

THE CABINET 17/01/17

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**Present-**

Councillors: Dyfed Wyn Edwards, Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Peredur Jenkins, Dafydd Meurig, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas and Mandy Williams-Davies

**Also present:** Councillor Annwen Hughes, Councillor Lesley Day, Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd L. Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan G. Evans (Legal Services Manager).

Item 6: Ann Pari Williams (Well-being Officer), Aled Davies (Head of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department)

Item 7 - Aled Davies (Head of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department), Dafydd Tudur Jones (Financial Resources Manager)

Item 8 / 9 / 10: Dafydd Williams (Head of Regulatory Department), Gwyn Morris Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal Department)

Item 11: Hedd Tomos (Modernising Education Programme Manager).

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor John Wynn Jones.

**2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Item 9: Provision of Public Conveniences in Gwynedd

Due to the nature of Item 9 that recommended partnering with Community Councils, the following expressed a personal interest:

Dyfed Edwards - Member of Llanllyfni Community Council

Dyfrig Siencyn - Member of Dolgellau Town Council

Gareth Thomas - Chair of Penrhyndeudraeth Town Council

Mandy Williams-Davies - Member of Ffestiniog Town Council

Mair Rowlands - Member of Bangor City Town Council.

W. Gareth Roberts – Member of Aberdaron Community Council

Ioan Thomas - Member of Caernarfon Town Council

Peredur Jenkins - Member of Brithdir, Llanfachreth and Rhydymain Community Council

Item 11: Review of Bangor Catchment Area Primary Education Provision.

Mair Rowlands, Dafydd Meurig and Lesley Day declared a personal interest as they were members of Governing Bodies in schools within the Bangor Catchment Area. Mair Rowlands was a member of the Governing Body of Ysgol Cae Top,

Bangor. Dafydd Meurig was a member of the Governing Body of Ysgol Llandygai, and Lesley Day was a member of the Governing Body of Ysgol Hiraef, Bangor

Iwan Evans, the Monitoring Officer provided advice regarding the personal interests advised and emphasised that they were not prejudicial interests, and therefore the members had the right to take part in the discussion.

### **3. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

### **5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 13TH**

The Chair signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 December 2016, as a true record.

### **6. AGEING WELL ACTION PLAN**

The item was submitted by Cllr Gareth Rowlands.

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve Gwynedd Council's Ageing Well plan as a working document in order to promote preventative working and working across departments in the field of Older People, and contribute to the well-being agenda.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Gareth Roberts expressed pride in submitting this report to the Cabinet. The report of the Wales Audit Office on "Helping Older People to Live Independently: Do Councils Do Enough?" was the plan's background, where it was realised that the Council's Ageing Well Action Plan needed to reflect on the contribution from all Council services to the ageing well preventative agenda. The work had been done in order to develop the document. It was emphasised that the document needed to be a live document and it would be necessary to add to the document regularly.

The second part of the report was the plan itself, with examples of the good work that was being done at present. A specific example that was used was the programme "Hen Blant Bach" that was shown on S4C - where there had been collaboration and little

children and older people spending time together at a day centre in Caernarfon. It was noted that the project had been a success and a difference had been seen in the lives of the children and the older people.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- Images in the document were images of women in these activities which raised the question whether the activities that were available were aimed at women only. Was this something to consider when arranging events in the future? Ann Pari Williams responded by saying thank you for drawing attention to that observation and the images would be amended in order to get a better picture of the activities that were happening within the community for men and women.
- To a degree, this looked at problems at a micro level but, if looking at macro level, there were threats such as services coming to an end and loneliness. This plan looked at it in its entirety and responded and identified gaps in the service.
- It was important to keep this plan in mind when discussing other matters, and it was in line with the principles in the Well-being Act (Wales) 2014.

## 7. THE EFFECT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE AND WELLBEING ACT

The item was submitted by Cllr W. Gareth Roberts.

### RESOLVED

To amend the charging policy based on proposals upon which consultations have been made and which are presented in Appendix Ch of the report.

### DISCUSSION

Attention was drawn to the need to correct a sentence at the bottom of page 78 to read:

"In some rare circumstances the Council may be able to negotiate cheaper contracts with care providers. If the cost of the care is cheaper than **£16.00** per hour the service user will be charged at the cheaper rate."

Following the Cabinet's previous recommendation, the item was being returned to Cabinet after undertaking a consultation with service users. The consultation showed that 58% accepted that there was a need to charge for the service. The maximum that the Council could charge for non-residential services would be £60 per week, but the Government was in the middle of a consultation for the weekly maximum.

It was noted that research had been undertaken to see what other counties were doing and the similarity between Gwynedd and the other counties was noted.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- It was noted that if the change came into effect in April, clear communication would need to be ensured with the service users. It was

emphasised that communication would be necessary in every possible way in order to ensure that every service user understood the changes.

## **8. CHANGING PREFERRED ROUTE - IMPROVE LLANBEDR ROAD / ACCESS**

The report was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig.

### **RESOLVED**

Not to protect the original route for the Llanbedr by-pass and support the plan in Appendix B of the report for the new access road in the area.

### **DISCUSSION**

It was noted that plans had been in place to create a new by-pass at Llanbedr since the 1950s, and the route had been protected since 1953. It was elaborated that there had been a complicated history attached to the plans to create a by-pass over the years but a change had happened since 2012 when Welsh Government created Enterprise Zones. One of these areas are Snowdonia Airspace Centre at Llanbedr. Since 2012, work had been done to identify a new route, that would be a new access to the centre as well as a by-pass.

The Head of Regulatory Department elaborated on the process of choosing a route. A number of consultations had been undertaken with the local community and partial agreement had been reached on the road which relieved the community's concerns as well as offering a high quality access to the Airspace Centre.

Annwen Hughes (Local Councillor) noted that the local community had been screaming for a by-pass. It was emphasised that there was a real need for a by-pass in order to ensure jobs of high standard to the area at the Airspace Centre. The Community Council had been concerned with the change to the route but, following a discussion, they were willing to show support to this route.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- The road's maximum speed limit was discussed, as well as the implications of this on how much land would be needed in order to create the road. It was noted that discussions had been held with landowners regarding the size of the road, and that the road's size did not change much when changing the road's maximum speed limit.
- It was noted that a forum needed to be created in order to discuss the road further with the local people, and ensure that the contact information of one staff member was shared with them so they could build a relationship and be aware that there was a member of staff there to listen to them.

## 9. PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE IN GWYNEDD

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfed Edwards

### RESOLVED

- I. To achieve the cut of £244,000 in the Highways and Municipal service by delivering the Partnership Scheme with Town and Community Councils in order to keep the majority of the County's existing public toilets open for the future.
- II. To authorise the Head of Highways and Municipal Department to enter into agreements with the Town and Community Councils that have expressed an interest in partnership.

### DISCUSSION

A number of Town and Community Councils had responded to the offer of taking responsibility of public toilets. It was noted that a variety of companies had been willing to take responsibility as well and this was very reassuring. Dyfed Edwards thanked the long list of Councils that had agreed to take the responsibilities (list to be seen in appendix 1 of the report). Discussions were continuing with some Councils in order to come to a final decision.

The Head of Highways and Municipal Department noted that the plan so far had predominated the previous situation, namely that the original plan that the Council had to adopt to ensure the necessary savings meant closing 50 out of 72 public toilets. However, by now, a minimum of 52 of the public toilets would be staying open. It was emphasised that an equality assessment had been completed and, thus far, the partnership scheme satisfied the equality assessment. It was also noted that the partnership scheme predominated when discussing the existing Legislation and the forthcoming legislation.

Comments arising from the discussion:

- It was noted that the history of the item was the Gwynedd Challenge consultation, and the fact that the reaction from the people of Gwynedd had highlighted that the original plan was less of a priority than other choices put forward, but that this by now was very good news that so many local Councils were willing to collaborate with us to keep them open with some even willing to take on the responsibility of running the service.
- The public toilets service was a service where it was possible for local Councils to run the service.
- Alternative provision was offered by local companies, and often the alternative provision had better access and provision for the disabled.

The discussion with the Councils had been very mature discussions and this had enabled us to create a new relationship with the opportunity to build on this

relationship in the future.

#### **10. FOOTWAY, COETMOR ROAD, BETHESDA**

The report was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig.

##### **RESOLVED**

To capitalise an underspend of £120,000 in the Regulatory Department, as a contribution towards safety improvement by providing a footway between Plas Ffrancon and Ffordd Hen Barc along Ffordd Coetmor, Bethesda.

##### **DISCUSSION**

It was noted that there was a long history to this plan to create a footway on a busy road with the number of cars using it rising. It was emphasised that a Local Member supported the plan.

A funding bid had been submitted to the Government in 2011 but it had been unsuccessful. However, since then, there had been more emphasis by the Government on active travel. It was noted that, if successful, with the underspend money, they would use the money as match funding in order to attract the Government's bid.

The Head of Regulatory Department added that it was possible to submit a financial bid to the Government based on one of the three themes, and the theme that corresponded to this application would be "Safe Routes to Schools and Communities".

Matters arising from the discussion:

- Looking at the Head of Finance's opinion of this report, it confirmed that funding was available to use as underspend and therefore showing support to the plan.
- It was asked whether there were land purchase implications associated with the plan.

The Head of Finance Department responded by noting that usually for a plan like this, a strip of land would need to be bought to create the footway, but to create this plan the landowner had offered to give the land for free to the Council. An agreement had been made with the landowner.

#### **11. REVIEW OF BANGOR CATCHMENT AREA PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION**

The item was submitted by Cllr Gareth Roberts

##### **RESOLVED**

To commence discussions at a local level as outlined in the report on reviewing primary school education provision in Bangor.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Education Department had identified the need to look at the primary education provision at Bangor. The Government had a programme, "21st Century Schools" that was approaching the end of Band A of the programme, and the department's intention was to submit a plan within Band B of the programme. It was noted that the situation by now had changed due to two schools within the catchment area being over their capacity and with a housing development at Goetre Uchaf, 90 additional children would be in the area. In addition to this, it was noted that the condition of one of the schools was poor.

Ysgol Glan Cegin had received a grant from Band A of the "21st Century Schools" programme, and the work was ongoing. As the Education Department's previous Government funded schemes had been successful, having been successful, the department had been invited to apply for an additional grant, and they had been successful. Consequently, £6.3million was available from the Government, £1.1million was available as a result of housing developments and £4.5million from the Council's asset management plan and £750,000 as a result of selling assets that meant that £12.7million would be available for the development of education facilities in the city.

It was emphasised that there was no plan for this, only a request to start the process. Step one of the process would be to establish a Catchment Review Committee including local members, the schools' Heads and representatives from the Governors. The plan would return to the Cabinet by July 2017.

The Local Member - Lesley Day - expressed that more schools had been at the lower end of Bangor over the years, and she noted her concern that more schools would be going to the Penrhosgarnedd area.

The Chief Executive noted that there was a need to consider Bangor's needs in order to establish the actual need and consider that cost rather than look for a plan to spend £12.7m.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- Need to look at the long term - although this proposal looked specifically at primary provision, there was a need to look at secondary provision for the future.

## **12. PERFORMANCE REPORT: DEPUTY LEADER**

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn.

**RESOLVED**

To accept and note the information in the report.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Deputy Leader noted that one could look at the report and consider on the surface, that only little progress had been made. But he emphasised that the work was continuing and it was work that was difficult to measure because subjects such as the Welsh language were medium and long term plans.

He elaborated on the frustration he felt towards the Local Services Board when looking at the Welsh language and the public services as he felt that it was moving slowly.

Questions arose when looking at promoting the Welsh language in the area and if it was being done in the correct methods. He was looking forward to meet the Minister for Welsh Language to discuss promoting the Welsh language. He noted that he had responded to the Government's Language Strategy and had noted that the area's main problem was promoting the use of the language every day.

The Report referred to the Residents' Panel in order to gather an opinion and determine the main things that worried the residents of Gwynedd. The main things were street cleanliness, waste collection and cutting grass.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- Had been in discussions with the Council's Heads of Department and it was important that the messages were disseminated down to other staff tiers.
- Reconsider the language standards that were about to commence. These give a clear and robust basis to the minimum of providing a service through the medium of Welsh. It was possible for the Council to achieve much over the language beyond Gwynedd through the Council's public partnerships.
- It was asked how the engagement team would keep momentum following the Gwynedd Challenge consultation - it was noted that the Residents' Panel had not reached the end of its lifetime and there was a need to reinforce the panel. It was important to note that Ffordd Gwynedd was not the only way to engage a number of different types of gathering opinions.

## **13. THE CABINETS FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfed Edwards

### **RESOLVED**

The Forward Work Programme that was included with the meeting papers was approved, subject to the following adaptations:

- Cllr Dyfed Edwards - Noted that a date has now been confirmed for the item of Land Purchase in Llanrug area



- Cllr Gareth Thomas - Change the name of the Cabinet Member in the item Presentation by Ffion Johnstone

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.10 pm

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**CHAIRMAN**