

MEETING	Full Council
DATE	8th July 2021
TITLE	Gwynedd Council Annual Performance Report 2020/21
PURPOSE	To approve and adopt Gwynedd Council's 2020/21 Performance Report as a clear, balanced and accurate picture of the Council's performance during the period in question.
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
CONTACT OFFICER	Dewi W. Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 has placed a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement and to be accountable for it. As a Council, we have met this requirement by publishing a Plan that outlines how we will act (Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23), and then be accountable for progress against this plan by publishing an Annual Performance Report.
- 1.2 Local authorities are required to publish an assessment of their performance (the Performance Report) during any financial year by 31 October of the following financial year. In accordance with the requirements, the Council also needs to ensure that the content of the report provides an accurate, balanced and clear picture of the Council's performance.
- 1.3 This will be the Council's last Annual Performance Report under the requirements of this measure. 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.
- 1.4 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, it can be seen that the well-being objectives, to which the Departments' day-to-day work and projects contribute, have been highlighted in the report.

2 Reasons for Recommending the Decision

- 2.1 The Council Cabinet discussed the Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2020/21, seen in **Appendix 1**, at its meeting on 15th June 2020, and recommended that the Council adopts the report.

3 Relevant Considerations

- 3.1 The Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2019/20 has been structured in order to reflect the format of the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023. 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.
 - 3.2 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.
 - 3.3 Furthermore, the departmental reports add to that by outlining the effect of the Covid-19 crisis specifically on their work and performance.
 - 3.4 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.
- 3.3 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.

4 Next steps and timetable

- 4.1 Following the adoption of Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2020/21 by the Council, we will make arrangements to inform the public and partners about the report by communicating the report and the main successes in various ways.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Council is requested to approve and adopt the report as an accurate, balanced and clear reflection of the Council's performance in 2020/21.

6 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.

The Head of Finance Department

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).

7 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Gwynedd Council Annual Report 2020/21