

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



## Report for a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>13 February 2018</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn</b>
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<b>Title of Item:</b>	<b>Council Plan 2018-23</b>

### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. The Cabinet's approval to the 2018-23 Council Plan for submission to the Council on 1 March 2018.

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

- 2.1. In order to ensure agreement on the content of the plan and that it reflects the priorities that have been identified before submitting it to the Council.

### 3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. In recent months, work has been carried out to prepare the Council Plan that would set a direction for the Council's work for the 2018-23 period.
- 3.2. As part of the process of forming the plan, a number of workshop sessions were held for all Elected Members. They were given the opportunity to highlight any matters that needed attention on the county level along with the areas that they represent.
- 3.3. In addition, members of the Scrutiny Committees identified matters that they believed that should be included within the Council Plan in the future. The material from these consultation sessions was used to form the 'Consultation Document on the proposed priorities for the Council Plan 2018-2023' and the document was approved by the Cabinet on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November.
- 3.4. After the document was approved by the Cabinet in November 2017, a public consultation was held for a period of six weeks.
- 3.5. The Council Plan is based on these materials and includes an **Improvement Plan** and also individual **Business Department Plans** within the Council. A copy of the Plan can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.6. The **Improvement Plan** includes a vision for the Council in addition to well-being objectives (these are our improvement objectives to meet the demands of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009) and improvement priorities for the period in

question. Under each priority, a summary is included of what is intended to carry out.

- 3.7. See a description of the Departments' daily work within the **Business Department Plans**. In addition, a more detailed description of what it intended to carry out in response to the improvement priorities is given.
- 3.8. The priorities that were consulted upon in the 'Consultation Document on the proposed priorities for the Council Plan 2018-23' are addressed within the Plan. The matters of county-wide importance are in the text framed in black, and the responses to the matters of local priority have been highlighted within the frames with a coloured background.
- 3.9. It should be noted that some further work needs to be carried out on the Plan's appearance and this would be done by the time the document is submitted to the Full Council on 1 March.

#### **4. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

The matters for the Cabinet members to consider before approving the Plan are noted below:

##### **4.1. Resources**

Additional resources are required in order to achieve the commitments noted for a number of the improvement priorities within the plan. Without the resource, it may not be possible for us to achieve what is noted.

Currently, it is proposed that all improvement priorities are approved as part of the plan, subject to the Cabinet's agreement to fund them, after they consider each business case individually. This is expected to take place as soon as possible.

##### **4.2 Public Consultation**

The public consultation on the Consultation Document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23 was held for a six-week period during December 2017 and January 2018.

Appropriate opportunities were provided for individuals and interest groups to participate in the exercise by completing a questionnaire that was available on the Council's website or via hard copies that were available in Gwynedd Shops, Libraries and Leisure Centres. In addition, third sector organisations, and organisations representing the protected characteristics such as equality and the Welsh Language, were contacted.

A total of 197 responses were received to the questionnaire, with positive feedback and constructive observations on the whole. Below is a summary of the main points:

- A number of supportive observations were received in relation to the Welsh language, including the need for the Council to continue prioritising the Welsh language.
- On the other hand, a number questioned the priority given to the Welsh language and the associated costs, noting the need for funding in other areas - e.g. job creation, children's services.

- It was suggested that the salaries of domiciliary workers / care sector workers should be increased / offer 'living wage' salaries, by improving training and the promotion of career paths within the field.
- The need to keep tourist information centres and public toilets was noted, so that they were available for visitors and residents.
- There was agreement with the need to increase the number of jobs in Gwynedd - high-value and other jobs, but they should be full-time and permanent posts, not seasonal jobs.
- The costs of staff and elected members were questioned, and it was suggested that the salaries and costs should be reduced.

It is noted that the results of the consultation have been fed into the process of drawing up the plan but we will also be considering the wider messages received. An analysis of the consultation responses will be published in the coming weeks.

#### 4.3 **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)**

The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of this duty, public bodies need to publish the well-being objectives that outline how they will improve well-being.

We have consulted with the Elected Members and the public regarding the matters that affect their well-being as part of the process of developing the plan, while also analysing the findings of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Well-being Assessment.

The original set of 29 well-being objectives for the Council were included in the 2017/18 Council Strategic Plan. As well as being an extension to the Strategic Plan 2013-17, it bridged the period between that plan and the Council Plan 2018-23.

However, when the original set of well-being objectives was introduced it was acknowledged that the objectives would need revising in the near future to consider matters such as the results of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Services Board Well-being Assessment.

It was suggested that it was appropriate and timely to review the objectives when considering the content of the Council Plan 2018-23. We have reviewed and evaluated our well-being objectives when producing the new plan, with the aim of reflecting the main messages that became apparent in the consultation and in the Well-being Assessment. It is also noted that the majority of the previous well-being objectives are addressed within the new set. The well-being objectives are listed in the Well-being Statement which an appendix within the plan.

#### 4.4 **Equality Act 2010**

There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider the findings of an equality impact assessment when preparing the plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as is implemented in Wales. The assessment is appended in **Appendix 2**.

The assessment on the Plan in its whole did not discover any impacts which would justify deviating from the recommendation and it is anticipated that there are

elements which would have a positive impact. A full Equality impact assessment will be carried out on each individual plan that would derive from the improvement priorities.

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

- 5.1. By approving the plan, it is intended to submit it to be adopted in the next full meeting of the Council on 1 March 2018.

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

- 6.1. All Council Elected Members had an opportunity to take part in two workshop sessions in order to voice their opinion on what should be included as priorities during summer 2017.
- 6.2. In addition, a public consultation was held on the Consultation Document on the Council Plan priorities for 2018-23 for a six-week period at the end of 2017.

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

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

The Council Plan is a key document for setting the direction of the Council for the next period following the election in May 2017. It is noted in the report that there are certain statutory obligations to be met under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and later and now more significant The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015). The work has also been subject to wider discussion and consultation. It is important that the Cabinet pays attention to these aspects together with the relevant assessments which are submitted or referred to when coming to a conclusion on the recommendation.

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

The Council plan is a key strategy, which sets out what the Gwynedd Council in aims to do over the next five years.

There is a likelihood that resource requirements for all the improvement priorities in the plan is greater than the money available to them, while financial propriety, means that it must be ensured that a funding source has been identified for any commitment to spend. Therefore, as a part 4.1 of the report states, the Cabinet will have to consider each business case individually before agreeing to fund it.

A Fund was in place in order to fund the priorities of the previous strategic plan, and the Fund will continue for the new Plan.

However, a proportion of the Fund has already been committed, which means that I will update the Cabinet on the latest situation for the relevant Fund when the individual business plans are being considered.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1 - Council Plan 2018-23**

**Appendix 2 - Equality Assessment**