

Complete Agenda

CABINET



GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE	Tuesday, 12th December, 2017
TIME	1.00 pm
LOCATION	Siambr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH
CONTACT POINT	Annes Siôn 01286 679490 cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

Members	
Dyfrig L. Siencyn	Leader
Mair Rowlands	Deputy Leader
Craig ab Iago	Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture
Gareth Wyn Griffith	Cabinet Member of Highways and Municipal
Peredur Jenkins	Cabinet Member for Finance
Dafydd Meurig	Cabinet Member for the Environment
Dilwyn Morgan	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
W. Gareth Roberts	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Gareth Thomas	Cabinet Member for Education
Ioan Thomas	Cabinet Member for Economic Development

AGENDA

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8	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME	Cyng. / Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn		23 - 24

THE CABINET 21/11/17

Present-

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

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services)

Item 6: Dewi Wyn Jones (The Council's Business Support Services Manager)

Item 7: Arwel Wyn Owen (Senior Housing and Well-being Manager)

Item 8: Ffion Madog Evans (Senior Finance Manager)

Item 9: Ffion Madog Evans (Senior Finance Manager), Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being), Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Supporting Families Department), Aled Gibbard (Senior Operational Manager - Care, Children and Supporting Families Resources), Garem Jackson (Head of Education Department).

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet members and officers were welcomed to the meeting.
Apologies were received from Cllr. Mair Rowlands 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 to discuss

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2017

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 October 2017, as a true record.

6. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON THE PROPOSED PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2023

The item was submitted by Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn

RESOLVED

To approve the consultation document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-2023 and agree to hold a six-week consultation period on the document from 27 November 2017.

To agree to the arrangements outlined in the report to identify solutions and any resource requirements attached to the priorities with a report back on the findings to the Cabinet in January.

DISCUSSION

Submitted - a report noting that this was a consultation document in order to hold a general consultation on the priorities of the Council plan. As part of the process of drawing up the Council Plan for 2018-23, it was explained that meetings had been held based on the well-being areas to highlight any issues requiring attention in those areas.

They provided details about the timetable for the plan, noting that the timetable was tight. Following the consultation period, a report would be brought back to the Cabinet in January. In the meantime, there would be further work on the priorities to get the opportunity to find solutions and resources, which would be further discussed at the Cabinet.

The Council Plan would be submitted to the Cabinet on 13 February, which will include department business plans, it would then be submitted to the Full Council on 1 March for adoption.

It was noted that the consultation would take place on-line, it would also be available in public places and workshops would be held with groups such as third sector organisations. It was expressed that the Plan noted the Council's aspirations for the next five years, and it was emphasised that it was important that the Plan reflected the right vision.

7. INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC CAPACITY

The item was submitted by Cllr. Craig ab Iago

RESOLVED

To approve an allocation of £45,646 per year over the next 3 years (total of

approximately £140,000), as a first call against the council tax premium to be levied against 'second homes' and 'empty homes' which will be applied from April 2018 allowing the Head of Adult, Health and Well-being to appoint an additional officer within the Strategic Housing Unit to support the Council to take full advantage of grant funding allocated by Welsh Government to increase the supply of social and affordable Housing in Gwynedd.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting that the Cabinet Member was eager for every resident in Gwynedd to have a home. It was emphasised that there was a lack of housing in the county and that Welsh Government had allocated additional capital resources to assist Local Government to provide additional housing.

It was noted that the department currently had one officer but there was a need to appoint an additional officer to take full advantage of the opportunity to receive capital funding from the Government towards housing. Also it was expressed that it was an opportunity to use a percentage of the Council's Tax Premium which could be levied on second homes and empty homes, to ensure a supply of quality housing for the residents of Gwynedd.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that initial discussions had taken place with the Housing Associations to identify how it would be possible to proceed with the opportunity.
- The Council Tax Premium was discussed noting that a percentage of the money had been allocated for housing for Gwynedd's young people, and therefore the plan coincided with this. It was expressed that a prudent estimation had been made of the income from the Tax Premium and that it was around £2.1m.
- It was emphasised there was a need to provide the housing needed by Gwynedd residents, and that housing matters had been raised in discussions with the Local Assembly Member.
- It was expressed in a time of savings that it was necessary to take full advantage of the opportunity

8. REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

The report was submitted by Cllr. Peredur Jenkins

RESOLVED

Resolved to:

- Accept the report on the second quarter review of the Revenue Budget (position as at 30 September 2017) and ask the Cabinet Members and the relevant heads of department to take the appropriate steps regarding matters under their leadership/management.
- With the approval of the Head of Environment Department, transfer (£282k) from the Environment Department to the Financial Strategy

- Reserve.
- With the approval of the Head of Corporate Support Department, transfer (£54k) from the Corporate Support Department to the Financial Strategy Reserve.
 - That (£200k) from the favourable Council Tax receipts, (£800k) from the underspend on Council Tax Reduction, (£406k) savings realised early, (£444k) one-off underspend on bids and (£697k) from favourable conditions on other Council budgets, and transfer it to the Financial Strategy Reserve to assist with unavoidable one-off pressures on the Council's budgets.

DISCUSSION

Submitted - a report noting that it was the Cabinet's responsibility to take action, as necessary, in order to secure appropriate control over the Council's budgets. Specific attention was drawn to the departments that were overspending and the relevant Cabinet Members explained the overspend.

Adults, Health and Well-being Department

It was explained that overspend within the department was just over £200k, which was a small percentage of the budget overall although this did not justify the overspend. It was noted that if the savings element were deducted from the overspend that the message was a positive one, however the department continues to work on repackaging the savings plan.

When looking at the Provider Service it was noted that some residential homes spent much more than their budgets. It was acknowledged that there were weaknesses within the Provider Service but that a report had been commissioned that would scrutinise the department to see where adjustments could be made. It was hoped that a report would be submitted in February to provide a better picture of the service. It was emphasised clearly that work needed to be done.

Children and Supporting Families Department

It was expressed that the department acknowledged that it was overspending but could not promise that the overspend would decrease in the short term. Two services were overspending, the Operational Services and the Placements Service.

It was noted that there was an increase in the demand for services and additionally the needs of children were much more severe than they were years ago. It was expressed that internal scrutiny arrangements were in place and they were looking at the services every six weeks. There were plans in the pipeline such as the Children and Supporting Families Strategy. As a result of these plans it was hoped there would be long term changes. The plans would be monitored more often.

Education Department

The main reason behind the Education Department's overspend was transport, and this as a consequence of a reduction in the sale of post-16 transport passes and school taxi transport. When looking at taxi transport it was noted there had been an increase in the demand for various reasons such as children moving into the area and needed to attend the Language Units and children with severe disabilities. Currently, it was not possible for the department to anticipate the number of children moving to the area and was therefore unable to anticipate the costs. It was noted that there was a strict mediation system in place, but a further report was needed to look at the matter.

Highways and Municipal Department

It was noted that there were various reasons for the overspend. It was explained that work had been done for the Highways Agency, but that a reduction in the rate of completing the work and it being internalised by the Agency had caused a reduction in income. The department hoped that it would be possible to carry out more work for the Agency in order to increase the income level.

To ensure that the level of overspend would be reduced, the department would revise and possibly delay road resurfacing work. Additionally, the price of plastic and metals was increasing and consequently this all could mean that the Waste Department's income level would increase.

Observations arising from the discussion

- In discussing the Children and Supporting Families Department it was noted that Children's services' budgets across the north were under pressure. It was expressed that this was a field where collaboration could be possible. There was a need to keep an eye on how much other counties were spending per child to ensure that Gwynedd provided the same level of service as other counties. It was added that this was a national problem and the fact that the children's needs were much more severe compared with other years was frightening in light of so many cuts.
- In discussing the Education Department, it was noted that there was a need for a further discussion on the Environment Department to think of ways to use Council resources to reduce the overspend on transport. It was expressed that there was a need for more financial discipline and a need to see the results of the transport service review during quarter 3.
- It was noted that although some departments were overspending it must be clearly noted that some departments were underspending and that their underspend would be added to the Financial Strategy Fund. It was expressed that there was a need to continue to commit to financial discipline and that discussions were ongoing on future savings.

9. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW

The report was submitted by Cllr. Peredur Jenkins

RESOLVED

To accept the report on the second quarter review (position as at September 2017) of the capital programme, and approve the revised financing as shown in part 4 of the report, that is:

- £1,121,000 increase in the use of borrowing
- (£389,000) decrease in the use of grants and contributions
- £78,000 increase in the use of capital receipts
- £118,000 increase in the use of revenue contributions
- (£663,000) decrease in the use of renewal and other reserves
- (£48,000) decrease in the use of the capital reserve

DISCUSSION

Submitted - a report noting that the technical report was part of the budget monitoring procedure and its main purpose was to present the revised capital programme and approve the relevant funding sources. It was expressed there had been an increase of £0.217m in the funding sources since the last review. It was explained there were firm plans in place to invest approximately £33.4m in 2017/18 with £5.4m of it funded through grants, which reflected the departments' hard work in attracting grants. Attention was drawn to an increase in other borrowing, and that it did not cause additional liabilities to the Council's revenue budgets, this was a technical change in the government's funding arrangements.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that capital expenditure movements would be noted in the Performance Reports in January and there would be more information about the plans in January.
- The staff of the Finance department were thanked for their detailed budget management work.

The meeting commenced at 13:00 and concluded at 14:00

CHAIRMAN



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	12 December, 2017
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mair Rowlands
Contact Officer:	Geraint Owen
Contact Telephone Number	32335
Title of Item:	Human Resources Annual Report

1 THE DECISION SOUGHT

Approval of the Annual Report.

2 THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

In order to reflect and agree on the corporate strategy in this crucial field into the future.

3 INTRODUCTION

The intention of this report is to present an annual update of the details regarding the workforce and their employment together with outlining objectives for developing our employees and setting the direction for the future.

You are reminded that the Local Consultative Joint Committee (the joint forum between the recognised union representatives and Elected Members) receives an annual report on activity in the human resources field but that report focuses on the operational relationship between the employer and the workforce representatives.

1. The Council's Workforce

The numbers employed on a full-time and part-time basis within the Council for the last three years are noted here. Note that these numbers include staff who work in our schools but not those staff employed on a casual basis during holiday/sickness periods of the permanent workforce.

	31/3/15	31/3/16	31/3/17
Full Time	2,967	2,965	2,847
Part Time	3,318	3,029	2,981
Total	6,285	5,994	5,828

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The details show a reduction of 457 in the number of individuals employed by the Council at the end of March this year compared with the same time in 2015 i.e. a reduction of 120 of full-time employment contracts (118 in 16/17) and 337 part-time (48 in 16/17). This reduction has been realised through a combination of redundancies, retirements and natural turnover.

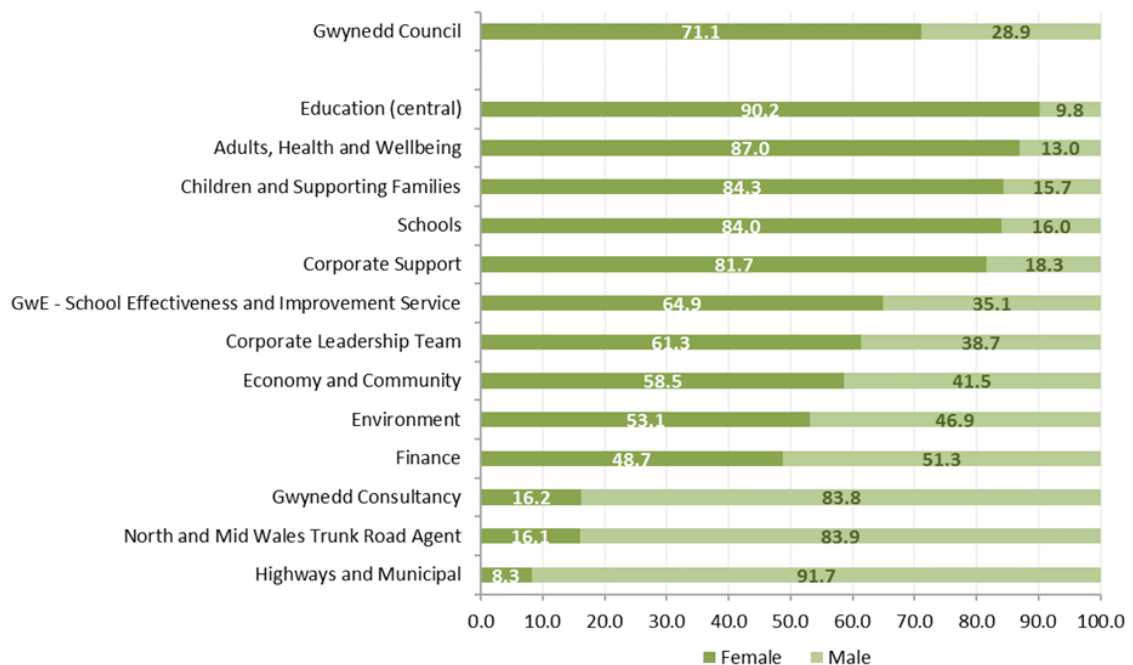
2. Workforce Split by Gender

A further analysis is seen here of the number of men and women employed on a full-time and part-time basis during the same period. The details show a reduction of 62 men (though there was an increase of 18 men in the last year due to a small increase in the number of men employed on a part-time basis) and a reduction of 395 women (108 full-time and 76 part-time in 2016/17).

		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Full-time	Men	1,399	1,370	1,360
	Women	1,568	1,595	1,487
Part-time	Men	350	299	327
	Women	2,968	2,730	2,654
Total	Men	1,749	1,669	1,687
	Women	4,536	4,325	4,141
Total %	Men	27.8%	27.8%	28.9%
	Women	72.2%	72.2%	71.1%

Please see a further analysis of the split between men and women in the Council's departments as at March 31 2017.

Female / male split of Gwynedd Council staff by Department, 31 March 2017



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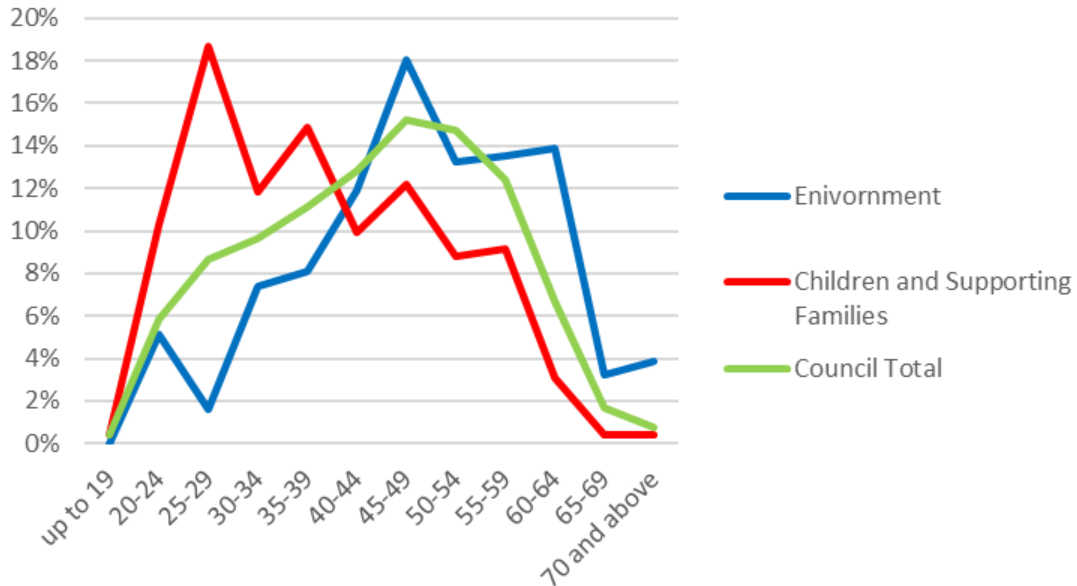
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3. Age profile of Council staff

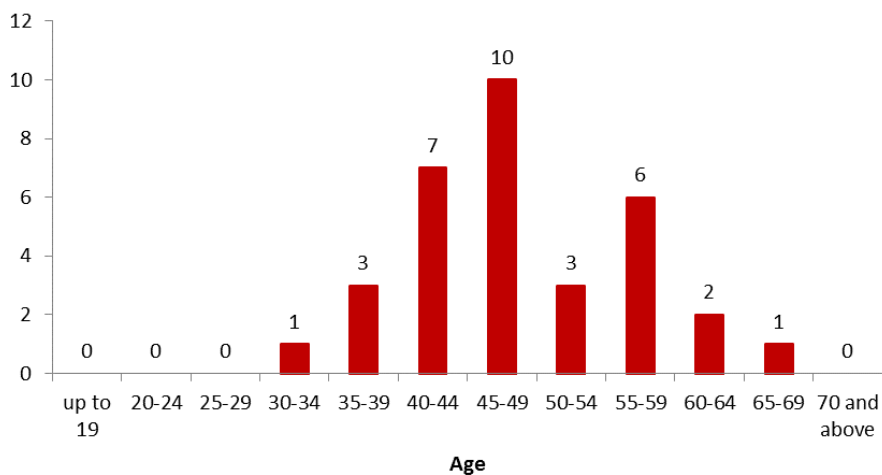
The age profile of Council staff as at 31 March 2017 is noted here. It shows that over 64% of the Council's existing workforce is older than 40 years old (63% in 2015/16) while 36% are older than 50 years old (34.5% in 2015/16).

Proportion of staff by age band, 31 March 2017



The following are two tables that provide a clear picture of the existing age profile of our senior managers and our Corporate Management Group (heads of departments, directors and Chief Executive). Please note that the following tables do not include school staff but they do include officers from the Trunk Road Agency and GwE.

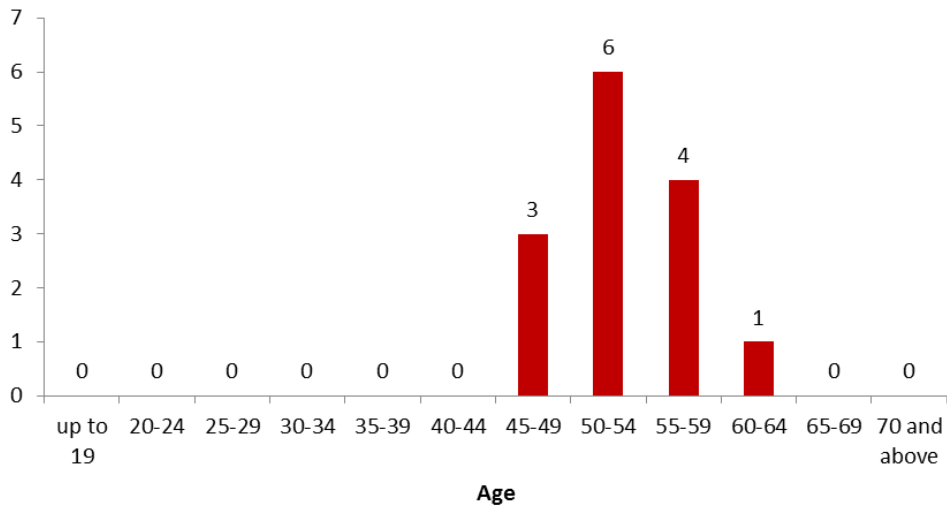
**Number of Council Staff by age band, 31 March 2017:
Grade UR1-4
not including teachers**



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**Number of Council Staff by age band, 31 March 2017:
Grade Head of Service or above
not including teachers**

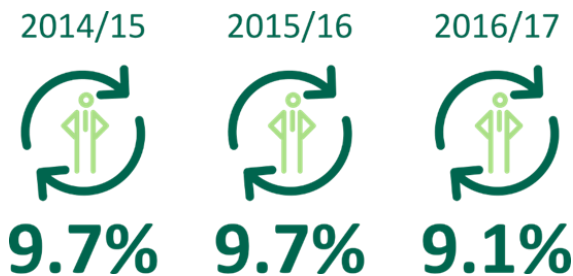


Keeping a record, analysing and sharing this information is crucial to enable managers to plan for the future and, in that sense, consider the steps which need to be taken pro-actively in order to ensure service continuity.

4. Staff Turnover

Historically, turnover within the Council has been comparatively stable but there has been a pattern of a small increase in recent years. However, the level of turnover dropped a little in 2016/17.

The largest turnover is seen within some of the Economy and Community Department's services (18.7%), Children and Families (11.7%) and Corporate Support (11.2%) while turnover is at its lowest within Gwynedd Consultancy (6.7%), Education Department (7.6%) and Environment (8.1%).



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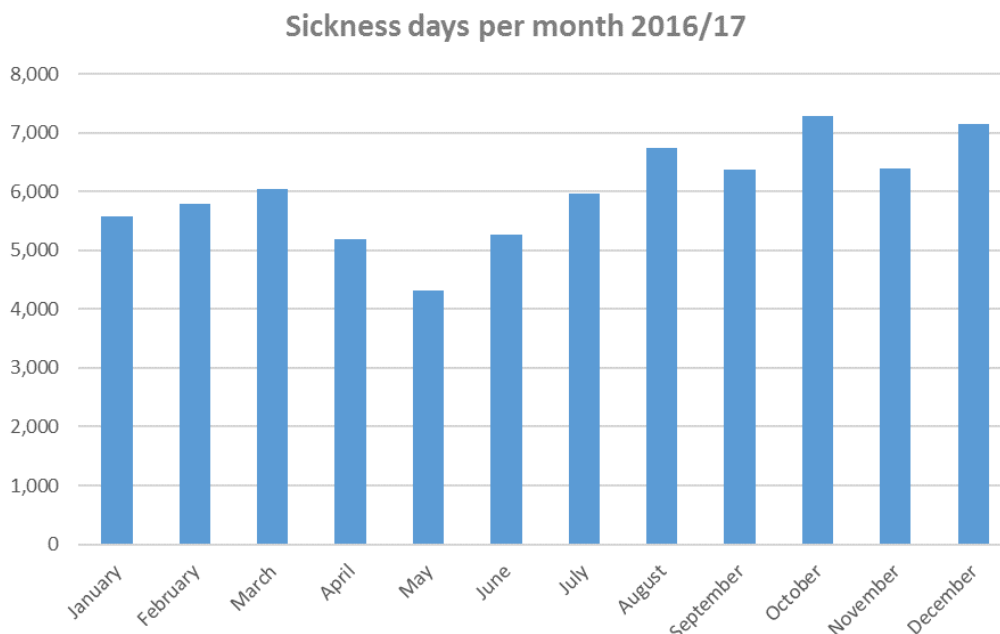
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5. Sickness Absences

The number of days lost due to sickness across the Council increased to 9 days per head on average last year, which is the highest level since 2009/10 (8.44 days per head in 2015/16).

The table below shows the levels of sickness absences, month by month, during the year.



Sickness absence, in 2016/17, is at its highest within the Residential and Day Service (19.2 days), Cleaning Service - Environment (18.39 days) and the Education Cleaning and Catering Service (14.64 days) while sickness absence is at its lowest within Gwynedd Consultancy (6.16 days), Highways and Municipal Department (6.98 days) and the central Education Department (6.99 days). A working group of officers meet regularly to review individual cases of absence and naturally focus their efforts within those services where sickness levels are high.

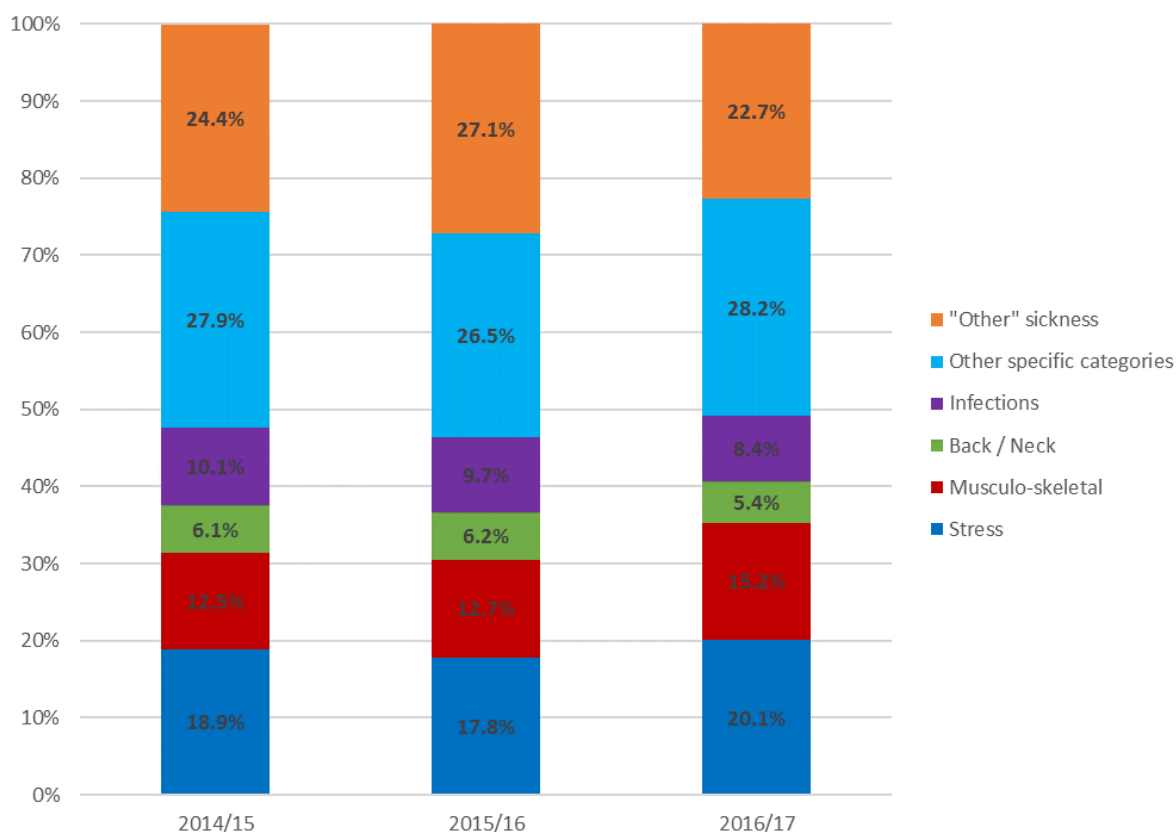
It is important to note that 43.2% or 2,518 (2,301 in 2015/16) of Council staff were not absent at all due to sickness during the last year. The fact that this number is higher than last year, though the total number of days lost is also higher, partly explains the small increase in the percentage of days lost to long-term sickness during the last year i.e. 57% in 2016/17 compared with 56% in 2015/16

The table below gives a further analysis of the type of sickness that has been recorded for absences over the last three years. This information is used to steer the discussion when considering the content of the programme to promote health and well-being annually.

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Gwynedd Council sickness absence as per category, 2014/15 to 2016/17



The fact that the percentage of sickness absences recorded as "Other Illness" is significant (and encouraging), even in a situation where absences are on the increase i.e. the likelihood of being able to offer the appropriate support for an individual is much higher when we are aware of the reason for the absence.

Reducing the number of sickness incidents recorded as "Other" was one of the objectives reported upon last year. It appears that many incidents of absence due to stress have been and (probably) are still hiding behind "Other". Consequently, the Health, Safety and Welfare Service is undertaking a specific scheme, within the Health and Welfare Promotion Programme, to address this area of work.

6. Learning and Development

The number of traditional training days provided by the corporate Learning and Development Service has reduced over the last three years (from 3,043 in 2013-14 to 915 in 2016/17). On the surface, and as reported last year, this would create concern that the opportunities for Council staff to learn and develop are reducing. However, what these figures reflect in reality is the fact that learning and development within the Council is being provided in several alternative ways by now. The number of e-learners (who used the resource) has increased from 928 in 2015/16 to 1,433 last year whilst there is a significant increase in the number of

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staff undertaking "webinars" and taking advantage of the coaching and personal consultations provision. There is also a general increase in development sessions with individual teams.

Developing an Apprenticeship Scheme for the Council has been identified as a priority over the last year and the work programme within the People Plan needs to be updated to reflect this. One of the Learning and Development Service's officers has been seconded to focus on creating and implementing a specific Scheme for the Council.

The emphasis on the combination of learning through experience, learning socially (such as coaching, mentoring, receiving feedback) as well as traditional learning, is starting to be embedded within the Council. The ambition is that only 10% of all learning and development is provided via traditional training in future and this is because research and experience shows that learning through experience and socially is more effective in several situations.

7. Pay Structure and Equal Pay

The Pay Policy for 2017/18 was approved by the Council at its meeting on 1 March 2017. The National Joint-Committee for Local Government Workers reached a two-year agreement in 2016 which meant that there was a pay increase of 3.2% in 2017/18 for those workers who are on the lowest pay within the Council with every pay point up to point 13 receiving a pay increase higher than the 1% offered to the remaining staff. This means that point 8 (the Council's minimum pay) is £7.90 per hour (compared with the £8.45 per hour recognised as the Living Wage by the Living Wage Foundation) since 1 April this year.

There have been no changes to responsibilities on Head of Department and Corporate Director levels in 2016/17 and there was no new evaluation of those jobs in 2017/18. The current salaries of Chief Officers are based on either the lowest quartile or median of jobs of a comparative size within the National Public Sector Market, as at January 2012.

The work of trying to settle the equal pay claims submitted to the Tribunal back in 2008 has been completed to all intents and purposes and it can be stated that there will be no further costs to the Council arising from the applications submitted.

There was some delay in completing the independent review of the situation in relation to equal pay within the Council, but it is anticipated that it will be possible to share to findings of that work with the Cabinet in due course.

8. Leadership Development

It was decided to delay holding joint focus groups, between members of the Management Group and the Cabinet, as intended during 2016/17 and subsequently it was decided to focus on developing a number of individual members in both groups e.g. coaching sessions, training on service reviews.

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Since the election in May this year, and following discussions with the Leader and Deputy Leader, an informal meeting was held with Cabinet Members in order to discuss their developmental needs. The discussion at that meeting has led to a number of work streams which will form an amended development programme for the Cabinet Members. It is anticipated that this is what will need to be focused on over the coming year.

9. Workforce Planning

One of the work streams that has been prioritised within the Council's People Plan is the support and encouragement given to managers to plan the future workforce. There is a demand for services to change quickly, which in turn can lead to challenges in terms of staffing those services. This work is an attempt to try to support the services as they prepare for such situations and also to support services which are currently facing staffing problems.

The initial focus has been on services which are at risk of failing to attract the sufficient number of staff who have the necessary skills to maintain the services. Work to date has focused on:

- Developing practical guidelines that may be helpful for managers to consider what are the needs of their workforce.
- Considering what data on workforce staff may be used and discussed with managers as a way of stimulating the discussion about the current profile of the workforce and the potential future needs.
- Nurturing a link with the project that is in the pipeline on developing a programme of apprenticeships within the Council.
- Considering how the potential profile that the Council has as an employer can be further developed, particularly among Gwynedd schools / further education institutions. There are steps in the pipeline to develop collaboration with Careers Wales in this respect.
- Developing options for offering unpaid work experience for school pupils / secondary students / higher education students etc.

10. Local Conditions of Employment

The work of reviewing and ensuring that staff's conditions of employment reflect the Council's culture is also one of the priorities within the People Plan. The Group which leads the project is consulting upon and reviewing the existing conditions, focusing on introducing local conditions of employment which promote a culture of trust, empowering and equipping staff.

There is a clear direction in terms of what needs to be achieved, and there is a lengthy list of conditions that need to be reviewed. The main priorities have been identified; work is in progress in respect of the sickness absences, annual leave and time off, working additional hours, grievance procedure and disciplinary procedure fields.

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Discussions with the unions are continuing in order to try to change some of those local conditions of employment, with a view to securing a collective agreement, effective in April 2018.

11. Recruitment and Appointment

The following provides statistical details regarding the number of jobs advertised by the Council over the last four years together with the number of applications received and the number of vacancies which needed to be re-advertised. Analysing these details again contributes to our ability to identify fields in which the Council needs to focus its attentions in relation to developing expertise and planning the future workforce.

Year	Number of jobs advertised	Number of Applications	Number of jobs re-advertised	Number of Applications for the second advert
2013	462	2938	20	115
2014	433	2055	29	138
2015	442	2525	30	106
2016	472	2312	47	179

The work of designating linguistic levels that are in keeping with the WJEC (Welsh for Adults) language levels is nearly complete with the intention of using these new designations for recruiting and appointing from 1 November, 2017. Steps were taken to strengthen the resource for language training in anticipation of the fact that this development will lead to an increasing demand to refresh and teach Welsh to the appropriate level among Council staff.

12. People Plan

The Cabinet approved the People Plan for the Council at its meeting on 1 November last year. Reference has already been made to some of the work streams that have been prioritised for attention. It was noted in last year's report that "Ffordd Gwynedd" was a central driver for the ambition in the Plan and that the work programme was based on what needs to be done to reach the ambition.

Arrangements to extend on-line self-services for Council staff, together with introducing and implementing a system that uses human resources information and data to lead decisions, is being highlighted as another high priority over the coming years. Efforts in this field have already produced results but a substantial effort and investment of time will again be needed in order to reach the aim and facilitate the work of managers and staff.

It is important to stress again this year how crucial it is for every manager and leader to take ownership of that which it is sought to realise within the People Plan and that we should not consider the work streams as matters for the officers co-ordinating them alone, as the ambition is one for the Council in its entirety.

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CONCLUSIONS

All the statistical information contained here, with careful analysis, is of assistance to managers and those officers who advise them, to plan services and identify in a timely manner those matters which need further research and action e.g. workforce planning.

Furthermore, the other details submitted regarding progress within the various fields prioritised in the People Plan determinate the steps which are being taken, not only to address existing requirements within the workforce, but also anticipated future requirements.

The Cabinet is asked to submit observations on the content of the report as well as approve the objectives noted for the future in the People Plan.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Head of Finance Department:

Nothing to add to the report from a financial propriety perspective.

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GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council's Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	12 December 2017
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Economic Development Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Environment
Contact Officer:	Sioned Williams, Head of Economy and Community Dafydd Williams, Head of Environment
Contact Phone Numbers:	01286 679547 01286 679371
Title of Item:	Application for European Funds to improve infrastructure and access at Snowdonia Aerospace Centre, Llanbedr

1 THE DECISION SOUGHT

1. To Support the principle that Gwynedd Council should take the role of Lead Body for the project
2. Dependent on receiving confirmation of the other contributions:

(i) That the Cabinet supports the Economy and Community's decision to commit £250,000 from its Match Funding Fund towards a project worth around £25,000,000 to implement the necessary infrastructure to support the development of Snowdonia Aerospace Centre at Llanbedr.

(ii) That Gwynedd Council commits a further £250,000 to the project in advance from the proposed Asset Management Scheme.

2 REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

It is estimated that the Development of Snowdonia Aerospace Centre, Llanbedr into a Centre of Excellence for the development and trialing of remotely piloted vehicles could lead to the creation of 100 jobs.

To allow for the Development of the site, additional Investment is required to develop the necessary infrastructure (£1,500,000 has already been invested) including improving the facilities at the airfield, and a new access road which will avoid the centre of Llanbedr village

The total cost of the scheme will be around £25,000,000 including funding from the private sector, Welsh Government and Europe. The Council is asked to commit £500,000 to match-fund the scheme, **on condition that confirmation of the other contributions is received**

3 INTRODUCTION

Llanbedr airfield is a significant asset which could Support the economy of Meirionnydd by creating high value jobs for local residents.

Since the site was designated as part of Snowdonia Enterprise Zone (see <http://bit.ly/2fvEtk9>) in 2013 the Council has worked closely with the company which operates the site – under the name Snowdonia Aerospace Centre – and Welsh Government, to facilitate its development.

It is intended that the airfield will be developed as a Centre of Excellence for remotely piloted vehicles (including land and marine vehicles, and aircraft sometimes referred to as Remotely Piloted Air Systems/RPAS) – to restore the historical use of the site by the Ministry of Defense

Welsh Government own the site. It is leased to Snowdonia Aerospace LLP on a long term contract.

Snowdonia Aerospace LLP work closely with the International company QinetiQ, and £1,500,000 has already been invested in upgrading the site.

If the site were to be developed further it could become a Centre of excellence for developing and testing remotely piloted Vehicles, creating up to 100 jobs in the local area (and 3,000 across Wales). Improving the infrastructure would also strengthen the case to license the site as a space port, which could, in turn bring a significant number of additional jobs, to the area, and to Wales.

To achieve these results, a significant investment to improve infrastructure on site will be required (such as the runways, the Air Traffic Control system and some buildings) and to create a new access road which would avoid the constraints experienced in the centre of Llanbedr village. The total cost of the improvements would be around £25,000,000.

Additionally, creating a new Access road would address the Transport challenges currently experienced in the village due to the layout of the existing road, especially during the summer months when a significant number of visitors come to the village.

4 REASONING AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DECISION RECOMMENDATION

As outlined, the proposed scheme offers benefits for Gwynedd from the perspective of the economy and Transport.

The Council (Economy and Community and Environment Departments together) have been working closely with Welsh Government and Snowdonia Aerospace for some time to develop this offer (especially in regard to the Access road) and to identify funding packages.

North Wales Economic Ambition Board have given priority to this project in terms of applying for the European Funding which is notionally available to the North to develop Business infrastructure – a potential £7,500,000 (subject to approval from the Welsh European Finance Office). Welsh Government and the private sector are likely to provide the majority of the match-funding but, in light of its significance to the county, the Council would be expected to contribute.

It is therefore recommended that Gwynedd Council contribute £500,000 to the scheme - £250,000 from the Council's fund for match-funding projects targeting European funding, and £250,000 in advance from the proposed Asset Management Scheme (to be confirmed with the Head of Finance). Gwynedd Council will not be asked to contribute this sum without confirmation of the contributions of other partners.

To apply for European funding, one partner must take the role of Lead Body. Having considered the options with WEFO, it is considered that only Gwynedd Council can undertake this role in this case, due to the lack of experience of the private sector partner in terms of implementing Europe-funded projects, and the complexities of the grant funding system of Welsh Government.

.6 NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

This project has received the backing of the Economic Ambition Board, and the first phase of the application Process to the Welsh European Funding Office has been submitted. The Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Transport is considering an application to contribute match funding, and the private sector partner is forming their funding package.

A full application to the Welsh European Funding Office will be submitted before the end of 2017.

In parallel, a planning application with regards to the Access road has been submitted to the Snowdonia National Park Authority.

Assuming that the Welsh European Funding Office supports the application for funding, Building Works will commence early in 2018 and will be completed during 2021.

7 ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BEFORE RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

Public Consultation on the new Access road

A full WELTag Study was undertaken in choosing the best route for the Access road

Local Member's Opinion

I am pleased that money is available to develop the site, for the economic benefit of the area, not only in Llanbedr itself, but across the Ardudwy area and beyond.

The hope is that by developing the site, quality jobs will be created there which will enable the area's young families to remain in their communities rather than having to move away to look for work.

Head of Finance's Comments

Although the Council's capital resources are scarce, it is clear in this case that it is worth the Council committing £500,000 to match-fund a project which will provide advantages with a total cost of around £25,000,000. With such favourable "gearing", and uncertainty regarding equivalent opportunities in the future, it makes sense to act immediately on the Llanbedr infrastructure project.

£250,000 has already been allocated from the Match Funding Fund, which can be used by the Economy and Community Department as match funding to support such developments, and this could be used to this end.

The Council will need to commit another £250,000 to the project, and I can confirm that this money could come from the remaining resources of the current Asset Management Plan (there is around £300,000 which has not been committed in the plan for the 10 years to 2018/19)

While I support the principle that Gwynedd Council takes a lead body role for the project, plans should be in place to lessen the relevant risks, and to learn from experience in order to avoid slippages or changes to requirements which could result in costs falling upon the Council as lead body.

Monitoring Officer's Comments

No comments with regards to propriety

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

CABINET CYNGOR GWYNEDD

Date of discussion at the Cabinet	Items to be Discussed	Cabinet Member
Quarter 4 2017/18 – 1 January – 31 March		
2 January 2018	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for the Environment	Cllr. Dafydd Meurig
	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Education	Cllr. Gareth Thomas
	Performance Report of the Deputy Leader	Cllr. Mair Rowlands
09 January 2018	Henblas – Cwmni Pum Plwy Penllyn	Cllr. Dafydd Meurig
	The Council's Assets Plan	Cllr. Peredur Jenkins
	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Children a Supporting Families	Cllr. Dilwyn Morgan
	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal	Cllr. Gareth Griffith
	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance	Cllr. Peredur Jenkins
16 January 2018	North Wales Mental Health Strategy	Cllr. W Gareth Roberts
	Alternative Model for the Leisure Services	Cllr. Craig ab Iago
	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture	Cllr. Craig ab Iago

Date of discussion at the Cabinet	Items to be Discussed	Cabinet Member
	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development	Cllr. Ioan Thomas
	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being	Cllr. W Gareth Roberts
13 February 2018	The Restructure of Schools in Bangor	Cllr. Gareth Thomas
	Reorganisation of the Education Provision in Y Berwyn Catchment Area	Cllr. Gareth Thomas
	Co-locate Services	Cllr. Dafydd Meurig
	The Council Plan 2018 - 2023	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn
	Revenue Budget 2017/18 – Third Quarter Review	Cllr. Peredur Jenkins
	Capital Programme 2017/18 – Third Quarter Review	Cllr. Peredur Jenkins
	2018/19 Budget and the Financial Strategy for 2018/19 – 2020/21	Cllr. Peredur Jenkins
Items to be discussed in Quarter 4 2017/18 but no date set as yet		
	Neuadd Dwyfor	Cllr. Craig ab Iago
	Youth Services	Cllr. Craig ab Iago
	World Heritage Site Nomination	Cllr. Craig ab Iago
	Regional Plan for Population Assessment	Cllr. W Gareth Roberts
Quarter 1 2018/19 1 April – 30 June		
	The Council's Annual Performance Report	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn