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TAFLEN BENDERFYNIAD CABINET Y CYNGOR/ COUNCIL CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Dyddiad/Date 20141007

PWNC / SUBJECT

Eitem 6 Strategaeth Ariannol – Targed arbedion ar gyfer ysgolion  
*Item 6 Financial Strategy – Schools savings targets*

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PENDERFYNIAD / DECISION

- Gosod targed arbedion o £4.3m ar gyfer ysgolion i'w gyflawni dros y tair blynedd nesaf, gan ofyn i'r Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg arwain darn o waith drwy gydweithio gyda'r Fforwm Cyllido Ysgolion i ddatblygu cynlluniau ar gyfer gwireddu'r targed hwnnw.
- Gofyn i'r Gweithgor gyflwyno'r gwaith hwnnw erbyn diwedd Ionawr 2015
- Dylid gwahodd Cadeirydd ac Is Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Craffu Gwasanaethau i'r gweithgor a sefydlir fel sylwebyddion.
- *To set a savings target of £4.3m for schools to be delivered over the next three years, and that the Cabinet Member for Education be requested to lead a joint piece of work with the Schools Finance Forum to develop the schemes to be implemented in order to deliver this target.*
- *To ask the Working Group to submit this work before the end of January 2015.*
- *The Chair and Vice-chair of the Services Scrutiny Committee should be invited to the Working Group as observers only.*

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Rhesymau dros y penderfyniad / Reason for the decision:-

Mae'r Cyngor wedi cytuno gyda bwriad y Cabinet i gynllunio ar gyfer darganfod arbedion gwerth £34m ychwanegol dros y 3 blynedd nesaf er mwyn ymateb i'r hinsawdd ariannol yr ydym yn debygol o'i wynebu.

O ystyried bod holl wasanaethau eraill y Cyngor yn wynebu sefyllfa heriol dros ben gydag elfennau ohonynt dan fygythiad sylweddol, ac o ystyried bod y gyllideb ysgolion yn cynrychioli tua 35% o gyllideb holl wasanaethau'r Cyngor, os na fyddwn yn gofyn i'r ysgolion chwarae eu rhan yn yr her sydd o'n blaenau, fe allai'r ardrawiad ar wasanaethau eraill hanfodol y Cyngor fod yn annioddefol.

Er mwyn medru cyflawni'r strategaeth wreiddiol yma fe ragdybiwyd y dylid anelu i gyflawni tua £4.3m o arbediad o'r gyllideb ysgolion (sy'n cyfateb i tua 6% dros y 3 blynedd i ddod) ond mae'n rhaid dod i gasgliad nawr ynglŷn â'r targed sydd angen

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ei osod, fel bod modd i'r gwasanaeth ddechrau cynllunio.

Byddai gosod targed o £4.3m neu 6% yn parhau i roi gwarchodaeth i ysgolion o'i gymharu gyda gwasanaethau eraill. Gellir ei gymharu gyda'r targed arbedion effeithlonrwydd a osodwyd ar gyfer gwasanaethau eraill allweddol fel a ganlyn –

- Gwasanaeth Plant – 16.8%
- Gwasanaeth Addysg Canolog – 16.4%
- Gwasanaeth Henoed – 14.4%

Rhaid cofio hefyd y gallai'r effaith ar y gwasanaethau yma fod yn waeth gan y bydd angen pennu pa elfennau fyddai'n cael eu torri ac fe allasai elfen ddisgyn yn y meysydd yma.

Dylid ystyried cyd destun y sefyllfa lle nas gofynnwyd i'r gyllideb ysgolion ddarganfod unrhyw arbedion dros y tair blynedd diwethaf.

Beth bynnag fydd y targed a osodir ar gyfer ysgolion, bydd angen sicrhau fod yna drefn gynhwysol ar gyfer gadael i'r gwasanaeth ei hun ddylanwadu ar sut y dylid cyflawni'r arbediad, ac argymhellir fod hynny yn digwydd trwy'r Fforwm Cyllido Ysgolion.

Wrth osod y targed, rhaid bod yn fyw i'r ffaith y rhagwelir ar hyn o bryd y bydd cyllideb y sector Uwchradd yn gostwng tua £650,000 beth bynnag yn y ddwy flynedd nesaf oherwydd effeithiau demograffi tra bydd cyllideb y sector cynradd yn debygol o gynyddu tua £250,000. Ni wyddir eto beth yw'r tafluniadau demograffig ar gyfer y drydedd flwyddyn.

Mae'r sector Uwchradd hefyd yn wynebu gostyngiad yn eu cyllideb yn 2015/16 oherwydd y bydd y cymorth ychwanegol o £410,000 a roddwyd iddynt i ddygymod gyda cholled grantiau yn diflannu.

Fodd bynnag, mater i'r gwasanaeth fydd ystyried y ffactorau hynny wrth ddatblygu cynlluniau yn y gwahanol sectorau i ddygymod â'r targed.

Credir fod yna berygl y byddai gosod targed uwch na'r £4.3m yn amharu'n ormodol ar yr adnodd dysgu allasai yn ei dro effeithio ar gyraeddiadau addysgol plant ac felly argymhellwyd fod y Cabinet yn gosod targed o £4.3m fydd yn parhau i gynnig gwarchodaeth sylweddol i'r gyllideb ysgolion (o'i gymharu gyda gwasanaethau eraill y Cyngor) wrth gyfrannu rhywfaint tuag at wynebu'r her sydd o'n blaenau.

*The Council has agreed with the Cabinet's proposal to plan for the need to find additional savings worth £34m over the next three years in order to respond to the financial environment in which we find ourselves.*

*Given that all other Council services are facing an extremely challenging situation with some elements under significant threat, and considering that the schools budget represents around 35% of all Council service budgets, if we do not ask schools to play their part in this challenge, then the impact on other essential Council Services could be insufferable.*

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*In order to implement the original strategy, it was anticipated that we would need to aim to achieve around £4.3m of savings from the schools budget (which amounts to around 6% over the next three years) but we must now come to a conclusion on the target to be applied in order that the service can start planning.*

*Setting a target of £4.3m or 6% would continue to give schools protection relative to other council services. It can be compared to the following targets set for other key Council services -*

- Children's Services – 16.8%*
- Central Education Services – 16.4%*
- Elderly Services – 14.4%*

*It must also be borne in mind that the effects on these services could be worse as we will also need to establish where cuts are to fall and an element could fall on these services.*

*The target should also be set in the context of a situation whereby the schools budget has not been asked to find savings for the past three years.*

*Whatever the target established for schools, we will need to ensure that there is an inclusive process for ensuring that the service itself can influence how to achieve that target and it is suggested that the Schools Funding Forum be used for that purpose.*

*We must also be alive to the fact that in setting the target we currently anticipate that the Secondary Sector budget will reduce by around £650,000 in the next two years as a result of demographic effects whilst the primary sector budget is likely to increase by around £250,000. We do not yet know what our demographic projections will be for the third year.*

*The Secondary sector will also face a reduction in their budget in 2015/16 due to the fact that the additional assistance of £410,000 given to them to buy time so that they could come to terms with the loss of grants will fall out.*

*However, these factors will be a matter for the service to consider in developing schemes in the various sectors to deliver the target.*

*It is believed that there is a danger in setting a target above £4.3m in that it could excessively impinge upon the teaching resource which in turn could adversely affect pupil attainment and I would recommend that the cabinet sets a target of £4.3m which continues to give a significant measure of protection for school budgets (in comparison with other council services) whilst contributing to the challenge ahead of us.*

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*Sylwadau neu bwyntiau croes / Observations or opposing views:-*

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*Yn dilyn cyflwyno'r adroddiad gan yr Aelod Cabinet Adnoddau, trafodwyd y sefyllfa*

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ariannol ddyrys sy'n wynebu'r Cyngor a'r ffaith bod angen i bob gwasanaeth o fewn y Cyngor ysgwyddo arbedion. Nodwyd y ffaith fod gofyn i Weithgor gyflawni darn o waith ac yna adrodd yn ôl i'r Cabinet yn ymarfer da er mwyn gallu pwysu a mesur yr effaith cyn gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau pell-gyrhaeddol. Y gobaith yn ogystal fyddai i'r adroddiad a gyflwynir esgor ar drafodaeth ehangach ynghylch sicrhau ansawdd addysg a darpariaeth addysg yn gyffredinol o fewn Gwynedd.

Trafodwyd y ffaith bod angen pennu amserlen dynn ar gyfer cyflwyno'r adroddiad a chytunwyd y byddai diwedd Ionawr yn darged cyrraeddadwy gan y byddai modd wedyn i'r Cabinet wneud penderfyniad yn y cyfarfod ym mis Chwefror.

Trafodwyd yn ogystal yr angen i wahodd Cadeiryddion ac Isgadeiryddion Pwyllgorau Craffu i fynychu cyfarfodydd y Gweithgor fel sylwebyddion.

*Following the submission of the report by the Cabinet Member for Resources, a discussion was held on the deepening financial situation the Council was facing and the fact that there was a need for all services within the Council to shoulder the savings.. It was noted that the fact that the Working Group was required to undertake a piece of work and to report back to the Cabinet was good practice in order to be able to weigh up the impact before making any far-reaching decisions. Additionally, the hope was that the submitted report would spur a broader discussion regarding assuring the quality of education and the provision of education in general in Gwynedd.*

*A discussion was held on the fact that a strict timetable would be needed for submitting the report and it was agreed that the end of January would be a deliverable target as it would then be possible for the Cabinet to make a decision during its meeting held in February.*

*The need to invite the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Scrutiny Committees to attend the Working Group Forum meetings as observers was also discussed.*

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Barn y swyddogion statudol / The views of the Statutory Officers:-

1. Y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive:-

Yn amlwg, mae hwn yn benderfyniad eithriadol o anodd o ran y cydbwysedd rhwng y pwysau ariannol ar ysgolion ar y naill llaw a'r pwysau ar wasanaethau eraill sydd, fel y gwelir o'r adroddiad, yn wynebu canrannau sylweddol uwch o ran arbedion. Wrth gwrs, mae unrhyw elfen o warchodaeth ar ysgolion yn gosod mwy o bwysau ar wasanaethau eraill o ran arbedion effeithlonrwydd a hefyd, maes o law, ar doriadau. Wedi dweud hynny, rhaid gosod y targed yn rhywle ac mae'r hyn a argymhellir yn cynnig parhad o rod-di gwarchodaeth sylweddol i ysgolion ac yn gyson gyda'r hyn sydd wedi ei awgrymu mewn adroddiadau blaenorol.

*Obviously, this is an extremely difficult balance to strike between financial pressures on schools on the one hand and pressures on other services on the other; services which are already facing a significantly higher percentage of savings. Of course, any element of protection for schools places greater pressures on other services in terms of efficiency*

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*savings and in time, service cuts. Having said as much, the target must be set somewhere, and the proposal in the report continues to provide a significant element of protection for schools and is consistent with that already outlined in previous reports.*

2. Swyddog Monitro / Monitoring Officer:-

Wrth adnabod targed arbedion ar gyfer y Gwasnaeth Ysgolion mae'r adroddiad yn gosod gofyn ar yr Arweinydd Cabinet Addysg i sefydlu cyfundrefn gynhwysol i adnabod cynlluniau penodol ar gyfer cyrraedd y targed. Disgwylir y bydd unrhyw ofynnion cyfreithiol ynglyn ac adnabod neu wireddu cynlluniau yn cael eu cloriannu a chyfarch wrth ddarparu i ymateb i'r targed ac adnabod cynlluniau penodol .

*In identifying the savings target for the Schools Service the report places a requirement on the Cabinet Member for Education to establish inclusive arrangements so as to develop schemes to deliver the target. It is expected that any legal requirements relating to the identification or delivery of schemes will be considered and addressed when responding to the target and developing schemes.*

3. Prif Swyddog Cyllid / Chief Finance Officer:-

Yn yr hinsawdd ariannol gyfredol, gellid dadlau bod yr argymhelliad i osod targed arbedion o £4.3m ar gyfer ysgolion (sy'n 6%, neu yn cyfateb i 2% y flwyddyn dros y 3 mlynedd 2015/16, 2016/17 a 2017/18) yn setliad gymharol dda i ysgolion Gwynedd, gan gofio fod ysgolion yn cynrychioli oddeutu 35% o gyllidebau gwasanaethau'r Cyngor. Wedi dweud hynny, mae'n amlwg bydd hyn yn her i'n penaethiaid a'r llywodraethwyr, a byddaf yn cynorthwyo'r Fforwm Cyllideb Ysgolion gyda'r dasg i ddatblygu cynlluniau i briodoli a gwireddu'r targed yma dros y cyfnod dan sylw. Yn y cyswllt yma, nodaf fod amserlen tynn i ddarparu gwybodaeth amserol dros y misoedd nesaf, er mwyn i'r ysgolion allu cynllunio yn briodol ar gyfer 2015/16.

Ar wahân i'r uchod, rwy'n ceisio argyhoeddi Llywodraeth Cymru i drosglwyddo rhai grantiau penodol i'r setliad cyffredinol, gan fyddai hynny yn galluogi ysgolion i ystyried eu holl adnoddau wrth gynllunio i'r dyfodol. Os na fydd yn bosib rhyddhau'r arian grant i'w flaenoriaethu'n lleol, yna rwy'n ceisio argyhoeddi Llywodraeth Cymru i leihau'r biwrocratiaeth ynghylch rheoli grantiau penodol, er mwyn sicrhau arbedion yn y canol, a rhyddhau amser ysgolion i ganolbwyntio ar ansawdd addysg, ayb.

*In the current Financial climate, it could be argued that the recommendation to set a savings target of £4.3m for schools (which is 6% or equivalent to 2% a year for the 3 year period 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18) is a relatively good Settlement for Gwynedd's schools, bearing in mind that schools constitute around 35% of Council Services' budget. That said, it is obvious that this will be challenging for head teachers and governors, and I will be helping the Schools Funding Forum with the task of developing appropriate schemes to deliver this target over the period in question. In this context, I would note that the timetable is tight if we are to provide timely information over the coming months, so that schools are able to plan appropriately for 2015/16.*

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*Apart from the above, I am trying to persuade the Welsh Government to transfer some specific grants into the general settlement, as that would allow schools to take account of all of their funding in planning for the future. If grant funding cannot be released to be prioritised locally, then I am trying to persuade the Welsh Government to reduce the beaurocracy involved in dealing with specific grants in order for us to release savings at the centre, and release schools' time to focus on educational standards etc.*

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Barn yr aelod lleol / Views of the Local Member

Dim yn berthnasol  
*Not relevant.*

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