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# Deep cuts to minimum, 'youth committee chair

clubs across the region are still reeling from the threat after a series of issues voted for consultation.

The council said its youth service is being forced to act in a number of ways, including falling youth service figures, a reduction in dance figures, a reduction in government and financial provision.

There was a meeting on potential cuts met with a petition and a petition launched late last year on the island. The executive has agreed a second round of consultations and a decision can be made in its autumn.

Under consideration are a reduced number of part-time youth workers, a reduction in each school and the provision of voluntary youth workers, but not the youth service.

At a meeting on Tuesday, Cllr Alled Jones said: "The youth service is important to prepare

young people for the world, and so they can communicate and socialise in a safe environment.

"This is what the clubs provide. We must accept that a provision of a youth service is paramount, but we must adapt it to the circumstances we find ourselves in."

The council's partnership with the executive would urge the executive to attempt to keep any cuts to a minimum.

As part of the proposals, there could be an extra focus on opportunities for young people to gain accreditation like the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and engagement with young people who are not in education, training or employment is also proposed.

Anglesey Council's principal youth officer Enid Williams said: "Despite having one of the largest networks of small rural clubs in Wales, the island has seen a significant drop in the number of young people attending youth clubs in recent years."

A final decision will be made after the second round of consultations this year and will be implemented by 2018.

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# Cut continues to be of concern to city's university

BANGOR University remains concerned about funding despite a Welsh Government u-turn over threats to slash higher education budgets.

The Welsh Government was considering a £41 million cut to the Higher Education Funding Council Wales, which would have meant a smaller grant for Bangor University.

But speaking in the Senedd on Tuesday, Funding Minister Jane Hutt said most of the proposed cuts would be reversed with the HEFCM now expected to find £11 million of savings with an extra £10m from the government to support part-time courses and research.

A Bangor University spokesperson said: "Although the announcement today is an improvement on the initial proposal, the cut outlined continues to be of concern to the university."

"We remain seriously concerned about the situation relating to the tuition fee policy and look forward to discussing improvements to this policy following the publication of the Diamond review, which is expected to be published after the Assembly election in May."

North Wales AM Aled Roberts said: "The planned cuts to university funding would have forced our universities to choose between funding for part-time provision, high cost subjects and quality research."

Higher education is a devolved area with most decisions taken by the Welsh Government.

The HEFCW is responsible for distributing funds from the government to the universities and act as an intermediary between them.

Bangor warned the initial proposed cuts, which amounted to about a third of the HEFCW's budget, would have had "very serious consequences" for universities in Wales.

Bangor University employs about 2,400 people, with 10,000 students living in the city.

Gwynedd councillor Sian Gwennllian said: "The cut will now be much smaller than originally anticipated. However, the original inclusion of such a huge cut to university budgets without any job impact assessments by the Labour government is very worrying for the future."

"It shows a lack of understanding of the importance of universities such as Bangor to the local economy."

## Getting themselves set for the Chinese New Year



RIGHT: Ysgol Hirael pupil Daniella Owen-Lyth, aged 9.

ABOVE: Ysgol Hirael pupils prepare some music for the parade.

SOME of Bangor's most creative schoolchildren helped prepare for this weekend's Chinese New Year celebrations in the city.

Bangor University's Confucius Institute lead the annual celebrations with a parade from Ysgol Hirael on Orme Road to Bangor Town Clock at 11.15am on Saturday.

Ysgol Hirael pupils were on hand to help preparations on Tuesday as representatives from the Confucius Institute lead a prop-making workshop.

They created decorations for the parade and prepared music to accompany the celebrations in Bangor City Centre.

The parade will feature an adaptation from Chinese legend, with two dragons, one Welsh and one Chinese, winding their way through the streets of Bangor to the sound of drums.