

## Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	16 February 2021
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
Contact Officer:	Dewi W. Jones, Council Business Support Service Manager
Department / Service:	Corporate Support
Title of Item:	Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 – Review for 2021/22

### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. The Cabinet's approval of the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 – 2021/22 Review (the Plan) for submission to the Council on 4 March 2021.


### 2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. The Council Plan for 2018-23 was originally adopted by the Full Council at its meeting on 8 March 2018. Since then, we have been reviewing its contents annually in order to ensure that we as a Council are continuing to prioritise our work according to the needs of the people of Gwynedd.
- 2.2. The Cabinet is firstly required to approve the contents of the Plan, including the updates made to it, in order to recommend that the Full Council adopts the Plan at its meeting on 4 March 2021.

### 3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. The Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023 is our public statement as a Council of what we intend to achieve for the people of Gwynedd. The Plan in its first year stated our vision for 5 years, and then every annual review offers an update that summarises where we have arrived on the journey, and what our priorities will be for the year to come.
- 3.2. We now need to review the Plan in order to state what we intend to achieve during 2021/22, which is the fourth year into the five year plan. The Cabinet will need to approve the changes that have been made to the Plan between 2020/21 and 2021/22. The new revised Plan is attached in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3. We note as well that there is further work to complete on the format of the Improvement Priorities so that the plan can be submitted to the Council at its

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meeting on 4 March. An example of the new format is attached in **Appendix 2**.

- 3.4. Where significant changes have been made to the content of the Plan, we present an Equality Impact Assessment in order that the Cabinet can weigh up whether the changes are acceptable in terms of the impact they might have on people who have one or more of the characteristics that are protected under the Equality Act 2010. The Assessment can be seen in **Appendix 3**.
- 3.5. The Plan is split into two main sections, namely the **Improvement Priorities** and the **Departmental Plans**. The Improvement Priorities identify our Well-being objectives and our Priority Projects for the period in question, and they summarise all the areas which we will specifically address in order to make the greatest difference possible to our residents' lives. Under each Improvement Priority is a summary of what we intend to deliver.
- 3.6. A description of the Departments' day-to-day work can be seen within the **Departmental Plans**. These also address what we are doing in response to the matters that were highlighted by Councillors as Local Priorities back in the autumn of 2017.
- 3.7. Over the past months much of our efforts as a Council have focused on responding to the Covid-19 crisis, therefore we are now planning for stabilising and re-building. Since we also need to review the Council Plan in order to state what we intend to achieve during 2021/22, it is timely for us to consult more widely with the remaining Elected Members to ensure that the priorities are continuing to address people's needs in Gwynedd.
- 3.8. We intend to have these discussions with the Local Members on the 8th and 9th of February, and any relevant considerations that arise from those discussions will be reported verbally to the Cabinet Members at their meeting on 16 February.

#### **4. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1. The matters for the Cabinet members to consider prior to approving the Plan are noted below.
- 4.2. Much work has been undertaken in identifying the areas that should be prioritised, giving consideration to what matters to the people of Gwynedd as we stabilise and re-build following the Covid-19 crisis. By now the scope of a number of projects has been extended to include the matters identified.
- 4.3. The main changes are summarised below. The information includes an explanation of which projects are new to the plan, and which projects are a continuation of those in the current plan or have changed slightly (e.g. extending on a previous project, or changing its focus).

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4.4. The following projects are newly-added. It should be noted that many of the fields noted, such as Transfer of holiday units from Council Tax to Business Rates, have been addressed as part of the Council's work for many years. However, specific challenges have emerged in light of the Covid-19 crisis which have made the problems even more evident, meaning that they have been escalated to be included in the Plan's main priorities.

- Regeneration: creating regeneration plans for our areas
- The Gap in Welfare and Attainment of Children and Young People
- Digital Learning Strategy
- The transfer of holiday units from Council Tax to Business Rates
- Native Welsh Place Names
- A Suitable and Sustainable Care Provision for the future
- Keeping Families Together Strategy
- Ensuring specialist appropriate local provision for children with the most complex needs
- Ensuring that families and children with autism have access to the support they need to thrive
- Public Protection Capacity
- Ensuring that managers practice their Health and safety role effectively
- Realising Savings
- Clean and Tidy Communities
- Strengthening Communication and Engagement

4.5. In addition, the scope or content of the following projects have changed:

- **Benefiting from Tourism** has now been extended and re-named **Tourism – creating a Sustainable Tourism Plan**
- The scope of the **Businesses Receiving Support to Prosper** project has been extended as a result of the need for additional support for businesses following the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis
- **Post-16 Provision, Bangor Catchment Area, Treferyth Catchment Area (Cricieth), Meirionnydd Strategic Collaboration** has been split into four individual projects, namely:
  - **Post-16 Education Provision in Arfon**
  - **Bangor Catchment Area**
  - **Cricieth Catchment Area** and
  - **Meirionnydd Collaboration**
- The scope of the **Supporting People's Well-being** project has been extended in light of different needs emerging in our communities during the Covid-19 crisis
- The scope of the **More Gwynedd residents playing a full part in the World of Work** project has been extended as a result of increased unemployment following the Covid-19 crisis

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- **The 'Homes for the People of Gwynedd' Strategy 2019-24** has been changed to focus on three additional projects that are covered by the strategy, namely:
    - **A shortage of suitable homes for the people of Gwynedd: Secure approval for the Housing Plan and begin action;**
    - **Easy and clear access enquiry services and advice on housing matters: Establish 'one front door' and helpdesk for the public to help them with housing problems; and**
    - **Letting social housing to local people: Create a new allocation policy for the county which will give greater priority to local people.**
  - The scope of the project titled **Promoting the Use of Welsh by Children and Young People** has been changed because of the need take into account the impact of lockdown on Welsh learners' skills and confidence
  - The **Community Resilience** project has been incorporated as part of the **Supporting People's Well-being** project
  - The scope of the **Apprenticeships Scheme** has been extended and re-named **Planning the Workforce**
  - The project titled **Gwynedd Businesses to use the Welsh Language** is now being addressed as part of the day-to-day work of the Corporate Support and Economy and Community Departments.
- 4.6. The remaining projects under the Improvement Priorities will carry on from 2020/21 to 2021/22. Does the Cabinet agree with the changes that have been highlighted above, to be set out as outlined in **Appendix 2**?
- 4.7. **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)**  
The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, public bodies are required to publish well-being objectives that outline how they will improve well-being.
- 4.8. We consulted with the Elected Members and the public regarding the matters that affect their well-being as part of the development of the original Plan (and during February 2021) and we also analysed the findings of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board's Well-being Assessment.
- 4.9. We will need to add the Foreword by the Leader to the Plan that is to be submitted to the Council for approval, which will be done following the discussion at the Cabinet meeting.
- 4.10. The 'Financial Information' section will also be updated before the final Plan is submitted for the Council's approval.

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## 5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1. After approving the plan, we intend to submit it for adoption at the next full meeting of the Council on 4 March 2021.
- 5.2. After the Full Council has adopted the Plan, it will be published on the Council's website. We will also give consideration to how best to communicate the main messages of the plan to the public, and Cabinet Members will have the opportunity to give their opinion on this after the Plan is adopted.

## 6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

### 6.1 Views of the Statutory Officers:

#### i. The Head of Finance Department

The Council Plan is a key document, which sets out what Gwynedd Council aims to do over the next three years. The Transformation Fund remains in place in order to finance the Plan's priorities, but a proportion of this fund has already been committed. There is a likelihood that resource requirements for all the improvement priorities in the Plan is greater than the money available to them, whilst financial propriety means that it must be ensured that a funding source has been identified for any commitment to spend. I expect that the Cabinet will continue to consider each business case individually before agreeing to fund suggested schemes, and on those occasions I will update the Cabinet on the adequacy of the Fund.

#### ii. The Monitoring Officer:

Within the Council Plan there are statutory aspects which are addressed, specifically in relation to Improvement Objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Wellbeing Objectives established under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. By reviewing the Plan the Council addresses annual requirements which relate to these. I support the recommendation from a propriety perspective

### 6.2 Local Member's views

Not a local matter.

### 6.3 Results of Any Consultation

None to note.

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## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2020/21 Review

Appendix 2 – An example of a designed Improvement Priority

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment

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