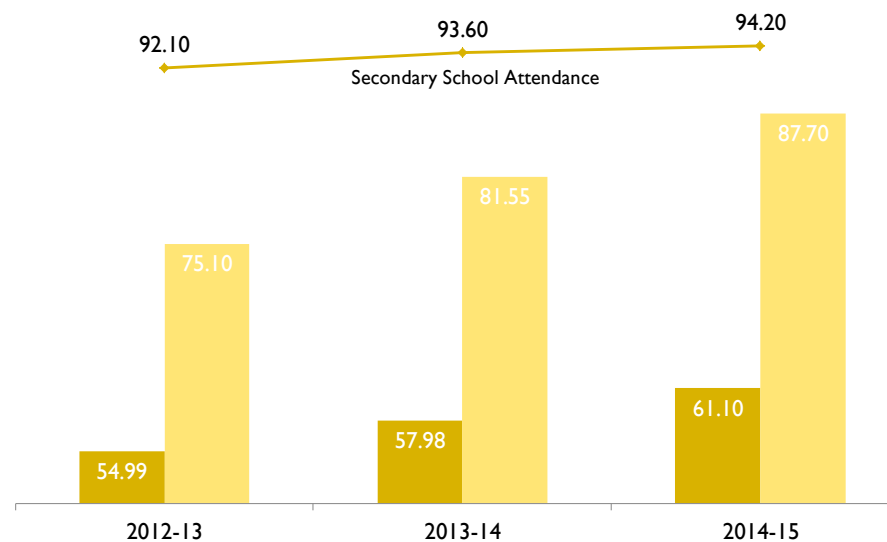
We have invested in the preventative field during the year in an attempt to make a difference to vulnerable groups of young people. Work has commenced on schemes to transform Care Services for Children with the establishment of the Care Threshold Team to ensure early intervention for children and families with severe needs who are at risk of coming into the authority's care. The demand for preventative services has been higher than expected and we have succeeded to support the majority of families within the year. **816 families received a preventative service through the Gyda'n Gilydd Project, with 80% of those reporting a positive impact on their lives.**

Five of the six projects in the field of Children and Young People have been delivered successfully. There has also been acceptable progress with the Schools Organisation project, which has been affected by consultation work and work to revise business applications which are linked with attracting capital funding from the Government.

One of the main successes of this year is the improvement in the attendance and standard of education for children and young people throughout the county.

Attendance at secondary schools has increased further in 2014-15 to 94.2%, which is an increase of 0.86%. These figures are higher than the corresponding national figures (93.4%). In addition, the figures for permanent exclusions in secondary schools have reduced, which in turn has led to an improvement in attendance. During this time also, **the achievements of school pupils succeeding to gain five GCSE grade A* - C increased from 58% to 61%**, which was partly due to the **increase in achievement in Mathematics to 65%**.

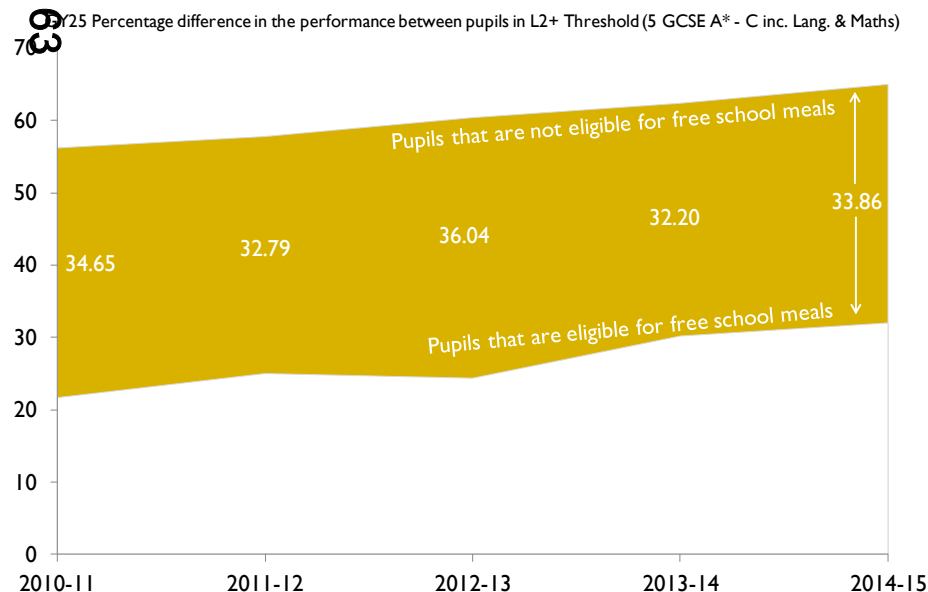
■ EDU/017 Level 2+ Threshold (5 GCSE A* - C inc. Language and Maths) ■ Level 2 Threshold (5 GCSE (A* - C))



We have also committed to develop a network of viable schools for the future, and to this end, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken in this field during the last year. A specific model for the New Hafod Lon school has been developed and has been through statutory consultation. Consultation work has also been carried out in the Gader and Berwyn catchment areas, namely discussions on schemes

involving the reorganisation of 16 schools, including two secondary schools. Work in this field will continue in the 2015-17 Strategic Plan.

However, we are awaiting the decision of Welsh Government on the business cases of the secondary schools of the Gader catchment area (capital investment of £4.34million), the Berwyn catchment area (capital investment of £9.27million) and a new building for Ysgol Glancegin, Maesgeirchen (capital investment of £5.11million). It is crucial that we ensure that the work of constructing Ysgol Bro Llifon, a capital investment of £4.84million, proceeds to schedule during this year so that it opens for pupils in September 2015. Schools reorganisation work will support us **to close the gap between the best school and the worst in terms of the percentage of 16 year old pupils who succeed in gaining five A*-C GCSE grades, as the largest gap between our schools at present is 27.60%.**



Although the performance of pupils continues to improve, the gap between children who are eligible for free school meals and other children.

In terms of the post-16 agenda, we have succeeded to promote collaboration between secondary schools and further education in the Meirionnydd area in 16-19 education and training, with six courses identified and a curriculum prepared for September 2015. In addition, we have succeeded to develop 110 joint courses in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

We need to give further attention to improve the standard of education and leadership in Gwynedd. We need to see a situation where the quality of education is more consistent in the county, and there will be robust arrangements in place to assist children with additional learning needs to achieve their potential. We also need to improve the conditions of leadership in order to raise standards, and the 2015-17 Strategic Plan will focus on this.

We have to make sure that our preventative plans are more sustainable and that we concentrate our efforts in the right places. In addition, we are preparing for the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which places a focus on the individual and which will involve changes to procedures across care services for children, young people as well as adults.

Inspiring the people of Gwynedd to live healthy lives
Supporting vulnerable people to live fulfilled lives

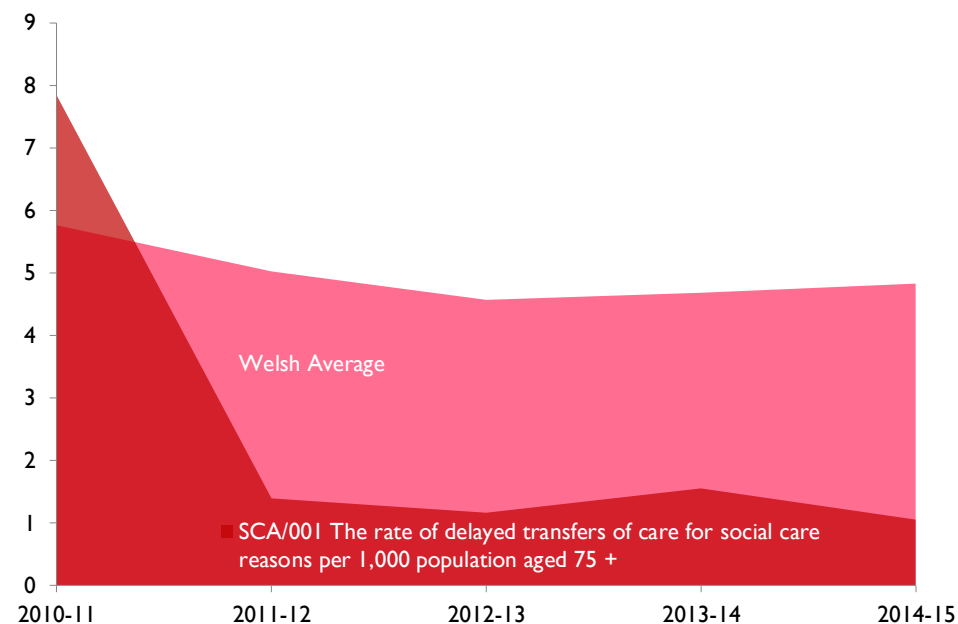
Supporting the most vulnerable people in our community is one of the Council's main priorities, and although it has been a challenging year, on the whole performance has been positive, with three out of five projects in the field successfully delivered and the Accommodation project was partially delivered.

We are in a very important period in terms of changes in the care field, with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 about to come into force, and several changes are at work or are being planned for the coming year.

As we know, there is an increase in the older people population of Gwynedd, and the county is now home to over 26,000 people aged over 65 (22% of the population). What most of us want as we get older is to stay at home in our communities for as long as possible. In order to achieve this, it was a priority within the Strategic Plan to introduce programmes that would ensure that people had options in terms of selecting appropriate accommodation, that they had a broad choice of preventative services and that they therefore received community support which met their needs. This was made clear with the intention that we address the wishes of individuals and also avoid providing statutory services to those who do not yet need them. At the same time, we continue to protect, safeguard and support the most vulnerable people who have the most severe needs within our community.

Similarly, we also needed to work towards improving the well-being of those people and of course their carers who sometimes need support also. In 2014, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 became law. Together with supporting the well-being aspect, the act emphasises the individual's choices, as well as opportunities to work in

an integrated manner across sectors in order to improve services for vulnerable people. We welcome this opportunity and in response to some of these aspects, the Council and the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board have been trialling a completely new way of working since January 2015, which has meant establishing a completely integrated Multi-Disciplinary Team based on putting the people of Gwynedd at the centre. It is early days in terms of measuring the team's success, but from the early cases it seems that this way of working proves better for people and is also more effective in terms of our way of working.



Grant funding from the Welsh Government Intermediate Care Fund was used to fund several joint plans between the Council, the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the third sector, including the above plan. The number of respite beds was increased and the

enablement and intermediate provision was strengthened, creating four short-term units in residential homes. This led to being able to reduce stays at hospitals and patients being able to return home sooner, during weekends also. Therefore, working in an integrated way and providing joint services has helped several people to avoid unnecessary admission to hospital and has enabled some patients to be discharged sooner. **The four short-term units that have been created have enabled 27 people to be discharged from hospital and have prevented 89 people from being admitted to hospital.** This has saved 1,998 days at hospital, which is a saving of around £685,000 for the Health Board.

With more accommodation developments than ever this year, vulnerable people in different parts of Gwynedd have real options in terms of the type of accommodation they want, which is also suitable to meet their needs. Specifically, in terms of the accommodation provision, **42 Extra Care Housing units have now been developed for older people in Bangor.** Unfortunately, it was not possible to agree on an Older People Accommodation Strategy by the end of the year and therefore we are doing so during 2015-16.

By collaborating with Age Cymru Gwynedd and Anglesey, we succeeded in establishing more Ageing Well Centres which serve to promote the well-being of older people. Through the centres, it is possible to provide activities to keep older people healthy and to create opportunities to socialise. DementiaGo classes were launched in November with the aim of helping people who live with dementia and those who care for them. These classes focus on exercises to improve balance, strength, co-ordination and to promote socialising. Since launching the classes **all users have shown an improvement in their quality of life, with 90% showing an improvement in physical mobility and grip**

strength.

Developments in community support have meant that Gwynedd's vulnerable people have more opportunities to live their lives fully, and according to their own choice. The increasing collaboration across organisations and sectors means that there are real opportunities to put the benefit of the customer at the heart, to improve the service provided, and also their general experience. The independence and safety of users is promoted with **65% of service users reporting that telecare enables them to live independently at home.** 453 enablement packages were provided to support vulnerable people, with over half of them not needing further care services.

During the year, priority was also given to the 'Safeguarding Children and Adults' field and the need to ensure that safeguarding procedures and policies are clearly understood by all staff and Council members. The training programme on safeguarding continued by targeting staff and relevant external service providers, in order to ensure awareness of the important matters at hand, including the need to ensure a current criminal record check. **100% of all staff members who work directly with children, young people and vulnerable adults have an up-to-date Disclosure and Barring record check (DBS).**

DI OGELU

EICH CYFRIFOLDEB CHI

Mae yna blant ac oedolion yn cael eu camdrin yng Ngwynedd heddiw!



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The Care, Health and Well-being field includes the aspect of promoting opportunities for Gwynedd's residents to be able to live healthily throughout their lives. Although it was decided to de-commission the Sports and Energetic Activities project, It is anticipated that we will implement the project in question as part of the day to day work of the Council's services following clarity on the findings of the Leisure Provision Review.

2014-15 has been a period of setting firm foundations within the Adults Care, Health and Well-being field in Gwynedd. As one of the Council's main duties is to safeguard the most vulnerable people in our communities, we will further strengthen our corporate arrangements within the safeguarding field. We will continue to collaborate across organisations and sectors in order to ensure that we give the best possible service to the people of Gwynedd, and certainly we will have to commit to changes that will meet the Act's requirements.

Further focus will be given, where relevant, to developing teams and integrated structures, provided it is anticipated that this will deliver an improved service for the people of Gwynedd. While continuing to develop accommodation options, we will work with communities to ensure that they are aware of the challenge that is facing the adults care field for the future. We will work towards ensuring that Gwynedd is a county with resilient communities which naturally support vulnerable individuals to live full lives.

Children

Care

Economy

Environment

Community

Council

Improving opportunities for the people of Gwynedd to live, work and succeed locally

Children

Care

Economy

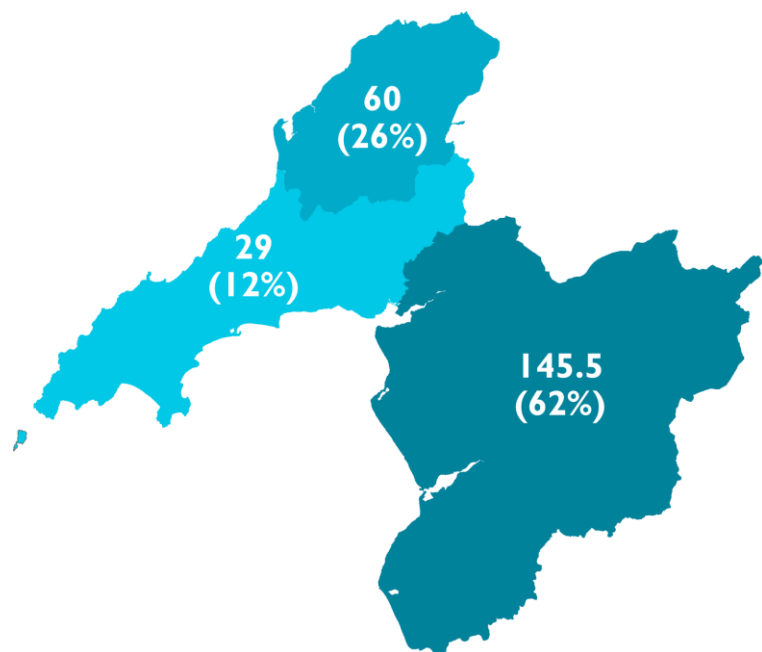
Environment

Community

Council

One of the Council's main priorities within the economy is strengthening the resilience of the county's businesses in order to help businesses to survive and find other markets to develop. The Council identified some time ago that we must keep the benefits local in terms of employment, and that the county's salary levels must be improved and that we must attract more high value jobs.

Two of the four projects in this field have been delivered successfully, with the High Value Jobs project also partially delivered. **Numerous posts were created in the county as a result of the project's direct intervention, with 234.5 posts created** with 62% of these in the Meirionnydd area. **34 of the jobs are "high value" ones** within the county, namely jobs with a salary of over a third more than the county average.



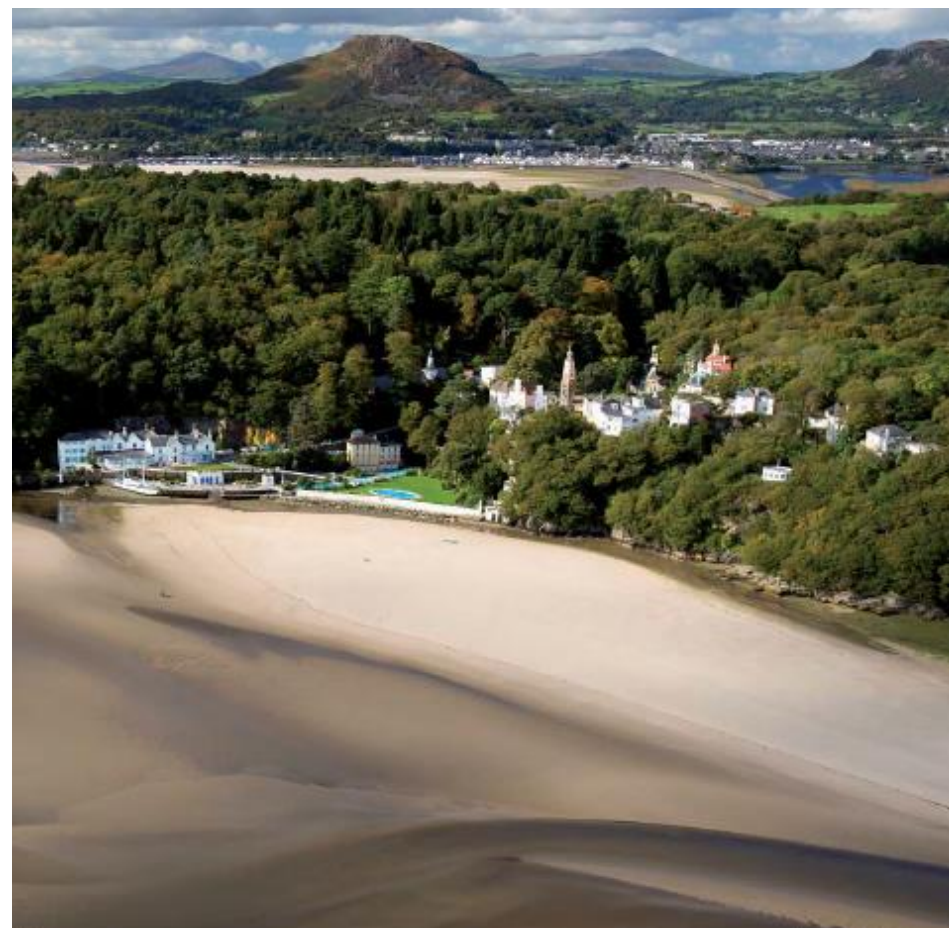
The Council has made progress within the field by developing infrastructure and specialist business clusters such as the establishment of the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone jointly with Welsh Government. Within the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone, the low carbon energy and digital sectors are targeted for the Trawsfynydd site and the Air and High-manufacturing sector for the Llanbedr site. The Wales Transport Plan Report has adopted improvements to the road in Llanbedr in preparation for the development work on Snowdonia Enterprise Zone this year.

Considerable attention has been given over the year to developing the creative industries sector. Networking events and conferences have been held within this sector to develop local and regional businesses for the future. Discussions have been held with 30 new businesses that are interested in locating in the county. There will be further action during 2015 and the Economy and Community Department will submit a bid to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for a regional priority sector designation for the creative industries. We will also continue to work with Xpo North to discuss the development of the North Scotland network and opportunities for the creative industries in North Wales.

Public events have been supported and **12 public events have been held within the county, with 232 companies benefitting and 1,303 young people have benefited from new experiences.** This contributed to the **£6million investment in the Gwynedd economy over the period.** By collaborating with Llandrillo-Menai Group young local people have had opportunities to appear as artists in events such as Festival No. 6 and Wakestock. We are already preparing local companies for public events in 2015.

There has been considerable progress during the year with the development of the Digital Gwynedd scheme. This scheme has ensured that every business community in the county can take advantage of linking into high speed broadband infrastructure, with **53% of Gwynedd now having access to fast broadband**. We are continuing to support the high speed broadband availability programme to realise the Superfast Wales programme in order to improve the county's broadband infrastructure, and therefore creating the conditions to make the county's businesses more competitive.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in receiving funding from Welsh Government this year to establish regional procurement arrangements as part of the Keeping the Benefits Local project: The Council's Procurement, and, therefore, the percentage of the Council's expenditure with local businesses reduced by 2% to 39%. The Cabinet has now agreed on a new direction to introduce category management procurement arrangements. This means arranging resources to procure within the specific fields in order to purchase in a more pioneering and efficient way whilst strengthening our understanding of the market. Work of establishing the new procedure will continue in 2015-16 starting with the People category, and the Environment and Corporate categories will follow. The aim here is to create better conditions to support the business sector to access contracts set by the Council.



Children

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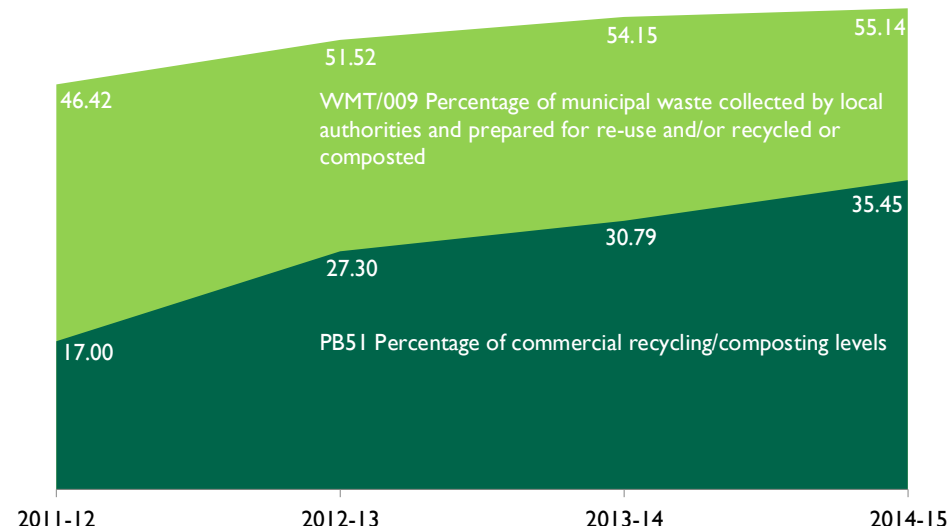
Promoting a suitable supply of homes for people in Gwynedd
**Promoting a safe and sustainable environment, with
convenient connections**

Gwynedd is a large county geographically, which poses several environmental challenges. We must ensure that our residents are able to live full lives within their areas whilst also trying to protect that environment. We can report that all five projects in the Environment field have delivered successfully.

We identified that there weren't enough suitable houses available for local residents in the county and in the right places. Priority was given to housing homeless people and applicants on the common housing register. **We brought 69 empty housing units back into use, which means that 140 people have been housed.** We did this with grant assistance to provide housing at an affordable rent or price, loans assistance and enforcement and encouragement measures. Furthermore, **268 people have been housed in 143 established affordable housing units. 188 (out of 268) people have been housed in smaller units in line with their wishes.** We always try to ensure that the people of the county who have been housed in suitable houses see a positive impact on their lives in terms of social aspects, and this is true of 67% of these cases. We are very eager to promote opportunities for the people of the county to benefit from affordable housing and we will be focusing on developing a business case for a suitable funding model which will help us to increase the affordable housing provision in the county.

We also needed to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill, and reduce carbon emissions. In the past, we disposed of waste by sending everything to landfill, without a second's thought about the environmental impact that this would have. It is very important that we do not place ourselves or future generations in a position which would make us open to the destructive impact of this. In order to address the situation, we have ensured that we have waste collection and disposal

arrangements which will reduce how much we send to landfill. It is essential that we satisfy recycling and composting requirements; therefore, we held awareness raising campaigns and reduced the frequency of residual waste collections in the Dwyfor area to three-weekly. We will be extending this to the Meirionnydd and Arfon areas during 2015-16. The commitment of the county's residents and businesses to reducing their overdependence on disposing of waste to landfill has played a crucial part in improving our performance and by now **55.14% of waste from Gwynedd homes is reused, recycled or composted, an increase of 9% since 2011.**



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The county's businesses have benefited from increasing their commercial recycling and composting levels through a service provided by the Council, as this is the least costly method for them. Awareness raising campaigns and changes to waste collection arrangements in the Dwyfor area have resulted in financial savings of £100,000. We will continue to implement the Waste Strategy, which is a series of schemes to reduce our dependence on landfill and to reuse/recycle/compost more of our waste (58% by 2015-16 and then 64% by 2020).

We have also reduced the detrimental impact that carbon emissions from the Council's buildings have on our environment and climate. By reducing the use of energy in our buildings, upgrading lighting and heating controls and installing solar panels on 54 buildings, **the Council has succeeded to reduce its carbon footprint by 26% since 2005** and has succeeded to deliver accumulative financial savings of over £2.2million. This means that the people of Gwynedd benefit environmentally and financially. We will be implementing Carbon Scheme 2, a follow-up to the current scheme to ensure a further reduction in our carbon emissions over five years (2015-2020).

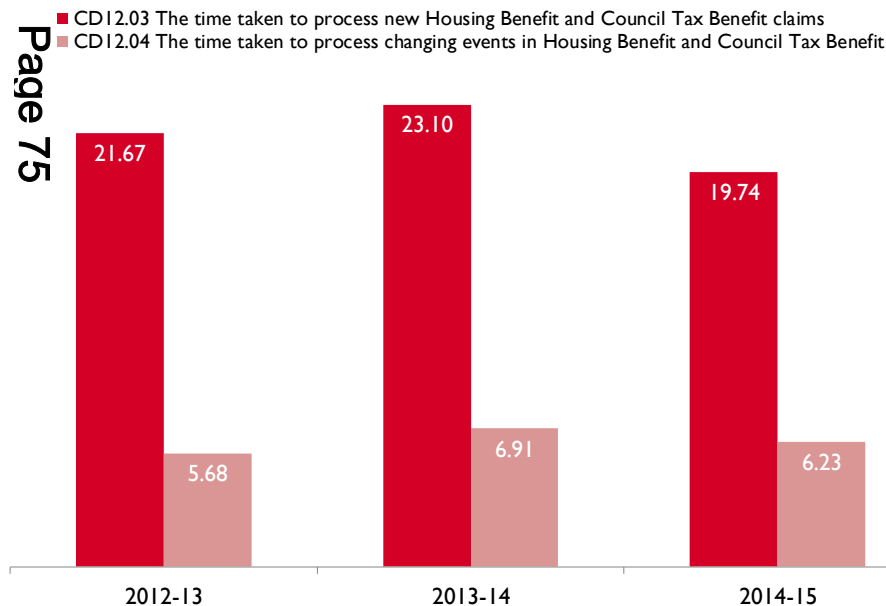
Another priority of ours was to improve arrangements to respond to the threats of climate change. Over 3,000 of the county's coastal properties are facing flood risk. As part of the work to raise their awareness of this and how to cope better, we distributed information leaflets and held 'Drop-in Sessions' in Pwllheli and Porthmadog. Although we have exceeded in what we expected to achieve and have **raised the awareness of 1,871 coastal properties of flood risk**, we must continue to work within this field to ensure that residents living in the remaining 1,129 properties that are at risk are aware of what they are facing, and can respond appropriately to the situation.

Though we have fulfilled the tasks which we set ourselves, the question remains as to whether we have succeeded to deliver the objective of ensuring that those residents fully understand the risks and what they can do to respond to that risk. As part of our day to day work, we will ensure that the residents living with flood risk understand what to do to mitigate the effects and will try to reach more people by holding further events, outside of normal working hours.



**Working together to create a confident and Welsh future
Reducing the impact of deprivation on the people of Gwynedd**

Gwynedd is a large rural area in geographical terms and has 64 communities. The Welsh language plays an important role socially and as part of the county's day-to-day business. In addition, we are eager to see the impact of poverty on groups and communities within the county being mitigated. The Stronger Communities work field focuses on promoting the Welsh language in our communities and supporting people in need in order to reduce the effects of poverty on local residents. We continue to focus on reducing homelessness, by ensuring that units of the right type are available in the right locations and addressing what the actual needs of vulnerable individuals are.



Five of the eight projects in this field have been delivered successfully, with the Welfare Reform project was partially delivered. Integrated support was provided for people in need in order to mitigate the effects of poverty and deprivation as part of this project. We attracted additional funding equivalent to £788,910 to the Hardship Fund from the Government in 2014-15; this money was used to support families to mitigate the effects caused by the bedroom tax, and **the money from the Hardship Fund was spent on supporting 1,658 people**. We continue to implement the Hardship Fund to support those who require assistance due to the bedroom tax, although the budget in 2015-16 is smaller due to the reduction in the contribution to every Council. The working together against poverty work remains a priority for us in 2015-16; however, it is important to note that up to 4,000 Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants in Gwynedd will be transferred to the Council from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for their cases to be processed. We also saw **an improvement in the number of days it takes to process new Housing Benefit claims and Council Tax Benefit claims from 21 days in 2013-14 to 19 days in 2014-15**.

Individuals and families have received support to avoid becoming homeless and we have increased the number of housing units in areas of need. **We succeeded to exceed expectations in the homelessness field with 140 families receiving support with rent deposit**, therefore as a result, only one family needed to be placed in bed and breakfast in order to avoid being homeless. Following work to look at what is needed in terms of housing units across the county, **we ensured that housing units are better provided in areas of need across the county, with 63 additional units secured for Gwynedd** over the last two years through the Private Housing Leasing

project. As part of this work, we collaborated with the private sector to identify the areas of Bangor and Dolgellau as areas of need in order to increase the number of available one and two bedroom housing units. This has ensured that the people of Gwynedd can continue to live in their locality. Work on preventing homelessness, affordable housing and bringing empty houses back into use remains a daily part of the Council's work.

We were unsuccessful in achieving the specific objectives with the Welsh language Strategic Project in Education, because the Education Quality Scrutiny Investigation was not complete, therefore an action plan was not agreed as a result. However, **97% of primary schools (94 out of 97) succeeded in gaining the Language Charter Silver or Bronze award**, and collaboration commenced with the county's organisations to promote the use of the Welsh language socially. The School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE) has measured the pupils' use of the Welsh language socially, which shows that 318 (12.5%) pupils have increased their use of the Welsh language on the school playground. We will continue to promote the Welsh language in organisations and improve the percentage of children who are assessed through the medium of Welsh.

The Council continues to promote the Welsh language on a strategic level, in schools, public services, socially and in communities where the percentage of Welsh-speakers has decreased to fewer than 70%. We will also undertake an audit of the position of the Welsh language in Gwynedd Council in order to discover if we are succeeding to take advantage of every opportunity to promote the Welsh language in our services.



Children

Care

Economy

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The people of Gwynedd central to everything we do

Children

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Economy

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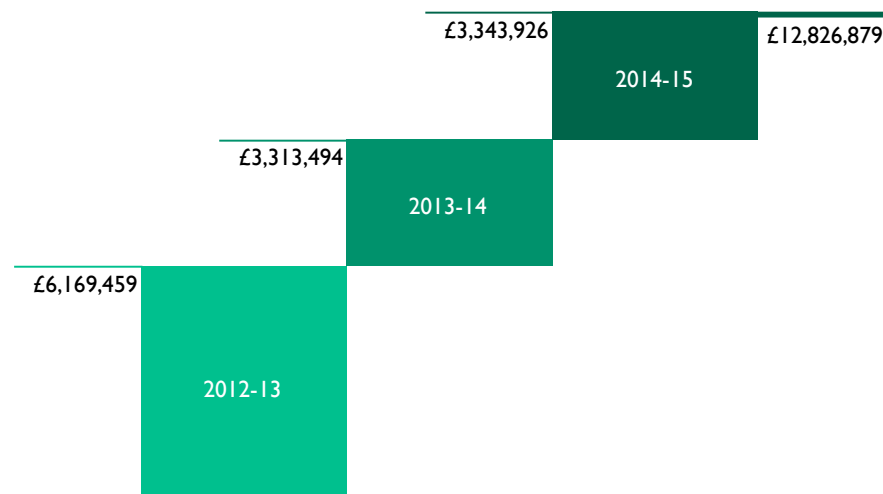
The cuts in funding that the Council received from the Government means that we must cope with receiving less money to maintain our services. We identified that we could be facing a financial deficit of as much as £50million over the next four years, which poses a significant challenge. As the Council needs to save a considerable amount of money, we need to be pioneering in the way that we plan in order to avoid service cuts. At the same time we must be awake to the fact that balancing the books is not our sole function and we are very eager to ensure that arrangements are in place which will facilitate our ability to place the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything we do. Work over the last year has indeed steered this.

Four of the field's six projects have been delivered successfully, namely the projects that are associated with our savings. **One of the year's main successes is that more efficiency savings have been realised which means that we can avoid cutting services for the people of Gwynedd. We delivered efficiency savings of £3.3million this year** by changing the way we provide services, whilst maintaining or improving the standard of the service for the people of Gwynedd at the same time.

In addition, a savings programme has been planned for 2015-18 onwards which has identified £13million worth of efficiency savings to be delivered over the next three years in order to get to grips with closing the financial deficit. Work to find efficiency savings was an enormous task; however, it is our ambition to deliver results for the people of Gwynedd despite the difficult financial climate that we face.

Having said that, it is unavoidable that the Council will have to face cuts in services in due course, and during the year we established arrangements in order to ensure that the opinion of the residents of Gwynedd is heard when we reach conclusions about their priorities.

Financial Strategy Savings



It is important that the impact of the savings on the people of Gwynedd is kept to a minimum. Another way of ensuring that austerity has the least impact on the people of Gwynedd is by attracting funding which is available from Welsh Government. We have agreed with Welsh Government to deliver five key outcomes during the financial years of 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. This year, **we have received the full amount of £1.3million as we have succeeded to deliver on the key outcomes** during 2013-14, which contributes to the Council's financial strategy and therefore reduces the financial deficit. The financial pressures have placed an additional responsibility on us to make sure that we have the ability and arrangements to respond to the needs of the people of Gwynedd now and in the future despite the fact that we will have far fewer resources to do so.

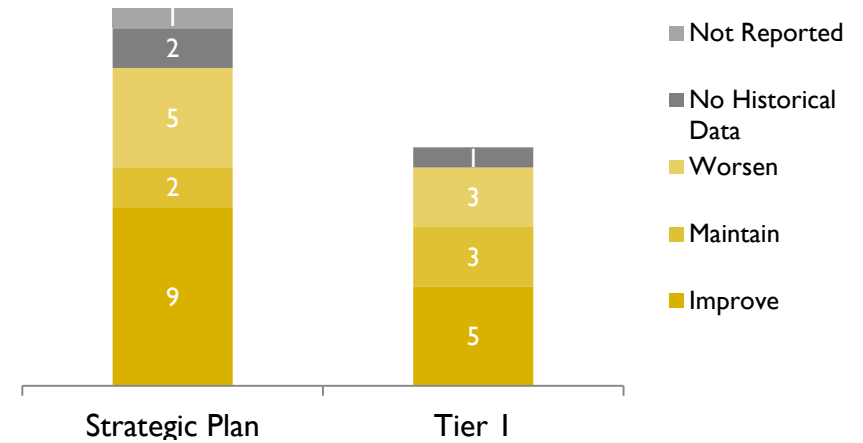
Therefore, we have proceeded to ensure that every service within the Council challenges itself and asks the question of whether it places the people of Gwynedd at the centre of all its work and decisions. The objective is to ensure a consistent culture throughout the Council. Naturally, changing the culture of such a large institution will take time and is a long-term scheme; consequently it is a little premature to report on the impact of the work. We will continue to give further attention to promote the culture of placing the people of Gwynedd at the centre of all our efforts through the Council and we will be undertaking reviews within specific service units in order to ensure that this continues.

We have also created an engagement strategy, in order to ensure that we improve the contact between the people of Gwynedd and the Council. It was our intention to implement it this year, but due to the work involved with coping with the financial situation, it was not possible to do so as expected.

It's a matter of concern that the rate of Gwynedd people who say they are satisfied with council services is falling, from 64% in 2013-14 to 52% in 2014-15. **Only 28% of Gwynedd residents (compared with 32% last year) feel that it is possible for them to influence decisions in their local areas.** Therefore, we need to improve engagement with the people of Gwynedd on decisions which affect their lives and their areas, as well as ensuring a consistent culture throughout the Council of placing the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything we do.

We will need to continue with the Engagement Strategy project in order to be able to include the people of Gwynedd in our decisions whilst ensuring that they contribute towards the future of our services. We will need to implement the Engagement Strategy in 2015-16, whilst ensuring that the appropriate support is available for managers to implement it.







Strategic Plan	Measures that show the effect of the Strategic Plan Projects on Gwynedd citizens
Tier I	Measures that are important to Gwynedd Citizens



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Key Measures




Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
Adn26	Number of schools in category condition 'A' and 'B' [Category A = Good. Performing as expected and working efficiently / Category B = Satisfactory. Performing as expected but showing small deterioration]	-	113.00	113.00	113.00	Maintain
Adn28	Percentage of empty places within the schools of the county	-	28.20	26.00	28.20	Improve
CSPI	Total of Children in Need	-	720.00	757.00	719.00	Worsen

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
CSP2	Total Looked after children or on the Child Protection Register	-	244.00	271.00	244.00	Worsen 
CSP3	Percentage of the progress made by families following the intervention of the Team Around the Family, Gyda'n Gilydd Team	-	15.00	30.80	18.00	Improve 
DANS07	Percentage of pupils aged 16 who achieve the Level 1 Threshold or equivalent - that corresponds to 5 A* – G GCSE grades including a vocational qualification	93.10	97.09	97.22	97.09	Improve 
DANS11	Number of primary schools in one of ESTYN's official categories (substantial improvement and special measures)	1.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	Improve 
DANS12	Number of secondary schools in one of ESTYN's official categories (substantial improvement and special measures)	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	Maintain 
EDU/002i	The percentage of all pupils (including those in LA care) in any LA maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.21	Worsen 

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
EDU/003	The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of KS2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment	86.22	86.60	86.03	86.60	Worsen
EDU/004	The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of KS3, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment	83.00	85.40	89.11	87.00	Improve
EDU/008bN	The number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools	15.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	Maintain
EDU/010aN	Number of school days lost due to fixed term exclusions within the academic year, in primary schools	126.50	110.50	95.50	97.50	Improve
EDU/010bN	Number of school days lost due to suspensions during the academic year in secondary schools	706.50	320.00	470.00	320.00	Worsen
EDU/016a	Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools	94.59	94.30	95.10	95.00	Improve
EDU/016b	Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools	92.10	93.60	94.20	95.00	Improve

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
EDU/017	The percentage of pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the local authority who achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	54.99	57.98	61.10	62.00	Improve 
GY04	Percentage difference between the performance of Key Stage 2 (KS) pupils who are entitled to free school meals and KS2 (7-11 old) pupils who are not eligible for free school meals in the Core Subjects Indicator	13.70	18.87	11.10	12.00	Improve 
GY05	Percentage difference between the performance of KS3 pupils who are entitled to free school meals and KS3 pupils who are not eligible for free school meals in the Core Subjects Indicator	26.60	28.46	16.40	23.00	Improve 
GY06	Percentage of pupils who gained a good level 3 or above in KS2 (7-11 years old) who received a Teacher Assessment in first language Welsh at the end of KS3 (11-14 years old)	93.80	95.60	94.10	95.60	Worsen 

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
GY25	Percentage difference between KS4 pupil performance in Key Stage 2+ (EDU/017) eligible for free school meals and pupils not eligible for free school meals	36.04	32.20	33.86	33.00	Worsen 
GY26	Percentage pupils achieving level 2 (GCSE Grades A*-C) in KS4 Mathematics	-	62.17	65.16	64.00	Improve 
GY27	Percentage gap between 16 year old pupils achieving threshold level 2+ between school (best and worst)	-	-	27.60	15.00	No Historical Data
GY28	Percentage of score gap between children in care and school pupils	-	-	30.52	30.00	No Historical Data
GY32	Achievement rate based upon examination results within vocational courses across establishments	-	-	-	Establishing Baseline	Not reported as there was no means of reporting
LlesPMG1	Transition plan has been agreed for disabled children at 16 years of age	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	Maintain 
LlesPMG2	Pathway plan has been agreed for children in care	-	-	100.00	95.00	No Historical Data
SCC/004	The percentage of children looked after on 31 March who have had three or more	-	1.60	6.20	8.00	Worsen 

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
	placements during the year					
SCC/010	The percentage of referrals that are re-referrals within 12 months	31.70	30.10	25.70	30.00	Improve 
SCC/025	The percentage of statutory visits to looked after children due in the year that took place in accordance with regulations	81.40	79.90	89.00	83.00	Improve 
SCC/030a	The percentage of young carers known to Social Services who were assessed	100.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	Maintain 

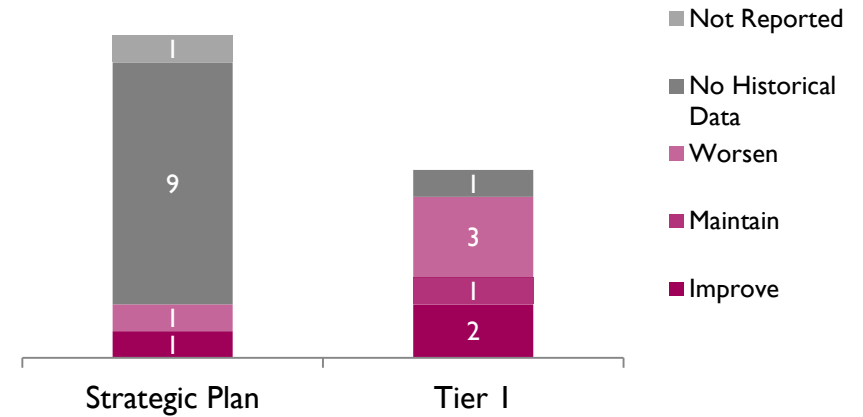
National Measures

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Trend	Performance against Wales
EDU/002i	The percentage of all pupils (including those in LA care) in any LA maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.21	0.37	0.11	Worsen	Better

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Trend	Performance against Wales
EDU/002ii	The percentage of pupils in local authority care in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.00	6.30	0.00	6.50	1.22	1.59	Improve	Better
EDU/003	The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of KS2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment	86.22	86.60	86.03	86.60	86.43	87.54	Worsen	Not as Good
EDU/006ii	The percentage of pupils assessed, in schools maintained by the local authority, receiving a Teacher Assessment in Welsh (first language) at the end of KS3	86.06	82.45	81.21	82.50	17.17	34.98	Worsen	Better
EDU/011	The average point score for pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the local authority	525.40	578.20	616.00	578.20	530.36	555.80	Improve	Better
EDU/015a	The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks including exceptions	87.80	43.10	58.70	80.00	64.50	66.12	Improve	Not as Good
EDU/015b	The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks excluding exceptions	100.00	96.30	100.00	97.00	95.62	93.93	Improve	Better


Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Trend	Performance against Wales
EDU/017	The percentage of pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the local authority who achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	54.99	57.98	61.10	62.00	55.49	58.28	Improve	Better
SCC/002	Percentage of children looked after at 31 March who have experienced one or more changes of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the 12 months to 31 March	3.80	2.60	3.30	3.75	13.48	13.86	Worsen	Better
SCC/004	The percentage of children looked after on 31 March who have had three or more placements during the year	-	1.60	6.20	8.00	9.03	8.04	Worsen	Better
SCC/011b	The percentage of initial assessments that took place during the year where there is evidence that the social worker has seen the child alone	40.00	47.20	50.59	45.00	44.78	56.47	Improve	Better
SCC/033d	The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact with them when aged 19	87.50	100.00	85.00	100.00	93.32	89.36	Worsen	Not as Good
SCC/033e	The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact with them, and know that they are	85.70	86.70	88.24	100.00	93.09	91.36	Improve	Not as Good

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Trend	Performance against Wales
	in non-emergency suitable accommodation when at age 19								
SCC/033f	The percentage of young people formerly looked after and the authority is in contact with them, and know that they receive education, training or are employed at the age of 19	35.70	66.70	52.94	65.00	59.51	63.57	Worsen	Not as Good
SCC/037	The average score, from the external qualifications points for children aged 16 years that are in care, in any learning setting that's maintained by the authority	289.00	439.00	393.00	350.00	276.21	297.49	Worsen	Better
SCC/041a	The percentage of eligible, relevant and former relevant children that have pathway plans as required	100.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	91.21	94.85	Maintain	Better



Key Measures
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Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
BUS06	Percentage of all staff working directly with children, young people and vulnerable adults with a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check	-	-	100.00	100.00	No Historical Data
BUS07	Percentage of all Gwynedd staff will have received training in Level 1 protection and safeguarding	-	-	18.23	Establishing Baseline	No Historical Data
DADH.42	Percentage of children that by the age of 11 have reached national curriculum standard in swimming	80.00	80.00	79.00	85.00	Worsen

DADH.92	Percentage of the walkers that declare that they are regularly physically active in the last 6 months	-	-	-	75.00	Not reported as question was not included in the questionnaire	
DADH.93	Percentage of National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) participants with improvement in their mental health - EQ5L5D results (support package to show measured improvement in patient results)	-	-	61.00	70.00	No Historical Data	
DADH.94	Percentage of children that are measured through the Child Measurement Programme which are overweight or obese	-	-	30.10	28.00	No Historical Data	
DADH.95	Percentage of adults that are overweight or obese	-	-	55.00	53.00	No Historical Data	
DADH.96	Percentage of Gwynedd adults that reach Welsh Government energetic activities guidelines	-	-	33.00	34.00	No Historical Data	
Diogelu2	The percentage of risk assessments presented to Case Conferences which were considered to illustrate quality in decision making	98.00	93.75	97.94	95.00	Improve	
HHA/008	Percentage of homeless referrals decided within 33 working days	77.40	81.84	80.57	82.00	Worsen	

CARE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

LCS/002b	The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres during the year per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity	-	-	13,790.00	12,893.00	No Historical Data	
OED04	Enablement - Percentage of Enablement service recipients who returned within 2 years	21.01	6.41	19.70	12.60	Worsen	
SCA/002b Lleol	Rate of older people (65 or over) the authority supports in care homes per 1,000 population aged 65 or over on the 31 March - excluding self funders	22.71	20.08	18.75	20.63	Improve	
ED09	Percentage of users who report that Telecare enables them to live independently at home	-	-	65.00	Establishing Baseline	No Historical Data	
OED18 - Cronfa Gofal Canolraddol (ICF) -	Rate of adults with "low level" needs that have been referred to advice agencies / support, guidance or alternative provision	-	-	12.70	Establishing Baseline	No Historical Data	
PEN13	Percentage of relevant staff who have received a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check	-	100.00	100.00	99.00	Maintain	
SCA/018c	Percentage of carers of adult service users who had an assessment or second assessment during the year who were provided with a service	82.27	78.52	54.20	82.27	Worsen	

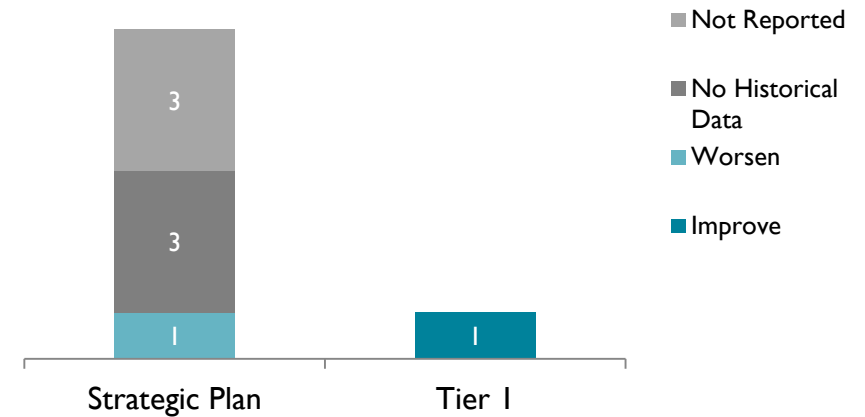
SCA/019	The percentage of adult protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed	98.00	95.72	100.00	100.00	Improve	
TAI07	Percentage of residents who are housed in extra care housing that has seen a positive difference to their lives	-	-	27% note a positive effect of being housed in extra care housing; 73% note a positive effect from a community aspect	Establishing Baseline	No Historical Data	

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National Measures

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Latest Trend	Performance against Wales
LCS/002b	The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres during the year per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity	-	-	13,790.00	12,893.00	8662.20	8679.66	No Historical Data	Better
PSR/002	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant	298.00	242.00	311.00	280.00	231.15	237.63	Worsen	Not as Good

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Latest Trend	Performance against Wales
SCA/001	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over	1.16	1.55	1.05	1.20	4.83	3.21	Improve	Better
SCA/002a	The rate of older people (aged 65 or over) supported in the community per 1,000 population aged 65 or over at 31 March	46.53	46.21	44.54	Establishing Baseline	67.30	55.20	Worsen	Not as Good
SCA/002b	The rate of older people (aged 65 or over) whom the authority supports in care homes per 1,000 population aged 65 or over at 31 March	24.69	25.59	23.88	Establishing Baseline	18.85	19.16	Improve	Not as Good
SCA/019	The percentage of adult protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed	98.00	95.72	100.00	100.00	95.60	97.92	Improve	Better



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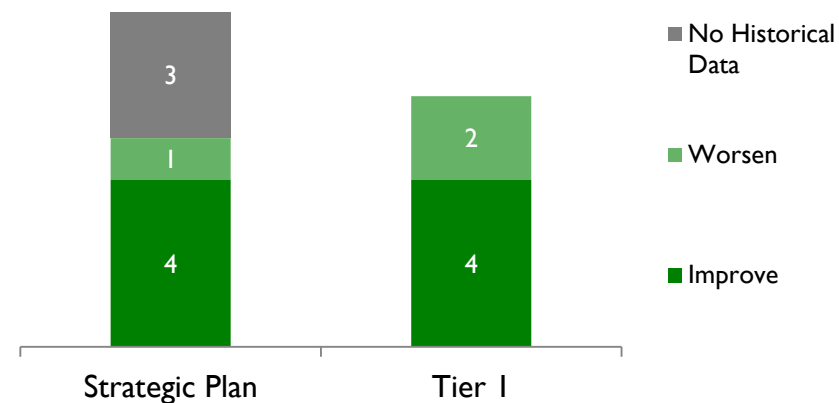
Key Measures

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
Caff06d	Percentage Council spending with local businesses	40.35	40.33	39.00	40.33	Worsen
Caff33	Number of jobs safeguarded within businesses in the county as a result of the Council's procurement activity	-	-	-	Establishing Baseline	Not Reported as the Economy Panel agreed that collecting the data was impractical

Caff34	Number of jobs created within businesses in the county as a result of the Council's procurement activity	-	-	-	Establishing Baseline	Not Reported as the Economy Panel agreed that collecting the data was impractical
H8	Number of new jobs created with the support of the Council	60.00	89.38	234.50	55.00	Improve
YRE1	Number of County businesses reporting their use of technology (e.business / e.commerce) as a result of Digital Gwynedd's intervention	-	-	-	250.00	Not Reported due to the programs evaluation currently ongoing
YRE2	Money attracted into the local economy from high profile events	-	-	4,814,867.00	3,500,000.00	No Historical Data
YRE3	The number of high value jobs created	-	-	34.00	30.00	No Historical Data
YRE4	The number of jobs created within Gwynedd's areas	-	-	234.50	50.00	No Historical Data

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No National Measures



Page 06

Key Measure

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
AMG3.I	Number of households engaged with, in order to enhance their understanding of flood risk and how to live with/mitigate the risk	-	-	1,871.00	1,750.00	No Historical Data
CYNCA06	Percentage reduction in the level of carbon emissions that are produced by the Council's activities.	15.06	24.84	26.07	25.00	Improve
PAM9a	The percentage of food establishments that are in the system, which achieve a score of 4/5 with food hygiene standards	-	91.00	93.00	75.00	Improve

PB5I	Percentage of commercial waste collected by the local authority which is prepared for reuse, recycling and composting	27.30	30.79	35.45	32.00	Improve	
PB60	Maximum tonnage of biodegradable waste sent to landfill (landfill allowance)	-	19,650.06	18,603.00	19,731.00	Improve	
PLA/004b	Percentage of all relevant planning applications determined within 8 weeks	73.13	72.86	76.44	70.00	Improve	
PPN/007	Percentage of significant breaches through intervention from Public Protection.	87.50	92.00	88.00	85.00	Worsen	
PTS/005a	Measure of cleanliness and look of streets	71.88	73.50	70.65	71.00	Worsen	
THS/011a	Percentage of principal (A) roads that are in overall poor condition	5.20	4.40	3.50	5.00	Improve	
THS/011b	Percentage of non-principal/classified (B) roads, that are in overall poor condition	5.30	4.70	3.70	5.10	Improve	
WMT/009b	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled	51.52	54.15	55.14	56.00	Improve	
TAI04	Number of individuals, couples or families who have benefited as a result of: Provision of vacant housing units back into use	-	-	140.00	70.00	No Historical Data	

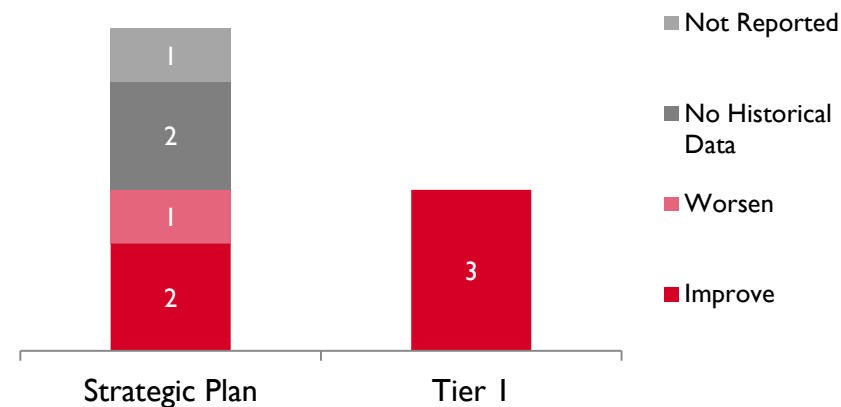
TAI05	Number of individuals, couples or families who have benefited as a result of: Provision of affordable housing	-	-	298.00	139.00	No Historical Data
TAI06	Percentage of residents who are housed as a result of work by the Council which has seen a positive difference to their lives	-	82% note a positive effect in terms of property affordability; 77% note a positive effect in terms of social aspects	52% note a positive effect in terms of property affordability; 67% note a positive effect in terms of social aspects	Maintain 82% note a positive effect in terms of property affordability; Maintain 77% note a positive effect in terms of social aspects	Worsen

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National Measures

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Latest Trend	Performance against Wales
PLA/006b	The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year through the planning process	30.00	41.00	50.00	16.00	41.35	37.42	Improve	Better

PSR/004	Percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months on 1 April that were filled during the year as a result of direct action by the local authority	4.34	5.24	5.69	4.50	11.76	7.47	Improve	Not as Good
STS/006	The percentage of reported fly tipping incidents that were informed and cleared within 5 working days	93.80	97.30	96.53	94.00	93.05	96.74	Worsen	Better
THS/007	The percentage of adults aged 60+ who hold a concessionary bus pass	84.70	84.60	80.30	77.80	85.78	77.60	Worsen	Not as Good
WMT/004	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	46.92	45.94	43.33	43.50	29.38	26.17	Improve	Not as Good
WMT/009b	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled	51.52	54.15	55.14	56.00	56.24	59.67	Improve	Not as Good



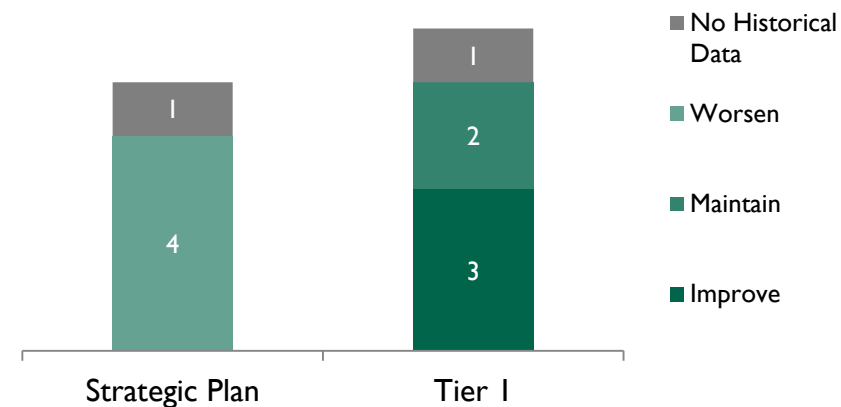
Page 100
Key Measures

Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
CCI	Percentage of those individuals that have that have received advice and / or financial skills provision who demonstrated progress towards coping independently	-	-	-	Establishing Baseline	Not Reported because the Service has been developing the measure with partners during 2014-15 in order to adopt and track from 2015-16 onwards
CD12.03	The time (number of days) taken to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claims	21.67	23.10	19.74	21.00	Improve

CD12.04	The time (number of days) taken to process changing events in Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit	5.68	6.91	6.23	7.00	Improve	
HHA/013	The percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months	92.47	42.20	43.44	45.00	Improve	
HHA/016	Average number of days all homeless families with children spent in bed and breakfast	40.80	22.25	42.00	28.00	Worsen	
HHA/017a	The average number of days that all homeless households spent in Bed and Breakfast accommodation	40.45	35.80	34.56	30.00	Improve	
laith09	Number of Primary Schools who have achieved bronze award of the Gwynedd Primary Schools' Welsh Language Charter	-	-	70.00	43.00	No Historical Data	
laith11	Number of Primary Schools who have achieved silver award of the Gwynedd Primary Schools' Welsh Language Charter	-	-	24.00	2.00	No Historical Data	
LLYF12	Percentage of adults that note that the library service enables them to find the information that they need	-	85.00	90.70	85.00	Improve	

National Measures

Reference	Measure (English Definition)	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Welsh Average 2014-15	Family Average 2014-15	Latest Trend	Performance against Wales
HHA/013	The percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months	92.47	42.20	43.44	45.00	65.38	78.45	Improve	Not as Good
LCL/001b	The number of visits to public libraries during the year, per 1,000 population	5,040.00	3,276.00	4,199.00	3,664.00	5525.87	5391.43	Improve	Not as Good



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Key Measures

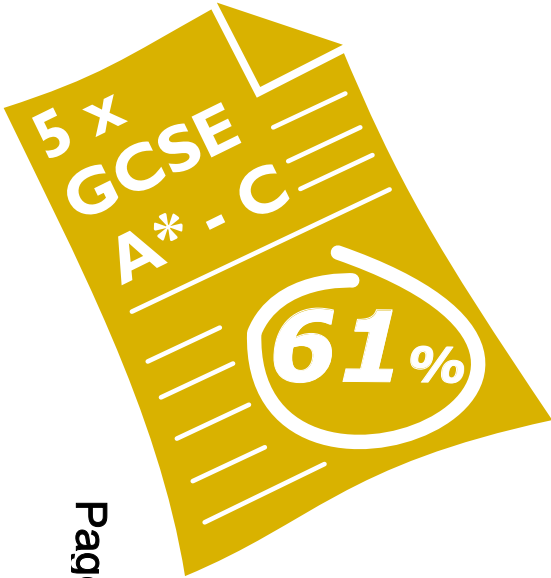
Reference	Measure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Ambition 2014-15	Latest Trend
CD11.01	Current Year Council Tax Collection Rate	97.15	96.98	97.20	96.80	Improve
CD5.01	Council's actual expenditure in comparison with the budget	-0.03	-0.14	0.18	0.40	Maintain
CD6.01	Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days (across the Council)	94.00	94.00	94.00	93.00	Maintain
CHR/002	The number of working days/shifts per full-time equivalent of local authority employee lost due to sickness absence	-	-	8.60	8.00	No Historical Data

CN15	Percentage of Gwynedd's residents who state that it is possible for them to influence decisions that affect their area	-	32.00	28.33	32.00	Worsen	
CYF09	Percentage of residents who are satisfied with the way the Gwynedd Council runs things	58.42	63.00	52.49	64.00	Worsen	
CYF10	Percentage of Gwynedd residents that feel it is possible for them to influence the decisions made in their local area.	32.88	31.00	28.33	32.00	Worsen	
CYF11	Percentage of Gwynedd residents that feel that the Council provides value for money	50.45	54.00	45.22	55.00	Worsen	
FF7	Savings achieved that are efficiency savings	-	-	3,343,926.00	4,400,000.00	No Historical Data	
PEN01	Number of serious accidents as defined by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	2.00	5.00	2.00	6.00	Improve	
Rhag8	Percentage of Strategic Plan projects that have realized their pledges	-	68.00	71.00	70.00	Improve	

No National Measures

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Supporting all children and young people
to live fulfilled lives



A GOOD
EDUCATION

816 families have
received a
preventative service
through Gyda'n Gilydd



with
80%
of those reporting
a positive impact
on their lives

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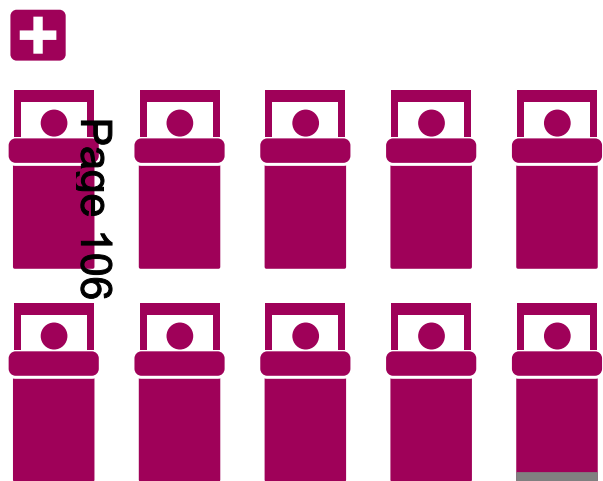


Room to strengthen education
leadership accross the county

65% of pupils gained a GCSE grade A*-C in Mathematics
34% gap between the children that are eligible for free school
meals and other children that gained 5 GCSE grade A*-C

The need to improve the quality of education for all children
and young people in Gwynedd

CARE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



1.05

per 1,000 of people aged 75+
have had a delay when
transferring from hospital
to their home



Disclosure &
Barring Service

100%

of all staff members who
work with children, young
people and vulnerable
adults have an up-to-date
criminal record check

4 short term units were created in residential homes
453 enablement packages in order to support vulnerable people,
while over half did not require further care services

The need to develop multidisciplinary teams and structures

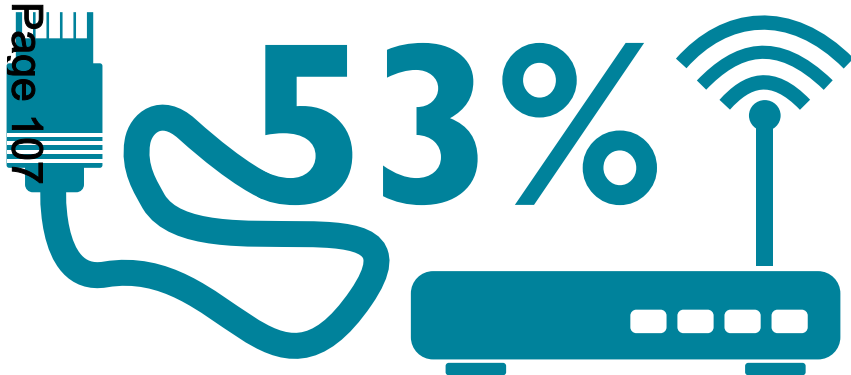
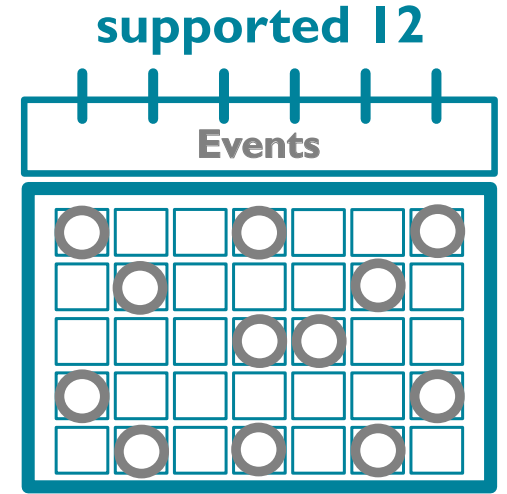


65%

of telecare users
report that it has
enabled them to live
independently at home

THE ECONOMY

Improving opportunities for the people of Gwynedd to live, work and succeed locally



with access to fast broadband

232 companies benefitting and 1,303 young people have benefitted from new experiences in public events
£6Million investment in the Gwynedd economy

Unsuccessful in receiving funding from Welsh Government to establish regional procurement arrangements

Promoting a suitable supply of homes for people in Gwynedd
Promoting a safe and sustainable environment,
with convenient connections

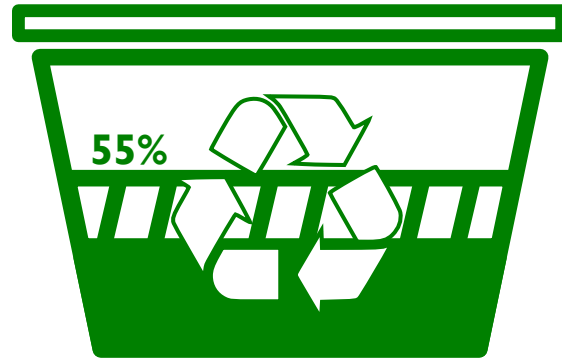
THE ENVIRONMENT



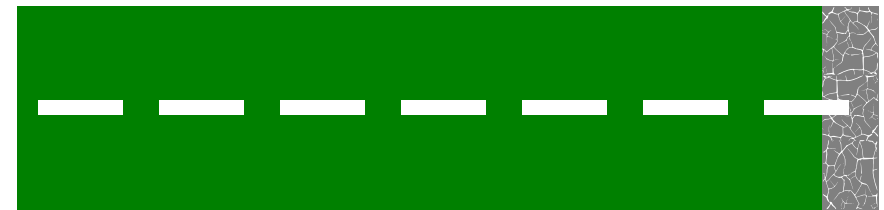
people have
benefitted
from

Affordable
housing

9% increase in recycling
since 2011



96% of main roads (A and B) in a
good or satisfactory
condition



69 extra vacant housing units back into use
143 extra affordable housing
188 have been homed in smaller units in line with their wishes
Need to raise awareness of over a thousand extra coastal
households about flood risks



people have benefitted
from vacant housing units coming back into use

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Working together to create a confident and Welsh future
Reducing the impact of deprivation on the people of Gwynedd



19 days

to process new claims for Housing and Council Tax Benefits compared to 21 last year



97% (94 out of 97) primary schools succeeded in gaining the Language Charter's Silver or Bronze award
Collaboration has started with the county's organisations to promote the use of the Welsh language socially

The percentage of pupils in year 9 that are assessed though the medium of Welsh (first language) has not increased

The people of Gwynedd central to everything we do



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



£1.3 Million obtained through our performance success on the Outcome Agreement

Over **£6 Million** efficiency plans in place for 2015-18
Too early to report on the impact of the culture change in such a large organisation

% of Gwynedd residents who state that they are pleased with the Council's services is decreasing, from 64% in 2013-14 to 52%

THE COUNCIL

£3.3 Million efficiency savings

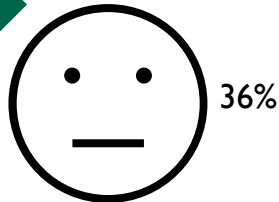
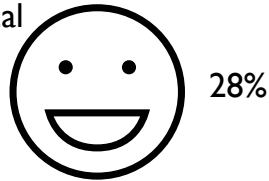
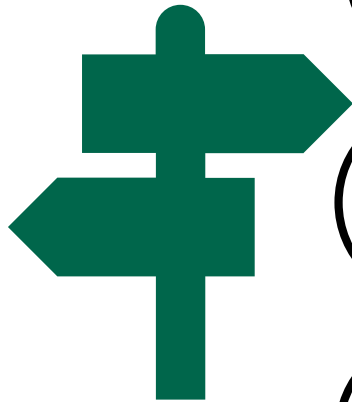


of Gwynedd residents felt that they can influence decisions in their local community

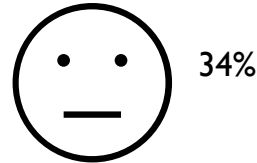
Gwynedd citizens were asked for their opinion focusing on these three questions:

CITIZENS' OPINION

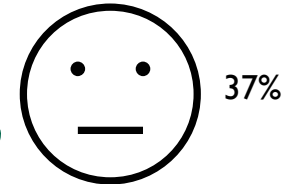
Do you feel that you are able to influence decisions in your local area?



Generally, how do you feel about the way Gwynedd Council is running things?



Do you feel that Gwynedd Council offers value for money?



Satisfied/
Very Satisfied



Not Satisfied or
Dissatisfied



Dissatisfied/
Very Dissatisfied

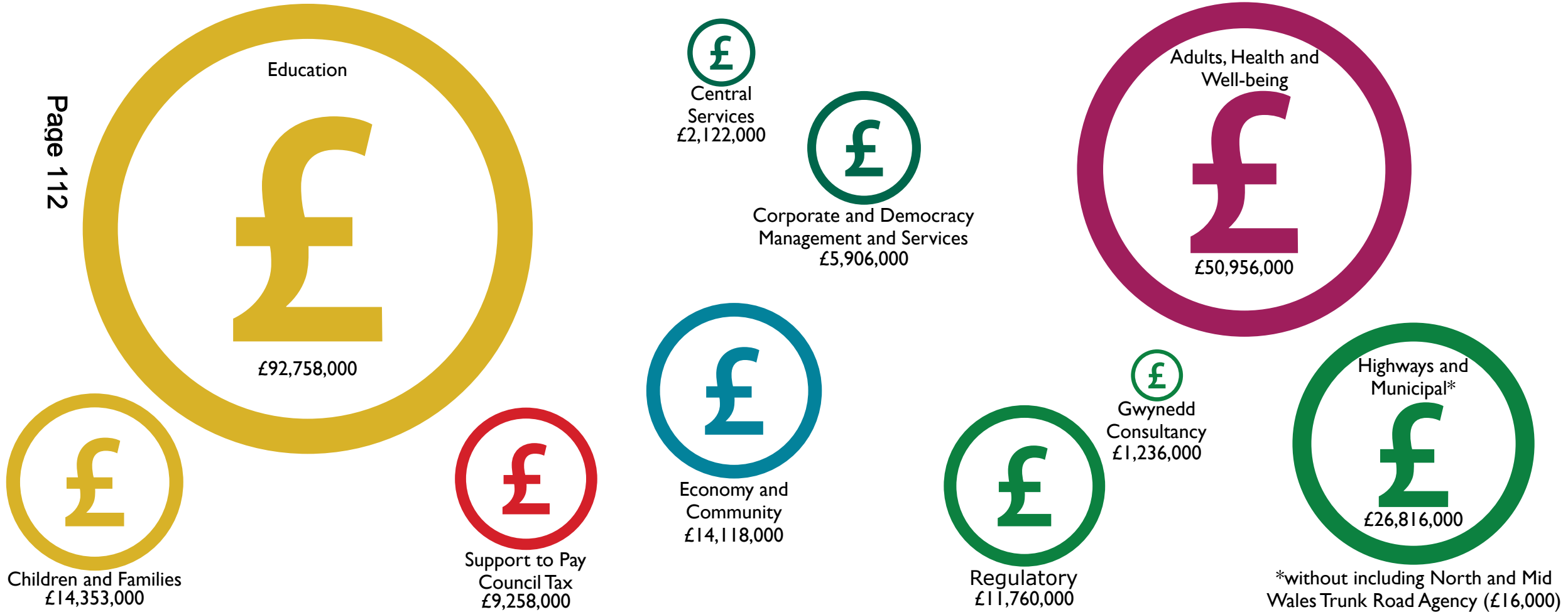
This response came from our Citizens Panel that contributes towards a number of surveys on Gwynedd Council services. If you would like to join the Citizens Panel, or for more information, contact the Citizens Panel Co-ordinator by going to gwynedd.gov.uk, e-mailing citizenspanel@gwynedd.gov.uk or calling 01766 771000

OUR EXPENDITURE

This is how much our services spent on Gwynedd citizens



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*without including North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (£16,000)

REPORT TO THE CABINET

15.09.2015

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig

Subject: Changing the objectives of the Llanegryn School Trust

Contact officer: Dafydd Gibbard

The decision sought / purpose of the report

i) To operate as Trustees of the Llanegryn Free School, and approve a decision to make an application to the Charities Commission to amend the objectives of the Llanegryn Free School Trust, enabling the Council to sell the site,

ii) To deviate from the usual Financial Procedure Rules, and use all receipts in order to maintain the current building standards of Ysgol Craig y Deryn in the future.

Local member's views

Councillor Louise Hughes

"Given the anguish the community here went through with the closure of our much loved village school, it is with a deep sense of sadness and regret that I have to say I have no objections to Ysgol Llanegryn being put up for sale on the open market. Our school was founded in 1659 for the education of the village children and served the village for 352 years until it was closed. It was one of the oldest free schools in Wales with a unique history and its impact on the community and beyond is still far reaching to this day; Lord Gwilym Prys Davies, the author of the Welsh Language Act, is one of the prominent ex-pupils who was lucky enough to receive his early education in Ysgol Llanegryn. Countless generations of children have taken the short walk from the village, up the hill to the little school overlooking the Dysynni Valley and many people hold fond memories of their time there.

The community council have discussed at length the future of the building and, as we already have a thriving village hall, the consensus is that the preferred option is a family buy for use as a permanent home."

Introduction

Gwynedd Council are trustees of the Llanegryn Free School Trust. Gwynedd Council therefore own the school site on Trust. This is because of the conditions imposed by the legacy of Hugh Owen, which funded the establishment of the original school at Llanegryn in 1659.

The conditions of the legacy also restricts use of the site to that of a school.

Reasons for recommending the decision

In order to enable the Council to dispose of the Llanegryn School site, the Council will be required to make an application to the Charity Commission to change the objectives of the trust. To make an application to the Charity Commission, the Council is required to identify the circumstances that make it necessary to alter the present purposes of the charity, and to consider similar use to which the trust property might now be put.

Following establishment of Ysgol Craig y Deryn in the village of Llanegryn it is no longer possible to achieve the original objectives of the trust to provide a school at the Llanegryn School site.

The intention therefore is to apply to the Charities Commission for authority to sell Llanegryn School, utilising the receipt in order to maintain the current building standards of Ysgol Craig y Deryn in the future. This will ensure further investment towards the provision of education within the community of Llanegryn, in accordance with the intent of the original legacy to keep a free school within the parish of Llanegryn forever.

Having established the circumstances making it necessary to amend the objectives of the Trust, and similar use to which the proceeds might be put, the next steps which need to be taken are as follows:

- To consult with the stakeholders. In this case the Council has corresponded with the Local Member and Community Council.

- *To pass a resolution at a meeting of the Trustees to formally apply for the scheme.*
- *Once an application to change the objectives has been made, to consider a draft scheme prepared by the Charity Commission.*
- *To arrange publication of a notice of the Charity Commission's intention to make a scheme (if required).*

A decision is therefore required by the Council as trustees to formally apply to the Charity Commission for permission to change the objectives of the Trust, before proceeding to dispose of the site on the open market.

In order to reflect the intent of the original bequest, any capital receipt will have to be allocated towards educational purposes in the Llanegryn area. The proceeds of sale will be a permanent endowment meaning that only the income obtained from the proceeds will be available to further the objects of the charity. In this case the Council wish to apply to the Charity Commission for permission to spend the proceeds in addition to the income as and when required, in order to allow the charity to carry out its new purpose more effectively, in accordance with the spirit of the original bequest.

Relevant considerations

The site is surplus to the Council's requirements. To retain possession of the site would result in wasteful expenditure on a property that does not contribute towards providing services.

Next steps and timetable

To make an application to the Charities Commission to amend the objectives of the trust, prior to selling the site on the open market.

Views of the statutory officers

Chief Executive:

I recommend the intention to release resources for the benefit of education in the trust area.

Monitoring Officer:

This report deals with the formal requirements of the Charities Commission and has been subject to legal input.

Head of Finance Department:

"In normal circumstances, 20% of capital receipts go to the department that are disposing of the asset, with the remainder going to a corporate fund. However, I am convinced that the bequest that is in place makes this situation exceptional, and in that respect it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to decide to deviate from the usual arrangements so that all capital receipts from disposing of the old school at Llanegryn are earmarked for educational use in that area, in accordance with the bequest. In practice, this will mean investing the receipt at Ysgol Craig y Deryn. I can confirm that the income from the disposal of site of the former Ysgol Llanegryn has not already been committed to another scheme.

In the circumstances, therefore, to ensure that our resources are deployed as effectively and efficiently as possible, I support the decision to request permission from the Charity Commission to dispose of this property, and to use the capital receipts in the manner described."

Appendices

None

REPORT TO CABINET

(15.09.15)

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Roberts

Subject: Temporary Changes to Women's and Maternity Services in North Wales.

Contact officer: Awen Morwena Edwards

The decision sought/purpose of the report

The Cabinet's agreement is sought to provide feedback to the Health Board in terms of the likely impact on the residents of Gwynedd which would derive from implementing the various options. It is noted that, on the whole, Option 4 would have the least impact in terms of access to services by Gwynedd residents.

We expect the Health Board to make the best clinical decision in order to resolve current concerns; however, as a Council we are eager to ensure a more local solution in the long term.

Introduction

The Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board is considering undertaking temporary changes to consultant-led (obstetrics) maternity services and is consulting on four options.

- *Option 1 – services stay as now and we continue to manage current risks and issues with medical staffing and team working.*
- *Option 2 – temporary change to maternity services at Maelor Hospital.*
- *Option 3 – temporary change to maternity services at Ysbyty Gwynedd.*
- *Option 4 – temporary change to maternity services at Glan Clwyd Hospital.*

The closing date for observations on the change is 5 October. The full consultation can be seen on the health service website at www.cymru.nhs.uk/mamolaethgc

The Health Board is concerned that obstetrics services are becoming increasingly unstable and, in addition to this, there are concerns regarding the shortage in numbers of doctors, difficulty recruiting qualified staff, training for junior doctors and the need to meet national standards for quality of care. There are currently three main hospitals in north Wales (Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Ysbyty Gwynedd and Glan Clwyd Hospital) which offer obstetric (consultant-led) services. Options 2, 3, and 4 below mean, in relation to the three, that these hospitals will not be able to offer consultant-led services – but that they will still be able to offer midwifery-led services. The midwifery-led service means a maternity unit in which care is provided by midwives who support mothers who are experiencing a straightforward or low risk pregnancy.

The Health Board stresses that there are risks involved with Option 1 and that it therefore favours Option 4 – as this is the option which is likely to have the least impact on travel, other services and because it can be implemented sooner than the rest.

Reasons for recommending the decision

The four options and their likely impact on the residents of Gwynedd are listed below. Appendix A provides further details on the options and show their impact on services.

Option 1 – services stay as now and we continue to manage current risks and issues with medical staffing and team working.

The Health Board stresses that this option is unstable in the short term and is therefore proposing temporary changes (namely Options 2, 3, and 4). We accept that changes need to be made in the short term; however, in an ideal world access to services would continue as at present. The situation reflects similar discussions which have been held internally in the Council, in terms of shortages in some functions and the need to plan ahead for the future. Despite this, the Council is hopeful that it will be possible to resolve the situation in the long term in order to ensure suitable access to services across north Wales.

Option 2 – temporary change to maternity services at Maelor Hospital.

This option would have a detrimental effect on access to services for the residents of Gwynedd, specifically those people living in the south of the county (who use Wrexham Maelor Hospital).

Implementing this option would also involve centralising the 'Inpatient Breast Surgery' Service at Wrexham Maelor Hospital. This would then lead to a significant increase in travelling time for patients living in north Gwynedd.

Based on the increase in travel time for the residents of Gwynedd as a whole, we consider that this option should not be considered further.

Option 3 – temporary change to maternity services at Ysbyty Gwynedd.

This option would have a detrimental effect on access to services for the residents of Gwynedd, specifically those people living in the north of the county (who use Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor).

This change would result in a reduced number of the births at Ysbyty Gwynedd from 2,100 a year to 600, and 1,500 mothers would have to travel to Glan Clwyd Hospital in Bodelwyddan in order to give birth. In addition to this, gynaecology (treatment of women's diseases and conditions) at Ysbyty Gwynedd would end and women would have to travel to Glan Clwyd or Wrexham.

Of all the options, Option 3 undoubtedly has the biggest negative effect on patients. Indeed, it involves a significant increase in travel time for women and mothers from the west (Gwynedd and Anglesey) in order to reach the Consultant-led maternity unit at Glan Clwyd Hospital. This option would leave over 20% of the population of north Wales with a 60 minute or more drive (1.3% for Option 1, 1.8% for Option 2 and 1.3% for Option 4). The paper submitted for consultation notes that "this option is the only scenario in which drive times of over 60 minutes increase significantly".

In a service where time is such a critical factor to the health of the mother and child, we believe that Option 3 should not be given any further consideration.

Option 4 – temporary change to maternity services at Glan Clwyd Hospital.

Of all the options, as far as we can see this is the option that would have the least impact on the residents of Gwynedd. However, the service

would mean centralising the 'Inpatient Breast Surgery' Service at Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan. Although this option would not have such a far-reaching effect on the residents of Gwynedd as options 2 and 3, it would involve a change in the current provision for residents in the north of the county. The implications of this option need to be discussed with the Health Board to see whether it would be possible to alleviate some of the effects on the residents of Gwynedd.

Relevant considerations

The Health Board is considering the Options in accordance with equality and human rights.

Next steps and timetable

Provide feedback to the Health Board dependent on the Cabinet's decision.

Views of the statutory officers

The Chief Executive:

This matter is clearly of great concern to the public across north Wales. Also, the main interest of this Council obviously involves the interests of families and individual from Gwynedd and the proposed observations reflect this.

Looking objectively at the matter, the argument in relation to comparative travel times is a key factor in such a sensitive field and, as it happens, this argument is quite clearly in favour of keeping the provision at Ysbyty Gwynedd.

I approve the observations.

The Monitoring Officer:

The subject of this consultation is obviously important and it is appropriate that the full Cabinet gives its attention to the response.

The Head of Finance Department:

Nothing to add from a financial propriety perspective.

Appendices

Appendix A

Background Documents

'Temporary Changes to Women's and Maternity Services in North Wales – Have your Say' (Published by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, August 2015).

<http://www.nwmaternity.org.uk/>

Option 1 - services stay as now and we continue to manage current risks and issues with medical staffing and team working

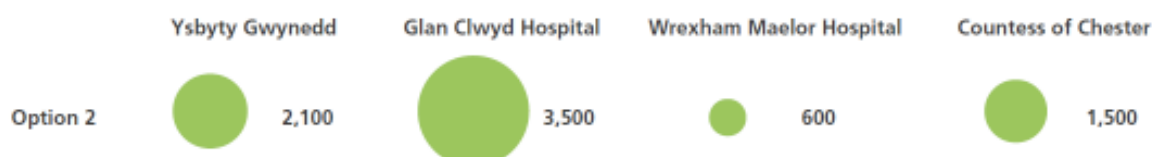
Service	Ysbyty Gwynedd	Glan Clwyd Hospital	Wrexham Maelor Hospital
Midwifery-led Unit	✓	✓	✓
Consultant-led Service	✓	✓	✓
Emergency and Inpatient Gynaecology	✓	✓	✓
Day Case and Outpatient Gynaecology	✓	✓	✓
Neonatal Care	✓	✓	✓
Inpatient Breast Surgery	✓	✓	✓
Breast Outpatients and Day Cases	✓	✓	✓



The size of the circles indicates the approximate number of babies born at each location.

Option 2 – temporary change to maternity services at Maelor Hospital

Service	Ysbyty Gwynedd	Glan Clwyd Hospital	Wrexham Maelor Hospital
Midwifery-led Unit	✓	✓	✓
Consultant-led Service	✓	✓	✗
Emergency and Inpatient Gynaecology	✓	✓	✗
Day Case and Outpatient Gynaecology	✓	✓	✓
Neonatal Care	✓	✓	✓
Inpatient Breast Surgery,	✗	✗	✓
Breast Outpatients and Day Cases	✓	✓	✓



The size of the circles indicates the approximate number of babies born at each location.

Option 3 – temporary change to maternity services at Ysbyty Gwynedd

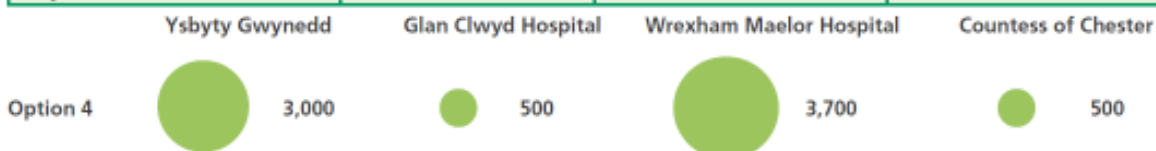
Service	Ysbyty Gwynedd	Glan Clwyd Hospital	Wrexham Maelor Hospital
Midwifery-led Unit	✓	✓	✓
Consultant-led Service	✗	✓	✓
Emergency and Inpatient Gynaecology	✗	✓	✓
Day Case and Outpatient Gynaecology	✓	✓	✓
Neonatal Care	✓	✓	✓
Inpatient Breast Surgery	✓	✗	✗
Breast Outpatients and Day Cases	✓	✓	✓



The size of the circles indicates the approximate number of babies born at each location.

Option 4 – temporary change to maternity services at Glan Clwyd Hospital

Service	Ysbyty Gwynedd	Glan Clwyd Hospital	Wrexham Maelor Hospital
Midwifery-led Unit	✓	✓	✓
Consultant-led Service	✓	✗	✓
Emergency and Inpatient Gynaecology	✓	✗	✓
Day Case and Outpatient Gynaecology	✓	✓	✓
Neonatal Care	✓	✓	✓
Inpatient Breast Surgery	✗	✓	✗
Breast Outpatients and Day Cases	✓	✓	✓



The size of the circles indicates the approximate number of babies born at each location.