

## **DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET**

**DATE OF DECISION 23 October 2018**

**DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 23 October 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 **30 October 2018**

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Cabinet Member:Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of the Council

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**SUBJECT** North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Public Consultation

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### **DECISION**

To present, on behalf of Gwynedd Council, a response to a public consultation by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

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### **REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED**

Please see attached report

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

None

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

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| Name and title of Cabinet Member/s: | Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of Gwynedd Council                               |
| Name and title of Report Author :   | Vera Jones, Democratic Services Manager  |
| Date of Decision :                  | 23/10/18   |
| Signature of Cabinet Member/s :     |  |

**Subject : North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Public Consultation**

**Recommendation for the Decision :**

To present the following, on behalf of Gwynedd Council, as a response to a public consultation by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

**Reason why Decision is needed :**

The need to submit the response of Gwynedd Council to the consultation by the closing date of 2 November, 2018.

**Reason and justification behind the Decision :**

The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is holding a public consultation in order to seek opinion for financing the fire and rescue services in 2019/20. Representatives of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service were given an opportunity to explain the Public Consultation at the Full Council meeting on 4 October. The focus was on the Financial challenge, and obviously any risk to the lives of Gwynedd people would be a priority.

It is noted that the Fire Authority is consulting on increasing the levy by 6% by 2019/20, while Welsh Government's grant settlement to Councils by 2019/20 is a severe cut, a cut of -0.8% for Gwynedd, not an increase.

Gwynedd Council will have high levels of inflation and demands for additional resources to ensure the obligate continuation of services and the Council will have to realise savings in order to afford this.

During this time local authorities in north Wales have had to cut budgets, reduce services and reduce staffing numbers to realise savings in every field while there is little evidence that the Fire Service will implement such plans to save costs.

It must be borne in mind that increasing the Fire levy by 2019/20 means that the Council itself will have to find more savings by 2019/20. Gwynedd's contribution to increasing the Fire Authority's levy by 6% would be £335,147 (equivalent to 0.5% on Council Tax).

Gwynedd Council is continually challenging all its services in detail, searching for further efficiency savings and trying to deliver services in a different way with the focus on being as effective as possible. We encourage North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to look more closely at working more efficiently and efficiently, by considering different options that can lead to cost reduction for providing services. We understand that considerations regarding site rationalization are ongoing and we are urging the Fire and Rescue Authority to look at every possible opportunity.

**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 have worked with the Council Leader to prepare this report and confirm its contents

Monitoring Officer – No observations from a propriety perspective