

MEETING	SCHOOLS FINANCE FORUM
DATE	28TH SEPTEMBER 2020
OFFICERS	GWERN AP RHISIART HUW YNYR
TITLE OF ITEM	GWYNEDD SCHOOLS DIGITAL STRATEGY

Background

A summary of the Gwynedd Schools Digital Strategy was provided during the Forum's meeting on 2nd September, 2020 along with the financial obligations of adopting the strategy. The Strategy has since been amended but maintains a similar direction as that previously reported and will be further amended before being fully endorsed by the Cabinet.

Updates since 02.03.2020 Forum

- Welsh Government grant of £1,017,000 awarded to Cyngor Gwynedd in 2020/21
- The whole grant is to be used to buy computers within the schools (specific grant stipulation)
- The Strategy was presented to the Cabinet on [4th August, 2020](#) and [8th September, 2020](#) where accepting the grant was to invest in computers was approved and the Strategy approved in principle
- One of the greatest challenges to gain full approval of the Strategy is the long term financial sustainability to renew the equipment. The Cabinet instructed the project team to consult with the school principal and chair of the governors to seek a comprehensive picture of intent and budgetary ability to invest in equipment through the following two questions:
 - Can the school contribute fully to the cost of updating the equipment that will be distributed to the schools as part of the Gwynedd Schools Digital Strategy?
 - If you can't contribute fully, please state why.
- The financial obligation on the school's budget was outlined in the letter that was shared with the principals and chair of the governors. The figures presented in the letters are greater than those shared with the Forum on March 2nd due to the original equipment being rejected on the grounds of poor quality during technical tests and the sourcing of better quality equipment
- We will report back to the Cabinet on the outcome of this exercise which will in turn assist us in presenting further financial models for consideration for the long term financial planning.
- The project team were asked to review the current technical support model due to the provision that's described within the strategy being quite different to the current provision. This has led to meetings being arranged between Cwmni Cynnal and Isle of Anglesey Council as the Company's other stakeholder.