

THE CABINET 24/10/17

Present-

Councillors: Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Mair Rowlands, Craig ab Iago, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Peredur Jenkins, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, W. Gareth Roberts, Gareth Thomas and Ioan Thomas

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services)

Item 3: Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Corporate Property Manager), Llyr Beaumont Jones (Economy and Community Senior Manager), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department).

Item 6: Catrin Thomas (Senior Community Learning Manager), Sioned Williams (Head of Economy and Community Department)

Item 7 and 8: Garem Jackson (Acting Head of Education Department), Hedd Tomos (Modernising Education Programme Manager), Debbie Anne Jones (Area Education Officer (Temporary))

Item 9: Gareth Jones (Senior Planning Service Manager), Rhun ap Iarhos (Senior Solicitor)

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.
No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest:

Cllr Ioan Thomas for item 3 as he was the Chair of the Harbour Trust.

Cllr W. Gareth Roberts for item 6 as his son-in-law worked for the Youth Service.

Cllr Dilwyn Morgan for item 7 as his grandson attended Ysgol Bro Tegid.

They were all prejudicial interests and they withdrew from the meeting for the items.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There was one urgent item to discuss.

WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY STATION, CAERNARFON

The item was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

DECISION

1. Subject to 2 and 3 below, to authorise the Senior Manager in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance Department to surrender the ban and restriction on the sale of food and retail within the Lease for the Caernarfon Welsh Highland Railway Station.
2. That the full premium to be calculated in accordance with the Lease terms was payable by the company for the permission.
3. To delegate the right for the Senior Property Manager in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance Department to agree on a payment plan over a reasonable period with the tenant if required.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting that the Welsh Highland Railway Company held a parcel of land on St Helen's Road, Caernarfon since 1999, on a lease from the Council for a period of 1,000 years. The lease had been given in order to allow the company to develop a railway from Caernarfon to Dinas, using the plot of land to create the station in Caernarfon.

The lease contains a specific clause which stipulates that the company cannot sell food and drink on site without seeking express permission from the Council and that a further payment would be payable from the tenant should the Council be willing to give such permission. The detailed mechanism of the lease outlines how the payment would be calculated.

The application had come from the company requesting the Council not to claim the fee due under the lease for such a permission and thus to waive the amount on a one-off basis.

This matter was considered to be an urgent matter due to the timetabling requirements of the project and in accordance with paragraph 7.25.2 of the Council's Constitution and with the permission of the Council's Chairman this decision was exempted from the calling in procedure and will come into effect on the date of the meeting and decision.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER AND 03 OCTOBER 2017

The Chair signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 September and 3 October, 2017, as a true record.

6. RE-MODELLING THE YOUTH SERVICE

The item was submitted by Cllr Craig ab Iago

RESOLVED

The report was accepted and the Head of Economy and Community was authorised to conduct a consultation on the future format of the Youth Service, identifying Option 3 as the favoured option.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that they were asking for permission to consult on the favoured model. It was emphasised that the department had been engaging with children and young people since the Gwynedd Challenge. It was explained that option three was being favoured by the young people as it provided a fair provision to all young persons across the county.

It was noted that clubs were currently closing and that this was as a result of staff recruitment problems. Option three would provide an opportunity to create jobs, but they would be full-time jobs that would give staff an opportunity to develop the service.

Observations arising from the discussion

- From the discussion with Young People, it was noted that the service did not respond to the needs of the young people. It was noted that a youth worker needed to be available during the day. It was emphasised that the use of technology needed to be developed.
- It was asked about the role of the third sector in the form of a new service going into consultation - it was noted that the reality was that there was not as much money and that there was a need for fairness with the organisations that did and did not receive money. Discussions had been held with the third sector organisations. In addition, it was noted that prioritisation would be placed on the needs of young people and if option three would be accepted following consultation, the third sector would be commissioned to discuss specific fields of the service. This would ensure that expertise would be used in order to address the priorities of the young people.
- It was emphasised that it was important that all young persons in the county received a service, regardless of where they lived.

A discussion was held on the consultation that would be conducted on-line; however, it was noted clearly that nobody would be closed out and that the consultation would be carried out in various ways to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to have their say.

7. REORGANISATION OF THE PROVISION IN Y BERWYN CATCHMENT AREA

The item was submitted by Cllr Gareth Thomas

RESOLVED

To conduct a statutory consultation in accordance with Section 48 Schools Standards Act (Wales) 2013, in the Berwyn catchment area on the favoured model, namely the proposal to close the schools of Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn in the town of Bala and establish a 3-19 Welsh Medium Learning Campus, with community status on the existing Ysgol y Berwyn site to be implemented from September 2019.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the Cabinet had resolved on 27 June 2017 to withdraw the application to establish a Voluntary Controlled (VC Church in Wales) 3-19 Lifelong Learning Campus, and request a further report to submit an alternative model for consultation which addressed and corresponded to the requirements of the Business Case. By following the statutory steps, the next step was the consultation.

A pre-consultation had been held with the Church in Wales and it was noted that the needs of pupils was their priority - consequently they would work with the school and the community to bring the matter to an end.

It was noted that the timetable for opening the school had slipped although the construction work would be completed on time. There would be a bridging period of one year where the schools could make use of the new building before it would open in September 2019.

Observations from the discussion

- It was noted that the schools were enthusiastic about the bridging year and were looking forward to use the building. Gratitude was expressed to the staff and pupils regarding the way they had dealt with the matter.

8. GWYNEDD SECONDARY SECTOR LANGUAGE STRATEGY

The report was submitted by Cllr Gareth Thomas

RESOLVED

To adopt the Gwynedd Secondary Language Strategy as a document which sets a strategic and clear direction for all secondary schools in the county to have a positive influence on pupils' social use of the Welsh language within and outside the school.

For Councillors Mair Rowlands and Gareth Thomas to write to the relevant Welsh Government Cabinet Secretaries requesting that they provide the £120,000 (£40,000 a year for three years 2018/19 - 2020/21) to fund the Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy Coordinator post to lead on further

progress in pupils' social and curricular use of the Welsh language. If the Government is not willing to fund this, to authorise the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance Department to seek to identify alternative ways of obtaining the necessary resource.

DISCUSSION

The Council's Primary Language Charter had now been rolled-out across the whole of Wales and this was the next step to develop and move to work with the secondary sector. It was noted that the strategy looked at the use of the Welsh language within Education and outside the School.

It was explained that the Charter had been divided into four main fields - Welsh First Language, Welsh Second Language, Welsh Medium Provision and the Social Use of the Welsh Language by Young People. It was emphasised that the work had been developed from the bottom up by discussing with young people, teachers and headteachers. A Conference event had been held during the week which was a conference for the pupils of Gwynedd secondary schools to discuss the charter.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was emphasised that the Strategy was essential and that it was important to build upon the good work of the Primary Language Charter.

A discussion was held on the funding of the Post and it was noted that it would be a good idea to contact the relevant Secretaries at Welsh Government to ask them to provide £120,000 to fund the post.

9. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE AND SUPPORT A JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR GWYNEDD AND THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

The report was submitted by Cllr Dafydd Meurig

RESOLVED

To authorise the Head of Environment and Head of Legal Services to prepare and implement an Agreement between Gwynedd Council and Anglesey Council in order to formally re-establish the Joint Planning Policy Committee for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

To delegate the functions of the Cabinet in the context of the matters referred to in part 6 of the Report to the Joint Planning Policy Committee for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was explained that the Cabinet had approved the proposal to continue to provide the Joint Planning Policy Service with the Isle of Anglesey County Council since its establishment in 2011. On 31 July, the

Committee's role ended when the Joint Local Development Plan had been established. Due to the agreement and as the collaboration agreement was continuing, there was a need to re-establish the role of the Joint Planning Policy Committee.

It was emphasised that there was similarity in the agreement and functions compared with the previous agreement; however, the plan would be amended every four years. It was noted that there had been a change in membership as seven members from each county would be a part of the plan but no substitutes would be appointed.

Observations from the discussion:

- It was explained that new membership to the Joint Planning Committee had been appointed in May 2017, following the Election.

10. NORTH WALES GRWTH DEAL BID - PROGRESS REPORT

The report was submitted by Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn

RESOLVED

- The progress of the development of a Growth Deal bid for the region was noted and supported.
- The preferred governance model of a Statutory Joint-Committee was supported in principle for further development with a full report on the constitution and terms of reference, supported by an Inter-Authority Agreement, to follow later in the year.
- To authorise the Leader to act as the Gwynedd member of a Shadow Joint-Committee in the interim period.
- That the Leader, as one of the Leaders of the six Councils represented on the Shadow Joint-Committee, is granted authority to enter into negotiations with Welsh Government and the UK Government regarding the scale and outline content of the Growth Deal bid, noting that no financial or other commitments will be agreed in the initial stages of negotiations.
- That the Chief Executive is delegated authority to secure an initial financial contribution of up to £50,000 in 2017/18 to prepare a bid for finance from the Growth Deal.
- To re-report this Council's wish to receive assurance in terms of establishing the Project Office and obtain an understanding of the structure and method of funding that Office when approving any constitution / agreement.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that the six counties in the north had agreed to develop the strategy as a bid for the 'Growth Deal' to ensure a financial investment and transfer Governing powers to the region.

It was explained that there were two elements to the Growth Deal, namely a financial investment for projects leading to economic growth and devolution of forces or powers from Central Government in order to make decisions on a Regional level. It was seen that steps had been taken and that legal grounds were in place. It was emphasised that there would be a need to ensure that the substantial investment coming as a result of the 'Growth Deal' would be shared fairly between the counties.

It was noted that it was hoped that everything would be in place by April.

Observations arising from the discussion

It was emphasised that there was an emphasis on North Wales and it was asked whether work would be done to collaborate with Ceredigion and Powys, in particular in respect of transportation. It was explained that there was work and potential to work with mid Wales, but that there was work to be done.

The meeting commenced at 13:00 and concluded at 14:40

CHAIRMAN