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MEETING	GwE Joint Committee
DATE	19 February 2025
TITLE	Base Budget 2025/26
PURPOSE	Present to the Joint Committee : • GwE Basic Budget 2024/25 (Appendix 1)
RECOMMENDATION	Adopt the base budget for April – May 2025/26 as presented in Appendix 1.
AUTHOR	Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance

1. Base Budget

- 1.1 The budget has been adjusted to reflect the decision to end GwE on 31 May 2025.
- 1.2 As a result, the budget has been adjusted to include what is needed over the period, including anticipated staffing costs based on salaried staff on 1 February 2025.

2. Welsh Government Grants funding method 2025/26

- 2.1 In 2024/25 the Welsh Government decided to pay the Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG) to councils / schools directly, and not to the regional consortia, with the requirements and risks of the grant now being the responsibility of the individual Councils.

- 2.2 To ensure that schools and authorities across north Wales continued to be offered equivalent levels of support and service, there was a move towards a commissioning arrangement, whereby North Wales authorities would purchase the current service (such as Professional Learning and Curriculum Development support) from GwE, with this being over and above the core service GwE provided.
- 2.3 Approximately half of the current posts are funded from this grant, and therefore the budget has been established expecting the authorities to continue to contribute from their grants, with the amount identified being equivalent to 2 months of its 2025/26 allocation from the "Support Standards in Education" and the "Reform Programmes".

3. General Fund

- 3.1 The report 'GwE Budget 2024/25 – Review to end of January 2025 (a previous item on the agenda) anticipates full use of the general fund by 31/03/2025.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - GwE Base Budget for 2025/26

VIEWS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

The Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a proprietary perspective

The Statutory Finance Officer:

Author of the report