

THE CABINET 7/03/17

Present-

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

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Dafydd L. Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan G. Evans (Head of Legal Services)

Item 6: Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department), Rhion Glyn (Business Manager), Owain B. Williams (Chief Accountant, Adults, Health and Well-being), Llinos Edwards (Senior Executive Officer).

Item 7: Owen Owens (Senior Manager - Schools)

Item 8/9/10: Sioned E. Williams (Head of Economy and Community Department), Catrin Thomas (Senior Community Learning Manager)

Item 12: Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Corporate Property Manager).

Item 13: Gareth Jones (Senior Manager, Planning Service, Environment and Public Protection)

Item 15/16/17: Llinos Edwards (Senior Executive Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Mair Rowlands, Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director) and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director)

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

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

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February, 2017, as a true record.

6. FEES FOR INDEPENDENT CARE HOMES 2017-18

The item was presented by Cllr Gareth Roberts

RESOLVED

To approve the following fees for 2017-18

Care Category	£ per Week
Residential	£507.45
Residential - Dementia/EMI	£566.75
Nursing	£587.23*
Nursing - Dementia/EMI	£617.93*

* It does not include Health's contribution

DISCUSSION

Independent care home fees needed to be reviewed on an annual basis. It had been noted under section 35 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, that the Council has a duty to meet the care and assistance needs of adults who usually resided in the area. It was noted that many discussions had been held with providers, and the North Wales Care Home Fees Group had carried out much collective research.

It was emphasised that there were various categories in the field, and this had highlighted that nursing care was a challenge in Gwynedd, and consequently, the fees reflected the additional pressures on nursing. It was expressed that the fees varied from county to county but that the range was low and was approximately £20.

The fees had been submitted to the Providers Forum in draft form and it was noted that the response had been positive.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- Enquiries were made regarding point 7 in the report which was a Court Case Ruling. It was noted that a Court Case would appear in the High Court in April, and that it was an argument as to whether the Local Authority or the Health Board was responsible for paying a small amount of money. This case could affect these fees - however, the situation would need to be considered further after the decision had been received.

7. TRANSFER OF THE BALANCES OF CLOSING SCHOOLS - CHANGE

WORDING OF SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

The item was presented by Cllr Gareth Thomas

RESOLVED

To change the wording of clause 4.8 of the Scheme for Financing Schools to read as follows:

4.8 Balances of closing and replacement schools

When a school closes any balance (whether surplus or deficit) reverts to the Authority; it cannot be transferred as a balance to any other school, apart from when that other school has been established as a result of the closure. In such a situation the balance would transfer to the new school under the provisions of the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the wording currently read as follows:

4.8 Balances of closing and replacement schools

When a school closes any balance (whether surplus or deficit) reverts to the Authority; it cannot be transferred as a balance to any other school, even where the school is a successor to the closing school.

Currently, if schools closed, the balances reverted to the authority. It was noted that the department felt that it would be more sensible, if there was a successor to the closing school, that the balances were transferred to the new school. It was emphasised that the matter had been discussed at the School Funding Forum which recommended the change, and discussions had been held with the schools.

8. STEM GOGLEDD

The report was presented by Cllr Mandy Williams-Davies

RESOLVED

To approve the following:

- To confirm the decision for Gwynedd Council to lead on the Regional Plan on behalf of the four counties.
- On the condition of WEFO approval, the cabinet member in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Head of Economy to accept a grant offer of up to £1,461,000.
- Confirm that Gwynedd Council would contribute up to £150,000 of Match Funding for the project.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the purpose of the project was to raise the enthusiasm and skills of young people particularly in the subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It was emphasised that it was a joint project with the three other Local Authorities in North West Wales (Conwy, Anglesey and Denbighshire) to submit a funding application to the European Social Fund to develop the plan.

WEFO's decision and grant offer was awaited in April 2017.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- It was noted that the scheme was one that was being funded by European money which raised a question regarding what would happen after three years. It was emphasised that far-reaching projects had been funded with European funding over the years. It was noted that work was being done by the Government at the moment in an attempt to create a strategy.
- As the project was aimed towards young people aged 11-19 years, it was asked whether or not work was being done with the primary age groups. It was noted that the STEM projects were restricted to a specific age range, and that the primary provision was being led through the Ambition Board.
- The outcomes of the project were discussed, as the report noted regional outcomes. It was confirmed that there were specific outcomes on a county level and per specific schools.
- Enthusiasm was expressed upon hearing that these subjects would be encouraged, however, it was noted that securing teachers in the subjects could be challenging - it was expressed that this was a concern but that it could encourage future teachers.
- It was also suggested that there was a need to ensure that GwE was involved in any plan and it was confirmed that this had happened.

9. AD-TRAC PROJECT

The report was presented by Cllr Mandy Williams-Davies.

RESOLVED

- Give approval to the Head of Economy and Community Department to accept the offer of grant to the value of £1,203,437, following Welsh European Funding Office approval, to deliver the Ad-TRAC Project in Gwynedd.
- Commit match funding of up to £492,095 towards the project by means of the method noted in the report.

DISCUSSION

This was a joint project with North Wales Local Authorities, Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to work with young people aged 16-24 years who were not in education, employment or training by providing them with intense support to enable them to move closer to education,

employment or training. It was emphasised that the most vulnerable young people in society would be a part of this project.

It was noted that this was a project worth £1.2 million. It was noted that there was an update to the published report, namely that WEFO had confirmed that the Business Plan was acceptable and that a confirmation letter was about to be received. It would note that the partners of the scheme could track their expenditure and claim the funding from 1 March.

Comments arising from the discussion:

- It was noted that this type of project ensured that vulnerable young people could stand on their own two feet, and that European funding could deliver and change people's lives.
- It was asked whether the scheme's targets were challenging enough - namely to make a difference to the lives of over half the total of 450 young people that the scheme would attempt to reach? It was noted that the Council sometimes needed to be daring to start on a new way of working and be prepared to fail. The aim of the scheme would be to make a difference to the lives of the total of 450. It was emphasised that the cost per head in Gwynedd was higher than the other North Wales counties due to the geography and dispersed nature of the county. Consequently, transport costs to enable the individuals to reach the provision and for the workers was higher.

It was noted that this grant paid for preventative work. Research had shown that the long-term cost to public services could be as much as £140,000 for each individual, and therefore that spending between £3,000-£11,000 per head over 2-3 years was cost effective. It was noted that Trac and Ad-Trac worked within the National Engagement Framework - and after the three years of grant intervention, the good practice from this work would be embedded into the Engagement Framework.

10. REGIONAL GOVANACE MODEL FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE GROWTH VISION FOR THE ECONOMY OF NORTH WALES

The report was presented by Cllr Mandy Williams-Davies

RESOLVED

- I. To endorse the preferred regional governance model of a statutory joint committee for further development.
- II. To instruct officers to work with colleagues in partner councils to develop a detailed constitution and inter-authority agreement for the proposed Joint Committee, and bring it back for consideration of the Council committing to a statutory joint committee model with the five partner councils, within the first three months of the new Council term.
- III. To note that this Council also expects assurance in terms of establishing the Project/Programme Office in order to understand the accountability of the structure and method of funding that Office when approving any constitution / agreement.

DISCUSSION

In September 2016, the Cabinet approved the Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales. It was noted that this was the next step, namely the creation of a Statutory Joint Committee in order to govern and look into how to proceed with the work. It was emphasised that the intention was to submit the plan before the new Full Council within three months.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- It was noted that it was an opportunity to protect and develop unique areas that maintain the economy in a different way and to maintain unique communities in Gwynedd.
- From accepting the governance model, enquiries were made about sufficient Resources for support the work, e.g. Project/Programme Office, and that clarity was needed on the financial Resources and Human Resources to support that. The need for a leader to be accountable for the project as a whole was noted.

11. SAVINGS STRATEGY 2015/16 - 2017/18

The item was presented by Cllr Peredur Jenkins

RESOLVED

- A. . To note the encouraging progress towards realising the 2015/16 - 17/18 savings schemes.
- B. To formally accept that two historical schemes would fall short of the savings target namely:

2013/14 Scheme	North Wales Regional Hub	£29,684
2014/15 Scheme	Enablement	£121,000
	Total Savings to be Deleted	£150,684

- C. In order to achieve the target of £81,566 "Cross-departmental Savings to be found" in 2016/17, to approve the use of savings that the Finance Department has realised early.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the progress report was an overview of what had been achieved over the past two years. It was emphasised that it was the responsibility of relevant Cabinet members to realise the savings, with the Cabinet Member for Resources keeping an overview of the savings in their entirety.

In the 2016/17 Financial Strategy, £9,201,411 of savings had been planned, namely 141 plans. Of the 141 departmental plans, 128 had been realised in full or in part. It was anticipated that 94% of the 2016/17 savings had been realised on time.

It was noted that the deficit of £150,684 needed to be removed from two historical schemes - "Enablement" and "North Wales Regional Hub". Both schemes had been developed as part of the aim to identify £5m of Cross-departmental savings, but they had achieved fewer saving than had been anticipated.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- It was emphasised that excellent work had been done across the Council to ensure realising the high sum of £9.2m. Everyone was thanked for the excellent work that had been involved with realising these savings.

Continue to monitor the situation of the following financial year.

12. WATER SUPPLIES FOR SMALLHOLDINGS

The report was presented by Cllr Dafydd Meurig.

RESOLVED

To carry out the work to upgrade the private water supplies in smallholdings at a cost of up to £400,000 and decide on which funding solution should be used, from the two available options, when agreeing the Council's new Asset Management Plan.

DISCUSSION

Of the 42 smallholdings owned by the Council, 16 were located in remote areas several miles from public water supplies. The Private Water Supply (Wales) Regulations 2009 set out the expected hygiene standards. In order to achieve these standards, it was necessary to progress with the work of upgrading.

It was noted that no finance was currently available by the Property Service to do this unavoidable work. The financing options were considered as follows:

- the smallholdings estate, by considering disposal from the estate in order to raise finance to prioritise the capital programme in light of establishing the second asset management plan, which was considered current.

Matters arising from the discussion:

It was noted that the sum for delivering the work was not completely clear thus far, and it was considered reasonable to make an exception this time to subscribe(?) to one of the above options rather than identify a specific source in order to be able to progress with the work.

13. PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE THE ARRANGEMENT OF PROVIDING THE JOINT PLANNING POLICY SERVICE FOR GWYNEDD COUNCIL AND ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A FURTHER 5 YEARS

The report was presented by Cllr Dafydd Meurig.

RESOLVED

To approve the proposal to continue the arrangement of providing the Joint Planning Policy Service for Gwynedd Council and Isle of Anglesey County Council for a further five years.

To authorise the Head of the Regulatory Department and the Head of Legal Services to review and agree on a new collaboration agreement to extend the collaboration period to include:

- Review and agree on arrangements for the administration, implementation and management of the Joint Planning Policy Unit
- Review and agree on the role of the Joint Planning Policy Committee as a cross-boundary decision-making body before reporting back to the Cabinet for approval.

DISCUSSION

Gwynedd and Anglesey had been collaborating on providing a Joint Planning Policy Service for five years but the original agreement was ending at the end of the year, or after the plan had been adopted by both authorities - whichever came earliest. Necessary work would continue following the plan's adoption in order to monitor and review it etc.

A review had been undertaken of the work and it was noted that the collaboration model had broken new ground in the planning policy field and the model had been acknowledged by Welsh Government as an example that other Planning Authorities should consider. It was also noted that the project had made a saving of £600,000 between both Authorities.

Matters arising from the discussion:

Enquiries were made regarding the reduction in staffing numbers, and it was explained that the staffing profile complied with the profile of the work that was to be completed by the Unit.

14. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The report was presented by Cllr Gareth Thomas.

RESOLVED

- a) To accept and note the information in the report.

b) To approve the re-profiling of four of the savings schemes as follows:

Ref	Scheme	Current Profile	Alternative Profile		
			2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
OED22	Consider Sheltered Housing/Extra Care Housing as alternative accommodation to residential beds	200,000		120,000	80,000
OED25	Review lunch/supper packages	100,000	25,000	75,000	
OED34	Improving efficiency of field workers	113,000	38,000	75,000	
C2	Delete 2 posts out of 7.5 in the Systems Support Unit within the Adults Service (Cut)	60,000		60,000	
	Total	473,000	63,000	330,000	80,000

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the department was developing, changes were becoming embedded and that the impact of the changes were being gradually felt.

The Cabinet Member drew attention to a few projects, including integrated working and the Llys Cadfan project. The Llys Cadfan project was an exciting project that worked outside the box. The purpose of the project was to provide more local support for people in the south of the County.

Attention was drawn to performance measures and specifically to "people who note that they can do what is important to them" - it was a new measure for the department and 57% felt that they were able to do what was important to them.

It was noted that the overspend had reduced from £168,000 to approximately £88,000.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- In response to an enquiry, it was noted that a report was expected on the findings and the recommendations by the CSSIW within the next few weeks.

Attention was drawn to Measure 5.7 - "the rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons" - it was noted that discussions were ongoing at the moment in order to attempt to improve the situation.

15. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEISURE CABINET MEMBER

The report was presented by Cllr Dyfed Edwards in the absence of Cllr Mair Rowlands

RESOLVED

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the report was comprehensive and noted the projects in the strategic plan. It was emphasised that work was continuing with sections of the youth and leisure service to transform and develop for the future.

Observations arising from the discussion

- A further report was requested for the next meeting to explain whether a difference had occurred in the lives of the young people that had received accreditations from the youth service, and in which way had these accreditations made a difference.
- An explanation was requested on the difference in the figures for the accreditations from the youth service as there was no full clarity.
- An increase had been seen in the number of looked after children - confirmation was received that work was being done on this and that a report would be submitted to the Leadership Team.

16. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

The report was presented by Cllr Peredur Jenkins.

DECISION

The report was accepted and approval was given to re-profile the Stop Paying a Fee Scheme to pay Council Tax in Post Offices to 2018/19 rather than 2017/18 as originally intended.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that 12 service reviews had been completed, as well as the programme to promote Ffordd Gwynedd principles amongst managers. Further internal training sessions for Managers would be conducted from April onwards, and it was suggested that it would be beneficial for the new Cabinet Members to attend these sessions.

It was noted that delivering cut scheme number 13 (Stop paying a fee to pay Council Tax in Post Offices) was a challenge and, as a result, further research

would be needed on this project, and therefore there was a need to re-profile the saving to be realised in 2018/19.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- Enquiries were made about the electronic filing system (EDRMS) - it was explained that it was a new system for filing electronically, which reduced the number of files that were kept, attempting to ensure saving the essential files only.
- It was noted that the % of sickness days had increased (although comparatively low on a Wales level) and it was noted that many of these were cases of long-term illness.

17. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING, CUSTOMER CARE, LIBRARIES, DEPRIVATION AND EQUALITY

The report was presented by Cllr Ioan Thomas

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the Affordable Housing project was progressing in collaboration with Grŵp Cynefin. Work was being carried out in Penygroes, Waunfawr, Llanuwchllyn and Bethesda.

It was noted that an increase had been seen in the number of referrals to the Homelessness Unit, and there had been deterioration in the performance measures. However, work was being done in an attempt to respond to the demand.

It was noted that the Council had agreed to accept 40 refugees between 2016-20. It was hoped that twenty refugees would have been accepted to the county and accommodated in the north of the County by April this year.

Matters arising from the discussion:

- Amendment to note regarding the % of deaths registered within five days - needed to be corrected from 5% to 95%.

18. FORWARD WORK PROGRAM

The report was presented by Dyfed Edwards

RESOLVED

The Forward Work Programme that was included with the meeting papers was

approved, subject to the following amendments:

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

The meeting commenced at 13:00 and concluded at 15:35

CHAIRMAN