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**GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET  
MINUTES  
30 July 2015**

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**Present –**

Councillors: Dyfed Edwards (Chairman), Peredur Jenkins, John Wynn Jones, Dafydd Meurig, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Mandy Williams-Davies.

**Also present –**

Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Director), Iwan G D Evans (Legal Services Manager), Dafydd Edwards (Chief Finance Officer), Meinir Owen (Savings Programme Manager), Bethan Richardson (Cabinet Support Team Leader - Taking the minutes).

**1. WELCOME/APOLOGIES**

Cabinet members and officers were welcomed to the meeting.

No apologies were received.

**2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Councillor W. Gareth Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 6 on the agenda, because his daughter worked for the Council's Property Department and his son-in-law worked for the Youth Department. As no matters which specifically affected these departments were discussed, and as it was not a prejudicial interest, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Councillor Ioan Thomas declared a personal interest in point 3.8.22 on Item 6 (Aber Bridge) on the agenda as he was a member of the Harbour Trust. The member was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and he withdrew from the Chamber during the discussion on this point.

Councillor Gareth Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 6 on the agenda because his son-in-law worked for the Council's Libraries Service. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, and as it was not a prejudicial interest, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Councillor Mair Rowlands declared a personal interest in Item 6 as she was a member of the Derwen Board and the Board of the Youth Justice Service. The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and she participated in the discussion on the item.

Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies declared a personal interest in point 3.8.1 in Item 6 (Free Breakfast) as her children received the provision. The member was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and she participated in the discussion on the item.

Dilwyn Williams declared a personal interest, on behalf of all Senior Officers in the Council, in point 3.8.60 in Item 6 (The Council's Senior Management). As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Dilwyn Williams declared a personal interest in point 3.8.53 in Item 6 (Finance and Accountancy) as his son worked for the Council's Finance Department. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Dafydd Edwards declared a personal interest in point 3.8.60 (as above) and in point 3.8.28 in Item 6 (Support-Derwen) as his wife occasionally worked for Derwen. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

Iwan Evans declared a personal interest as there was reference to his Post in Appendix 1 to Item 6. As no matter which specifically affected this Service was discussed, he did not withdraw from the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

### **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 PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 July 2015.

### **6. SEEKING THE PUBLIC OPINION ON POSSIBLE CUTS**

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

## DISCUSSION

The content of the table in part 3.8 of the report was discussed in different clusters. Items 1 to 26 were discussed first, followed by items 27 to 52 and finally items 53 to 65. The following are the observations for every individual item in the first cluster of items between 1 and 26 -

1. Free Breakfast

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -

The Chief Executive confirmed that this was a statutory provision but that there were conditions to it. These conditions did not prevent the consultation with the public.

2. Youth

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

There was a statutory requirement to provide a service for youth; however this need not necessarily happen through the Youth Service. A discussion with the third sector during the consultation period on alternative methods of providing the service would be welcomed.

3. Primary Catering

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was agreed to highlight any evidence which existed on the link between nutrition and educational achievement during the consultation period.

4. Provider – Leisure Centres and Healthy Living

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was noted that more information would be available following the completion of the process of seeking efficiency savings, and that there was a need to allow time to see if the Centres could be self-sufficient.

5. Cemeteries

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops.

6. Archives

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

7. Community Regeneration

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was agreed that, during consultation, information would need to be shared regarding the work and function of the Unit. The consultation documents would include information about the impact of cutting this service.

8. Maritime and Country Parks

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, but the following was noted -

It was agreed to try to find out where, geographically, the comments come from during the consultation process. This could be important as some items would influence some areas directly more than others.

9. Biodiversity

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

The consultation documents should fully explain what the impact of a cut in service would be. In this case, there was a need to understand the impact of cutting two posts in a unit of three posts. It was also agreed to discuss with external agencies about how to provide services, during the consultation period.

10. Autism Budget

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops.

11. Post -16

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops. It should be ensured that consultation was undertaken with the young people receiving the service. It should also be ensured that the impact of cutting the service would be highlighted.

12. Pollution Control

It was agreed to accept the Members' recommendation following the Members' Scrutiny Workshops.

13. Libraries

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted. It was also agreed to add any relevant information from the consultation on the Libraries Service to the consultation document.

14. Delete support for children within Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog Women's Aid

It was agreed that it was difficult to measure the impact of such a cut to the future, but it was agreed that the fact that officers from the day and night teams continued to offer support in relation to child protection should be highlighted. However, it was agreed that there was a need to highlight the impact of the cut, including any evidence, in the consultation documents.

15. Tourism and Marketing

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following addition -

It was agreed that the context of the recommendations should be outlined, explaining the role of the Council in the field. Any other options to provide the service should also be highlighted.

16. Business Support

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

17. Operational Service (Children's Department)

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, but it was noted -

That information or evidence should be added to the consultation documents regarding how many cases would not be addressed following cutting two posts.

18. County and Trunk Road Lighting

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -

The title of the item should be corrected as the Council was not responsible for trunk road lighting.

19. Joint Planning Policy Unit

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following comments -

It was agreed that there was a need to be clear as to the impact of the cut on the Council's capacity to deliver the Joint Local Development Plan (which was a priority and was included in the Strategic Plan). When explaining the implications of the cut in the consultation documents, evidence about the different implications of the various options of cutting 1, 2 or 3 posts should be included.

20. Homelessness

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

21. Strategic Economic Projects

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted. Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed that non-statutory work fields such as this were to be considered for cuts, as they could contribute to preventative work in other Council services, and to developing sustainable communities.

22. Aber Bridge

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, but it was noted that the title of the item in the Welsh version needed to be changed to 'Pont yr Aber'.

23. Street Cleaning

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

24. Rates

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted.

25. Delete the Young Carers Plan

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -  
It was agreed that the opinion of the service users (the Young Carers) should be presented in the consultation documents, as well as an objective opinion.

26. Youth Justice

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources contained in the report was accepted, with the following note -  
The consultation documents should explain the context of the work of the Youth Justice Service, explaining what the statutory elements were. It should be explained that it was partnership work with Anglesey Council, the Police and the Probation Service, with each partner contributing funding. It was also agreed that the nature of the post under consideration should be explained, as well as the implications of the possible cut.

**Cluster of items from 27 to 52**

The recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Resources on each item was accepted, but observations were added on the following items -

27. Public Transport

As the £300,000 of potential cut was funding currently used to subsidise some routes, information about which routes could be affected by the cut would be added to the consultation documents.

28. Support-Derwen

The consultation documents should give details as to who received this service (namely children with disabilities and their families) and what the nature of the work was.

Also during consultation, there should be a discussion with project partners (financial and practical) in order to understand how a potential cut would affect their role in the work.

It was also explained that Equality Impact Assessments would be submitted to the Council before it would make a decision, at the end of the journey, about the cuts.

32. The Arts and Museums

An observation was made that several of the projects that this Service provided were preventative in nature, which sometimes provided support for people in partnership with the Health Service. This should be highlighted in the consultation documents.

47. Barmouth Bridge

It was agreed that the consultation documents should explain that it was the Council's contribution to the bridge costs that was under consideration. As the bridge was not Council-owned, it would not be the Council making the eventual decision regarding whether or not to close it.

**Cluster of items from 53 to 65**

In addition to the decision noted below, it was agreed that the following points should be highlighted in the consultation documents -

Items 53 to 64 will not be included in the documents because the Cabinet Members are of the opinion that members of the public would not wish to prioritise the Council's internal operational mechanism ahead of front-line service provision. By not including the items on the list of potential cuts, which is already long, it should be easier for the public to understand the cuts that will be consulted upon. Nevertheless, it should be highlighted that the Cabinet Members are considering the Council's mechanism in order to achieve cuts, and the savings which have already been delivered should also be highlighted.

**Discussion on points 3.4 – 3.7 in the committee report**

In addition to the decision noted below, it was agreed that the following points should be highlighted in the consultation documents -

It is necessary to examine the education services due to the size of the budget, despite the fact that approximately 90% of the Council's education provision funding has been devolved to the schools.

**DECISION**

1. To seek the opinion of the public in Gwynedd about potential cuts in accordance with the recommendations submitted by the Cabinet Member for Resources on proposal numbers 1 to 52 in part 3.8 of the report for the meeting.

2. In addition to the above, it was also decided to seek opinion on proposals P5, PaB5, PaB6, PaB13, PaB20, Y1, Y3, Rh4, O15, O20, CG19, CG18 and C9 which have been included in Appendices 1 – 10 of the report for the meeting.
3. In light of the complexity of the process of seeking opinion, the need to ensure that it is a meaningful process and the fact that it is unlikely that the people of Gwynedd will prioritise support services above front line services, it was decided that the public's opinion on proposals 53 to 65 in part 3.8 of the report, and proposals Rh28, Rh30, O4, O23, CG1, CG10, CG12, CG20 and C13 which have been included in Appendices 1 – 10 of the report for the meeting should not be sought allowing the Council to weigh up the priority that should be given to these schemes against the other schemes when they will be considering the cuts.
4. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Education should be requested to move ahead to prepare a strategy to create an education system which will continue to give priority to maintain standards and strengthen leadership within the evident financial constraints that will face us, and the need in doing so to realise further efficiency savings.

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm and concluded at 5.30pm.

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**CHAIRMAN**