

Complete Agenda

CABINET

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

DATE	Tuesday, 10th April, 2018
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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THE CABINET 13/03/18

Present-

Councillors: 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), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department)

Item 6: Garem Jackson (Head of Education Department), Diane Jones (Gwynedd Area Education Officer), Hedd Morlais Tomos (Schools Organisation Programme Manager)

Item 7: Sioned Williams (Head of Economy and Community Department), Catrin Thomas (Senior Community Learning Manager), Nia Morris

Item 8: Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department)

Item 9: Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department), Rhion Glyn (Senior Business Manager), Erin Fôn Jones (Category Manager)

Item 10: Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department)

Item 11: Dewi Wyn Jones (The Council's Business Support Service Manager)

Item 12: Dewi Morgan (Senior Manager - Revenue and Risk)

Item 13: Gwenllïan Mair Williams (Welsh Language Services Manager)

Item 14: Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.
No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Item 6 - The Future of Primary Education Provision in the Bangor Catchment Area

A declaration of interest was received from Cllr Dafydd Meurig as his sister ran the nursery on the Ysgol y Faenol site. It was a prejudicial interest and he left the meeting for this item.

The Local Member for the above item - Cllr Richard Medwyn Hughes - declared an interest as he was a Governor of Ysgol Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda. It was not a prejudicial interest and therefore he was able to express his view.

Item 7 - Remodelling the Youth Service

A declaration of interest was received from Cllr W. Gareth Roberts, as his son-in-law was employed by the Service. It was a prejudicial interest and he left the meeting.

Item 12 - Discretionary Relief from Non Domestic Rates

A declaration of interest was received from Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn, Cllr Mair Rowlands, Cllr Peredur Jenkins and the Head of Finance, Dafydd Edwards, as they were trustees or directors of various clubs and enterprises which received rates relief. Iwan Evans, the Monitoring Officer provided advice on the personal interests and emphasised that they were not prejudicial interests, and therefore the members and officer 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 MEETINGS HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 February 2018, as a true record.

6. FUTURE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE BANGOR CATCHMENT AREA

The item was submitted by Cllr. Gareth Thomas

RESOLVED

Resolved:

- i. To hold a statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 48 Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, in the Bangor catchment area on the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer a place to the pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.
- ii. To hold a pre-consultation with the Church in Wales regarding increasing the capacity of Ysgol y Faenol to 315 in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013 requirements and report on the results to the Cabinet.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting that the purpose of the report was to seek permission to proceed to hold a statutory consultation in relation to the process

of reorganising schools in the Bangor area. It was added that at the end of 2016, Welsh Government had announced that there was an opportunity for Local Authorities with the capacity, to apply for further funding to fulfil additional projects within Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme. Following submitting a request, the Education Department had received confirmation that funding had been agreed in principle.

In addition to this, there was a new housing development in Bangor. One of the planning conditions when the application had been approved was that the company would commit to contributing funding towards primary-age education provision in Bangor. By combining funding from Welsh Government and the Housing Development Company, there was a budget of approximately £13.8m.

It was noted that work had been done to look at potential options, and it was noted that, of the nine Primary Schools in Bangor, two schools had high numbers over capacity and two were fairly empty. The Department's preferred option would need to be consulted upon. The preferred option was to increase the capacity of Ysgol y Faenol, build a new school for Ysgol y Garnedd and increase the capacity from 210 to 420 and close Ysgol Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Observations were made by the Local Members who noted that they congratulated the Council on receiving this money. He suggested that the Department revised the options and that he favoured option 10, namely to increase the capacity at Ysgol y Faenol, provide a new school and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd and adapt the Ysgol Glanadda site to receive children from Ysgol Coedmawr. He noted that the level of education at Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Coedmawr had been in the red category, but since the arrival of the acting Headteacher, the school had been raised to the orange category.
- The Local Members added that it was a mistake to go for option 3 as Ysgol Cae Top and Ysgol Glancegin, which had been developed over the previous eight years, were already over capacity. With the wards growing and more demand for housing for families the numbers at the schools would continue to increase.
- There was a discussion around safety for children on the way to the school; it was noted that the road was a busy one but that children travelled along it every day. In addition, the traffic problem which already existed on the roads was discussed, as there were five schools and a Hospital in the same area.
- It was emphasised that it was important to listen to and discuss with local members and local people, and also to remember about the *Mudiad Meithrin*

7. RE-MODELLING THE YOUTH SERVICE

The report was submitted by Cllr Craig ab Iago

DECISION

Resolved:

- i. To approve the adoption of the County Youth Club model, Option 3 with the amendments outlined in paragraph 10.1 of the report for the re-modelling of the Youth Service
- ii. To approve the re-profiling of £24,800 of the savings from 2018/19 to 2019/20 to allow some funding for the voluntary organisations in 2018/19 as set out in part 10.4.3 of the report.
- iii. To commit the Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture to report back to the Cabinet every four months on the progress of the service

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that there were many reasons for remodelling the Youth Service. It was noted that Welsh Government expected Gwynedd Council to remodel the service. In addition, following the Gwynedd Challenge consultation, the Full Council resolved to cut £200,000 from the Service's budget, together with achieving an efficiency target of £70,000. Consequently, it was noted that it was impossible for the service to continue with the current structure.

A consultation was undertaken with young people, who had noted that they wanted a different model. The new structure would be pioneering and exciting which would provide the same youth provision to every young person across the county.

It was added that there were negative elements to the restructuring, as some of the young people wanted to continue to attend their local youth club. It was also noted that grants to support voluntary organisations working in the field would end in nine months' time.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that engagement work had been carried out with the young people and that over 3,000 had taken part. The consultation emphasised that young people wanted a youth worker that was available regularly.
- Travelling was one of the main problems for young people, and how it would be possible to access the service. This model would ensure that the youth worker would go out to the young people rather than the young people going to the worker.
- Some areas wanted the clubs to continue in their communities; it was noted that local engagement work was needed to see whether the Community Councils were eager to take on the club or volunteers. It was added that staff would be available to provide assistance and support volunteers.
- The timeframe was discussed and it was noted that the provision ended annually in April and recommenced in September, and this cycle would be emulated. The clubs would close in April and the new provision would commence in September. This would give an opportunity for the department to dismantle the old structure and to identify local needs and to discuss with partners.
- The importance of youth to the county was stressed, and the importance

of keeping the young people here. It was believed that the new service would be able to collaborate closely with the Children and Supporting Families Department.

- It was noted that stopping the grants to support the voluntary organisations would be difficult, as the two principal organisations did a lot of good work. The members acknowledged the organisations' good work and asked officers to work closely with the organisations. It was noted that, once the youth service would be aware of the type of activity that young people would want in each area, the activities could then be commissioned.
- It was added that the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure would need to report on the progress of the service to the Cabinet every four months.

8. PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW OF HEALTH AND CARE IN WALES

The report was submitted by Cllr Dilwyn Morgan and Cllr W. Gareth Roberts

DECISION

Resolved:

- i. To accept the report and appendix and acknowledge the alignment of the plans which are already in the Council's Corporate Plan with the reference noted in the review.
- ii. To request that the Leader and Chief Executive contact Welsh Government directly, in addition to Assembly Members and the WLGA to highlight the question of how it will be possible to proceed following the review.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that the Parliamentary Review confirmed that the changes undertaken by the Children and Supporting Families Department and the Adults, Health and Well-being Department were going in the right direction. It was added that the Council was seen as a pioneering Authority.

It was noted that the integrated working in the departments had been included as good practices. It was expressed that the department showed the way forward clearly, emphasising that decisions needed to be kept local. Despite this, many discussions were national ones, but that the work needed to start locally. It was added that the timeframe to report back was tight, and that this was a cause of concern. It was noted that it was important not to rush and to ensure that we were clear on what needed to be changed regionally and that these were intertwined.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that this was only the start of the journey but that the report underlined that Gwynedd was ahead of the game. It was added that the Williams Report raised concerns and the timeframe was tight.
- There was a need for a discussion with the Assembly Members in order to build on the report and ensure that it was citizen-centric. There was a

need to emphasise that a measured response was needed and to pay attention to ensure a solution to the recommendations. It was added that the Chief Executive and Leader would send a message to the Government, Assembly Members and the WLGA to highlight the question of how it would be possible to proceed following the review

9. NORTH WALES POPULATION ASSESSMENT REGIONAL PLAN 2018 TO 2023

The report was submitted by Cllr W Gareth Roberts.

DECISION

To approve the North Wales Population Assessment Regional Plan 2018 to 2023

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that it was a requirement to approve the Regional Plan to ensure that the Council complied with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. It was emphasised that this was a regional plan and a live document which would evolve over time, but the question was asked in relation to how a Local Assessment would come in to this.

It was noted that the Plan had followed the order of the act of creating a joint regional plan and then creating a local one. In future, it may be an idea to undertake a Local Assessment to begin with and then combine them to create a regional one. There was certainty that a Local Assessment was available for the county, however, local aspects to Gwynedd were seen in the Regional Plan.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the Plan was easy to read, but nonetheless it highlighted that the Regional Transformation Structure was unclear.
- It was added that the obvious differences between working regionally and locally in the Act and the Parliamentary Review caused tension.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The report was submitted by Cllr Mair Rowlands

DECISION

To approve the proposed amendments to the Council's Local Conditions of Service.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and the proposed changes to the Local Conditions of

Service were noted. It was noted that discussions had been held with the recognised unions since October 2015; nevertheless, it was not possible to ensure a collective agreement in order to realise the saving because the Unison National Office would not allow any local branch to hold a ballot on a proposal relating to a deterioration in conditions of service.

It was added that consultation with staff had been carried out and 116 of the 6,000 had responded, and the main responses were noted. It was emphasised that Community Social Carers would not be included in the amendment to reimburse travelling expenses as their home was their place of work. In addition, gritting and highways workers would not be included in the condition to reduce the payment to be on duty outside normal working hours.

Despite this, many of the observations received reflected the general opinion, namely that the package in question, though not desirable, was a step that needed to be taken.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Appreciation was noted of the close collaboration between Council and Union staff.

11. GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY DRAFT WELL-BEING PLAN

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

DECISION

To approve the draft response which has been prepared on behalf of the Council to the Statutory Consultation on the Gwynedd and Anglesey Draft Well-being Plan.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the Gwynedd and Anglesey Draft Well-being Plan had been published. It was added that the Communities Scrutiny Committee had scrutinised the Plan and that its responses had been incorporated within the draft response submitted. It was outlined that the response noted that some elements within the well-being objectives and priorities needed to be strengthened and that there was insufficient information in the plan about the implementation methods.

It was noted that the response was fair and that the next step for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board would be to determine how the plan could be executed.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the priorities were to have healthy communities and to

empower the communities. It was added that it was important to ensure that there was no duplication and that there would be collaboration on how the objectives would be delivered

12. DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FROM NON DOMESTIC RATES

The report was submitted by Cllr Peredur Jenkins

DECISION

To adopt the Framework for Awarding Discretionary Relief from Non Domestic Rates that appears in Appendix 1 to the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that it was timely for the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of its policy on Discretionary Relief, as the framework had been established for some years and there was a need to ensure it remained relevant in light of legislative changes. In September 2017, the Audit and Governance Committee agreed to establish a Working Group to review the existing Framework. The Group had met twice and the outcome was that the Group was satisfied with the framework in place on the whole, but some adaptations were highlighted.

All the adaptations were elaborated upon, which included abolishing the additional relief for Organisations of Special Interest for those that have registered as a charity but without a local connection. These adaptations were as a result of agreeing in principle that the Gwynedd taxpayers' money should not pay to meet the tax deficit when there was no local benefit. In addition, the recommendation of the Working Group was noted that the discretionary additional relief given by default to the properties of the National Trust, the RSPCA and the RSPB should cease. It was explained that the justification for this was that these national charities should not be dealt with differently from other charities, and, consequently, the properties of these charities, like everyone else, would have to be considered on merit.

13. GWYNEDD LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2018

The report was submitted by Cllr Mair Rowlands.

DECISION

To approve the consultation version of the Welsh Language Strategy 2018.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that agreement was needed on the content of

the strategy and the priorities, and that they were in keeping with the priorities identified in other plans such as the Council Plan. It was added that the strategy needed to note a target for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh-speakers in the county.

It was emphasised that the Council was a pioneer in terms of the language strategy in Wales, and that the language policy showed the Council's commitment to the language. It was added that the strategy built on the work of promoting the use of the Welsh language. It was noted that the strategy needed to go to public consultation during March and April and that the outcome of the consultation would be discussed in April. The intention was for the strategy to return to the Cabinet in June, before going to the Full Council in July.

14. ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMME OF SAVINGS

The report was submitted by Cllr W. Gareth Roberts.

DECISION

Resolved:

- a) To combine some schemes (that have already been approved) to work streams that are achieving savings from the same budgets and re-profiling equivalent to £270,000 of the 2018/19 to 2019/20 savings as outlined in part 7 of the report.
- b) To increase the savings target in some areas that are achieving more than the original target, £195,000 in 2018/19 and £200,000 in 2019/20, as outlined in part 8 of the report.
- c) To increase the savings target from new schemes, £390,000 in 2018/19 and £570,000 in 2019/20, as outlined in part 9 of the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting the proposed programme of savings. It was noted that the previous programme of savings had slipped as a result of a change in the care field nationally. Following time to restructure and rationalise the programme, new schemes had been proposed. It was added that it was possible for the department to achieve more than the original target in some fields.

However, it was noted that the challenge continued, as some schemes would have to be slipped. It was emphasised that the department's intention was to commission differently and change the service rather than reducing the available service.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was confirmed that these savings would address the historical targets, but that further savings for the Council would be seen in the future, and it was noted that the department anticipated that it would be possible to

build on the proposed programme

15. WELSH GOVERNMENT'S TAXATION POWERS

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

DECISION

To respond favourably to Welsh Government's intention to introduce new taxes, whilst noting observations made in the discussion and specifically the desire for local features to be emphasised in the regime.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that Welsh Government had the right to legislate to obtain new taxes. It was added that the item was an opportunity to discuss the proposals and to decide on the next steps forward. Each of the taxes was considered individually.

Vacant Land Tax

In principle, the tax would be useful which would act as an end to large companies sitting on lands for long periods of time. It was added that more information was needed and that it was difficult to define it. It was noted that this was already happening in Ireland.

Social Care Levy

It was suggested that this may be valuable, as the population lived longer and needed support, so it would be possible to use it to address the demand on the service.

Disposable Plastic Tax

It was noted that a notice of motion had been made at the Full Council regarding Disposable Plastic. It was asked that as this would be a national tax how much could be claimed in Gwynedd. It was noted that a request would have to be made to devolve the money and distribute it on a local level.

Tourism Tax

Support was expressed to the tax, emphasising that it was seen as a local tax abroad at present. It was added that it was not a very high tax but businesses would need to see the local advantages of doing it.

In terms of the proposals, it was noted that there was support for all of them, but that more information was needed and the aspect of a local tax needed to be emphasised. A response would be drawn up based on the discussion.

To respond favourably to Welsh Government's intention to introduce new taxes, whilst noting observations made in the discussion and specifically the desire for local features to be emphasised in the regime.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.45 pm

CHAIRMAN

Agenda Item 6

REPORT TO THE CABINET

10 April 2018

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Thomas

Subject: Future of Education Provision in Berwyn Catchment Area

Contact Officer: Garem Jackson – Head of Education

The decision sought

Implement the proposal published on 26 February 2018 to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn, in Bala on 31 August 2019 and establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, Welsh Medium, community status, (“The Campus”), on the existing Ysgol y Berwyn site to open on 1 September 2019.

Local Members’ views

Any observations by the Local Member will be presented at the meeting.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 27 June 2017, Cabinet resolved to withdraw the proposal approved in September 2015, to establish a Voluntary Controlled (VC Church in Wales) 3-19 Learning Campus, requesting a further report to submit a new proposal for a statutory consultation that would address and comply with the requirements of the Business Case that has already been approved by the Welsh Government. In addition, the Education Cabinet Member was delegated the authority to hold a pre-consultation with the Church in Wales on the new proposal, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013.
- 1.2 The pre-consultation was held with the Church in Wales between 31 August and 28 September 2017. It was clear from their response to the pre-consultation that their priority is the pupils, and that they are willing to work with the schools, the local community and the Council to ensure that the project is moving forward.
- 1.3 Following the pre-consultation with the Church in Wales, a further report was presented to the Cabinet on 24 October 2017, and the Cabinet resolved:

“To conduct a statutory consultation in accordance with Section 48 Schools Standards Act (Wales) 2013, in the Berwyn catchment area on the favoured model, namely the proposal to close the schools of Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn in the town of Bala and establish a 3-19 Welsh Medium Learning Campus, with community status on the existing Ysgol y Berwyn site to be implemented from September 2019”
- 1.4 In accordance with the statutory requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (006/2013), a statutory consultation period was held in the Berwyn catchment area between 22 November 2017 and 10 January 2018.
- 1.5 On 13 February 2018, a further report was presented to the Cabinet, in order to present the main comments and points received from stakeholders during the statutory consultation, as well as the Council’s response to those comments. At its meeting, the Cabinet resolved to:
 - i. Approve the proposal for the closure of Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn on 31 August 2019 and for the Welsh Medium 3-19 Learning Campus, community status, to be established on the existing site of Ysgol y Berwyn to open on 1 September 2019.

- ii. *Approve the issue of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013*

2. Objection Period

- 2.1 In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the School Organisation Code, and the Cabinet's decision on 13 February 2018, a statutory notice was published on 26 February 2018, and an objection period on the proposal was held between 26 February and 26 March 2018.
- 2.2 The Statutory Notice was published on 26 February 2018 and copies of the notice was placed on the gates of the 3 schools in Bala and on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. Electronic and hard copies of the notice were distributed in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. It was specified clearly on the notices that any person may object and how to object.
- 2.3 Below is a summary of the contents of the Statutory Notice:
- (a) **DISCONTINUE** YSGOL Y BERWYN, Y Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7RU, YSGOL BRO TEGID, Y Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7BN, YSGOL BEUNO SANT, Y Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7UU (Voluntary Aided, Church in Wales School), on **31 August 2019**.
- (b) **ESTABLISH** a new 3-19 SCHOOL, Welsh Medium, (Community status) on **1 September 2019**. The 3-19 SCHOOL will be on one site, that is the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala, Gwynedd, LL23 7RU. “
- 2.4 Following the objection period, the Cabinet is required to consider the objections received and the Council's response to these objections before deciding whether or not to implement the proposal. Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 requires the Council to publish a report that includes a summary of the objections as well as the Council's response to those objections.
- 2.5 The objection period closed on 26 March 2018. **No objections were received during the objection period.** As a result, the Council is not required to publish an objections report as part of the proposal.
- 2.6 As no objections were received, it is recommended that the Cabinet confirm the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn on 31 August 2019 and establish a 3-19 learning campus, Welsh Medium, Community status, on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn, to open on 1 September 2019.

3 Impact of the proposed model on the Community, the Welsh Language, and Equality

- 3.1.1 Welsh Government guidelines (School Organisation Code 006/2013) indicate that a community, linguistic and an equality assessment are required to be undertaken as part of any school reorganisation proposal. These assessments were completed on the long list of possible models and were originally carried out as part of the consultation process in 2015, and these assessments were updated as part of the recent statutory consultation. Here is a summary of the findings of the assessments:
- 3.2 **The Community**
- 3.2.1 Since no rural school is to be closed, and as schools in the town of Bala move to one location namely the Learning Campus, there are no significant community impacts or implications involved in implementing the proposed model.
- 3.2.2 Further consideration has been given to the Community regarding the proposal, following the objection period. It is considered that the findings of the assessment remains current and relevant to the recommendation. Cabinet is referred to the full assessment available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation as part of the background documents.

3.3 The Welsh Language

- 3.3.1 Since no rural school is to be closed, there is no impact on the Welsh language. The pupils of Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant will transfer to the Learning Campus, and the 11-19 year old pupils will continue to receive their education in an establishment with the same cross section of pupils as the existing Ysgol y Berwyn. The language category of every school in the catchment will remain the same, namely Welsh Medium category. There will also be an opportunity to further strengthen the implementation of Gwynedd's language policy by ensuring continuation in the use of the Welsh language both in education and within the community.
- 3.3.2 Further consideration has been given to the Welsh language regarding the proposal, following the objection period. It is considered that the findings of the assessment remains current and relevant to the recommendation. Cabinet is referred to the full assessment available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation as part of the background documents.

3.4 Equality

- 3.4.1 This assessment gave particular attention to different equality elements such as race, gender, disability, language, religion or beliefs and age. The assessment sets out the current situation and the policies and arrangements that are in place to ensure that the proposal considered aligns with equal rights.
- 3.4.2 Having considered the relevant factors in detail, the conclusion reached is that equal opportunities will be promoted positively as a result of the proposal and that measures are in place to ensure that there will be no illegal discrimination or harassment. Arrangements are in place to monitor and review the situation.
- 3.4.3 Further consideration has been given to equality regarding the proposal, following the objection period. It is considered that the findings of the assessment remains current and relevant to the recommendation. Cabinet is referred to the full assessment available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation as part of the background documents.

4 To summarise

- 4.1 Should the Cabinet decide to support the recommendation in this report, the process of establishing the Campus could proceed with the intention to open officially in September 2019. As is noted in previous reports, there will be a transitional period between the completion date of the construction work on the existing site of Ysgol y Berwyn and the implementation date of the proposal, namely 1 September 2019. During this period, Education department officers will work closely with Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn and their governing bodies to establish a 'bridging' plan for the Bala primary schools to ensure regular use by those schools of the new resources at the Ysgol y Berwyn site during the year before the Campus officially opens in September 2019.

5 Next steps

- 5.1 If the final decision by the Cabinet is to proceed with the proposal, the timetable will be as follows:

Next Steps	Outline timetable
Create a Communication Plan to share timely and relevant information with the stakeholders	April 2018
Start the process of establishing the shadow governing body	April 2018
Appoint a Headteacher	Summer term 2018
Close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Y Berwyn	31 August 2019
Open the 3-19 Learning Campus	1 September 2019

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is therefore recommended to implement the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn, in Y Bala on 31 August 2019 and establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, Welsh Medium, community status, ("The Campus"), on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn to open on 1 September 2019.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

The Monitoring Officer:

“This report has received input from the Legal Department therefore there are no comments to add regarding propriety.”

Finance Officer:

“My previous comments to the Cabinet meetings on 27 June 2017 and 24 October 2017 – where the business plan was considered in detail – remain valid, and I support the decision sought.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

All background documents relevant to the proposal can be viewed on the Council’s website by following this link www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation.

The background documents include:

- Schools Organisation Code 006/2013
- Priorities Plan – Reorganisation of Education Provision
- Welsh Government Faith in Education document
- Statistics Pack (2017-18)
- Language Impact Assessment Report
- Community Impact Assessment Report
- Equality Impact Assessment Report
- Assessment of the Need for Different Types of Schools in the Berwyn catchment area, Y Bala (2014)
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice – 27 June 2017
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice – 24 October 2017
- Statutory Consultation Document 22 November 2017 – 10 January 2018
- Consultation Documents with the Primary and Secondary Pupils in the Catchment Area
- Statutory Notice published on 26 February 2018

Agenda Item 7

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	10 April 2018
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Contact Officer:	Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive
Contact Telephone Number	32001
Title of Item:	A survey of Gwynedd Council's electoral arrangements.

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

To approve the Council's response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission's draft proposals (published January 2018).

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

As a response is required to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission consultation by 23 April 2018, the Cabinet, in accordance with the decision of the Full Council, must approve the response to the Boundary Commission based on the clear guidance given by the Council.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 All Council members will be aware that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission has published its draft proposals for the survey of the electoral arrangements for Gwynedd Council.

3.2 We are required to respond by 23 April 2018.

3.3 At its meeting on 8 March 2018, the Council decided to respond to the draft proposals of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission by

- Restating the Council's proposals and urging the Commission to accept the content of our original proposals
- Authorise the Chief Executive to hold discussions with local members in the areas where the local members consider it would be prudent to propose an alternative option, and
- Authorise the Cabinet to include this alternative option in the formal response if all local members are unanimous in their opinion.
- Authorise the Cabinet to make alternative suggestions to the names of the electoral wards that are in the Commission's proposals if there is a local desire to do so.

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- 3.4 A draft response is included in the full report in Appendix 1. The Council's opinion and the local members' response were incorporated where a unanimous alternative option has been included.
- 3.5 It was noted that discussions were held in the following areas:
- Gerlan and Ogwen - unanimous opinion from the local members on an alternative proposal (incorporated in the report)
 - Pen Llŷn Area - unanimous opinion from the local members on continuing to support the Council's original proposal
 - Bethel and Felinheli - unanimous opinion from the local members on continuing to support the Council's original proposal
 - Harlech, Ardudwy and Llanbedr - the Council's opinion was against a multi-member seat, and there was a unanimous opinion from the local members in favour of the Boundary Commission's proposal
 - Dolgellau - unanimous opinion from the local members on an alternative proposal (incorporated in the report)

4. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet approves the response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission's draft proposals as noted in Appendix 1.

Views of Statutory Officers:

i. **Chief Finance Officer**

No comments to add regarding financial propriety.

ii. **Monitoring Officer**

Following the Council's decision at its meeting on 8 March, the Cabinet was set a specific task, which was to verify that the Commission's proposed response was in accordance with its decision. The report outlines the completed work and the status of the local opinion on the alternative proposals in the response in a way that meets the requirements of the Full Council.

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APPENDIX 1 – GWYNEDD COUNCIL RESPONSE

BACKGROUND.

1. Gwynedd Council is pleased to be able to respond to the draft proposal report of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, dated January 2018.
2. The Council submitted draft proposals to the Boundary Commission in June 2017, and we are pleased that the Commission has incorporated 43 of them in their draft proposals, with an agreement in terms of the boundary in a further two proposals, but disagreement in terms of the number of members for these wards.
3. We continue to stand by the original proposals given by the Council, which were based on meeting the average need per member, and also on a strong awareness of the local area and the best solution for local people. A copy of the original report and the logic for the proposals is included in Appendix A.
4. Before elaborating on each ward and specific proposals, there are some basic principles we wish to emphasise.
5. Whilst accepting that the Commission has to aim towards the electoral member:elector ratio of approximately 1:1200, or as close as possible to this, Gwynedd Council emphasises the rural nature of the County and what is sensible in terms of natural community links in order to ensure an effective representation for the people of Gwynedd. This could mean deviating from the visual appearance on a map that would lead to the best ratio, to a slightly less balanced ratio but a much more sensible democratic representation for the community.
6. As a basic principle, we have already noted that we are against electoral wards with two or more members as it is not consistent with the Commission's basic principle of ensuring that each Councillor has an equal electoral ratio, nor the objective of ensuring an effective and convenient local government, as is required for them to address.
7. We note that you stated in your 2016 policy and practice document that it is required to endeavour to ensure an equal ratio of local government electors to the number of Council members to be elected in each electoral ward.
8. We presume that the purpose of this requirement is to ensure a somewhat equal workload and representation across the area of the Council.

9. The Council is of a strong opinion that if you were to create constituencies with more than one member, this would be contrary to this principle.
10. As members cannot arrange at the time of an election for one member to represent half of the constituency and another member to represent the other half, what is created when creating a two member constituency, for instance, is a constituency where two members have to represent double the number of electors.
11. In areas where there is a significant political difference, it can also lead to votes from individuals meaning less as they are not reflected in the Council's member constitution.
12. For example, if we take two constituencies with 1,000 electors each: Constituency A has 800 electors for Party X and 200 members for Party Z; and Constituency B has 400 electors for Party X and 600 electors for Party Z - by keeping them separate, Party X would gain one member and Party Z would gain one member. However, by creating a two member constituency, Party X would gain two members and Party Z would not be represented at all.
13. In addition, we continue to reinforce the opinion noted originally that the Boundary Commission should focus on the requirements of effective local representation and the impact of the population rather than on the electoral register, at a specific point in time, in forming its proposals. Specifically, the demands and workload which arise as a result of the presence of students, tourists, second home owners and others who are not on the local electoral register mean that this must be addressed when determining the size of constituencies.
14. When considering names for the wards, we support the Boundary Commission's principle to reconcile names in English and Welsh. See specific observations about ward names from point 30 onwards.
15. The Council acknowledges and appreciates that the Boundary Commission has taken the local voice into consideration and has accepted the Council's proposals in a large number of wards. However, we continue to stand by our original proposals unless noted otherwise below.

OBSERVATIONS ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

GERLAN AND OGWEN

16. Gerlan ward currently has 1615 electors (projection of 1637), which is 34% above average. Ogwen ward currently has 1609 electors (projection of 1523) which is 33% above average.
17. The Boundary Commission has proposed to combine both wards and create a multi-member ward with three members and 3,224 (projection of 3160) electors, which is 11% above average.

18. The Council does not agree with the Commission's proposal to create a multi-member ward for the reasons noted above in 4, which are to ensure accountability and a clear democratic representation for the electors. The Council believes that there is an alternative solution to the situation in the Bethesda area which a) avoids a multi-member ward b) continues to respond to the requirements of the Boundary Commission with regards to an elector:member representation ratio. As there is a total of 3,224 electors (projection of 3160) in the area, the Council suggests forming three new individual wards, namely Rachub, Gerlan and Bethesda wards (see the map in Appendix B).
19. The recommendation is based on a strong awareness of the local community. Historically, the three defined areas/wards were three small villages. As the years went by, the villages have grown and their outskirts have become very close to each other; however, there are differences between the areas. Rachub and Gerlan are more rural areas compared to the Ogwen area which makes up the urban area of Bethesda.
20. It is recommended to change the boundaries so that the new boundary is divided between Ogwen and Rachub wards down Lôn Newydd Coetmor, joining Bangor Road and re-joining the old boundary there. Forming the new boundary down Lôn Coetmor and down the road known locally as Allt Bethania will ensure that the electors in the rural area of the "Bethesda Area" are in the Rachub ward, whilst keeping the most populated and urban area from Bangor Road in the more urban ward of Ogwen. This would lead to creating a new Rachub ward with 970 electors, which is 19% below average. It should be considered that there are two planning permissions for this ward, which will add an additional number of electors in time.
21. In addition, it is recommended to adapt the boundaries to the north of Ogwen ward, changing the boundary for the Gerlan ward so that it follows the Coetmor ditch (as it is currently) to Carneddi Road, and turning right and following the footpath behind the Old Coal Yard and surrounding the Pant Dreiniog industrial estate, and connecting back with Cefnfaes Street, and then joining Ffrydlas Road, and continuing then up Ffordd Newydd Gerlan until reaching the original boundaries. We believe that this is logical as it keeps the area known as "Carneddi" completely within the Gerlan ward. This would lead to creating a new Gerlan ward with 1,115 electors (914 from the original Gerlan, and 201 transferred from Ogwen), which is 7.1% below average.
22. The side-effect of this then is to create a new urban ward from the old Ogwen ward, which would have 1,139 electors (1609 from the original ward, 269 to Rachub and 201 to Gerlan), which is 5% below average. It is believed that creating the new boundaries to the old Ogwen ward would keep the valley's "grass-roots" in a logical neat cluster, very close to the area known traditionally as 'Bethesda'. To avoid confusion with the wider area of Dyffryn Ogwen, we recommend that the Ogwen ward name should be changed to "Ward Bethesda" or "Ward Canol Bethesda".
23. The Council believes that the above solution meets the Commission's requirements in terms of the numbers ratio, along with ensuring a sensible local solution.

PEN LLŶN AREA - ABERDARON, BOTWNNOG, LLANENGAN, ABERSOCH AND LLANBEDROG WARDS.

24. The Council acknowledges that a change must be made in the area to keep within the Boundary's guidelines. The Council is still of the opinion that the proposals originally submitted by the Council brings the best solution for the area. Whilst acknowledging that the Commission's solution means that the variation in figures is lower than the variation in the Council's solution, the Council's solution is still within the +/- 25% variation used by the Commission in other wards. However, the recommendations also ensure that natural community links are respected.
25. We still recommend combining the two wards of Aberdaron and Botwnnog to create one electoral ward of 1,457 electors - 733 Aberdaron and 724 Botwnnog (projection of 1,406), which is 21.4% above average. This still builds on the natural community links in the area, and would lead to a more sensible solution than dividing the Botwnnog community. By combining the two wards, the local elected Members suggest giving the ward a new name, namely the "Pen draw Llŷn" to reflect the new ward and its unique situation. (See point 30 onwards for observations on ward names).
26. The Council also proposed another new ward by combining the Abersoch coastal ward (523 electors) with the Llanengan Community Council ward (333 electors) and the Llangian Community Council ward up to a new natural boundary created by the Coed y Fron cross-road (that would include approximately 53 electors). This new ward leads to creating a ward consisting of 909 electors, which is 24% below average. This new ward of 909 electors once again strengthens and responds to community links. The Abersoch and Llanengan areas are seaside areas where there is much tourism, second homes and collaboration within the communities. There are other natural links also, such as the Llanengan and Llangian Church Community, and the Post Office. If the Boundary Commission accepts the above recommendation, then the members would wish to choose a new name for the ward. (see point 30 onwards for observations on ward names).
27. By accepting the recommendation in 21 above, the third ward then combines the Mynytho area (namely the remainder of the Llanengan electoral ward) from the Coed y Fron cross-road (approximately 450 electors) to join the Llanbedrog electoral ward (768 electors). In turn, this would lead to creating the Llanbedrog and Mynytho new electoral ward which would have 1,218 electors, which is 1.5% above average. Once again, the above builds on natural links within the community, with similar traditions between Mynytho and Llanbedrog, such as agriculture, the chapels and the Welsh culture.

DOLGELLAU AREA

28. Another area the Boundary Commission has suggested to change to become a multi-member ward is the Dolgellau Area. The current situation in Dolgellau means that there are two wards, Dolgellau North with 900 electors (projection of 871) which is 25% below average, and Dolgellau South with 1,044 electors (projection of 970) which is 14% below average. We had recommended to keep to the existing arrangements as they are within the +/- 25% boundary average. The Boundary Commission recommends combining the wards to create one electoral ward of 1,944 electors (projection of 841) represented by two members, which is 20% below average.
29. In accordance with the Council's basic principle, we object to multi-member wards for the reasons already noted. In light of the fact that the current comparison is not much different to the variation the Commission itself is prepared to accept in other areas, we do not see the need to change here, and the Commission is recommending change for the sake of change. We will continue to stress keeping things as they are. However, if the Commission insists on the need for change, the Council has developed an alternative solution for the area in order to make the numbers more balanced. It is recommended to adapt the boundary of the Dolgellau South ward (see the map in Appendix C for the detailed boundary) and continuing to follow Ffordd y Gadair and not turn up Maes Caled Road by Penbryn. This would lead to approximately 85 additional electors in the Dolgellau North ward and consistency for the electors to the north of Ffordd y Gadair being represented in the more rural ward of Dolgellau North. This would lead to 985 electors in the Dolgellau North ward, which is 17.9% below average, and 959 electors in the Dolgellau South ward, which is 20.1% below average. See Appendix Ch for a map of the new recommended wards.

BETHEL AND FELINHELI AREA

30. The Bethel and Felinheli area is two separate wards within an adjacent area. There are 1,007 electors (projection of 995) in the Bethel ward, which is 17% below the current average. The Felinheli ward has 1,694 electors (projection of 1,736), which is 40% above average. The Boundary Commission has recommended combining both wards to create one new electoral ward named Bethel and Felinheli, which would consist of 2,701 electors (projection of 2,731) which is 12% above average, which would be represented by two members.
31. In accordance with the previous observations, we object to multi-member wards for the reasons already noted. We continue to stand by our original proposal, namely to keep both wards separate, as they currently are. There are no community links that bring both areas together, albeit the proximity of the two areas on a map.
32. Though comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines, the Bethel ward is a village which has its own identity as a unit and is a natural community which grows and develops and it makes cultural and community sense. There are community links with the Llanddeiniolen and Llanrug area. On the other hand, the Felinheli ward has its own identity as a unit - it is a self-sufficient community, both on a cultural and community level.

33. Accepting that the Felinheli constituency is 40% above average, everything cannot be boiled down to a mathematical measure and, in this case, we are of a strong opinion that we must accept one larger than normal constituency as the option recommended by the Commission makes no sense on a community level.
34. Furthermore, in accordance with our arguments for multi-member constituencies, we would not be creating a representative balance, but a situation where both members would have to represent a constituency that is 123% above average.

HARLECH AND LLANBEDR AREA

35. Another area the Boundary Commission has suggested to become a multi-member ward is the Harlech and Llanbedr area. We note that there is a local feeling of agreeing to the Boundary Commission's ideas for the area but, as we have already noted, we do not agree with multi-member wards.

BANGOR AREA

36. The Council is pleased that the Boundary Commission has considered and accepted the Council's observations regarding changing boundaries within the Bangor area, with the impact on the existing areas of Deiniol, Hirael, Hendre, Garth and Menai. However, whilst the boundaries have changed, the Council is still of the opinion that the unique circumstances of these wards as a result of the substantial influx of students in the Garth and Menai wards, and the deprived nature of the Marchog ward, means that there is an additional burden on Councillors who represent them. In accordance with what was noted in the Council's original proposals, we believe that two members are required to represent these wards.

OTHER AREAS

37. In addition, the areas noted below are areas where the Boundary Commission has stated different proposals to the original proposals that the Council made. As already noted, we are still of the opinion that the proposals we originally submitted are more sensible for the areas. The justification can be seen in the original report, which is available in Appendix A.
 - Arllechwedd and Pentir Area
 - Bontnewydd, Waunfawr, Llanwnda and Talysarn Area
 - Porthmadog-Tremadog, Penrhyndeudraeth Area
 - Diffwys, Maenofferen and Teigl Area
 - Tywyn Area

WARD NAMES

38. As noted above in 14, we support the Boundary Commission's principle to reconcile names in English and Welsh.
39. The Boundary Commission has suggested specific changes to the names of some wards. The names of the new wards we support are listed below:
- Llanaelhaearn Yr Eifl
 - Bryn-crug/Llanfihangel and Bro Dysynni
 Llangelynnig Arthog and Llangelynnin
40. There are two other wards where the Commission is suggesting a change, with which the Council does not agree.
- In the Bangor area, the Commission's recommendation is to create one new ward called Bethesda. The Council has recommended an alternative solution, creating three new wards called Gerlan, Rachub and Bethesda or Central Bethesda.
 - In the Pen Llŷn area, the Commission is recommending combining the Aberdaron ward with a section of Botwnnog and calling it 'Aberdaron', but the Council is recommending that both wards should be combined and that the new ward should be called the 'Pen draw Llŷn' ward. If the Council's observations are not accepted, we believe that calling the ward combining Aberdaron and a section of Botwnnog "Aberdaron", and calling the other new ward the Commission is favouring by combining the remainder of Botwnnog with Llanengan "Botwnnog and Llanengan" would be very misleading and confusing for local people.
41. There is a strong opinion with regards to objecting to changing the name of the Abermaw ward to Abermo, as it could lead to some confusion. Abermaw is used locally in Gwynedd because it is the estuary (*aber*) of the Mawddach river. We encourage keeping to the Abermaw name or, if there will be any change, to use Abermawddach, but not Abermo.
42. In addition, there are a few principles that the Commission should consider when coming up with ward names. It is noted that there is a possibility of creating confusion when having the same name on two wards in different areas, e.g. Hendre in Caernarfon and Bangor. In addition, it is noted that the Commission's recommendation for the spelling of the names of some wards vary from the local understanding of the spellings, e.g. Aber-erch rather than Abererch. It is recommended to keep to the local spelling.

APPENDIX A

REVIEW OF GWYNEDD ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES



GWYNEDD COUNCIL PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. Gwynedd Council is pleased to be able to submit local proposals as part of the Boundary Commission process but, in so doing, the Council is eager to make two principal points:-

a. The consultation period, which coincided with the County Council and Community Councils' election, was quite inadequate for any meaningful local discussion and this has affected the ability to provide details on some proposals. (With this in mind, the Council is very willing to assist the Commission further with more evidence as it draws up its draft proposals).

b. The Boundary Commission should address the needs of effective local representation and the impact of the population not on the electoral register at a particular point in time, when drawing up its proposals. Specifically, the demands and workload which arise as a result of the presence of students, tourists, second home owners and others who are not on the local electoral register mean that this must be addressed when determining the size of constituencies.

NB In drawing up its proposals, the Council has looked at the elector to councillor ratio which the Commission recommended for the county as a guide only as the nature of constituencies varies and has allowed up to approximately 25% variance above and below that figure. However, the Council has given its main attention to the small constituencies within the county. Where constituencies which appear large but are coherent in terms of community links and effective representation, the Council has not suggested reducing their size. Where possible, the Council has sought to draw up proposals which ensure one-member constituencies only as this, in the Council's opinion, is better in terms of local democratic accountability. There are two exceptions to this in the Bangor area (see paragraph 3.1) where the Council argues that there are special circumstances which justify that.

AREAS TO WHICH NO CHANGE IS SUGGESTED

2. The Council's proposals fall into two categories: the first where no change is recommended (paragraphs 2.1 to 2.35 below) and the second where the Council proposes some changes (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.12).

Areas in Arfon

2.1. Arllechwedd - This constituency of 1,000 electors has four community wards: Abergwyngregyn, Llandygai and Llanllechid Uchaf and Isaf. The constituency is already enormous geographically (8,168 hectares) and difficult to travel around. It is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.2. Bethel - This constituency of 1,007 electors has one community ward within the community of Llanddeiniolen. Though comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines, it is a village

which has its own identity as a unit and is a natural community which grows and develops and it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.3. Deiniolen - This constituency of 1,321 electors has three community wards: Deiniolen, Clwt y Bont and Dinorwig. The constituency is slightly above the Boundary Commission's guidelines but as it makes cultural and community sense splitting it would not make any sense at all and the Council proposes no change.

2.4. Dewi (Bangor) - This constituency of 1,204 electors is one community ward and is very close to the Boundary Commission's guideline figure. Modifying the constituency was given consideration in the context of the other changes (suggested below) in other constituencies in Bangor but any such changes would have detracted from a constituency which makes cultural and community sense. Therefore, the Council proposes no change.

2.5. Gerlan - This constituency of 1,615 electors has two community wards: Rachub and Gerlan. The constituency is larger than the Boundary Commission guidelines. As it is, the constituency forms a half-circle around the town of Bethesda and brings together similar communities on the outskirts of the old quarry town. Therefore, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.6. Glyder (Bangor) - This constituency of 1,200 electors is one community ward. Modifying the constituency was given consideration in the context of the other changes (suggested below) in other constituencies in Bangor but any such changes would have detracted from a constituency which makes cultural and community sense. Therefore, the Council proposes no change.

2.7. Groeslon - This constituency of 1,284 electors has two community wards: Groeslon and Dinas. Consideration was given to changing this constituency as a result of the need to make other changes to neighbouring constituencies but this was not required ultimately and the existing constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.8. Llanberis - This constituency of 1,530 electors has two community wards: Padarn, which includes the town of Llanberis itself and Nant Peris. The Padarn constituency alone is larger than the Boundary Commission's guidelines but the obvious link between Nant Peris and Padarn means that the constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.9. Llanrug - This constituency of 1,349 electors is one community ward for the village of Llanrug itself. It is very close in terms of numbers to the Commission's guidelines, it is a village which has its own identity as a unit and is a natural community which grows and develops and it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.10. Ogwen - This constituency of 1,609 electors is one community ward: the town of Bethesda itself. It is a large, urban constituency but it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.11. Pentir - This constituency of 1,810 electors has two community wards: Faenol and Glasinfryn. Consideration was given to Pentir in the context of other possible changes in Bangor and Dyffryn Ogwen but the conclusion was reached that, though large, the constituency does make cultural and community sense and splitting it or linking parts of it with other constituencies did not make sense. Therefore the Council proposes no change.

2.12. Penygroes - This constituency of 1,341 electors is one community ward. The constituency is a village which has its own identity as a unit and is around the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.13. Tregarth and Mynydd Llandygai - This constituency of 1,625 electors has two community wards: Tregarth and St Ann's. This is a large constituency compared with the Commission's guideline figure but having considered it in the context of other possible changes in Dyffryn Ogwen, the conclusion was reached that, though large, the constituency does make cultural and community sense and splitting it or linking parts of it with other constituencies did not make sense. Therefore the Council proposes no change.

2.14. Waunfawr - This constituency of 1,265 electors has four community wards: Waunfawr itself, Caeathro, Betws Garmon and Rhyd-ddu. The most suitable link for Caeathro was considered when discussing the Bontnewydd constituency but, as the existing constituency is close to the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers and that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.15. Felinheli - This constituency of 1,694 electors is one community ward. Though larger than the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers, geographically, it makes no sense to split it in any way as it has its own identity as a unit and, therefore, as it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

Areas in Dwyfor

2.16. Abererch - This constituency of 989 electors has two community wards: Abererch and Ffôr. The constituency is large geographically (2,489 hectares) and difficult to travel around. It is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Consideration was given to the constituency in the context of some neighbouring changes but this did not offer any significant improvement to the situation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.17. Cricieth - This constituency of 1,301 is one community ward. The constituency is a town which has its own identity as a unit and is around the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.18. Dolbenmaen - This constituency of 920 electors has five community wards: Bryncir, Garn, Golan, Penmorfa and Pentrefelin. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines and is very close to the threshold of variance which the Council has allowed for. The constituency is already enormous geographically (8,609 hectares) and difficult to travel around, and adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.19. Efailnewydd / Buan - This constituency of 998 electors has five small, rural community wards: Ceidio, Bodfuan, Pentreuchaf, Efailnewydd and Bachellaeth. The constituency is large geographically (5,571 hectares) and is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Consideration was given to the possibility of linking it with other areas but, owing to the geographical size of the constituency and the fact that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.20. Llanystumdwy - This constituency of 1,493 electors has four small, rural community wards: Llanarmon, Llangybi, Rhoslan and Llanystumdwy itself. The constituency is slightly larger than the

guideline in terms of numbers set out by the Commission but it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.21. Nefyn - This constituency of 975 electors is one community ward. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. Consideration was given to the constituency in the context of some neighbouring changes but this did not offer any significant improvement to the situation. Moreover, it has its own identity as a unit and makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.22. Porthmadog (East) - This constituency of 1,132 electors has two community wards: Porthmadog East itself and Ynys Galch. The constituency is only slightly lower than the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.23. Porthmadog (West) - This constituency of 1,265 electors has three community wards: Porthmadog West itself, Gest and Morfa Bychan. As the existing constituency is close to the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers and that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.24. Porthmadog (Tremadog) - This constituency of 943 electors has two community wards: Prenteg and Beddgelert. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. The constituency is already enormous geographically (9,924 hectares) and difficult to travel around, and adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.25. Pwllheli (South) - This constituency of 1,268 electors is one community ward. As the existing constituency is close to the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers and that it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.26. Pwllheli (North) - This constituency of 1,502 electors is one community ward. Although higher than the guideline figure given by the Commission, splitting it would not make geographical or community sense. The constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

Areas in Meirionnydd

2.27. Aberdyfi - This constituency of 884 electors, the southern-most constituency in the county, has three community wards: Dyfi, Abertafol and Pennal. The county boundary limits the flexibility to make any adaptations. The constituency is extremely rural with a dispersed population across an enormous area of 5,298 hectares and is difficult to travel around and, though consideration was given to linking it with other areas, no such proposal offered genuine improvement to the existing situation. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.28. Barmouth - This constituency of 1,531 electors is one community ward. Though larger than the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers, geographically, it makes no sense to split it in any way as it has its own identity as a unit and, therefore, as it makes cultural and community sense, the Council proposes no change.

2.29. Brithdir and Llanfachreth / Y Ganllwyd / Llanelltyd - This constituency of 1,116 electors has four community wards: Llanelltyd, Ganllwyd, Machreth and Brithdir. It forms a 'u' shape around Dolgellau to the east, north and west. The constituency is already enormous geographically (19,594 hectares) and difficult to travel around. It is close enough to the Commission's guidelines in terms of numbers to justify not reviewing in order to add to it. The constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.30. Bowydd and Rhiw - This constituency of 1,237 electors has two community wards: Bowydd and Rhiw itself and Tanygrisiau. The constituency was considered in the context of the changes which had to take place in a neighbouring constituency but that was resolved without affecting this constituency. The constituency is very close to the Commission's guideline figure and makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.31. Corris and Mawddwy - This constituency of 963 electors has four community wards: Corris, Aberangell, Dinas Mawddwy and Llanymawddwy which is also on the county's southern boundary. The county boundary limits the flexibility to make any adaptations. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines but within the variance which the Council has allowed for. The constituency is already enormous geographically (16,490 hectares) and difficult to travel around, and adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.32. Dolgellau (South) - This constituency of 1,044 electors is one community ward. Although slightly small according to the Commission's guidelines in terms of numbers, it sits comfortably within the variance which the Council has allowed for and it makes no sense to make any adaptations to it. The constituency makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.33. Dolgellau (North) - This constituency of 900 electors is one community ward which forms a circle around the town of Dolgellau itself and brings together the smaller communities which see Dolgellau as the town which they are connected to. The constituency is comparatively small according to the Commission's guidelines and is very close to the threshold of variance which the Council has allowed for. However, adding to it would make it extremely difficult in terms of effective local representation. Moreover, it makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.34. Penrhyndeudraeth - This constituency of 1,745 electors has two community wards: Penrhyndeudraeth and Llanfrothen. It is a large constituency in terms of numbers considering the Commission's guideline, but it makes no sense to split it in any way. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

2.35. Bala - This constituency of 1,353 electors is one community ward. The constituency is a town which has its own identity as a unit and is around the Commission's guideline figure in terms of numbers. It makes cultural and community sense and the Council proposes no change.

AREAS TO WHICH THE COUNCIL PROPOSES SPECIFIC CHANGES

3.1. Bangor City Area

The Bangor City area is greatly affected by the changes in the way the electoral register has been drawn up. Although this does not have any effect on councillors' workload, it does lead to a

significant reduction in the number of registered electors, particularly in some wards, though no reduction has been seen in the population in a city which continues to grow.

The nature of the city and some of the communities within it has also changed since the last review and it continues to evolve.

As mentioned in 2.4, 2.6 and 2.11 above, the Council suggests keeping the constituencies of Pentir, Dewi and Glyder as they are currently.

The rest of the city splits into three sections, which are obvious geographical splits between the two hills and valley between them where the city centre lies. The Council's proposal is that those geographical splits should be followed, resulting in:-

- Marchog Constituency (1,559) to remain as it currently is including keeping two members due to the size of the ward (population of 2,556 in the 2011 Census) and also owing to the nature of the deprived community (Communities First area with 56.6% living in a social rented property) which increases the work load of any member representing the constituency
- Merging the Menai and Garth constituencies (1,439) but again pressing for two members here owing to the workload and the size of the constituency (population of 5,125 according to the 2011 Census) as a result of the presence of thousands of students in the area (1,900 students split over 14 University Halls of Residence, not to mention private halls) and the fact that the University intends to introduce a new system of trying to get more students to vote locally
- Splitting the Deiniol ward around Glanrafon and the Cathedral with the north-eastern side of it joining the Hirael ward to create a constituency of approximately 1,200 and the south-western part of it, including Cae Llepa, joining the Hendre constituency to create a constituency of approximately 1,250.

This proposal by the Council, which involves changing the community ward boundaries of the old Deiniol constituency ward, has received the support of Bangor City Council also.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.2. Abersoch, Aberdaron, Botwnnog, Tudweiliog, Morfa Nefyn and Llanbedrog Area

Various existing constituencies require attention in this area with the constituencies of Abersoch (523) Llanbedrog (734), Aberdaron (724) Tudweiliog (660) Morfa Nefyn and Edern (897) and Llangian (503) all too small to warrant seats according to the Commission's guidelines. The existing community wards were looked at as building blocks and discussions were held with the local members regarding the natural community connections within the local area.

The Council's proposal is as follows:-

- A constituency for the Llanbedrog community extending from Penrhos to the Coed y Fron cross-road, Mynytho, which includes Llanbedrog (768) and Mynytho up to Coed y Fron (approx. 450)(single-member constituency with approximately 1,218 electors).
- Another constituency for the Llanengan community from the Coed y Fron cross-road which will include the rest of Llangian (approx. 53 electors beyond Mynytho), Llanengan (333) and Abersoch (523) as a one-member constituency with approximately 909 electors.
- Merging the constituencies of Aberdaron (733) and Botwnnog (724) to create a new constituency of 1,457 electors (two entire Community Councils).
- Merging the constituencies of Tudweiliog (660) and Morfa Nefyn and Edern (897) to create one new constituency of 1,557 electors (two entire Community Council areas).

This proposal involves one change to a community ward boundary in the Llangian ward within the old Llanengan constituency.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

The entire area is very rural (17,054 hectares in total) and is a combination of small villages and detached rural houses and is difficult to travel around. It is also an area which is greatly affected by tourists during the extended holiday season. The proposals offer larger constituencies in the north of Pen Llŷn than in the south with one very small constituency of 909 electors. The Council's opinion is that they are reasonable proposals in the context of the Boundary Commission's current expectations and maintain and build upon the local community links and they have received local support.

3.3. Llanwnda, Groeslon and Carmel

Various proposals were considered for this area with the main requirement of trying to respond to the size of the existing Bontnewydd constituency, which is too small as it is, as changes associated with that. Following discussions at the Audit and Governance Committee, and a quick consultation with the relevant local members, the recommendations, which are different from those submitted to the committee, are now as follows:-

As mentioned in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.14 above, it is suggested that the constituencies of Groeslon and Waunfawr should be kept as they are but the following adaptations are proposed:-

Adding the ward of Dinas (499) to the existing Bontnewydd constituency (849) to create a new constituency of 1,339 electors which reflects the close community link between the Dinas area and the village of Bontnewydd in terms of community activities and shopping and travelling links.

Connect the existing wards of Rhostryfan (515) and Rhosgadfan (433) with Carmel (396) and Ceserea (241) to create a new constituency of 1,585 for communities which are similar in nature on the upper side of the valley which also breaks the connection between Carmel and Talysarn (see 3.9 below).

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.4. Caernarfon Town Area

Caernarfon is also an urban area which has seen changes since the boundaries were last reviewed. The following proposals, which have received unanimous support from all local members and the Caernarfon Town Council, use the natural boundaries of Llanberis Road and the Link Road through the town as obvious and natural boundaries.

Under the old boundaries, the two wards of Menai and Cadnant were large; Menai especially so with 1,718 electors, and the proposals submitted (shown on the maps attached) address this and reflect the obvious physical boundaries of the main roads through and around the town that local people would recognise. This proposal involves changes to community ward boundaries within the town.

This leads to a proposal which will reduce the size of the Menai constituency to approximately 1,500, reduce the size of the Cadnant constituency to approximately 1,307 and an increase in the size of the Peblig constituency to approximately 1,485.

This leaves the situation of the current Seiont constituency which, as a result of the aforementioned changes, will be a two-member constituency with approximately 2,392. However, in order to implement the Council's wish of trying to have single-member constituencies, the Committee suggests splitting it into two constituencies - the Caernarfon Town Centre Constituency of

approximately 1,177 and the Hendre Constituency, which is mainly a single large housing estate, of approximately 1,215 electors.

(Maps showing the current boundaries and suggestions are attached)

3.5. Ffestiniog Area

While the Bowydd and Rhiw area is fine as it is, the Diffwys and Maenofferen constituency with 750 electors is too small and the Teigl constituency (1,315) is a little higher than the average. Both constituencies together would make a constituency of 2,065 electors which could justify two members. As the Council is seeking to avoid two-member constituencies, it is suggested that a new boundary is established between the Diffwys and Maenofferen constituency and the Teigl constituency, across Manod Road, along a natural boundary agreed with the Town Council. This allows for two single-member constituencies: Diffwys and Maenofferen with 1,012 and Teigl with 1,053. This proposal involves moving the boundary between two community wards.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.6. Tywyn Area

The Tywyn constituency is currently a two-member constituency of 2,388. As the Council is seeking to avoid two-member constituencies, it is suggested that two new constituencies are established using the existing community wards as building blocks. This would involve creating two constituencies: Morfa Tywyn with 1,240 electors and the Town of Tywyn (West and East) with 1,148 electors.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.7. Trawsfynydd, Harlech, Dyffryn Ardudwy and Llanbedr Area

Various existing constituencies require attention in this area with the constituency of Llanbedr (789) far too small according to the Commission's guidelines, and other constituencies which will require attention in the longer-term in relation to their size.

The Council's recommendation is to change four seats (Trawsfynydd, Harlech, Dyffryn Ardudwy and Llanbedr) into three, affecting Dyffryn Ardudwy (1,179), Llanbedr (442), Llanfair (347), Harlech (1,045), Talsarnau (428), Maentwrog (428) and Trawsfynydd (672). Therefore, the new constituencies would be:-

One seat - Harlech, Talsarnau and Llanfair (1820) - (three entire community council areas)

One seat - Llanbedr, Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont (1,621) - (Two entire community council areas)

One seat - Trawsfynydd and Maentwrog (1,016) - no change - (one community council area)

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.8. Llanrug Area

There is a need to refine the situation in the Llanrug area in order to even-out the constituencies by dealing with the existing communities of Cwm y Glo (438), Brynrefail (224) and Ceunant (305) and also Penisarwaun (560) and Rhiwlas (533).

The Council's proposal, which is supported by the Llanrug Community Council, is:-

One constituency for Cwm y Glo, Brynrefail and Ceunant (967) which creates a 'u' shaped constituency around the southern side of Llanrug.

One constituency for Penisarwaun and Rhiwlas (1,093) which extends to the communities to the north-east of the village of Llanrug.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.9. Llanllyfni, Talysarn and Nantlle Area

The existing ward of Talysarn (which includes Carmel) has been the subject of local discussion for some time because of the obvious natural boundary between the two main areas of the constituency and there are various small communities within the constituency. This means that, at present, in order to travel from one part of the constituency to another, you have to go through Penygroes, which is a separate constituency and the existing constituency has various different small communities.

It is recommended that Llanllyfni (513), Talysarn (794) and Nantlle (152) are brought together to create one new constituency of 1,369 (the majority of the geographical area of Llanllyfni Community Council).

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.10. Clynnog, Trefor and Llithfaen Area

Various existing constituencies require attention in this area with the constituency of Clynnog with only 713 electors requiring specific attention.

The committee's recommendation is that the existing constituency of Llanaelhaearn (1,151) remains as it is, though calling it "Yr Eifl" would be more sensible. The Nebo ward (233) would then be added to Clynnog to create a new constituency of 946 electors (which is a very small constituency in the Commission's terms) and removing it from the Llanllyfni ward which would reduce the size of that ward to 1,369 which is more reasonable (see paragraph 3.9 above). This would address concerns expressed by Pistyll Community Council about linking small rural communities with larger and very different areas.

(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.11. Penllyn Area

Some refinement is required in this area to address the situation of some small constituencies. The scope for change in a rural area such as this is limited, but it is felt that the changes suggested address the requirement while accepting that constituencies in rural areas will always be smaller.

It is recommended that wards are exchanged between the two existing constituencies but keeping two seats so that there are three seats in the entire area, namely Bala and Penllyn West – Llanuwchllyn (494), Cwm y Glyn (83) and Llanycil (323) (constituency of 900) and Penllyn East – Gwalia (125), Llan y Betws (456) and Llanfor (347) (constituency of 928). The constituencies are small in looking to the future but this is inevitable in such a rural area which is 2,388 hectares according to the 2011 Census.

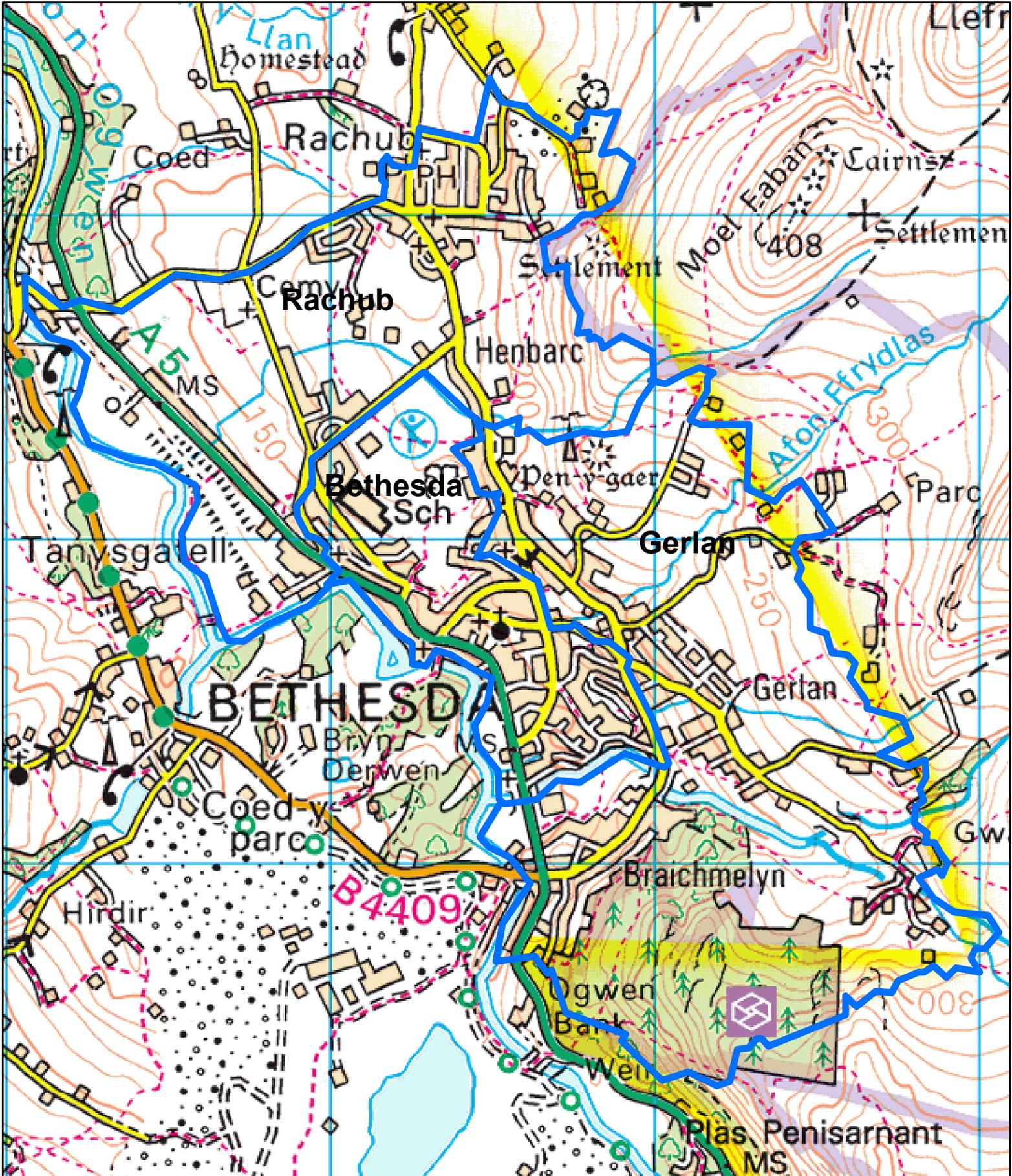
(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

3.12. Llanegryn, Brynchrug and Friog Area

The situation of the constituencies in the area needs to be addressed. (Brynchrug and Llanfihangel has only 755 electors at present while the Constituency of Llangelynnin has only 1,577 electors)

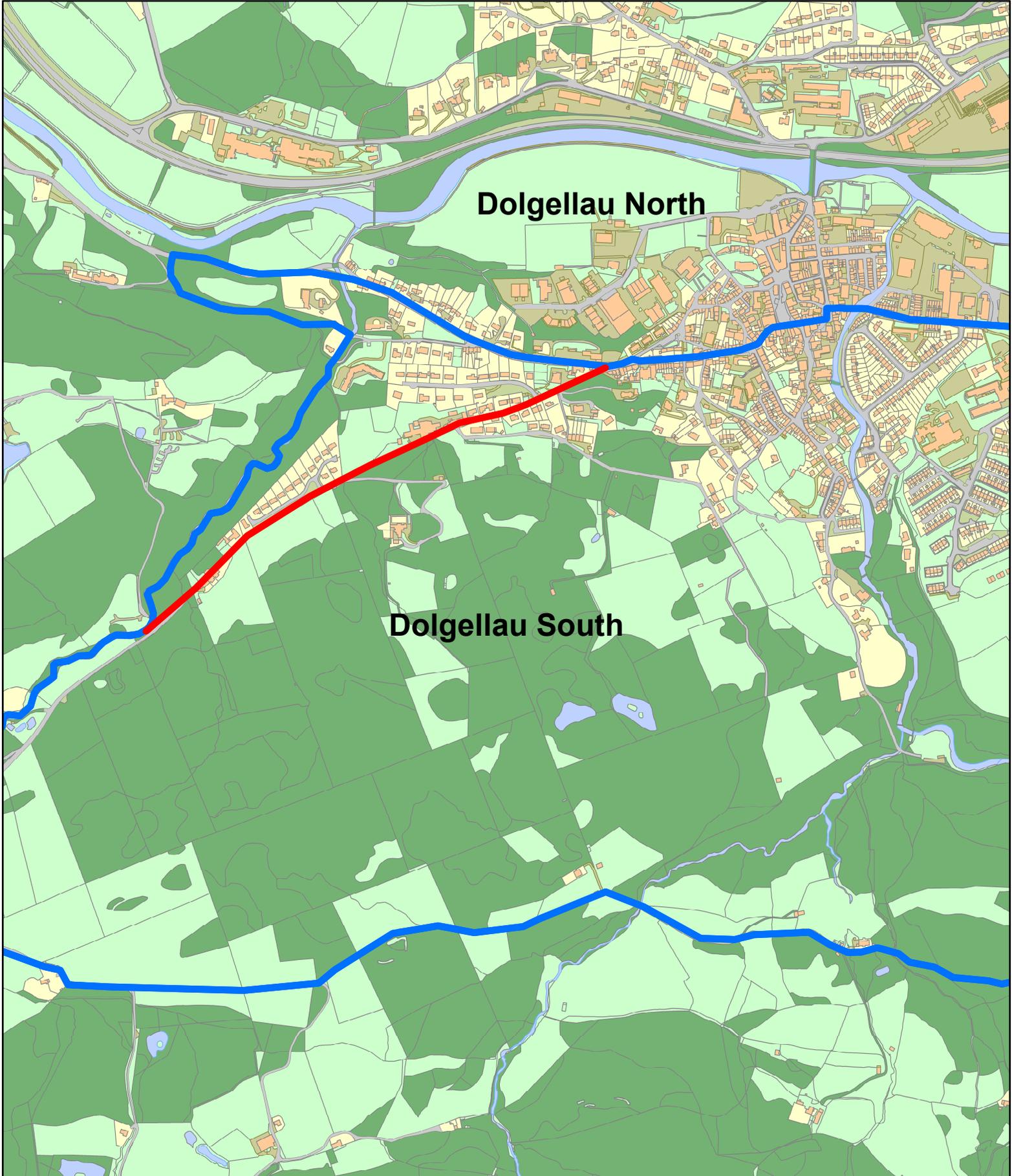
It is recommended that the ward of Llanegryn is moved from one constituency to the other in order to create two constituencies that are more equal in terms of number of electors:-
Llanegryn, Bryncreug and Llanfihangel which would be a constituency of 1,000 (extending over the area of three Community Councils)
Friog, Islaw'r Dre and Llangelynnin which would be a constituency of 1,332 (extending over the area of two Community Councils)
(A map showing the suggestions is appended)

Bethesda Area - proposed new boundaries

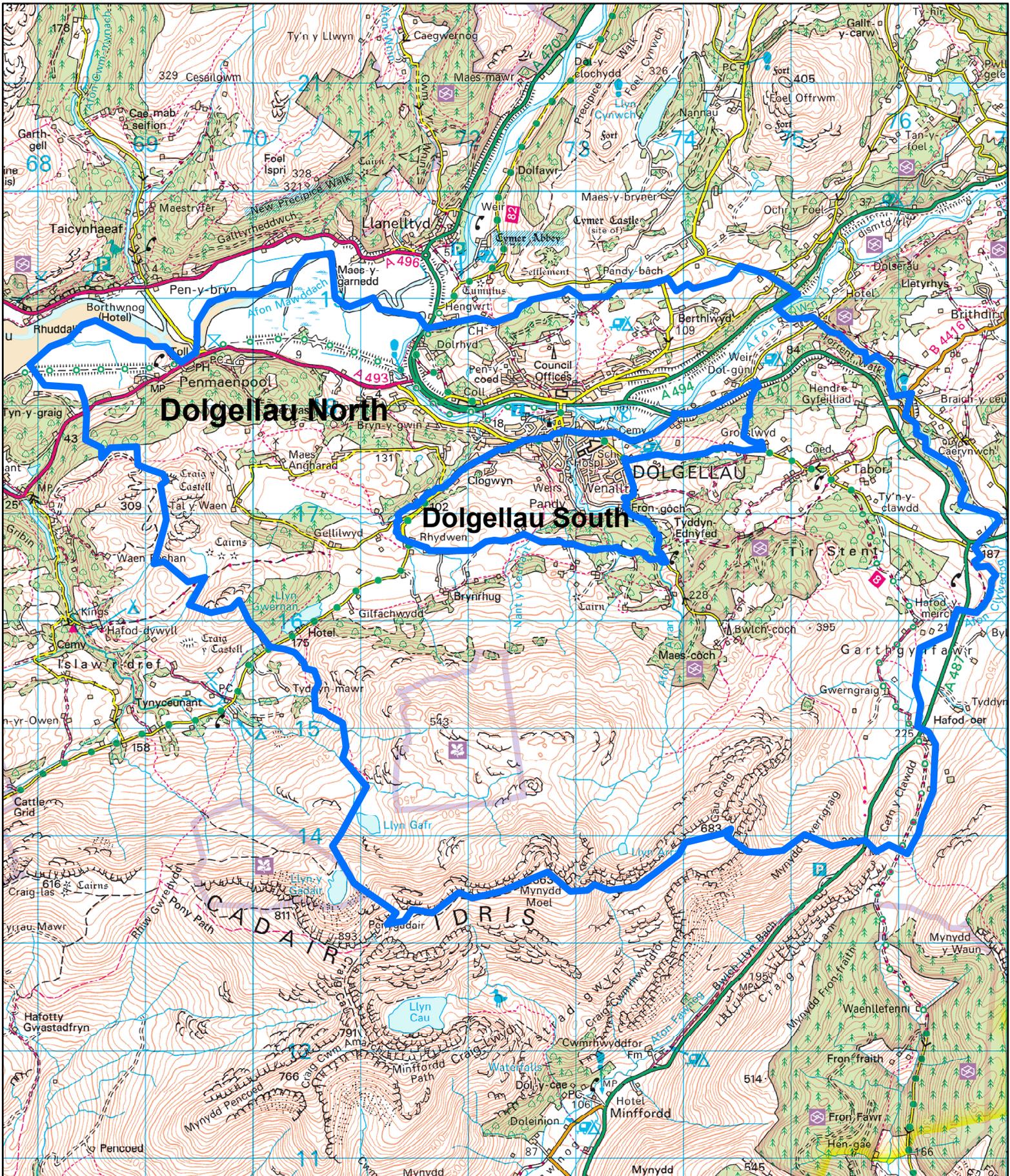


Dolgellau Area

Blue - current boundary
Red - proposed new boundary



Dolgellau Area - proposed new boundaries



Adran Cefnogaeth Gorfforaethol, Cyngor Gwynedd
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Agenda Item 8

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Meeting Date: 10 April 2018
Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Wyn Griffith
Contact Officer: Gwyn Morris Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal
Contact Number: 32402
Item Title: Street Lighting Scheme

Report to the Cabinet

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

To recommend seeking Welsh Government Green Growth funding for a scheme to change the remainder of street lights to LED technology.

2. REASON WHY DECISION IS NEEDED

This invest to save scheme requires the Cabinet's approval if it is to be realized.

3. INTRODUCTION

The Council has 18,057 street lights. By September, 2018, 10,279 of them will have been changed to LED technology that will ensure a reduction in carbon emissions of 414 tonnes CO₂, reduce light pollution and achieve £260k per annum savings in energy costs for the Council.

We are now eager to change the remainder of the street lights to LED technology (7778 number in total). These are the more powerful lights that use significantly more energy than the lights being changed in the current scheme. These are the lights used on our main highways, in town centres and at busy road junctions. LED is now readily available and at more affordable prices to enable these larger lighting units to be converted to the technology.

The intention with this new scheme is to utilize £1,398,795 of investment from the Welsh Government Green Growth Fund to change 7778 street lights to LED technology (with dimming capabilities) over a period of 3 years between April 2019 and March 2022.

On completing the scheme, a further carbon emission reduction of 572 tonnes CO₂ is expected together with a reduction in light pollution. It will also achieve a £185k per annum saving in energy costs for the Council.

4. REASON AND JUSTIFICATION BEHIND THE DECISION

There are benefits in terms of the environment and financially from implementing this scheme.

The Welsh Government Green Growth Fund investment will need to be repaid, interest free, over a period of 7.5 years. The application for funding (business case) is currently being assessed by SALIX (an independent company) on behalf of Welsh Government. If the application were to be successful, then the Cabinet needs to give its approval to the offer of funding from Welsh Government.

Obviously, given the financial challenges facing this Council, it would be advantageous for the savings from this scheme to be realized sooner and this should be given further consideration as the scheme progresses.

Whilst accepting the funding, the Council will retain the flexibility to interchange with internal funding if savings can be achieved sooner.

The scheme contributes to the well-being goals as required under the Well-being of Future Generations Wales (2015) Act, and in terms of:

- (i) A Prosperous Wales – energy reduction delivers financial benefits through reduced energy costs. Lighting equipment will be supplied by means of the National (Wales) Framework and Gwynedd Council's workforce will carry out all the installation work (retaining local equipment).
- (ii) A Resilient Wales – contributes to climate change goals by reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.
- (iii) A Globally Responsible Wales – the scheme will achieve reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions, contributing towards reducing the impact of climate change.

It is not likely that implementing the scheme will have an effect on people with characteristics protected by the equalities legislation (Equalities Act 2010).

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

This is the programme intended for the scheme:

(i)	SALIX to scrutinize the application and business case on behalf of Welsh Government	March 2018
(ii)	If the application is accepted, the Cabinet to approve the Welsh Government offer of interest free funding	April 2018
(iii)	Design of new lighting system and order equipment	April 2018 – March 2019
(iv)	Start on the 3 year work to change the street lights to LED with dimming capabilities	April 2019
(v)	Complete the scheme	March 2022

6. OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add in terms of propriety.

Head of Finance:

I support the intention of applying for funding from the Welsh Government's Green Growth fund. Subsequent consideration will be given to arrangements that would achieve the savings sooner.

Opinion of the Local Member:

Not a local matter.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting: 10 April 2018
Cabinet Member: Councillor Ioan Thomas
Contact Officer: Roland Evans
Contact Telephone Number: 01286 679 450
Title of Item: Gwynedd Plan 2018-2023
Resources for the 'Increasing the Benefits of Major Events' Scheme

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To commit £50,000 of Council resources during the 2018-19 financial year in order to realise the 'Increasing the Benefits of Major Events' Scheme.
- 1.2 To review the progress of the activity and further commitments to support the remaining period of the Scheme before the end of 2018.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1 Following the adoption of the 'Gwynedd Plan 2018-2023' by the Full Council on 8 March 2018, obtaining the best outcomes for communities and businesses from events held in Gwynedd has been included within the priority 'Increasing the Benefits of Major Events'.
- 2.2 In order to respond to event organisers who are currently planning for 2018 and beyond, a decision is needed on the resources available to support the field.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Supporting major events has been a priority for Gwynedd Council for some years now.
- 3.2 By employing an Events Manager in the Economy and Community Department, the Council ensures that there is one point of contact for event organisers within the County and promotes the image of 'one Council' when dealing with events.
- 3.3 The Events Manager provides the advice and support to all Gwynedd events organisers and is also responsible for any events arranged by Gwynedd Council. Much information for organisers has been placed on the Council's [website](#) recently and the Manager also maintains the strategic relationship between Gwynedd Council and Welsh Government's Major Events Unit. An element of financial support is expected from the relevant Local Authority to co-fund major events funded by the Government.

- 3.4 There is no budget to support the work of the Manager or to support events organisers other than the budget allocated to the field through the Strategic Plans in the past.
- 3.5 By supporting events organisers and by influencing events, this leads to opportunities to promote the county, opportunities for young people in Gwynedd, an increase in the number of visitors to the County and an increase in the number of opportunities for local companies to work or offer services to events. It also ensures a sense of place and the promotion of the Welsh language happens via the supported events.
- 3.6 As the current Strategic Plan ends, the outputs of the events which have been supported over the past five years include:
- 46 events supported across Gwynedd
 - Over 184,000 attending events
 - A £163,000 investment by Welsh Government to support major events as a result of Gwynedd Council's contribution
 - £3.13m of direct spending in Gwynedd by events organisers
 - 1,237 businesses in the county have benefited from events, safeguarding 940 jobs
 - £24.24m of economic benefit to Gwynedd was generated from the events
 - A 'value verses investment' analysis suggests that every £1 invested by the Council in events brings £160 back to the local economy.
 - Substantial national and international publicity and marketing emanating from events
 - A change in the perception of visitors and local residents (young people in particular) of the county as a lively, energetic and modern destination.
 - Opportunities for the Council to work with events organisers, the business sector and communities to ensure the best benefits for the area and a prominent place for the Welsh language and culture

4. THE REASONING AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

- 4.1 For the next period of the Gwynedd Plan, it is intended to learn from the experiences of past plans and change the way the Council works with events organisers.
- 4.2 It is not intended to give a 'grant' to events organisers in future, but rather to work with them by investing in their events in order to obtain the best outcomes for the County. With investment, the Department believes that it is possible to:
- i. Provide financial support to attract and retain major events in the county and commit them to working with local suppliers and promote Gwynedd;
 - ii. Develop a local supply chain to provide goods and services to events in Gwynedd and beyond;
 - iii. Promote the county to visitors and investors via the events;
- 4.3 By implementing the above, it is intended to create new business for indigenous enterprises in Gwynedd and attract more visitors and investors to Gwynedd.

- 4.4 An initial analysis of the events which have already been in contact with the Events Manager projects that investing in them could lead to the following outcomes in 2018:
- i. £4.4m investment by events organisers
 - ii. Nearly £1m investment in Gwynedd
 - iii. Over £4.7m of economic benefit to Gwynedd (based on evidence from the same events held in the past)
 - iv. Over 118,000 people attending and taking part in the events
- 4.5 It will also allow the Council to:
- i. Work alongside the major events and identify opportunities in order to ensure the greatest benefit for the businesses and residents of Gwynedd;
 - ii. Work closely with Welsh Government's Major Events Unit and other councils in North Wales on projects in order to attract additional investment from the Government;
 - iii. Work with events organisers in order to ensure that there are opportunities for young people in Gwynedd to benefit from the events and a prominent place for the Welsh language and culture of Gwynedd in the events;
 - iv. Generate new business for indigenous enterprises in Gwynedd and attract more high-value visitors and investors to Gwynedd.
- 4.6 If a budget is not available for investing in events, the Council will not be able to collaborate as efficiently with organisers or influence as much in order to increase the benefits for the County.
- 4.7 This could lead to the risk of losing events from Gwynedd to other areas of Wales and beyond and therefore lose the economic benefits for Gwynedd businesses and communities and lose the opportunity to raise the profile and image of the county among the people of Gwynedd and visitors.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1 Following the Cabinet's decision, a project plan will be formalised and collaboration will continue with events organisers, relevant departments within the Council and partners to implement the plan to increase the benefit of major events for the people of Gwynedd.
- 5.2 A progress report and bid for further resources for the remainder of the plan will be submitted to the Cabinet before the end of 2018.

6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

Views of the Chief Finance Officer:

“If the Cabinet wishes to support the request, the decision must be clear about which fund will be the source of the money. As the report notes, this scheme has been funded in the past out of the Transformation Fund. I can confirm that the money remaining in this Fund is sufficient to fund this one-off bid for £50,000. Of course, these are early days of the new Council Plan, and many deserving needs/uses will compete for scarce resources from any funds established or transferred for this purpose. Prioritising the relevant applications will be a matter for the Cabinet members.”

Views of the Monitoring Officer:

“It is essential that any decision by the Cabinet to finance the project identifies the specific source of funding. I will provide further advice in the meeting as required.”

Views of the Local Member: Not a local matter.

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

Date of discussion at the Cabinet	Items to be discussed	Cabinet Member
Quarter 1 2018/19 - 1 April 2018 – 30 June 2018		
8 May 2018	Co-locating Services	Cllr Dafydd Meurig
	Annual Health and Safety Report	Cllr Peredur Jenkins
22 May 2018	Final Accounts 2017/18 – Revenue Outturn	Cllr Peredur Jenkins
	Capital Programme 2017/18 – End of Year Review (31 March 2018)	Cllr Peredur Jenkins
12 June 2018	The Council's Annual Performance Report	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
	The Welsh Language Strategy	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
	Primary Education Provision in the Bangor Catchment Area	Cllr Gareth Thomas
Quarter 2 2018/19 - 1 July – 30 September		
3 July 2018	Draft Agreement - Economic Growth Deal	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
31 July 2018	Youth Service Progress Report	Cllr Craig ab Iago