

THE CABINET 5/09/17

Present-

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Mair Rowlands, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Peredur Jenkins, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Gareth Thomas and Ioan Thomas

Also present:

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.
Apologies were received from Cllr Craig ab Iago and Cllr W. Gareth Roberts

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 18 JULY 2017

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 July 2017, as a true record.

6. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The item was presented by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

RESOLVED

To accept and note the information in the report

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that the figures in the report were outdated as the performance meetings had taken place during July. It was noted that he welcomed the inclusion of Scrutiny Committee members as part of the performance meetings.

It was explained that graphs were used for the first time to report on a number of the measures, to ensure that the information was presented in a coherent and visual manner. One of the Corporate Property Unit's measures was examined, and it was noted that the number of days taken to respond to a request for maintenance work remained at approximately 9 days, but that there had been a change in the measurement method at the beginning of the year, and that this needed to be kept in view.

When considering the department's complaints, it was noted that there had been an increase in the number of complaints, and it was emphasised that appropriate steps had been taken to deal with the complaints. Additionally, it was noted that the figures also included enquiries in addition, and that only the complaints would be counted from now on.

It was emphasised that C - Reach a key step in the process of preparing the Joint Local Development Plan should be deleted from the performance measures as the Plan had been approved by the Full Council in July.

It was noted that he was satisfied with the performance and would keep a close eye on specific aspect during the forthcoming quarter.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the Local Development Plan would also include Supplementary Plans, and that the Language Scheme was a major priority. The draft Language Scheme would be prepared by the end of October, and there would subsequently be a consultation period.
- In response to a question about the Property Unit's targets, it was emphasised that the Council's departments should be aiming for perfection rather than aiming for artificial numerical targets. It was noted that this, and reporting on a graphical basis was a prominent part of the development training that was currently being offered to managers. Cabinet Members would be invited to the training sessions to gain a better understanding of what was being discussed.

7. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

The report was submitted by Cllr Ioan Thomas

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented, and Mandy Williams-Davies was thanked for her work

in this field during her period as a councillor.

It was noted that work was ongoing through the High Value and Quality Jobs project. The Government were supportive of the bid for the Llanbedr Aerospace Centre. It was also noted that Digital Gwynedd were continuing to collaborate with the Welsh Government and BT to deliver the Superfast Wales project, but it was emphasised that 82% of homes and businesses were able to receive superfast broadband in the County, but that only 42% had subscribed.

A discussion was held on the World Heritage Site project and its focus on the existing World Heritage Sites, the Castles of Edward I at Harlech and Caernarfon, in addition to the World Heritage Site status for the heritage of the slate industry. The project was progressing and the response had been positive on the whole although more work was required.

It was emphasised that he was new to the role, and that work was needed on the measures as the figures did not convey the performance.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that there was a need for the department to develop measures for the future as it appeared to be lagging behind other departments. It was noted that there were some new measures, but that they did not measure the impact or the quality of the work. It was noted that by next time, the cabinet member intended the new measures to be in place, and that there would be a change in the report's format.

8. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

The report was presented by Cllr Mair Rowlands

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

From now on, the relevant Cabinet Members would challenge the progress of the Language Audit work within the Gwynedd Consultancy Department and the Economy and Community (Leisure) Department when challenging the performance of those departments.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that the field of Corporate Support was vast and new to the Cabinet Member.

It was noted that the work of promoting the Welsh language via the Hunaniaith Project was ongoing in communities in Bangor, Dolgellau and Porthmadog. It was noted that the Welsh language and public services project was progressing slowly. Work was ongoing with Bangor University to produce a training and

development pack to enable staff to do more to encourage the use of the language when interacting with customers.

It was noted that an audit of the Welsh language within the Council had focused on two departments, namely Gwynedd Consultancy and Economy and Community. Work had been undertaken to change attitudes and to give the language more consideration. It was emphasised that progress had been slow in the Leisure Unit, but that it was still ongoing.

It was noted that work was progressing in the Engagement Unit to recruit young people to be on-line members of Gwynedd's Youth Panel; there are now 300 members. The panel would examine the most effective methods and techniques for engaging with children and young people.

Observations arising from the discussion

- A question was asked: if the percentage of the Council's procurement expenditure that went to companies with headquarters or a branch in Gwynedd was increasing, why was the local expenditure through sub-contracts decreasing. It was explained that this was due to a decrease in the capital schemes and to ensure that this was clear in future there would be two separate measures, for capital and revenue expenditure.
- It was noted that the Hunaniaith project had numerous figures but no mention of its impact – it was enquired whether this could be measured. It was noted that there was a specific method of reporting to the Government about the project, and that it was difficult, as with many other areas, to measure the short-term impact. It was noted that projects needed flexibility, and that a project such as Hunaniaith needed to be adapted when looking specifically at Gwynedd.
- It was noted that it was difficult to measure customer satisfaction, and that there was a need to seek improved methods of gathering information.

The meeting commenced at Time Not Specified and concluded at Time Not Specified

CHAIRMAN