

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



A Report to a meeting of the Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 19 July, 2022

Cabinet Member: Coun. Berwyn Parry Jones

Contact Officers: Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal Department
Huw Williams, Head of Gwynedd Consultancy Department (YGC)

Contact Numbers: 32402 / 32426

Subject:

PERFORMANCE CHALLENGING REPORT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND MUNICIPAL AND GWYNEDD CONSULTANCY

THE DECISION SOUGHT

To accept and note the information in the report.

THE REASONS WHY A DECISION IS NEEDED

In order to ensure effective performance management.

Highways and Municipal Department

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on what has happened in my areas of responsibility as the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal. This will include outlining what has happened against the promises of the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023; where the performance measures were outlined; and the latest on savings plans and cuts.
- 1.2 I would like to remind you that all the issues have already been discussed and scrutinized during the Highways and Municipal Department's Management Team.

- 1.3 Overall, I am comfortable with the performance of the measures reported. The Department is facing considerable work to ensure that we achieve the Welsh Government's statutory recycling performance by 2025. We are also pleased to report that we are in the process of establishing 5 'Tim Tacluso' to improve the County's image by investing in clean/tidy communities.

2. GWYNEDD COUNCIL PLAN PROJECTS 2018-2023 (Improvement Priorities)

- 2.1 Set out below is the progress that has been made to date against the Department's improvement priorities projects. Overall, all projects are currently going in the right direction against the promises set out in the Council Plan. It is important to note that the department's improvement priorities are long-term and cover particularly crucial elements of our services. An important part of the work is engaging with the communities to understand and hear what is important to them. This work will complement 'Our Area Engagement Plan 2035'.

Clean and Tidy Communities

We were successful in getting unanimous support from the Cabinet to set up 5 'Tim Tacluso'. The project was launched in Arfon at the beginning of March. We had great feedback from members of the public and we look forward to establishing the teams to be operational across Gwynedd.

A Project Officer for Tim Tacluso 'Ardal Ni' has been appointed who will work closely with all project stakeholders, building effective and influential relationships with community groups and elected members in order to identify work that needs to be targeted to achieve clean and tidy communities.

To achieve what was promised in our report we intend to implement the following:

The Team's Work Program

- The Teams' routes will be based on the regeneration areas where they will be visiting on a bi-monthly basis.
- In order to respond to urgent matters, we will ensure flexibility within the work program.
- We anticipate that the applications from different locations will shape the future work program.
- As a principle, we will give fair attention to all large towns, large villages and small villages within the regeneration areas and the Teams will be there for a set period of time as required.
- We will therefore be able to share when a Team is in each area and open any requests for work.

Contact System

Ensuring a modern, clear, and timely contact is vital, so below we have set out a system that we think will work best:

- As we highlighted in our Cabinet report, we will make use of modern technology to receive applications for work from local members.
- We have been in discussions with the IT Team to develop an in-house system (FFOS) whereby Councilors and Community Councils will have access to the system to make applications for work.
- Through this system it will be possible to send an instant message to the Teams mobile devices and update any requests while working in the communities.
- Members will be able to identify a request as a routine or urgent one.

Strengthening Communication and Engagement

The Highways and Municipal Department is very visible with aspects of the service affecting every resident throughout the County. Value can be added to the work of the Department through effective communication and engagement plans; for example, litter or dog fouling prevention campaigns, or campaigns and guides to encourage re-use, re-use and waste minimization. It is also extremely important that residents are confident in the services of the Department and that their concerns and queries are dealt with effectively.

This project has commenced, beginning with a review of our current communications arrangements, a task group has been established with cross-departmental representatives (Galw Gwynedd team, web team and the Corporate Communications and Engagement Unit). The team has identified the need to strengthen our communication streams by focusing specifically on updating customers on their inquiries. To achieve this aim there will be work to develop the interactive map for public display on the Council website. The intention is to place the various assets of the department on a map where customers will be able to see the status of the asset and report any shortfalls.

Benefit to the Customer:

- A straightforward way to identify and select a particular problematic asset in a map Format.
- Ability to click on the specific asset if a problem is to be reported.
- View the maintenance schedule associated with the asset in question.
- See if the problem has already been reported - with the Council aware of the issue.
- Be able to decide if there is a real need to continue reporting the problem.
- Ensure that a customer can receive an update on the status of the problem.

Benefits to the Service:

- Centralised system to keep accurate, current, and secure information about service schedules and work programs.
- Avoid multiple calls for the same problem.
- Enable the service to respond effectively to the right asset.
- Enable the service to work mobile with live information delivered to their device/ tablet in the vehicle.

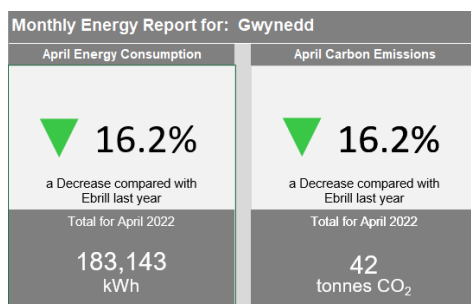
- A service that can respond much faster, for example the service will be able to receive requests live when going around doing work.
- Service efficiency, as one officer is going to assess each asset once.
- Map information on enabling the service to plan remit more efficiently.
- Opportunity to save diesel as well.

Other Projects

Street Lighting to LED Program

In the last report, I noted that work is continuing to change our street lighting and signage to LED technology. The Lighting Service is also working on replacing streetlights and signs with LED technology with a dimming arrangement. This work is ongoing and we are now in the final year of the project and are pleased to report that approximately 17,500 lamps have been replaced with approximately 200 remaining. In addition to the original plan, we have adopted an additional 300 lamps from NMWTRA as part of the de-trunking of the A487 road. As a result of this development, it is anticipated that the work will be completed by the end of the year.

The graph below highlights a reduction in CO2 (Street Lighting) emissions as a result of the project:



The Council's Fleet Management Review Project

One element of this project is managing the use of Council vehicles. A consultation process took place ensuring compliance on employment. The work has taken longer than expected but is nearing completion.

Another important element of the fleet management project is the de-carbonisation of the fleet. This is in line with 'Improvement Priority 8 of the Council Plan 2018-23 - Responding to the Climate Change Crisis'. We are committed to taking decisive action to reduce carbon emissions and striving for a zero-carbon future which includes looking for innovative technology.

We have undertaken a review of all Council vehicles with the support of the Welsh Government and are preparing a fleet strategy which will be discussed at the Climate Board shortly. We will be looking at opportunities to add to our small fleet of electric vehicles as well as to maximize charging points within our depot and offices and a grant of £ 300k has been received for this element. The collection service will receive two electric refuse collection vehicles, and we envisage these will be with us in the Autumn.

Playgrounds Project

Playgrounds are important to children, parents, and childminders, however the high costs of play equipment and lack of money, maintaining them in a way that is safe for children and young people to enjoy is challenging.

We are pleased to report that the service has been successful in securing grant funding from the Welsh Government and has successfully installed a total of 14 new equipment in deprived areas across Gwynedd. As part of the maintenance programme we are also in the process of replacing 5 other equipment this year.

Below are examples of recent projects undertaken by the Service:

- Work with Community Group to upgrade Lon y Glyder playground and assist with arrangements for them to establish a community garden for the benefit of the community.
- Introduce wheelchair accessible roundabout at Trehwfa playground, Coed Mawr, Bangor.
- Introduce a multi-purpose climbing frame at Porthmadog, Mynydd Llandygai and Bethel in partnership with local community groups / Councilors.

Public Toilets

We are looking at two specific elements within the Public Toilet Service:

- Look at extending / adjusting our opening times.
- Installation of modern payment card machines.

Following the relaxation of the Covid restrictions we saw a significant increase in the number of tourists visiting Gwynedd. To ensure we provide the best service we will look at how we can alter the opening times of the toilets as required and any other relevant options.

We will also conduct an audit of the payment regime within those toilets with payment machines currently in place and consider installing modern payment machines that accept payment by card or cash.

3. PERFORMANCE

3.1 In terms of the Department's measures, I am generally happy with the performance. Nevertheless, I draw your attention to the main issues arising.

3.2 **Waste and Recycling Service** - as previously reported, the proper handling of waste is essential if our environment is to be protected. An Economy that promotes re-use and recycling while reducing waste (Circular Economy) is vital as we work towards this goal. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to reach 70% by the end of March 2025 and a clear strategy and action plan will need to be developed to achieve this goal.

One element that will be adopted to this service will be opportunities within the headline of the Circular Economy in order to move a step further, but also look at the new opportunities to respond to the priorities set by the Welsh Government, namely:

- Reducing the amount of waste generated and / or moving waste up the Waste Hierarchy, especially in terms of increasing the amount of waste that is reused and repaired;
- Further increase in recycling rates - including for non-domestic sites;
- Reducing emissions related to the circular economy, including decarbonisation of waste infrastructure and operations and their resilience to climate change;
- To increase resource efficiency and economic activity associated with the circular economy in Wales.

The table below highlights our recycling performance by year and quarter to the end of March, 2021/22:

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 2018/19 | 65% | 62% | 62% | 62% | 62.31% |
| 2019/20 | 64% | 65% | 66% | 64% | 64.74% |
| 2020/21 | 67% | 69% | 63% | 62% | 65.87% |
| 2021/22 | 69% | 61% | 62% | 65% | 64.17% |
| 2022/23 | | | | | |
| 2023/24 | | | | | |
| 2024/25 | | | | | Must be at 70% |

As a Department we provide a recycling kerbside sort collection service for Gwynedd residents that has been established to ensure that materials are recycled to the highest standard. The table below gives an indication of the weight of recyclables collected from the household waste stream and the recycling process:

| Material | Tonnes 2021/22 (April-March) | Where does it go | The recycling process |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Glass | 4,717.34t | We send the glass collected to Berryman recycling company in South Kirby. | Berryman specialises in new methods of treating glass so the material can have a second life. This new material is used to produce new bottles/jars for construction products, insulation and many more. |
| Plastic Bottles | 1,092.08t | Jayplas Recycling. (This company has several sites across the UK which specialise in recycling different types of plastics to the highest quality). | Here, the plastic bottles are sent through a processing system to produce PET Flakes which are then sold to companies that mould them to produce new food packaging. |
| Paper | 3,327.10t | Palm Paper Mill near King's Lynn. | Here, our paper bulks are sent through a newsprint machine. This is the largest machine of its type in the world. At a speed of nearly 2,000m/minute it has the capacity to produce 400,000 metric tonnes of newsprint per annum. |
| Food | 2,693.78t | GwryiAD Anaerobic Digestion Facility in Clynog Fawr. | GwryiAD - which is run by Biogen on behalf of the Council - is a specialist centre that converts food waste into electrical energy for the national grid. It also produces fertiliser for agricultural land. |
| Steel Cans | A total of 482.26t of steel/aluminium cans. | EMR (European Metal Recycling). | Our steel cans are processed at the EMR site near Liverpool. Here, our cans are crushed using a mega shredder that has the power to recycle a car every 15 seconds. |
| Aluminium Cans | | Tandom Metallurgical Recycling. | Tandom uses a shredding line for recycling our aluminium cans. Through this shredding line our cans are broken down into 50mm particles. The steel is then separated using a magnet. |
| Garden Waste | 4,568.38t | Gwrtaith Gwynedd. | The green waste that is processed on the Gwrtaith Gwynedd site near Pwllheli is turned constantly in compost wind-rows. The vast majority of the processed material is composted and used on farmers' fields. |
| Residual Waste | Domestic – 17,970.79t Commercial – 4,712.70t Street cleaning - 1,592.25t Bulky - 295.70t Recycling centres - 2,784.32t | Parc Adfer. | Our residual waste is processed on the Parc Adfer site in Deeside. This site is a heat and power facility that generates enough energy to power more than 45,000 homes and businesses in the UK. The site was established as part of a Public-Private Partnership with support from the Welsh Government, to serve five local authorities that are part of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project. |

- 3.3 **Ffordd Gwynedd Waste Service Review** - We noted in the last report that there had been a delay in starting the Ffordd Gwynedd review. We are pleased to report that this work is now operational with 5 specific areas of work identified. In addition, WRAP Cymru is undertaking a review focusing on our collection arrangements. We hope to share the findings of these surveys in our next report.
- 3.4 **Highways Maintenance Service** - Following the Ffordd Gwynedd review of the service, the new way of working has been put in place since the 1st April this year. It is good to note that this work was a success and has greeted the historical way of working. We are also in the process of updating our Asset Maintenance Plan to reflect the new requirements of the Code of Practice with an emphasis on risk management. We are also revisiting our roadside maintenance and complaint handling regime and will be part of the review of our highways Asset Maintenance Plan.
- 3.5 **Street Cleansing Service** - There has been considerable pressure on this service since the time of the crisis with litter, full bins and problems of dog fouling appearing to have increased. While we are keeping up with the situation, I anticipate that issues like this will come to light in the work on the 'Clean and Tidy Communities' project. I am also pleased to report that we were able to carry out a consultation on the forthcoming Dog Order and much good material has been recorded from this consultation. Another element of this service will be 'Clean and Tidy Communities Teams'. A report was presented to Cabinet on 30/11/21 outlining our intention to establish work teams to improve the image and enhance our communities within the County. We are pleased to report that our decision was unanimously supported.
- 3.6 **Street Cleansing / Street Recycling Bins** - The Department is looking at introducing recycling bins within our main centres, we will fund these bins through the Tidy Towns grant. We will also co-ordinate public awareness messages to ensure that residents present disposal materials in the correct bins.

We are keen to modernize our bin provision so we will install and trial smart bins on our streets. These bins self-compress the rubbish and are powered by solar energy. We have ordered 4 smart bins this year to trial. If successful, and we were to receive an additional grant to order more, this could lead to savings in waste collection costs.

- 3.7 **Ash Dieback** - A team has now been established to deal with the Ash. The main purpose of the team is to carry out inspections of ash trees on Council land and roads, assess their condition and draw up a program of work to deal with those that pose a safety risk to the public. They will also provide advice to Council departments and private tree owners in relation to their trees and prepare various information packs and resources on the Council's external website to raise public awareness of it.

Although the team will effectively operate as a 'one stop shop', in relation to the Council's land and roads, they will not take over the regular tree inspection and treatment responsibilities of each department. Nor will they act as the first point of contact in relation to receiving complaints about defective trees on Council land and roads. It is expected that officers in the relevant departments will continue in this role and transfer any issues to the team only after they have completed their initial inspections.

Trees absorb carbon and store it when releasing oxygen back into the air. As a result, our program of cutting trees may impact on the Council's ability to achieve its carbon neutral target by 2030. To this end, the team works very closely with the Countryside Service in the Environment Department to look at ways to compensate for this and seek partnership opportunities with other authorities and organizations to prepare plans for growing and replanting trees.

- 3.8 **BSi Accreditations** - The Department has been successful in transferring from Accreditation 18001 (BSI) and reaching the requirements of 45001 which we were required to complete before autumn of this year. This means that we are meeting high requirements in terms of service delivery, with management systems and Health and Safety arrangements that are monitored by the BSI for the accreditation.

An audit is carried out twice a year to ensure that we are adhering to the requirements, which is done on various fields within our scope.

We also have the following Accreditations:

- BSi 14001 - Environment
- BSi 9001 - Quality Management

The same procedure of audit applies, where a BSI auditor will visit the Department twice a year to conduct a detailed audit of our arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL POSITION / SAVINGS

- 4.1 The final revenue outturn for the Highways and Municipal Department showed an overspend of £ 746k. However, it was Cabinet's decision that the Department receive one-off financial support of £ 746k to eliminate the overspend, given the exceptional circumstances surrounding this year's crisis, so that the department can move forward to face the 2022/23 challenge. A review of the Department's 2022-23 financial position will be undertaken as part of the revenue review in late August and will be reported to Cabinet in October 2022.
- 4.2 The most obvious overspend and problems can be seen once again this year within the Waste Collection Service, and anticipate significant financial challenges over the coming year. We have commissioned WRAP Cymru to look in detail at this service and provide a detailed operational report listing observations, conclusion and recommendations. A Ffordd Gwynedd review is also taking place within this Service which will also highlight area of change.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

The Department will give priority to progressing the identified projects whilst also giving priority to reducing the identified overspend figure.

With a department that delivers frontline services, we will continue with the aim of delivering the best service to the residents of Gwynedd.

Gwynedd Consultancy Department (YGC)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on developments in the fields within my remit as Cabinet Member for YGC. This will include outlining the latest developments against pledges within the 2018-2023 Gwynedd Council Plan; the progress of performance measures; and the latest on the savings and cuts schemes.
- 1.2 On the whole, I am satisfied with the performance of the measures for which I am responsible and I am grateful to the Department for their work. I am satisfied with the Department's financial performance.
- 1.3 As a result of publishing the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (July 2020), I look forward to developing the Local Strategy. This will be an opportunity to put appropriate measures and priorities in place to reduce flooding risk and make the communities of Gwynedd safer.

2. PROJECTS IN THE GWYNEDD COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2023

The Department does not lead on any projects in the 2018-23 Council Plan. The Environment Department is leading on the Climate Change Action Plan with YGC supporting it on flood risk management and coastal erosion matters, which forms an important part of the scheme.

Below, please find information about the three very high risks, and it is noted that risks 2.1 and 2.2 are a fundamental part of renewing the Local Flood Risk Management and Coastal Erosion Strategy (Local Strategy), which is to be completed by October 2023. A National Group has been formed to agree on the format of the Local Strategy. I will with the agreement of the Cabinet, issue a brief to the Department outlining the scope of the strategy and setting clear prioritisation in terms of addressing risks. The Local Strategy will form part of the Council's Climate Change plan.

The risks in 2.1 and 2.2 have been challenged by the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

2.1 The risk of inland flooding because of the effect of climate change

My interdepartmental Flooding Project Group has prioritised inland areas via the catchment area prioritisation matrix.

In addition, the Department is chairing cross-departmental meetings to ensure an awareness of flooding projects, and to seek to add elements from other departments that will maximise value for those projects.

2.2 The risk of flooding from the sea in coastal areas because of the effect of climate change

The Department has identified vulnerable communities in terms of the risks from the effects of storms, erosion and coastal flooding. My interdepartmental Flooding Project Group has produced a coastal prioritisation matrix. This will identify the list of vulnerable communities that will require support.

2.3 The impact of climate change on Fairbourne

The document titled Fairbourne: A Framework for the Future, contains five work streams that are developing individual plans - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Plan (FCERM), People and the Built Environment Plan, Infrastructure Management Plan, Business Support Plan and Natural Environment Plan. The Fairbourne Moving Forward Project Board includes the following bodies: Arthog Community Council (Chairing), Gwynedd Local Councillor, Gwynedd Council, Scottish Power, NRW, Community Ambassador, Network Rail, the Health Board, Welsh Water and Snowdonia National Park.

Recent progress has been as follows:

- A temporary Project Manager is in place.
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are now leading on a Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Plan. NRW are in the process of reviewing the condition of its assets and preparing a Strategic Outline Case (SOC).
- Gwynedd is leading on the People and the Built Environment Plan by working cross-departmentally. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) work has started and will also analyse the population's options. This will provide better information of the actual position, and extend our ability to support Arthog Community Council.

3. PERFORMANCE

3.1 This year continues in new and challenging circumstances. I am happy with the Department's performance.

Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) acts as:

- A department that brings substantial income to the Council.
- Undertakes statutory functions in the field of water and flood management.

I now draw your attention to the main matters for YGC, starting with the commercial side.

3.2 Commercial Work

3.2.1 **The income and structure of the commercial work** - A project team brings together the necessary skills from four Services to successfully complete projects. Construction projects by their nature are different and require different expertise in accordance with the needs as identified in the Project Plan. Every project is measured by a client satisfaction survey.

The four Services are:

- Water and the Environment
- Building and Infrastructure
- Business and Project Delivery
- Technical

The fee earning hours for each member of staff is measured and the monthly totals are agreed with the Treasurer, in order to measure each Service productivity.

This year is less challenging due to strong client work programmes, but these programmes can change during the year.

In terms of the financial measures, I am happy with their performance, which is important bearing in mind that a vast majority of the Department's officers are involved with fee earning work, which brings an income of over £7.35 million to the Council. As the staffing structure is extended, the income target will rise.

The work pattern for the first two months follows the same work pattern as last year. Please see below the main clients that the Department works for 2022/23:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| NMWTRA | Housing and Property Department | Environment Department Transportation and Street Care |
| Highways and Municipal Department | Ceredigion County Council | Welsh Government |
| | Powys County Council | Griffiths |

- 3.2.2 Over the past year, the environmental team has been working on a number of schemes. They have conducted several protected species surveys to ensure that natural habitats are protected, and have also provided environmental improvement measures for the schemes. In addition, the team is taking advantage of opportunities to add elements that increase biodiversity on schemes. Environmental and sustainability matters influence all types of developments. Protecting conservation and improving the environment are all-important and are critical components in sustainable development and implementation.
- 3.2.3 The flooding and environmental risk teams make a substantial contribution to developing new projects to ensure no projects have a detrimental impact on our natural environment. By working closer to nature, the department has developed a plan that manages flow more naturally in the Wnion catchment area. This scheme has been jointly-developed with Snowdonia National Park to plant trees, plants, and create ponds in the catchment area.
- 3.2.4 The Department is very glad to maintain and develop local employment through the structure, which are quality jobs. Due to opportunities in the market, the Department has added 9 posts to the structure this year, with plans to add another 11 posts over the coming 18 months.
- 3.2.5 One challenge faced by the Department is the retirement of experienced officers and the growth in the size of the department, there is a need for more officers on team leader level and above, who have professional qualifications. The management team is giving strong support to officers who have the aspiration and ability to gain professional qualifications and the department is collaborating with educational bodies and professional bodies.

- 3.2.6 The Department gives high priority to staff training. The Department is the Regional lead on the North Wales Regional Professional Training Agreement on engineering work via the ICE (Institution of Civil Engineers). At present, there are eight trainee officers. This will enable the officers to develop their skills, and enable them to work on more challenging schemes. Staff are also aware that professional qualifications are key to attracting and winning work.
- 3.2.7 The Department's succession plan includes four further senior officers who are studying Level 7 Diploma qualifications in Strategic Leadership and Management, including the four Service Managers.

3.3 **Undertaking statutory functions in the field of water and flood management**

- 3.3.1 The Department acts as a commercial provider, while also undertaking statutory functions in water and flood Management matters. The Department specializes in climate change in terms of flood and coastal erosion context, addressing issues from rising sea levels. The department monitors its Works programme on a monthly basis.

During the financial year, the Water and Environment Service in its client role manages flood prevention plans that will reduce the risk to Gwynedd residents. The Flooding Service is working on nine business bids in order to attract investment to deliver more flood alleviation projects including Barmouth, Hirael, and the Ogwen catchment area.

- 3.3.2 There is a programme of major and minor schemes across the County that respond to previous flooding incidents. The department is working jointly with the highways department to complete 10 small-scale plans in the current financial year, which reduce the risk to almost 100 houses.
- 3.3.3 I will continue to work with the Department to hold appropriate discussions with key stakeholders including the Welsh Government, community councils and others such as the private and third sectors.
- 3.3.4 The assets to be inspected during the 2022/23 year have been completed. This has enabled us to identify the condition of our assets and programme any required maintenance. The assets inspection work has been submitted before the Communities Scrutiny Committee. Work to repair defective assets has been scheduled and the department continues to monitor the assets in the meantime.
- 3.3.5 North Promenade, Barmouth has suffered damage and coastal flooding for some years now. The work of drawing up an Outline Business Case (OBC) has been completed. The next step is to commence the North Promenade detail design. The cost of the project is currently £23m. The Council will need to identify 15% of match funding if the scheme is to be realised.
- 3.3.6 There is a duty upon us to investigate flooding incidents under the Flood and Water Management Act. Although, in the 2022/23 financial year, there were 23 internal flooding incidents.
- 3.3.7 Work to approve Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is continuing and the number of applications is increasing.

- 3.3.8 Keeping our coastal assets safe for the public is a priority and therefore risks need to be assessed for the coastal assets owned by the Council, the department has submitted a business case application for funding to address this work on a cross departmental basis.

4 ACCREDITATIONS

4.1 Investors In People (IIP) Accreditations

In 2021, the Department received an "Investors in People" accreditation for the fourth time. The IIP report and action plan will form part of the department's business plan for 2022/23.

4.2 BSi Accreditations

The Department has been successful in transferring from Accreditation 18001 (BSi) and reaching the requirements of 45001 which we were required to complete. This means that we are meeting high requirements in terms of service delivery, with management systems and Health and Safety arrangements that are monitored by the BSI for the accreditation. Also, the department has the following Accreditations, namely - BSi 14001 - Environment and BSi 9001 - Quality. The procedure in terms of the audit is that BSi inspectors visit the Department twice a year in order to conduct a detailed audit of our arrangements.

Internal audits are being completed in the department by the Business Unit and the department is collaborating with the Treasurer's department to complete specific audits.

5. FINANCIAL POSITION/SAVINGS

- 5.1 At the end of month 2 of the 2022-23 financial year, the Department estimates an underspend of £18,655. The Department's historical efficiency savings have been addressed and completed.

- 5.2 The Department anticipates that its performance will enable it to fulfil its financial target. The flow of work is more robust than previous years and there is sufficient work available from our clients for the remainder of the year.

6. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

The Department in its day to day activities will operate in a manner that the outputs reduce the risks identified in the Departmental Risk Register.

7. VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Head of Finance Department:

I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situations of the Highways and Municipal Department and the Gwynedd Consultancy Department.