

THE CABINET 16/02/16

Present-

Councillors: Dyfed Wyn Edwards, Peredur Jenkins, John Wynn Jones, Dafydd Meurig, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas and Mandy Williams-Davies

Also present: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Dafydd L. Edwards (Head of Finance), Iwan G. Evans (Head of Legal Service), Gwyn Morris Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal), William E Jones (Senior Finance Manager), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support), Meinir Owen (Savings Programme Manager), Janet Roberts (Delivering and Supporting Change Service Senior Manager), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Interim Head of Regulatory), Bethan Richardson (Cabinet Support Team Leader – taking the minutes).

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no matters arising from Scrutiny Committees.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2016

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 January 2016.

6. STRATEGIC REVIEW - HIGHWAYS

The report was submitted by Cllr. John Wynn Jones.
The report was seconded by Cllr. Dafydd Meurig.

DECISION

1. To accept the results of the strategic review;
2. Whilst noting and accepting the praiseworthy work of the service, in order to ensure that we are as effective and efficient as possible, that a review should be undertaken of the service over the next few months as part of the "Empowering Units to Implement Ffordd Gwynedd" project.
3. That responsibility for bridges, retaining walls and culverts should transfer to the Highways and Municipal Department and ask both relevant Cabinet members to supervise a logical plan to do so;
4. That we should move to a procedure of establishing the risks of our bridges and retaining walls and follow a risk-based maintenance regime as a result of that. In order to do this, that a maximum of up to £104,000 of one-off resources should be approved from the invest to save fund unless there are other ways of funding the necessary investment and allow the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources to consider the amount that needs to be released from the Fund.
5. Consider that the highways maintenance budget should be reduced and that the amount of that reduction should be decided as part of the consideration given to cuts.

7. POST-16 TRANSPORT POLICY

The report was submitted by Cllr. Gareth Thomas.
The report was seconded by Cllr. Ioan Thomas.

DECISION

To approve the new Post-16 Transport Policy (submitted to the Cabinet as Appendix 1 to the relevant report) for implementation from September 2016.

8. THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

The report was submitted by Cllr. Dyfed Edwards.

The report was seconded by Cllr. Gareth Thomas.

DECISION

Approve the observations contained in the report to the meeting, in response to the Bill on behalf of the Council, with the additional of the observations submitted by the Council's Audit Committee.

9. OVERVIEW OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE 2015/16

The report was submitted by Cllr. Dyfed Edwards.
The report was seconded by Cllr. Dafydd Meurig.

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report submitted to the meeting.

10. STRATEGIC PLAN 2016/17

The report was submitted by Cllr. Dyfed Edwards.
The report was seconded by Cllr. Gareth Thomas.

DECISION

To approve the Strategic Plan 2016-17 for submission to the Council on 3 March 2016.

11. EFFICIENCY SAVINGS

The report was submitted by Cllr. Peredur Jenkins.
The report was seconded by Cllr. W Gareth Roberts.

DECISION

Approve the efficiency schemes listed in the report to the meeting:
2.4 (schemes Plant1, Plant2, Plant4, OED25, OED27, OED29, OED34, CC3, TAI6)
3.1 (schemes OED7, OED8, OED9, OED10)
5.1 namely –

Scheme	2014/15
Arfon Area Transport Savings	£267,000
Cross-departmental Procurement Savings	£118,000

Reducing sickness absences	£50,000
Assistive Technology Savings (Telecare)	£217,000
Savings by making more effective use of the Council's fleet vehicles	£130,000
Redesigning the Council's printing arrangements	£78,000
Total	£860,000

and also approving the Communities Scrutiny Committee's attention in relation to Scheme 4.1 (namely 'Alternative Procedure for Replacing Lamps' - total of £97,000).

12. REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16 - THIRD QUARTER REVIEW

The report was submitted by Cllr. Peredur Jenkins.
The report was seconded by Cllr. Dafydd Meurig.

DECISION

To accept the report on the third quarter review of the 2015/16 Revenue Budget (position as at 31 December 2015) asking the Cabinet Members and relevant heads of department to take appropriate steps regarding the matters under their leadership/management.

To note the various reviews noted in the report and the steps to be taken by departments to manage their budgets.

Approve the use of corporate underspend in 2015/16 to assist the 2016/17 Financial Strategy, specifically in order to fund one-off bids.

13. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 - THIRD QUARTER REVIEW

The report was submitted by Cllr. Peredur Jenkins.
The report was seconded by Cllr. John Wynn Jones.

DECISION

To accept the report on the third quarter review (31 December 2015 position) of the capital programme, and approve the revised financing as shown in part 2 of the report, that is:

- an increase of £132,000 in the use of unsupported borrowing
- an increase of £276,000 in the use of grants and contributions

- an increase of £350,000 in the use of capital receipts
- an increase of £268,000 in the use of revenue contributions
- a decrease of £151,000 in the use of the capital reserve
- an increase of £133,000 in the use of renewal reserves

14. a/b/c 2016/17 BUDGET, 2016/17-2019/20 FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND CUTS TO MEET THE FINANCIAL DEFICIT

The report was submitted by Cllr. Peredur Jenkins.

DECISION

- That the budget mentioned in the cabinet member's report for 2016/17 should be adopted which means a budget of **£227,227,120** should be set for 2016/17, to be funded by **£166,950,760** of Government Grant and **£60,276,360** Council Tax income, with an increase of **3.97%**, namely an increase of £46.09 in the Band D Council Tax from £1,161.07 to £1,207.16 per annum..
- Also, to accept the medium-term financial strategy, and consequently plan to increase the Council Tax by 3.97% in 2017/18 which would mean having to meet a financial deficit of £4.94m over the next two years after meeting the efficiency savings of £14.054m noted in clause 21 of the report "**2016/17 Budget and 2016-17 - 2019-20 Financial Strategy**".
- To establish a capital programme of £22.141m in 2016/17 and £12.286m in 2017/18 to be funded from sources noted in clause 9.4 of the appendix to the report. "**2016/17 Budget and 2016-17 - 2019-20 Financial Strategy**".
- To meet the deficit of £4.94m noted in part (ii) above, that the following cuts regime should be implemented -

No.	Possible cut	Amount £
C2	Delete 2 posts out of 7.5 in the Systems Support Unit within the Adults Service	80,000
C3	Delete 3 posts out of 20.6 in the Workforce Support Unit which supports adults and children's services	90,000
C4	Delete 2 posts out of 10.5 in the Workforce Development Unit within the Adults Service	75,000

C5	Delete 1 post out of 2.5 within Housing Management and Strategy	37,500
C7	Delete 1 post out of 3 in the Information Unit which deals with Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act	30,000
C8	Close Frondeg Pwllheli and Beach Road Felinheli offices but that the Service should be requested to report back to the Cabinet on the business case of scheme C8 (Frondeg) before moving on to realise it to ensure that there are acceptable solutions to the needs of those who are currently there	60,000
C9	Delete 1 post out of 8.5 in the Building Maintenance Unit	28,000
C10	Delete 1.5 post out of 7.2 in the Estates and Facilities Unit	40,000
C11	Delete 2 posts out of 37.62 in the Finance Units	50,000
C12	Stop providing Information Technology support outside normal working hours	39,500
C13	Delete the Gwynedd Trainee scheme and the Professional Trainee scheme	258,720
C14	Delete 2 posts out of 8.8 in the Health and Safety unit	80,000
C15	Remodel the Gwynedd and Anglesey partnership due to the changes in the Public Service Boards	130,000
C16	Delete the contribution towards the Gwynedd Environmental Partnership	7,620
C18	Delete the budget to support alcohol and drugs misuse	28,900
C19	Delete 1 post out of 2 within Project Management	31,060
1	Grass cutting main areas of our towns 6 times a year rather than 8 times however consideration should be given to whether more efficiency savings can be found on Scheme no. 1 (Grass Cutting in Town Centres) by reducing basic cuts further and asking local communities to pay if they want a better standard	120,000
2	Delete 1 post out of 10.5 in the Joint Planning Policy Unit	15,000
3	Reduce 50% of the strategic grants for the arts	84,850

	budget, but to be implemented on 1 April 2017 in order to give the Service an opportunity to discuss its implementation with the organisations supported and seek to attract assistance from other sources to replace the reduction in grant from the Council	
4	Cut 2 posts out of 7 in the Street Enforcement Unit	64,500
5	Reduce the opening hours of the Dolgellau archives from 3 days to 2 and Caernarfon archives from 4 to 3 days per week	41,670
6	Grass cutting in 131 children's playing fields every two months rather than every month	60,000
8	Reduce an element of the "Gwynedd Ni" budget, focusing on the statutory element	70,000
9	Delete 1 post out of 27.7 in the Council Tax Processing unit	25,000
10	Cut 50% of the maintaining promenades, benches and street name signs budget	40,000
11	Stop providing a hard copy of the 'Snowdonia Mountains and Coast' booklet	46,000
12	Reduce 50% of the grants given to voluntary organisations for specific projects	62,500
13	Stop paying the fee to pay Council Tax in post offices	40,000
14	Reduce frequency of grass cutting in the Council's cemeteries from 7 times per year to 5	60,000
15	Cut 10% on the budget for purchasing library books	26,000
16	Delete 1 post out of 14 in the Building Control unit	40,000
17	Delete a second post out of 10.5 in the Joint Planning Policy Unit	15,000
19	Reduce the time and / or raise a fee for childcare element within the Free Breakfast scheme in primary schools	100,000
20	Keep the CCTV service but rather than delete the resources which continually monitor it, that the savings should be achieved by seeking to reduce the Council's contribution and make any operational changes that can be made without affecting the effectiveness of the system	90,000

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21	Delete 1 post out of 2.45 in the Biodiversity unit	30,000
22	Reduce 50% of the traffic management budget	65,000
23	Delete 20% of the public footpath budget including 1 post out of 7.2	110,000
25	Delete 1 post out of 8.5 in the Pollution Control Unit	35,000
26	Delete the Noddfa Centre grant	5,000
27	Delete 1 post out of 13.8 in the Food Hygiene Unit	36,000
28	Delete 1 post out of 21.7 in the Council Tax and Housing Benefit unit	25,000
29	Delete the Arfon Community Gang service	70,000
30	Cut the highway maintenance budget (and note that the amount of the cut was adapted in accordance with the recommendation in the report)	850,000
31	Rather than the original proposal of closing 30 of the 42 Youth Clubs, that the scheme in question should be changed to realise the savings of £200,000 (along with the expected efficiency saving of £70,000) by redesigning the Youth Service and accepting that the grants to youth organisations will have to be considered as part of the entire review	200,000
32	Cease running the Lloyd George Museum but to be implemented from 1 April 2017 in order to give the Service an opportunity to hold discussions with any organisation that would wish to take responsibility for the museum	27,000
33	Increase the price of primary schools meals from £2.30 to £2.50 (and note the change in the maximum price to be charged)	105,000
37	Delete 2 posts out of 85 in the Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Care Workers Unit within the Adults Service	80,000
38	Reduce the frequency of cleaning villages and industrial estates to every 3 months rather than every month and increase the time to respond to incidents	130,000
39	Cut 25% on the budget for purchasing library books	39,000
40	Delete 1 post out of 12 in the Housing	30,000

	Enforcement Unit	
42	Reduce 12.4% of the budget of £801,790 paid by the Adults Service to voluntary / charitable organisations	100,000
43	Delete 10% of the budget of Derwen Children's Service (which employs 19.4)	75,000
44	Delete the Healthy Living schemes	54,050
46	Delete the budget to maintain Nature Reserves	59,400
47	Delete the Community Safety and Domestic Violence project budget	24,250
48	Manage Blue flag and Green flag beaches only	24,200
49	Delete 1 post out of 7.7 on managing flood risk	40,000
50	Delete 1 post out of 7 in the unit which manages grants and adaptations for the disabled	30,000
51	Close 50 out of 73 of the county's public toilets	244,000
52	Delete 1 post out of 21 in the multi-agency Youth Justice Service	25,000
53	Delete the sports development schemes	71,180
58	Close the Council's Tourist Information Centres	155,000
63	Delete 1 post out of 7 on road works management	30,000
65	Delete 4 posts out of 85 in the Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Care Workers Unit within the Adults Service	80,000
71	Delete 1 post out of 21.4 in the Homelessness Unit	25,000

- i. Also, to note that whilst we would not expect the cuts element of £28,000 noted against scheme 55 (Libraries), that we would continue to expect changes for the libraries service which would be restricted to the efficiency saving amount targeted for them which will possibly involve implementing a large element of the change noted against scheme number 55.
- ii. For Scheme 66 (Women's Aid), whilst it should not be cut at present, this should be subject to them satisfying the Service that they have looked for all possible opportunities to be as efficient as possible, including any saving which would derive from that in the efficiency savings.
- iii. For Schemes 72 (Barmouth Bridge) and 78 (Aber Bridge), that these budgets should not be cut at present, but this should be subject to reaching the target of significantly reducing the cost to the Council of contributing to their future, including any saving which would derive from that in the efficiency savings.

- iv. For Scheme 59 (Neuadd Dwyfor), that this budget should not be cut, but this is subject to discussing options with any local organisation with a view to them taking responsibility for it with the aim of reducing the costs for Gwynedd ratepayers, and that any savings should be included in the efficiency savings.
- v. With recommendations vi), vii) and viii) above, that we should receive a report back within a year and review the situation at that time as a result of any developments.
- vi. The Head of Finance Department is authorised, in co-operation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to review the level of specific funds (as suggested in paragraphs 8.6 - 8.8 of the appendix "2016/17 Budget") in order to fund the need to "bridge" £2,106,050 in 2016/17 as it would not be possible to implement all the cuts at once from April 2016.
- vii. The Head of Finance Department, in co-operation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to arrange to finance a revised amount from reserves, as necessary, in order to protect the Council's decisions on the budget and tax should there be marginal changes in Government grant, following the Welsh Government's decisions, which will lead to the announcement of the final grant settlement for local government on 2 March, and a vote thereon in the Assembly on 9 March 2016 to confirm.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN