

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



**Date of meeting:** 15 June 2021  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn  
**Contact Officer:** Dewi W. Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager  
**Contact Telephone Number:** 32233  
**Title of Item:** Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2020/21

## Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. To approve the Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2020/21 and to recommend its adoption by the Full Council.

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

- 2.1. In accordance with the Council's performance management procedure, the Performance Report for 2020/21 is initially submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

### 3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. We as a Council are required to publish an annual report measuring our performance against our priorities.
- 3.2. The Wales Audit Office considers this report when preparing its assessment of the Council's performance. As usual, they will be searching for a balanced report, which addresses the aspects that failed to be achieved as well as the successful aspects.
- 3.3. This will be the Council's last Annual Performance Report under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 which places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to ensure continuous improvement, and to be accountable for it. In future, we will be reporting in line with the new Performance and Governance Guidance within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Amongst other things, we will be required to produce a self-assessment of our performance and to demonstrate how we will use the outcomes to improve performance. There will also be a duty for us to consult on our performance at least once a year with relevant stakeholders. We will, over the coming months, consider the most appropriate way to address these additional duties.
- 3.4. The Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2020/21 (Appendix 1) has been structured to reflect the format of the 2018-23 Gwynedd Council Plan. The first part

focuses on the performance of the Council Plan's Improvement Priorities projects and the second part looks at our day-to-day work in each department.

- 3.5. Additionally, at the beginning of this year's report we have included an extra chapter with the intention of summarising and conveying the council's main additional work programmes during 2020/21 because of the need to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. The chapter is also an opportunity to mention the general adaptations that have faced all departments, e.g. the need to establish virtual working arrangements.
- 3.6. Furthermore, the departmental reports add to that by outlining the effect of the Covid-19 crisis specifically on their work and performance.
- 3.7. The Cabinet Members have not presented individual performance reports during the year in accordance with the usual arrangements. Therefore, the report has been prepared based on the departments' end of year performance reports. These reports have been presented for discussion at performance challenging meeting with the relevant Cabinet Members and representation of scrutiny committees.
- 3.8. The main measures have been included within the body of the report, rather than in a separate table of measures, in order to be a part of conveying the story.
- 3.9. It is noted that the content of the Leader's Foreword needs to be confirmed, and this will be done prior to submitting the final version of the report to the Full Council. Of course, the efforts of council staff to work tirelessly to ensure continuation of services during such a challenging year needs to be acknowledged, and the foreword will provide an opportunity for doing so.
- 3.10. In order to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, we are expected to report on our contribution to the principles of the Act and specifically the well-being objectives that we have adopted. Consequently, the well-being objectives, to which the Departments' day-to-day work and projects contribute, have been highlighted in the report.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE**

- 4.1. The Council will discuss and accept the report, or not, at its meeting on 8 July 2021. When the Council approves the final report, it will be published.
- 4.2. Arrangements will be made to inform the public of the report by communicating the report and the main successes visually via social media as well as by printing copies and sharing them with the media and at the Council's usual locations e.g. libraries.

#### **Views of the Statutory Officers**

##### **The Monitoring Officer:**

Reporting on the performance and outcomes of the Gwynedd Council Plan is part of an appropriate governance regime. It also meets the Council's statutory duties to report annually on performance under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and achievements against the Wellbeing Objectives as noted in the report. Nevertheless, it is appropriate to note that this regime has changed for 2021/22 with new arrangements

for reporting and consulting on performance coming into force under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

**Head of Finance:**

I have worked with the author to prepare the financial figures and aspects included in the Performance Report and its appendices, and I confirm the relevant content's accuracy (the financial figures are consistent with 2020/21 accounts). Despite the pandemic and its restrictions, the Council have achieved much during 2020/21 including rectifying the situation regarding many historical savings plans, finishing the year in a robust financial situation. This is following the Council's success to claim grants from the Government to ensure the continuation of vital services (a total sum of over £27m was claimed for the Council, Gwynedd schools, and Byw'n Iach) and assisting the county's economy (over £106m of support grants to local businesses were distributed).