DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

DATE OF DECISION 24 May 2018

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 30 May 2018

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 25 May 2018 — 7 June 2018

CABINET MEMBER

Cllr. Gareth Thomas – Cabinet Member for Education

SUBJECT

Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn Overspend

DECISION

Provide an additionakl one-off financial allocation of £67,500 to Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn in the financial year 2018-19.

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 and Elected Members in Tywyn
The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET – OFFICER REPORT

Name and title of Cabinet Member/s:	Councillor Gareth Thomas Cabinet Member for Education
Name and title of Report Author :	Owen Owens Senior Manager Education Resources Service
Date of Decision :	24/5/2018
Signature of Cabinet Member/s :	

Subject :

Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn Overspend

Recommendation for the Decision :

Provide an additional one-off financial allocation of £67,500 to Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn in the financial year 2018-19.

Reason why Decision is needed :

When considering the financial deficit of the school, what I am anxious to avoid as far as possible is a situation whereby the school make staff redundant and keep these posts vacant for a specific period in order to create savings so as to eliminate the deficit and then re-appoint to those posts. That would cost the Council money (dismissal costs and early release of pension where appropriate are met by the Education Department) and would impact the quality of education pupils receive during the period in question.

For these reasons, I have decided to provide a one-off additional financial contribution of £67,500 that equates to avoiding having to dismiss the equivalent of one and a half experienced teachers for a year, subject to the school confirming that they will plan to set a balanced budget for the forthcoming years.

I am providing a sum higher than the school's published deficit on 31 March 2018 because the school has unavoidable financial commitments to the value £30,000

which have slipped from the 2017/18 financial year and which will now happen in 2018/19. (i.e. had this expenditure happened in 2017/18 the school's deficit on 31/3/2018 would have been -£79,034).

Reason and justification behind the Decision :

At the request of the Schools Finance Forum a detailed investigation into the financial deficit of Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn was undertaken by an independent expert, which led to presenting a report to the Forum held on 10 July 2017 (link below)

https://democracy.cyngor.gwynedd.gov.uk/documents/s500002944/Report%20on%20Ysgol%20Tywyn%20Budget%20and%20Financial%20Deficit.pdf

The expert highlighted several factors behind the financial deficit and confirmed that by 2017/19 the school would be in a position to be able to set a balanced budget yearly.

It would, however, be very difficult for the school to make any substantial contribution towards reducing the school's historical financial deficit without adversely affecting the quality of education of the pupils currently at the school.

The school receives an additional allocation under the minimum teacher numbers protection scheme which funds the minimum number of teachers required in a KS3/4 Secondary School to deliver a curriculum which meets the statutory requirements.

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For these reasons, I have decided to provide a one-off additional financial contribution of £67,500 that equates to avoiding having to dismiss the equivalent of one and a half experienced teachers for a year, subject to the school confirming that they will plan to set a balanced budget for the forthcoming years.

I am providing a sum higher than the published deficit on 31 March 2018 because the school has unavoidable financial commitments to the value £30,000 which have slipped from the 2017/18 financial year and which will now happen in 2018/19. (i.e. had this expenditure happened in 2017/18 the school's deficit on 31/3/2018 would have been -£79,034).

Money will be used from a specific Education Department reserves fund for Education issues which is funded by the policy adjustment to the additional staffing protection allocation for schools which was introduced from 2016/17 onwards, in which the protection allocation for a school is reduced by any balances element that exceeds 5% (using the total balances issued at the end of the latest financial year).

Balances History of Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn:

31/03/2012	£115,799
31/03/2013	£96,856
31/03/2014	£404
31/03/2015	-£17,943
31/03/2016	-£59,375
31/03/2017	-£116,177
31/03/2018	-£49,034

Declarations of personal interest by any Cabinet Member consulted with and any relevant dispensations approved by the Standards Committee

None.

Any consultations undertaken prior to making the decision :

Head of Finance –

"I confirm that there has been suitable consultation and consideration that the amount of the additional allocation is appropriate, and I support the decision in these exceptional circumstances. Further, I confirm that the Education Department has sufficient funds in a reserve to implement this additional allocation."

Monitoring Officer –

"No comments regarding propriety."

Local Member/s –

Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones: "Totally supportive of the recommendation."

Councillor Robert Dewi Owen: "Very good news for Ysgol Tywyn. Looking for and working to make cuts to the school budget has been a concern for some time."

Councillor Mike Stevens: "This is most welcome news. The Headteacher and her staff have worked very hard over the past year to balance things and with the potential extra pupil intake in the future it would be counterproductive to have to lose any staff because of this years' anomaly."