TAFLEN BENDERFYNIAD CABINET
CYNGOR GWYNEDD
CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Dyddiad/Date: 30/07/2015

PWNC / *SUBJECT*

Eitem 6: Canfod barn y cyhoedd ar doriadau posib

Item 6: Seeking public opinion about possible cuts

PENDERFYNIAD / *DECISION*

1. Ceisio barn y cyhoedd yng Ngwynedd ar doriadau posib yn unol â'r argymhellion a gyflwynwyd gan yr Aelod Cabinet Adnoddau ar gynigion rhifau 1 i 52 yn rhan 3.8 o'r adroddiad i'r cyfarfod.

2. Yn ychwanegol i'r uchod, cytunwyd hefyd i ganfod barn ar gynigion P5, PaB5, PaB6, PaB13, PaB20, Y1, Y3, Rh4, O15, O20, CG19, CG18 a C9 sydd wedi eu cynnwys yn Atodiadau 1 – 10 o'r adroddiad i'r cyfarfod.

3. Yn wyneb cymhlethdod y broses o ganfod barn, yr angen i sicrhau ei fod yn broses ystyrlon, a'r ffaith ei fod yn annhebygol fod pobl Gwynedd am flaenoriaethu gwasanaeth cefnogol uwchben gwasanaethau rheng flaen, na ddylid canfod barn y cyhoedd ar gynigion 53 i 65 yn rhan 3.8 o'r adroddiad, a chynigion Rh28, Rh30, O4, O23, CG1, CG10, CG12, CG20 a C13 sydd wedi eu cynnwys yn Atodiadau 1 – 10 o'r adroddiad i'r cyfarfod gan adael i'r Cyngor bwyso a mesur y flaenoriaeth y dylid ei roi i'r cynlluniau yma yn erbyn y cynlluniau eraill pan fyddant yn ystyried y toriadau.

4. Cytunwyd y dylid gofyn i'r Aelod Cabinet Addysg symud ymlaen i baratoi strategaeth ar gyfer creu cyfundrefn addysg fydd yn parhau i roi blaenoriaeth i gynnal safonau a chryfhau arweinyddiaeth o fewn y cyfyngiadau ariannol amlwg sydd am fod yn ein wynebu, a'r angen drwy hynny i wireddu arbedion effeithlonrwydd pellach.

1. To seek the opinion of the public in Gwynedd about possible cuts in accordance with the recommendations submitted by the Cabinet Member for Resources on proposals numbers 1 to 52 in part 3.8 of the report to 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 to 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 to 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 it 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 maintaining standards and strengthening leadership within the evident financial constraints that will face us, and in doing so, the need to realise further efficiency savings.*

RHESYMAU DROS Y PENDERFYNIAD / *REASON FOR THE DECISION*

Fel rhan o Strategaeth Ariannol y Cyngor rydym ar hyn o bryd yn taflunio bwlch ariannol tybiedig o tua £33m dros y tair blynedd 2015/16 - 2017/18. Rydym yn cynllunio i gwrdd a'r bwlch hwnnw drwy:

Cynlluniau effeithlonrwydd sydd eisoes wedi eu cymeradwyo gan y Cabinet	13.6m
Targed effeithlonrwydd ysgolion	4.3m
Effeithlonrwydd pellach	6.0m
Toriadau (rhagdybiaeth diweddaraf)	9.0m

Mae'r angen i dorri £9m yn golygu gwneud penderfyniadau anodd, ac mae'n hanfodol felly ein bod yn canfod barn y cyhoedd ynglŷn a'u blaenoriaethau nhw cyn dod i benderfyniad.

Mae'r broses ymgynghori yma felly yn rhan hanfodol o'r broses o flaenoriaethu'r dyfodol, fydd yn ei dro yn arwain at ddealltwriaeth o beth yw blaenoriaethau isaf pobl Gwynedd ac ymhle felly y dylem edrych am y toriadau yr ydym yn cael ein gorfodi i weithredu. Fe fydd pwysigrwydd ac arwyddocâd hyn i'r llwybr penderfynu yn cael ei amlygu i drigolion Gwynedd fel rhan o'r broses. Wrth gwrs ble'n berthnasol bydd angen cynnal asesiadau cydraddoldeb ac ymgynghoriadau penodol sydd yn ofynnol yn ôl y gyfraith a chloriannu'r canlyniadau wrth i'r Cyngor ddod i benderfyniad terfynol.

O ran y broses hyd yma mae gwaith mewnol gyda'r Cabinet wedi ei gwblhau lle maent wedi adnabod posibiliadau torri hyd at £13m. Fe adnabuwyd swm uwch na'r angen er mwyn rhoi dewislen i'r cyhoedd fel rhan o'r broses canfod barn.

Er mwyn sicrhau mewnbwn holl Aelodau'r Cyngor i ddeall a chraffu rhesymeg y Cabinet ar ba doriadau posib y dylid canfod barn gyhoeddus arnynt fe gynhaliwyd 15 cyfarfod o'r Gweithdy Craffu gan ofyn i aelodau fynychu uchafswm o bum cyfarfod.

Bu i 48 aelod allan o 61 Aelod fynychu'r gweithdai (wedi diystyru aelodau'r Cabinet,

y sedd wag a'r aelodau oedd methu mynychu oherwydd gwaeledd). Derbyniwyd amrywiol sylwadau gan Aelodau'r Cyngor ar argymhellion cychwynnol y Cabinet ar doriadau posib yn y Gweithdai Craffu Aelodau. Cofnodir y rhain yn rhan 3.8, ac yn Atodiadau 1 – 10, o'r adroddiad i'r cyfarfod. Manylodd yr Aelod Cabinet Adnoddau yn yr adroddiad ble roedd yn cytuno neu anghytuno â sylwadau neu argymhellion yr Aelodau.

Un sylw penodol gan Aelodau y mae'r Cabinet yn cytuno ag o yw y dylid canolbwyntio yn y broses canfod barn ar wasanaethau llinell flaen yn hytrach na materion corfforaethol eu natur (fel y nodir ym mhenderfyniad rhif 3 uchod).

Credid y gellid cymryd yn ganiataol na fydd y cyhoedd yn dymuno rhoi blaenoriaeth i'r gwasanaethau yma uwchben y gwasanaethau y maent hwy yn eu derbyn yn uniongyrchol, a thrwy beidio a'u cynnwys yn y broses canfod barn byddai modd symleiddio'r broses a'i wneud yn fwy dealladwy i drigolion Gwynedd.

Cytunwyd hefyd, fel rhan o'r broses canfod barn, bod angen gosod cyd-destun o ran arbedion effeithlonrwydd cyffredinol, ac arbedion yn benodol, yng nghostau rheolaethol corfforaethol sydd wedi eu gwireddu a'u cynllunio er mwyn egluro beth sydd wedi ei gyflawni gyda chostau cefnogol y Cyngor.

Gan fod safonau addysg ac arweinyddiaeth o fewn y gyfundrefn addysg yn flaenoriaeth i'r Cyngor, mae'n amserol iawn i greu strategaeth a chynllun gweithredu o'r newydd er mwyn arwain yn y maes. Mae'n amlwg o'r rhestr o gynlluniau y bwriedir ymgynghori arnynt mai prin iawn yw'r cynigion torri ar gyfer y maes addysg, yn enwedig pan fo addysg yn cyfri am 38% o wariant y Cyngor.

Mae'n anodd iawn torri yn y maes addysg, ond nid yw hynny yr un fath a dweud na ellir bod yn fwy effeithlon. Mae'r Cabinet eisoes wedi gosod targed i'r ysgolion ddarganfod arbedion effeithlonrwydd gwerth £4.3m, ac mae'r Gwasanaeth Addysg yn ganolog wedi adnabod arbedion effeithlonrwydd gwerth £690,000, sy'n rhoi cyfanswm o bron i £5m neu 5.7% o'r holl gyllideb.

Fel rhan o'r gwaith o lunio strategaeth a chynllun gweithredu, dylid ystyried cyfleoedd pellach i fod yn fwy effeithlon o fewn y maes gan gyflawni mwy o arbedion heb gael ardrawiad ar safonau addysg.

As part of the Council's Financial Strategy, we are currently projecting a funding deficit of approximately £33m over the three year period 2015/16 - 2017/18. We are planning to meet this deficit by means of:

Efficiency plans that have already been approved by the Cabinet.	*13.6m*
Schools' efficiency target	*4.3m*
Further efficiency	*6.0m*
Cuts (latest presumption)	*9.0m*

The need to find worth £9m of cuts means that we will have to make difficult decisions, and it is essential therefore that we find out the views of Gwynedd residents before coming to a decision.

This consultation process therefore forms an essential part of the process in relation to future priorities which in turn, should give us an understanding of what are Gwynedd's people's lowest priorities and where we should therefore look for the cuts we are forced to implement. The importance and implications of this process in the decision making path will be emphasised to Gwynedd's residents as part of the process. Of course, where relevant, we will need to conduct equality impact assessments and any statutory consultation processes required by law and will weigh up the results of those conclusions as the Council reaches its final decision.

In terms of the process so far, internal work with the Cabinet has been completed where possible cuts of up to £13m have been identified. A higher sum than required was identified in order to give the public a list of choices as part of the process of seeking opinion.

In order to ensure all Council members' input to understand and scrutinise the Cabinet's logic on what possible cuts to seek public opinion on, 15 meetings of the Scrutiny Workshops were held with members requested to attend a maximum of five meetings.

48 out of 61 members who attended the workshops (Cabinet members, the vacant seat and members who could not attend due to ill-health were disregarded). Various observations were received from Council members on the Cabinet's initial recommendations for possible cuts at the Members' Scrutiny Workshops. These have been noted in part 3.8 and in Appendices 1 – 10 of the report to the meeting. The Cabinet Member for Resources elaborated in the report where he agreed or disagreed with the observations or recommendations of Members.

One specific observation from Members that requires the Cabinet's decision is whether we should concentrate on front line services in the process of seeking opinion rather than matters that are corporate in nature (as noted in decision number 3 above).

It is believed that we can take for granted that the public won't wish to give priority to these services ahead of the services that they receive directly and by not including them in the process of seeking opinion, it will be possible to simplify the process and make it more coherent to the people of Gwynedd.

In addition, it was agreed that as part of the process for seeking opinion that the context needs to be set in terms of general efficiency savings and specifically savings in corporate management costs that have been delivered / planned in order to explain what has been achieved with the Council's support costs.

As education standards and leadership within the education system are priorities for the Council, it is very timely to create a new strategy and action plan in order to lead in the field. It is evident from the list of proposed schemes that will be consulted on that there are very few options for cutting in the Education field, especially when education counts for 38% of the Council's budget.

It is very difficult to cut in the Education field but that is not to say that we cannot be

more efficient. The Cabinet has already set a target for schools to find efficiency savings worth £4.3m, and the Education Service centrally has identified efficiency savings worth £690,000 which gives a total of nearly £5m which is 5.7% of the whole budget.

As part of the work of drawing up a strategy and action plan, consideration should be given to further opportunities to be more efficient within the field by delivering more savings that would not impact negatively on the standards of education.

SYLWADAU NEU BWYNTIAU CROES / *OBSERVATIONS OR OPPOSING VIEWS*

Yn dilyn cyflwyno'r adroddiad eglurwyd fod gofynion statudol ar y Cyngor ynglŷn â darparu rhai gwasanaethau dan ystyriaeth – ee. brecwast am ddim, a darpariaeth i ieuenctid. Cytunwyd bod modd parhau i geisio barn y cyhoedd ar doriadau gan dderbyn y byddai angen dealltwriaeth o oblygiadau cyfreithiol ac ymarferol penodol y dyletswyddau yma fel rhan o unrhyw broses dod i gasgliad terfynol. Nodwyd hefyd fod adolygiad o'r gwasanaeth llyfrgell eisoes ar y gweill ond y dylid parhau â'r ymgynghoriad er canfod barn y cyhoedd ar ddyfodol y gwasanaeth yng nghyd destun y toriadau.

Gwnaethpwyd sylwadau hefyd ynglŷn â pwysigrwydd darpariaeth gwybodaeth ac esboniadau digonol ar gyfer y broses a nodwyd y bwriad i sicrhau fod yr ymgynghoriad yn eang ac yn gynhwysol.

Following the submission of the report, it was explained that statutory requirements of the Council regarding the provision of some services were under consideration – e.g. free breakfast and youth provision. It was agreed that it was possible to continue to seek the public's opinion on cutbacks accepting that an understanding of specific legal and practical implications of these duties would be needed as part of any process to come to a final conclusion. It was also noted that a review of the library service was already in the pipeline but the consultation to seek public opinion on the future of the service in light of the cutbacks should continue.

Observations were also made regarding the importance of providing information and adequate explanations for the process and the intention to ensure that the consultation was extensive and inclusive was noted.

BARN Y SWYDDOGION STATUDOL / *THE VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS*

1. Y Prif Weithredwr / *Chief Executive*:-

Mae'r adroddiad yma yn rhan allweddol o'r daith i geisio darganfod beth yw gwir flaenoriaethau pobl Gwynedd er mwyn i'r Cyngor gymryd hynny i ystyriaeth wrth benderfynu ymhle i dorri pan fyddwn yn cael ein gorfodi i wneud hynny. Mae'n bwysig tanlinellu mai canfod barn yw bwriad y broses yma ac nad oes yna unrhyw benderfyniadau yn cael eu cymryd hyd nes yn nes ymlaen yn y flwyddyn pan

fyddwn wedi cael cyfle i ystyried y canlyniadau.

This report is an integral part of the journey we are taking to try and establish the true priorities of the people of Gwynedd so that the Council can take that into account when deciding where we should cut services when we are forced to do so. It is important to emphasise that the purpose of this process is to collect opinions and that no decisions are being taken until later on in the year when we will have had the opportunity to consider the findings.

2. Swyddog Monitro / *Monitoring Officer*:-

Mae'r adroddiad yn argymell llwybr ar gyfer penderfynu ar ymateb y Cyngor i'r her ariannol sydd yn ei wynebu. Mae ystod o opsiynau yn cael eu hamlygu ar gyfer ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar adnabod blaenoriaethau. Y tu cefn i'r penawdau yma wrth gwrs mae nifer o ofynion cyfreithiol ynglŷn a daprau gwasanaethau ac ynglŷn a gweithredu newid. Gall fod y gofynion yma ynglŷn a materion megis prosesau statudol, cynnal ymgynghoriad priodol neu faterion cytundebol. Mae gofynion hefyd megis asesiadau Ardrawiad Cydraddoldeb fydd yn berthnasol i'r drefn cloriannu a phenderfynu ar gyfer nifer o opsiynau a bydd y rhain yn cael eu datblygu ar gyfer yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus cychwynnol yma. Wrth symud ymlaen a'r broses yma mae'n hanfodol fod llygaid gofalus yn cael ei gadw ar y gofynion yma er sicrhau fod unrhyw benderfyniadau terfynol fydd yn deillio yn briodol ac yn gadarn.

This report recommends a pathway for deciding on the Council's response to the financial challenge that it faces. There's a range of options being identified for a public consultation on identifying priorities. Of course, behind these headlines there are a number of legal requirements about providing services as well as implementing change. These requirements could be about matters such as statutory processes, conducting the appropriate consultations or contractual matters. There are also requirements such as Equality Impact Assessments which will be relevant to the evaluating and deciding procedure for a number of options and these will be developed for this initial public consultation. As this process progresses it is essential that a watchful eye is kept on these requirements in order to ensure that any final decisions taken in the future are relevant and robust.

3. Prif Swyddog Cyllid / *Chief Finance Officer*:-

Er bu sawl datblygiad diweddar, cadarnhaf fod y bwlch ariannol i'w gau dros y cyfnod rhwng eleni a 2017/18 yn parhau i fod tua £33m, yn unol a'r strategaeth ariannol dderbyniodd y Cyngor ar y 5ed o Fawrth. Tra rydym yn dal ati gyda'r strategaeth arbedion effeithiolrwydd, ac yn uchafu'r swm gellid cynhaeafu o'r cynlluniau effeithiolrwydd a gynigwyd, mae'n anochel y bydd balans go sylweddol bydd raid sicrhau o dorri gwasanaethau. Felly, rwy'n cefnogi'r argymhellion gerbron ac yn cadarnhau'r angen i symud ymlaen heb unrhyw oedi. Cyflwynir sylwadau pellach ar y cynlluniau penodol, fel bo angen, ar lafar yng nghyfarfod y Cabinet.

Despite many recent developments, I can confirm that the financial gap to be closed over the period between this year and 2017/18 remains at about £33m, which is in line with the financial strategy the Council accepted on the 5th of March. Whilst

we're continuing with the efficiency savings strategy, and maximising the amount we can harvest from the efficiency plans offered, it is unavoidable that there will be a need to secure a significant balance from cutting services. Therefore, I support the recommendations set out and confirm the need to press ahead without delay. Further comments regarding specific plans will be given verbally during the Cabinet's meeting, as the need arises.

BARN YR AELOD LLEOL / *VIEWS OF THE LOCAL MEMBER*

Ddim yn fater lleol / *Not a local matter*.