

# Complete Agenda

# CABINET

## GWYNEDD COUNCIL

<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, 17th December, 2019
<b>TIME</b>	1.00 pm
<b>LOCATION</b>	Siambr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH
<b>CONTACT POINT</b>	Annes Siôn 01286 679490 cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

### GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

<b>Members</b>	
Dyfrig L. Siencyn	Leader
Dafydd Meurig	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Craig ab Iago	Cabinet Member for Housing
Gareth Wyn Griffith	Cabinet Member for Environment
Nia Wyn Jeffreys	Cabinet Member for Corporate Support
Dilwyn Morgan	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Gareth Thomas	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Community
Ioan Thomas	Cabinet Member for Finance
Catrin Elen Wager	Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal
Cemlyn Rees Williams	Cabinet Member for Education

## AGENDA

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	APOLOGIES			
2	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST			
3	URGENT ITEMS			
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY			
5	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2019			3 - 5
6	SUBMISSION OF THE SLATE LANDSCAPE OF NORTH WEST WALES WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION	Cyng/Cllr Gareth Thomas	Roland Evans	6 - 13
7	FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM GWYNEDD COUNCIL TO THE LLOYD GEORGE MUSEUM CHARITY	Cyng/Cllr Gareth Thomas	Roland Evans	14 - 17
8	SAVINGS PROPOSALS AND THE COUNCIL BUDGET	Cyng/Cllr Ioan Thomas	Dafydd L Edwards	18 - 41
9	GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION (WALES) BILL - NOVEMBER 2019	Cyng/Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn	Geraint Owen and Iwan Evans	42 - 48
10	THE OMBUDSMAN'S ANNUAL LETTER 2018/19	Cyng/ Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn	Iwan Evans and Siôn Huws	49 - 57

**THE CABINET 26/11/19**

---

**Present:**

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Dafydd Meurig, Craig ab Iago, Dilwyn Morgan, Nia Wyn Jeffreys, Gareth Griffith, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas and Cemlyn Rees Williams.

**Also present:**

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services), Dewi Morgan (Assistant Head of Finance - Revenue and Risk), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), and Annes Siôn (Democracy Team Leader).

Item 5: Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department) and Delyth Gadlys (Equality Officer)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillor Catrin Wager.

**2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

**3. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

**5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER**

The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2019, as a true record.

**6. DRAFT STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2020-24**

The report was submitted by Cllr Nia Jeffreys.

**DECISION**

It was resolved to approve the 2020-24 Strategic Equality Plan as a draft for public engagement.

## **DISCUSSION**

The report was submitted noting that this is the Council's third Equality Plan, adding that the first was published in 2012. It was emphasised that the purpose of the Plan was to reduce inequality across the Council in accordance with the duty under the Equality Act 2010.

It was added that the Council was attempting to ensure that equality was rooted deeply in all Council work. It was expressed that the plan was ambitious but practical. It was noted that this was a request to hold a consultation on the plan and that the department were looking forward to hearing the opinion of individuals.

The Equality Officer emphasised the importance of the consultation to ensure that the plan met individual needs and attempted to further improve the culture within the Council in terms of equality.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Attention was drawn to the fact that the Welsh language was not a specific protected characteristic by the Equality Act; however, pride was noted in the fact that the Council included it, and that the Council was leading the way in relation to the language.
- Support was expressed for the report, noting that the Council needed to consider encouraging more diversity within the Councillors and leadership within the Council.
- It was emphasised that the Equality Assessment was in-keeping with the Equality Plan, and that this was a lesson for other departments on the importance of creating an Assessment.
- It was asked about the action plan, and it was noted that the plan would mature and progress in light of gathering initial information

## **7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD 2018/19**

The report was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

### **DECISION**

To accept and note the annual report of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board and the progress made in 2018-19 on the areas of work that are brought forward through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

### **DISCUSSION**

The report was submitted, noting that the Board was established as a result of the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. It was noted that it was a requirement in part 9 of the Act for local authorities to make arrangements to promote collaboration for the purpose of Social Services, and

that they reported on their work annually.

Observations arising from the discussion

- The report was welcomed, emphasising the importance of the field. It was asked how much change the Board had made, and it was emphasised that the greatest value was that the region could learn from each other. It was added that local forums were held as well, and that the forums were more operational than the Board.
- It was expressed that there had been some difficult times when the Board was initially set up, but that there was now maturity as working regionally was now unavoidable.
- Attention was drawn to the Board's membership numbers, noting that the discussions were important ones, but that the greatest progress had taken place in terms of collaborating on a local level. It was added that there was an occasional need to stress that members be part of active Local Forums rather than attempt to be part of the Board.
- Councillor W. Gareth Roberts was thanked for his work as the Chair of the Board during its initial days to set the direction and a firm foundation.
- It was expressed that discussions certainly needed to be held on a regional level, but the importance of the main work being done on a local level was expressed. Attention was drawn to the Citizens Panel, noting that the numbers were so low that it contradicted the culture in Gwynedd Council, namely that real engagement was not a tick-box process, rather ensuring that we know what mattered to every individual we served. It was added that this emphasised the importance of the work on a local level in order to address the needs of the people of Gwynedd.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 1.40 pm

**CHAIRMAN**

# Agenda Item 6

## GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>17 December 2019</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Gareth Thomas</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Roland Evans</b>
<b>Contact Telephone Number:</b>	<b>01286 679 450</b>
<b>Title of Item:</b>	<b>Submission of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site Nomination</b>

### THE DECISION SOUGHT

1. To acknowledge the feedback following the public consultation on the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site Management Plan
2. To acknowledge the relevant amendments that have been made to the content of the Management Plan and the full Nomination Dossier to UNESCO in response to the consultation;
3. To approve the submission of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales Heritage Site Full Nomination Dossier to the UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris for the World Heritage Committee's consideration.

### THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

4. In October 2018, the relevant UK Government Minister, Michael Ellis MP, announced that the next World Heritage nomination to be submitted by the Government for UNESCO's consideration would be the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales nomination. This will take place in January 2020.
5. We have now reached the pinnacle of the work and need to update the Cabinet following the consultation period as well as receive the approval of the Cabinet to submit the full nomination to UNESCO.

### INTRODUCTION

6. The Council has been following steps to develop the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales Heritage Site nomination since 2009.
7. As part of the Council Plan, priority has been given to 'Addressing Gwynedd's Slate Heritage', and a budget of £375,000 has been earmarked since 2013. The Gwynedd Plan notes:

*"We are looking to realise a programme of regeneration activities in these areas which will lead to an increase in residents' ownership of their heritage, the form and appearance of communities and the quality of tourists' experience, along with continuing to work to secure a World Heritage Site status for the slate industry in Gwynedd."*

8. The main objectives of the nomination development are:
  - A thriving regional economy
  - Viable and lively communities that are proud of their community and heritage - regeneration
  - High quality skilled employment
  - A higher value tourism sector, throughout the year
  - The continuation of the slate industry
  - A sustainable and living landscape
  - Celebrate the role of our slate heritage in the world
  - Safeguard and improve physical heritage
  
9. The nomination area includes the six areas below, and a map can be seen in [Appendix 1](#):
  - Part 1: Penrhyn Quarry and Bethesda, and the Ogwen Valley to Port Penrhyn
  - Part 2: Dinorwig Slate Quarry Mountain Landscape
  - Part 3: Nantlle Valley Slate Quarry Landscape
  - Part 4: Gorseddau and Prince of Wales Slate Quarries, the railways and the mill
  - Part 5: Ffestiniog, its slate mines and quarries, 'city of slates' and railway to Porthmadog
  - Part 6: Bryneglwys Slate Quarry, Abergynolwyn Village and the Talyllyn Railway
  
10. The nomination is being submitted because the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales is an outstanding example of cultural landscape that has been formed through centuries of mining, working and transporting slate to markets worldwide. The whole area demonstrates every relevant element - visually, legibly and mostly accessible:
  - Mining
  - Processing
  - Transporting
  - Homes and Communities
  - Final use
  - The transformation from an agricultural society to an industrial society
  - The way indigenous culture and language were reinforced by global industrialisation
  - Gwynedd was the world's largest slate exporter in the mid-19th Century
  - Technology, expertise and people were transferred between the Gwynedd Slate areas and the world, e.g. slate sawing technology, narrow-gauge, hydro, mining technology, etc.
  
11. A Partnership Steering Group meets on a monthly basis under the Chairmanship of Lord Dafydd Wigley in order to drive the work of the nomination and associated projects forward. The group includes Gwynedd Council, Snowdonia National Park, Bangor University, the National Trust, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, National Museum Wales, Welsh Government, ICOMOS-UK and representation on behalf of the slate sector.
12. Amongst other documents, it is required for all World Heritage Site nominations to develop two key and essential documents for the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's consideration. These are: Dossier (Full Application); and Management Plan

13. The Dossier is a technical, extensive document that makes the case for designating the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales as a World Heritage Site in a historical and international context. In addition, it relates this to today and the future and how the site would be protected, managed and developed. A draft copy of the dossier will be available prior to the Cabinet meeting.
14. The Management Plan translates the important 'features' that are highlighted in the Dossier into a practical management plan that highlights how the site will be managed in a practical sense in future following inscription with an associated Action Plan.
15. The Steering Group determined that it would be more practical and beneficial to consult on the content of the Management Plan rather than the Dossier as it would be easier to relate it to the people of Gwynedd.

### **Consultation on the Management Plan**

16. A consultation period for the Management Plan was arranged between August and October 2019. During this period, the media and press gave attention to the consultation, and eight open sessions to the public were organised across Gwynedd.
17. Copies of the Management Plan and questionnaire were provided on-line and paper copies were available in Gwynedd Libraries, Siop Gwynedd and the Archives. Each Community/Town Council relevant to the nomination was sent a letter, and an e-mail was sent to relevant organisations.
18. Following the consultation period, 120 general responses (responding to the first two questions) were received, as well as 63 full responses. Some direct letters and e-mails were also received.
19. 93.6% of the respondents were generally positive or very positive in favour of the development of the nomination, and 95.5% understood or fully understood what was important about the Slate landscape.
20. Four common themes were specifically raised in the responses to the consultation. More detail is included in [Appendix 2](#) which demonstrates how we have responded to the observations:
  - The need for a Buffer Zone to protect the site? - A Buffer Zone has now been reviewed, and a Buffer Zone will not be mapped. A Buffer Zone policy will be in place through the land conservation designations that already exist.
  - A lack of consideration has been given to primary and secondary aggregates in the area, and their importance to the economy of Gwynedd - this is acknowledged and has been strengthened in the new documents.
  - The impact of tourism in light of the designation on Gwynedd communities, and the importance of safety on the sites - this is acknowledged and mitigation measures have been identified.
  - A lack of consideration to the Welsh language and any impact on the language - acknowledge that this element is weak in the original documents, although the language and culture are central and core features of the nomination. These elements have been strengthened and highlighted.
21. We have been able to respond positively to the four main themes raised, and we have amended the Management Plan and the Dossier to reflect this.
22. It should also be noted, following intensive discussions with the owners of Aberllefenni Slate Quarry and, given their vision for the site in future, it was agreed that the quarry and that area would not be part of the final nomination.



## **Economic Regeneration in light of the nomination process**

23. In developing the nomination, one of the main objectives of the Council and its partners is to drive economic and social regeneration.
24. Gwynedd Council has already attracted over £1m in additional resources to support communities and businesses in the slate areas across the county, and a number of other projects are in development by partners in the area. The Council's work includes:

### Grants (total project cost)

Heritage Lottery Fund 2018 - 2021	£402,000
Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig 2018 - 2020	£ 80,000
Snowdonia Partnership Fund 2018 - 2019	£ 15,000
RCDF 2019 - 2021	£ 89,000
Welsh Government's Town Centre Loans Fund (Bethesda and Penygroes)	£ 500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 1,086,000</b>

25. The above additional funding has enabled us to undertake activities that focus on the Slate valleys, mainly under the banner of the LleCHI plan that is attempting to regenerate through heritage and culture. The main objectives of the LleCHI project is to:
- Focus on areas: Bethesda, Deiniolen, Llanberis, Penygroes, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Tywyn and Dysynni
  - Celebrate our rich slate heritage and our area's contribution to the world
  - Develop Cynlluniau Cynefin that are local regeneration plans to identify the community's regeneration needs in the context of their heritage, and agree on an action plan to realise the priorities.
  - Support education, skills and volunteering
  - Create local LleCHI ambassadors - there are now 12 Ambassadors working across the area, and cultural activities have been held at three primary schools.
  - Promote arts and cultural events and activities, e.g. the Blaenau Ffestiniog Slate Festival and Penygroes Young People Event were supported.
  - Develop the Gwynedd 'Slate Story' and ensure that the story is interpreted to everyone.
26. It can also be seen now that a number of communities, businesses and individuals take advantage of the opportunity created through the nomination to give Slate a prominent place in their developments and projects.

## **THE RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

27. As one of the Gwynedd Plan's priorities, that has now been under development for over 10 years, the Cabinet needs to approve the submission of the full nomination to DCMS and UNESCO.
28. There is a fixed annual application window, and the Council is expected to submit a full digital application to the DCMS by 18 December 2019.
29. If we miss this window, there is no certainty on when the nomination could be submitted.

## **NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE**

18 December                      Submit the Digital Full Application and Management Plan to DCMS

27 January 2020	Submit the Paper Form Full Application and Management Plan to DCMS and UNESCO
October 2020	ICOMOS / UNESCO Visit to Gwynedd
May 2021	ICOMOS Recommendation to the World Heritage Committee
June / July 2021	The World Heritage Committee's Decision on the designation

**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

30. A public consultation was held on the Management Plan, as noted in this report.

**Views of the Monitoring Officer**

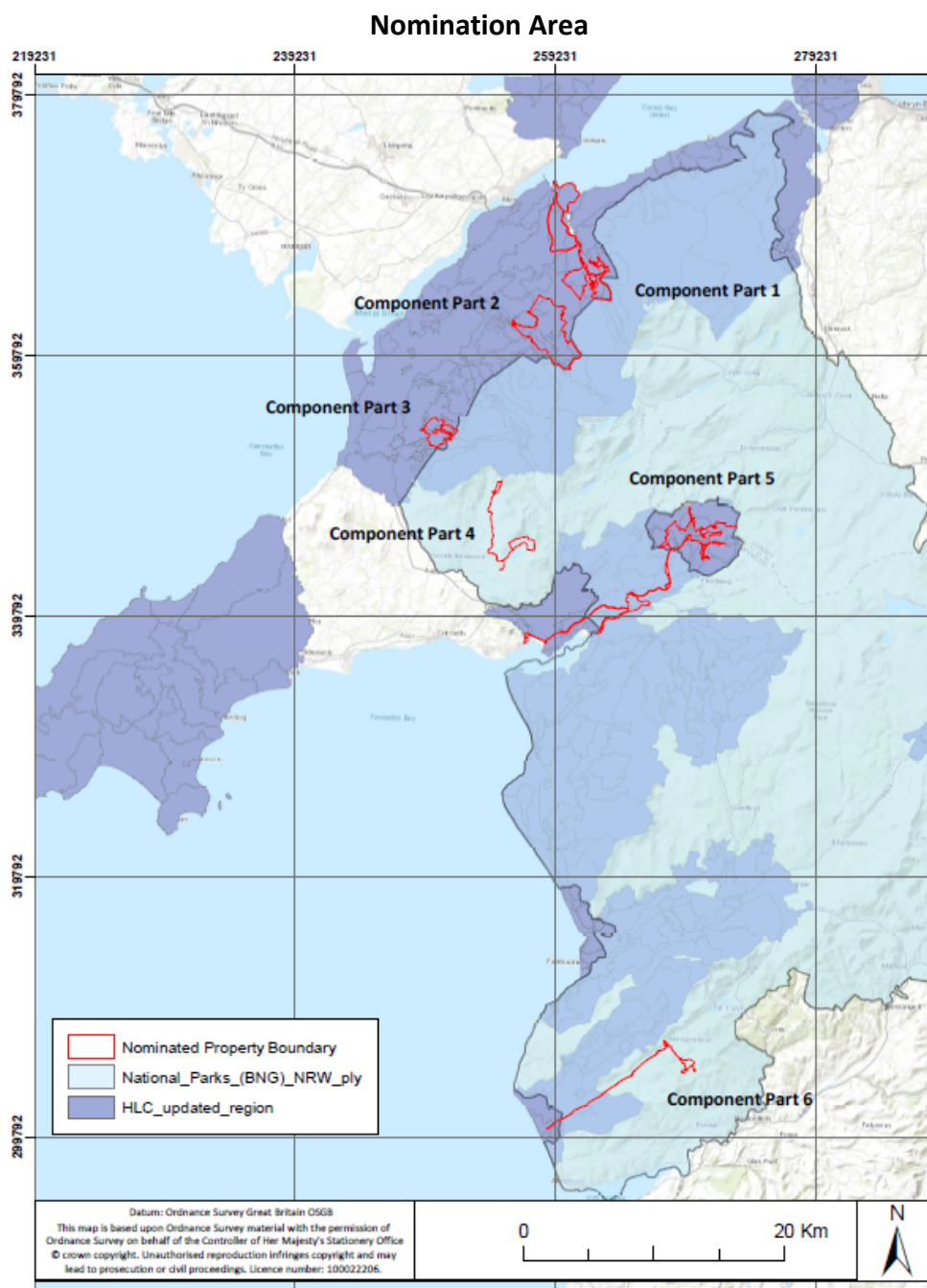
*“The report and associated documents are the conclusion of years of work in order to be in a position to submit the nomination. It is noted that an extensive consultation process was undertaken and, following receipt of responses, amendments were made to the documentation. The consultation process undertaken is considered to have been inclusive and appropriate. Matters of management will need to be considered if the application is successful, and it is noted that plans are progressing to address these issues.”*

**Views of the Chief Finance Officer**

*“I confirm the accuracy of the figures set out in the report. Paragraph 30 states that adequate resources will be required to undertake the future management of the site, and the application to be submitted to the UK Government's Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport identifies £30,000 to manage the site in future; I am satisfied that this resource has been funded as it involves the time of officers involved. World Heritage Site status could have significant economic benefits for the county and its communities and businesses, with the potential for bringing investment into the local economy leading to job creation. In view of this, I support the decision being sought.”*

**Views of the Local Member**

*Not a local matter.*



- Part 1:** Penrhyn Quarry and Bethesda, and the Ogwen Valley to Port Penrhyn
- Part 2:** Dinorwig Slate Quarry Mountain Landscape
- Part 3:** Nantlle Valley Slate Quarry Landscape
- Part 4:** Gorseddau and Prince of Wales Slate Quarries, the railways and the mill
- Part 5:** Ffestiniog, its slate mines and quarries, 'city of slates' and railway to Porthmadog
- Part 6:** Bryneglwys Slate Quarry, Abergynolwyn Village and the Talyllyn Railway

**Consultation on the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales Heritage Site Management Plan:**  
Response to the main themes that were raised

THEME	RESPONSE
<p>The need for a Buffer Zone to protect the site?</p>	<p>In considering the comprehensive protection that already exists in the nomination area through the designations of the National Park, the Landscapes of Historic Interest, the Local Development Plans and National Planning Policy; and, following further discussions with experts in the field, the UK National Commission for UNESCO, DCMS, Historic England and ICOMOS-UK, the Steering Group determined on 15 November that the designations and the existing protection would act as a buffer zone policy. Buffer zones will not be designated on maps as the requisite protection is in place through existing landscape designations.</p>
<p>A lack of consideration has been given to primary and secondary aggregates in the area, and their importance to the economy of Gwynedd.</p>	<p>The Council and its partners in the nomination accept that inadequate attention was given to this field within the original documents.</p> <p>Clear acknowledgement is given to the importance of primary and secondary aggregates within the new documents in the wider area and beyond the nomination site.</p> <p>There is an action to develop Supplementary Planning Guidance in future.</p> <p>It is emphasised that the existing mineral planning process would steer developments.</p>
<p>The impact of tourism in light of the designation on Gwynedd communities</p>	<p>Concern about the side effects of tourism in the area is acknowledged.</p> <p>A comprehensive Interpretation Strategy is being developed in order to ensure that we tell the story from the perspective of the</p>

<p>The importance of safety on the sites</p>	<p>people of Gwynedd and its international context.</p> <p>It is aimed to disperse visitors from the busy main centres to other areas of Gwynedd in order to spread the benefit. Research is underway to explore how the Council could manage second homes in future.</p> <p>The Council is revising its tourism priorities for the future, and this will be a consideration for the field.</p> <p>The message in terms of safety on post-industrial sites is strengthened in the document.</p> <p>A commission has been completed to work with the sector to develop a campaign on safety in quarries.</p> <p>It is emphasised that the designation of the area does not mean that every part of the area must have public access. These elements have been strengthened in the new documents.</p>
<p>A lack of consideration to the Welsh language and any impact on the language.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that this element is weak in the Management Plan, although the language and culture are central and core features of the nomination.</p> <p>A baseline will be established to monitor any impact on the Welsh language in light of the designation.</p> <p>Planning and language impact assessment arrangements will be followed for any relevant developments.</p> <p>Arts and cultural activities are supported across the area in order to promote the use of the language and celebrate our culture.</p>

# Agenda Item 7

## GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



### Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>17 December 2019</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Gareth Thomas</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Roland Evans</b>
<b>Contact Telephone Number:</b>	<b>01286 679 450</b>
<b>Title of Item:</b>	<b>Financial contribution from Gwynedd Council to the Lloyd George Museum Charity</b>

#### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

Allocate a financial contribution of £27,000 from Gwynedd Council to the Lloyd George Museum Charity for 2020-2021.

#### 2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Following a period of 'gap' funding for the Lloyd George Museum Charity by the British Government between 2017 and 2020, there has been no agreement on a permanent solution. An application is submitted to the Cabinet for temporary gap funding for 2020-2021 until an agreement is reached on a permanent solution and options.

#### 3. INTRODUCTION

- i. Following the Gwynedd Challenge consultation, the Council decided that it would not be running the Lloyd George Museum from 1 April 2017. There was a cut of £27,000 and it was resolved to:

*Cease running the Lloyd George Museum **but** to be implemented from 1 April 2017 in order to give the Service an opportunity to hold discussions with any bodies that would wish to take responsibility **for** the museum.*

- ii. During the process of identifying cuts, it was highlighted that legal risks existed with any decision that would need to be considered.
- iii. The Lloyd George Museum is open between Easter and the autumn (and as required by schools and others from November to Easter) and attracts between 6,000 - 7,000 people every year. 24 schools visited the Museum in 2018-19 with 742 pupils.
- iv. Following the Council's decision, the Chancellor of the British Government announced that the financial deficit of £27,000 would be met by the British Government for three years until 2020. Subsequent to this, the Economy and Regeneration Cabinet Member decided that the Council would continue to act as trustees for the museum.
- v. During this period, the saving has been achieved and discussions have been held with the local community, Welsh Government, the Heritage Fund, National Museum Wales, the Imperial War Museum and key stakeholders such as the Friends of the Lloyd George Museum and Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig.

- vi. Since the decision to cease running the Museum, the following can be highlighted as actions:

2016: Lloyd George Commemoration Dinner in London by the Friends of the Lloyd George Museum and a fund-raising campaign raising £50,000

2016-17: A project worth £6,111 was developed with Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig and the Friends of the Lloyd George Museum to identify new income sources for the museum and to identify the 'real costs' of running the site. The project also examined potential volunteering models and a future vision.

2017-18: A funding application to the Heritage Fund to establish an alternative model and transfer to another group failed. An application worth £136,200 was submitted for a grant of £129,390. The Heritage Fund felt that an alternative model had been selected without undertaking the process to identify wider options.

2018-20: In light of further discussions with the Heritage Fund, a successful application worth £24,600 was submitted with a grant of £23,100 and a contribution by the Museums Federation to review potential options for the future governance of the museum with the intention that it would steer another future application in an attempt to realise the preferred model. The application also included working with volunteers and reinforcing the role of the Friends of the Lloyd George Museum.

2019-20: Following discussions with the Welsh Government and application for £4,950 was approved to assess the best options for establishing an Endowment Fund for the Lloyd George Museum.

2019-2020: Collaboration continues with the Friends, Welsh Government, local community and Museums Wales.

### **The Status of the Lloyd George Museum**

- i. The Lloyd George Museum is a charity (registration number 504296). The official name of the charity is “Lloyd George Museum” and Gwynedd Council is the charity trustee.
- ii. The charity is governed by the Trust Deed dated 5 June 1948, which was adapted by a Scheme made by the Charity Commissioners on 8 November 1989.
- iii. The Scheme dated 8 November 1989 includes the following conditions:
  - The land and buildings that are in the possession of the charity are to be used for museum purposes to exhibit a collection of objects to the public, along with other items of educational and historical interest associated with the life and work of the late David, Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, in order to promote education.
  - The trustee can occasionally establish or change regulations for the management of the Museum within the limits noted by the Scheme.
  - The trustee should insure the buildings and contents that belong to the charity to their full value from fire and other usual risks and they should have proper insurance for public liability and employer liability.
  - The trustee should use the clear annual income of the charity to promote the purposes of the charity.

### **Gwynedd Council's responsibility to the Museum**

- I. In terms of Gwynedd Council's responsibility to the Museum, trustees have independent control to manage and administrate a charity, and a legal responsibility for doing so.
- II. In general, trustees have six main duties, which include:
  - Ensure that their charity fulfils its purposes for the public benefit

- Comply with the governing document of their charity and the law
  - Act in the best interest of their charity
  - Ensure that their charity is accountable
  - Manage the resources of their charity in a responsible manner
  - Act with reasonable care and skill
- III. The Council's role as a trustee means that the Council, operating through the Cabinet has two separate roles to fulfil. As a trustee the Council has responsibilities towards managing a Charity. However, this is separate to the role of the Council as a Local Authority.
- IV. This report represents a request for funding on behalf of the charity to Gwynedd Council as a Local Authority.
- V. The Cabinet must therefore consider the request in the context of its overall funding situation and priorities. Its status as trustees for the charity does not mean that the Council is required to utilise its own funding to support it.
- VI. Whatever the Cabinet decides on the request for funding, it will then be necessary to hold a further meeting of the trustees to consider any steps that will need to be taken in response. In this meeting, the Cabinet will act as trustee and the relevant legal duties and responsibilities that relate to this are those of a trustee rather than a Local Authority.

### **Update**

- iv. By means of funding from the Heritage Fund, Dr Kevin Mason & Associates were commissioned to undertake a review of options on the future of the Lloyd George Museum.
- v. The aim of the commission was to examine options to take forward through further funding applications to the Heritage Fund in the future, and not to create a future business case.
- vi. At present, further research work is being undertaken by Council Departments on behalf of the Trust in order to consider the options that have been highlighted.
- vii. No model will be agreed upon for implementation from 1 April 2020 and, therefore, the Trust requires more time to consider the way forward.
- viii. Therefore, a request is made to the Cabinet by Lloyd George Museum Charity Trustees for £27,000 for a gap funding period to further assess the options and the financial and legal implications of implementing them.

## **4. THE RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

Given the research and work that has been undertaken over the three years since the Council resolved not to support the Lloyd George Museum financially, more time is needed to scrutinise options and their financial and budgetary implications.

As the Treasury's contribution will end on 31 March 2020, an application is submitted to the Cabinet for temporary gap funding resources of £27,000 in 2020-2021 towards the Lloyd George Museum charity.

## **5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE**

If it is agreed to allocate a temporary contribution of £27,000 to the Lloyd George Museum charity, this will allow more time for Trustees to consider the best models for the future.

It is intended to develop the options further and agree on the preferred model to move forward at a future meeting of the Trustees.



## **6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

### **Views of the Monitoring Officer**

*“As is stated in the body of the report, the decision sought relates to an application on behalf of the charity to Gwynedd Council as a Local Authority. The Cabinet’s consideration and decision on the matter should be undertaken in its role as a Local Authority a not as a trustee. The Legal Service has contributed in the preparation of the report, and accordingly there are no further comments in terms of probity.”*

### **Views of the Chief Finance Officer**

*“There is a permanent financial gap of £27,000 facing the museum in 2020-21 since the UK Government grant, for 3 years to 31 March 2020, is coming to an end. The gap will continue until the Economy and Community Department develops a new model for running the site. It is up to the Cabinet, in its role as custodian of the Council’s budget, to decide to release £27,000 to run the museum or not. In the circumstances, I believe that the decision being sought is reasonable but if the money is released, I expect that conditions will be imposed, because a new scheme needs to be put in place to meet the financial gap in subsequent years.”*

### **Views of the Local Member**

*Not a local matter.*

## **GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET**



### **Report to a Cabinet Meeting**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17 December 2019</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Councillor Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Finance</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Dafydd Edwards, Head of Finance</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Savings proposals and the Council Budget</b>

#### **Decision sought**

To decide upon options to be considered in relation to the identified savings for the purpose of setting the 2020/21 budget.

#### **Background**

1. In July of this year, the Cabinet considered a report which tried to forecast the financial situation with which we would be faced in 2020/21.
2. At the time, it was noted that as the grant we had received from the Welsh Government over the past 12 years had not been sufficient to cover the costs of inflation, and as the demand in various services such as adult care and children's services had also increased, we had been in a continuous circle of having to find savings.
3. As a result, whilst there would be some limited opportunities to try and find further efficiency savings we had now reached a situation whereby any need for substantial further savings would more than likely mean cuts to services.
4. In addition, as I did not know the level of pay awards that would be agreed for the workforce nor the grant settlement from the government for 2020/21, it was not possible to forecast with any confidence the likely financial shortfall we would face in 2020/21.
5. As a result, for 2020/21 the Cabinet decided upon a strategy of planning to meet a deficit of £2m by sharing that amount amongst all departments (including schools), and noting that it would be a contribution towards the cost of inflation, and that we would use balances and/or a higher Council Tax increase to meet any larger deficit in order to give us time to find a permanent solution.

6. The Cabinet were warned that this was all predicated on an optimistic standpoint in relation to the grant we were likely to receive from Welsh Government and that if the eventual settlement reflected the patterns seen in previous years, the deficit could be significantly larger.
7. All departments have now reported upon their proposals to the scrutiny committees and they are listed in Appendix 1.

### **The proposals**

8. The relevant scrutiny committees have challenged the proposals with a view to establishing whether these are the proposals which would have the least detrimental effect upon our residents within the individual areas.
9. In general, the committees were content that the proposals met that criteria but with the following exceptions.
10. The Care Scrutiny Committee decided to accept the proposals submitted by the Children and Family Support Department and the Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing Department but asked the Cabinet to consider the concern that a number of members had in relation to the proposed reduction of £30,000 in the grant to Women's Aid that it could lead to more costs for the Council in the long run and the need to undertake a full assessment of the consequences for the Council was emphasised.
11. The committee also had concerns regarding the impact of proposals to cut the mental health budget and services for carers. It was suggested that the Department should look for further reductions in the two areas where a reduction would have less of an impact, namely 3rd sector contracts or services for the elderly.
12. The Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee had difficulties when it came to discussing the proposals from the Education Department to the extent that they could not come to an agreed conclusion – only noting the report on the proposals and asking that their strong views be conveyed to the Cabinet. These views revolved around the fact that they were uncomfortable discussing any proposals to reduce the Education budget.
13. For the purpose of being able to come to an initial conclusion, the Chief Executive has reviewed the proposals in the light of the Scrutiny Committee conclusions and has sub-divided the proposals as follows:-

<b>Proposals</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Proposals which seem to be "efficiency" and which should not have any effect upon residents (Everything apart from those listed below).	1,062,320
Proposals from the Children's Department and the Economy and Community Department which relate to discretionary services but which will have some effect upon the people of Gwynedd (Proposals from those departments shaded grey in Appendix 1)	31,000
The proposal within Education to reduce the central ALN budget following a reduction in the spending upon Individual Development Plans/ Statements (Shaded grey in Appendix 1 : * £110,000 already being utilised to rectify a deficit in another savings plan that is not being achieved)	112,530
Proposals within Adult Services relating to front line services which are likely to have an effect (Proposals from the department shaded grey in Appendix 1)	331,000
Reduce the general funding for schools (Shaded grey in Appendix 1).	463,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000,750</b>

14. The Government will not be announcing the draft settlement until 16 December and as a result, without that information we still do not know the extent of any potential deficit and whether we will need all of the above savings or more.
15. The current prognosis is that the settlement ought to be better than in previous years (and close to the optimistic outlook taken by us in July) but it is unlikely that it will be sufficient to meet the whole increase in our costs for 2020/21.
16. I intend to report orally to the Cabinet on the outcome of the draft settlement published by the Government on 16 December and the likely financial deficit that arises so that the Cabinet can consider to what extent it will need the above savings.
17. This will allow the Cabinet to consider the choices available to the Council in establishing the 2020/21 budget, which in turn, will allow me to discuss those choices with all of the members in the usual seminars which I shall be running in January before presenting a comprehensive report on the budget to the Cabinet at its meeting in February 2020.

18. In continuing to develop proposals to be contained in that report I shall also be incorporating the details of any relevant consultation processes, equality impact assessments, and the Council's duty under the Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

---

## **Views of the Statutory Officers**

### **Monitoring Officer**

The report emphasises that it is the initial steps in preparation of the 2019-20 Budget which are under consideration. The publication of the settlement on the 16th of December means that the key information will only be available late in the day and it is inevitable that an update to the report will be required. I would draw specific attention to the consultation and further detail work which will follow from the Cabinet's decision in order to build the comprehensive picture to establish the budget.

### **Head of Finance**

Author of the report

### Children and Supporting Families Department's Savings Proposal List

Amount £	Budget Heading and Proposals	Impact on Residents
£53,000	Various - adjust inflation rates	No impact on residents
£30,000	Staffing - delete one post in the Youth Justice Service	No impact on residents. The service has recently undergone a process of restructuring duties. There was a vacant post in the service and there was a way to reallocate the work across the teams without a negative impact on the direct provision of services to young people and their families.
£30,000	Contribution - Supplies and Services - partial cut in the contribution to Women's Aid	Gwynedd is one of the few authorities that continues to contribute a core service budget to Women's Aid (£54,000). It is not a statutory requirement. This means less of an 'outreach' service for children and young people living in, or experiencing, domestic violence.
<b>£113,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department’s Savings Proposal List**

<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Budget Heading and Proposals</b>	<b>Impact on Residents</b>
<p>£43,850</p> <p>£7,550</p> <p>£16,660</p>	<p>No inflationary rise -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. No inflation (CPI approximately 1.5%) on various budgets but excluding budgets for the commissioning of 3rd Sector Services where there are staffing costs.</li> <li>ii. No inflation (CPI about 1.5%) for the commissioning of 3rd Sector Services where there are staffing costs.</li> <li>iii. No contract inflation for 3rd sector organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>This would provide an element of additional pressure on a wide range of budgets but due to their nature this should not have a significant impact on residents. The elements that have staffing costs could have some impact on schemes where the 3rd sector supports work in the community.</p>
<p>£39,850</p>	<p>Budgets that underspend annually - a small number of budgets within the Department are underspending year on year. Instead of using the money to assist with budgets that overspend annually, it is proposed that these sums are reaped as savings.</p>	<p>Although reaping these funds would not impact on the budget headings it is possible that the services supported year on year would be placed under increased pressure with an increased risk of overspending from 2020/21 onwards. Any impact on residents would depend on succeeding in managing demand and expenditure in those budgets.</p>

**APPENDIX 1**

<p>£150,000</p>	<p>3rd Sector Contracts - across the adult sector all 3rd Sector contract agreements are equivalent to approximately £800,000. This funds a wide range of preventative services and also include statutory duties such as support for the blind and deaf and advocacy services.</p> <p>Work is already underway to review these contracts to ensure that they are reflecting the needs of our residents whilst also filling gaps at a local level that supports people achieving what matters to them. The review starts with a clean sheet rather than changing and modifying the current agreements. This phase would entail a review of all contracts and commissioning with £150,000 less budget.</p> <p>In principle the scale of the cut could be increased to meet the savings target and therefore protecting other services.</p>	<p>Reviewing these contracts and ensuring that they reflect the needs of our residents in a preventative way will make a significant contribution to our ability to help people to help themselves within their communities and thereby manage demand. Implementing this scheme would reduce our ability to manage demand and there will be fewer preventative options available to individuals in their communities. It is also anticipated that there will be an increased pressure and dependency on our frontline teams and the Information, Advice and Support Service (IAA), which will mean that these teams will not have the necessary capacity to spend time with individuals and families.</p> <p>Cutting this budget could probably lead to accusations of trying to promote the 3rd Sector in the effort to strengthen community resilience on the one hand and cutting the financial backing given to them on the other.</p>
<p>£21,000</p> <p>£21,000</p>	<p>Mental Health Support Workers -</p> <p>i. Cutting one support workers post</p> <p>ii. Cutting a second support worker post</p>	<p>It will not be possible to support individuals to the same extent to work on their care plans in order to work on recovery. This would weaken Gwynedd's contribution to achieving the objectives of the Regional Mental Health Strategy adopted by the Council. There is also a risk that cases cannot be closed in a timely manner due to a waiting list for services.</p>



**APPENDIX 1**

£49,360	<p>Business Support - re-structuring the Business Service by reducing the support provided to the integrated community resource teams.</p> <p>To further adjust and reduce the business support provided to frontline teams of Adult and Children's Departments.</p>	<p>These teams have already been reduced in the last savings cycle. It is foreseen that this scheme will result in a significant reduction in performance across the Business Service in terms of expertise, workload and leadership and that the knock-on effect of that would have a negative impact on the ability of the Adults and Children's Departments to fulfil their purpose. This, together with the need to allocate a proportion of field staff time to undertake administrative duties, would impact on a broad cross section of individuals and families in receipt of support.</p>
£19,000	<p>Carers Services - reduce the budget for supporting carers including some respite schemes.</p>	<p>This could work against efforts to enable people to remain in their homes supported by their families and community, and potentially risk a rise in care costs in other budgets.</p>
£120,000	<p>Older People, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Services - reduce respite and day care opportunities across services but mainly in the Learning Disability Service</p>	<p>This is likely to increase pressure on carers and families caring for adults with complex and profound care and behavioural needs. Pressure and stress on vulnerable carers could increase together with the need for long-term and perhaps out of county placements.</p>
<b>£488,270</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Housing and Property Department's Savings Proposal List**

<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Budget Heading and Proposals</b>	<b>Impact on Residents</b>
£35,000	Building Maintenance - internalise the statutory work of inspecting water systems in all Council buildings to protect users from Legionnaires Disease.	<p>None. This is an efficiency saving which will mean that the work will still be completed but in a cheaper way.</p> <p>Specialist external contractors currently do the work. We have been nurturing this expertise internally recently and, now, by appointing two additional officers, we can do this work ourselves at a lower cost than paying a private company to do it on our behalf.</p> <p>This will also mean that we can guarantee a Welsh-medium service from now on - this is not always true when using external contractors.</p>
£25,000	Building Maintenance - internalising electrical maintenance work in Council buildings.	<p>None. This is an efficiency saving which will mean that the work will still be completed but in a cheaper way.</p> <p>Traditionally, the Council has been appointing external contractors to complete all its building maintenance work. Overall, this works effectively but there are continued problems when trying to do small-scale work, worth a few hundred pounds at a time. The lead-in time for customers was long and the cost higher than what is acceptable.</p>

		<p>Over the past two years, we have appointed our own joiners and plumbers to do this type of work, and this has allowed us to reduce the lead-in time for our customers and has allowed us to ensure that we get better value for money. We have created a business case that shows that further savings could be realised by employing two electricians ourselves.</p> <p>This will also mean that we can guarantee a Welsh-medium service from now on - this is not always true when using external contractors.</p>
--	--	---

<b>£60,000</b>	<b>Total</b>
----------------	--------------

## Education Department and Schools Savings Proposals List

Amount £	Budget Heading and Proposals	Impact on Residents
<b>Schools</b>		
£31,620	Allowance per head - not to add inflation fully	A relatively small reduction in the educational resources available to pupils, and thus a need for the schools to be more efficient in their use of resources.
£112,530	'Integration - Individual Development Plan (IDP)/Statements' - following the forewarning given to Schools along with their three year financial projections in November 2018, the heading 'Integration - Other' was deleted from schools' financial distribution for 2019/20. The reason for deleting the heading was to finance the continued overspend seen recently in the field of 'Integration - Individual Development Plan (IDP)/Statements'. With the latest statistics suggesting that the IDP/Statements overspend is less than expected, it would be possible to transfer the free part of the budget to contribute to the schools' savings target.	The schools have already had to cope with losing this sum from their allocation for 2019/20. The impact of this was a reduction in the budget the school usually received for supporting pupils with additional learning needs, who are not the subject of an IDP/Statement. This means less support for the pupils at a School Action and School Action Plus level (i.e. the provision a School arranges for its pupils).

**APPENDIX 1**

£463,900	Allocation Formula - the remainder of schools' savings target is to be funded by increasing the 'Pupil Teacher Ratio' in the allocation formula. The sum was split based on primary school pupils aged 3-10 and secondary school pupils aged 11-15 in accordance with the weighting given to the age of pupils in the allocation formula.	This action will lead to a reduction in the number of teachers and/or a reduction in the number of ancillary staff, and this could have an impact on educational standards.
<b>£608,050</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	

**APPENDIX 1**

<b>Education Department</b>		
£17,630	Various - not to add inflation fully on non-staff resources.	No impact on residents based on the fact that officers will cope with the saving by being more efficient in their use of resources.
£55,900	A reduction in the annual contract cost of the WJEC - the cost reduction has already been achieved by a combination of joint efforts between WJEC, the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Education in Wales to identify financial efficiency savings.	No impact on residents.
£46,500	Reduce the development fund - the Education Department has a (relatively small) development fund, worth £89,710 prior to the implementation of this saving. The fund allows the Department to invest in one-off priorities in a timely manner outside of the Council Plan. Following an assessment of the Education Department's budget and a prioritisation exercise, the consensus is that it would be possible to reduce the development fund. However, it is emphasised that this will not be the option we turn to, should there be a need to identify further savings in the future.	Reduces the Education Department's ability to fund some priorities outside the Council Plan, which could lead to a relatively small impact on residents.
<b>£120,030</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	
<b>£728,080</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Economy and Community Department's Savings Proposals List**

<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Budget Heading and Proposals</b>	<b>Impact on Residents</b>
£17,530	Not add inflation fully or partly on headings that can be managed - supplies and services headings mainly	Marginal savings on the headings that can be managed - these savings are not expected to have an effect on citizens
£8,290	Not add inflation fully or partly on budgets that contribute to renewal funds. Maritime and Leisure Funds specifically	Involves a reduction in the investment to renew equipment in future that could impact on the quality of service and on income targets
£1,920	Not add inflation on the Grants to the Arts heading	Involves a reduction in the grant we are able to distribute to partners to promote the arts in the future
£12,820	Delete the Leisure Service's reserve budget. With the transfer of the management of the leisure service to Cwmni Byw'n Iach on 1/4/19, a budget was set up for unexpected expenditure outside the Department's control. For example, this year urgent maintenance work was carried out at Glaslyn Centre as a result of a leaking water-pipe which has resulted in a higher than expected cost on the "water purchase" budget	No direct impact on residents but this proposal means that the Department has no source to finance unexpected issues out of our control and will therefore result in overspend
£2,650	Archives Service Savings - by using digital methods to reproduce photographs and promote events	Efficiency savings therefore no effect on Gwynedd residents

**APPENDIX 1**

£7,200	Savings by deleting the Libraries Service Digital Co-ordinator post. This is a vacant post and as a result of the Ffordd Gwynedd review the service has reconsidered its priorities and is proposing to delete part of the post as a cut with no direct effect on the digital provision field	Efficiency savings therefore no effect on Gwynedd residents
£1,000	Savings on the "Community Arts" budget	Reduction in the arts activities arranged for Gwynedd residents. These are activities which specifically target health, welfare and learning needs
£4,000	Savings at Parc Padarn due to restructuring staffing arrangements undertaken following the efficiency savings target and the early retirement of the Park Manager back in 2014/15	Efficiency savings therefore no effect on Gwynedd residents
£500	Department Management Savings - stop purchasing daily newspapers	Efficiency savings therefore no effect on Gwynedd residents



**APPENDIX 1**

£2,000	Maritime Service Crown Estate lease savings. The Council has entered into a "composite lease" contract with the Crown Estate for the Gwynedd coast. Discussions have started to adapt the Hafan lease to be based on current turnover rather than historical turnover. The current contract commits the Council to expenditure of £144,990 at Hafan, Pwllheli. The current budget is £153,200 but as yet there is no information regarding what will be owed in the future. However, it is anticipated that there is sufficient scope to provide £2,000 as savings	Efficiency savings therefore no effect on Gwynedd residents
£6,000	Reduce expenditure on several business support team headings including office, marketing, networking, subscription costs, etc.	The cut will reduce the Service's capacity to engage with businesses by reducing the number of marketing and networking campaigns
£3,000	Reduce the expenditure on several headings within the Tourism, Marketing and Events Service mainly specific budgets for marketing and external events.	There will be a reduction in the support available for local businesses with fewer marketing campaigns and sessions to engage with the sector
<b>£66,910</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Corporate Support Department's Proposal List**

<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Budget Heading and Proposals</b>	<b>Impact on Residents</b>
£16,140	To not add inflation to supplies and materials' budgets within the Department.	None - when considering other proposals to cut supplies and materials budgets, not adding inflation to those budgets in 2020/21 is considered as a step which would not affect the Department's ability to fulfil its function.
£7,200	To not renew the NDL Licence.	None - currently NDL software is used to directly transfer information from the Customer Contact Service to the Planning Service's APAS system. Changes to the operational process as from the 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020 means that investing in this licence is not required in future.
£24,000	Reduce a variety of central budgets and specifically within the Business Support and Support Services.	None - this is a combination of smaller savings within the Department, a reduction in expenditure on printing corporate documents e.g. Council Plan, Performance Report, as well as reduce expenditure on supplies and materials.
£10,000	Attract additional income from a new source.	None - provide services to a new external establishment.
£4,000	Reduction in expenditure on salaries within the Customer Contact Service.	None - this saving emanates from the increasing use of the self-service provision along with a recent managerial re-structure within the Customer Contact Service.
<b>£61,340</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Finance Department's Proposal List**

<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Budget Heading and Proposals</b>	<b>Impact on Residents</b>
£14,000	Inflation - Various - Not to add inflation for 2020/21 on some budgets other than staff.	No impact on Gwynedd residents - the Department can continue to fulfil its role whilst not putting inflation on some budget headings.
£14,000	Accountancy/Management - Attract additional income through new contracts.	No impact on Gwynedd residents - the income will come from providing services to a new external organisation.
£11,000	Information Technology - Attract additional income, a combination of new deals and additional activities.	No impact on Gwynedd residents - more income from an external customer for a higher level of provision.
£12,000	Non-Domestic Rates - Attract additional income from the Business Improvement District (BID) scheme's administration fee.	No impact on Gwynedd residents - this 'new' income comes from an agreement that is now dependable.
£7,930	Modernisation - Reducing many budgets by implementing new ways of working across the department.	No impact on Gwynedd residents - when using online services, less will be spent on postage, statutory notices and on specialised services.
<b>£58,930</b>	<b>Total</b>	

## Corporate Management Team and Legal's Proposal List

Amount £	Budget Heading and Proposals	Impact on Residents
£5,000	Forego inflation on some headings in the Management Team; Legal; Electoral registration and Coroner Budgets.	No obvious effect. We should be able to cope with the budgets under consideration at their current levels.
£3,000	Management Team & Monitoring Officer - Reduce postage, furniture and equipment budgets.	None. As we have moved to greater use of technology we are spending much less on postage and it can be reduced substantially.
£3,390	Management Team - Reduce conference budgets.	None. In the light of the proposal to keep one Director post vacant we will have less ability to attend meetings on behalf of the Council and there will therefore be a lower associated costs.
£2,500	Legal - Lexcel fees.	None. We intend to stop obtaining the external Lexcel accreditation but internal Office Management will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the principles.
£2,910	Legal - Income.	None. Over the years, in order to meet the savings targets the Legal service has been doing external work in order to generate income. Current levels of activity suggest that we are generating more than we anticipated.
<b>£16,800</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Environment Department's Savings Proposals List**

<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Budget Heading and Proposals</b>	<b>Impact on Residents</b>
£9,580	Works - no inflationary rise.	No impact is foreseen on Gwynedd residents by not adding inflation for one year only as the amount is relatively small.
£4,000	Building Control - fees for providing advice in advance.	These fees are not currently being used, but a similar procedure exists in the Planning Service. Feedback from the recipients is extremely positive, with residents feeling that they receive much more useful advice and value for money.
£5,000	Reduce Training budget.	No significant impact is anticipated on Gwynedd residents. The Department will need to be more specific on what training is really needed to fill gaps in knowledge and to meet new requirements as well as staff development.
£15,000	Street Works - cut half a post.	Losing half a post can have a significant impact, but it is anticipated that the impact can be significantly reduced through better use of technology and closer collaboration with the Highways and Municipal Department.

**APPENDIX 1**

£2,000	Office materials.	All of these savings measures are about buying cheaper, buying less, or not buying at all by making better use of technology (e.g. using less paper, printing less). The department is actually over-performing under the heading of 'Category Management' in their Departmental savings list. No impact envisaged on Gwynedd residents.
£8,000	Printing/photocopying.	
£5,000	Professional/technical Service.	
£7,420	Subscriptions.	
£25,000	Furniture and Equipment.	
£15,560	Savings through cheaper purchases (software).	
<b>£96,560</b>	<b>Total</b>	

## Highways and Municipal Department's Savings Proposals List

Amount £	Budget Heading and Proposals	Impact on Residents
£15,000	Reduced electricity consumption in the Caernarfon Tunnel.	No impact on residents - Cost reduction following changes to the lighting and control system including the introduction of LED lamps.
£3,000	Crematorium Gas (use).	No impact on residents - Reduced energy consumption following improved management/new systems.
£80,000	Cost of dealing with commercial waste.	No impact on residents - We now treat our residual waste at Parc Adfer which is a joint burning site with other North Wales Authorities. The fee structure has ensured a reduction in our costs.
£46,250	Inflation	No impact on residents - Work within the current budget of 2019/20 and work closely with the Highways and Municipal Category Team.
£20,000	Inflation – general materials.	No impact on residents - Budget Adjustment - working within existing budgets for 2019/20, working more efficiently and more closely with the Highways and Municipal Category Team.
£7,000	Municipal On-duty	No impact on residents - Establish one procedure for dealing with 'on-duty' across the Highways and Municipal Department.

**APPENDIX 1**

£12,940	Various fleet expenditure	No impact on residents - The recent work of the Category Team has identified opportunities for more efficient working.
£50,000	Restructure within the Department	No impact on residents - Introduce a new structure within the Department to ensure greater efficiency/collaboration across services.
£35,000	Cilgwyn Closure Plan	No impact on residents - A Closure Plan is in place for the Cilgwyn site which has had quite stringent monitoring requirements. The site has now been closed for some time, and in accordance the Department has opened discussions with Natural Resources Wales on the reduction of the requirements of the Closure Plan which has been agreed in principle. When the new plan is in place the monthly monitoring requirement will change to one quarterly which will see a reduction in all testing.
£12,000	Trees - no sorting	No impact on residents - Previously some trees had to be separated to ensure we could count the waste towards recycling figures. Now as Parc Adfer is in action and being able to count (bottom ash) there is no requirement to sort the trees.
<b>£281,190</b>	<b>Total</b>	



### Consultancy Department's Savings Proposals List

Amount £	Budget Heading and Proposals	Impact on Residents
£7,260	By making adjustments to YGC's expenditure and budgets there is a net effect of a reduction in expenditure. This has partly been achieved by cutting back YGC's membership of organisations such as NSAN (National Skills Academy Nuclear) and also cutting expenditure on magazines and the like, as these are now available electronically or on the web.	No impact on residents.
£22,410	Increase resources within YGC Units which enables the Department to increase it's income. Recent Changes in Structure Forms have increased capacity within Cost and Ecology Consultancy fields.	No impact on residents.
<b>£29,670</b>	<b>Total</b>	

# Agenda Item 9

## GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



### Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>17 December 2019</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Geraint Owen, Head of Corporate Support Department Iwan Evans, Head of Legal Services</b>
<b>Contact Telephone Number:</b>	<b>01286 679335</b>
<b>Title of Item:</b>	<b>Gwynedd Council's Response to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill - November 2019</b>

#### **1. THE DECISION SOUGHT**

- 1.1. The Cabinet's approval to the draft response which has been prepared on behalf of the Council to the Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill - November 2019, for submission to the Full Council for approval on 19 December 2019.

#### **2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION**

- 2.1. There was a need to ensure an agreement on the content of the Council's response to the Bill and that the Cabinet had been given an opportunity to provide input on the content.

#### **3. PRESENTATION AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill - November 2019 has been published for consultation. The deadline to respond to the consultation is 3 January 2019. A link to the full details is available below - [there is no need to print.](#)

[Link](#)

#### **4. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE**

- 4.1. By approving the plan, it is intended to submit it for adoption at the next full meeting of the Council on 19 December 2019.

#### **5. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

- 5.1. Observations were requested, including the

#### **5.2. Views of the Statutory Officers:**

##### **i. Monitoring Officer:**

I have co-authored this report.

## **ii. Head of Finance Department:**

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill proposes a comprehensive legislation which will affect several aspects of local government governance. As the response notes, financial implications will unavoidably stem from some of these requirements. For example, there is a strong possibility that some of the Incorporated Joint-committees will require significant administrative support. I note that the requirement for a significant increase in the number of lay members on the Audit and Governance Committee remains from the previous Bill published in 2015. At the time, the Committee members expressed concerns about this, and there is no reason to think that their opinion has changed in the interim.

Part 8 of the Bill refers to Local Government Finance, and local taxation specifically. I have no objection to the proposals in Part 8, as these are positive developments in local taxation.”

## **Appendices**

Gwynedd Council’s observations on the November 2019 consultation – draft response



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) BILL**  
**GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S OBSERVATIONS ON THE NOVEMBER 2019**  
**CONSULTATION**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill - November 2019 has been published for consultation. The deadline to respond to the consultation is 3 January 2019.
2. Gwynedd Council welcomes the opportunity to offer observations; however, before turning to these observations, the Council wishes to make some basic and key points.
3. We would like to note that the proposed timetable for consultation is extremely tight and unfair to enable us to give full and fair consideration to a complex legal document, especially as there are considerable implications for local government to implement some elements of the Bill. Whilst we accept that elements have already been discussed along the way with this Bill, the general election will inevitably influence the scope of the political discussions that can be held, and the availability of the specialist officers in the field to offer advice as they are involved with the election's preparation work. Additionally, the period following 12 December up to 3 January is short in light of the Christmas holidays.
4. Another element that requires specific attention is the recognition of the need for additional Resources to implement some elements of the Bill. It must be noted that there is a clear additional cost attached to some elements, such as the webcasting of meetings.
5. We will not propose observations on each individual field within the existing time constraint. We have supported the vast majority of the content in previous responses, and we emphasise our previous opinion and response for those fields.
6. Our main observations and concern on this occasion relates to **Part 5 of the Bill - Collaboration by Principal Councils**, namely the creation of the Corporate Joint Committees (CJC).

7. Mainly, it is felt that creating Corporate Joint Committees based on the model in the Bill would create another tier of local government, with the effect that democracy and decisions are distanced further away from the citizen. The Bill does not provide clarity on how and in what way functions that do not belong to an Executive would be met in the system. This includes adopting the Policy and Finance Framework. Effective collaboration is based on a clear business case for merging, but also on a concept and agreement by the Councils regarding the strategic direction. This is a key element of the success of collaboration which does not manifest itself in constitutional or legislative documents. The typical characteristic of a joint committee, compared to a regional authority, is the accountability to the mother authorities. It would be required for the arrangements to satisfy this, especially so if the corporate joint committees have strategic and financial powers. Without this, it would go against the spirit of the Bill of attempting to encourage and promote access to Local Government and participation and influencing decisions.
8. The flipside of this is the concern about the role of the Leaders in existing authorities in relation to such arrangements, especially the great deal of pressure that would inevitably be on their shoulders. Collaborative models e.g. School Improvement Services, mean that the membership of the Joint Committees would consist of the relevant Cabinet members who are directly accountable to their Authorities for the Service. As noted above, the model inevitably weakens this accountability with this direct contact.
9. It should also be noted that we are of the opinion that what is offered in the context of corporate joint committees is not flexible enough. For example, the request to identify the footprint we wish to work on would create difficulty in itself. Collaboration across North Wales would not necessarily be the best solution for every field. We already collaborate along the West coastline with regard to some developments, and with Anglesey on other matters. The Bill does not have sufficient flexibility to adapt to local needs and the best local arrangements. We do not argue that experience of collaboration has identified aspects where the legislative provision could be improved. This includes joint arrangements to appoint and set salaries, retain assets and implement legal rights. There is an opportunity in this legislation to provide a governance option which could support and strengthen existing successful collaboration arrangements. However, we believe that binding the solutions to a stringent structure that is formed through legislation creates a risk that we will weaken the existing collaboration by shifting focus and obscuring accountability.
10. Essentially, we are of the opinion that any such arrangements should begin at grass roots level, i.e. through the local authorities and the community councils. Local Authorities must be clear of the benefit of establishing arrangements, and local ownership to identify the best way forward is key. Otherwise, there is a feeling that this is a reorganisation of local government through the back door, and we strongly oppose to this.

11. There are some further matters on other headings that I would like to bring to your attention below.

#### **PART 1 - ELECTIONS**

Observations - overall, we support these principles.

- We support the proposal to extend the right to vote, but there is a need to ensure that adequate resources are provided to Electoral Registration Officers to implement and promote the change.
- We support the concept of using a single transferable voting system. However, we do not consider that the need in Section 12 is necessary, and undermines the Council's stance that one-member wards provide the strongest link with the community. The Bill provides for one-member Wards in Section 6(2)(b) and recommending the format and nature of the wards should be a matter for the boundaries review by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission.
- Likewise, we welcome the principle that should act to increase Electoral Registration. However, as it is limited to the Welsh Senedd and Local Government elections, it will not be relevant to UK elections or referenda. Such experience in the canvassing stage shows that there is scope for confusion with electors unless the registration process avoids becoming complicated. We presume that a similar risk derives from having such a two-track process, and this needs to be addressed.
- Whilst we understand the principle of attempting to ensure that the pool of people who stand extends and expands, we have a specific concern about this element. We believe it to be unwise to give staff employed by the authority the ability to stand in the election of the Council they work for.

#### **PART 2 - GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

Observations -

- We welcome the principle, but the restrictions around legislation that already exist should be addressed. It is a shame that the opportunity to expand on the power in England has not been taken by reducing the restrictions. Experience from England suggests that the power in this form, although useful, has not been a medium for significant change in the activities of Councils. However, Section 35 provides scope to develop the use of the General Power through the Minister. It is hoped that willingness and flexibility to use this system can be seen to support the work of Local Authorities.
- We also agree that these powers are necessary to secure Competent Community Councils, and they are going to be of assistance to ensure collaboration. However, there is a need to also consider what happens to community councils who are not competent. The work of reviewing town and community councils should perhaps take place first.

#### **PART 3 - PROMOTING ACCESS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Observations -

- The principle of encouraging residents to participate when the Council makes decisions is supported by Gwynedd Council. This already happens extensively through duties to consult, engage and implement legislation such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Consequently, it is considered on one level that placing a specific statutory duty for all decisions is unnecessary as the requirements

highlighted below mean that the voice of the resident is an integral part of substantial or significant decisions. Additionally, by placing a statutory duty, every decision will have an additional requirement on Cabinet or Officer level to demonstrate how the duty is addressed. We are concerned that the significance of placing the requirement in broad statutory duty terms has not been fully weighed-up.

- The Bill requests that the Strategy states the following: (d) methods of promoting and facilitating processes where local people can participate, or to authorities associated with the council, for a decision before, and after, it is made; "associated authorities" Snowdonia National Park Authority or a Community Council.

The associated authorities are independent corporations from the Principal Council and are the subject of their own statutory governance arrangements.

The justification for this element of the duty has not manifested itself and sets new and significant requirements on Principal Councils with regard to intervention in the governance of these bodies. In Gwynedd's case, this e.g. means 64 Community councils.

- Whilst we agree with the principle of gaining access to meetings (via webcasting), specific attention needs to be given to the necessary additional resources in order to complete the task. The estimation of £12k per year is too low to cope with the additional requirements from the Act, e.g. additional locations and ensuring bilingual provision.
- Again, we support the provision of flexibility to the Councils with regard to the arrangements for remote attendance, but there are Resource implications to ensure a quality bilingual provision.

#### **PART 4 - LOCAL AUTHORITY EXECUTIVES, MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Observations -

- We agree that being able to appoint assistants (from amongst members) to members of the Executive, who could act on their behalf from time to time would possibly encourage diversity. However, there is doubt regarding to the way it would work in practice, especially as political opinion can differ. Also, in terms of securing a salary for them, *the measure states that they are not members of the Executive, therefore based on current annual letters, a salary cannot be paid. Do restrictions such as membership of a Scrutiny Committee apply to them?* Similarly, the element of permitting job sharing for members of the Executive would certainly encourage diversity. However, it could be challenging in practice e.g. if political views differed between both members who share a job, and could create confusion.
- We agree with the role for political leaders to promote standards within members of their group. It would be a medium to have the discussion in advance and resolve issues. It must be appreciated that the stance of the courts in cases such as Calver\* on Article 10 sets the threshold in terms of member on member complaints.
- The bill gives the power to make it a requirement for authorities to appoint overview and scrutiny joint committees when services are provided jointly. The right to establish such Committees already exist. The argument in favour of enforcement is not highlighted here as any collaboration arrangements between Local Authorities would inevitably deal with scrutiny arrangements, with the existing arrangements acting as the contingency option.

**PART 5 - COLLABORATIVE WORKING BY PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

- See the observations already included in the main messages of our response.

**PART 6 - PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE OF PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

Observations -

- Our main observations are around the proposed option for the role and membership of the Audit and Governance Committee, mainly regarding increasing the number of lay members to a third of the committee membership. While we agree that there are benefits of having lay members on the committee, we do not agree that a third of the committee membership need to be lay members. Each individual local authority should be allowed to determine the percentage of lay members on the committee.

**PART 7 - MERGERS AND RESTRUCTURING OF PRINCIPAL AREAS**

Observations -

- In responses to previous consultations, we have already stated that we should be clear what the benefits are of any collaboration before proceeding to establish any arrangements. This is true of regional or sub-regional collaboration. The same principle exists for merging local Authorities on a voluntary or mandatory basis or through any governance arrangements. See our observations in the report itself.

**PART 8 - PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE OF PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

Observations -

- We welcome the proposal to change the primary legislation so that the Non-domestic Rates multiplier increases annually with the increase in the CPI index rather than the RPI index. In practice, this will mean that secondary legislation will not need to be introduced annually, as has happened in previous years, to have the same effect. The change should mean a lower annual increase in the Non-domestic Rates bills. The billing authorities and Welsh Government alike have been frustrated with the lack of general powers that have been available for billing authorities to get to grips with Non-domestic Rates avoidance. The powers contained in the Bill will assist in reducing such avoidance, while strengthening the public purse somewhat. As a billing authority, Gwynedd Council supports this proposal.
- On the contrary, the Bill also adapts the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to revoke the powers for local authorities to apply to commit an individual to prison for non-payment of Council Tax. These powers have already been revoked through regulations, and we acknowledge that the purpose of this further change is to include it in primary legislation, which will be more difficult to reverse in future. While there may be a slight reduction in the collection rate as a result, we do not oppose what is proposed.”



## **GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET**



<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17 December 2019</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Iwan Evans – Head of Legal Services and Siôn Huws – Senior Solicitor</b>
<b>Contact telephone Number:</b>	<b>32168</b>
<b>Title of Item:</b>	<b>The Ombudsman’s Annual Letter 2018/19</b>

**Subject: The Public Services Ombudsman’s Annual Letter 2018/19**

### **1. Recommendation for the Decision:**

To receive the Annual Letter of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales for 2018/19

### **2. The reason why a decision is required:**

2.1 The Public Services Ombudsman has asked for his Annual Letter to be presented to the Cabinet to assist members in their scrutiny of the Council’s performance.

### **3. General Background**

3.1 Members will be aware that a report on complaints is presented to the Cabinet, annually, usually in July. To ensure that a complete picture of the situation across the authority is given, a report on the Corporate Complaints Procedure is presented, together with the Director of Social Services’ Annual Report on Complaints under the statutory complaints procedure (which is also presented to the Care Scrutiny Committee). The report also includes information on the complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales during the year. To

ensure that the information and messages are up to date the report is presented as soon as practicable in the financial year.

3.2 The report presented in July this year included consideration of complaints made to the Ombudsman, with the figures having been verified with his office. The Ombudsman's Annual Letter was not available at the time, but the matters contained in the letter have already been considered by the Cabinet.

3.3 The Ombudsman asks for his Annual Letter to be presented to Cabinet and to be informed of the proposed actions for the matters raised.

3.4 The Annual Letter is therefore attached as an Appendix to this report.

3.5 Looking to the future, we will be considering whether the annual report, including the Ombudsman's annual letter, can be presented to the Cabinet as one report, to a timetable that ensures the information remains current enough so that lessons can be learnt.

#### **4. Any consultations undertaken prior to making the Decision:**

Monitoring Officer – Report prepared by Legal Services.


Head of Finance - Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety

Our ref: NB/MA

Ask for: Communications

 01656 641150

Date: 7 August 2019

 communications  
@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Councillor Dyfrig L. Siencyn  
Council Leader  
Gwynedd Council

**By Email Only**

[cynghorydd.dyfrigsienecyn@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:cynghorydd.dyfrigsienecyn@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

Dear Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn

### **Annual Letter 2018/19**

I am pleased to provide you with the Annual letter (2018/19) for Gwynedd County Borough Council. This year I am publishing my Annual Letters as part of my Annual Report and Accounts. I hope the Council finds this helpful and I trust this will enable it to review its own complaint handling performance in the context of other public bodies performing similar functions across Wales.

Whilst overall the number of complaints received relating to local authorities across Wales increased from 794 to 912, I am pleased that local authorities continue to work with my office to resolve many of these complaints at an early stage. This provides complainants with appropriate and timely remedies avoiding the need for my office to fully investigate complaints.

A summary of the complaints of maladministration/service failure received relating to the Council is attached.

Also attached is a summary of the Code of Conduct complaints relating to members of the Council and the Town & Community Councils in your area.

The Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 has now been introduced. I am delighted that the Assembly has approved this legislation giving the office new powers aimed at:

Page 1 of 7

- Improving access to my office
- Providing a seamless mechanism for complaint handling when a patient's NHS care is inextricably linked with private healthcare
- Allowing me to undertake own initiative investigations when required in the public interest
- Ensuring that complaints data from across Wales may be used to drive improvement in public services for citizens in Wales.

I am very much looking forward to implementing these new powers over the coming year.

**Action for the Council to take:**

- Present my Annual Letter to the Cabinet to assist Members in their scrutiny of the Council's performance
- Work to reduce the number of cases which require intervention by my office
- Inform me of the outcome of the Council's considerations and proposed actions on the above matters by **31 October 2019**.

This correspondence is copied to the Chief Executive of your Council and to your Contact Officer. Finally, a copy of all Annual Letters will be published on my website.

Yours sincerely



Nick Bennett  
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

CC: Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive  
Meinir Griffiths, Contact Officer

## Factsheet

### A. Complaints Received and Investigated with Local Authority average adjusted for population distribution

Local Authority	Complaints Received	Average	Complaints Investigated	Average
Gwynedd Council 2018/19	32	35	2	1
Gwynedd Council 2017/18	29	31	2	1
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	8	20	0	0
Bridgend County Borough Council	33	41	0	1
Caerphilly County Borough Council	65	51	1	1
Cardiff Council	115	103	0	2
Carmarthenshire County Council	49	53	1	1
Ceredigion County Council	23	21	0	0
City and County of Swansea	83	70	0	2
Conwy County Borough Council	41	33	2	1
Denbighshire County Council	26	27	1	1
Flintshire County Council	50	44	2	1
Isle of Anglesey County Council	31	20	2	0
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	15	17	0	0
Monmouthshire County Council	20	27	0	1
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	38	40	1	1
Newport City Council	38	43	0	1
Pembrokeshire County Council	35	35	0	1
Powys County Council	67	38	4	1
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	36	68	0	2
Torfaen County Borough Council	12	26	1	1
Vale of Glamorgan Council	24	37	0	1
Wrexham County Borough Council	45	38	3	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>886</b>		<b>20</b>	

## B. Complaints Received by Subject

Gwynedd Council	Complaints Received
Adult Social Services	5
Agriculture and Fisheries	1
Children Social Services	3
Complaints Handling	3
Environment and Environmental Health	5
Finance and Taxation	2
Housing	1
Planning and Building Control	3
Roads and Transport	7
Various Other	2

## C. Comparison of complaint outcomes with average outcomes for Local Authorities, adjusted for population distribution

Local Authority	Out of Jurisdiction	Premature	Other cases closed after initial consideration	Early Resolution / Voluntary settlement	Discontinued	Other Report - Not upheld	Other Report - Upheld in whole or in part	Public Interest Reports
<b>2018/19</b>								
Gwynedd	6	12	11	4	-	-	2	-
Gwynedd (adjusted)	6	11	12	5	0	0	1	0
<b>2017/18</b>								
Gwynedd	7	4	13	1	0	1	0	0
Gwynedd (adjusted)	5	9	11	4	0	0	1	0

#### D. Number of cases with PSOW intervention

Local Authority	No. of complaints with PSOW intervention	Total number of closed complaints	% of complaints with PSOW intervention
Gwynedd Council 2018/19	6	35	17%
Gwynedd Council 2017/18	1	26	4%
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	2	7	29%
Bridgend County Borough Council	6	36	17%
Caerphilly County Borough Council	8	68	12%
Cardiff Council	19	110	17%
Carmarthenshire County Council	4	48	8%
Ceredigion County Council	5	24	21%
City and County Swansea	10	80	13%
Conwy County Borough Council	5	39	13%
Denbighshire County Council	4	30	13%
Flintshire County Council	16	56	29%
Isle of Anglesey County Council	5	31	16%
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	0	14	0%
Monmouthshire County Council	0	23	0%
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	4	40	10%
Newport City Council	7	43	16%
Pembrokeshire County Council	6	33	18%
Powys County Council	11	64	17%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	4	34	12%
Torfaen County Borough Council	1	12	8%
Vale of Glamorgan Council	7	30	23%
Wrexham County Borough Council	8	43	19%

### E. Code of Conduct Complaints Closed

Local Authority	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total
<b>2018/19</b>								
Gwynedd	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	6
<b>2017/18</b>								
Gwynedd	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	7

### F. Town/Community council Code of Conduct Complaints

Town/Community Council	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total
Arthog CC	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Criccieth TC	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dolbenmaen CC	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Porthmadog TC	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tywyn TC	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5



## **Appendix**

### **Explanatory Notes**

Section A compares the number of complaints against the Local Authority which were received and investigated by my office during 2018/19, with the Local Authority average (adjusted for population distribution) during the same period.

Section B provides a breakdown of the number of complaints about the Local Authority which were received by my office during 2018/19. The figures are broken down into subject categories.

Section C compares the complaint outcomes for the Local Authority during 2018/19, with the average outcome (adjusted for population distribution) during the same period.

Section D provides the numbers and percentages of cases received by my office in which an intervention has occurred. This includes all upheld complaints, early resolutions and voluntary settlements.

Section E provides a breakdown of all Code of Conduct complaint outcomes against Councillors during 2018/19.

Section F provides a breakdown of all Code of Conduct complaint outcomes against town or community councils.

### **Feedback**

We welcome your feedback on the enclosed information, including suggestions for any information to be enclosed in future annual summaries. Any feedback or queries should be sent via email to [communications@ombudsman-wales.org.uk](mailto:communications@ombudsman-wales.org.uk)