

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

DATE OF DECISION 27 March 2020

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 30 March 2020

DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE and implemented,
unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of
the Gwynedd Council Constitution 6 April 2020

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of Gwynedd Council

SUBJECT
Regeneration Board's Programme

DECISION

To commit a sum of £38,500 from the Council's Transforming Fund to sustain capacity with the Supporting Communities Service during 2020/21 when the Regeneration Board's programme will be in development

REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED

Please see attached report

**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS
APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE**


None

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Consultation with
Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

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Name and title of Cabinet Member/s:	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn, Council Leader
Name and title of Report Author :	Llyr B. Jones, Assistant Head Economy and Community
Date of Decision :	27 March 2020
Signature of Cabinet Member/s :	

Subject : Regeneration Board's Programme

Recommendation for the Decision :

To commit a sum of £38,500 from the Council's Transforming Fund to sustain capacity with the Supporting Communities Service during 2020/21 when the Regeneration Board's programme will be in development.

The Reason for the need for the Decision

The decision is required to commit resources from the Council's Transforming Fund. The decision is made in accordance with part 5.6 of the Council's Constitution.

Reasoning and Justification for reaching the Decision

Based on its aspiration to take a transformative approach to community regeneration, the Cabinet has established a Regeneration Board. The Board is intended to enable a more coordinated approach in respect of the range of activities being delivered to regenerate our communities.

The term 'regeneration' is defined as intended activities that seek to improve areas in terms of economic, environment and social aspects – being those activities that bring a community closer to what we would like them to be.

It is clear that a number of Services across the Council contribute directly to regeneration work within our communities. Over the years, it probably the case that such activities have been delivered without considering how greater integration could be achieved.

In order to deliver the Regeneration Board's ambition, there is an intention to develop a new Regeneration Framework for the area's communities. Although preparation work for the proposed Framework has yet to be completed, the Regeneration Board

has identified the need to engage with local communities to consider local priorities, and to develop area plans.

The purpose of the Community Support Service is to support local organisations, including Community / Town Councils, voluntary groups or community entities to operate and make their communities a better place to live.

Since the establishment of the original local regeneration officer network in 1997, it is true to say that their role have evolved over the last 20 years. Initially, emphasis was to stimulate enterprise within communities and support new ventures. In 2001, arrangements were put in place to work with communities in 8 catchment areas across Gwynedd to prepare area regeneration plans.

As part of the Council's savings plan in 2012, it was decided to reduce the local regeneration officer network from 8 to 5. Also, more emphasis was given to targeting areas of need and the team was developed in conjunction with the Communities First Programme which was operational in Gwynedd until 2018. In addition, a further saving of £45,000 was implemented by removing one post and changing management arrangements within the Department.

Over the last 3 years, the Service has been more reactive to the needs of communities, which more emphasis on supporting communities to respond to change. The nature of the demand varies, with more and more emphasis on supporting communities to plan following changes in the delivery of Services by public bodies, and less project development as a planned programme for community regeneration. The Service also Works closely with Community Councils and the third sector, and in acts as the Council's main contact in many community.

At present, the Service's core resources include a manager and three community support officers, with offices in Dolgellau, Pwllheli, Penygroes and Bethesda. A temporary officer has also been appointed until the end of March 2020 in order to respond to staff changes and gaps in provision.

Securing the resources would enable the Service to extend the current arrangements for 12 months. In view of the Regeneration Board's intentions, it would not make sense to lose a Resource which we are very likely to need during the next few months. It would enable the Service to take a leading role in additional work of engaging with communities, and contribute to developing local plans across the county.

Any Consultations undertaken prior to recommending the Decision

Views of the Statutory Officers

Chief Finance Officer

"The Cabinet has established the Regeneration Board, which is intended to take a more co-ordinated approach to the range of activities we undertake to regenerate our communities, and this funding would maintain temporary capacity to that end. There are adequate resources in the Council's Transformation Fund to meet this request. However, there will be several deserving needs / uses competing for the limited resources from this fund and prioritising the relevant requests will be a matter for the Cabinet members".

Monitoring Officer

“As noted in the report the Leader is implementing decision making powers in accordance with paragraph 5.6 from Section 5 of the Constitution which provides executive functions for the Leader. I confirm this is in accordance with the Council’s Constitution”.