

GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting: 31 July 2018

The Decision will come into force and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25.1 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution.

15 August 2018

SUBJECT

Item 6: REVIEW OF PUBLIC PROTECTION'S LEVEL OF RESOURCES

DECISION

1. To accept the report.
 2. To approve the diversion of £70,000 of the department's existing income to increase staff resources in order to meet the food law enforcement requirements in accordance with this report. Allowing the Environment Department to:
 - Realise one of the proposed savings plans (involving income as a result of road closure arrangements) early, i.e. implement during 2018/19 rather than by 2019/20.
 - Harvest £70,000 of additional income from this saving plan departmentally, to implement a permanent budget transfer to fund two posts in the Food Law Enforcement service.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Following the audit by the Food Standards Agency in February 2016, and its subsequent audit in February 2018, concerns have been raised regarding the Council's level of resources to deliver its food law enforcement service in respect of food hygiene and standards.

It is essential that the Council looks at the likely level of additional resource required to meet the shortcoming, in order to reduce potential risks to the residents of Gwynedd and to the Council by putting positive measures in place to meet the legal requirements in terms of food hygiene.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 7: EMPLOYMENT ANNUAL REPORT

DECISION

To approve the annual report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The intention of the report was to present an annual update of the workforce details and their employment together with outlining objectives for developing our employees and setting the direction for the future. The report was submitted noting that the Cabinet needed to reflect and agree on the corporate strategy in this key field for the future

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were also consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 8: DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FROM COUNCIL TAX FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

DECISION

In accordance with the Council's powers under Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to allow full exception from paying Council Tax to young persons leaving care until they are 25 years old after considering other discounts, exceptions and/or Council Tax Reduction to which they are already entitled.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 gives billing authorities such as Gwynedd Council a general discretionary power to reduce liability for Council Tax in relation to any person, or group of persons, in addition to any relevant national discounts and exemptions that may apply.
 2. Over the last year, many billing authorities in Wales have resolved to allow full exception from paying Council Tax to young persons leaving care (some until the person is 21 years old, others until the person is 25). This has followed several reports and campaigns (for example, by the Children's Society), which have identified a range of disadvantages that care leavers uniquely experience and their vulnerability in respect of Council Tax debt.
 3. The Corporate Parenting Panel considered this matter at its meeting in April 2018. It was noted at the meeting that this matter has been addressed by the Children's Commissioner for Wales following her report, 'Hidden Ambitions', with the intention of ensuring that young people are not falling into Council Tax debt whilst establishing themselves independently as young adults. The Panel agreed to support the request that the Cabinet allows such a relief.
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DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report. The matter was also discussed by the Corporate Parenting Panel in April, which resolved to request that the Cabinet award this discretionary relief to care leavers.

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SUBJECT

Item 10: COUNCIL SENIOR MANAGEMENT

DECISION

To accept the Chief Executive's proposal and the implications noted in the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In accordance with Council arrangements, the Chief Executive has the right, subject to the requirements of consulting with officers and a business case, to decide on early retirement requests. As this issue involves Senior Officers, the Cabinet was also consulted regarding this request before reaching a decision.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which had been included in the report.
