

## **CABINET MEETING 12 April 2016**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 3RD DECEMBER 2015**

#### **A. ITEM – GWYNEDD COUNCIL PROCUREMENT STRATEGY - CATEGORY MANAGEMENT AND KEEPING THE BENEFITS LOCAL**

Considered – A report by the Economy Cabinet Member (Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies) on the developments to date of introducing category management as the new procurement arrangement for the Council, including any lessons learnt through the experiences in the Care sector to date. Ensuring that benefits were kept local whilst procuring was also considered, along with any steps taken to encourage local businesses to develop.

Resolved

- a) There was no evidence to date whether category management arrangements worked better than the previous arrangements. Progress on the procurement strategy should be monitored by this committee in 6 months' time, and regularly thereafter.
- b) Note concern regarding the impact of any possible cuts on departments' abilities to support. Particular concern was noted for the Economy and Community Department, to drive the local element and the impact of that on the county's economic success more generally.
- c) Rooting the strategy in Ffordd Gwynedd principles, by consistently listening to the messages that come back from the local sector and adapting the strategy accordingly.
- d) That there was a need to be more proactive in promoting and creating opportunities for local businesses, social enterprises, etc., to develop businesses by identifying the gaps in the market, including encouraging individuals to establish new businesses
- e) The message about the new arrangements should be spread across the Council, so that everyone knew about and understood clearly what the new arrangements are.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 4TH FEBRUARY, 2016**

#### **B. ITEM – DRAFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY**

Considered – A report by the Resources Cabinet Member (Councillor Peredur Jenkins) and the Senior Information Technology and Transformation manager on the content of the draft Information Technology Strategy. As part of the discussions, efficiency and value for money were discussed, with information about costs and customer satisfaction scrutinised.

Resolved

- a) It was recommended that clarity should be ensured on the success of the previous strategy and that it should be fully explained, using it as a basis for the new strategy. This would allow progress to be measured. It was recommended that there was a need for the service to identify and assess where the Council had reached, what lessons had been learned thus far, and incorporating the information as a basis to the new strategy.
- b) The IT Strategy needs to be flexible to respond to the customer's requirements (when they are known/ clear) and to be as flexible as possible within security restrictions.

- c) Ffordd Gwynedd intervention to the IT Service should be considered soon. The intervention could release resources which could be used in the fields discussed in the Strategy

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 14 APRIL, 2016**

#### **C. ITEM – THE BENEFITS TO GWYNEDD FROM RETAINING BUSINESS RATES**

In a discussion relating to business rates in the full Council in October 2015, an Elected Member drew to the attention of the Council that central Government in England has decided that English local councils are to keep all business rates to invest locally. It was explained that this is not the situation in Wales.

Considered – A report by the Resources Cabinet Member (Councillor Peredur Jenkins), the Head of Finance and the Senior Manager Revenues and Risk outlining the probable outcome in Gwynedd should the Welsh Government adopt the same provision in Wales. The Scrutiny undertaken was to assess whether the same regime in Wales would be likely to lead to benefits, losses, opportunities, or hazards for Gwynedd. Following that work, the Council could decide if it wanted to contact the Welsh Government.

Resolved

- a) It appears that the situation in England is complex. Following consideration to the information presented, there is no assurance that Gwynedd would benefit from the same provisions. Indeed, it appears that there would be substantial risks to Gwynedd.
- b) The Committee therefore recommends that the Council should not, at this moment, proceed to write to the Welsh Government asking for the same provision in Wales.
- c) Should further information arise with regards to similar developments in Wales, it is recommended that further work be undertaken at that time by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.