

Complete Agenda

CABINET

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

DATE	Tuesday, 19th December, 2023
TIME	1.00 pm
LOCATION	Hybrid - Siambr Dafydd Orwig, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor, Caernarfon LL55 1SH
CONTACT POINT	Rhodri Jones 01286 679256 / cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

Members	
Dyfrig Siencyn	Leader of the Council
Nia Wyn Jeffreys	Deputy Leader
Craig ab Iago	Cabinet Member for Housing
Beca Brown	Cabinet Member for Education
Berwyn Parry Jones	Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC
Dafydd Meurig	Cabinet Member for Environment
Dilwyn Morgan	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Elin Walker Jones	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Ioan Thomas	Cabinet Member for Finance
Menna Trenholme	Cabinet Member for Corporate Support

AGENDA

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THE CABINET TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Present -

Councillors: Dyfrig Siencyn, Nia Jeffreys, Beca Brown, Berwyn Parry Jones, Dafydd Meurig, Elin Walker Jones, Dilwyn Morgan, Ioan Thomas and Menna Trenholme.

Also present -

Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Huw Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services), Geraint Owen (Corporate Director), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services), Dewi Aeron Morgan (Head of Finance Department) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

- Item 6: Eurig Huw Williams (Human Resources Advisory Services Manager) and Delyth Gadlys Williams (Equality Advisor).
- Item 8: Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Supporting Families Department).
- Item 9: Debbie Anne Jones (Assistant Head of Education Department: Corporate Services) and Gwyn Tudur (Assistant Head of Education Department: Secondary).
- Item 10: Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Supporting Families Department).
- Item 11: Alun Gwilym Williams (Senior Business Manager, Adults, Health and Well-being Department).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Craig ab Iago.

The Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Elin Walker Jones for Item 9 as she was a governor at Ysgol Tryfan. She was not of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and she did not leave the meeting during the discussion on the item.

Declarations of personal interest were received from Councillors Beca Brown and Berwyn Parry Jones for Item 9 as they were governors at Ysgol Brynrefail. They were not of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and did not leave the meeting during the discussion on the item.

The Chief Executive declared a personal interest for Item 9 as he had a family connection who was a student in one of the schools being discussed. He was not of the

opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and did not leave the meeting during the discussion on the item.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2023 were accepted as a true record.

6. EQUALITY OBJECTIVES CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 2024-28

The report was submitted by Cllr Menna Trenholme.

DECISION

It was agreed to release the consultation document on the Equality Objectives 2024-28 for public consultation in accordance with the report.

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that this document was presented to the Cabinet every four years, in accordance with statutory requirements to review equality objectives under the Equality Act 2010. It was confirmed that engagement with the public had been carried out between April and August 2023 where approximately 600 responses to a questionnaire were received. It was explained that the purpose of the consultation was to confirm whether the public believed that the objectives used between 2024-28 needed to continue for 2024-28 or whether they needed to be amended.

It was noted that officers had been visiting several groups and events to ensure that this consultation included the voice of the young, people from the LGBT+ community and disabled people. It was explained that officers had held discussions with managers within the areas that had arisen, in order to receive help to prepare the objectives. The information received from respondents with life experience of protected characteristics was used to create the draft revised objectives.

It was reported that data gathered by the Council's research and information team was used for a document commissioned by the North Wales Public Sector Equality Network to ensure an understanding of the information on a local scale. It was confirmed that consideration had been given to the Government's operational duties in the areas of Anti-racism and LGBT+ when drawing up draft objectives.

It was emphasised that draft objectives had been set out in the document and that these may be amended following further consultation with the public. It was assured that the Equality Impact Assessment submitted with the document was a draft version, and that it would be amended as necessary when further feedback had been obtained.

It was confirmed that the four draft objectives before further consultation were:

1. Improving the diversity of our workforce and reducing pay gaps
2. Improving our data about people with equality characteristics
3. Ensuring that the Council is an anti-discriminatory organisation, by improving our internal systems to provide better services for all
4. Improving equality within education

The officers were thanked for drawing up honed objectives by combining some previous objectives. It was noted that this enabled consideration of equality within the field of education as a new objective. This was felt to be crucial as it corresponded with the Curriculum for Wales and relationships and sexuality education.

It was highlighted that the capacity and commitment of the Council's staff and elected members in the field of equality, as well as relevant training, had not been included in this document, although it was an objective in the past. The Equality Advisor was assured that training was a point of action under a pledge to make the Council anti-discriminatory. It was emphasised that a lot of work had already been carried out in this field and therefore it had been included as a point of action rather than an objective. It was noted that this would be highlighted in the document.

It was reported that Welsh language issues had not been identified as an objective within the document. This, it was confirmed, was because the language was not a race issue as it was possible for anyone to learn it. It was emphasised, however, that the language was an issue that affected equality and was protected under the Welsh Language Act 1993. It was noted that promoting the importance of the language within the Council had been identified as a point of action within the document.

It was explained that socio-economic issues were not identified as a cohort that had been consulted so far when drawing up objectives. The Equality Advisor confirmed that a socio-economic duty had been adopted in Wales since 2021 and was therefore an important consideration when drawing up objectives. Assurance was given that there would be a specific question within the next consultation about socio-economic issues. It was explained that there was a close relationship between equality and socio-economic issues and that it was a very important consideration.

It was explained that the 2024-28 Equality Plan would be drawn up with the final objectives following this consultation and it would be presented to the Cabinet when timely.

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD 2022/2023

The report was submitted by Cllr Dilwyn Morgan.

DECISION

To note the work and progress made in 2022/23 in the areas of work that are brought forward regionally through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that the submission of this annual report was a statutory requirement under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. It was elaborated that establishing and maintaining the Board was a requirement within Section 9 of that act, as was the need to promote cooperation with the Board's partners.

It was explained that the board was run by the Regional Collaboration Team and hosted by Denbighshire County Council. Mary Wimbury, Chief Executive of Care Forum Wales was thanked for her work in chairing the Board.

Members were guided through the report and the following main points were briefly highlighted:

- It was confirmed that the board's role was to collaborate to ensure the health and well-being of people of all ages in north Wales.
- A diagram of all the Board's sub-boards was provided which ensured that the Board's role was fulfilled.
- It was noted that the 'Area Plan' was available on the North Wales Collaborative's website which indicated the challenges and priorities within the Board's areas, including Gwynedd.
- Reference was made to the board's two new regional capital funds which provided money to hugely important projects across the region. It was confirmed that these funds were the 'Housing with Care Fund' and the 'Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund'.
- Several projects within the children and young people field such as learning disabilities, mental health, early years and the 'No Wrong Door' project were reported on.
- It was explained that the board did receive money from the Regional Integration Fund established by the Government in April 2022. It was stated that this was a Fund for a period of five years.
- Information was provided about the Membership of the Board, which included representatives from the public sector, health, service users and the third sector.
- Reference was made to the Board's Annual Delivery Plan to provide information about the Board's work in the future.

It was agreed to provide Cabinet Members with a further presentation on the work of the Board.

It was recognised that there was no clear and unambiguous governance structure for work relating to children and young people. It was confirmed that the terms of reference were currently being reviewed and the Children and Young People Sub-board was prioritising this work. It was expanded that elected members were not part of the sub-board and therefore it was confirmed that the Statutory Director had contacted the Government to consider adapting membership.

It was confirmed that the Board's complicated governance structure had been provided by the Government. Despite this, it was confirmed that the Board's work was very successful as it focused on the voice of the services' users to motivate the work.

The Board and all officers were thanked for their work.

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE PARENT PANEL 2022-2023

The report was submitted by Cllr Elin Walker Jones

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report which reports on the work of the Corporate Parent Panel for the year 2022-23.

DISCUSSION

Cyngor Gwynedd and its partners have a clear responsibility to be a Corporate Parent for every child in the Council's care, and specifically to ensure effective, stable, safe and suitable care for looked after children and young people, including those who are leaving care. Section 3.1 of the forward programme was corrected to reiterate this and it was noted that the Report reported on the work that had been completed to ensure that the Council undertook this responsibility.

It was confirmed that Cyngor Gwynedd took this responsibility very seriously and it was explained that the Chief Executive was the Chair of the Corporate Parent Panel. Attention was drawn to the fact that this report detailed the work carried out between April 2022 and March 2023 and noted current information about the numbers of looked after children and the support given to those children as well as outlining the intention for the future.

It was reported that 25% of the children who came into care during the year 2022-23 were Asylum Seekers through the Home Office Transfer Scheme, as the Council accepted 15 children through the scheme.

Concern was expressed about the Home Office Transfer Scheme as the child was not placed at the centre of their processes. It was explained that there were no discussions in advance to meet the needs of the child, to assess whether Gwynedd was a suitable location for their needs. It was recognised that it was very challenging to find a suitable location for the children as they did not want to stay in Gwynedd very often, and longed to be in the big cities. It was explained that individuals over the age of 16 could be looked after in a supported accommodation setting, but if the children were under 16 they had to have a foster placement. It was updated that the Home Office expected local authorities to place the children within five working days of receiving the referral. It was emphasised that this was not possible and as a result, in one case, the child had to be placed in Kent while officers found a more suitable placement, local to Gwynedd. It was reported that these problems which arose as part of the Transfer Scheme occurred throughout Wales.

The numbers of Asylum Seekers in each county in the north were confirmed (in accordance with information received in summer 2023, for a period of eight cycles) as follows:

- Wrexham County Borough Council - 2 children
- Conwy County Borough Council - 3 children
- Isle of Anglesey County Council - 4 children
- Denbighshire County Council - 7 children
- Cyngor Gwynedd - 9 children

- Flintshire County Council - 11 children

This was compared with other locations in Wales such as Carmarthenshire (12 children), Newport (1 child), Swansea (3 children) and Cardiff (1 child).

It was detailed that 26 Asylum Seekers had been in the Council's care for a period of two and a half years and that six additional children were expected before April 2024. It was explained that the children were in the Council's care once a referral was made by the Home Office. It was explained that the Council's responsibility was identical to the responsibilities for any child from Gwynedd in our care. It was confirmed that the team's capacity had recently increased to deal with the additional challenges that derived from receiving more applications.

Attention was drawn to the importance of foster parents. Members were reminded that a session had been held at the Llŷn ac Eifionydd National Eisteddfod this year by foster parents, where they discussed the challenges and satisfaction of being foster parents. Pride was expressed in the support the foster parents gave to each other and to the Council.

It was explained that the Council had a statutory responsibility following the Children Act 1989 and 2004 to keep families together where it was safe and appropriate to do so. It was explained that the Council received court orders to remove children from the homes if there was a risk to them in the home. It was reported that there was a requirement for the Council to ask if the parents had individuals within their families who could be assessed in order to keep the children within the family. It was emphasised that this was dependent on the child's age and understanding as well as on an assessment of the adults nominated. It was confirmed that the nominated individuals were registered as foster parents if suitable and were supervised by the Council in any way, even if they were outside Gwynedd.

It was reported that foster placements were not always suitable and therefore the Council provided a residential placement. It was ensured that these locations were supervised on a monthly basis. It was noted that officers went beyond the statutory requirement to ensure contact with those children. It was emphasised that Council officers went to see children in residential settings as they came from Gwynedd. It was explained that this allowed officers to share information and teaching resources in Welsh with the children as well as communicate with the children in their first language.

Many thanks were given to all foster parents in the county and to the officers who supported them.

Reference was made to several other aspects that were a part of the Panel's work such as a 'Stable Home', 'Good health', 'Good education' and 'raising awareness'. It was explained that contributions were provided cross-departmentally to support the Panel's work.

It was confirmed that the Panel's priorities for the year to come included the 'Small Group Homes' scheme which formed part of the Council's Plan 2023-28, which sought to place all looked after children from Gwynedd within Gwynedd.

Thanks were expressed to all the officers of the Department who worked hard to look after all the children in the Council's care.

9. ARFON POST-16 EDUCATION

The report was submitted by Cllr Beca Brown.

DECISION

1. **To approve Option 2 for the project on Post-16 Education in Arfon.**
2. **The Cabinet approved the Head of Education Department to hold discussions on revising the memorandum of understanding with the stakeholders who make up the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Post-16 Education Consortium with the aim of strengthening the arrangements and to report back to the Cabinet with recommendations for the agreed amendments.**
3. **The Cabinet gave its permission to redirect part of the Arfon Post-16 Education project's budget in accordance with the report, to address the financial deficit in Band B projects that cannot be progressed at present due to the insufficient budget for them as a result of increased costs.**

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that the Cabinet had permitted the commencement of an engagement process with key stakeholders to consider the current post-16 provision, and highlight the key considerations in order to identify the direction and opportunities to strengthen the provision in Arfon, at a meeting held in March 2020. It was detailed that two working groups had been held with learners, parents, teaching staff and governors to give them the opportunity to voice their opinions and ask any questions.

It was reported that the main messages gained from this engagement process were that:

- The main priority was the quality of education.
- ICT should be used to reiterate and support the face-to-face learning.
- Welsh and bilingual education was of integral importance (despite some comments to the contrary).
- The capital funding should be used to improve the facilities of our secondary schools in general so that all 11-18 year-old learners could benefit from the investment.
- There was general objection to any proposal to centralise the provision or have a tertiary provision.
- Many comments were received regarding the Grŵp Llandrillo Menai provision in terms of quality, medium and pastoral care.

It was acknowledged that the case for change was not as strong today as it was back in 2020. It was considered that the aspirations and needs of young people had changed as a result of the pandemic and that the Council had learned lessons about the importance of technology in education. It was noted that strong comments had come from headteachers that it was necessary to look at secondary education as a whole, rather than focusing on post-16 education only. It was reported that some other counties

dealt with post-16 education as part of the secondary system, but Gwynedd chose not to do so because of strengths and positive inspections about the current arrangements.

It was acknowledged that investment in secondary schools had been lower than in primary schools. The intention to invest in secondary schools in the county was welcomed as it was sorely needed. The Assistant Head of Education Department: Corporate Services emphasised that investment in secondary schools had been less significant than for the primary sector because that sector had a significantly higher number of schools than the secondary sector. However, it was ensured that the secondary sector was addressed by the department and reference was made to a number of projects in the pipeline to assist in this.

Concern was shared about the challenges of attracting staff to teach key subjects, together with the low numbers of pupils studying some specialist subjects. In response to an enquiry, the Assistant Head of Education: Secondary confirmed that not all A Level subjects were taught in all schools at present. Despite this, it was hoped that the Gwynedd and Anglesey Education Consortium would adapt to meet the needs of pupils, such as offering hybrid courses where there was an element of face-to-face teaching and elements of remote learning.

It was explained that there were two options for the future of the project based on findings following a period of engagement with stakeholders. These options were confirmed as:

1. Investing in the existing Post-16 Education System
2. Re-directing the Arfon Post-16 Education Budget

It was reported that the Department felt that Option 2 above was the way forward since it was a means to address the actual needs of Ysgol Hirael, Ysgol Tryfan and Ysgol Brynrefail, and made a genuine difference to the learning environment and learner experiences at these schools.

10. PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The report was submitted by Cllr Elin Walker Jones

DECISION

The information in the report was accepted and noted.

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that the department put the people of Gwynedd at the centre of its services and that its success in doing this was measured through regular Performance Challenge meetings.

It was reported that the department was leading on two of the Council's Plan projects. It was stated that one of these was the 'Small Group Homes Scheme'. It was explained that the department developed registered residential homes for small groups of up to two children which would allow them to receive care in Gwynedd, attend local schools,

and participate fully in the life of their communities. It was confirmed that property visits had taken place in order to move the project forward and a house had been considered. It was stated that a plot of land in another area of Gwynedd was being considered for building a house for the purposes of this scheme. It was explained that a project group would be established in 2024 which would include officers from the Children, Housing and Property, Education departments and the Health Service to oversee the scheme. It was ensured that an additional £50,000 had been allocated to the project recently from the RIF fund underspend.

It was reported that the second Council Plan project led by the Department was the 'Autism Plan'. It was explained that autistic children, young people and adults faced challenges in receiving the necessary specialist support. A commitment was made to improving the service, making it easier for individuals to receive services. It was confirmed that a forum had been set up to look at the referrals that reach the Council. Information was provided about the launch of the Service at this year's National Eisteddfod which had been very successful. It was reported that many Council staff had now been given the opportunity to board the Autism Reality Experience Bus which gave a similar experience to how an individual with Autism sees the world around them. It was explained that Cyngor Gwynedd staff were required to complete level 1 and 2 Autism training. Assurance was given that the department worked closely with the Neurodevelopmental Team and Derwen Team on the plan.

It was acknowledged that the department's workforce situation remained a matter of serious concern. Despite this, it was confirmed that the department was making efforts to stabilise the situation for the future through collaboration with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and visits to Health and Care students to inform them of the employment opportunities available.

It was confirmed that the department continued to see profound and complex matters coming to the Council's attention and that the number of open cases was increasing. It was stated that the numbers of cases open to the Post-16 Team were at their highest ever, with 210 cases being dealt with. It was considered that this went hand in hand with an increase in homelessness contributions and therefore the department was working with the Homelessness Team to try to find suitable accommodation. It was acknowledged that this was an immense challenge.

It was noted that the effects of the pandemic, the costs crisis and stress led to higher numbers of people contacting the department for information and support. It was explained that 1,894 people came into contact with the department between July and September 2023, which was a significantly higher figure than was witnessed prior to the pandemic.

It was emphasised that this department was a part of the 'Maethu Cymru' national campaign to attract people to consider fostering. It was noted that the campaign had been very active over the summer by attending several events including the Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod where a 'Friendly Employer Panel' and a 'From the heart' conversation were held on the topic. It was elaborated that a number of businesses had been very supportive by displaying banners and posters. It was confirmed that the Care Friends app had been launched in September which rewarded foster carers when they shared information about fostering with their contacts and encouraged them along their journey to be foster carers. It was explained that every

time users referred someone to the department, they would collect points which could be converted into cash to help them with everyday costs.

It was confirmed that the department had realised its total Savings Plans of £44,010 for the year 2023-24. It was expanded that the Department had received £130,000 as a one-off bid towards continuing to employ three social care practitioners. It was explained that a bid had been completed to make the position permanent for 2024-25 and it was hoped to hear the outcome of that bid in January 2024.

11. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The report was submitted by Cllr Dilwyn Morgan.

DECISION

The information in the report was accepted and noted.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that it provided an update on the department's work, outlining what had happened against the Council Plan's pledges, reporting on the department's performance and the financial situation.

It was confirmed that a planning application for Dolfeurig had been accepted by the National Park, as part of the Local Preventative Support project which was part of the Council's Plan. It was detailed that it was hoped to start construction work on the site during the summer 2024 following a design and contracting process.

Assurance was given that significant work was underway to improve accessibility to information and to events across the county through pages on the Council's website which were constantly reviewed.

The 'Independent Living' project which was also part of the Council's Plan was detailed, confirming that Extra Care Light Housing in Pwllheli opened on 27 November. Pride was expressed that similar projects were in the pipeline in the areas of Groeslon, Nefyn, Tywyn, Penrhyndeudraeth and beyond. Assurance was given that the department was working to identify suitable individuals to use the site. Concern was expressed at the lack of development on the work of identifying a similar site in Dolgellau. It was explained that settings were assessed according to the needs of the individuals and that difficulties had arisen when trying to find a central location for the site, but that this was a priority for the Department. It was emphasised that the Cabinet Member would be requesting an update at the department's next performance challenge meeting.

It was emphasised that the department was preparing for a digital transformation by 2025, looking at new technology while also taking into account the use of digital resources for users in rural areas. It was acknowledged that this work was new and constantly changing. Likewise, it was confirmed that the Department was focusing on direct payment models as this service would soon be transferred to new providers.

It was reported that waiting lists to receive an occupational therapy assessment had increased at an alarming rate, forcing the department to prioritise on the basis of risk. Reference was made to another challenge facing the department, namely domiciliary care hours that were not met. It was noted that this percentage had recently increased from 12.1% to 14%. This meant that 154 new individuals were awaiting domiciliary care by the end of September 2023, compared to 137 at the end of May 2023.

Attention was drawn to the alarming numbers of referrals reaching the Mental Health Team. It was confirmed that the department received between 450 and 500 in recent months. It was recognised that this raised concerns about the department's capacity to deal with the demand for support, but there was pride in the fact that 40% of these applications had received a care package provided for them.

Reference was made to safeguarding issues, confirming that the department had succeeded to manage the risk in 100% of recent referrals. There was concern, however, that 306 individuals were awaiting a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) assessment at the end of September 2023. It was explained that this problem appeared in a large number of local authorities.

The Department's financial situation was discussed, as it was anticipated that the department had overspent by approximately £6.5 million on the 2023-24 budget. It was explained that this derived from the pressure on the department and that officers were fully aware of it, and the impact this overspend was having on other Council departments. It was confirmed that the Cabinet Member had requested more information from the department on overspending in the fields of Domiciliary Care, Residential and Nursing Settings and the Learning Disabilities Service.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.00 pm.

CHAIR

CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of item:	Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Cricieth PSPO
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Dilwyn Morgan
Relevant Officer:	Daron Marged Owens – Senior Operational Officer Community Safety Partnership
Date of meeting:	19/12/2023

1. Decision Sought:

(a) To approve the consideration of introducing a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for specific areas in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Cricieth in accordance with the draft Proposed Order attached in appendix 1

(b) Authorize the Head of the Adult, Health and Well-being Service to undertake a consultation process for a period of 28 days, returning to the Cabinet for a decision on whether to introduce a PSPO in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Cricieth

2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision:

The making of a PSPO is a function held solely by Local Authorities. In accordance with the Constitution of the Local Authority, the making of such an order is an executive function, the responsibility for which lies with the Cabinet.

3. Introduction and Rationale

3.1 Background / Introduction

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides the powers for Local Authorities to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to deal with particular nuisance(s) or problem(s) in a specific area. The Police contacted the Senior Community Safety Operational Officer to request a PSPO in response to the new and increasing types of anti-social behaviour in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Cricieth.

3.2 The reasoning and justification for recommending the decision

Before making such an order, the Local Authority must be satisfied -

- That there are reasonable grounds for believing that these behaviours in a public space have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental impact on the quality of life of people in the neighbourhood.
- That these activities are, or are likely to be frequent and persistent in nature.
- That these activities are, or are likely to be unreasonable.

- That they justify the restrictions outlined.

In addition, before making an order, the Local Authority must consult with the Police and the wider community. These matters have already been discussed at length with the Police, Local Members and Caernarfon, Cricieth and Pwllheli Town Councils. All are in favour of introducing an Order in their respective areas. In addition, we have received observations from Arfon and Dwyfor Meirionnydd MPs noting their support.

The orders work by allowing behaviours to be challenged and to give the individual an opportunity to cease the activity. If this is not possible, Home Office guidance suggests the action of issuing a fixed penalty notice to the individual. However, the Police have suggested a different approach to these Orders. The Police's proposal is an enforcement model that does not use fixed penalty notices, but rather, uses a model that depends on escalating responses based on the individual's behaviour. That is, a challenge in the first instance, a report for a summons if required, and arrest in specific circumstances (see the flow chart attached in appendix 3). Such orders can last for up to three years and can be extended if necessary.

Evidence - to support the required grounds for the Local Authority to make such an order

Following an initial discussion, the Police presented evidence of the types of behaviours witnessed consistently in areas in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Cricieth. The Police reported as follows:-

Caernarfon

During the period 01/04/2021 – 31/07/2023, 213 cases of anti-social behaviour were reported within the proposed PSPO area. 112 had been recorded during the last 12 months of this period. The highest number of incidents were in August 2022. The locations with the highest numbers were Penllyn, Pool Street, Pool Hill and Castle Square. Anti-social behaviour is at its worst on Mondays and Thursdays between 4pm and 9pm.

Cricieth

During the period 01/04/2021 – 31/07/2023, 97 cases of anti-social behaviour were reported within Cricieth ward. 41 incidents were recorded during the last 12 months of this period. The highest number of incidents were recorded in April 2022 and February 2023. The locations with the highest numbers were the Esplanade, Hen Bont Road, Stad Waen Helyg and Castle Street. Anti-social behaviour is at its worst on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 4pm and 10pm.

Pwllheli

During the period 01/04/2021 – 31/07/2023, 494 cases of anti-social behaviour were reported within the proposed PSPO area. 139 incidents were recorded during the last 12 months of this period. The highest number of incidents were recorded in February and May 2023. The locations with the highest numbers were Sand Street,

High Street and Abererch Road. Anti-social behaviour is at its worst on Fridays between 10-11pm, 1-2pm and 5-9pm.

The Police have also provided impact assessments from their officers and businesses in these areas. This information highlights the types of incidents that were witnessed, and how these incidents have a detrimental impact on people's daily lives and work.

In **Caernarfon**, one business describes large groups of young people gathering, wearing balaclavas and hoods, causing alarm and showing total disregard for the public. The cleaner in a nearby location has written that young people are causing damage and that the rubbish left includes empty clear snap bags and nitrous oxide cans. It is said that some of these young people are as young as 13 years old. Another nearby business notes that the groups can include as many as 50 young people, and they have been seen shouting insults at passers-by. This business writes that customers have noted that they had been forced to pass by instead of entering, as the entrance was full of young people.

Another issue involves a group of adults loitering in a drunken state in the area. One business has described them sitting on benches outside their site, drinking alcohol all day. This group's behaviour was uncontrollable, shouting and swearing. Their presence prevents members of the public from sitting on the nearby benches. This was echoed by another business, who reported seeing these adults arriving as early as 9am. They also note the alarm that is caused, that has led to customers saying that they have considered not entering the business and returning at another time to avoid walking near them. Empty bottles and cans of alcohol are left outside the building and used needles have also been found here.

In **Cricieth** there are descriptions of large gangs of young people travelling from further afield. The incidents include under-age drinking, threatening behaviour, throwing bottles and trespassing on private property. This behaviour has a huge impact on local residents and hospitality businesses. The information provided notes that as many as 100 young people congregate in this area at times. It is understood that this is a continual problem, which has been occurring for at least ten years, and has worsened over the past two years.

In **Pwllheli**, the information provided relates to the use of alcohol and drugs, which has a detrimental impact on the town and its community. Recent incidents in the bus stop have included drunk individuals being verbally abusive, unconscious, exposing themselves, violence and fighting, and members of the public nearby being injured. People are said to avoid entering the bus shelters, preferring to stand in the rain. The shelters are often full of litter including empty alcohol cans and bottles. These incidents have happened during the daytime, often when there are elderly people using public transport nearby. Businesses in the area have described how they have had to clean vomit and urine from outside their businesses. There are also grave

concerns about the number of bottles and cans being thrown, that could cause injuries and damage cars.

Other options should be considered for implementation before introducing PSPOs. We have received comprehensive information of the various interventions previously used by the Police to deal with these problems. We are satisfied that the Police have already used all the methods available to them to address these behaviours. The evidence suggests that there are sufficient grounds to conclude that there is justification for considering such an order.

The purpose of the 2014 Act was to reduce anti-social behaviour in local areas. When an order is being considered, it is possible that problems could move to other areas, and we acknowledge this. Orders are intended to deal with a specific problem in a specific area that is having a detrimental impact on the quality of life. The proposed PSPO areas (Attachment 2) have been noted due to the impact of the behaviour on the community, businesses and visitors.

The restrictions under consideration have been specifically developed to deal with the types of behaviour that cause the most serious problems (as noted above), which therefore justifies their inclusion. We consider that the following restrictions are appropriate, namely:

1. A person shall not follow a course of conduct which causes, or which can reasonably be perceived to cause harassment, alarm, nuisance or distress.
2. A person shall not consume alcohol, or anything which an Authorised Person reasonably believes to be alcohol or a container holding alcohol, if the Authorised Person asks the person to stop drinking or to surrender the alcohol or container.
3. A person shall not loiter in a state of intoxication through consumption of alcohol or drugs. If an Authorised Person asks a person to leave the area in circumstances where the person has contravened this restriction, the person shall leave immediately.

The Local Authority Officers have received assurance that the Police will be proactive in their enforcement. The Police will be asked to operate at short notice if the problems move to neighbouring areas, especially residential areas, using other suitable enforcement actions in mitigation. They have also agreed to monitor anti-social behaviour patterns and report regularly. The Town Councils have agreed in principle to contribute to the signage that will be required if the Orders come into force. The Community Safety budget will address the costs of the remaining signage.

In accordance with the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to the process to date. The assessment will be updated following a statutory consultation and before returning

to the Cabinet for a final decision. To date, the assessment has not shown any reason not to proceed with the process (Appendix 4).

In accordance with the recommendations of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, this development has considered the principles of the legislation, and specifically the concept of the five ways of working as shown below -

Long term The order itself will remain in place for three years, with the intention of changing people's attitudes towards their behaviour in public places. In the longer term, it is hoped that this will contribute to more responsible attitudes and respect towards safeguarding our communities and an understanding of the need to consider the effect on others.

Prevention Such an order will help to reduce the number of antisocial behaviour incidents in the community and will help to prevent a deterioration in the situation in the near future.

Integration In line with the Council's ambition of seeing communities that succeed and thrive. It will also contribute towards the Police objectives, namely to reduce offences and make the streets safer for residents.

Collaboration This development stems from collaboration between the Council and the Police specifically. Town Councils and Members of Parliament have participated in the discussions, and a public consultation will be undertaken before the order can be fully approved.

Inclusion The Police, Town Councils and Local Members have been involved in the discussions, and a public consultation will be held before a final decision is made on the application.

3.3 Next steps

- The Cabinet to approve in principle continuing with the process of considering the introduction of a new PSPO for Caernarfon, Cricieth and Pwllheli, in accordance with the Proposed Order discussed in paragraph 1.
- If the above is approved, the Local Authority must undertake a public consultation regarding the Order, and this must be in place for 28 days.
- After the consultation, Local Authority officers will present the findings of the consultation to the Cabinet and will advise whether they are still recommending the Public Spaces Protection Order.
- If they are still recommending the Public Spaces Protection Order, the Local Authority will proceed to present the Public Spaces Protection Order, and erect signs.

4. Views of the Statutory Officers

4.1 Chief Finance Officer *The decision sought is to launch a public consultation on how the Council should exercise its power to impose restrictions in specified areas in accordance with legislation. As such, I have no comments on financial propriety, in the expectation that any costs associated with the consultation will be funded from existing budgets. Following the consultation, if Cabinet considers the matter further in order to reach a decision on implementing orders, full consideration will need to be given to the additional operating costs at that time.*

4.2 Monitoring Officer *The report highlights the statutory processes which need to be followed in order to establish these zones. The Legal Service will support these arrangements as they move forward.*

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Order:- CYNGOR GWYNEDD PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (ALCOHOL AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR), (CAERNARFON, CRICIETH AND PWLLHELI) 2023

Appendix 2 – Maps of the Proposed PSPO areas

Appendix 3 - Flowchart showing the steps that will be taken when an individual breaches the Order

Appendix 3 - Equality Act 2010 Assessment

List of Background Documents:

Public Spaces Protection Orders: Guidance for Councils. Local Government Association

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers Statutory guidance for frontline professionals

THE CABINET DECISIONS TIMETABLE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	E-mail to the			

	<i>Heads including the draft agenda</i>			
<i>Last date to register an item</i>				<i>Send the documents to the statutory officers for comments - IE, DAM, DG</i>
			<i>Papers to be submitted (bilingual) to 'cabinet' by midday</i>	<i>Publish the Cabinet Agenda to Cabinet Members</i>
<i>Publish the Cabinet Agenda</i>				
	CABINET MEETING			
		<i>Publish Decision Notice</i>		
			<i>Decision comes into force unless it is called in</i>	

Note that the timetable may change if there are Bank Holidays during the publishing period. The Democracy Team Officer will note the key dates in the e-mail to the Heads.

Please remember to contact the Translation Unit to arrange a translation well in advance.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD
DEDDF YMDDYGIAD GWRTH-GYMDEITHASOL, TROSEDD A PHLISMONA 2014
GORCHYMYN DIOGELU MANNAU CYHOEDDUS CYNGOR GWYNEDD (ALCOHOL AC
YMDDYGIAD GWRTH-GYMDEITHASOL) (CAERNARFON, CRICIETH A PWLLHELI) 2023

Mae Cyngor Gwynedd (“y Cyngor”), drwy arfer y grym a roddwyd iddo gan adran 59 o’r Ddeddf Ymddygiad Gwrth-gymdeithasol, Trosedd a Phlismaona 2014 (“y Ddeddf”), yn gwneud y Gorchymyn canlynol:

1. Enw’r Gorchymyn hwn yw y Gorchymyn Diogelu Mannau Cyhoeddus Cyngor Gwynedd (Alcohol ac Ymddygiad Gwrth-Gymdeithasol) (Caernarfon, Cricieth a Pwllheli) 2023.
2. Daw y Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar [XXXXXXXXXX] a bydd yn parhau mewn grym am gyfnod o 3 blynedd tan [XXXXXXXXXX], oni bai y caiff yn y cyfamser ei ddiddymu, ei ddiwygio, neu ei ymestyn gan Orchymyn pellach yn unol â grymoedd statudol y Cyngor.
3. Mae’r Gorchymyn hwn yn berthnasol i’r ardaloedd a amlinellir yn goch ar y cynllun a atodwyd yn Atodlen 1 (“yr Ardaloedd Gyfyngedig”).
4. Mae’r Cyngor yn fodlon bod yr amod cyntaf o dan adran 59(2) o’r Ddeddf wedi cael ei bodloni, sef:
 - a. bod y gweithgareddau canlynol wedi cael eu cynnal o fewn man cyhoeddus yn yr Ardaloedd Gyfyngedig:
 - i.yfed alcohol;
 - ii.ymddygiad sydd yn debygol o achosi aflonyddwch, braw, niwsans neu drallod;
 - iii.loetran mewn cyflwr o feddwod o ganlyniad i gymryd alcohol neu gyffuriau, a
 - b. bod y gweithgareddau hyn wedi cael effaith andwylol ar ansawdd bywyd pobl yn yr ardaloedd, ac mae’n debygol y bydd y gweithgareddau hyn yn cael eu cynnal mewn man cyhoeddus yn yr ardaloedd honno ac y byddant yn cael effaith o’r fath.
5. Mae’r Cyngor yn fodlon bod yr ail amod o dan adran 59(2) o’r Ddeddf wedi cael ei bodloni, sef bod effaith, neu effaith debygol y gweithgareddau yn, neu’n debygol o fod, o natur barhaus neu barhaol a’i fod, neu’n debygol o fod, yn gwneud y gweithgaredd yn afresymol, ac yn cyfiawnhau’r cyfyngiadau a osodwyd gan y Gorchymyn.

6. Effaith y Gorchymyn hwn yw gosod y gwaharddiadau a/neu ofynion canlynol ym mhob man cyhoeddus yn yr Ardaloedd Gyfyngedig ar bob adeg.

Yfed alcohol

7. Yn ddarostyngedig i erthygl 9, mae'r gwaharddiadau canlynol yn gymwys:
- a. Ni chaiff person ("P") yfed alcohol, nac unrhywbeth y mae Person Awdurdodedig yn rhesymol gredu i fod yn alcohol, os yw Person Awdurdodedig yn gofyn i P stopio ag yfed.
 - b. Ni chaiff P feddu ar alcohol neu gynhwysydd i ddal alcohol, nac unrhywbeth y mae Person Awdurdodedig yn rhesymol gredu i fod yn alcohol neu gynhwysydd i ddal alcohol, os yw'r Person Awdurdodedig yn gofyn i'r P ildio'r alcohol neu'r cynhwysydd.
8. Yn ddarostyngedig i erthygl 9, mae'r gofynion canlynol yn gymwys:
- a. Os yw Person Awdurdodedig yn gofyn i P stopio ag yfed yn yr amgylchiadau a nodir yn erthygl 7(a), rhaid i'r P stopio yfed ar unwaith.
 - b. Os yw Person Awdurdodedig yn gofyn i P ildio alcohol neu gynhwysydd yn yr amgylchiadau a nodir yn erthygl 7(b), rhaid i'r P ildio'r cyfryw alcohol neu gynhwysydd i'r Person Awdurdodedig ar unwaith.
9. Nid yw darpariaethau erthyglau 7 ac 8 yn gymwys lle bo'r P yn yfed alcohol mewn mangre neu fan sydd o ganlyniad i adran 62 o'r Ddeddf yn eithriedig rhag waharddiad mewn gorchymyn diogelu mannau cyhoeddus ar yfed alcohol.

Ymddygiad sydd yn debygol o achosi aflonyddwch, braw, niwsans neu drallod

10. Ni chaiff P ddilyn cwrs o ymddygiad sydd yn achosi, neu sydd yn rhesymol canfod ei fod yn achosi, aflonyddwch, braw, niwsans neu drallod i berson arall.
11. Os yw Person Awdurdodedig yn gofyn i P ymadael â'r ardal mewn amgylchiadau lle bo'r P wedi tramgwyddo erthygl 10, rhaid i'r P ymadael ar unwaith.

Loetran mewn cyflwr o feddwdod o ganlyniad i gymryd alcohol neu gyffuriau

12. Ni chaiff P loetran mewn cyflwr o feddwdod o ganlyniad i gymryd alcohol neu gyffuriau neu'r ddau.
13. Os yw Person Awdurdodedig yn gofyn i P ymadael â'r ardal mewn amgylchiadau lle bo'r P wedi tramgwyddo erthygl 12, rhaid i'r P ymadael ar unwaith.

Person Awdurdodedig

14. At ddibenion y Gorchymyn hwn, mae Heddwes, Swyddog Cefnogaeth Gymunedol yr Heddlu a swyddog o'r Cyngor yn Bersonau Awdurdodedig.

Cosb

15. Mae person sydd heb esgus rhesymol yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofyniad a osodir gan erthygl 8 o'r Gorchymyn hwn yn euog o drosedd yn unol ag adran 63 o'r Ddeddf ac yn agored o'i gollfarnu'n ddiannod i ddirwy heb fod yn uwch na lefel 2 ar y raddfa safonol.

16. Mae person sydd heb esgus rhesymol yn gwneud unrhyw beth a waherddir iddo rhag ei wneud gan erthyglau 10, 12 neu 14 o'r Gorchymyn hwn neu yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofyniad a osodir gan erthyglau 11, 13 neu 15 o'r Gorchymyn hwn yn euog o drosedd yn unol ag adran 67 o'r Ddeddf ac yn agored o'i gollfarnu'n ddiannod i ddirwy heb fod yn uwch na lefel 3 ar y raddfa safonol.

17. Gall Person Awdurdodedig roi rhybudd cosb benodol am swm o hyd at £100.00 yn unol ag adran 68 o'r Ddeddf i unrhyw berson y mae ef yn credu sydd wedi cyflawni trosedd o dan adrannau 63 neu 67 o'r Ddeddf o ganlyniad i'r person hwnnw yn gwneud unrhyw beth a waherddir gan y Gorchymyn neu yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofyniad o osodir gan y Gorchymyn hwn.

Herio'r Gorchymyn

18. Yn unol ag adran 66 o'r Ddeddf, gall unrhyw berson â diddordeb sydd yn dymuno herio dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn hwn ar y sail nad oedd gan y Cyngor y grym i wneud y Gorchymyn neu bod diffyg cydymffurfiad â gofyniad o'r Ddeddf wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o fewn 6 wythnos o'r dyddiad y gwnaethpwyd y Gorchymyn.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014
GWYNEDD COUNCIL (ALCOHOL AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR) (CAERNARFON, CRICIETH
AND PWLLHELI)
PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2023

Gwynedd Council (“the Council”), in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing 2014 (“the Act”), makes the following Order:

1. The name of this Order is the Gwynedd Council (Alcohol and Anti-Social Behaviour) (Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli) Public Spaces Protection Order 2023.
2. This Order comes into force on [XXXXXXXXXX] and shall remain in force for a period of 3 years until [XXXXXXXXXX], unless in the meantime it is revoked, amended or extended by further Order under the Council’s statutory powers.
3. This Order applies to the areas outlined in red on the plan attached in Schedule 1 (“the Restricted Areas”).
4. The Council is satisfied that the first condition under section 59(2) of the Act has been met, in that:
 - a. the following activities have been carried out in a public place in the Restricted Areas:
 - i.consumption of alcohol;
 - ii.behaving in a manner that is likely to cause harassment, alarm, nuisance or distress;
 - iii.loitering in a state of intoxication through consumption of alcohol or drugs, and
 - b. these activities have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people in the locality, and it is likely that these activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.
5. The Council is satisfied that the second condition under section 59(2) of the Act has been met, in that the effect, or likely effect of these activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.
6. The effect of this Order is to impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements in every public place in the Restricted Areas at all times.

Consumption of alcohol

7. Subject to article 9, the following prohibitions apply:
- a. A person (“P”) shall not consume alcohol, or anything which an Authorised Person reasonably believes to be alcohol, if the Authorised Person asks the P to stop drinking.
 - b. P shall not be in possession of alcohol or a container holding alcohol, or anything which an Authorised Person reasonably believes to be alcohol or a container holding alcohol, if the Authorised Person asks the P to surrender the alcohol or container.
8. Subject to article 9, the following requirements apply:
- a. If an Authorised Person asks P to stop drinking in the circumstances noted in article 7(a), the P shall stop drinking immediately.
 - b. If an Authorised Person asks P to surrender alcohol or a container in the circumstances noted in article 7(b), the P shall surrender the said alcohol or container to the Authorised Person immediately.
9. The provisions of articles 7 and 8 do not apply where the P consumes alcohol within premises or a place which by virtue of section 62 of the Act is exempt from a prohibition in a public spaces protection order on the consumption of alcohol.

Behaving in a manner that is likely to cause harassment, alarm, nuisance or distress

10. A P shall not follow a course of conduct which causes, or which can reasonably be perceived to cause, harassment, alarm, nuisance or distress.
11. If an Authorised Person asks a P to leave the area in circumstances where the P has contravened article 10, the P shall leave immediately.

Loitering in a state of intoxication through consumption of alcohol or drugs

12. A P shall not loiter in a state of intoxication through consumption of alcohol or drugs.
13. If an Authorised Person asks a P to leave the area in circumstances where the P has contravened article 12, the P shall leave immediately.
14. For the purposes of this Order, a Constable, Police Community Support Officer, and Council officer are Authorised Persons.

Penalty

15. A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a requirement imposed by article 8 of this Order is guilty of an offence pursuant to section 63 of the Act and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

16. A person who without reasonable excuse does anything which he is prohibited from doing by articles 10, 12 or 14 of this Order or fails to comply with any requirement imposed by articles 11, 13 or 15 of this Order is guilty of an offence pursuant to section 67 of the Act and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

17. An authorised officer may issue a fixed penalty notice pursuant to section 68 of the Act to any person whom he believes has committed an offence under sections 63 or 67 of the Act as a result of that person doing anything prohibited by the Order or failing to comply with a requirement imposed by this Order.

Challenging the Order

18. In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within 6 weeks from the date upon which the Order is made.

Llofnodwyd y	diwrnod o	2023
Signed the	day of	2023

GOSODWYD SÊL GYFFREDIN CYNGOR GWYNEDD)
AR HWN YM MHRESENOLDEB)
)
THE COMMON SEAL OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL)
WAS HEREUNTO FIXED IN THE PRESENCE OF)
)

.....
Llofnodydd awdurdodedig
Authorised signatory

ATODIAD 2 YR ARDALOEDD GYFYNGIEDIG / ATTACHMENT 2 THE RESTRICTED AREAS

ARDAL ARFAETHEDIG PSPO CAERNARFON / PROPOSED PSPO AREA CAERNARFON

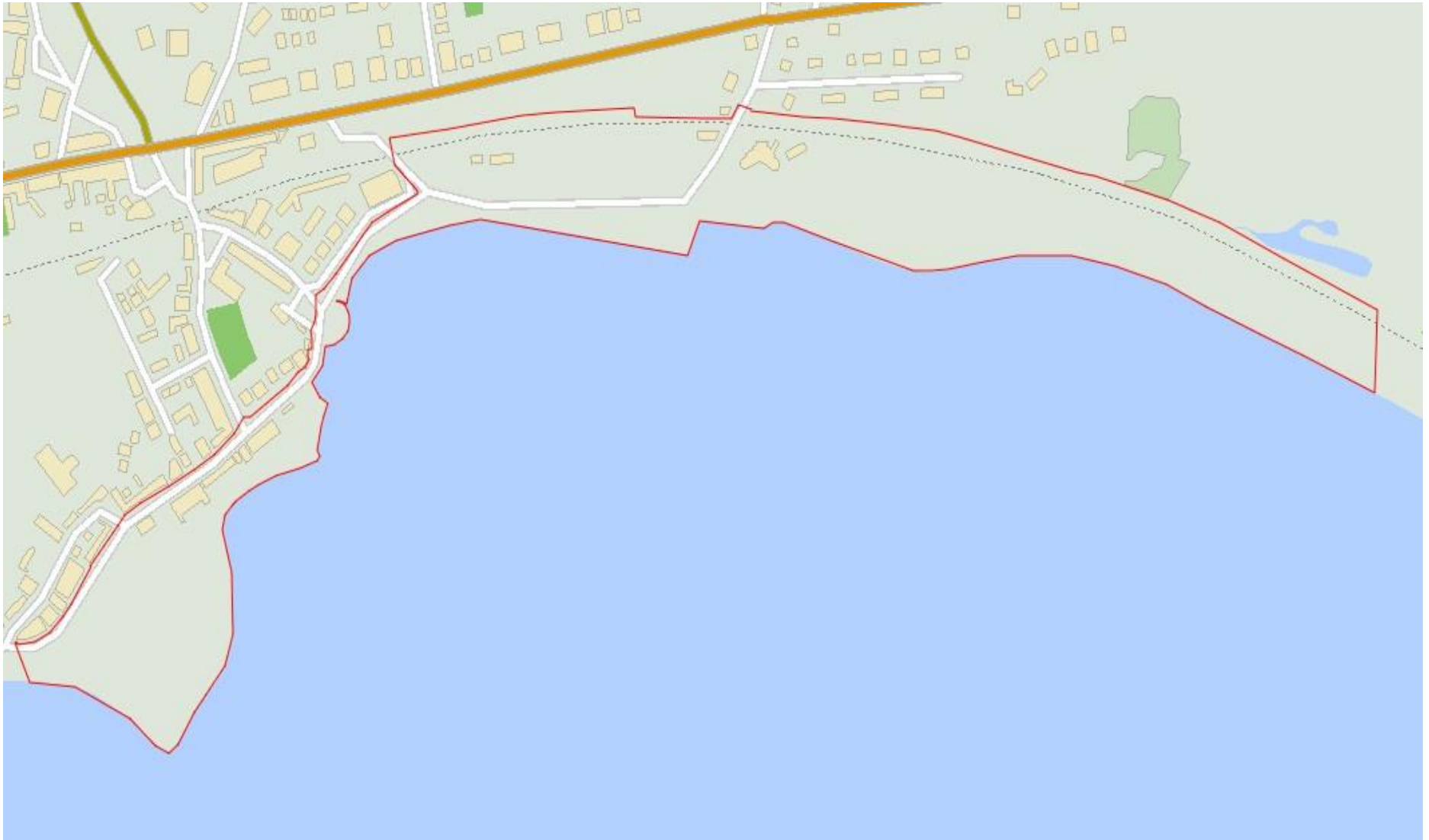


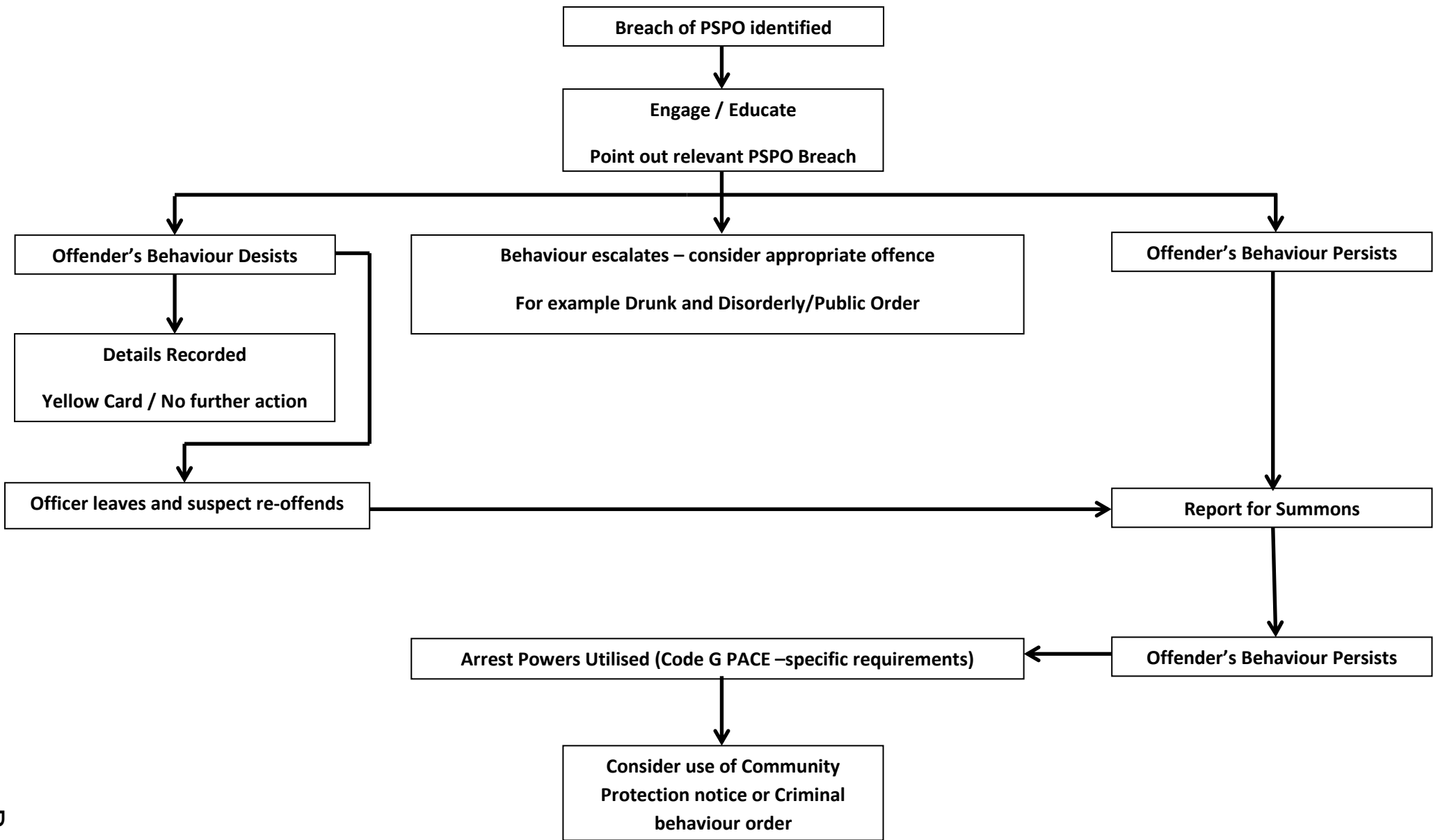
ARDAL ARFAETHEDIG PSPO PWLLHELI / PROPOSED PSPO AREA PWLLHELI



Ordnans AC0000821460 - Cyngor Gwynedd

ARDAL ARFAETHEDIG PSPO CRICIETH / PROPOSED PSPO AREA CRICIETH





Equality Impact Assessment

Please see the *How to do an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet for help in completing this form. You are welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708, or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further help.

The Council is required (under Equality Act 2010) to consider the impact of a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new one) on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties set out in part 2b. A timely equality impact assessment must therefore be made before making a decision on any relevant change (i.e. one that affects people with a specific protected characteristic).

1 Details

1.1 What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Under consideration is the implementation of a legal order –

Public Space protection order – for part of the towns of Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli, which will contain 4 aspects of behaviour (antisocial behaviour ASB) which are prohibited by the order, and can be enforced as criminal acts under certain circumstances

1.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or changed? What changes are being considered?

The order is being considered as a means of tackling antisocial behaviour in certain geographical areas of the towns of Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Gwen Davies / Daron Owens, Senior Operational Officer, Community Safety partnership –Gwynedd and Anglesey

1.4 When did you begin the assessment? What version is this?

V1 – 21.07.2023

2) Implementation

2.1 Who are the partners that you will have to work with to carry out this assessment?

North Wales Police
Cabinet
Members of Parliament for the 3 towns.

The public and interested bodies –in the context of the statutory consultation

2.2. What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characters?

A public consultation is to take place if the application is approved by Cabinet. A Questionnaire will be placed on the Council's website, libraries, and shops in the 3 areas. This consultation will be open for 28 days.

We have also contacted Members of Parliament for the catchment areas, and they have preferred this option because of the anti-social situation.

2.3 What was the result of the engagement?

- Not currently applicable.

2.4 What other information informed the way you operate?

North Wales Police have submitted a substantial amount of documented evidence, showing the increase in, and change in types of Anti-Social Behaviour in Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli.

For example, an increase in complaints for the public around 'nuisance' in public spaces, begging in named locations, such as near cash points and ASB associated with drug misuse.

The Police have confirmed, that in these occurrences, most of the offenders are males

2.5 Are there any gaps in evidence that need to be gathered?

No

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must give due regard to the impact any changes will have on people with equality characteristics. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes have on these characteristics? You are welcome to add further characteristics if you wish.

Characteristics	What type of impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	Positive / Negative / None	It is possible that this order, because of the specific prohibitions within it, can be used if required to tackle race/hate crime particularly the first prohibition within the order.
The Welsh language	Positive / Negative / None	No
Disability	Positive / Negative / None	<p>It is expected that only a low number of people will reach the threshold which will result in an arrest. For those who are arrested, the Police have processes in place to offer wellbeing interventions within and beyond the Custody suite. This includes Mental health aspects of an individual's needs –</p> <p>“Any person taken to custody are subject of a full risk assessment to cover physical and MH (mental health) with access to a custody nurse. If not deemed fit to detain arrangements are made to safely release with appropriate signposting. If there were significant concerns around MH, (mental health) arrangements would be made for a medical team to attend custody to complete assessment and if required appropriate treatment thereafter or if not feasible to conduct in custody the subject would be taken to a MH unit for assessment”</p> <p>It is possible that this order, because of the specific prohibitions within it, can be used if required to tackle disability/hate crime particularly the first prohibition within the order.</p>
Gender	Positive / Negative / None	<p>It is likely to affect more Males, as the evidence shows males are more often the perpetrators of such behaviour. This has been confirmed by the Police, in relation to the data on past offences in the area.</p> <p>However the order will protect all genders</p>
Age	Positive / Negative / None	Antisocial behaviour is more likely to be perpetrated by younger adults, but not exclusively

Sexual orientation	Positive / Negative / None	It is possible that this order, because of the specific prohibitions within it, can be used if required to tackle sexual orientation/hate crime particularly the first prohibition within the order.
Religion or belief (or lack of belief)	Positive / Negative / None	It is possible that this order, because of the specific prohibitions within it, can be used if required to tackle religion or belief/hate crime particularly the first prohibition within the order.
Gender reassignment	Positive / Negative / None	It is possible that this order, because of the specific prohibitions within it, can be used if required to tackle gender reassignment/hate crime particularly the first prohibition within the order.
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive / Negative / None	No
Marriage and civil partnership	Positive / Negative / None	No

* delete as appropriate

3.2 It is the Council's duty, under the Equality Act 2010, to contribute positively to a fairer community by promoting equality and good relationships in their activities in the areas of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must give due regard to the way any change affects these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does the policy have an impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?

Remove illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes	Yes, as the order is specifically targeted at behaviour which causes harassment - this can include hate crime of all types (all characteristics above)
Promoting equal opportunities	No	No
Encouraging good relationships	Yes	<p>Yes, as the enforcements process begins with engagement and education, which if effective, stops escalation of behaviour and legal response – and therefore seek to improve the persons understanding of their behaviour’s effect on other members of the public etc.</p> <p>One of the intentions is to make Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli a safer and more pleasant public space for all members of the community.</p>

* delete as appropriate

4) Analysing the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duties and what is the reason for this?

Hopefully, there will be a positive impact of the public's experience of working/living/visiting the towns of Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli. That they will witness less ASB, and feel safer when out in their community

4.2 Is the Plan therefore likely to have a substantial, negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or General Duties and what is the reason for this?

None has been identified

4.3 What should be done?

Select one of the following:

Continue with the plan as it is robust	Yes
Adapt the plan to remove any barriers	

Suspend and abolish the plan as the detrimental impacts are too large	
Continue with the plan as any detrimental impact can be justified	

4.4 If continuing with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

Not applicable

4.5 If you do not take further action to remove or reduce negative impacts, explain why here.

Not applicable

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the plan (action plan)?

The Police will produce regular monitoring reports on the enforcement of the order.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Date of Meeting: 19 December 2023
Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Relevant Officer: Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive
Title of Item: Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23
Cyngor Gwynedd

Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

1. Decision Sought

- i. That the Cabinet considers and approves the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 Cyngor Gwynedd.
-

2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision

- 2.1 2022/23 was the first year of the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) existence and it is therefore timely for Cabinet to review the work undertaken during this period.
- 2.2 Cabinet can provide comments and guidance on the future trajectory of the work of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.

3. Background

- 1.1 The Council adopted the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) following a Cabinet meeting on 8 March 2022. The ambition of the plan is "Gwynedd Council will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030." "Responding to the climate change crisis" is also one of the Council's 8 Improvement Priorities within [The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#)
- 1.2 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (the Plan) outlines how we as a Council will adapt the way we work and deliver services to reduce our carbon emissions and increase carbon absorption capacity. It provides examples of projects we will be pursuing, their outline costs and the timeframe to deliver.

- 1.3 The Plan became effective in April 2022 and it is therefore timely to present a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 (Annual Report) which takes stock of what has been achieved during the first year of the scheme's existence. The Annual Report can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The Annual Report was presented to a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 30th November 2023 and their comments and recommendations of matters to be discussed by Cabinet are set out below:
- 1.5 RESOLVED:
1. To accept the report and to recommend:
 - (i) That information about 'Active Travel' should be added under Section 3 of the Report: 'Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016'.
 - (ii) Consideration should be given to adapting the format of how information is displayed under the 'What did we promise to do in 2022/23?' and 'What we did' titles in Sections 5-11 of the Report for clarity to the reader.
 2. Recommend to the Cabinet that the staffing resource should be considered to achieve the vision of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.
- 1.6 Recommendations 1(i) and 1(ii) have been implemented and can be found in Appendix 1. In terms of Recommendation 2 in 1.5 any request for additional resources will be addressed in accordance with the Council's normal procedures, and we will actively discuss with the relevant officers to identify costs and the most appropriate funding mechanisms.
- 1.7 Gwynedd Council, like most public sector bodies in Wales, collects data on emissions and carbon absorption following a methodology developed by the Welsh Government. We collected data for the 2022/23 year following these processes, and are using the 2019/20 data as its baseline year for comparison.
- 1.8 We need to collect data about the carbon derived from our procurement processes, but the current methodology is based on measuring by financial expenditure alone. The more we spend, the greater the emissions. Because this can paint an imperfect picture of the true situation the Annual Report sets out our total emissions data with, and without, procurement data.
- 1.9 Our procurement emissions fell by 20% between the baseline year 2019/20 and 2022/23. Emissions for the other 7 areas fell by 37% between 2019/20 and 2022/23 (buildings and energy, waste, fleet, business travel, staff commuting, street lighting, working from home).
- 1.10 Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 says public authorities operating in Wales have a duty to maintain and improve biodiversity and to encourage ecosystem strength.

The Welsh Government published a national biodiversity strategy, the 'Nature Recovery Action Plan' in 2015 which outlined the commitment to reversing biodiversity loss in Wales, and the objectives for action. It contains 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales.

At the end of sections 5-11 of this Annual Report you will find a description of how the work that has been undertaken contributes to the realisation of one or more of the above 6 objectives, which in turn comply with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

4. Next Steps and Timetable

- 4.1 We will publish the Annual Report on our website and share information about it.
 - 4.2 We will continue to discuss and build relationships with external partners to discuss lessons learned from each other's work, and how best to develop the work into the future.
-

Views of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought. I note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and that they are receiving appropriate consideration. Nevertheless, because responsibility for the decision lies with the Cabinet it is crucial that the Cabinet report considers the situation in its totality.

Chief Finance Officer:

I have no objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 Cyngor Gwynedd

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 Cyngor Gwynedd



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1. The Council Leader's Foreword



I am pleased to be able to present the first Annual Report for Cyngor Gwynedd's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30. The report seeks to summarise all the work that has been undertaken in the first year of this important plan, since the Council's Cabinet adopted it in March 2022.

It is great news that carbon emissions that are the Council's responsibility have fallen by 20% between 2019/20 and 2022/23, but the biggest challenge is the one ahead, which is to reach a position of being 'net zero carbon'.

In my foreword to the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan I talk about the "huge challenges ahead" as we respond to the effects of climate change on our world. Those challenges certainly haven't diminished, indeed it's possible to argue that they have increased. We saw an alarming increase in energy costs during the year and that has put significant pressure on the Council's budgets and on Gwynedd residents. Our response to this crisis was to invest £2.8m in a 2 year plan to install more solar panels on our buildings that will generate electricity for us to use. This will result in financial savings but of course it will also go a long way towards reducing the carbon emissions of those buildings.

As the cost of living crisis is hitting the people of Gwynedd hard we have been running walk-in information sessions and workshops, and have been sharing information on how our residents can save money by saving energy in their homes. We are fully aware that no one should be left behind as society moves towards using methods to insulate and heat buildings that emit less carbon.

You will also see many examples in this report of wonderful collaboration between voluntary and community organisations with the Council, particularly on projects to conserve and promote nature. We as a Council are very grateful to every individual who gives up their time to make their local community a nice and healthy place to live, not only today but for future generations.

Although this report looks back at the work of 2022/23, my eyes are certainly focused on the future. There is much more work lying in that direction, and much of the work that has started during 2022/23 is going to take several years before we see its full impact. On with the work!



Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Leader of Cyngor Gwynedd

2. Background

After a 'climate change emergency' was declared in the March 2019 Council meeting, a Climate Change Board was established that led to establishing a [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) (CNEP) that was adopted by the Cabinet March 2022.

The ambition of the Plan is - "Gwynedd Council will be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030." The 'ecologically positive' element was added to the original 'climate change emergency' statement to acknowledge the crisis situation of nature as well, since both elements are so co-dependent.

The plan's ambition corresponds to Welsh Government's target for the public sector *collectively* in Wales to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and for Wales to be a net-zero country by 2050.

Our plans include many work-streams within the main themes -

- buildings and energy
- mobility and transportation
- waste
- governance
- procurement
- land use
- ecology

Green Gwynedd is one of the 7 priority fields in the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028, and within that priority there are 7 projects, and implementing CNEP is one of them. However, every one of Green Gwynedd projects, and many other Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 projects contribute to the CNEP's main objective.

Since CNEP was implemented in 2022/23, this is the first annual report to be published that looks at what the Council achieved during that year. The plan is regularly monitored by the Nature and Climate Board, which has a membership of officers and Cabinet Members and representatives of the scrutiny committees.

3. Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan declares our ambition to be “...ecologically positive by 2030”. One of the steps we can take to reach this aim is to act upon Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

According to Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 every public authority that operates in Wales has a duty to protect and improve biodiversity and to encourage the robustness of ecosystems. Whilst our protected sites and species are important, the requirements of Section 6 involves taking steps to protect nature in our towns, cities, public spaces and wider landscape, by practical actions, and in the way that all public actions are arranged.

Welsh Government published a national biodiversity strategy, namely the 'Nature Recovery Action Plan' in 2015 which outlined the commitment to overturn the loss of biodiversity in Wales, and the objectives for implementation. It includes 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the process of making decisions on every level
- Objective 2:** Protect species and habitats of utmost importance and improve their management
- Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring habitats that have been degraded and create new habitats
- Objective 4:** Tackle key pressure on species and habitats
- Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Objective 6:** Implement a governing framework and support for achieving the objectives

In order to comply with the Section 6 duty of the Environment (Wales) Act, public authorities are required publish their own plan that sets out what they intend to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. Welsh Government guidelines note that public bodies should consider basing their Section 6 duty plan on the national Nature Recovery Action Plan.




















Cyngor Gwynedd are currently developing a reformed Nature Recovery Plan, but in the meantime we are also including relevant

information in the CNEP. Whilst protecting nature and biodiversity is intertwined through the whole CNEP, the Land Use and Ecology sections list the projects that will concentrate specifically on this work.

At the end of every section of this annual report you will see a description of how the work achieved contributes towards realising one or more of the 6 objectives above, that in their turn conform with Section 6 of Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

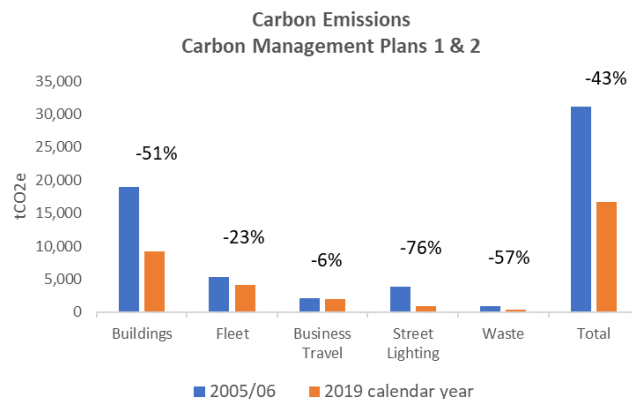
	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Buildings and Energy						
Mobility and Transport						
Waste						
Governance						
Procurement						
Land Use						
Ecology						

4. Reaching the Current Situation

Before the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan's existence the Council has already been acting for years to try and reduce our carbon footprint. The Carbon Management Plan 1 was published in 2010 and Carbon Management Plan 2 in 2015.

We achieved a significant reduction of carbon emissions produced from our day-to-day activities. By investing approximately £8M in measures to reduce energy use over the last decade, we managed to reduce our carbon emissions by 59% in the fields of buildings, business travel, streetlights, fleet and waste.

The reductions for every field can be seen in the following graph and it is fair to say that our efforts have led to national recognition on many occasions:



Measuring our carbon emissions

When the council was implementing Carbon Management Plan 1 and 2 we followed the Carbon Trust's recognised carbon emissions measuring methods, and measured progress in 5 fields as the above chart shows. By now, we are following a methodology for measuring emissions that is set by the Welsh Government and there are minor variants between both procedures, so by creating CNEP we have used 2019/20 data as a new baseline.

By now we also measure our carbon emissions in additional fields - procurement, commuting staff, and working from home (since 2021/22). We also measure how much carbon our lands absorb, and by counterbalancing that figure against the total of emissions we get a net figure, which is the gap to reach net zero. Our gap to net zero in 2022/23 was 17,695 tCO₂e.

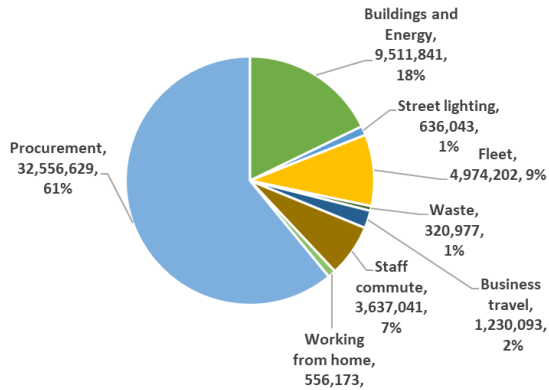
Emissions
20,866 tCO₂e



Sequestration
3,171 tCO₂e

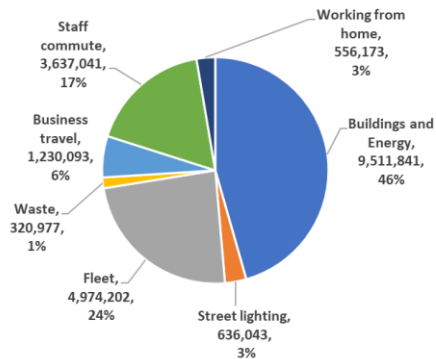
Gap to net zero
17,695 tCO₂e

Carbon Emissions kgCO₂e
INCLUDING Procurement 2022/23



The methodology of measuring carbon emissions that derive from our procurement processes is imperfect because it is based on how much money we spend. The more we spend, the greater the emissions. Because the procurement data could create an imperfect picture, the following chart presents data for the 7 remaining headings having dismissed procurement.

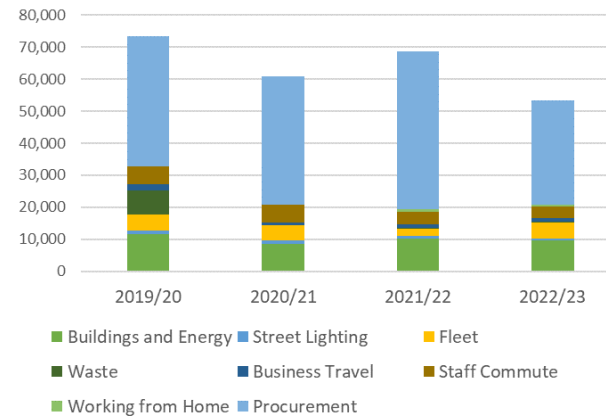
Carbon Emissions kgCO₂e
NOT INCLUDING Procurement 2022/23



Where are we on the journey to reach net zero by 2030, and does 2022/23 data show that we are on the right track?

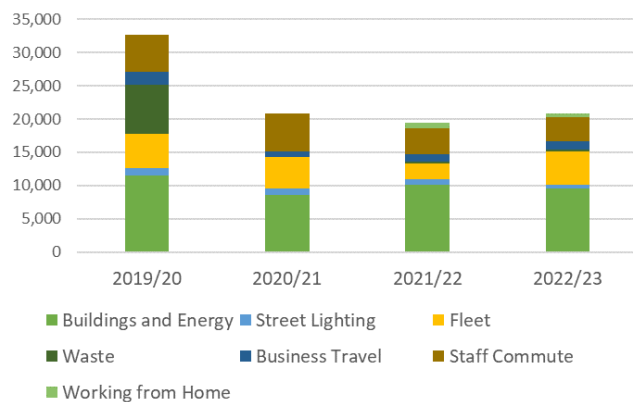
The chart below shows a 20% reduction in our carbon emissions from our procurement processes between the 2019/20 baseline year and 2022/23. It also shows a 34% reduction between 2021/22 and 2022/23, and although we have made an effort to support our suppliers to reduce their carbon emissions it is fair to say that minor changes in the measuring methods is what is mainly responsible for the reduction.

Carbon Emissions tCO₂e
INCLUDING Procurement since baseline year



It has already been stated that procurement data could create an imperfect picture, therefore the chart below shows a 37% reduction in emission for the remaining 7 headings between 2019/20 and 2022/23.

Carbon Emissions tCO₂e
NOT INCLUDING Procurement since baseline
year



Fleet and business travel are the two fields that have seen an increase in 2022/23, although the emissions are still less than that of 2019/20. Some travel restrictions were still in force in 2021/22 due to Covid-19, and so this increase is based on the increase in travel numbers by 2022/23. We have now started to implement our Green Fleet Plan at the end of 2022/23 to rationalise the size of our fleet and start to convert to electric vehicles. In turn, this work will influence our travel habits as staff and elected members as we are also reviewing our use of pool cars.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Climate change is having a significant impact on flooding and the scale of land erosion as sea levels have been rising and storms and periods of heavy rainfall become more intense and occur more regularly.

Flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales is about much more than building defences. Our approach to risk management encourages wider resilience, prevention and risk awareness so that better decisions can be made, both by the public and those who influence how land and water is managed.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and must be consistent with the National Strategy published last year. We are required to review Local Flood Risk Management Strategies in Wales (since the original ones in 2013) to align with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation of the new National Strategy.

We need to complete this task by Spring 2024.

5. Buildings and Energy

The carbon emissions from buildings and energy in 2022/23 is 46% of the total (not including procurement) which is an 18% reduction since 2019/20.

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Aim for long term benefits when planning building or renewing buildings work.
2. De-carbonise the Council's energy supply.
3. Use Passivhaus low carbon building methods when developing our innovative housing pilot scheme.
4. Offer Gwynedd residents advice and information regarding the benefits and opportunities of using low carbon building methods when building homes and low carbon heating/energy systems to maintain a home.
5. Set individual rooms heating controls to reduce the energy needed to heat a building.
6. Upgrade streetlights and traffic signs to use less energy.
7. Improve the energy infrastructure in Gwynedd and north Wales to maintain low carbon energy systems and transportation.

What did we do?

Project 1 – The work of improving the fabric of buildings in order to make them as energy-efficient as possible (projects 1, 9, & 14) is continuous work that has been under way by us as a Council for over a decade. During 2022/23 we continued to maintain buildings where the work had already been completed, as well as investigating if there would be any need to do any additional work for the future.

Project 2 & 7 – At the end of 2022/23 the Council commenced on the process of drawing up the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), and it is work that is led by Ambition North Wales and ARUP. The intention of the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) is to create an integrated low carbon system for Gwynedd, improving the current infrastructure which, in its turn, will support every sector in transforming their current use of energy. The work continues throughout 2023/24 with the aim of completing the plan by end of March 2024.

Project 3 – This work is being developed during 2023/24.

Project 4 - We offer support and advice to Gwynedd's residents on how to save energy and money through the Nyth and Eco 4 schemes. Our officers have been holding face-to-face information sessions in our communities as well as answering enquiries through

the website or over the phone. Gweler hefyd adroddiad ar Prosiect 1.

Project 5 - We have central systems for managing heating in individual rooms therefore we do not see the need to move on to install individual rooms heating controls at this moment in time. This need may change in the future if the Internet of Things project (within the Digital Plan) shows that there is additional value in changing the current arrangement.

Project 6 - Since the project of changing streetlamps to LED lights began in 2016/17, 17,811 lamps will have been changed by the end of 2022/23. Between the beginning of the scheme and the end of 2022/23 a reduction of 50% was seen in our use of energy and an 81% reduction in carbon emissions.

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

8. Save 5% of carbon emissions from buildings by bringing them up to CIBSE 'good practice' standard.
9. Reduce our carbon emissions by widening our use of PV to create renewable energy.
10. Electrify building heating systems to reduce carbon emissions.
11. Install EC ventilation fans in buildings to reduce the energy needed to run them compared to regular fans.

12. Upgrade specialist lighting in leisure centres to reduce the energy use.

What did we do?

Project 9 - During 2022/23 the Council's Cabinet decided to reserve £2.8m to achieve Phase 4 of the plan to install PV solar panels on the Council's property to generate electricity. The tender was drawn up and the work has commenced during 2023/24. See also report on Project 1.

Long Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2029/30

13. Increase our carbon 'credit' by installing solar farms to generate energy that the Council could use or sell.

What did we do?

Project 13 – This project isn't a priority at the moment because of the prohibitive cost of National grid connection, and because the Council cannot claim 'carbon credit' under data reporting current systems.

Continuous Priorities

14. Improve the fabric of buildings that belong to the Council in order to make them as energy-efficient as possible.
15. Prevent the over-development of fossil fuel energy plans.

16. Maximise the benefits gained as a result of implementing our energy and heating policies as much as possible.
17. The equipment used within the Council's buildings to be as energy-efficient as possible.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Following significant fire damage we took advantage of the opportunity to restore the purpose-built bird-watching hide on the banks of the Menai Straits near Caernarfon. The new hide has been created by recycling and re-designing old shipping containers and installing them in specific sites that are accessible for everyone to be able to enjoy wonderful views of the Menai's inter-tidal lands.

6. Mobility and Transport

The carbon emissions from the Council's fleet in 2022/23 is 24% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 3.5% since 2019/20. The carbon emissions from staff commuting in 2022/23 is 17% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 35.5% since 2019/20. The carbon emissions from business travel in 2022/23 is 6% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 37% since 2019/20.

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Moving away from using fossil fuelled vehicles towards a fleet of ULEV vehicles (cars and vans)
2. Install electric vehicle charging points for the Council's vehicles
3. Install electric vehicle charging points for the residents of Gwynedd
4. Reduce business travel
5. Reduce carbon emissions and parking problems in areas that are popular amongst visitors

What did we do?

Project 1 & 2 – There was quite a bit of delay in buying new electric vehicles during 2022/23 because of supply issues on the international market, but by the end of the year the Council had 15 electric vehicles across our fleet. These are maintained by 23 charging points across 8 Council-owned sites.

Project 3 - By the end of 2022/23 the Council had 16 operational charging points for the public in 4 locations (Bangor, Pwllheli, Bala and Dolgellau), and 1 additional charging point in Bala managed by Transport for Wales. As a Council we collaborate with Transport for Wales and Eryri National Park when planning public charging points. A much higher number of machines were installed, but we are waiting for the electric connection to be authorised. Our current programme to install a total of 114 public charging points will continue during 2023/24 and we will review it as we assess the needs of the future.

Project 4 - Many working habits changed during the Covid-19 period, but one habit that has continued for us in the Council is holding internal and public meetings virtually, significantly reducing the need to travel to work centres. Every one of the Council's main meetings - Full Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny, Planning - continue to be held virtually and in person, and this has reduced our emissions from business travel. As we start to implement our Green Fleet

Scheme we have also started to challenge the need for business travel, but changes in this field will happen over the coming years.

Project 5 - One of the biggest successes of 2022/23 was the introduction of the Sherpa'r Wyddfa buses, namely a network of bus services around the Wyddfa catchment area. The Council is one of the partners which had been developing the provision, and its objective is to increase active travel options and reduce the parking problems in popular areas of Eryri.

Long Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2029/30

6. Have low carbon or non-carbon fuel options for the Council's heavy fleet

What did we do?

Project 6 – Transforming the fleet of heavy vehicles to use electricity or hydrogen as fuel is a long-term process, but the Council's officers are collaborating with North Wales Ambition on their Hydrogen Hub projects and with the Welsh Local Government Association to share new developments and good practise amongst local authorities.

Continuous Priorities

7. Reduce carbon emissions through staff commuting habits
8. Encourage active travel amongst staff - for health and well-being and also to reduce carbon emissions

9. Encourage active travel amongst Gwynedd residents and visitors to improve physical and mental well-being and reduce short car journey carbon emissions
10. Increase the opportunities for community organisations to have access to EV or ULEV vehicles or use low carbon technology

What did we do?

Projects 7 & 8 - The Council has the Green Car Scheme and the Green Bike Scheme available to most staff, which are salary sacrifice schemes for buying a new electric car or bike. We have been encouraging staff to take full advantage of these opportunities, including holding several open days to trial electric bikes. A total of 376 bikes and 128 electric or hybrid cars have been bought by our staff since the beginning of the scheme in 2013/14.

We have also been looking into the other commuting options that could be available for staff, apart from travelling individually in a petrol/diesel car. We will be developing and promoting these schemes more in the future.

Project 9 – See report for Project 5.

Project 10 - The charging point for the Council's fleet in its car park in Caernarfon is also used to charge the community electric car under the care of the Deg/Co-wheels social enterprise.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by recovering habitats that have been degraded and create new habitats.

Projects 5, 8 and 9 above run alongside the Council's work to maintain public rights of way, and to maintain lands. Whilst looking after the county's network of green lanes (*Lonydd Glas*), cycle and walking paths we have been protecting path and road verges to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan was adopted by Gwynedd Council's Cabinet on 22nd November 2022. Gwynedd Council is responsible for a Rights of Way network which is approximately 3,800km long and open to pedestrians, riders, cyclists, horse and cart and motor vehicles.

A highly successful scheme, the Gwynedd Wildflower Meadows Scheme for all primary schools of the Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod catchment area was set up to establish a network of wildflower habitats along the verges of paths and roads. The Grounds Maintenance Service also trialled a new mowing and collection frequency regime.

7. Waste

The carbon emissions from the Council's waste in 2022/23 is 1% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 96% since 2019/20.

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Promote the circular economy in order to reduce the number of items being disposed of and reducing carbon emissions in the supply chain from the purchase of new goods
2. Reduce street waste that goes to landfill and increase the street waste that is recycled
3. Reduce the use of paper

What did we do?

Projects 1, 4, 5 & 6 – 2022/23 was a very busy year for our business support team as they collaborated with many businesses and community enterprises across Gwynedd and Anglesey to apply for grants from Welsh Government to extend the current provision in the circular economy field. Our aim is to encourage people to reuse or repair goods, which emits less carbon than producing new goods

or procession of waste. We are still waiting for a final judgement but in the meantime, we are promoting and supporting the work of our partners - Antur Waunfawr, Partneriaeth Ogwen, Siop Griffiths, Adra (Tŷ Gwyrddfai), BIC Innovation, Menter Môn, MSParc. The work of other community organisations such as GwyrddNi are also important and a valuable contribution to empower communities.

Project 2 – During the year we continued to install bins in public spaces that accept recyclable materials, where there is a different, individual bin for different materials. 8 sets of 4 bins and 7 sets of 3 bins were installed in 11 locations during 2022/23. This is a continuous work programme, and more recycling bins will be installed over the coming years.

Project 3 – We have been reviewing our internal use of paper in the Council's offices during the year, it was encouraging that the use had remained much lower than it was before the Covid-19 period. This assessment has led to changing printing habits, and by 2023/24 we will not be printing papers for meetings unless there is a reasonable exception for doing so.

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

4. Reduce the number of items that reach waste incineration sites by encouraging people to repair and re-use (Repair Cafés)

What did we do?

See Project 1 above.

Continuous Priorities

5. Repair and adapt equipment that would otherwise be disposed of and incinerated, and sell them
6. Reduce food waste by supporting community projects that try to re-distribute food that would otherwise be thrown away

What did we do?

See Project 1 above.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process at all levels.

When developing the plans that are a part of the grant application to promote a circular economy we have been continuously consulting with all our community partners, and officers on many levels within the Council have been considering the project's impact on biodiversity before developing the final plan.

Objective 4: Tackle key pressure on species and habitats

Priorities 4, 5 and 6 above contribute to objectives 2, 3 and 4 since our food hubs and community gardens are assessed on their impact on biodiversity, and developed in a way that will not harm the surrounding environment.

8. Governance

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Publicly share information regarding the work the Council does to reduce carbon emissions to encourage others to change their habits.
2. Support communities to plan and provide local solutions to local needs.

What did we do?

Project 1 – The scarcity of resources has meant that we have prioritised time and resources on reducing the carbon emissions that derive directly from our own activity as a Council during the first year of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan. However, this has not meant that we have not been engaging and supporting our communities and residents so that everyone can play their part on this journey to net zero.

The consultations held through the Ardal Ni plan has highlighted climate and nature matters are of high priority to residents in every area, and we continue to support the communities with their action plans. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board has also been consulting with communities during the year, and that

work has led to drawing up a new well-being plan that came into force during 2023/24.

See also the report under the 'Waste' heading

Projects 1 & 2 - Our other projects as a Council also contribute to help and influence residents' habits - Clean and Tidy Communities, supporting food hubs, Ffiws/Repair Café, energy saving drop-in sessions.

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

3. Elected members and staff who:
 - understand the consequences of climate change
 - make decisions based on information about the impacts
 - act in the most positive way as possible towards mitigating the impact of climate change and being ecologically positive

What did we do?

Project 3 - We have been planning our training needs during 2022/23, and carbon literacy training has been held during 2023/24.

Continuous Priorities

4. Encourage staff to develop careers in fields that reduce the impact of climate change or are ecologically positive.
5. Review the Council's current policies and strategies so that reducing carbon emissions or reducing the impact of climate change is a factor when making decisions.

What did we do?

Project 5 - The work of reviewing current policies and strategies has highlighted the need to educate and train staff and members to understand and implement changes to those policies. Such training has been organised under Project 3.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process on every level.

Work done with Town and Community Councils to let them know of their duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Objective 6: Implement governance framework and support on achieving the objectives.

The work achieved under priorities 3 and 5 contribute to realising Objectives 1 and 6.

9. Procurement

61% of the Council's carbon emissions during 2022/23 derived from our procurement processes, which was a reduction from the previous year where the total was 72%. We must acknowledge that changes in accounting methods is mainly responsible for this reduction, but we also continued to support our suppliers on their journeys to become net zero by promoting Wales Business services and offer our own advice.

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Continuous Priorities

1. Provide support for the market, especially to local providers, to be able to measure the impact of their activities on their carbon footprint.
2. Understand and measure carbon emissions to realise contracts in the procurement chain.

What did we do?

Projects 1 & 2 - At the end of 2022/23 the Welsh Local Government Association published a report and support package for local authorities to use so that they can try to further incorporate sustainable procurement into daily habits. There was quite a wait on the package as a resource that would be useful to us as a

Council to measure carbon emissions that derive from the services and the materials that we buy, and it is an initial step on this journey.

Following the publication of the support package we are now collaborating with WRAP Cymru to review our Sustainable Procurement Policy and to investigate further support to reduce the emissions of our largest contracts in terms of financial worth (such as food and care).

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Objective 6: Implement governance framework and support for achieving the objectives.

As we review our Sustainable Procurement Policy and receive advice from WRAP Cymru on how we can reduce our carbon emissions through the contracts we set up, we will review the current guidelines for suppliers on how they can protect and promote biodiversity.

10. Land Use

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

1. Recognise the contribution of Council-owned trees and how they absorb and store carbon and reduce floods.
2. Recognise the contribution of the Council-owned lands and how they absorb and store carbon and reduce floods.
3. Establish tree nurseries to grow trees ready for planting.
4. Identify opportunities to plant trees as part of the Wales National Forest enterprise.
5. Protect agricultural land in Gwynedd and use it for competent purpose and manage forestation projects.

What did we do?

Projects 1 & 7 - During 2022/23, we have been doing essential maintenance work on 8 Council-owned woodland sites, and training staff to use the latest equipment to measure the volume of trees to measure their carbon worth. New trees were planted in 4 sites out of 8.

Project 2 – We were eagerly waiting for a new support package being developed by the Welsh Local Government Association to measure carbon value in different lands. It was published in

November 2023 and it will be of assistance to us, not only to measure the carbon absorption capacity of our various lands, but also to plan the use of our lands in the future.

Project 3 - As well as the woodlands above, we have also planted or re-planted trees on streets in Pwllheli, Porthmadog, Tremadog and Cricieth. Discussions with partners will need to continue to assess the potential of establishing tree nurseries.

Project 4 - An application has been submitted for Parc Dudley in Waunfawr to receive recognition as a Wales National Forest site.

Continuous Priorities

6. Manage Ash Dieback disease in trees and make good for any carbon emissions that result from felling trees.
7. That Council-owned woodlands are protected in order to make the best of their potential to absorb carbon and be habitats to nature.

What did we do?

Project 6 - Unfortunately, the need to treat the increasing number of trees suffering from Ash Dieback puts increasing pressure on our scarce resources. However, we continue to respond to cases that arise and map where it may be possible to re-plant.

Project 7 – See Project 1.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process on all levels.

Following consultations by Town Councils the Nature Partnership supported them with the provision of projects that allow them to comply with Section 6 requirements, Biodiversity Duties and Welsh Government Ecosystems Resilience.

New woodlands were planted with the support of local schools, new orchards were created and significant pieces of grasslands were turned into habitats for the benefit of biodiversity.

Objective 2: Protect species and habitats of the utmost importance and improve their management.

Wern Mynach Friends are a very active crew that maintain and protect a piece of land on the outskirts of Barmouth. A piece of land that was previously an old waste site, but by now, with the hard work of volunteers, the site has been transformed for the benefit of biodiversity and the community.

There is always *'something happening'* in Wern Mynach and with investments by the Nature Partnership there were an opportunity to develop the site further by creating a pond and wet area for reptiles and pollinators as well as planting and education activities.

It is always a pleasure to work with the crew as they are so enthusiastic about their work and contribute so much to the local community.

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by recovering habitats that have been degraded and create new habitats.

Yr Heliwr, Nefyn's Community Garden volunteers have been busy transforming the piece of land that was 'polluted' by invasive species into a popular destination for the local community. By coming together to share friendships, a group of volunteers have created a busy and popular garden where a variety of vegetables and crops grow, and it is also a convenient resource in terms of accessibility where many workshops are held on the site for the benefit of local residents' health and well-being.

Objective 4: Tackle key pressure on species and habitats.

Every one of the priorities above contribute to Objectives 2, 3 and 4.

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Our work on priority 6 depends on evidence and records, but all the woodland maintenance work is based on evidence and regular monitoring.

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11. Ecology

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Identify the steps needed to protect the nature habitats and biodiversity for the future.
2. Identify our valuable species and habitats and what measures need to be taken to protect and recover them.

What did we do?

Projects 1 & 2 - We opened a public consultation during 2022/23 to ascertain the views of Gwynedd residents regarding the nature surrounding them and the access they have to the local natural environment. The results of the consultation helped us draw up our reformed Nature Recovery Plan, and that plan will be published during 2023/24. Alongside the Nature Recovery Plan, we have also been assessing the biodiversity of nature reserves that we own to establish a baseline that can be used to measure the progress or the decline against it.

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

3. Increase the number of pollinators by protecting or planting new habitats (landfill sites).

4. Support voluntary and community organisations and town and community councils that protect or promote nature.

What did we do?

Projects 3 & 6 –There are two sites in Gwynedd that used to be landfill sites that have now been transformed into sites to protect and promote nature. Tree planting and maintenance work was done in Llwyn Isaf near Clynnog and Ffridd Rasmus near Harlech during the year, and the fruits of the labour in 2022/23 became obvious by the summer of 2023. Both sites have also received a 'gold standard' by Restor, the international hub for nature recovery.

Projects 3 & 5 -2022/23 was also a very busy year as we prepared our lands for the National Eisteddfod's visit to Llŷn in August 2023. All of the primary schools in the Eisteddfod's catchment area took part in our project to plant wildflower meadows and the Council's highway teams planted wild flower meadows along the road verges leading towards Pwllheli, and we will continue to assess and maintain these meadows in the future.

Continuous Priorities

5. Foster and maintain Gwynedd residents' interest in ecology matters for them to want to help protect nature.
6. Protect valuable habitats for nature.

What did we do?

Project 5 & 6 - Maintaining our nature reserves is a continuous task, but during 2022/23 we have been upgrading our facilities in Morfa Madryn near Llanfairfechan to install accessible paths, which has opened the reserve to more residents. We also installed a new bird watching shelter (made out of old shipping containers) on the Foryd near Caernarfon.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process on all levels.

All of the work that we undertake as a Council through the Local Nature Partnership is planned or provided alongside local establishments, communities or schools.

Objective 2: Protect species and habitats of the utmost importance and improve their management.

The Llŷn and Eifionydd Beekeepers' Association are a busy crew that not only collect honey from over a 100 local beehives but also work has to promote the Welsh Black Bee species here in Gwynedd. The association has new resources by now, including new educational resources, purpose-built display beehives and new equipment for producing honey of high standard. This will allow them to promote their association in the local area, as well as ensuring that the Welsh Black Bee is safeguarded and protected here in Gwynedd.

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by recovering habitats that have been degraded and create new habitats.

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.

Every one of the priorities above contribute to Objectives 2, 3 and 4.

12. Next Steps

Financial

Currently, inflation impacts on the capital cost of every investment plan, but it also means that savings from reducing our energy use is also higher. Despite this, it is very hard to predict energy costs from month to month, and that is also true about inflation in capital costs. It is clear that our own budgets have been hit very hard by national economic circumstances and it is likely that this will leave us in a situation where our aspiration to invest in this field will have to compete against our duties to provide core services to the residents of Gwynedd.

Renewable Energy

Generating our own energy does not only mean less dependency on using electricity from the grid (which is unlikely to be zero net for many years, if at all), but will also provide us with some energy guarantee for us locally. Unfortunately, no recognition is being given to us as an establishment if we generate electricity to export to the grid and we cannot claim the carbon credit for it. In addition to this, the infrastructure is not good enough to send electricity to the grid from renewable sources in this area, e.g. there would be a need to invest millions of pounds to be able to use some of our lands to establish solar farms. Therefore, generating electricity at a commercial scale from renewable sources will not be of any assistance to our ambition of being carbon zero.

Having said that, the Council, along with county partners, are developing a Local Area Energy Plan which will set a foundation to develop a low carbon energy system for Gwynedd for the benefit of residents, the industry and transportation. We will have to wait to see which projects the plan will recommend, and what resources will be available to deliver them.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Report to a meeting of the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of item:	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dafydd Meurig
Contact Officer:	Dafydd Wyn Williams, Head of Environment Department
Date of meeting:	19 December 2023

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

To accept and note the information in the report.

2. THE REASONS WHY A DECISION IS NEEDED

In order to ensure effective performance management.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on developments in the fields within my remit as Cabinet Member for Environment. This includes outlining the latest developments to date against the pledges within the 2023-2028 Cyngor Gwynedd Plan; and the position regarding the performance measures.

3.2 I would like to remind you that all matters have already been discussed between me, the Chief Executive and a representation of senior officers from the Environment Department in November, and that representatives from the Communities Scrutiny Committee also attended a performance meeting in September.

3.3 I am satisfied with the progress to date on the Council plan projects being led by the Department and the work of the Department's officers in the day-to-day work of the Environment Department's Services.

4. PRIORITIES WITHIN THE CYNGOR GWYNEDD PLAN 2023-2028

The Department leads on five priorities in the Council Plan 2023-2028. Two relate transport matters and an Assistant Head will start with the Department in January who will be key to assisting with the work of continuing to drive these specific priorities forward. Progress in the Council Plan Priorities is summarised below:

4.1 Management of second homes and short-term holiday accommodation

- 4.1.1 As part of efforts to gain better control of second homes and short-term holiday lets, the Environment Department is leading on the work of preparing the Article 4 Direction for the Gwynedd Planning Authority Area.
- 4.1.2 Implementing the Article 4 Direction would enable the Council to require that property owners in the Gwynedd Planning Authority Area obtain planning permission before changing the use of their properties into second homes or short-term holiday lets.
- 4.1.3 A six-week public consultation period was held, which came to an end on 13 September. There was a significant response to the consultation, and work continues to analyse all the comments and give due consideration to the responses received.
- 4.1.4 Following the analysis process, a report will be submitted to the Cabinet for a decision in the early months of 2024.
- 4.1.5 This work is unprecedented and is receiving Welsh Government support for the Dwyfor area of the county.

4.2 New Local Development Plan

- 4.2.1 The aim of presenting a new Local Development Plan for the Gwynedd Planning Authority Area will be to address the housing, employment, social and environmental needs of the county's residents over the next 15 years.
- 4.2.2 A Planning Policy Working Group has been established to support the process of creating and maintaining the Local Development Plan.
- 4.2.3 The draft Delivery Agreement for the Local Development Plan was considered by the Working Group. Following Cabinet consent, a six-week public consultation period was held on the Delivery Agreement, which ended on 7 December. Work is underway to consider the responses.
- 4.2.4 It is expected that a report on the consultation will be considered by the Planning Policy Working Group in January, before being considered by the Cabinet and then the full Council in March 2024.

4.3 Waste and Recycling

- 4.3.1 Significant transformation work is taking place in the waste and recycling services, to lay a foundation and future resilience as we work towards the Welsh Government's challenging target of recycling 70% of our waste by 2025.
- 4.3.2 The work has focused on ensuring the competence of team leaders, in particular ensuring more effective return-to-work arrangements as part of the efforts to improve sickness levels and dependence on overtime. Back-office structures have improved in the north of the county over recent months, with the intention of extending similar arrangements to the south of the county in

the new year which will improve the ability to deal with enquiries in a timely way.

- 4.3.3 With the Workplace Recycling Regulations coming into force from April, work is underway to ensure that the Commercial Waste Service's arrangements are ready for the change which will affect all collectors of waste and recycling from businesses, charities and public organisations.
- 4.3.4 Discussions have begun with Wrap Cymru and the Welsh Government to review waste treatment and processing arrangements and ensure that Gwynedd will have facilities that will meet future needs and that we can treat our recycling materials to a high standard. This work will continue over the next few months.

4.4 Active Travel

- 4.4.1 As previously reported, the Council has secured £1.2 million of Active Travel funding from the Welsh Government this year for the first phase of the Ffordd Penrhos path, near Bangor. Preparatory work has been carried out over the last few months, with work on the ground starting from Coed Mawr junction to Coed y Maes junction.
- 4.4.2 It is important to underline that delivering active travel schemes is very dependent on securing financial support from the Welsh Government. That means complying with specific requirements when submitting applications, and Council officers are discussing with Transport for Wales how schemes can be strengthened to try to secure future funding.
- 4.4.3 The main schemes under consideration for development and submission as part of a bid for funding during the next phase are paths from Afonwen to Chwilog, Tywyn to Aberdyfi, and the second phase of the Ffordd Penrhos scheme in Bangor. There is further work to be done on potential schemes to connect Caernarfon and Bethel and Caernarfon and Llanrug.
- 4.4.4 Having secured £280,000 from the Safe Routes in Communities fund, design work has been completed on a scheme to improve walking and cycling provision near Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn in Bala, and the work is expected to go out to tender soon. Work is also currently looking at Safe Routes in Communities schemes in several other areas with the aim of submitting a bid for financial support for the next financial year.
- 4.4.5 Preparatory work has been carried out on improvements to Lôn Las Ogwen, with £1.8 million secured from the Levelling Up fund. Designs to install new bridges near Porth Penrhyn have been made, with work now having started on the site in Bangor. Officers are also looking at work to upgrade Pont Sarnau near Bethesda and ensure a better link for cyclists to other paths in the area.

4.5 Public Transport

- 4.5.1 Work to review the public transport provision in the county has been completed, and new timetables have been presented based on that work in the Dyffryn Nantlle and Caernarfon area. The timetables for the rest of the county will go out to tender soon, with the intention that new services in Meirionnydd will start early in 2024, and in Dwyfor by April.
- 4.5.2 As part of the new timetables that are already in place, efforts have been made to ensure connections between buses and trains in order to create wider travel possibilities.
- 4.5.3 The timetables have been tailored to be more sustainable to increase travel possibilities to rural areas, trying to offer services to meet the needs of more communities than in the past.
- 4.5.4 It is also a pleasure to be able to note that the Sherpa bus services continue to attract external recognition. The new-look service has been shortlisted for several transport awards over the past few months winning a silver prize for 'Buses for Leisure' at the UK Bus Awards and is noted as an example of good practice by independent transport experts.
- 4.5.5 Another exciting development is the T22 electric buses, which will offer an important service along the Blaenau Ffestiniog - Porthmadog - Caernarfon route. After resolving some practical issues, work is progressing and every effort will be made to ensure that the buses will be operational as soon as possible in the new year. In the meantime, a temporary service is operating between Porthmadog and Caernarfon.
- 4.5.6 Following unprecedented support for the transport sector during the pandemic, Council officers continue to work with Transport for Wales on a regional level, to attempt to influence the financial package that will be available from April 2024. Uncertainty continues at present about the level of funding that will be available to Welsh councils, making it very challenging to plan ahead with confidence for the next period.

5. PERFORMANCE

Below, I outline the main matters that have derived from the department's performance during the latest period. The information does not refer to each service in the department, only to those I feel that need to be brought to your attention.

Waste and Recycling

- 5.1 At the moment, we are exceeding the national target to recycle 64% of the waste collected in Gwynedd, but with the target increasing to 70% by March 2025, there is work to be done to attain that challenging figure.
- 5.2 The Council sorts the recycling material that is collected, and receives an income for materials such as plastic bottles, etc. It is worth noting that we are completely dependent on the market and that the price of materials can vary significantly. The quality of the material also has an effect but it is worth

noting that figures for plastic bottles, for example, have dropped from £400 per tonne at their peak, to £200 per tonne in May of this year and £20 per tonne according to the latest figures.

- 5.3 As referred to when reporting on the Waste and Recycling Improvement Priority, we monitor the number of enquiries relating to missed waste collections and it is good to be able to report that there is a general trend towards an improvement in the situation. However, there is an intention to adjust the measure so that we can monitor the true impact on residents and ensure that the service meets the needs of the people of Gwynedd.

Public Protection - Pollution and Licensing

- 5.4 This Service ensures that licensed activities relating to taxis, alcohol, gambling and entertainment are provided in a way that protects the public and supports businesses.
- 5.5 Many more taxi vehicle licensing applications are now submitted through the online system on the Council's website. But as the procedure is new for many applicants, there is a delay with some applications as incomplete information is submitted or more information is needed.
- 5.6 When measuring the time taken to process an application, officers now note the time when the complete application has been submitted. This gives a fairer reflection of the time the service takes to deal with applications, which was eight days in October.

Public Protection - Food and Safety

- 5.5 The Food and Safety Service ensures that food and drink that is sold is safe for public consumption and that it complies with national requirements.
- 5.8 The latest reported figures show that the vast majority of food businesses in Gwynedd continue to meet the expected food hygiene standards. Of the 2,064 food businesses that are subject to the scoring procedure, 99% met the satisfactory or higher food hygiene standard (a score of 3 or above), with 26 not meeting the standard (1%). It is important to note that the Service revisits every premises that receives a score of 2 or lower within three months of the original inspection to ensure that standards have improved.
- 5.9 Despite this, officers continue to deal with a backlog of food standards inspections because their work changed to focus entirely on preventing the spread of Covid-19 during the pandemic. In addition, experienced officers have retired which has resulted in a gap in the number of qualified staff to carry out all aspects of the work.
- 5.10 It is pleasing to report that new officers have been appointed and are beginning to qualify so that they will be able to undertake official food safety duties. This will take time to complete, but it is encouraging that the Service has been able to appoint officers to the field in a challenging period in terms of staffing.

Planning

- 5.11 The Service has succeeded in recruiting two new trainees who have started their work over recent months.
- 5.12 The latest figures for the time it takes to decide on a planning application shows that the performance is continuing to improve compared to the previous period.
- 5.13 The performance since April this year shows that it has taken an average of 84 days to determine planning applications, compared to an average of 92 days in 2022/23, and 103 days in 2021/22.
- 5.14 The additional capacity has also helped with the Planning Service's enforcement work. An experienced officer has been moved to focus on enforcement work for a period, and although there is work to familiarise with the field, there are early signs of improvement.

Land Charges

- 5.15 The Land Charges team provides searches information to anyone who wishes to purchase property or land within Gwynedd, with the intention of giving potential buyers as much information as possible.
- 5.16 You will remember that I mentioned in the last report that most of the work related to transferring data to a new national system to deal with searches has been completed, which has enabled the release of greater capacity for the searches and a prompt response to enquiries.
- 5.17 As a result, it is pleasing to be able to report that the time to process charges applications has stabilised compared to the challenging period last year. To date, the average processing time for 2023/24 is 31 days, compared to 38 days last year.

6. FINANCIAL POSITION/SAVINGS

- 6.1 The 2023/24 Revenue Budget report - End of August 2023 Review considered by the Cabinet on 7 November predicted that the Department will overspend by £511,000 by the end of the year.
- 6.2 There is a combination of reasons for the likely overspend, including the annual trend of overspending in waste collection and recycling. However, it is fair to say that the figure predicted for 2023/24 compares to an overspend of £1.4 million in 2022/23 in waste collection and recycling.
- 6.3 As has been reported, a comprehensive review has identified improvements to be implemented which help to bring the expenditure under control. This is a long-term project, however, and it is unlikely that it will be possible to reach a financially neutral position within 12 months.

6.4 The savings plans target for the Department for 2023/24 is £319,188. Work is ongoing on these schemes, which have either been realised or are on track to be realised by the end of the financial year.

Views of the statutory officers

The Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

Head of Finance Department:

I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of the Environment Department.



CYNGOR GWYNEDD - Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of Item:	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Berwyn Parry Jones
Relevant Officer:	Steffan Jones, Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC Department
Date of Meeting:	19 December, 2023

1. Decision Sought:

To accept and note the information in the report.

2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision:

In order to ensure effective performance management.

3. Introduction and Rationale

The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on what has taken place in the areas within my remit as Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC. This report will outline the following:-

- What has been achieved as part of the priorities of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28.
- Overview of the department's performance measurements.
- The latest in terms of savings and cuts schemes.

4. Council Plan 2023-28 Projects (Improvement Priorities)

4.1 The table in APPENDIX 1 gives an update on the progress of the department's three priority projects which have been identified in the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28.

4.2 From this information, you will note that the department has made good progress against the main milestones of the first year of the 2023/24 plan. There has been a delay in improvement priority 3, 'Extending play and socialising opportunities for children and young people in the County'. But we are confident that the Plan is on track and the work will be delivered in full.

5. Performance of Department Services

In terms of the department's measures, I am happy with the performance that has been delivered. Nevertheless, I draw your attention to the main issues that have arisen.

5.1 Highway Maintenance Service

5.1.1 A Highway Maintenance Manual was adopted at the beginning of the year, and the Service is working on introducing arrangements within their road asset system (WDM) to implement the following:

1. Implement Network Hierarchy	The previous network hierarchy of roads had to be made according to the recommendations of the 2016 highway code of practice	Completed
2. Defects Categories	The information recorded during road checks is used to determine defects categories. The main change of the manual is to see a safety defect (previously category 1), being dealt with by the end of the next working day	This is anticipated to be fully operational before the end of the calendar year
3. Budget Allocation	The highway maintenance budget is split between regular and planned work. The Service is working towards establishing a priority-based work procedure/program of the worst roads	The program is anticipated to be in place for the financial year 2024/2025

5.2 Street Scene Service

5.2.1 We have incorporated the following services within one new Service, the Street Scene Service, to focus on the look and image of our streets and roads:

- Street Cleaning
- Street Enforcement
- Tím Tacluso 'Ardal Ni'

5.2.2 Following last year's restructuring, the Department took the opportunity to undertake a high-level review of the Service to find out if there were any barriers preventing it from working effectively and efficiently.

5.2.3 A Street Scene Service Manager was appointed, and a Task Group was established to act on the recommendations/improvements resulting from the review.

5.2.4 The review highlighted several issues for improvement. However, ten main issues were deemed as necessary to be addressed. An update on these ten main issues was provided to the Leadership Team on the 14.11.23. A further update will be presented before the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee within the next five months.

5.2.5 The Department will organise the launch of the new Street Scene Service on the 1 April, 2024 by:

- Informing all Members about the new structure and links to the Service
- Visiting community and town councils to discuss all the Service's work
- Attending Area Forums

5.2.6 As the cleaning routes will be on a digital system, details will be shared on the Council's website.

5.3 Grounds Maintenance Service

5.3.1 The service is responsible for a wide range of locations within towns and villages, mainly within the 20 and 30mph zones, across the County during the growing season. Including road verges, cemeteries, open spaces, play areas, care homes and sports facilities. The service coordinates the opening and closing of graves throughout the year in 12 cemeteries in the Arfon and Meirionnydd areas.

5.3.2 In addition to this, the service undertakes a range of additional work during the winter months, such as contracting work for other departments, fencing and concrete works, bench installation, street bin installation, public toilets refurbishment and painting, renovation and painting of play area equipment, maintenance of promenade benches in Tywyn and Barmouth, maintenance of public parks such as Parc Dre, Caernarfon.

5.3.3 This year, the service teamed up with the Environment Department on a road verges project. The project has been a successful one helping nature, especially pollinators to increase biodiversity. An article will be shared internally and with the public to further the work of this project over the next few weeks.

5.4 Fleet Service

5.4.1 Since the adoption of the Green Fleet Plan (2023/2029), the Fleet Service has engaged in discussions with departments/services to truly identify fleet size/true service needs. This was a vital step to carry out before looking at changes to the type of fleet we will need. One of the milestones of the scheme is to reduce the use of fossil fuel vehicles towards by introducing a fleet of vehicles (cars and vans) ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles).

5.4.2 To move this agenda forward, the Service has ordered 43 electric vehicles which will reach us before the end of the financial year. Another priority is to establish electric vehicle charging points for Council vehicles. It is anticipated that by the end of the financial year, the Council will have 16 charging points operational at four locations across the Council. There is still considerable work to be undertaken while also looking at changing working practices to ensure the best use of the Council's fleet.

5.4.3 The Service is also looking at setting up a corporate pool system. The Information Technology team will support the development of the system and will looking at running a trial in the Spring.

5.5 Closed Circuit Television Service (CCTV)

- 5.5.1 CCTV cameras are used in public places in Gwynedd to help keep our communities safe by assisting to prevent and fight crime, to help prevent anti-social behaviour, to provide recorded evidence to North Wales Police, to promote economic wellbeing within communities and to give the public a sense of security.
- 5.5.2 In addition, the authority has installed cameras connected to the same system in many of its working depots, to assist with health and safety responsibilities and day-to-day operation, as well as assisting the Police with theft.
- 5.5.3 This year we were successful in getting a bid for funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to extend our existing provision of CCTV systems in public places. We are busy making arrangements to further design the main projects in Bangor, Caernarfon and Pwllheli and are preparing to employ specialist consultants to produce tender documents for the market.

5.6 Public Toilets Service

- 5.6.1 The Council has 61 public toilets in Gwynedd which, in terms of numbers, is the highest provision in Wales managed by a Local Authority. We are striving to improve the condition of the assets and continue to meet the needs of the people of Gwynedd despite the depletion in the Council's resources.
- 5.6.2 To implement improvements, an internal funding bid has been submitted as well as taking advantage of grant opportunities e.g. (this year we successfully received £135,860 through the 'Brilliant Basics' fund to upgrade 4 toilets in Gwynedd).
- 5.6.3 A report was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on the 05.10.23 outlining our intention to introduce payment doors with contactless technology. Should our funding bid be successful, we hope to introduce new doors at a minimum of 5 toilets.
- 5.6.4 In addition to the upgrades, the service manages a Public Facilities Grant Scheme which allows members of the public to use toilets at various local establishments during the hours they are open. The toilets can be used free of charge and there is no expectation for those using them to purchase goods or services during the period they are in the building. The organisations involved in the Scheme are expected to keep their toilets safe, clean, accessible and ensure they are adequately stocked. The maximum grant for one year is £500 per placement. The grant guidance on the Council's corporate website highlights the purpose of the Scheme and how to apply for the grant.

5.7 Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) Project Delivery and Business Service

5.7.1 Since Gwynedd Consultancy joined the Department, there has been an opportunity to look at the two existing Business Units and centralise the administrative services. We have reviewed processes following the principles of 'Ffordd Gwynedd'. Through this work we are promoting and enhancing the use of technology by transferring processes from paper to digital. There has also been an opportunity to centralize the supervision and administration of the Department's core Information Technology systems. The main processes currently under review are:

- Invoice processing and payments
- Purchasing (orders)
- Invoice
- Staff Timetables
- Training

5.8 Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) Water and Environment Service

5.8.1 The Council has published its Climate and Nature Emergency Plan and the plan refers to how we as a Council want to respond to the impacts of climate change, which include the impacts of flooding. As a result of this, the Water and Environment Service is leading on the formulation of a Local Flooding Strategy that runs parallel to the Climate Emergency Plan and helps to achieve mutual targets.

5.8.2 Over the past few months, the service has further developed the Strategy in line with the framework and guidance provided by the Welsh Government. The document discusses the roles and responsibilities of different authorities to manage the threat of flooding; the history of flooding across Gwynedd and the threat of future flooding as a result of the effects of climate change, and also what Cyngor Gwynedd are doing within their powers to manage the threats.

5.8.3 Underpinning the document over the next few years are 5 main objectives, and a list of actions that build on our current flood risk management tools to meet these objectives.

The objectives of the Strategy are:

Objective 1: Aim to reduce the level of risk of flooding and coastal erosion for Gwynedd residents.

Objective 2: Developing further understanding of flood risk to Gwynedd and the impacts of climate change.

Objective 3: Continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd.

Objective 4: Raising awareness of local flood and coastal erosion risk.

Objective 5: Work collaboratively with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flooding and coastal erosion incidents.

- 5.8.4 The next steps will be to complete a full bilingual draft of the document along with the associated reports and undertake an engagement exercise early in the new year. Initial capital works programmes (inland and coastal) will be included as appendices to the main document. There is an outline programme below, but the timetable may change depending on the consultation.
- 5.8.5 The work of the Service is vital in protecting areas in Gwynedd from the effects of Flooding. We are pleased to report that our Felinheli Flood Protection Scheme has won an award for using technology to manage assets at the NCE (New Civilis Engineer) competitions in London on the 24.11.23. This was a great success for the Service and a great example of making use of technology within the field.

6. The Department's Business Plan / Accreditations

6.1 **Business Plan** - Work to update the Gwynedd Consultancy Business Plan (YGC) to incorporate it into the department-wide Plan (PP/YGC) continues. The plan is to launch the new plan in April 2024.

6.2 **Investors in People Accreditations (IIP)** - In 2022/23, the YGC Service received an "Investors in People" accreditation for the third time. The IIP report and the action plan will weave into the Service business plan.

6.3 **BSI accreditations** - The Department has managed to retain the accreditations below following the yearly BSI management audit:

- BSI 9001
- BSI 1401
- BSI 4501

6.4 These accreditations are crucial and essential to the work of services across the Department.

7. Financial Situation

7.1 Following a recent review of the Department's budgetary position submitted to the Cabinet (07/11/2023), an overspend of around £990 is anticipated this year. It was noted that a reduction in the work being commissioned by external agencies and also additional pressures on municipal budgets were leading to this overspending. The Department is taking steps to reduce the anticipated overspending amount.

7.2 The Department has delivered the majority of its savings plans worth £215,940 for 2023/24.

8. Views of the statutory officers

The Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

Head of Finance Department:

I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of the Highways, Engineering and YGC Department.

APPENDIX 1

Projects	Overview	What we want to achieve during the first year 2023-24 (milestones)	Update - December 2023
<p>1. Clean and Tidy Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfilling what was promised within the Council's Plan 2018-23 namely, 'for every community in Gwynedd to prosper' and that as people they 'enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life' by 'taking advantage of the County's natural beauty'. To facilitate physical improvements to the built environment within and in the vicinity of towns and villages in Gwynedd, by focusing on public open spaces, e.g., roads, streets, parks, promenades, etc. 	<p>To build on our engagement work, we intend to hold consultation sessions within our communities to share the principles of the Tidying-up Teams and to provide local members with the opportunity to express their views on the type of work that needs to be targeted and the best way of achieving this.</p>	<p>A customer satisfaction questionnaire has been placed within the Tidying Teams 'Hub' and feedback is recorded and shared with the Teams</p> <p>Considering that the Teams have been fully operational for over a year now, we hope to re-visit the 'Ardal Ni' consultation to measure the success of the Teams</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local ownership and develop a sense of pride in the area by working at a cross-service level by building relationships with local groups/organisations, volunteers and the third sector. 	<p>An opportunity has arisen to review other similar services within the Department and find out if they can be integrated into one Street Scene Service to significantly improve the cleanliness, tidiness and safety of the local built environment.</p>	<p>Following last year's restructuring, the Department took the opportunity to undertake a high-level review of the Service to find out whether there were any barriers preventing it from working effectively and efficiently.</p>
		<p>As well as the Ardal Ni Tidying Teams, there is potential to incorporate the Street Cleaning Service, Grounds Maintenance Service and the Street Services into the new integrated service. Such a move would allow resources and skills to be shared, align existing working practices, create efficiency savings and potentially save costs. Work to investigate this has already begun with a review of how</p>	<p>We have now incorporated the following services within one new Service, i.e., the Street Scene Service, to be able to focus on the look and image of our streets and roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street Cleaning Street Enforcement

		the street cleaning service carries out its work. A similar exercise will be carried out on the other services over the coming months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Ardal Ni' Tidying-up Team <p>The Service is facing an overspend situation following a recent financial review. In addition, the savings plan will be presented in the next financial year. Recommendations from the review will be integral to the work to respond to the situation.</p>
2. Acting on flood risks	<p><u>Coastal Flood Risks</u></p> <p>Gwynedd has the largest coastline in Wales and due to the nature of our landscape a high percentage of our communities and the infrastructure that serves them, are on the coast.</p> <p>Naturally, risks arise from rising sea levels as well as more intense storms, which occur more frequently and have a worse impact on our communities.</p> <p>The project seeks to commit to the prioritisation of flood risks.</p>	<p>Have a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Gwynedd in place. Responsibilities for mitigating flood risks are split between the Council and Natural Resources Wales. For clarity, the aim is to produce a local flood strategy that includes all risks to Gwynedd residents.</p>	<p>We have considered how our Local Flooding Strategy is going to reduce risks to Gwynedd residents and set out our vision before the Leadership Team.</p>
	<p><u>Inland Flood Risks</u></p> <p>Climate change has a significant impact on floods and storms, periods of rain that become more intense and occur more frequently.</p>	<p>Create a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Strategy must be consistent with the National Strategy published in October 2020. We also start from a position of reviewing Local Flood Risk Management Strategies in present-day Wales</p>	<p>A draft Strategy has been completed in line with the Welsh Government's timetable.</p>

	<p>Gwynedd is split into 15 fluvial catchment areas.</p> <p>It is possible to prioritise the catchment areas according to theoretical risk from the information in Natural Resources Wales maps, while also taking into account the information the department gathers after each incident of house flooding in Gwynedd (Gathering this information is a statutory role under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 - known as Section 19 reports).</p> <p>The project seeks to commit to the prioritising inland flood risks.</p>	<p>(2013) and actively align with related objectives, measures and policies and legislation on the 2020 National Strategy. This task needs to be completed by October 2023.</p> <p>Based on the priorities, the department will draw up catchment plans, which often include several small and large schemes throughout the catchment area. This is a fundamental change to the way flood plans were drawn up in the past with much more local projects being developed. Very often, such schemes would pass on problems and risk further down the catchment area and contribute to problems in other locations. The aim is to reduce this by</p>	<p>We will draw up plans within our catchment areas to help avoid/respond to current and growing threats.</p>
<p>3. Extending opportunities for play and socialising for the county's children and young people</p>	<p>Since the re-opening of playing fields after the pandemic, the County's provision has increased. The expectation of County residents is also higher, and they want to see high grade play equipment to ensure equal play opportunities. For many years there has been no investment in changing/adding to the play equipment and only a very small revenue budget has been available to maintain them. We face many challenges to ensure quality play opportunities and equipment for our communities. The scheme will therefore enable us to develop existing assets ensuring a safe and pleasing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the playgrounds that are high priority • Provide a prioritised work programme • Local collaboration with partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Asset List and equipment record / status in place •We will aim to review the list of information that includes the locations of the play fields/equipment to prioritise the work that will be part of this Project. •A bid for funding has been submitted via the internal process to improve play opportunities across the county •A letter will be sent to the community groups to open a discussion regarding

	area for our communities to use.		collaborative opportunities on any available grant applications •It should be noted that it is impossible to measure the use made of the playing fields, but engagement will be a foundation to the prioritisation work
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