

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting: 19 February 2019
Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
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Title of Item: Review of the Council Plan 2018-23

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. The Cabinet's approval of the 2018-23 Council Plan (2019/20 Review) to be submitted to the Council on 7 March 2019.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. To ensure agreement on the content of the Plan and that it continues to be up-to-date and that it reflects the priorities that have been identified before submitting it to the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. The original Council Plan was adopted for 2018-23 by the Full Council at its meeting on 7 March 2019.
- 3.2. The purpose of reviewing the Plan was to look at where we have reached following a year of implementing the Plan, as well as making sure that we are continuing to do the right things.
- 3.3. To review the plan properly, we needed to consider what had changed since last year, and examine the social, economic, environmental and policy issues which influence the Council, and which are likely to influence the well-being of the people of Gwynedd in the future.
- 3.4. As the current version, the Council Plan 2018-23 (2019/20 Review) includes a **Concise Plan** and also on **Individual Department plans**. A copy of the Plan can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.5. The **Concise Plan** includes the Council's vision along with well-being objectives and improvement priorities for the period in question. Under each improvement priority, a summary is included of the work intended to be carried out.
- 3.6. A description of each Departments' daily work has been included in the Department Plans. In addition, a more detailed description of what it intended to be carried out in response to the improvement priorities is given.

- 3.7. It should be noted that some further work needs to be carried out on the Plan's layout and this will be done by the time the document is submitted to the Full Council on 7 March.

4. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

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

- 4.1. The following projects have either been completed or transferred to become part of the day-to-day work of the relevant Departments during 2018/19:

- **Transforming the schools system** - Education Department
- **Corporate Parenting** - Children and Supporting Families Department
- **Realising Savings** - Finance Department

- 4.2. The following projects have been added:

Improvement Priority 1

- **Promoting Town Centres** - Economy and Community Department
- **Apprenticeships Plan** - Corporate Support Department

Improvement Priority 2

- **Post-16 provision** - Education Department
- **Treforth Catchment-area** - Education Department

- 4.3. In addition, the following projects have changed:

Improvement Priority 3

- **Tackling Poverty** - the emphasis will change to focus on the preventative field and the support offered with the title changing to **Supporting People's Well-being** - Children and Supporting Families Department
- **Reducing the Pay Gap between Women and Men** - title changed to **Women in Leadership** - Corporate Support Department

Improvement Priority 4

- **Suitable and Affordable Housing and Identifying and Promoting Housing Schemes and Initiatives** - work is continuing as part of the **Housing Strategy for the People of Gwynedd** project - Adults, Health and Well-being Department

4.4. Resources

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

Currently, it is proposed that all projects are approved as part of the plan, subject to the Cabinet's agreement to fund specific projects after they consider each business case individually. Decisions to fund have already been made, partly or in full for some projects, and this is expected to continue as projects mature.

4.5. 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 current plan whilst also analysing the findings of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Well-being Assessment.

As the evidence used to form the well-being objectives for 2018/19 continues to be relevant it is suggested that those objectives continue for 2019/20. The well-being objectives are listed in the Well-being Statement at the end of the Plan.

4.6. 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 as a whole did not discover any impacts that 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 7 March 2019.

Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

Within the Council Plan there are statutory aspects which are addressed, specifically in relation to Improvement Objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Wellbeing Objectives established under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. By reviewing the Plan the Council addresses the annual requirements to review or set which relates to these. I support the recommendation from a propriety perspective.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

The Council Plan is a key document, which sets out what Gwynedd Council aims to do over the next four years.

The Council Plan Fund remains in place in order to finance the Plan's priorities, but a proportion of this fund has already been committed. There is a likelihood that resource requirements for all the improvement priorities in the Plan is greater than the money available to them, whilst financial propriety means that it must be ensured that a funding source has been identified for any commitment to spend.

Therefore, as a part 4.4 of the report states, the Cabinet will have to consider each business case individually before agreeing to fund it. I will update the Cabinet on the latest situation of the Fund on these occasions.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Council Plan 2018-23 (2019-20 Review)

Appendix 2 - Equality Assessment