

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	20 January 2026
Date decision will come into force and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Cyngor Gwynedd Constitution.	4 February 2026

SUBJECT

Item 6: EDUCATION TRANSPORT POLICY (DRAFT)

DECISION

Cabinet approval was given to hold a consultation on the Education Transport Policy (Draft).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The current Education Transport Policy was adopted in 2009, and while there is no change to the statutory requirements related to providing transport for learners, it is timely to review the policy because of the need to:

Ensure we are meeting current statutory requirements and guidance: - The need for consultation at least 12 months before introducing a change to some or all the discretionary elements of the policy.

Ensure clarity on the discretionary elements for fairness for children, young people and their families: - There is inconsistency in the content of the policy across all areas, and it is also inconsistent with the transport policies of some other counties.

Ensure that the Policy is fit for purpose in terms of the reasonableness of operating within the resources available:

- The Policy is outdated which means that elements of it can no longer be implemented in light of statutory requirements and guidance;
- The Policy is vague which hampers the Authority's ability to make clear and balanced decisions, leaving us open to challenge and complaints.

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

Cllr Nia Jeffreys declared an interest and the member left the meeting.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which were included in the

report.

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SUBJECT

Item 7: PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2026 - 2031

DECISION

To accept and approve the Procurement Strategy 2026 – 2031 (Appendix 1).

To grant the Head of Corporate Services the authority to make operational adjustments to the Strategy as the need arises to ensure compliance with statutory guidance (such as the statutory guidance of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The current Strategy is outdated, and the field and public procurement requirements have changed considerably in recent years. It is therefore necessary to publish a new Procurement Strategy in order to convey the Council's vision and meet the Council's needs now and over the next five years.

Approval of the Strategy will put the Council in a firm position in preparation for new national legislative requirements (the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act) which are expected to come into force in 2026. Failure to create and publish a procurement strategy will breach statutory requirements.

The Welsh Government intends to publish guidance to accompany the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act, which will detail the requirements for Welsh contracting authorities regarding the content of procurement strategies. Although this guidance has not yet been finalised, it is not anticipated that significant changes will need to be made to the proposed Procurement Strategy as a result. However, minor operational adjustments may need to be made following the publication of the guidance and during the Strategy period to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act and statutory guidance. It is therefore requested that the Head of Corporate Services be granted the right to make operational adjustments to the Strategy in order to comply with the legislation and guidance once these have become clear.

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 were included in the report.

The report was submitted to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee, and their recommendations are included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 8: WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

DECISION

Resolved:

To adopt the revised Whistleblowing Policy for staff set out in Appendix 1.

That the Whistleblowing Policy for staff is presented to the Governance and Audit Committee at the first opportunity in order to receive observations on the recommended procedure.

To complete a review of the existing arrangements to enable Councillors to raise concerns, including an independently where necessary, and that the review is carried out in partnership with the Protect organisation and in consultation with Councillors.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Reviewing the policy and associated arrangements surrounding whistleblowing is a specific task within the Council's Response to Offending Plan. The report is intended to recommend updates to the current Policy which will then be included in the Council's Constitution.

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 were included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 9: REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26 - END OF NOVEMBER 2025 REVIEW

DECISION

To approve additional financial support above the contractual payment to Cwmni Byw'n Iach to be funded from the transformation fund, delegating the right to the Cabinet Member for Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance to agree on the amount of the final financial support above the contractual payment with Byw'n Iach at the end of the financial year. Based on the current review, it is estimated that the value of the support will be £295k.

To approve a transfer of £3.365 million of underspend on corporate budgets to the Council's Financial Strategy Support Fund, to be used at the end of the financial year to fund the overspend faced by the departments.

To approve the financial virements as outlined in Appendix 3 following a review of the 2024/25 Council Tax Premium, with a transfer of £2.089 million from the Financial Strategy Support Fund to the Council Tax Premium Fund.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The purpose of this report seeks to provide a trajectory of the revenue position by the end of the financial year. Therefore, the amounts noted below is an estimate of what we are projecting by March 2026 and they are not amounts that represent the current overspend position.

It is the Cabinet's responsibility to take action, as necessary, to secure appropriate control over the Council's budgets (e.g. approval of significant virements or supplementary budgets).

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

Cllr Nia Jeffreys declared an interest. The member did not consider it to be a prejudicial interest, and she did not leave the meeting.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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

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SUBJECT

Item 10: CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW (30 NOVEMBER 2025 POSITION)

DECISION

To accept the report on the end of November review (30 November 2025 position) of the capital programme.

To approve the following revision to the Capital Budget, approved on 6 March 2025 and revised on 11 November 2025, from the programme's financing perspective (as shown in part 3.2.3 of the report), that is:

- a decrease of £7,544,000 in the use of borrowing
- an increase of £2,660,000 in the use of grants and contributions
- an increase of £103,000 in the use of revenue contributions
- a decrease of £2,387,000 in the use of the capital reserve
- an increase of £6,364,000 in the use of renewal and other reserves.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It is the Cabinet's responsibility to take action, as necessary, to secure appropriate control over the Council's budgets. It is necessary to ensure proper financing arrangements for the Council's plans to spend on capital. The Cabinet has been authorised to revise the capital programme. Approval is sought for the proposed programme (part 3.2.2) and its financing (part 3.2.3).

Recommendations are made here to ensure definite sources of funding for the 2025/26 – 2027/28 capital schemes.

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 were included in the report.

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SUBJECT

Item 11: SAVINGS OVERVIEW: PROGRESS REPORT ON REALISING SAVINGS SCHEMES

DECISION

To accept the information in the report and to note the progress towards realising the savings schemes for 2025/26 and previous years.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Realising the individual schemes is the responsibility of the relevant Cabinet members, who challenge the performance of the relevant departments, including the progress of the savings schemes. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Finance to maintain an overview of the full picture.

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 were included in the report.
