

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

MEETING	Council
DATE	4 October 2012
TITLE	Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2011/12
PURPOSE	To approve the document as a balanced, fair and accurate reflection of the Council's performance during 2011/12, and to adopt it.
AUTHOR	Geraint George, Head of Strategic and Improvement
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Dyfed Edwards, Council Leader
RECOMMENDATION	To adopt the report

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement and to account for it. We have been addressing this through the publication of the Three Year Plan (2011-14), however, in accordance with the advent of the new Council in May 2012, it was decided that the Strategic Plan would take the place of the Three Year Plan. We address the requirement to account for performance through our annual performance report, and the Gwynedd Council 2011/12 performance report is submitted here.
- 1.2 The process of accountability for performance takes place in two stages:
- Stage1 - The requirement for authorities to publish their plans for improvement, and to include a set of improvement objectives (our Strategic Plan).
- Stage 2 - The requirement for authorities to publish an assessment of performance relating to their plans and improvement objectives (Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2011/12).
- 1.3 Authorities are required to publish an assessment of their performance during a financial year by 31 October of the following year.

- 1.4 In accordance with the requirements, the Council needs to ensure that the content of the report provides a balanced, fair and accurate reflection of the Council's performance.

2.0 THE CONTENT

- 2.1 The report provides details on Council performance against its improvement objectives, and all improvements and indicators within the first year of the Three year Plan 2011-14 (the predecessor of the Strategic Plan). The report therefore encompasses 2011/12 performance.

- 2.2 The report also summarises the performance of the Council against the Council's commitments through narrative on the background to the performance, 'The Story behind the Performance' during 2011/12. This relates to the outcomes which were in the Three Year Plan. These are the Council's 'improvement objectives', referred to in paragraph 1.2 above.

- 2.3 In addition, there is a detailed assessment for each improvement, including an explanation of the actions to be taken where there have been slippages at the end of 2011/12. In order to ensure that the Council is accountable for its performance, and that it publishes a balanced assessment of its achievement, it was decided to assess progress against the following criteria:

Green – Improvements which have achieved the outcome for the year/Indicators which have met the cumulative target for the year.

Amber – Improvements which have achieved or which have made acceptable progress towards achieving the outcome for the year/Performance of indicators within the tolerance.

Red – Improvements which have not met the outcome of the year by the end of April 2012/Indicators that have not met the cumulative target for the year.

- 2.4 In its Annual Improvement Report on Gwynedd Council (February 2012), the Wales Audit Office proposed that the Council should include a more balanced analysis in its summary of its self-assessment.
- 2.5 The report received attention in the meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 2 October 2012.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council is asked to:
 - a) Approve the document as a balanced, fair and accurate reflection of the Council's performance against its improvements and indicators during 2011/12, and to adopt it.
 - b) To authorise the Head of Strategic and Improvement to make any amendments, additions or editorial changes to ensure its accuracy before publishing the report.