

GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	3 November 2020
Date decision will come into force and be implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution	18 November 2020

SUBJECT

Item 4: MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
YSGOL ABERSOCH

DECISION

The Cabinet resolved that its original decision made on 15 September 2020 should not be revised, which was to conduct a statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, on the proposed motion to close Ysgol Abersoch on 31 August 2021 and to provide a place for the pupils at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 onwards, and adopted this as its final decision.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Cabinet on 15 September 2020 resolved to permit the Education Department to conduct a statutory consultation, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, on the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on 31 August 2021 and to provide a place for the pupils at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 onwards.

After this decision was published, it was called in for scrutiny by the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee because of concerns about conducting a consultation process within COVID-19 restrictions. In accordance with paragraph 7.25 of the Scrutiny Standing Rules, the Committee decided at its meeting on 8 October 2020 to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, highlighting the matters they wished the Cabinet to address.

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 and the Local Member were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 6: ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT 2019/20

DECISION

To accept the information in the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council has a statutory duty to produce an Annual Report and to note employment information every year in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. As this was the last and final report for the Equality Plan 2016-20, its content was an assessment of the work carried out over the four years and it also recognised the relationship with the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24 which the Cabinet had adopted in March 2020.

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: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STAFF

DECISION

To adopt the Code of Conduct for Staff on behalf of the Council as employer.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Code of Conduct brings together several aspects of staff working conditions, and provides general guidance on what behaviours support and drive the new work culture that is being established within the Council.

The adoption of the Code enables the Council as employer to

- Provide guidance on the behaviours that are expected of staff as we go about changing our working culture
 - Provide guidance to managers in recruiting to posts, by describing the types of behaviours that are important to Gwynedd Council
 - Assist managers and staff in having appraisal discussions, and to develop individuals.
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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.

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SUBJECT

Item 8: APPOINT THREE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER TO ASSIST WITH WORKING DERIVING FROM THE PANDEMIC

DECISION

To agree to underwrite the cost of employing three Community Engagement Officers for the Environment Department for an interim period, up to 31 March 2022, allowing the Head of Environment Department to recruit as soon as possible.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

We need to appoint three Community Engagement Officers to assist with the work of responding to the pandemic. The Officers will advise and engage with communities and businesses in Gwynedd.

As part of these posts there will be a need to set up a training scheme for the Officers which can contribute to building future resilience in the Council's Public Protection Services.

It will be necessary to underwrite up to £113,200 from the Council's balances, but at least £71,000 of this can be claimed from the Welsh Government's Covid-19 hardship fund, while the Environment and Finance Departments will seek to claim all the relevant expenditure.

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.