

MEETING	Full Council
DATE	3 March 2022
TITLE	Council Plan 2018-23: 2022/23 Review
PURPOSE	To approve an update on the Council Plan
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
CONTACT OFFICER	Dewi W. Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager

1. Decision Sought

- 1.1. The Council is asked to adopt the **Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2022/23 Review** to be implemented during 2022/23.

2. Introduction

- 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. We now need to review the Plan in order to state what the Council intends to achieve during 2022/23, which is the last year of the five-year plan.
- 2.3. In order to review the plan properly, we needed to consider what had changed since last year, and to examine the social, economic, environmental and policy issues which influence the Council, and which are likely to influence the well-being of the people of Gwynedd in the future.
- 2.4. At its meeting on 15 February, the Cabinet approved the **Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2022/23 Review (the Plan)**, and recommended that the Full Council adopted the Plan at its Full Council meeting on 3 March 2022.

3. Background

- 3.1. As with the current version, the **Council Plan 2018-23: 2022/23 Review** is split into 2 main parts, which are the **Improvement Priorities** and the individual **Department Plans**. A copy of the amended Plan is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2. The **Improvement Priorities** identify our Well-being Objectives and our Priority Projects for the period in question. It outlines all the areas that 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.

- 3.3. See a description of the Departments' day-to-day work 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.
- 3.4. Over the past year, much of our efforts as a Council have been focused on responding to the Covid-19 crisis, therefore, we are now planning for stabilising and re-building.
- 3.5. To ensure that the priorities still address the needs of the people of Gwynedd we consulted on a broader level with the Elected Members on what we wish to deliver during 2022/23 in December 2021. Generally, there was agreement on draft priorities, and the opportunity to have an input into the process before the Plan was formally submitted to the Cabinet and the Full Council was welcomed.

4. Changes since the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2020/21 Review

- 4.1. Considerable 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. As a result, the scope of a number of projects has been extended to include the matters identified.
- 4.2. 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 a previous project or changing its focus).
- 4.3. The following projects are newly-added.
 - **Free school meals for primary schools** - following the Government's announcement in November 2021 that it is intended to provide free school meals to all primary pupils, considerable work is needed in terms of the practicality of the scheme.
- 4.4. In addition, the scope or content of the following projects have changed:
 - The scope of the **Bangor Catchment Area** Project has been extended to include better resources and learning environment in Hirael School, investment in the secondary provision in order to improve the learners' experience, and increase the number of learners who choose the take advantage of Welsh-medium secondary education in the city.
 - The scope of the **Managing the use of dwellings as holiday homes and second homes** has been extended to include greater emphasis on gaining better control through the planning process.
 - **A shortage of suitable homes for the people of Gwynedd: Secure approval for the Housing Plan and begin taking action** has now been extended and re-named as **A shortage of suitable homes for the people of**

Gwynedd: Implementing and delivering projects within our Housing Plan in order to increase the opportunities for local people to have a suitable home within their communities.

- **The Workforce and Recruitment in the Care Field** project has been incorporated as part of the broader **Workforce Planning** project. Consequently, several departments will closely work together to respond to the recruitment challenges facing the Council.

The remaining projects under the Improvement Priorities will continue from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

5. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)

- 5.1. The Act sets a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve people's economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, public bodies need to publish the well-being objectives that outline how they will improve well-being in their areas.
- 5.2. 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 with Elected Members during February 2021 and December 2021) and we also analysed the findings of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board's Well-being Assessment. As part of the review this year we are also reviewing whether the Well-being Objectives remain up-to-date. A list of the well-being objectives can be seen on page 7 of the plan.

6. Equality Act 2010

- 6.1. There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider the findings of an equality impact assessment when preparing the plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as is implemented in Wales. The assessment is included in **Appendix 2**. The Project Leaders will be responsible for undertaking a full Equality Impact Assessment on individual projects.

7. Any Consultations Undertaken Prior To Recommending The Decision

8.1 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 year. As the final year of the current plan commences, the specific funds remain in place in order to finance the Plan's priorities, but a proportion of these funds 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 we will continue to ensure that a funding source has been identified for any commitment to spend.

ii. The Monitoring Officer:

Within the Council Plan there are statutory aspects which are addressed, specifically in relation to 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

8.2 Local Member's views

Not a local matter.

8.3 Results of Any Consultation

The Equality Impact Assessment can be seen in Appendix 2.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Council Plan 2018-23: 2022/23 Review

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment