

THE CABINET TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present-

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

Also present:

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Rhun ab Gareth (Senior Solicitor), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director).

Item 5: Catherine Roberts (Community Safety Manager)

Item 7: Llinos Edwards (Senior Executive Officer)

Item 8: Gwyn Morris Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. ANTI –SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014: REFORM OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POWERS -REQUIREMENTS REGARDING EXISTING DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDERS

The item was presented by Cllr Mair Rowlands

RESOLVED

To accept the report, the following recommendations were agreed:

- Allow the Public Spaces Protection Order to change to Designated Public Places Order on 19 October 2017
- To revise the orders, and consider the aspects noted in point 3.02 of the report

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was stated that the reason for the recommendation to reform the orders was a change in legislation, which affects the specific orders that are currently in place. It was emphasised that the consultation with the Legal Department and the Police would form the basis of the recommendation to change the orders to Designate Public Places Orders, but they would be reviewed individually.

It was noted that the powers within the Designated Public Places Orders would enable an authority to allocate places where restrictions on drinking in public currently existed, and the Police provided evidence in support of the seven orders that currently existed in Gwynedd. It was stated that some of the existing orders were historical and the situation had since changed. The new orders would tackle much more than alcohol only, it would also deal with people who behaved antisocially.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Asked whether there would be any additional costs stemming from the change to the order - it was noted that there would be some costs from signage but the Police had been asked to help with this.

6. PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

The item was presented by Cllr Peredur Jenkins

RESOLVED

To accept and note the information in the report

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that he was satisfied with the performance of the projects and that appropriate steps had been taken to improve the performance.

It was stated that a Digital Channel and Facilitating Contact with the Council continued to be a priority, and the channel would be re-launched in the autumn. It was noted that new computer equipment had been introduced in May for members, and that some problems had consequently arisen. Following discussions with members, more training would be offered to use the equipment to its full potential.

It was stated that a percentage of inspections in the Inspections Plan that had either been closed or for which a final report had been released had fallen to 3.33% for the first quarter compared with 17.5% during the same period last year. It was noted that this was as a result of staffing problems which meant a shortage of two full time inspectors during the period. In addition to problems with the Council's computer systems for a day in June, it was noted that amendments would be made to a measure to better record this.

Observations arising from the discussion

- When looking at insurance rights measures, the question was asked whether percentages were the correct way of measuring performance, and whether a specific figure would be more accurate. It was explained that it was a difficult field in which to measure current performance, since current claims could be for incidents that took place many years ago. It was also noted that the department had trialled a number of ways to measure this but it was noted that we would revisit it at the next performance challenge meeting.

- It was stated that the figure was consistent when looking at the Council's financial security when depositing money in banks. It was noted that this reflected the priority to safeguard the money, and that it was difficult to find places that paid a reasonable interest.

7. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The report was presented by Cllr Dilwyn Morgan

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report, stating that a specific report should be obtained for the Cabinet to report on the proposals of the Early Intervention / Prevention Programme for groups of vulnerable children and young people in Gwynedd, rather than including it as part of the next performance report.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and the cabinet member emphasised that it had been a pleasure to present his first performance report as Cabinet member. It was stated that the main concern was the ongoing trend in terms of the increase in the number of looked-after children. It was noted that an independent consultant was working to evaluate the existing programme for Early Intervention / Preventions for groups of vulnerable children and young people in Gwynedd. Models of good practice would also be identified.

When considering Measuring Performance, it was noted that many of the measures were statutory and set by the Government, and these were often being changed and amended. It was noted that there would be a new strategy during the next months and the purpose of measures would have to be considered in order to be more consistent and help the department develop. It was noted that it was a challenging but exciting time to develop the field. It was emphasised that the strategy incorporated a different way of working and cross-departmental working.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was explained that there had been an increase in expenditure as a result of an increase in the number of looked-after children, and that there had been a one-off overspend this year despite the additional financial provision. It was noted that the Department was expected to take appropriate steps to manage expenditure in the medium term.

It was stated that, although safeguarding children had a firm foundation in the Department, that there was a need to ensure that supporting families also received due attention, and this was the work the Head of Department was currently carrying out with her team.

- Having received grants over the years to Support Families, there was a risk that we would be driven and led by the grant. But what the independent consultation had emphasised was that we needed to do the right things for the people of Gwynedd and that we needed more flexibility from Welsh Government. It was stated that further discussion was required by the independent consultants, and that it would need to be presented to the Cabinet in a specific report.

8. PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND MUNICIPAL

The report was presented by Cllr Gareth Griffith

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that the Cabinet Member was satisfied with the measures. Looking at the Highways and Municipal department, it was noted that there had been a fall in the percentage levels of commercial recycling / composting. It was emphasised that a task group had been set up to look at processes to make it more financially attractive. It was reported that 1.086 million waste collections had been carried out during the period and that the percentage of complaints received about waste not being collected was 0.22%.

Looking at the Consultancy department, it was stated that profit against target was the department's main measure. It was noted that the situation was fairly positive for the April to June period. It was emphasised that a customer satisfaction survey about the building tollage service had risen by 0.1 during the quarter to 9.4 out of 10.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Asked why numbers for waste recycling had fallen and numbers for landfill waste had risen - it was noted that the months of April to June were historically similar. It was emphasised that the opening in 2019 of the Deeside Regeneration Park which is a five county plan across the North to incinerate waste, would lead to a reduction in landfill waste from 35.1% to 0%.
- It was noted that one of the main issues that concerned the people of Gwynedd was the rubbish after recycling collections - it was noted that the department had since changed its vehicles and that this should improve the situation; in addition, disciplinary steps would be taken if a collection was made and any rubbish left behind.
- The Consultancy department was asked about the prospects of attracting work - it was stated that the department was working hard to attract work projects. It was noted that the department was unique to local government and that it contributed to the cost of services and created high value and quality jobs.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 2.15 pm

CHAIRMAN