

Appendix 2 – Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee’s Comments, 23 January 2018.

REMODELLING THE YOUTH SERVICE

Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Culture outlining the steps taken to identify the preferred option for Remodelling the Youth Service and inviting the scrutiny committee's observations on the plan to submit them to the Cabinet on 13 March, 2018.

The Cabinet Member and officers expanded on the content of the report, and also responded to questions / observations from the members.

During the discussion, there was considerable emphasis on the fact that the four options outlined in the report involved cutting/reducing the annual grant given to the Urdd, Young Farmers', the Guides and the Scouts, and that these organisations would be supported in a different way.

Proposed and seconded - a motion not to cut grant for the voluntary organisations on the grounds that they did excellent work in their communities.

In response, it was explained to the members:-

- That such a recommendation would lead to much less being available for the young people of Gwynedd as it would involve asking the Cabinet to create a different option to that of the four options already under consideration that would retain the £76,000 element for voluntary organisations, but would reduce the budget for the rest of the Youth Service.
- There were a number of other voluntary organisations in the county, such as rugby clubs, that did not receive any grants from the Council.

A vote was taken on the proposal. Six members voted in favour and six members against. No casting vote was taken. There was not a majority in favour, therefore the committee did not have a recommendation to submit to the Cabinet Member.

The Chair summarised the main conclusions of the discussion as follows:-

- It was acknowledged that the situation was very difficult for everyone, as the budget had already been cut and no one liked change. However, the status quo was not an option.
- The scrutiny work had shown that there was a differing opinion among committee members in terms of whether the preferred option for remodelling the Youth Service was fair to all young people in Gwynedd, offered value for money, and was sustainable in future, and this was because of concern regarding the effect of the budget cut on young people.
- The number of respondents to the questionnaire was very positive and showed that there was a lot of interest in the field.
- The committee supported the idea of looking to establish clubs in the community and to assist those clubs to set-up. Also, that the committee sent a strong message

to the Department to contact the community councils to see how they could be assisted to hold activities and projects on behalf of the Youth Service.

- There was concern regarding the impact on those young people who live in deprived areas, specifically in terms of accessing the service, and concerns also regarding the impact on the language.