

# CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



## Report to a meeting of the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	25 April 2023
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Dilwyn Morgan
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mirain Llwyd
<b>Contact Telephone Number:</b>	01286 682 818
<b>Title of Item:</b>	Age-friendly Gwynedd

### 1 THE DECISION SOUGHT

To approve and support the intention to apply for an Age-friendly Wales accreditation for Gwynedd and ensure broad ownership across the Council and its partners of the intention to strengthen age-friendly features in order to receive the accreditation.

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

It is the desire of [Wales' Older People's Commissioner](#) and [Welsh Government](#) for every Local Authority in Wales to receive accreditation as an age-friendly community by 2025.

Confirmation of the Cabinet's support is sought to the development and implementation of a programme of networking and collaboration across the Council and with other public services to develop Gwynedd's age-friendly features and to secure the accreditation for Gwynedd.

### 3 BACKGROUND

The concept of 'age-friendly communities' stems from the 'age-friendly cities' accreditation which is a [framework](#) established by the World Health Organisation. The framework and the relevant accreditation developed to include Authorities, communities and countries.

Welsh Government's objective is for Wales to become an age-friendly country and intends to support every local authority in Wales to aim to

reach the [accreditation](#), with the [Ageing Population strategy](#) (2021) being the foundation for the work.

There has already been some discussion regarding the intention in Gwynedd and the response of the older people forums in the county has been very supportive of the idea. One of the short-term objectives is to increase awareness of the intention and work programme, starting with the support of the Cabinet. If the Cabinet is supportive, a programme of raising awareness, recognising contributions already made and develop/ implement further steps will be established for each department within the Council and with our key partners across sectors.

Age-friendly Communities are areas that do everything within their ability to ensure that the community is a friendly place in which everyone can age well. It is anticipated that the programme will develop the age-friendly mindset across the Council and with our partners, by placing age-friendly matters as an integral part of every development. For example, it could result in officers collaborating with communities to ensure that pavements are accessible, that toilets are available for use, and that there are benches in appropriate places in towns and villages.

The World Health Organisation has split the work into eight domains for consideration when working towards an 'age-friendly' area:

1. Transport
2. Housing
3. Social Participation
4. Respect and social inclusion
5. Civic participation and employment
6. Communication and information
7. Community support and health services
8. Outdoor spaces and buildings

This list highlights that there will be a need for collaboration across the entire Council as well as key partners across the county to develop Gwynedd into an age-friendly county. This stressed the importance of raising awareness and having conversations in the right places across the Council and beyond in order to progress the work.

It will also be essential that we celebrate the things which have already been delivered in order to build on those things.

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

In order to reach the requirements of the accreditation, a report of the work in Gwynedd will have to be submitted describing the developments within

the county. A timetable is anticipated as follows:

- Mapping what is happening across Gwynedd already - we will need to work closely with all Council departments and partners across the County.
- Identify what is 'age-friendly' and celebrate these.
- Announce that Gwynedd is going for the accreditation and draw the attention of the press to this. This will raise the status and make staff and individuals across Gwynedd aware.
- Understand what developments are needed and decide on the priorities for implementation.
- Understand and decide how we will work together towards the accreditation.
- Engage with older people and understand the best possible way of doing this.
- Raise awareness across all Council departments and also with key partners.
- Operate within existing budgets and apply for grants where appropriate.
- Put firm foundations in place in order to ensure that we continuously develop in this field.

Wales is an Age-friendly Country in the Government's Work Plan until 2026 and they intend to fund an officer in each Local Authority until 2025. In Gwynedd, an Age-friendly Gwynedd Co-ordinator is employed with this funding from the Government. There is no need for further funding for this scheme at present.

## **5 ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

Views of the statutory officers:

The Monitoring Officer: *This proposed application for the accreditation reflects many aspects of the Councils objectives. It accords with The Equalities ACT 2010 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales ) Act 2015 . I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought and the reasons for the decision.*

Head of Finance Department: *I note that there is an expectation of working within existing budgets, and that the Department will apply for grants where appropriate. If Cabinet resolves to approve and support the intention of applying for the accreditation, Finance officers will work with the author of the report to support any financial aspects. I have no objection to the decision sought.*