



Complete Agenda

Chief Executive's Department
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

THE COUNCIL

Date and Time

1.00 pm, THURSDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2016

*** NOTE**

This meeting will be webcast

<http://www.gwynedd.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Location

Siambr Dafydd Orwig, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

Contact Point

Eirian Roberts

01286 679018

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED 29/09/16)

**Dilwyn Williams
Chief Executive**

www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru

THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear Councillor,

MEETING OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL – THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2016

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of **GWYNEDD COUNCIL** which will be held at **1.00 pm** on **THURSDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2016** in **SIAMBR DAFYDD ORWIG, COUNCIL OFFICES, CAERNARFON, GWYNEDD, LL55 1SH, COUNCIL OFFICES, CAERNARFON** to consider the matters mentioned in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Dafydd Iwan'.

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive

The following rooms will be available for the political groups during the morning:-

Plaid Cymru - Siambr Dafydd Orwig
Independent – Siambr Hywel Dda
Llais Gwynedd – Ystafell Gwyrfai
Liberal Democrats - Ystafell Peris
Labour – Rear of Siambr Dafydd Orwig

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence

2. MINUTES

6 - 13

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 30th June, 2016, be signed as a true record. (attached)

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

4. THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chairman's announcements.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS OR OTHER BUSINESS

To receive any correspondence, communications or other business brought forward at the request of the Chairman.

6. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items which are urgent business in the opinion of the Chairman so they may be considered.

7. QUESTIONS

To consider any questions the appropriate notice for which have been given under Section 4.19 of the Constitution.

8. PRESENTATION OF A PETITION

To note that a request to present a petition has been received from Councillor Stephen Churchman.

9. GWYNEDD COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

14 - 54

To submit the report of the Head of Corporate Support (attached).

10. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORTS 2015/16

55 - 75

To submit the report of the Deputy Leader (attached)

11. GWYNEDD COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

76 - 89

To submit the report of the Chairman of the Standards Committee (attached).

12. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 90 - 92

To consider the report of the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer (attached).

13. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE 93 - 97

To submit the report of the Head of Democratic Services (attached).

14. NON-ATTENDANCE OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL 98

To submit the report of the Head of Democratic Services (attached).

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR OWAIN WILLIAMS

In accordance with the Notice of Motion received under Section 4.20 of the Constitution, Councillor Owain Williams will propose as follows:-

"I propose that we convey our disappointment to the Gorsedd of the National Eisteddfod at their refusal to acknowledge our national football team's marvellous contribution towards our identity and self-esteem as a nation, by refusing to acknowledge and honour them at the most recent Eisteddfod at Abergavenny.

Accordingly, we call upon them to re-consider and to give the team all the honour they deserve, and to do this at the earliest opportunity."

(B) NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR DYFED EDWARDS

In accordance with the Notice of Motion received under Section 4.20 of the Constitution, Councillor Dyfed Edwards will propose as follows:-

"Following the recent Referendum on membership of the European Union we as a Council note that the people of Gwynedd voted clearly to remain members of the EU despite the fact that Wales and the rest of the British isles voted against. Following this result, we as a Council state again that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society.

Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in Gwynedd. As a Council, we condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes and we will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We will work to ensure that local organisations and schemes receive the assistance they require to fight against and prevent racism and xenophobia. We also give assurances to everyone living in this area that they are valued members of our society."

THE COUNCIL 30/06/16

Present : Councillor Eric Merfyn Jones (Chairman);
Councillor Annwen Daniels (Vice-chair).

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Stephen Churchman, Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Gwynfor Edwards, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Thomas Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Jean Forsyth, Simon Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Chris Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, Sian Wyn Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aled Wyn Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W. Jones, Elin Walker Jones, John Wynn Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Michael Sol Owen, W. Roy Owen, William Tudor Owen, Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Glyn Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John Wyn Williams, Owain Williams, R. H. Wyn Williams and Mandy Williams-Davies.

Officers present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department), Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department - for item 8 on the agenda), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer), Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor), Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager - for item 7 on the agenda), Nia Davies (Planning Policy Manager - for item 7 on the agenda), Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Endaf Cooke, Gweno Glyn, Aeron M. Jones, Dyfrig Wynn Jones, Linda A. W. Jones, June E. Marshall, Dewi Owen, Peter Read and Hefin Underwood.

1. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Council's annual meeting held on 12 May, 2016 as a true record.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Condolences were expressed to the family of Jo Cox, MP, who was recently murdered in horrific circumstances in Yorkshire and Councillor Gwen Griffith paid tribute to her.

Condolences were extended to the family of the late Professor Gwyn Thomas, poet, scholar and literary critic.

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

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Congratulations

All of the children and young people from Gwynedd who had been competing at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Caerphilly were congratulated.

Elin Thomas, originally from Llannor, Pen Llŷn, was congratulated for representing Wales and singing the Welsh national anthem at the start of three recent international rugby matches between New Zealand and Wales, and she was wished every success for the future.

Other Matters

Local Government Reorganisation

It was reported that Mark Drakeford, Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, had published a statement on 23 June which confirmed that:-

- Local councillors elected in the May 2017 election would serve a five-year term (May 2017 to May 2022) and that this would coincide with the Welsh Government's electoral cycle, which was also now five years.
- Electoral boundaries would not be reviewed prior to the election in May, which meant that 75 elected members would continue to serve on Gwynedd Council from May 2017 onwards.

More information regarding local government reorganisation would be available by the autumn term.

Plaque Unveiling

It was reported that everyone was welcome to attend a ceremony at Plas Llanwnda, Castle Street, Caernarfon at 11:45am on Friday, 1 July, to unveil a memorial plaque for Major Lionel Wilmot Brabazon Rees, who was the only person from Gwynedd to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War.

Commemoration of the Battle of Mametz Wood

To mark a century since the Battle of Mametz Wood, the First Battle of the Somme during the First World War, an invitation was extended to everyone to the Official Opening of the Great War's Memorial Garden at Caernarfon Castle at 12:00pm on Thursday, 7 July. It was noted that other activities would also be held as part of the Opening of the Memorial Garden with the North Wales Rugby Choir and the Band of the Royal Signals taking part.

Council at its Best Ceremony

It was noted:-

- The Council at its Best Ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate all of the excellent work of the 7,000 staff members who work for Gwynedd Council to provide a range of services that make a difference to the county's residents, staff members who go beyond their job description to put the people of Gwynedd central to what they do.
- The five awards presented during the Ceremony were related to the Council's values namely Value for Money, Positive, Working as a Team, Respect and Serve, namely five values which are central to Council principles and lead its way of

working by highlighting what is important if the best services are to be provided for the people of Gwynedd.

- A large number of nominations had been received for the awards, which were for staff from every Council department, and that nominations had been made by colleagues of the staff nominated.

In order to provide a taste of the good work being achieved, a short video clip of the nominees in the Value for Money category was shown.

Word of Thanks

A member noted his wish to thank the majority of Gwynedd electors who had voted in favour of remaining a part of the European Union in the recent Referendum.

4. QUESTIONS

(1) Question from Councillor Sion Wyn Jones

"Is it possible for the Cabinet Member to make a statement regarding the lack of grass cutting in Gwynedd?"

Response from Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Environment

"The Member is aware of the very difficult financial situation facing the Authority and out of this Council's decision in its meeting on 3 March, 2016 to implement 49 cuts to services which included reducing the frequency of grass cutting in some locations.

As a consequence, we must, unfortunately, accept that this will lead to the deterioration in the appearance of some locations at certain times of the year and when there are variances to the growing season as evident this year.

The relevant Department is carefully monitoring the effect of implementing the changes and is also ensuring that locations where there are concerns regarding safety are given priority. The Department is also adapting its cutting programmes in order to mitigate the effect of this change. These adaptations to the cutting programmes will continue for what remains of the growing season and the year. I would like to thank Grounds Maintenance staff for ensuring that the work is being carried out despite the changes."

A supplementary question from Councillor Sion Wyn Jones

"Is the Cabinet Member willing to consider placing the responsibility of grass cutting to community and town councils or having a new strategy in the department?"

Response from Councillor John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for the Environment

"Of course, Gwynedd Council is willing to work with community councils in every possible field, and this is one of those possible fields, but we must be careful not to hand it over without certainty from the community councils on some matters, e.g. with regards to public liability insurance and also that they will accept responsibility should an accident take place and personally I think this is something that they should seriously consider. I would be willing to discuss any solution that is better than what we currently do. I congratulate the department as it has been a very difficult growing season with such changeable weather and all of us have experienced that in our

gardens in general and I believe that the department and employees who have been at the front line have undertaken amazing work in recent months."

(2) Question from Councillor Aled Evans

"Will the Cabinet Member responsible for planning report on the steps taken to make sure that linguistic impact statements provided with planning applications under the LDP are impartial, so that an applicant does not provide such a statement as part of his submission for permission for any development".

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning

(The Cabinet Member's written response was distributed to the members in advance).

"Currently, we are determining planning applications according to the current Local Development Plan and the question is involved with the Local Development Plan, which will hopefully be adopted by the Council in March next year. Therefore, what drives the linguistic impact assessments are the supplementary planning guidance which are attached to the Local Development Plan. They are currently being adapted and as I have explained in an article on Rhaeadr at the beginning of the month, work is ongoing to update the supplementary planning guidance that will be attached to the Local Development Plan and a consultation process will be associated with that."

A supplementary question by Councillor Aled Evans

"Over the past 5 years, 75 linguistic reports have been submitted, but only one recommendation to refuse a development due to a detrimental impact on the Welsh language. Will you examine these 75 cases and investigate what was the impact on the Welsh language in order to discover how accurate these recommendations actually were?"

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning

"We are talking here about planning applications that have been determined under the former plan. We are talking about moving forward and a methodology will be developed in terms of how assessments will be undertaken and of course, this will be included in the context of the new TAN 20. We are not quite sure what that will tell us, where these assessments will be undertaken, and the councillor has responded to the Welsh Government's consultation regarding that and all of us were given the opportunity to be part of that. Thereafter, all of this is under discussion - the shape of the new supplementary planning guidance depends on what will take place during the consultation and everyone is free to participate in that process."

(3) A question from Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd

"In view of the delay in any progress on monitoring the impact of the existing and proposed planning position on the Welsh language in Gwynedd in accordance with the Council's decision on 18 March, 2016, does the portfolio holder share the aspirations of placing a moratorium on developments of more than three dwellings until a solution to this matter is found that is satisfactorily to the Council and which is key to the survival of the Welsh language as a viable language in communities in Gwynedd?"

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning

(The Cabinet Member's written response was distributed to the members in advance).

"I disagree that there has been a delay in response to the proposal on 18 March. There are two very important work streams ongoing, one to develop the supplementary planning guidance which will be attached to the new Local Development Plan, and this will drive how we undertake linguistic assessments. The second work stream is how we will monitor and review the plan in future therefore, I disagree that there has been a delay. The work is progressing and the article on Rhaeadr at the beginning of June explains exactly what are the steps that have been taken in that consultation process. In terms of a moratorium - that is not practical of course because how does someone stop applications from being submitted. We cannot stop applications from being submitted - we must deal with them and I do not think that there is anything significant about three dwellings. If we stop anything with more than three dwellings, are we therefore saying that three four-bedroom houses in the countryside are acceptable and that four small affordable houses for local use are unacceptable? That is the purpose of the planning system - to assess applications as they come in. We are currently assessing them against the Unitary Development Plan but once the new plan is adopted, we will be assessing against that plan."

A supplementary question from Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd

"In light of the fact that I believe that there has been a delay, does the Cabinet Member feel that he should give serious consideration to his current role so that he gives room to someone who is going to respect the democratic process which is part of this Council?"

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning

"I disagree that the process has been delayed. The process has progressed correctly. At the moment, the current phase in which the Local Development Plan has reached is in the hands of the Inspector and that process is beyond the hands of the Council until it will return in March to be adopted by the Council and I am confident that I will be here at that time to submit it before the Council."

(4) Question from Councillor John Pughe Roberts

"The Council has received this independent assessment commissioned by language organisations. Should this assessment be presented to Local Development Plan Inspectors for them to use at their own discretion in examining that Plan?"

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning

(The Cabinet Member's written response was distributed to the members in advance).

"Councils have already submitted all documentation to the Inspector. The Inspector is now driving the process. If the Inspector requests other documents from the Council, we will provide them. Indeed, he has asked some questions regarding what is in the plan and the service responds to that. It is not possible for the Council to forward any further information. Of course, it is a matter for any objector whether or not they decide to forward any information to the Inspector regarding any objection they have already submitted."

A supplementary question from Councillor John Pughe Roberts

"Does the Cabinet Member agree that every information is essentially important as evidence to improve the situation of the Welsh language in Gwynedd?"

Answer from Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Planning

"Yes, most certainly. All of the evidence out there is available for the Inspector when the Inspector will examine the plan. The Inspector's work is to decide whether the Local Development Plan is robust and should the Inspector require more information from any one who has been associated with the process thus far, the Inspector will request that information."

5. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2015/16

Submitted – The Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services for 2015/16.

In her presentation, the Director provided an overview of the performance of Gwynedd's Social Services over the past year, highlighting those elements that had been successful, and also referring to some matters that needed to be addressed. She also provided a taste of the direction of Social Services for the future and outlined the priorities for the years to come.

She also took advantage of the opportunity to recognise the guidance and support of Cabinet Members in the care field, Councillors W. Gareth Roberts and Mair Rowlands. She thanked all staff, providers and partners for their commitment and hard work in ensuring that children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families receive the best possible services. She also thanked everyone who cared informally for a member of the family or a neighbour, noting that their contribution was invaluable.

Following the presentation, the Director responded to a series of questions / observations from members in relation to:-

- Plans to address the shortage of severe dementia care nurses in South Meirionnydd.
- The lack of services / problems with services in South Meirionnydd and how to address those problems in the current challenging financial climate.
- Plans to ensure that the cohort of children who have very complex needs, but who do not receive a service from Derwen or the Council, received the appropriate support.
- Disappointment that there was no reference in the report to Council arrangements to ensure that adults with autism received sufficient services. The Director noted that it would not be practical to include everything in the report, but that she would accept the observation for next year.
- Importance of preventative work in the youth justice field and the need to express the Council's disappointment, through the Cabinet Member, in the statutory partnerships for reducing the funding available from them to maintain the service.
- The number of children who had to go beyond Gwynedd to receive care. The Director noted that she was unsure of the exact figures, but she could share them with the member after the Council meeting.
- The need for members who are school governors to address safeguarding at their governors meetings and the good work to raise the awareness of all Council staff about the safeguarding field and the need to continue to do so.
- The time it takes to transform services.
- Impact of challenges that faced the service on staff morale and turnover.
- How to address the other wave of inward migration that would take place, should condition 50 of the Lisbon Treaty be realised as people returned home from the continent in order to continue to receive free medical treatment.

- Recent news that people with mental illness who referred themselves for treatment at a local establishment were being turned away. The Director noted that she could not answer the specific observation but that she could discuss the matter with the Health Board should the member provide her with examples.
- The Social Services' complaints procedure and appeal process. The Director noted that she could share these documents with members.
- The work undertaken in the licensing field to ensure taxi drivers' responsibility for children they transport. The Director noted that she accepted the observation.
- Social Services' staffing arrangements on weekends and the need to ensure that patients are not prevented from being moved from a hospital, or to a hospital.
- A questions that had already been asked to the department regarding demography. The Director agreed that she would obtain the information for the member.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Leisure noted that several exciting and innovative developments were taking place in terms of the preventative field and it was proposed to build upon that in future. She thanked the department's staff and noted that it was a very difficult period and a very difficult field to work within and that staff would often go beyond their role to ensure that children were safe and that vulnerable families received the support they required.

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health thanked the Director for the comprehensive and clear report of the current situation. He noted that the Health and Well-being Act, which would set the direction for the work in future, would involve a great change and he pleaded with his fellow members to attend the series of events that were being arranged by the department to highlight the changes and implications of the act.

The Director and her staff were thanked for all their work during the year.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (A) In light of the current financial market and the result of the EU referendum, Councillor Annwen Hughes noted that she would withdraw her motion as there was a need for her to re-examine the matter.
- (B) The following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies under Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:-

"That Gwynedd Council calls on HSBC Bank to re-consider their decision to close their branches at Blaenau Ffestiniog, Barmouth and Tywyn and to express our concern regarding the negative effect on businesses and inhabitants in these key towns within the county."

During the discussion, it was noted:-

- Disappointment regarding the bank's lack of contact with the town about their intention.
- That it was a cause for concern when services were starting to leave the county's main towns without a long-term plan.
- Although people's banking methods were changing, that banks had a duty to the community and that they should think how they were going to maintain services and modernise, without disappearing entirely from the rural towns.
- Banks listened to their shareholders instead of their customers.
- Failure to bank money locally could lead to businesses having to close.
- There was a need for the Council to contact HSBC to discuss with open minds and positive suggestions.

An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded, namely that this Council would extend an invitation to HSBC bank to hold a discussion on the matter.

The proposer of the original motion agreed to amend the proposal on the lines noted with the consent of the Council and the seconder.

A vote was taken on the amended motion, and it was carried.

RESOLVED to accept the original motion, adjusted as follows:-

"That Gwynedd Council:-

- (a) Calls on HSBC Bank to re-consider their decision to close their branches at Blaenau Ffestiniog, Barmouth and Tywyn and to express our concern regarding the negative effect on businesses and inhabitants in these key towns within the county.**
- (b) Extends an invitation to HSBC bank to hold a discussion on the matter."**

At the end of the meeting, the Chairman asked members to submit any matters to be included in the Chairman's announcements in good time.

The Chairman referred to the following events:-

- Ras yr Iaith – 6 – 8 July;
- Cymru Rydd yn Ewrop Rally – 2 July, Y Maes, Caernarfon at 12:00pm.

Llew and Elin were thanked, who had been observing this meeting and a Cabinet meeting in order to have a taste of the Council's work.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.15 pm

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 9

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

MEETING	Council
DATE	6 October 2016
TITLE	Gwynedd Performance Report 2015/16
PURPOSE	To approve the report as an accurate, balanced and clear reflection of the Council's performance during 2015/16, and to adopt it.
AUTHOR	Geraint Owen, Head of Corporate Support
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Dyfed Edwards, Council Leader
RECOMMENDATION	To adopt the report

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Local Government (Wales) 2009 Measure places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement and to be accountable for it. We have addressed this by publishing the Council's Strategic Plan for 2013-17.
- 1.2 The process of accountability for performance takes place in two stages:
- Stage1 - 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 Performance Report 2015/16).
- 1.3 Submitted here is Gwynedd Council's Performance Report for 2015/16, which reports on the Council's performance against the Strategic Plan during that financial year.
- 1.4 Authorities are required to publish an assessment of their performance during a financial year by 31 October of the following financial year.

- 1.5 In accordance with the requirements, the Council needs to ensure that the content of the report provides an accurate, balanced and clear reflection of the Council's performance.

2.0 THE CONTENT

- 2.1 The report is based on the Council services' performance and performance reports presented by the Project Leaders, which pays attention to achievement against the Council's Strategic Plan 2013-17 (our improvement objectives).
- 2.2 The report also includes a data attachment which measures our progress against the Councils key performance measures and the National Strategic Indicators (NSIs).
- 2.3 The images contained in the report will be used to prepare a concise version which focuses on the main issues visually and which is easily read. The public will be notified of the report via the usual Council networks, including social networking.
- 2.4 The report was considered by the Scrutiny Forum at its meeting on 28 July 2016, and by the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 September 2016. The report presented also incorporates the changes that were agreed in those meetings.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council is asked to approve the report as an accurate, balanced and true representation of the Council's performance during 2015/16, and to adopt it.

Performance Report

Gwynedd Council 2015/16



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For further information, contact:

Strategic Planning and Performance Team
Corporate Support Department,
Gwynedd Council,
Council Offices,
Shirehall Street,
Caernarfon
Gwynedd,
LL55 1SH

E-Mail: performance@gwynedd.gov.wales
Phone 01286 679661

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



The Council Leader's Foreword



Dyfed Edwards, **Council Leader**

The purpose of this annual report is to provide a clear and balanced summary of the performance of Gwynedd Council for the year 2015/16. It is, therefore, good to be able to say that the Council's performance has remained strong over the past year, despite the current financial circumstances.

We have continued to improve our arrangements to place the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything we do as we as a Council seek to show guidance but also as we work in partnership with our communities. One example of this is the way we have included the people of Gwynedd via 'The Gwynedd Challenge' before making the necessary decisions to cut £4.9million from the budgets of our services. The result of this work was that we agreed with a very high percentage of the choices made by the people of Gwynedd when seeking to set our budget this year.

Our work to improve and ensure consistency in the quality of education in Gwynedd continues with a strong performance and 89% leaving school with five GCSEs A*-C. However, there is always room for improvement, particularly in subjects such as Mathematics and English. Work to ensure we have viable schools and suitable leadership is developing, and the opening of Ysgol Bro Llifon during the year has meant a better environment for learning and playing for children day in day out.

We have continued to collaborate with our partners such as the Health Boards in order to respond to the challenges which we face in the future in the field of care and health and as we trial a new way of working in the Eifionydd area. We have also worked closely with our partners in order to provide our early intervention and preventative services for children and their families, with 88% of families who received a service from the Gyda'n Gilydd Team stating that they have seen progress or an improvement in their lives.

As well as providing services for the short term, we are anxious to plan for the long term also. Ensuring investment in our rural communities is crucial to creating socio-economic prosperity. We are, therefore, very pleased to see an investment of £1.5million in Llanbedr which is part of the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone. Creating a Centre of Excellence on the site will be a way of securing approximately 200 new jobs in this area.

Following the introduction of successful arrangements for residual waste collections (green bin) in the Dwyfor area in 2014/15, we have extended these arrangements to the Meirionnydd and Arfon areas in the past year. We have set a good foundation for the future by reaching the national target of 58% of waste being reused, recycled or composted.

It is also encouraging to note that Gwynedd has been leading the way nationally with the Language Charter project and the efforts to increase the social use of the Welsh language by primary school children. The success of the work in Gwynedd has meant that the scheme will now be extended throughout Wales. We are also taking steps to extend this important work to the secondary sector.

The Auditor General has given us a very positive message this year also, by saying that the Council has continued to improve in its priority fields and that we have robust financial management arrangements, with some weaknesses in our scrutiny arrangements. We are currently discussing changes in order to strengthen our scrutiny arrangements for the future.

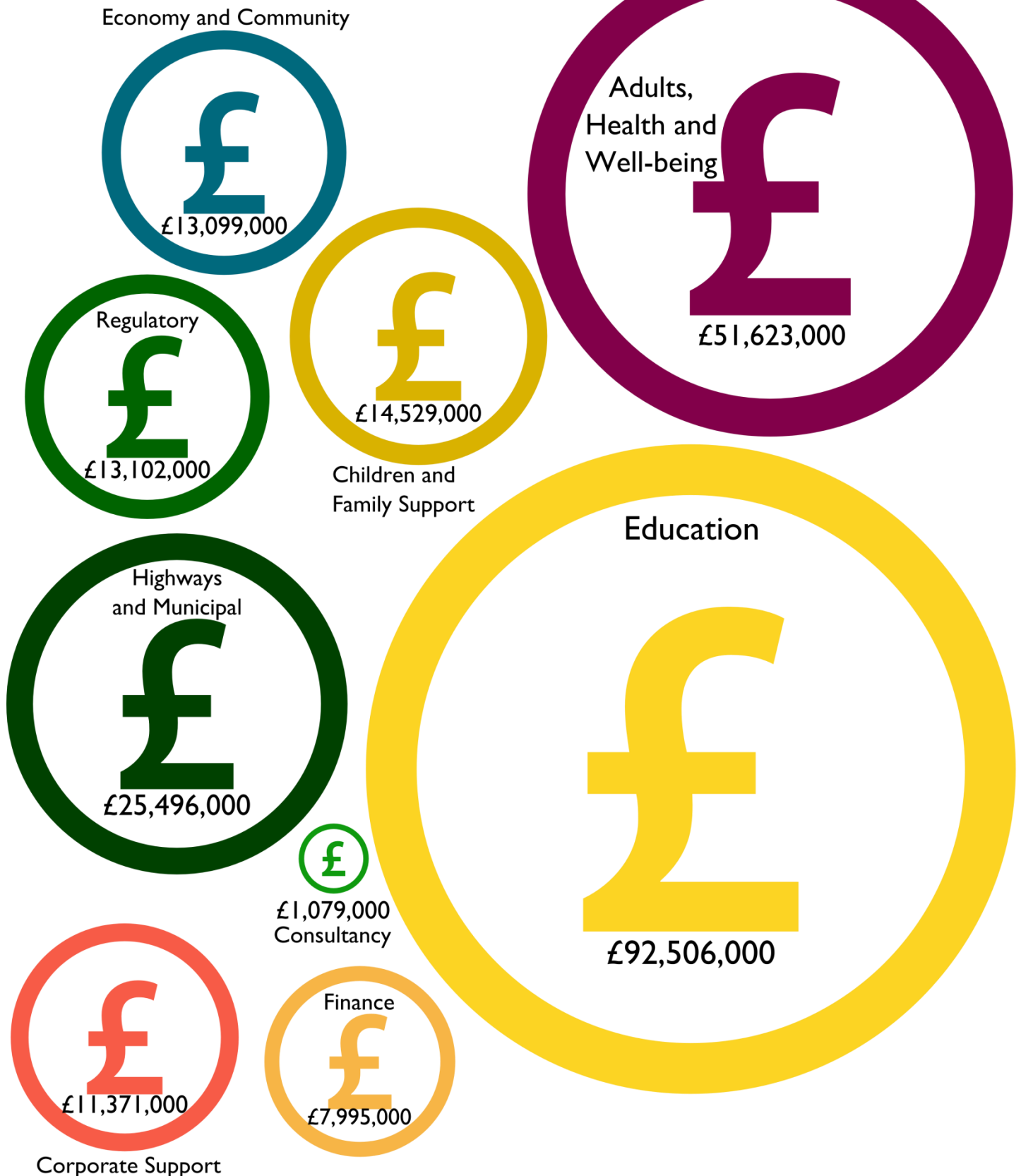
The Council Plan for 2016/17 shows that we continue to have an ambition for our County and that we are determined to try to make a difference to the lives of the residents of Gwynedd. Our aim is to continue to address future challenges and opportunities in order to ensure the best for the people of Gwynedd today and tomorrow, and we look forward to working with the residents of Gwynedd and other partners in this coming period.



Dyfed Edwards, **Council Leader**

Our Expenditure

This is how much our departments spent on services for people in Gwynedd in 2015/16:



Citizen Panel's Opinion

701 local people that are members of the Gwynedd Citizens' Panel were asked to give a mark out of ten on the following three questions:

1. Generally how do you feel about **the area that you live in** as a place to live?



91%

(mark between 6 & 10)



4%

(mark of 5)



4%

(mark between 1 & 4)

2. To what degree do you feel that **Gwynedd Council** meets your needs?



83%

(mark between 6 & 10)



11%

(mark of 5)



6%

(mark between 1 & 4)

3. Do you feel that you are given sufficient opportunity to influence the **Gwynedd Council** services that you use?



69%

(mark between 6 & 10)



12%

(mark of 5)



18%

(mark between 1 & 4)

What would raise your mark to 10?

This question was asked to respondents that gave a mark of less than 10. The comments received will be used by the Council to plan for the future.

Local people who agree to become members of the Gwynedd Citizens Panel have the opportunity to have their say on local services. If you would like to become a member of the panel, you can register by visiting www.gwynedd.gov.wales/CitizensPanel or by phoning 01766 771000.

Gwynedd Challenge



We enquired...

Local people were invited to have their say on the 118 possible options for cutting services to make financial savings to close the huge financial deficit that's facing the Council because of a cut in the grant by the Government.

What you did...

We received **2,142** questionnaires by **2064**



In addition, **615** of you attended one of **32** drop-in sessions or public forums.

We listened, responded and implemented...



Following the process of asking and listening, local councillors decided to approve **49** cuts to services. **41** of the **49** cuts that were approved matched your opinion.

You said... that you wanted the Council to make every effort to work more efficiently in order to limit the need for cuts.

What we did ... Undertake a detailed review of all Council services in order to realise £6.4million of efficiency savings, with an additional £9million to follow.



You said... that it was important that the Council protects the business sector and tourism, the library service, the arts and culture, community regeneration and youth organisations and clubs.

What we did...

1. Omitted four proposals that would have a major effect on these important local sectors from the list of cuts to be implemented.
2. Decided not to introduce any further cuts to the library service.
3. Omitted the proposal to abolish the Council Community Regeneration Service from the list of cuts to be implemented.
4. Decided to realise savings by re-profiling the Youth Service rather than cutting it.

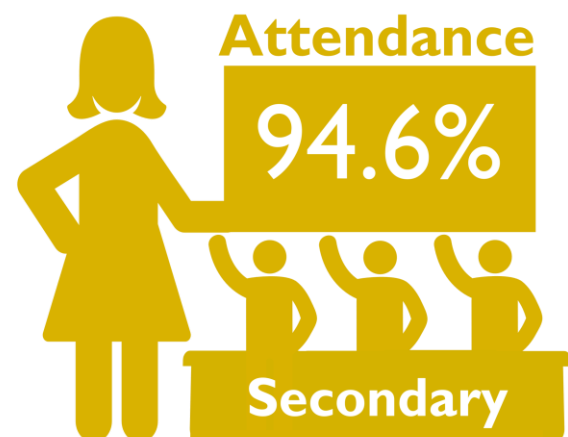
Children and Young People

Setting the foundations to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have the same opportunities and receive the same good quality of education has remained a priority during 2015/16. We continue with the commitment of improving and ensuring consistency in the quality of the education we offer to all the children and young people of the county wherever they may live.

The foundations of our Education Quality Strategy, and the robust arrangements which have been put in place between the Council and the North Wales Regional Schools Efficiency and Improvement Service (GwE) have started to come to fruition in recent years and this has been reflected in examination results during the year. Gwynedd's performance measures are generally good across the Key Stages (KS). The performance is very good in KS3 (11-14 years old) with 91.3% of young people attaining the expected levels in English or Welsh, Mathematics and Science. Our performance remains strong by the end of KS4 with nearly every pupil leaving school with an accreditation at the end of KS4 (14-16 years old), and 89% leaving school with 5 GCSEs A*-C, and 98% leaving school with 5 GCSEs D-G, which means that Gwynedd is ahead nationally. Nonetheless, there is still room for improvement, with more work to standardise across schools and subjects. The biggest challenge we face is improving the performance in Mathematics and English.



Attendance rates in secondary schools have increased again, with 94.6% ranking Gwynedd joint-second highest in Wales. On the other hand, the figure for primary pupil attendance dropped to 95%. The Council is focusing on targeting specific schools in order to improve attendance. In addition, the figures for permanent exclusions in primary schools have been a cause for concern this year. For the first time, pupils from some of the schools have been permanently excluded. We intend to address this during the coming year by commencing the provision of specialist units within schools to support the pupils with the most complex behavioural and emotional needs.



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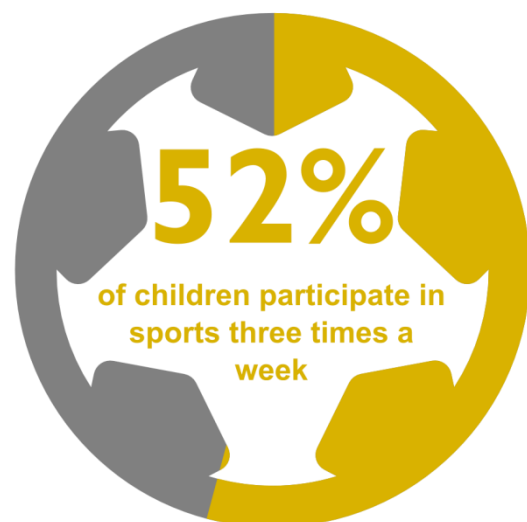
Financial

Particular attention has been given to improving the quality of leadership within the education system in order to raise standards during the year. The support and training package for leaders and managers is developing well, with a baseline set in terms of expectations for the year and beyond. Thus far, 27 prospective leaders from Gwynedd have attended training, and nine prospective heads have been successful in gaining the national professional qualification for headships during the year, with 100% of applicants qualifying. Six prospective heads have been accepted on the programme for next year.

We are also progressing well with introducing our viable schools network programme. In September 2015, Ysgol Bro Llifon opened. This development has led to a better environment for the children to work together and play with their peers, and has ensured robust leadership and management. Good progress has been made with the other sites also, with the Hafod Lon site the next to open during the autumn term 2016. Work is in the pipeline in the Gader, Glancegin and Berwyn catchment areas, with an investment of £56million in the viable schools programme.



We are in the process of transforming the provision for approximately 4,000 pupils with Additional Learning Needs in Gwynedd. In light of legislative changes expected from Welsh Government, and following a period of consultation, a work plan and programme of improvements have been confirmed for the new service. A series of training programmes were held during the year through e-learning programmes for additional learning needs co-ordinators at every school which focused on planning around the needs of children and young people and placing them at the centre. Further work will be carried out over the coming year on measuring the impact of the new service from the outset.



In addition, during the year we have managed to improve the physical activity levels of children and young people. In the schools, the level of children who love sport has increased. Gwynedd results show that 52% of children take part in sport three times a week. This is a significant increase from the 43% in 2013, with the use of leisure centres among the best in Wales, despite a reduction in the Free Swimming Grant from the Government. The challenge for the coming year will be to maintain and improve on these results.

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This year, we have been preparing for the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 which has been in force since April 2016. The act focuses on the need to develop a preventative attitude towards everything we do. Promoting children's well-being by investing in preventative and early intervention work is core to the Council's vision. In order to arrange our early intervention and preventative services around specific issues which face Gwynedd, we have undertaken an assessment of the needs of families. This work allows us to identify gaps and specific needs and improve the provision being offered to the young person.

Though work will be undertaken over the coming year to confirm and prioritise the preventative services for the future, the Council has provided a package of early intervention and preventative programmes through the Families First grant funding, as well as core Council funding. The early intervention service provided includes parenting programmes, early years, together with work with families and children who are at risk of being taken into care. Gyda'n Gilydd is one of those programmes.

88% of the families whose cases have been closed following receiving a service from the Gyda'n Gilydd Team during the year report progress after receiving a service. The average percentage of progress seen by families has come to 25.8%. This is a reduction on last year because the number of complex cases has increased.



of families that have received a Gyda'n Gilydd Team service that have seen progress or an improvement in their lives

There is some risk regarding this element of the service as there is no guarantee that the grant which funds the work will continue post-April 2017, and therefore, during the coming year, there will be a need to focus on how we can maintain the service for the future.

The Edge of Care Team was established during the year, which is an exciting and important development which will transform experiences for children and families. The purpose of the team is to work intensively with vulnerable children and families, and children who are about to be taken into care. The team has received 73 referrals during the year and has managed to avoid care costs of almost £300,000 in its first year. The development is seen as good practice and during the year, the service was invited to present the team's work in a national conference that introduced new developments in the field of looked after children.

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Safeguarding

The responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is one of the Council's most important responsibilities. Over recent years, emphasis has been placed on ensuring that the arrangements in this field are robust and that we realise our personal responsibilities for safeguarding.

Regional statutory arrangements are in place for this field. These arrangements ensure that there is an overview of the challenges across the agencies and, by means of the Regional Board, reviews are commissioned following unfavourable incidents. The recommendations deriving from these reviews are disseminated across the region and more extensively when and if relevant. One of the main aims of this system is to learn lessons following incidents, and ensure that any shortcomings in practices or processes are addressed.

100% of all staff working directly with children, young people and vulnerable adults with a current disclosure check

  **Disclosure & Barring Service**

Our measures in relation to adults and children suggest a solid performance again in 2015/16. Of all the adults safeguarding referrals completed during the year, it is evident that we managed to control the risk 97% of the time.

Manage Risk



We did not manage to control the risk 100% of the time as in 2014/15 as the remaining 3% had refused intervention or had withdrawn the application. The performance of this measure is consistent with the rest of Wales (97% in 2015/16), and the family (97% in 2015/16) of councils that are similar to Gwynedd. Specifically regarding children, the rate of risk assessments submitted to case conferences that were considered ones that showed quality when making decisions suggests robust performance again this year - 97% in 2015/16 compared with 98% in 2014/15.

The Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Panel is now in place to ensure awareness and improve ownership across the Council of this important field, and also monitor the implementation of some of the transformational projects in the field. Over the course of the year, the Panel has agreed to add the "PREVENT" agenda to its remit. This is the Home Office-led programme that relates to attempting to prevent individuals from being radicalised.

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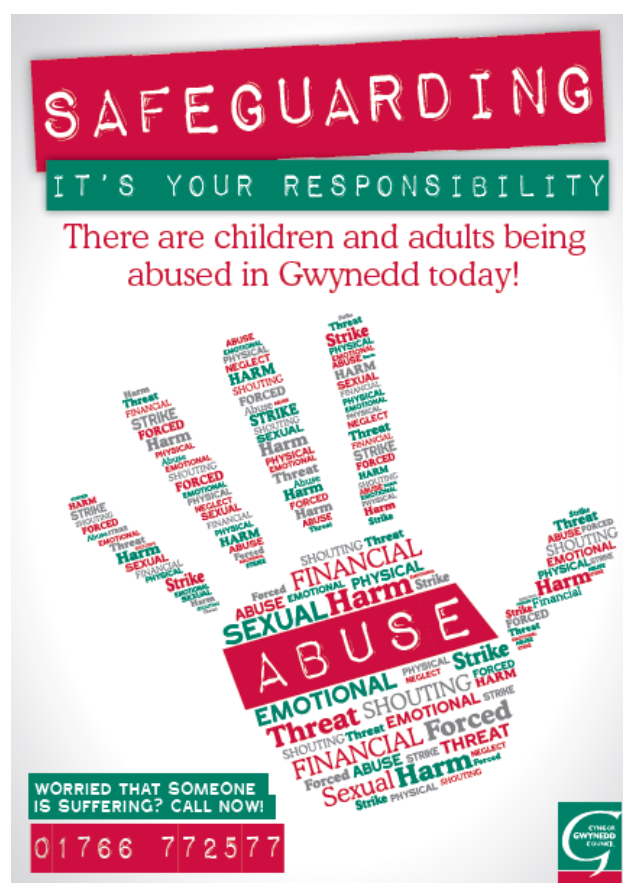
Financial

Efforts are continuing in terms of improving awareness of safeguarding across the Council, but, as with many projects, it is likely that the element of measuring the impact of our intervention is the most challenging. In order to seek to respond to this, a Task Group has been established to create a system to measure the impact of adopting and complying with policy, the work of raising awareness and the impact of the training on safeguarding. This will be a priority for 2016/17.

There have been examples during the year of action by front-line staff, as a result of an improved understanding of safeguarding, who have identified safeguarding issues and taken action by making a referral. An Awareness Audit was held during the year and the results show an increase in staff awareness levels across the Council in terms of safeguarding issues.

During the last year we as a Council have come to understand, as much as possible, the demand for service and the trends of Child Sexual Exploitation in Gwynedd. A crucial part of this is implementing the regional work programme while considering the corporate implications which derive from it. Awareness-raising and forming a local work programme to respond to and ensure compliance with the expectations will be a priority for the next year. Again in the children field, much work has been done over the course of the past year in order to strengthen safeguarding procedures and culture within education. A clear work programme is being implemented in order to ensure that Gwynedd schools are entirely clear about their responsibilities in the field. A Safeguarding Officer was appointed to the Education Department in September in order to drive forward the work programme and considerable attention has been given to reviewing and adopting policies, training staff and agreeing on a county-wide strategy.

During the year an attempt was also made to continually improve the safeguarding arrangements and culture within the field of adults. Although a number of the recommendations associated with the work programmes have been implemented, more work is yet to be done in order to have a clear reporting procedure which ensures a complete overview of the work. During the year, recommendations were received from the Care Inspectorate that we need to improve our internal arrangements in terms of the implementation of safeguarding in the adults field specifically in order to respond to new requirements. In response to this, and as a result of legislative changes, the Adults, Health and Well-being Department has fully reviewed its operational arrangements and is considering the way forward.



Although it is early days to start seeing the direct effect of this field's project work on the people of Gwynedd, we're confident that it will bring positive results in future.

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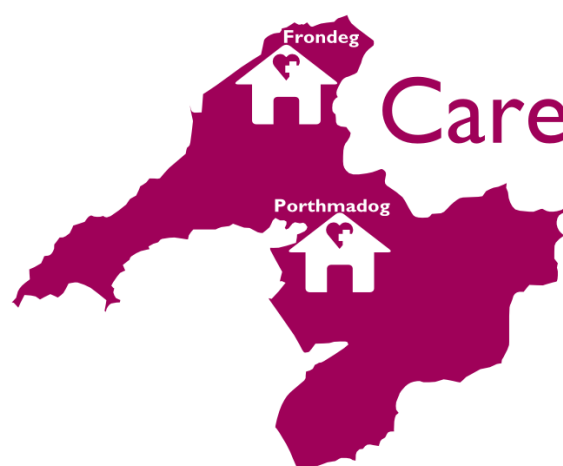
Care

The field of adult care has been preparing its structures during the year for legislative changes, as well as changes in professional practice. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 came into force in April 2016.

Although challenging in terms of a shift in culture and work structure, it has been an exciting period in which we have trialled a new way of working which attempts to offer services of the best quality by responding to people's priorities more effectively. Working in an integrated manner with the Health Board and our partners offers opportunities to transform our services for the better, and ensure that adults are given the support of one designated worker to co-ordinate the care. It also means bringing in expertise where necessary. Currently, the new arrangements are only operational in the Eifionydd area and it will be a priority to develop the new way of working across the county over the coming year. The emphasis has been on placing the individual at the centre of our services and this is seen in terms of the new purpose which has been set, namely - 'Helping me to live my life how I want to'.

In order to achieve this it is essential that the individual's natural contacts are used and that we promote their well-being. A key part of ensuring that this support is available in our communities is the need to improve the understanding of the people of Gwynedd of the way communities can support people to live there longer. Though some success has been seen in terms of the engagement programme for staff and elected members, further work needs to be done in terms of starting to go out to discuss with communities. This will be a priority for the coming year.

In order to help individuals to live their lives as they want to, it is crucial that we can offer the varied accommodation options across the county which address the needs of our residents. An Older People Accommodation Strategy was adopted during the year and it will be used to discuss developments and options with developers in the future. The benefits arising from the project are yet to be seen in full, but implementing it will contribute to ensuring that we have the suitable provision in the appropriate places for older people in the county. As part of this, work has commenced on building the Extra Care Housing development in Porthmadog and also the decision to develop a new accommodation model for adults with learning disabilities on the Frondeg site in Caernarfon.



During the past year, one of the main matters that have been a cause for concern is the stability and sustainability of our nursing homes across the county. A number of homes found themselves in a difficult situation and this highlights the fragile nature of the sector. The rate of delayed transfers from hospitals for social care reasons has deteriorated also with an increase from 1.05% in 2014/15 to 2.38% in 2015/16.

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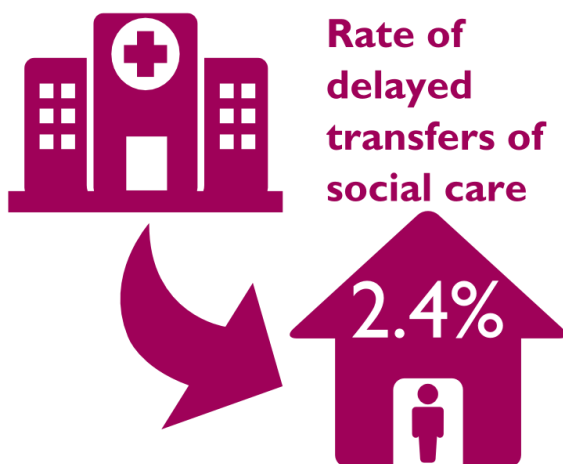
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Despite this, compared with the whole of Wales, Gwynedd's performance remains good, but we must acknowledge that a deterioration has occurred.

The recommendations of the scrutiny members as part of their investigation 'From Hospital to the Home' has supported the service with planning and collaborating with its partners to overcome barriers in this field.

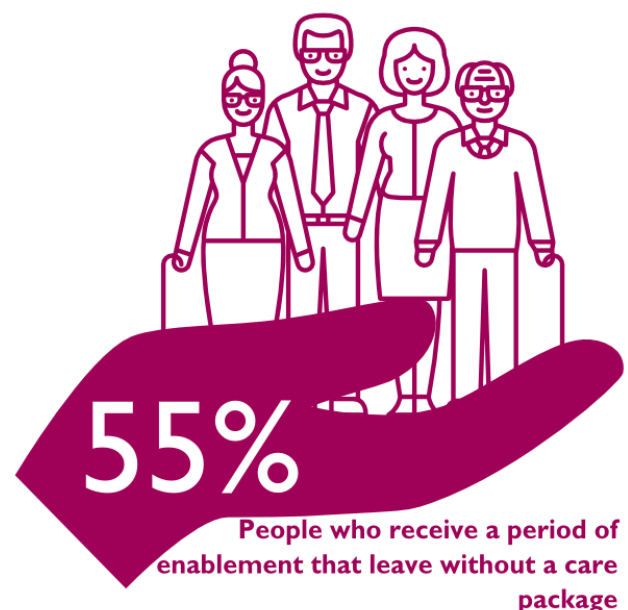


This performance reflects the general issues of the health and care system in terms of the high demand on hospitals, lack of nursing beds in the community and also a lack of capacity in terms of professional workers and home carers in some specific areas of Gwynedd. Consequently, the rate of 'reviews of care plans' shows a decline from 85% in 2013/14 to 79% by 2015/16. Upon analysing this figure further per area, it is seen that the performance of Meirionnydd is much lower than other parts of Gwynedd. This decline again highlights the obvious lack of capacity in some areas and consequently the prioritisation that has had to happen.

It is also a difficult and challenging period in terms of service provision costs. The financial situation places pressure across the sector and alongside our partners we are seeking a proactive response to the challenges that are, and will be facing us in the future.

In response to this emergency, in March 2016 the Full Council commissioned a new project - 'Capacity and sustainability of the Care and Health System'. The purpose of the project is to seek to respond to the current problems in relation to care and health provisions within the older people field specifically. By implementing the project, jointly with the Health Board, we are attempting to ensure that we will have the most suitable system in place across the care and health field in future, and particularly in order to respond to specific challenges in Meirionnydd.

On the whole, the performance measures suggest that the service is on the right track. There seems to be a reduction in the proportion of people who choose to receive traditional support in the community and also in our residential homes. This suggests that we are less reliant on traditional care compared with previous years. To support this, there has also been a gradual increase in the use of direct payments which of course promotes and empowers individuals to live their lives as they wish to live them. Feedback from some of our service users has proven that our new approach is a very positive one.



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Poverty, Deprivation, Economy and Housing

The challenge facing the Gwynedd economy is significant. The structure of the economy remains narrow, with the work opportunities still over-reliant on the public sector. Issues such as low salaries and the need to ensure appropriate connectivity and a workforce with the relevant skills are key things on which we need to focus.

As the role of the private sector is not strong in a rural area such as Gwynedd, the Council has been proactive, in partnership with the Welsh Government and other partners in attracting investment to the area. Work to attract investments to sites at Trawsfynydd and Llanbedr has maintained momentum over the year, and has a clear focus on attracting a small reactor to Trawsfynydd, and developing an aerospace centre at Llanbedr. There is a programme to develop the Llanbedr airfield site as a centre of British and international importance, and the Council is working with Welsh Government on the facilitation and development of the site as a commercial space-port by the private sector. Substantial lobbying work has also been undertaken to attract public funding to improve access to these sites and to develop the relevant infrastructure.

During the year, we were successful in attracting £1.5million of investment to create a centre of excellence for unmanned aeroplanes. Work of developing these sites will continue during the coming years. It is too early to see the effect of these investments on the residents and businesses of Gwynedd, but the work is setting firm foundations which will attract transformational investments to the area over the next five years, with the potential of creating approximately 200 jobs.

We are continuing to develop a high-value jobs scheme by securing support to attract and develop businesses within sectors which offer high value, namely jobs with a salary of over a third more than the county average. We have worked closely with Welsh Government to sell the potential of Gwynedd to private developers in these sectors, and consequently we have succeeded in creating 35 high-value jobs particularly in the digital sector.

We also continue to attract nationally or internationally high-profile events to Gwynedd in order to take advantage of the economic and social benefit which will ensue. During the year, an investment of £5.9million was made in the economy as a result of these events.



There has been considerable progress during the year with the provision of broadband infrastructure across the county. The Superfast Wales Programme is 83% complete in Gwynedd and 51,839 homes and businesses can now receive superfast broadband. Gwynedd has led the way in Wales via two pilot programmes to develop the way of supporting businesses to make better use of technology to trade. During the year, sessions were trialled with 50 businesses in Gwynedd and over 7,000 businesses have received information about the assistance available to them. During the coming year we will focus on collaborating with the Welsh Government to ensure that the national scheme to support businesses will continue to meet the needs of businesses in Gwynedd.

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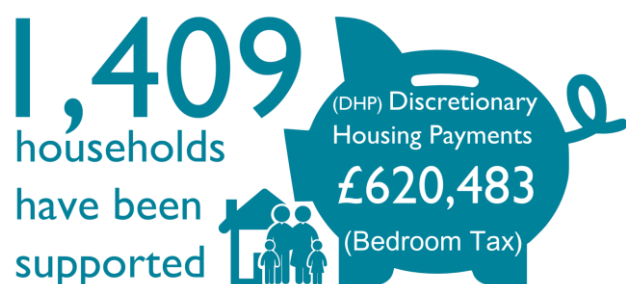
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We have also created a Tackling Poverty Strategy during the year, which focuses on two main spatial poverty priorities namely those communities which suffer mostly in terms of poverty, and population poverty, namely some groups of the population e.g. single-parent households on a low income. We will concentrate on implementing the strategy and on developing specific interventions to target these specific groups during the coming year.

Digital literacy sessions and information technology assistance sessions were arranged for library users across the county.

In addition, a budget of £620,483 was received from Welsh Government in order to make Discretionary Housing Payments during the year, and a Discretionary Housing Policy was created as a result. This funding was used to support 1,409 households to alleviate the effect caused by the Government's range of welfare reforms. An improvement was also seen in the number of days taken to process new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Reductions, from 20 days in 2014/15 to 16 days in 2015/16.



Reviewing our strategy to increase the supply and variety of housing in order to ensure that our housing supply is suitable for the needs of the people of Gwynedd remains a priority. During the year, the affordable housing funding model business plan was approved. It is too soon to see the effect of this work, but in future, it is expected that the work we have in mind will enable more people in Gwynedd to buy affordable houses, and will allow us to provide accommodation to homeless individuals and contribute to the county's older people accommodation needs. The service also values the contribution of the scrutiny members in developing the homelessness service. Their work was an opportunity to challenge, dispel occasional misconceptions and affirm that the service is for Gwynedd people.



The Council procures a large percentage of its goods and services from local businesses which is worth over £64million to the local economy. During the year we have developed internal arrangements which focus on arranging resources to procure goods and services (procurement) within specific fields in order to purchase in a more pioneering and efficient way. The procedure was established for the 'People' category field during the year. We have also been proactive with social benefits clauses in capital construction contracts during the year. When building Ysgol Bro Llifon, it was ensured that 55% of sub-contracts were won by contractors in Gwynedd. Consequently, weeks of work experience were offered to local students, and jobs were created by local contractors.

The Full Council has asked the Cabinet to increase its efforts to keep the benefits local during the coming year and to collaborate with and empower small local companies to compete for tenders.

Ensuring support for vulnerable individuals to go to work or training remains a priority. During the year, we succeeded in attracting £1.5million of European funding to implement a package of interventions to support vulnerable children and adults through the 11-16 TRAC project. Via this scheme, 190 young people received specialist support and relevant learning experiences. In addition, it was seen that the figures for 16-18 year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs) was 1.8%, which corresponds to 24 young people. During the coming period, it is hoped to be able to target 480 vulnerable young people and offer them support in terms of gaining a qualification, receiving training or accessing education and implementing a package of activities which will contribute to reducing our percentage of NEET young people.

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The Welsh Language

Gwynedd has always been a stronghold of the Welsh language and culture, however we have witnessed a gradual decline in the number of Welsh-speakers. According to the 2011 Census, there has been a decline of 846 in the number of Welsh-speakers in Gwynedd, namely -3.5% compared with the 2001 Census.

Many reasons militate against the use of the Welsh language in social situations and in order to try to respond to the situation we have been working with four communities (Porthmadog, Bangor, Dolgellau and Talysarn) in order to promote the use of the Welsh language in those communities. 24 activities have been held with 866 attendees having a positive experience of using the Welsh language. Although feedback suggests that the individuals who have attended the events have had a positive experience through the medium of Welsh, time will tell if this leads to an increase in the use of the language in these communities.



At present there is inconsistency in the provision of bilingual services by public bodies in Gwynedd, which means that it is not always possible for residents to use the Welsh language naturally when communicating with public bodies. Public bodies in Gwynedd have agreed to take part in a project to set consistent and explicit standards regarding the provision of services through the medium of Welsh, however, the work has not proceeded as well as we would have wished and we will be pushing the project further during the coming year.

Over the coming year further work will need to be done to establish what the current situation is within the establishments and take joint action on schemes which will improve the experience of users by offering services naturally through the medium of Welsh without having to ask for it.

In order to address the lack of social use of the Welsh language by children and young people and establish a better understanding of the situation, we have created a picture of the current situation in respect of the use of the Welsh language by young people in Year 7 in all secondary schools in Gwynedd. In addition, a series of sessions to raise awareness and confidence among young people in terms of their social use of the Welsh language have been held in fields such as sports and music.



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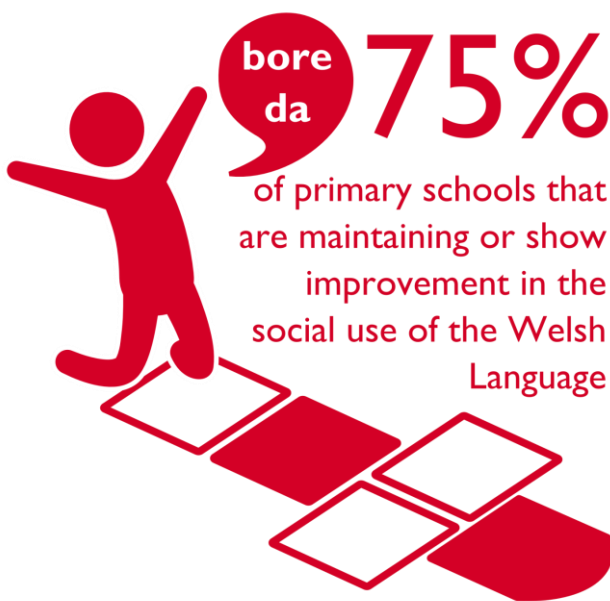
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Following the establishment of a baseline regarding the social use of the Welsh language in primary schools in Gwynedd as part of the Language Charter project and following the implementation programme, it is noted that 75% of primary schools show that the pupils have maintained or shown an increase in the social use of the language. Further work will need to be done over the next year to develop our ability to analyse the use of language by individual pupils.

Although Gwynedd Council is at the forefront of using the Welsh language as a living language, we need to ensure that this happens consistently across all our services. Initial work has been undertaken to assess the situation and we will use this information to close any gaps in our Welsh-language provision.



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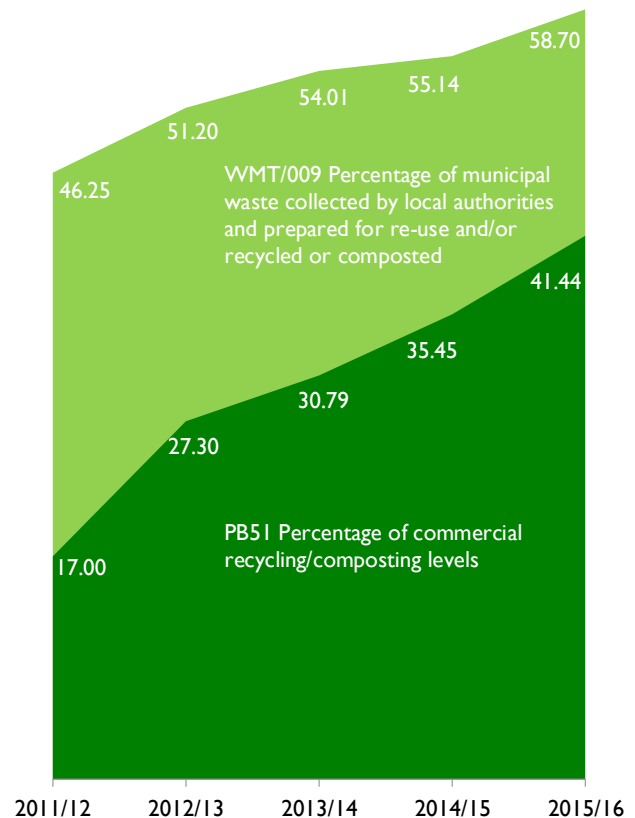
Gwynedd has a natural environment of a high standard and there are several challenges in trying to ensure that we protect that environment but at the same time ensure that we do not hinder the ability of our residents to live and prosper within the county.

For some years now, emphasis has been placed on the need to reduce our dependency on sending waste to landfill by disposing of our waste in a more environmentally-friendly way by increasing composting and recycling levels.

Following the introduction of arrangements to reduce the frequency of residual waste collections (green bin) in the Dwyfor area to every three weeks in 2014/15, we extended these arrangements to the Meirionnydd and Arfon areas in the past year. The commitment of the county's residents and businesses to reducing their over-dependence on the disposal of waste to landfill has played a crucial part in improving our performance and by now 58.70% of waste from Gwynedd homes is reused, recycled or composted. This indicates that we have met the national target of 58% and have shown an increase of over 12% since 2011/12.

Gwynedd businesses have also contributed with commercial reusing, recycling and composting rates having increased almost 6% from 35.45% at the end of 2014/15 to 41.44% in 2015/16.

Yet again, this should be compared with the 17% which happened in 2011/12.



We will continue to implement the Waste Strategy in future, with the intention of reusing, recycling or composting 64% of the waste from our households by 2020.

The cleanliness of our streets is an important issue for the people of Gwynedd and the cleanliness standards of our streets continued to improve, scoring 76.26 out of 100 compared with 71.88 in 2012/13.



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Carbon emissions in Gwynedd have a harmful effect on the local environment as well as contributing towards the climate change effects on a global level. Though the Council's contribution is only very small, it is important that we play our part by reducing our carbon emissions to an appropriate level.

By reducing the use of energy in our buildings, street lighting, upgrading lighting, installing solar panels and reducing business journeys we have succeeded to reduce our carbon footprint by 26.20% since 2005 and have succeeded in delivering accumulative financial savings of over £3.09million since starting to roll-out the scheme. This means that the people of Gwynedd benefit environmentally and financially.



Carbon



During the year, we managed to prepare the Joint Local Development Plan with Anglesey County Council which will set out the framework for planning applications in future. Although a slight slippage is noted in the timetable, we managed to send it for public examination and an Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate will consider the robustness of the plan later in the year.

Our performance in dealing with planning applications remains good, with 82.30% determined within the eight weeks compared with 76.44% last year.

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Effective and Efficient Council

Despite the financial pressures, the Council's objective is to ensure that the resources we have are used to give the biggest benefits to the people of Gwynedd.

Over the past year, work has continued to try to ensure a consistent culture across the Council of placing the people of Gwynedd at the centre by promoting the principles amongst the staff, hold reviews within service units and implement the programme to develop leaders.

Although a culture-shift in a large organisation such as the Council takes time and that it is somewhat premature to measure the effect, initial evidence from some of the reviews shows that the work has resulted in providing a better service in a more effective and efficient way.



We will continue to give attention to placing the people of Gwynedd at the centre of all our efforts in 2016/17 by changing culture, developing leaders and undertaking more reviews within service units.

As part of a project to look at the Council's performance system, service units are now consistently trying to ensure that they measure the things that are important for the people of Gwynedd.

This means that we will focus on improving the performance of these measures in future.

As part of the Engagement project which aims to improve engagement across the Council, the 'Gwynedd Challenge' consultation was undertaken. The consultation was an opportunity for the people of Gwynedd to contribute directly to the work of prioritising services which in turn influenced the cuts approved within the Council's Financial Strategy. Over 2,100 responses were received and though this could be considered a small response for such an important topic, compared with responses to similar consultations within the public sector it was very encouraging.

In addition, a new procedure was established to measure the satisfaction of Gwynedd people with the Council and its services by giving them an opportunity to note what would improve their satisfaction. All Gwynedd citizens will have an opportunity to respond to the survey and express their satisfaction in 2016/17.

Over the past year, attention has been given to improving our arrangements in order to safeguard data and information by holding training sessions and introducing new procedures. It is premature to assess the effect of the work at present, however in due course it is expected that it will lead to strengthening our arrangements further to protect sensitive information.

In the modern age, many people prefer to make contact with services by using technology and they are therefore able to do so at a time convenient for them. We have started a plan to facilitate access for the people of Gwynedd to Council services by using digital media as well as the more traditional ways. Again, it is early days and we would have hoped to have proceeded further with this scheme but we are confident that it will progress over the coming years.

Children

Safeguarding

Care

Economy

Language

Environment

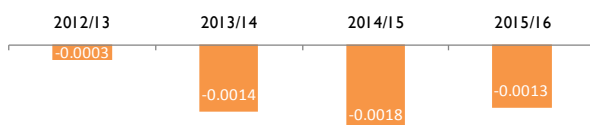
Council

Financial

Financial Planning

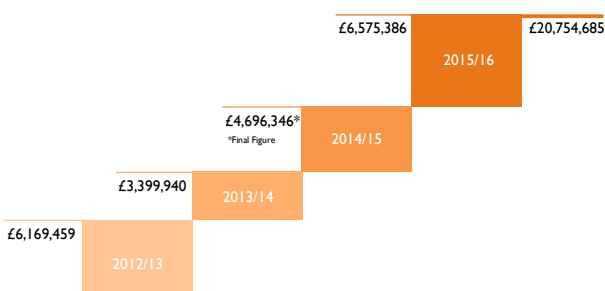
The cuts in funding that the Council receives from the Government mean that we must cope with receiving less money to maintain our services. We identified that the financial deficit over the period of four years up to 2017/18 could be as much as £50million, and consequently we have been looking at ways of ensuring that the effects of the savings on the people of Gwynedd are kept to a minimum and continue to deliver more in those priority fields.

It is therefore crucial that we keep within the budget and over the course of the last year we managed to keep within £304,000 (or -0.0013) of the budget.



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 worth £6.575million over the course of the last year by changing the way we provide services, whilst maintaining or improving the standard of the service for residents at the same time. Further work needs to be done on some schemes in order to ensure that we deliver our plan in accordance with our promises.

Financial Strategy Savings



In addition we have a programme to find and develop further efficiencies which aim to ensure as few service cuts as possible. At present, a range of efficiency schemes are being developed in order to address the target of £7.25million of further efficiencies which has been set as part of the Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2019/20.

Unfortunately, due to the reduction in grant from the Government, we unavoidably have to cut some services. In order to ensure that the people and businesses of Gwynedd have an opportunity to note what their priorities are, we undertook the 'Gwynedd Challenge' consultation and approved a series of cuts worth £4.9million which was based on the response of the public and businesses. We will be moving ahead to implement these cuts in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Another way of ensuring that austerity has the least impact on the people of Gwynedd is by attracting additional funding. As a result of agreeing to deliver a series of results with Welsh Government, and succeeding to reach or exceed the ambition during the year, we received a payment of £1.284million. This contributes to the Council's Financial Strategy.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Children

Safeguarding

Care

Economy

Language

Environment

Council

Financial

Children and Young People

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
Adn28	Percentage of empty places within the schools of the county	28	26	25	Improve	-	-	-
CSP3	Percentage of the progress made by families following the intervention of the Team Around the Family, Gyda'n Gilydd Team	15	30.8	25.3	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment The percentage of progress has reduced, because the nature of the families with which we work has become far more complex and at a higher level in the care continuum. Fewer cases which require early intervention are dealt with; cases that have been a cause for concern for a number of agencies for a number of years are dealt with more.								
DANS08	Percentage of pupils aged 16 who achieve the Level 2 Threshold (5 A* – C Grades) or equivalent	81.55	87.7	88.9	Improve	-	-	-
DGD17	Percentage of young people 16-18 not in education, work or training (NEET)	3	1.7	1.8	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment The Welsh Government's official figures for the NEET group in Gwynedd for 2015 is 1.8%, a total of 24 young people. This is being addressed in the Council's strategic plan.								

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
EDU/008aN	The number of permanent exclusions in primary schools during the academic year	0	0	3	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment For the first time, pupils from Gwynedd primary schools have been permanently excluded. One of the specific projects of the strategy to change the field of Additional Learning Needs is to put new arrangements in place for the behaviour maintenance provision.								
EDU/008bN	The number of pupils permanent excluded in secondary schools during the academic year	4	4	3	Improve	-	-	-
EDU/016a	Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools during the academic year	94.3	95.1	95.0	Worsen	95.0	94.7	Equal
Comment During the 2014/15 academic year, pupil attendance within the primary sector decreased by 0.1% to 95%. Nationally, the figure increased by 0.1% to 94.9%. Attendance in Gwynedd's primary schools fell from the 5th position in 2013/14 to the joint 8th position in Wales. Eight schools were in the lowest quartile for three successive years with these schools are being targeted in order to improve their attendance. 15 schools have succeeded in remaining in the first quartile over three successive years. In 2014/15, 26 schools succeeded in reaching the highest quartile.								
EDU/016b	Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools during the academic year	93.6	94.2	94.6	Improve	93.9	93.5	Better

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
SCC/021	The percentage of looked after children reviews carried out within statutory timescales during the year	94.3	93.8	91	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment The Independent Review Officers have succeeded in holding 599 reviews in 2015/16. From these 544 have been completed within the statutory timetable. By comparing this to 2014/15 where 544 of reviews were undertaken with 510 on time, the officers have succeeded in responding to demand where there was a 10% increase in the number of reviews due during the year. This corresponds with the increase of 7% there has been in the numbers of children looked after since March 2015, with 207 children looked after on 31 March 2016.								
SCC/025	The percentage of statutory visits to looked after children due in the year that took place in accordance with regulations	83.7	89	86.9	Worsen	88.1	88.0	Worse
Comment There is an increase of 14% in the number of statutory reviews that have been undertaken over the last three years with 1852 of reviews were completed in 2015/16 and 1619 were completed in 2013/14. While performance has decreased somewhat in 2015/16, the demand for statutory visits continues to increase. During 2015/16 42% of the children that came into the Councils care were located at home with parents or family. These children are given weekly visits compared to 6 week visits for children in other placements.								
SCC/039	The percentage of health assessments for looked after children due in the year that have been undertaken	35.8	50.6	60	Improve	-	-	-

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
SCC/041b	The percentage of eligible, relevant and former relevant children that have pathway plans as required	100	100	100	Maintain	-	-	-

National Strategic Indicators

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
EDU/002i	The percentage of Pupils in local authority care, in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August that leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.0	0.1	0.2	Worsen	0.2	0.1	Equal

Comment

The number of pupils that leave full-time education without a qualification that do not continue in education or training has increased from 1 to 2 pupils.

EDU/002ii	The percentage of Pupils in local authority care, in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August that leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	6.3	0.0	0.0	Maintain	0.5	0.0	Better
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Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
EDU/003	The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment	86.6	86	89.5	Improve	88.1	89.2	Better
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 Key Stage 3	82.5	81.2	83.2	Improve	17.8	35.3	Better
EDU/011	The average point score for pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the local authority	578	616	617	Improve	539	523	Better
EDU/015 (a)	The percentage of final statements of special educational needs issued within 26 weeks including exceptions	43.1	57.4	42.4	Worsen	68.1	60.4	Worse
Comment The performance of Gwynedd and Anglesey Council continues to be low in the Special Educational Needs area, which is associated with capacity issues in the health service to assess young people in Ysbyty Gwynedd. Following a local strategic review within the Additional Educational Needs field and a legal change on a national level, we foresee a significant change to the existing procedure that will allow us to respond sooner to the needs of pupils within a less bureaucratic regime. The new regime will not be reliant on a prompt response by the health service.								
EDU/015 (b)	The percentage of final statements of special educational needs issued within 26 weeks not excluding exceptions	96.3	100	100	Maintain	94.5	95.7	Better

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	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	58	61.1	63.3	Improve	58.3	59.9	Better
LCS/002b	Number of visits to leisure and sports centres during the year per 1,000 of the population	12906	13790	10278	Worsen	8409	8152	Better
Comment Gwynedd's performance remains good on a national level, even when considering the reduction in the number of visits to leisure centres following the transfer of Harlech swimming pool to the community and Bangor being closed for six months to renovate the centre.								
SCC/002	The 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	22.8	18.7	18.1	Improve	11.9	12.3	Worse
SCC/004	The percentage of children looked after on 31 March who have had three or more placements during the year	4.9	6.2	7.7	Worsen	9.8	9.9	Better
Comment Performance is within the target. 16 children were in at least three locations during the year.								
SCC/011b	The percentage of initial assessments that were completed during the year where there is evidence that the child has been seen alone by the Social Worker	47.2	50.6	59.1	Improve	49.5	60.9	Better

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
SCC/033d	The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact at the age of 19	100	85	80	Worsen	93.2	91.3	Worse
Comment A small cohort in 2015/16 with 20 of young people receiving after-care and having their 19th birthday during the year. Four young people have refused to keep in touch with the service within the specific time even though every effort has been made by social workers.								
SCC/033e	The Percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be in suitable, non-emergency accommodation at the age of 19	86.7	88.2	93.8	Improve	93.5	93.9	Better
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	66.7	52.9	75	Improve	60.7	65.2	Better
SCC/037	The average external qualifications point score for 16 year old looked after children in any local authority maintained learning setting	439	428	456	Improve	269	294.4	Better
SCC/041a	The percentage of eligible, relevant and former relevant children that have pathway plans as required	100	100	100	Maintain	93.5	98.0	Better

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
BUS07	Percentage of all Gwynedd staff will have received training in Level 1 protection and safeguarding	-	-	Corporate arrangements being established	-	-	-	-
Diogelu2	The percentage of risk assessments presented to Case Conferences which were considered to illustrate quality in decision making	95	97	97	Maintain	-	-	-
Diogelu7	Percentage of case conferences where the voice/the child was heard (and excluding children under the age of 7)	81	83	85	Improve	-	-	-
PEN14	Percentage of all staff working directly with children, young people and vulnerable adults with a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check	-	100	100	Maintain	-	-	-

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
OED03	Enablement - Percentage of cases that have received a period of enablement who leave without a care package	54	45	55	Improve	-	-	-
SCA/002b LLEOL	Rate of older people (65 or over) the authority supports in care homes per 1,000 population ages 65 or over at 31 March – excluding self-funders	20.1	18.5	17.1	Improve	-	-	-
National Strategic Indicators								
Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
PSR/002	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant	242	316	271	Improve	241	226	Worse
SCA/001	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 years or over	1.55	1.05	2.38	Worsen	4.87	4.1	Better

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
Comment The rate of delayed transfers from hospital for social care reasons has deteriorated significantly this year - rising from 1.05 in 2014/15 to 2.38. It appears that the delays are more of a problem in relation to Tywyn and Dolgellau Hospitals than anywhere else in the County, i.e. from the 30 cases during the year 16 relate to these hospitals. However, in comparison to the whole of Wales, Gwynedd performance remains good (Gwynedd is the 6th best authority). Based on this initial analysis, 66% of the reasons for delays are as a result of specific home care problems, which is being addressed in the Council's strategic plan.								
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	46.21	45.07	43.10	Improve	64.12	53.6	Worse
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	25.59	24.15	22.69	Improve	18.02	18.1	Worse
SCA/019	The percentage of adult protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed	95.7	100	96.7	Worsen	97	96.3	Worse

Comment

We did not manage to control the risk 100% as we did last year because the remaining 3% rejected intervention or withdrew their application.

Poverty, Deprivation, Economy, Housing

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
CAFF06d	Percentage Council spending with local businesses	40.33	40.42	38	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment From the analysis of Council spending with local businesses, the reduction is mainly related to the fact that providers outside of Gwynedd have succeeded to attain a high percentage of substantial projects in the building field. It can be seen that Wynne Construction (located in Denbighshire) has won the majority of contracts building "21st Century Schools" and the only company from Gwynedd on the procurement framework has pulled out and therefore have excluded themselves from competing for work through the "21st Century Schools" project.								
GD01	Number of communities (geographical/of interest) using technology in a new/pioneering way	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
GD02	Number of individuals have received assistance to go on-line / internet use for personal gain	-	-	141	-	-	-	-
HHA/008	Percentage of homeless referrals decided within 33 working days	-	80.57	Has been deleted nationally	-	-	-	-
PENECON I	Number of new jobs created with the support of the Council	123.5	234.5	81	Worsen	-	-	-

Comment

With a number of the principal programmes which supported job creation (such as the Local Investment Fund) now having come to an end, the number of jobs created with direct assistance from the Council has reduced as expected; despite this, the result of 81 new jobs supported is substantial in the context of the resources currently available.

Poverty, Deprivation, Economy, Housing

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
PENECON 2	Number of businesses supported by the Gwynedd Economic and Community department	92	67	28	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment The number of businesses supported has reduced because various grant packages which had been planned to support businesses have come to an end.								
Strat6	Number of affordable units secured in Gwynedd	70	144	48	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment The performance is significantly lower compared with 2014/15 (48 compared with 144). We diverted money from the Social Housing Grant to develop Hafod y Gest during 2015/16 and the number of units that are reported in 2014/15 includes 42 Cae Garnedd units, which therefore explains the substantial variation from year to year.								
TMGC4	Benefit to the local economy from supporting strategic and high-profile events	£4,666,662	£4,814,867	£5,928,034	Improve	-	-	-
Uchel07	Number of high value jobs that have been created	-	34	35	Improve	-	-	-
YREI	Number of County businesses reporting their use of technology (e.business/e.commerce) as a result of Digital Gwynedd's intervention	-	-	36	-	-	-	-

National Strategic Indicators

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
LCL/001 (b)	The number of visits to Public Libraries during the year, per 1,000 population	5301	4199	4309	Improve	5374	5520.0	Worse
PLA/006 (b)	The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year	41	50	96	Improve	36	34	Better
PSR/004	The percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority	5.24	5.70	5.13	Worsen	11.08	6.8	Worse

Comment

Although there is a slight dip in performance, the service has succeeded in reaching its ambition and has brought 61 empty houses back into use. The service is trying to target and prioritise those empty houses which are located in places where there is demand for social housing.

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
laith05	Percentage of primary schools that can demonstrate increase in the children's social use of Welsh	-	-	75	-	-	-	-
laith13	Percentage of secondary schools that have established a baseline of young people's social use of Welsh Year 7	-	-	100	-	-	-	-
laith14	Percentage of public bodies that have adopted Gwynedd and Anglesey standard definition of a bilingual workplace	-	-	Has been deleted because of a change in direction by the project	-	-	-	-

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
PAM9a	The percentage of food establishments that are in the system, which achieve a score of 4/5 with food hygiene standards	91	93	93	Maintain	-	-	-

National Strategic Indicators

Page 52	Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
STS/006		The percentage of reported fly tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days	97.67	96.53	96.28	Maintain	95.26	95.2	Better
THS/007		The percentage of adults aged 60 or over who hold a concessionary bus pass	84.6	80.3	79.0	Worsen	85.6	77.3	Worse

Comment

The performance has deteriorated 1% since last year, because of a reduction of 148 in the number of adults over 60 years old that hold a bus pass on 1 April.

WMT/004 (b)	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill	45.88	44.09	34.33	Improve	18.14	19.5	Worse
WMT/009(b)	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way	54.01	55.14	58.70	Improve	60.19	64.7	Worse

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
CD6.01	Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days (across the Council)	94	94	93	Worsen	-	-	-
Comment We have looked at the performance of this measure and have understood that the figures of some departments have an effect on the measure's performance. The need to respond to this situation was discussed whilst holding the departments accountable for their performance. As a first step, the Cabinet Member will raise the matter with the rest of the members. We will continue to keep an eye on the situation in order to decide if there needs to be further action.								
CDHR/002	The number of working days/shifts per full-time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence	8.2	8.62	8.44	Improve	10.19	9.96	Better
FfG01	The percentage of work units within the Council who have received a "Ffordd Gwynedd" charter mark	-	-	The charter mark continues to be developed	-	-	-	-
FfG02	Percentage of measures established in pursuing the Putting "Ffordd Gwynedd" Project To Work which shows improvement	-	-	Has been deleted. Not an appropriate measure for the project	-	-	-	-

Ref.	Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend	Wales (2015/16)	Family (2015/16)	Performance against Wales
Arb01	Amount of efficiency savings achieved as a percentage of total savings	95.2	99.0	98.0	Not relevant	-	-	-
CD5.01	Council's actual expenditure in comparison with the budget	-0.0014	-0.0018	-0.0013	Maintain	-	-	-
T3.1	Sum of the savings fulfilled	£3,399,940	£4,696,346	£6,575,386	Not relevant	-	-	-

MEETING	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	6 OCTOBER, 2016
SUBJECT	ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES
PURPOSE	To submit the annual reports of the Scrutiny Committees
AUTHOR	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

1. At this time, every year, we present the annual reports of the scrutiny committees to the full Council.
2. The reports of the individual committees refer to the work that took place during 2015/16 and the chairs during that period will present their individual reports to the Council. The scrutiny work is a vital and important part of the democratic system. These reports are an opportunity to understand and appreciate the work of the scrutineers and to acknowledge the work that takes place.
3. The format of the reports is a little different this year. They note briefly all the items considered during the year but go into greater detail on those areas where the scrutineers gave particular attention and showed added value.
4. I would like to note, in particular, the good work that takes place within the scrutiny investigations. Generally, they are a good example of councillors addressing a particular subject thoroughly and preparing clear and definite recommendations for Cabinet Members to consider.
5. Members will know that there is a project at the moment looking at our scrutiny arrangements in order to prepare for the new Council in May, 2017. It will be vital that any new model builds on strengths such as the investigations and also addresses any weaknesses in the current arrangements. We will be discussing the development of the scrutiny model with all the members over the coming months.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT GWYNEDD COUNCIL 2015/16



A. Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Chairman Councillor Dyfrig Jones

Vice-chairman Councillor Jason Humphreys

Terms of Reference

- Corporate Strategy
- Partnerships
- Engagement
- Business Transformation
- Service Efficiency
- Services for Tomorrow
- Outcome Agreement
- Workforce
- Customer Care
- Audit Committee issues can be called in.

During the year, two Scrutiny Investigations (Holiday Homes and Taxes and Gwynedd Challenge Engagement) were held and nine other items were formally scrutinised. They are as follows:-

- Procurement Strategy 2014/15
- Ffordd Gwynedd Strategy
- Gwynedd Council Procurement Strategy - Category Management and Keeping the Benefit Local
- Supporting and Assisting the Workforce
- Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill
- Gwynedd Strategic Equality Plan 2016-20
- Information Technology Strategy
- The Council's Complaints Procedure
- The benefits to Gwynedd from retaining the business rates

Further details of the work and recommendations of both Investigations will be provided along with some of the main issues that received attention at the Committee during the year:-

1. Scrutiny Investigations

Work was undertaken on two Scrutiny Investigations during the year as noted below. However, the investigations did not report to committee until June 2016, which is outside the reporting year. Below is an outline of the investigations, and the final reports can be seen on the Council's website.

CO 1 Holiday Homes and Taxes Investigation

Scrutiny undertaken

The Scrutiny Investigation was established in response to a request by the Cabinet Member for Resources to look at the situation of other councils in the context of transfers from the Council Tax system to the Non-domestic Rates system and to find practical solutions in order to deal with the situation in Gwynedd and prevent or decelerate any inappropriate transfer.

In order to be able to come to a conclusion, the purpose of the investigation was to:

- a) Understand the situation in Gwynedd and its impact
- B) Understand the role and responsibilities of the Valuation Office and scrutinise them
- c) Understand and scrutinise the role of Welsh Government
- ch) Research the situation in other councils, including England, to see whether or not the same problems exist and to see whether any lessons can be learned from them.

Recommendations by the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Peredur Jenkins, Cabinet Member for Resources

See report presented to Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 16th June 2016.

Anticipated Impact

Though the report was not officially submitted to the Committee until June 2016, which, technically, is outside the period of this report, the Cabinet Member accepted each one of the recommendations. In addition, the work has led to further work which will be reported upon to the Committee in October 2016 regarding the implications of setting a premium on the Council Tax.

CO2 Gwynedd Challenge Engagement Investigation

Scrutiny undertaken

It was decided to identify a specific piece of engagement work, and scrutinise that to see if there were lessons to be learned to enable the Council to do better next time, or share lessons of good practice across the Council in its entirety.

This time, it was decided to undertake the work in a different way, and the Scrutinisers worked with the Engagement Group as it was taking stock of the Gwynedd Challenge exercise to see what lessons could be learned regarding the Council's engagement arrangement more generally. There was an open and very honest discussion about the Gwynedd Challenge exercise.

Recommendations by the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Cabinet Member for the field of Engagement.

See report presented to Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 16th June 2016.

Anticipated Impact

Though the report was not officially submitted to the Committee until June 2016, which, technically, is outside the period of this report, the Cabinet Member accepted each one of the recommendations. A clear commitment was given to adapt for future engagement work and this is still on the agenda of the Engagement Group. In addition, the work has led to further work by the scrutinisers to look at the simplicity of language when doing engagement work.

2. Work of the Committee

Some of the main issues that received attention at the formal scrutiny committees during the year are noted below.

PCC1. GWYNEDD COUNCIL PROCUREMENT STRATEGY: CATEGORY MANAGEMENT AND KEEPING THE BENEFIT LOCAL

Scrutiny undertaken

The Scrutiny Committee has looked at the procurement field several times in recent years and an investigation into the Council's procurement arrangements has been carried out. As a result of that investigation, 'category management' arrangements were introduced in the Council.

Recommendations

A report by the Cabinet Member for Economy (Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies) was considered on developments to date with the introduction of category managements as a new procurement system in the Council, including any lessons learned from the experiences of the Care field to date. The keeping the benefits local element when procuring was also considered and which steps were being taken to encourage local businesses to develop.

The Committee resolved:-

- There is no evidence to date whether the category management arrangements work better than the previous procedure. Progress on the procurement strategy should be monitored by this committee in 6 months' time, and regularly thereafter.
- Noting concern regarding the impact of any possible cuts on departments' ability. Noting concern especially regarding the Economy and Community Department, to drive the local element and the impact of that on the county's economic success more generally.
- That the strategy should be rooted in Ffordd Gwynedd principles by consistently listening to the messages that come back from the local sector and adapting the strategy accordingly.
- That there was a need to secure support to promoting and creating opportunities for local businesses, social enterprises, etc., to develop businesses by identifying the gaps in the market, including encouraging individuals to establish new businesses.
- That the message should be spread across the Council, so that everyone knows about and understands clearly what the new procedure is.

Anticipated Impact

Improving the Council's procurement arrangements, with a focus on keeping the benefits local to Gwynedd and north Wales. There is a need to continue to monitor this field.

PCC2. DRAFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

Scrutiny undertaken

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Council's draft Information Technology Strategy and offered constructive observations on how to improve it before the Strategy was submitted to Cabinet for approval. Value for money and efficiency were considered, together with costs and customer satisfaction.

Recommendations

The draft Strategy was considered and observations were submitted to the Department to strengthen the Strategy by referring to e.g. the success of the previous strategy and using it as a basis for the new strategy. Also, the need for the Strategy to be flexible and driven by customer demands was noted.

Anticipated Impact

The draft strategy was amended prior to being submitted to the Cabinet which has now approved it. The Strategy will be a basis to introducing information technology to meet the needs of users over the coming years.

PCC3. THE BENEFITS TO GWYNEDD FROM RETAINING THE BUSINESS RATES.

Scrutiny undertaken

During a discussion regarding business rates at the Full Council in October 2015, a member drew the Council's attention to the fact that the central Government in England had decided that local councils in England would get to keep all of the business rates for it to be re-invested locally. It was explained that this was not the situation in Wales.

The report of the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Peredur Jenkins), the Head of Finance Department and the Senior Manager - Revenue and Risk was considered, which outlined the likely situation for Gwynedd should Welsh Government set the same conditions in Wales. The purpose of this scrutiny was to discover whether the same system in Wales would likely lead to benefits, losses, opportunities or hazards for Gwynedd. Following the work, a decision could be made regarding whether the Council would contact Welsh Government.

Recommendations

The Committee recommended that we should not write to Welsh Government at present to request the same terms in Wales. Should more details come to light regarding similar developments in Wales, further scrutiny work could be undertaken on the matter at that time.

Anticipated Impact

Clarity following the scrutiny that no further action was needed.

B. Communities Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor Angela Russell

Vice-chair Councillor Caerwyn Roberts

Terms of Reference

- Economy and Regeneration
- Green Gwynedd
- Environment
- Transport Network and Community Transport
- Empowering Communities
- Waste
- Housing
- Carbon Footprint Reduction
- Unitary Development Plan

During the year, two Scrutiny Investigations (Homelessness and Street Enforcement) and 13 items were formally scrutinised. They were as follows:-

- Accountability of the Fire Authority - Challenging Council representatives on the Authority
- Food Hygiene - Scrutinising progress on the report by the external auditors
- Street Light Efficiency Savings - Scrutinising the intention to introduce new arrangements
- Street Enforcement - Consider the need for a Scrutiny Investigation (see below)
- Scrutiny Investigation - The Planning System (Agreeing the brief for a future Investigation)
- Homelessness Scrutiny Investigation (See below)
- Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd - Scrutinising progress of the work of CCG against the pledges of the Transfer Agreement
- The Welsh Language and the Planning System - Considering the adequacy of the consideration given to the Welsh Language in the Planning System
- Post-16 Education Transport - Scrutinising progress on the recommendations of the Scrutiny Investigation
- Section 106 Agreements - Drawing up proposals to make better use of these Agreements
- Residual Waste and Recycling - Scrutinising the new collection arrangements
- Non-statutory Pest Services Efficiency Saving - Scrutinising proposals for implementing changes to the Pest Services
- The Refugee Crisis - Challenging the willingness of the Council to respond to the crisis

Further details of the work and recommendations of the two active Scrutiny Investigations are noted along with some of the main issues that received attention at the Committee during the year:-

1. Scrutiny Investigations

Work was undertaken on two Scrutiny Investigations during the year:

CY1 Homelessness Scrutiny Investigation
<u>Scrutiny undertaken</u>
The Scrutiny Investigation was set up to work on a brief agreed with the Cabinet Member for

Housing to consider the following questions:-

- What is the provision pattern of the Authority and its partners in its entirety for homeless people in Gwynedd?
- How suitable is the provision of the Authority and its partners for homeless people; - Families – Women – Young people – Single men?
- Does the provision for homeless people meet the user's needs?
- How accessible are the provisions to the user and is there easy access to other key services?
- Is the provision for homeless people cost-effective and sustainable?
- Is the current provision sufficient to meet the likely increase in the number of homeless people as a result of the current recession and welfare reform?
- What is the partners' role in providing for homeless people?
- Is consideration given to the location of the provision, i.e. suitability of hostels on the basis of services available?
- Is consideration given to the backgrounds of individuals staying there?
- What is the introduction process?
- Does the provision respond to local homelessness?

Recommendations by the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Customer Care.

The Investigation submitted the following recommendations to the Cabinet Member with a note as to whether the Cabinet Member agreed to those recommendations or not:-

1. <u>Changes to the Welfare System</u> - the Senior Housing Manager to lead on:- a. Ensuring publicity for the likely impact of the changes and support available. b. Encouraging use of the Universal Credit System to protect rent payments	√ √
2. <u>Mediation Services</u> - the Preventative Services Group and the Young People Accommodation Group to map the services / referral process for service, with a view to drawing up proposals to improve the provision	√
3. <u>Housing Service Structure</u> - - the Strategic Housing Unit to collect information about the structures of other Councils with a view to drawing up proposals to rationalise and simplify	√
4. <u>Council Forms and Documents</u> - the Housing Options Team to re-examine its forms and simplify them.	√
5. <u>Establishing a Single Referral Point</u> - the Strategic Housing Unit, the Gwynedd Homelessness Forum and the Supporting People Forum to collect information about other authorities' arrangements in search of good practices in terms of establishing a single Referral Point for services	√
6. <u>Customer Care at the Offices</u> - the Senior Housing Manager to lead on the work of:- a. improving the property used by the Homelessness Team at the Penrallt Office when interviewing individuals b. ensuring a face-to-face interview with the Housing Options Team in addition to the existing telephone arrangement	√ √
7. <u>Information about available Properties</u> - the Senior Housing Manager to lead on:- a. setting up a database of available properties that could be referred to immediately or at least an up-to-date list of properties that could be made	√

available by private landlords in order to question them further b. having access to a computer in the interview room in order to look with the applicant immediately	√
8. <u>Developing the Private Sector</u> - the Homelessness and Supply and Enforcement Teams to:- a. recommence meetings with private landlords b. develop a Gold / Silver / Bronze Scheme for landlords to receive tenants	√ √
9. <u>Improving the range of properties</u> - the Housing Service to:- a. encourage landlords to adapt properties that are difficult to let in order to make them more suitable for the need and make use of available properties (e.g. student properties in Bangor) b. hold meetings as soon as possible between the Department and Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd to discuss the reasons for the figure and collaborate to find creative solutions to that problem c. continue to target the work of the Empty Homes Team to meet the needs of homeless cohorts	√ √ √
10. <u>Provision for 25+ year old people</u> - the Homelessness and Housing Options Teams to collaborate with the Private Sector to try to increase the supply for single 25+ year old men	√
11. <u>Emergency Accommodation for young people</u> a) the Preventative Services Group and the Young People Accommodation Group to investigate the possibility of extending the 'Night Stop / Crash Pad' provision in the county b) the Housing Service to hold a specific discussion with Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd about the use of its stock for homelessness purposes	√ √
12. <u>Storage for Personal Belongings</u> - the Homelessness Team to investigate the possibility and create a business case to attract further funding for such provision and investigate the possibility of using the Council's existing resources for storage	√
13. <u>The Council's Provision of Hostels</u> - the Senior Housing Manager and the Homelessness Team to seek resources to deal with the accessibility and facilities issues that could, in the case of Corris, lead to a search for a different location	√
14. <u>Hostel Fees</u> - the Supporting People and Homelessness Teams to investigate the rents set by agencies / the Council	√
15. <u>Hostels of the Council and Local Communities</u> - the Senior Housing Manager to make arrangements for local councillors to visit the organisations	√
16. <u>'Hub' Provision</u> - the Preventative Services Group and the Young People Accommodation Service, jointly with Economy, to discuss the possibility of developing a business case to establish such provision with a Registered Social Landlord as a partner	√

Anticipated Impact

The Cabinet Member agreed to each of the recommendations. In May 2016, which is technically outside the time frame of this report, it was reported back to the committee that action had been taken on each of the recommendations but that at the time recommendations 10, 11 and 16 had not been completed.

CY2 Street Enforcement Scrutiny Investigation

Scrutiny undertaken

The Scrutiny Investigation was set up to work on a brief agreed with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal to come to an understanding about:-

- The expectations and statutory requirements associated with the service
- The current performance of enforcement outputs
- The level of resources available for enforcement and to try to answer these questions:-
 - Other possibilities that are available to assist with enforcement e.g. police
 - What other possibilities are available in terms of using a specialist company/ies to issue fixed penalty notices (as is in operation in Conwy and Denbighshire)

Furthermore, during the year, following the Her Gwynedd process, the full Council decided that the Street Enforcement Unit was to lose resources as part of the Council Cuts Package. The Investigation was thus requested to help the Service respond to that challenge.

Recommendations by the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Housing

The Investigation was not completed during the year. Recommendations will be presented to the Cabinet Member in September 2016

Anticipated Impact

As the recommendations have not yet been submitted to the Cabinet Member, the anticipated impact of the Investigation will be included in the report for 2016/17.

In addition, the Committee is reviewing the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Post-16 Education Transport Scrutiny Investigation completed in 2014/15.

Although the Committee has welcomed the progress on some of the recommendations, it was a source of great frustration for the Committee that action on the main elements of reconciling and improving the provision for students had not be completed in time for the start of the 2016/17 educational year.

2. Work of the Committee

Some of the main issues that received attention at the formal scrutiny committees during the year are noted below.

CP1. Arrangements for the Collection of Residual Waste and Recycling

Scrutiny undertaken

The Scrutiny Committee discussed this for the second time since the Cabinet came to its decision about the three-weekly arrangements for residual waste collection as part of the Council's waste and recycling strategy.

This time, it was scrutinised following the introduction of new arrangements in Meirionnydd, the second area in the county to see the introduction of the new arrangements.

Recommendations

A report on implementing the arrangements was received which noted that performance figures for the county were at 58.52% at the end of November 2015 against a target of 58% by March 2016. It noted that these figures followed the introduction of the new arrangements in Dwyfor and Meirionnydd and that these changes were on target to achieve annual savings of £350,00 for the Council (in addition to the non-payment of fines). Thus, the committee decided:-

a) that it was pleased to see an increase in waste collection and recycling arrangements and that it was keen to note its appreciation of the hard work of staff, especially during severe weather

b) that the committee saw the need to address some matters as the work was progressing:

- the Cabinet Member would need to continue to put pressure on the Government to do something about reducing the packaging material of goods
- information should be shared with Members generally about developments to 'wash and squash' in order to improve the cleanliness of materials collected;
- the Members hoped to see a further improvement in the tidiness when collecting, and were confident that the new machines would facilitate this
- creative solutions to the challenges of collecting in populated areas through developing community bins should continue to be sought
- a further increase in the engagement and dialogue with residents in order to further improve recycling should be ensured.
- on-street recycling arrangements needed to progress with an emphasis on having simple and easy to read messages for the public on those arrangements

Anticipated Impact

Further improvement in the Council's waste collection arrangements, improvement in recycling rates and a reduction in costs whilst addressing the practical concerns which arise in communities from implementing the new collection arrangements.

CP2. Food Safety Act – Report by the Food Standards Agency

Scrutiny undertaken

Revisited the Council response to a critical report by the Food Standards Agency about aspects of the Council's arrangements that were not in line with the requirements of the Food Safety Act.

After scrutinising the department's initial response and challenging an officer from the Food Standards Agency about the adequacy of the Council's response, the Cabinet Member and the Department were called back before the committee to see whether the early signs of improvement were being upheld.

Recommendations

The committee welcomed the fact that the Unit had since eliminated the formal non-compliances identified during the audit and the team was congratulated on its work of ensuring that the department's internal arrangements complied with the recommendations of the Public

Enquiry into the cases of E-coli 0157 in South Wales in September 2005, and that all goals had been reached.

Anticipated Impact

Confirmation of the continued improvement seen in response to the report is expected. It is also expected that no reports criticising aspects of the Council's arrangements will again be received.

CP3. Non-statutory Pest Control Services

Scrutiny undertaken

Scrutinising the commitment of the Service to implement efficiency savings in the field of Pest Control as part of the Council's Savings Strategy. The various options on offer to the Service to implement the savings were challenged.

Recommendations

The Department was asked to return to the committee in 6 months with options for a new fee structure and realistic income targets for the pest control services to become self sufficient.

Anticipated Impact

The report on amended options for meeting the savings challenge by making the service self sufficient is expected in 2016/17 (June 2016)

CP4. Street Lighting Efficiency Saving

Scrutiny undertaken

A report by the Cabinet Member (Highways and Municipal) stating the Service's intention to respond to recent developments in lighting technology was considered. This would eliminate the need to change lamps every 3 years, thus saving £97,000 per year in street lighting maintenance costs and reducing energy costs and carbon emissions.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee was satisfied with the saving and with the fact that it improved the experience for Gwynedd residents on condition:

- a) that the Department monitored the level of output from the lights regarding public safety.
- b) that discussions are held with Community Councils about partially turning off lights if necessary

Anticipated Impact

Implement efficiency saving which saves £97,000 per year in maintenance costs and reduces energy costs and carbon emissions.

C. Services Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor Peter Read
Vice-chair Councillor Beth Lawton

Terms of Reference

- Older People and Adults
- Families
- Children and Young People
- Education
- Health

Three Scrutiny Investigations were held during the year (Welsh-medium Education, From Hospital to Home (Part 2) and Alltwen) and 22 items were formally scrutinised. They are as follows:-

- The Future Vision and Direction of Adults Services
- Changes in the Learning Disabilities Services
- Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Strategic Review - Update
- From Hospital to Home Scrutiny Investigation Part 2 - Final Report
- Trac Scheme
- Leadership Conditions and Alternative Models (Schools)
- Welsh-medium Education Scrutiny Investigation - Final Report
- Education Support Services Scrutiny Investigation - Agree on the Brief
- Social Services Annual Complaints Report 2014-15
- End to End Adults
- Care Challenge Project
- Performance Evaluation Report 2014-15 Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)
- Report of the Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults
- Enabling within the New Work Arrangements of Social Services
- Quality of Education Project Progress Report
- Changes in the Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Services
- Older People Accommodation Strategy
- Care Field Performance Overview - Quarter 2 2015-16
- Work Programme deriving from CSSIW Performance Evaluation Report 2014-15
- Election of Scrutiny Member to the Corporate Parent Panel
- Annual Report of the Education Service
- Progress Tracking Report on Recommendations of the From Hospital to Home Scrutiny Investigation Part 2

Further details of the work and recommendations of both Investigations will be provided along with some of the main issues that received attention in the Committee during the year:-

1. Scrutiny Investigations

Work was undertaken on three Scrutiny Investigations during the year:

1a From Hospital to Home Scrutiny Investigation (Part 2)

Scrutiny undertaken

The Scrutiny Investigation was established to work on an agreed brief with the Cabinet Member for Care and Chairman of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in terms of transferring clients from hospital to the home

The aim of the Investigation was to consider the following matters:

- The suitability and effectiveness of discharge arrangements in terms of ensuring the best outcomes for older patients, by identifying and highlighting good practice and fields in need of improvement.
- The suitability and effectiveness of collaboration arrangements between the Local Health Board and the Council in terms of assessing, planning and providing integrated and appropriate care for older patients who are discharged from hospital.
- The role of Third Sector organisations in terms of supporting older patients to return home or to live in the community.
- Identify examples of good practice from other areas and highlight the ones that could be adopted and put into practice in Gwynedd/North Wales.
- Draw up a series of improvement recommendations to be submitted to the Local Health Board, Gwynedd Council and Third Sector organisations to respond to the investigation's main findings and outcomes.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Gareth Roberts, Cabinet Member for Care, Gwynedd Council and Mr Peter Higson, Chairman of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Recommendations can be seen below with ✓ noting that the recommendation has been accepted

1 Support the Third Sector to co-ordinate preventative and support services in the community and ensure that they have adequate resources to satisfy this and to increase the front-line workers' knowledge and awareness of Third Sector services.	✓ ✓
2 Assess the success of the Intermediate Care Project and ensure follow-up following the end of the grant to deal with any shortcomings which remain in terms of maintaining the service of the hospital discharge teams and the community teams in full at weekends.	✓
3 Collaborate with Hywel Dda Health Board to agree on an arrangement with the Ysbyty Bronglais Discharge Team to discharge patients to South Meirionnydd.	✓
4 Address some of the weaknesses of the patient transfer arrangements giving due focus where necessary to drawing up a new Care Plan soon after the patient arrives at Hospital.	✓
5 It has been given to understand that work is underway to improve the situation regarding the shortage of doctors and nurses and that the schemes need to be communicated clearly giving special attention to Dwyfor and Meirionnydd.	✓
6 Review the Discharge Protocol by consulting with key stakeholders including	

the patients and the public in line with the Language Policies of Gwynedd Council and the Health Board.	√
7 Assess the success of the work that is underway on Lean/Vanguard at Ysbyty Alltwen to address the current bureaucratic arrangements to free staff's time to deal with their main duties of providing care and nursing.	√

Anticipated Impact

The Cabinet Member accepted each of the recommendations.

Members of the Investigation were reconvened in January and February to interview front line Officers, to discover whether or not the recommendations had been implemented. Also in March 2016, the Cabinet Member and Chairman of the Health Board reported back to the scrutiny committee.

The assessment showed that some action had been undertaken on all recommendations and that Recommendation 6 had been fully achieved.

It was resolved that Recommendation 6 did not require further tracking and that achieving the remaining recommendations would be discussed at informal meetings and at the Annual Scrutiny Workshop and that any matter could be called back to be scrutinised if required.

1b Welsh-medium Education Scrutiny Investigation

Scrutiny undertaken

The Welsh-medium Education Scrutiny Investigation was established by the Services Scrutiny Committee in order to assess:

- how the Authority's Language Policy is being implemented at grass roots level in individual schools,
- the extent to which the provision assists in promoting the social use of Welsh by children and young people.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Education

Recommendations can be seen below with ✓ noting that the recommendation has been accepted

Recommendations	
1. To strengthen and standardize the Council's (Education) Language Policy, the Council should define what bilingual learning is and collaborate with schools and teacher training establishments to establish a strong bilingual pedagogy which is appropriate for all the Authority's schools and pupils and to foster translanguaging skills amongst staff.	✓
2. In order to strengthen and standardize the Council's (Education) Language Policy, there is a need to clearly define the linguistic nature of all Gwynedd secondary schools so that it is clear to all stakeholders what is the linguistic nature of schools holding the schools and Governors accountable for its implementation.	✓
3. To try to increase the number of pupils who are fostering proficiency skills in both Welsh and English, the Council should collaborate with schools to amalgamate the policy to develop proficient bilingual skills with the implementation of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework.	✓
4. It should be ensured that English exam results are as good as the Welsh exam results as this in turn will ensure the success of the Language Policy.	✓
5. To maintain and develop pupils' Welsh language skills in accordance with the Language Policy, Ysgol Friars should, with Council support, identify opportunities to make further progress in the use of the Welsh language across the curriculum and life of the school.	✓
6. Ensure that Governors of every school in Gwynedd receive training on the Language Policy's requirements.	✓
7. To strengthen the Welsh language environment of some schools, the Council should ensure support for teachers, assistants and ancillary staff to learn Welsh, understand the requirements of the Welsh Language Charter and receive Language Awareness training.	✓
8. To standardize the Council's (Education) Language Policy across the county, there is a need to ensure that all Gwynedd schools adhere to the Policy holding the schools and Governors accountable for its implementation.	✓
9. To try to increase the number of pupils who are fostering proficient skills in both English and Welsh, the Council should collaborate with schools to	✓

establish the practice of every subject teacher in the primary and secondary sectors monitoring and reporting on the development of every pupil's Welsh and English skills in progress reports and discussing their development with pupils and their parents during parent evenings.		
10. Ensure a robust linguistic progression between KS2, KS3, KS4 and KS5 by implementing consistent and appropriate monitoring methods which would also track language medium across the curriculum. (Recommendation of ESTYN Report November 2014: "track the percentages per school of key stage 4 pupils who follow courses through the medium of Welsh and set targets to increase this according to the objectives of their Welsh medium education strategy".	√	
11. Clarity and consistency should be ensured in the schools' bilingual teaching methods and foster translanguaging skills among staff, and define clearly what bilingual learning is and provide details on: i.) how much Welsh and English should be used to teach ii.) language used by pupils to write in bilingual lessons iii.) what are the expectations in terms of using Welsh/English in classroom conversations and discussions.	√	
12. Ensure that: i) the Language Charter is used in every primary school in Gwynedd ii) good practices are shared between schools on implementing the Language Charter and supporting and encouraging pupils' use of Welsh in a constructive manner iii) there are better opportunities for pupils to use the internet through the medium of Welsh to support one of the Language Charter's objectives. Schools should make more extensive use of Welsh websites and on-line materials and resources. Schools should be supported to achieve this where appropriate.	√	
13. Some of the Scrutiny Investigation's findings appear in the Trywydd report and it is recommended that the Council and the Schools act on the recommendations in the report.	√	
14. Schools should include the pupils in discussions on: i.) the Language Policy ii.) the Language Charter iii.) language practices of the school and ensure their ownership of the policy. Every school should ensure that there are opportunities for pupils to understand and discuss the advantages of bilingualism, multilingualism and recognition of the Welsh language.	√	
15. In order to keep hold of students who apply for a second degree in Wales, the Services Scrutiny Committee should lobby the Welsh Government to provide a grant for the second degree as well, as is the case in England.	√	
16. The advantages of bilingualism should be promoted and marketed in collaboration with every school across the county, with schools also marketing those advantages on their website, among parents and pupils.	√	
17. The Council should celebrate the successes of the county's schools and pupils (that test results in Welsh and English are as good as each other) and ensure	√	

that all schools raise awareness of those successes on the school website.	
18. To support pupils from non-Welsh homes to support the Welsh language, schools and the Council should develop methods (such as Language Awareness sessions, chats with prospective pupils/parents, etc.), to establish attitudes which puts a value on the Welsh language and bilingualism. It should be ensured that existing good practices are shared.	✓
19. To strengthen the Welsh language environment of the schools, the Council should strengthen the procedure of establishing the language requirements of posts in schools when appointing new staff.	✓
20. It should be ensured that every school make full use of the Language Centres, ensuring every school's accountability for implementing the after-care packages.	✓
21. The Council should consider establishing a Language Centre for Bangor in order to support the implementation and achievement of the Language Policy.	✓
22. Ensuring that good practices are shared between the Language Centres and the schools.	✓
23. The Council should consider establishing a specific provision of immersion education for Ysgol Ardudwy (and schools located in similar demographic catchment areas) in order to support the implementation and achievement of the Language Policy.	✓
24. The Council should discuss the possibility with Bangor University of setting a specific standard to develop skills in Welsh and a standard to develop bilingual skills for prospective teachers as part of the standards for a Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).	✓
<p><u>Anticipated Impact</u></p> <p>The Cabinet Member accepted each of the recommendations.</p> <p>The Recommendations have not been tracked thus far.</p>	

In addition to this, an Investigation into the work of Ffordd Gwynedd in Ysbyty Alltwen was established. The Report is expected to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee in November 2016.

2. Work of the Committee

Some of the main issues that received attention in the formal scrutiny committee meetings during the year are noted below.

2a Older People Accommodation Strategy
<p><u>Scrutiny undertaken</u></p> <p>The Scrutiny Members welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise this key Strategy in advance in order to submit observations to the Cabinet Member for Care before a decision was made by the Cabinet.</p>
<p><u>Recommendations</u></p>

The Cabinet Member was asked to provide evidence and to address the following points:

- That the Council and its Partners were clear regarding the vision for older people's accommodation.
- That the Council and its Partners collaborated effectively to realise savings.
- What was the estimated cost of achieving the strategy?
- Were the resources available?
- Was there a risk that the cost for some services for some users would be beyond their means?
- What input would older people have into the strategy?
- Did the Strategic Plan, the Community Strategy and the Local Development Plan include projections for accommodation requirements of different groups of older people?
- Was the relationship between the Accommodation Strategy and the Commissioning Plans clear?
- What were the opinions of key stakeholders about the draft Strategy - vulnerable older people, third sector providers, private sector companies and public organisations?
- How has the Older People Commissioning Plan and data from the Market Position Statement contributed towards the Strategy?
- There was a stock of old housing in some areas and therefore it was impossible to provide hospital beds in the houses due to the specified size of a hospital bed and the need to consider different options in these areas.
- That additional financial recognition was required for some areas to address the growth in the number of older people who have retired there and the cost of providing services for them.

Anticipated Impact

Ensure that the Strategy was as comprehensive as possible in order to influence effectively and appropriately on medium-term and long-term plans in Gwynedd in terms of accommodation requirements.

2b Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

Scrutiny undertaken

The Council undertakes a survey of the Additional Learning Needs field with the aim of improving provision across the County and to realise a saving of £808,466.

Scrutiny Members were given an opportunity to consider the draft Strategy which is one of the Council's fundamental cornerstones to transform services provided for the County's vulnerable children and young people.

Recommendations

The Cabinet Member was asked to address the following points:

- Offer the same level of certainty to pupils and parents as is available under the current system.

- The need to address less severe needs and to do so at an early stage.
- The risk that schools would fail to adequately cope with additional pressures due to the strategy's emphasis on the schools doing more especially in smaller schools.
- The risk that the comparably lower attainment level of some pupils with additional learning needs would lead to reluctance from schools to include them.
- How will you measure the children's progress and what impact does the new provision and strategy have on the child?
- Financial concerns due to the likely costs of extending the provision to young people up to the age of 25; and additional costs of maintaining services in areas
- Ensure that suitable arrangements are in place until the new strategy has become operational.
- Ensure consistency in provision in the primary sector and robust collaboration with the secondary sector when transferring.
- Will you provide training to support the role of school Governors?

Anticipated Impact

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the service and provide a new and modern Special School for children and young people with additional learning needs within the County.

2c. Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Scrutiny undertaken

The safeguarding field is one of the Council's main responsibilities, and is one of the Strategic Plan's main priorities.

Consideration was given to a report by the Statutory Director on the Panel's work during 2014-15 and how the Panel responded to observations by external Inspectors. An outline of the Panel's work for 2015-16 was also provided.

Recommendations

- Can you show how the Panel makes a difference to individuals?
- Will you provide us with details about the number of whistle blowing cases that occurred?
- Does the fact that you are adding a policy for anti-cyber bullying suggest that this is a major problem in the County?
- Do the collaboration arrangements with schools work well?
- When will the Child Safeguarding Officer commence in his/her post?
- Updates were requested for members so that it would be possible to keep an eye on concerns raised by external Inspectors about the Plas y Bryn residential home in Bontnewydd.
- Concern was expressed that there was no specific reference to individuals with learning disabilities.

Anticipated Impact

Scrutiny Members publicly challenging the Panel's work is a way to ensure accountability for the maintenance of effective arrangements and the robustness and suitability of those

arrangements for the benefit of the County's vulnerable people.

2ch Enabling within New Work Arrangements

Scrutiny undertaken

A proactive session was held with Scrutiny Members to assess the value of the new enabling arrangements on a joint basis with the Health Board which are being held in the Eifionydd area. During the session, a number of suggestions were made by Members and they are noted below as recommendations.

Recommendations

- That some individuals required more care from some officers (e.g. community nurse, therapist, social worker) and there was a need to allow the officer who had the most contact with the patient or user to lead on a process of assessing needs.
- There was a need to measure how the new work arrangements lightened the burden on families.
- If the user felt better, no further assessment should be required, the person's word that he/she feels better and that he/she does not need the support to continue should be accepted.
- There was a need to target support for people who genuinely needed it.
- Welcomed the plan but that it was extremely important that there were clear indicators to measure what difference the plan made for individuals.
- It was noted that it was not the Scrutiny Committee's responsibility to consider the cost of the plan, it was strongly suggested that the Audit Committee should undertake detailed work to measure the cost of the new service alongside any increase or reduction in the costs of maintaining other services that were affected by the new arrangements.
- There must be clarity regarding when individuals reached their objectives.
- The need to extend the plan to Meirionnydd areas and the rest of Dwyfor and to be available 7 days a week.
- The need to inform officers of the need to put the individual first.

Anticipated Impact

Planning and providing joint health and care services that place the individual at the centre.

Agenda Item 11

Meeting	Full Council
Date	6 October 2016
Title	Standards Committee Annual Report 2015-16
Purpose	To present the Standards Committee's Annual Report to the Member of the Council
Author	Dr Einir Young, Chair of the Standards Committee
Relevant Officer	Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer

Background

- 1.** The Standards Committee is a statutory committee, which has been established to to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the councillors and co-opted members of Gwynedd Council, and community and town councils in Gwynedd.
- 2.** To this end the Committee has decided to publish an annual report in order to explain it's and promote its work. The Committee also decided that the report should be presented formally to a meeting of the full Council.
- 3.** The Committee therefore presents this report for the Council's attention. The report will also be circulated to all eth community and town councils.

Recommendation

- 4.** To accept the report

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
GWYNEDD COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2015 - 2016**

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

During the preparation of the Standards Committee's report for the past year, we had a constitutional earthquake of which has not been seen for decades, if ever before. This came about as a result of the brutal referendum campaign from both sides - campaigning to leave or remain within the European Union. There was not much to celebrate in terms of standards of conduct in public life. In the next months and years, as the implications of the decisions will become evident, it will be more important than ever to ensure that the principles of public life (Nolan principles) are maintained. It is worthwhile to briefly summarise them here:

Selflessness. Ensure public well-being at all counts, not profiting themselves in any way.

Integrity. Avoid being in a situation whereby individuals or external institutions may try inappropriately to influence decisions made as part of their work.

Objectivity. In all things, ensure that decisions are made based on merit and not funding

Accountability. Willing to be accountable to the public and open to the scrutiny process.

Openness. Be as open as possible regarding the reasons for making decisions

Honesty. Declare personal and prejudicial interests

Leadership. Promote and support these principles and lead by example. This is the measure of the standard expected.

Fortunately for us, as a Standards Committee in Gwynedd, this report is not long and it is a credit to the county that so few cases come before us. However, there is always room for improvement. The system of local government increases responsibilities and committee members continue to learn more about the challenges by attending committee and council meetings and by supporting the Monitoring Officer and his team as they offer training. I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of the help and support available from the Council in order to ensure that the standards of public life in Gwynedd are maintained at all times but particularly during the possible political excitement that may be on the horizon.

Dr Einir Young
Chair of the Standards Committee

FOREWORD BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

I am pleased to note that the report conveys a positive message about the Council. This is also reflected across the great majority of the County's community councils. Communication and ensuring constructive awareness is a very important medium to maintain these standards and there is no room to be complacent. I am therefore glad that it was possible to conduct training on the Code of Conduct for members of this Council together with a series of seminars for town and community council members.

In his address at the Wales Standards Conference in October 2015 the Ombudsman, Nick Bennett, referred to the Nolan principles published in 1995. In looking at the seven principles and their relevance for the next twenty years he drew specific attention to the principle of leadership and its importance by maintaining high standards of behaviour within any organisation. One of his main messages was that everyone has a responsibility to show leadership to maintain high standards of conduct and that it is not a responsibility that may be attributed solely to the standards system. This is undoubtedly a timely and relevant message.

Iwan Evans
Monitoring Officer
Gwynedd Council

INTRODUCTION

The Committee was established in 2001 under the Local Government Act 2000. The main role of the Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the councillors and co-opted members of Gwynedd Council, and community and town councils in Gwynedd. It does so in many ways:

- Assisting the councillors and co-opted members to follow the Members' Code of Conduct
- Advising the authority regarding adopting or amending the Members' Code of Conduct
- Monitoring the implementation of the Members' Code of Conduct
- Advising, training or arranging training for councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct
- Determining complaints referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that members have breached the Code of Conduct
- Considering applications made by members for dispensations to allow them to participate in discussions despite them having a prejudicial interest under the Code
- Considering complaints referred to it under Gwynedd Council's local resolution procedure.
- Overseeing the Gwynedd Council Members Gifts and Hospitality Policy

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Though the Standards Committee is one of the committees of Gwynedd Council, the majority of its membership does not have any connection with the Council or local government ('Independent Members'). It also has a member who represents the interests of the community councils ('Community Committee Member'), as well as three elected members from Gwynedd Council. The Chair and Vice-chair of the Committee must be Independent Members.

Independent Members

Linda Byrne (member from 2012 - 2015)

Linda has lived in north Wales for ten years and now works at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Caernarfon as a volunteer. Her husband is Welsh and 3 of her grandchildren are Welsh speaking. She has lectured in colleges of further education in the north east of England and in Wales, before becoming a Student Disability Adviser at Durham University and subsequently Bangor University. She served as a Town Councillor for six years and a Borough Councillor for eight years in Sedgfield, Co. Durham. Unfortunately, Linda had to give up her seat on the committee during the year due to illness.

Margaret E Jones (member since 2012)

Originally from Llandrillo yn Rhos, Margaret has spent most of her life in Chwilog. She taught at Ysgol Abersoch for 32 years, including 14 as headmistress. She is a deacon in Eglwys yr Annibynwyr Siloh, Chwilog, was Chairman of the Council of the Union of Welsh Independents for 3 years and is also a former President of the Union. She was a member of Gwynedd Community Health Council and Vice Chairman until the reorganisation in 2010. She is also Chairman of the Chwilog Eisteddfod.

Dr Einir Young (member since 2012)

Born in the Rhondda and raised in Llanelli and Cwmtwrch Einir has been living in Gwynedd for almost thirty years. She lived in California for a while and has travelled extensively in Africa mainly, working with marginal communities in semi-arid regions. Wales is her current priority but the challenges faced by communities are similar. We need a long term vision and plan, to ensure that the actions we take are for good or prevent things from getting worse. Integration and collaboration is critical and possibly more important of all to involve everyone. These are the principles are encapsulated in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and as Bangor University's Director of Sustainability Einir and her Sustainability Lab team are promoting the ways of working promoted in the Act across the institution and beyond. Maintaining standards is as important to sustainability as recycling and saving energy and Einir

Welcomes the opportunity to contribute to and chair Gwynedd's Standards Committee.

Amongst her many interests Einir is a passionate walker and she and her dog are currently walking the Wales Coastal Path with her sister.

Jacqueline Hughes (member since 2015)

Jackie lives in Nantlle with her husband Ian, 3 daughters, grand daughter and a very lively dog. Originally from the Wirral, she qualified as a diagnostic radiographer in 1987 after studying at Guys Hospital School of Radiography. After settling in North Wales with her young family, she joined the staff at Ysbyty Gwynedd. Jackie's career in Bangor has advanced both as a radiographer and as an industrial relations representative. She is currently the Staff Side Chair for the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board as well as being the local society representative for most of the radiographers in North Wales. She has been President of the Society and College of Radiographers and was instrumental in developing the response to the Francis Report, and subsequently a new code of conduct for radiographers. She believes that any one working in public life must maintain a high level of personal standards in order to be credible to the public.

David Wareing (member since 2015)

In 2014 David relocated from Lancashire to Groeslon following his retirement from Merseyside Police. He served for 26 years in a variety of roles with his last posting being to the Force Operations Department at HQ. This position involved the planning and delivery of large-scale public events, public safety during major Police operations and the reduction of police support to outside agencies through greater partnership working. David specialised in risk assessment and ensuring compliance of relevant Health and Safety legislation working within the legal framework. David represented Merseyside Police on all five Safety Advisory Groups that covered the Force Area. He firmly believes that the actions of those in public office must be both transparent and accountable.

Aled Jones (member since 2016)

Aled is originally from Lampeter, Ceredigion. He read Welsh and Geography at Aberystwyth University. Having graduated in 1999, he moved to Caernarfon to work for Cymen translation company. He became a joint-owner of the company in 2007 and now heads a team of 20 members of staff and employs over 15 other freelance translators. He lives in Bangor with Tegwen, and their two children Cai and Beca. He has a keen interest in sport and can often be seen on the touchline supporting Bethesda Rugby Club and Bangor City Football Club. As a result of his work as a simultaneous translator he is privy to observe conduct and standards at all levels of governance and to identify best practice.

Community Committee Member

Councillor David Clay (member since 2008)

David has been an elected member of Barmouth Town Council for 29 years and has held the position of Chair on 4 separate occasions. He is past Chair of the Meirionnydd Area Committee of One Voice Wales. Now retired, he was an hotelier in Barmouth for 30 years and was an active member of Mid Wales Tourism Council and in later years a Director of Mid Wales Tourism Partnership.

Gwynedd Council Members

Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (member since 2011)

Eryl is a semi-retired freelance journalist who has represented Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont on Gwynedd Council since 2008. He is also a long-standing town and community councillor and has served as both Mayor and Chairman. He takes an active part in disability rights and is vice-chairman of the Meirionnydd Access Group as well as a member of the South Snowdonia Access Forum and the Betsi Cadwaladr University NHS Community Health Council. He is currently chairman of the Gwynedd Licensing Committee, where is able to draw on his experience as a former licensee. He is also the Carers' Champion for Gwynedd. A former Welsh Football referee his hobbies includes golf at Royal St David's Harlech and Dolgellau.

Councillor Michael Sol Owen (member since 2012)

Michael lives in Pwllheli and has represented North Pwllheli on Gwynedd Council since May 2012. He holds a degree in Physics and Material Science and was managing director of a company in Pwllheli and also worked as a business consultant for the Assembly. He has been a member of Pwllheli Town Council for over 30 years and is chairman of the Pwllheli Youth Project charity. He is a former Chair of Gwynedd Council's Planning Committee and also serves on the Management Board of Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd.

Councillor Lesley Day (member since 2014)

Les has been a Gwynedd Councillor since May 2012 and is a former Chair of the Democratic Services Committee. She has been a Bangor City Councillor since 1991 and is a past mayor, representing the Garth Ward in Bangor. She is a former member of Arfon Borough Council. Les' qualifications, career and hobby are all local government. She gained her local government public admin qualifications whilst working for Surrey County Council. Upon returning to her home town of Bangor she gained her local government financial qualifications whilst working for Gwynedd County Council. Les transferred to Conwy County Borough Council on reorganisation in 1996. Les is the Chairman of Garth Community Centre and a governor of Ysgol Hirael.

The Monitoring Officer

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Iwan Evans, along with officers from the Legal Service and the Democratic Service support the Standards Committee in its work. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory role to ensure that the Council, its members and its officers act appropriately and lawfully.

Contact Details

- Iwan Evans, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer.
E-mail: IwanGDEvans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru Tel: 01286 679015
- Sion Huws, Senior Solicitor (Corporate).
E-mail: sionhuws@gwynedd.llyw.cymru Tel: (01286) 679168

THE COMMITTEE'S WORK DURING 2015-2016

The Committee's work over the year has included the following (the Committee's full work programme can be seen in **Appendix 1**):

Cases heard by the Standards Committee

Hearings were held to consider one complaint that elected members had breached the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Julian Kirkham, Arthog Community Council

Censure for breaching paragraph 6(1) (a) of the Code of Conduct (not to behave in a way which brings a member's office or the authority into disrepute)

Other Complaints

The Committee is also informed of those complaints not referred to it for decision. Summaries can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Dispensations

The Code of Conduct for Members provides that a councillor cannot participate in a discussion if he/she has a 'prejudicial interest'. However, a member has a right to apply to the Committee for permission to participate despite having this interest, i.e. dispensation.

The Committee considered two applications for dispensation during this period. Both applications were turned down.

Training on the Code of Conduct

The Committee decided that training on the Code of Conduct should be offered to members and clerks of the county's community and town councils. Four sessions were held in October 2015, in Pwllheli, Caernarfon, Dolgellau and Bala. The training was given by the Monitoring Officer and the Senior Solicitor (Corporate) and representatives from 30 of the 64 town and community councils attended. A session was also held for members of Gwynedd Council.

North Wales Standards Committee Forum

The North Wales Standards Committee Forum gives representatives of all north Wales authorities' standards committees the opportunity to meet. The purpose of the forum is to enable the area's standards committees to discuss and share ideas, good practices and resources and also provide a joint opinion on a national level. The Chair and Vic—chair of the Committee attend the meetings.

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME 2016-16

13 April 2015

- Hearing to decide on a complaint against an elected member

20 April 2015

- Undertaking Self-Assessment
- Considering the Annual Report of the Wales Adjudication Panel
- Receiving the minutes of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum

29 September 2015

- Approving the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2014/15
- Considering the amended Ombudsman's Guidance on the Code of Conduct
- Drawing up a Work Programme for the year

5 October 2015

- Deciding on two applications for dispensations
- Receiving a report from the Council's Senior Manager - Revenue & Risk, on the Council's Governance Framework
- Considering the Annual Report of the Ombudsman

25 January 2016

- Considering the Local Government (Wales) Bill and submitting observations to be considered as part of the Council's corporate response to the Welsh Government's consultation
- Receiving a report on the Standards Conference 2015
- Consideration of members of the Committee observing meetings of the Council's committee meetings and those of community and town councils

The Committee was informed of the following decisions by the Ombudsman in relation to allegations that county and community and town councillors had breached the Code of Conduct:

Allegation	Decision
Complaint that a community councillor failed to declare an interest.	No investigation. No evidence that councillor was acting in his capacity as a councillor at the time.
That a councillor had failed to fulfil the financial obligations of a contract and was abusive to the complainant. That he impersonated another person and improperly traded his contracts through another person.	No investigation. Insufficient evidence provided to substantiate the councillor's involvement. The Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest a member had breached the code.
That a councillor had sent an e-mail referring to members of the public present at a Planning Committee containing language that was racist and offensive.	No investigation. He did not believe the words used to be racist considering the context in which they were used. However it was likely that their use could be a breach of the code in that the councillor appears not to have shown respect and consideration for others as required under para. 4(b) of the code. However even if proven, the Ombudsman did not believe that it would lead to a sanction being imposed.
That a councillor had sent an e-mail agreeing with the contents of the e-mail referred to in para 2.7 above and had therefore acted in an abusive and racist manner himself.	No investigation. The councillor was expressing an opinion, and the way in which he did so did not breach any part of the code.
That a councillor had trespassed on the complainant's property and argued with him and took hold of his finger and bent it back. The Police attended.	No investigation. No evidence that the councillor was acting in his capacity as a councillor. Ombudsman also noted that the police had been called.

Complaint that a town councillor had taken part in a discussion on a matter in which she had a prejudicial interest.	No further steps to be taken. Although there was evidence to suggest that a breach of the code had taken place, the Ombudsman was not persuaded that the Standards Committee would impose a sanction in the circumstances.
Member had sent an e-mail to a local organisation, purporting to express the community council's views, without its authorisation.	Standards Committee concluded that there had been a breach of the code and imposed a censure.
A complaint against a county councillor by a member of the public that he had mounted a local campaign in relation to a particular issue and had misled council officers in relation to local circumstances.	No investigation – the complainant had not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate the complaint.
Complaints by four individuals arising from the same incident. Complaints that a county councillor had made serious and false allegations about individuals who had been taking part in a protest.	No investigation – the member had the right to freedom of expression and that right was enhanced when the comments made are political in nature. As an elected member he was entitled to the freedom to share his political views relating to the event in question.
The councillor had terminated a telephone call made to the complainant in relation to an incident where damage was caused to the complainant's property.	No investigation. Insufficient information provided to substantiate the complaint and the Ombudsman will not investigate unless there is reasonably strong evidence to suggest a breach of the code.
That the councillor's behaviour had been discriminatory and aggressive towards a local group during a meeting of the town council while discussing an application for funding for that group.	No investigation. From the evidence available it did not appear that the matters alleged constituted a breach of the code. The councillor was entitled to ask questions and request verification of details for applicants for funding from the council as part of his duties as an elected member.

<p>A complaint, by a fellow town councillor, that the councillor had used his camera to bully and harass him on two separate occasions and that he had abused him verbally on several occasions.</p>	<p>No investigation.</p> <p>At the time of some of the alleged conduct, the individual was not acting as a councillor but as a private individual. The Code of Conduct only applies when a councillor is acting as a private individual in very specific circumstances, which did not appear to apply in this case. The complainant was unable to provide supporting evidence in respect of the other aspects of the complaint.</p>
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Agenda Item 12

MEETING	Full Council
DATE	6 October 2016
TITLE	Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
PURPOSE	Inform Council members of changes made to Constitution's Scheme of Delegation for Officers in order to implement the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
RECOMMENDATION	Note for information
AUTHOR	Iwan G D Evans, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer

1. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("2014 Act") came into force on 20 October 2014. The aim of the act is to give individuals and organisations further flexibility in tackling anti-social behaviour. The act repeals a number of old powers in various acts and replaces them with a series of new powers that are simpler and more flexible.
2. The 2014 Act introduces two new powers to local authorities which replace old powers used by officers. These new powers are the power to issue a **community protection notice** and the power to issue a **closure notice**:
 - a. The Council can serve a community protection notice on an individual, business or organisation that causes specific, persistent problems or nuisances which negatively effect on the quality of life of the community. These problems can include graffiti, rubbish and noise. There is a right of appeal. Non-compliance with the notice may lead to prosecution, the issuing of a fixed penalty notice and other sanctions.
 - b. The closure notice allows the Council to close premises quickly and up to 48 hours where the premises are used, or likely to be used, to commit crime and disorder. Following this an application may be made to the Magistrates' Court for a closure order which may last up to 6 months. Breach of either the closure notice or order is a criminal offence which may lead to prosecution.
3. On 26 July 2016 the Council Leader, Councillor Dyfed Edwards, by decision notice issued a series of changes to the Constitution's Scheme of Delegation for Officers, in order to delegate the above powers to the relevant heads of service. These changes were made pursuant to the Leader's power to amend the Scheme of Delegation for Officers in respect of executive functions, under Part 5.8.3 of the Constitution.

4. In accordance with Part 5.8.3 of the Constitution, I am required as Monitoring Officer to inform the full Council of the changes made by the Leader.
5. In the circumstances I can confirm that the Leader has amended the Scheme of Delegation for Officers by delegating to the Head of Adults the power to issue a closure notice in accordance with Appendix 1, to the Head of Highways the power to issue a community protection notice in accordance with Appendix 2, and to the Head of Regulatory the power to issue a community protection notice and closure notice in accordance with Appendix 3.

Iwan G D Evans

Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer

6 October 2016

ATODIAD 1 / APPENDIX 1:

Yn Atodiad 3 i Adran 13, mewnosod y paragraff canlynol ar ôl paragraff 8.17:

“8.18 Pŵer i gyhoeddi rhybuddion cau o dan Rhan 4 o’r Ddeddf Ymddygiad Gwrth-gymdeithasol, Trosedd a Phlisma 2014.”

In Appendix 3 to Section 13, insert the following paragraph after paragraph 8.17:

“8.18 Power to issue closure notices under Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.”

ATODIAD 2 / APPENDIX 2:

Yn Atodiad 3 i Adran 13, mewnosod y paragraff canlynol ar ôl paragraff 10.7:

“10.8 Pŵer i gyhoeddi rhybuddion gwarchod y gymuned o dan Rhan 4 o’r Ddeddf Ymddygiad Gwrth-gymdeithasol, Trosedd a Phlisma 2014.”

In Appendix 3 to Section 13, insert the following paragraph after paragraph 10.7:

“10.8 Power to issue community protection notices under Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.”

ATODIAD 3 / APPENDIX 3:

Yn Atodiad 3 i Adran 13, mewnosod y paragraff canlynol ar ôl paragraff 11.17:

“11.17A Pŵer i gyhoeddi rhybuddion gwarchod y gymuned o dan Rhan 4 o’r Ddeddf Ymddygiad Gwrth-gymdeithasol, Trosedd a Phlisma 2014.

11.17B Pŵer i gyhoeddi rhybuddion cau o dan Rhan 4 o’r Ddeddf Ymddygiad Gwrth-gymdeithasol, Trosedd a Phlisma 2014.”

In Appendix 3 to Section 13, insert the following paragraph after paragraph 11.17:

“11.17A Power to issue community protection notices under Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

11.17B Power to issue closure notices under Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.”

MEETING OF	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	6th October 2016
TITLE OF THE REPORT	THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	Update the latest political balance
RECOMMENDATION	Review the political balance as noted below
AUTHOR	Geraint Owen Head of Democratic Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 During the last Council meeting held on 12th May 2016, the political constitution of the Council was noted as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	39
Independent	20
Llais Gwynedd	8
Labour	5
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	1

Total 75

- 1.2 Since then, three resignations have been received, as follows:

Chris O'Neal, Marchog Ward, Bangor (Independent Group)
Sian Gwenllian, Felinheli Ward, (Plaid Cymru)
Eurig Wyn, Waunfawr Ward (Plaid Cymru)

- 1.3 By-elections have been held in the three wards with the results as follows:
Dylan Fernley, Marchog Ward, Bangor (Independent Group)
Gareth Wyn Griffith, Felinheli Ward, (Plaid Cymru)
Edgar Wyn Owen, Waunfawr Ward (Plaid Cymru)

- 1.4 In addition, two members have changed their political groups:

Councillor Dilwyn Lloyd has become a member of the Independent Group (previously Llais Gwynedd)

Councillor Gwynfor Edwards has become a member of the Green Party in England and Wales, previously a member of the Labour Party. As two or more members are required to form a group, for the purpose of the political balance, the member will be treated as an individual member.

- 1.5 To summarise, following the changes noted, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:

Plaid Cymru	39
Independent	21
Llais Gwynedd	7
Labour	4
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Members	2
Total	75

2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 2.1 To remind members, the four main rules included in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in relation to the allocation of seats are noted here:-

- 2.2 (a) Every seat on a committee cannot be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) The majority of seats on a committee must be allocated to a political group if the number of persons who are members of that group constitute a majority of the Council's members;
- (c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on ordinary committees allocated to each political group will be the same as the proportion of all seats that members of that group has on the Council;
- (ch) Subject to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on a committee allocated to each political group will be the same proportion of seats on the committee as the number of seats that members of that group has on the Council.

The Council is expected to adhere to the rules as far as practically possible.

- 2.3 In order to ensure that these rules are adhered to, the Council has been dealing with committees in different blocks in the past. This makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.2 above is adhered to.

3. NEWIDIADAU I DDYRANIAD Y SEDDAU AR BWYLLGORAU

- 3.1 The change means that an Individual Member gains a seat on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Local Consultative Joint Committee at the expense of the Labour Group.
- 3.2 Also, the Independent Group gains a seat on the Democratic Services Committee and the Local Consultative Joint Committee at the expense of Llais Gwynedd (See Appendix A
- 3.3 As members are aware, the recommendation does not fully reflect the political balance as it currently stands, as passed at previous Council meetings, based on discussions previously held within the Business Group to try and keep expertise and experience on various committees, in light of the local government elections being a few months away. In line with normal procedure, members must vote for the proposal unopposed.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 3.4 At the start of the current Council in May, 2012, appointments were made to two outside bodies, the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and the Snowdonia National Park Authority, on the basis of political balance. The Council decided in May, 2012 to appoint on this basis for the Council's lifetime. However, the rules on political balance are relevant and this was reviewed in September 2013 when the Council decided that changes to the figures were so peripheral that there was no real need to change the representation.
- 3.5 As can be seen from Appendix B, the most recent changes to the political balance do mean that there is a basis for a review and that this would lead to a change with the Park Authority. However, since there are only a few months remaining before the end of this Council, it is suggested that we adhere to the allocation made in May, 2012.

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to vote on in the proposal without opposition as noted in 3.1, 3.2 and 3.5 above.

APPENDIX A

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Corporate	9	5	2	0	1	1
Communities	10	5	1	1	1	
Services	10	4	2	1		1
Audit	10	5	2	1		

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Democratic Services	8	5	1	1		
Language	8	4	2	1		
Planning	8	4	1	1	1	
Central Licensing	8	5	2			
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1		1
Appointment of Principal Officers	8	4	1	1	1	

Number of seats	82	42	15	8	4	3	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	3	2	0	1	1	
Local Consultative Joint Committee	6	3	0	1		1
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one deputy)	2	1	1		
SACRE	4	2	1			

Total seats	102	53	18	11	5	5	194
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APPENDIX B

Body	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Snowdonia National Park (now)	4	2	2	1	0	0
Change in line with balance	5	2	1	1	0	0
Fire	3	1	1	0	0	0

Agenda Item 14

MEETING	THE COUNCIL
DATE	6th October 2016
SUBJECT	NON-ATTENDANCE OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	REQUEST TO APPROVE THE NON-ATTENDANCE OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL
AUTHOR	GERAINT OWEN, HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a member of a local authority fails to attend any meeting of the authority for a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the authority.

1.2 The only exception to this is if their non-attendance has been approved by the authority.

2. THE ISSUE FOR GWYNEDD COUNCIL

2.1 Councillor Peter Read has not been well for some time, and is currently receiving treatment which has affected and is likely to continue to affect the Councillor's ability to attend any formal meetings of the authority, although how long that is likely to be a problem is not clear at this stage.

2.2 The Full Council is required to approve Councillor Peter Read's absence from meetings of the authority to enable him to continue to be a member.

2.3 If approval for non-attendance is not given, then Councillor Peter Read would cease to be a member of the Council after a period of six months following his last attendance at a Council meeting.

2.4 It is suggested, under these circumstances, that Councillor Peter Read's non-attendance be approved.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the Full Council approves Councillor Peter Read's non-attendance at meetings due to personal circumstances, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, allowing him to continue to be a member of Gwynedd Council.