

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE
Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972

Date of Meeting: 19 February 2025



Attendance:

Councillors: Phil Wynn – Chair of this meeting (Wrexham County Borough Council), Dafydd Roberts (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Diane King (Denbighshire County Council), Mared Eastwood (Flintshire County Council) and Dewi Jones (Cyngor Gwynedd)

Co-opted Members without a vote: Manon Williams, Primary Schools Representative

Officers without a Vote: Marc Berw Hughes (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Claire Homard (Flintshire County Council), Dr Lowri Brown (Conwy County Borough Council) and Dafydd Ifans (Wrexham County Borough Council)

GWE officers: Rhys Williams (Head of GwE Service – Professional Learning), Euros Davies (Head of GwE Service – Schools Improvement) and Bethan Roberts (GwE Performance Management Manager)

Host Authority Officers: Ffion Madog Evans (Statutory Finance Officer - Gwynedd), Hywyn Lewis Jones (Education and Economy Accountant - Gwynedd), Gwion Jones (Senior Accountant - Gwynedd), Sion Huws (Propriety and Elections Manager - Gwynedd), Geraint Owen (Corporate Director – Gwynedd) and Lowri Haf Evans (Democracy Services Officer - Gwynedd).

Apologies: Councillor Julie Fallon (Conwy County Borough Council), Karen Evans (Wrexham County Borough Council), Geraint Davies (Denbighshire County Council) and Dewi Morgan (Head of Finance – Gwynedd)

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19 February 2025

SUBJECT: Item 5: GWE BUDGET 2024-25 – REVIEW UP TO THE END OF JANUARY 2025

DECISION:

- To accept and approve the report on the review of the GwE budget until the end of January 2025.
 - Following discussions at a meeting of the Transitional Board, an end-of-year position report along with a full analysis on final 2024/25 spending be presented to the Joint Committee at the May meeting.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Members of the Joint Committee need to be updated on the latest financial review of the GwE budget for the 2024/25 budgetary year.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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

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2025

19 February

SUBJECT: Item 6: GWE BUDGET 2025/2026 (BASELINE BUDGET)

DECISION:

- To accept and approve the report.
 - Feedback from the Host Authority meeting with the Welsh Government's Deputy Director of Education to be shared with the Joint Committee.
 - That a letter of support / political statement from the Joint Committee be submitted to the Host Authority supporting their concerns of the additional costs to wind up GwE due to a delay by the Government in the use of the LEA Grant to support Professional Learning.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The GwE baseline budget for April - May 2025/26 needs to be submitted to the Joint Committee for adoption, reflecting on the decision to wind up GwE on 31 May 2025.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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

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19 February

SUBJECT: Item 7: CONTINUITY OF SERVICE – 01/04/2025 to 31/05/2025

DECISION:

- To accept the report and approve the GwE operational arrangements for the period between 01/04/25 and 31/05/25.
 - Clarity is needed on additional cost charges beyond May 2025. Will the burden be taken on by individual Local Authorities or the Welsh Government?
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Following confirmation of the GwE termination date as 31 May 2025 rather than 31 March 2025, the Joint Committee requires information on GwE operating arrangements for the period 01/04/25 to 31/05/25.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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

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19 February 2025

SUBJECT: Item 9: VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

DECISION:

- To accept the report.
 - To approve the recommendations for rejecting / granting individual applications.
 - To approve addressing the cost of voluntary redundancies from the money that has been accumulated.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

That the Joint Committee needs to be updated on the responses received by GwE officers to an invitation submitted stating an interest in being considered for accepting voluntary redundancy terms in the light of winding up GwE.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers and the GwE Management Board were consulted about their views which had been included in the report.
