

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Date:	15 January 2019
Title of Item:	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal and Gwynedd Consultancy
Purpose:	To accept and note the information in the report.
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gareth Griffith
Contact Officer:	Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive

Report for a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on what has been taking place in the fields within my remit as Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal and Gwynedd Consultancy. This includes outlining where we have reached with measuring performance; and the latest in terms of savings and cuts schemes.
- 1.2. I will remind you that all matters have already been the subject of discussions and have been scrutinised at meetings of the Management Teams, which also included representatives from the relevant Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.3. On the whole, I am satisfied with the performance of the measures for which I am responsible.

2. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1 To accept and note the information in the report.

3. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 3.1. In order to ensure effective performance management.

4. PERFORMANCE

Highways and Municipal Department

- 4.1 Maintaining a high quality local environment as well as the appearance of streets and public places is important to the residents of Gwynedd. The work of the **Street Services Unit** is to keep our streets clean and tidy and there are several measures which look at how well they do this. The performance of the **Measure of the Cleanliness and Appearance of Streets (STS/005a Measure)** this year to date is 74.1% which shows an improvement on the performance at the end of 2017/18 (71.95%). The measure of PAM/010 measures the percentage of streets with standard B, B+ and A out of the same sample. As you can see, our score is 98.5% which is a significant improvement on the figure of 94.1% reported for 2017/18. This is one of the figures reported nationally (where we were ranked 14th across Wales), but these indicators can vary from year to year as the sample is random.
- 4.2 PAM/011 Percentage of illegal tipping cleared within five days. Previously, we measured our performance based on whether we had completed the work within five working days from receiving the request. The measure has since changed, and the requirement of reporting now is the average time it has taken to clear the items from the time of receiving information about it. In accordance with this, it is reported against the new definition under reference (PAM/035) and our performance for this current period comes out at 1.76 days. The Department perceives this as quite a good performance which can be used as a baseline.
- 4.3 The **Waste and Recycling Service** is responsible for dealing with waste in a sustainable way. I am satisfied with the performance of most measures for this service but I will draw your attention to the following points.
- 4.4 It is noted that the **Percentage levels of urban waste collected by the Local Authority and prepared for reuse, recycling or composting (WMT/009 Measure)** levels have reduced from 64.5% in the period from April to July 2018/19, to 63.19% for the period from April to October 2018/19. This reduction can be attributed to the fact that less garden waste is being sent to be treated as a result of the arrangements to pay for the services. However, the current performance signifies a substantial increase compared with 59.59% for the same period in 2017/18.
- 4.5 The performance of the **Percentage of urban waste sent to landfill (WMT/004)** measure is lower this year for the period from April to October, at 17.98% compared to 24.33% for 2017/18. This improvement could be attributed to the fact that more municipal waste had been treated through the incineration process and, consequently, had not been sent to landfill.

- 4.6 It is important that businesses and residents in Gwynedd are able to move easily and safely within the County and the aim of the Highways Department is to achieve this and seek to maintain the standard of our roads. The measures on road standards are measured each year and the 2018/19 performance for **The percentage of A class roads (THS/011a Measure), the percentage of B class roads (THS/011b Measure) and the percentage of C class roads (THS/001c Measure) that are in poor condition.** See the attached table. The percentage of our Class C roads which are in poor condition has reduced, bringing us now to 14.5%. Our figure in 17/18 was 14.1%, which was an improvement to the previous year's figure, but still keeps us at the 18th position throughout Wales. Of course, the solution to this is funding - if we could spend more on our roads, their condition could be improved. The national comparison figures for 2017/18 demonstrated that the comparative condition of our class A roads had improved from the 12th position to 9th position, and the class B roads had improved from 9th position to 7th position.
- 4.7 A measure is required for our unclassified roads, and I have discussed with the Department the possibility of having a measure for these roads as the roads are not part of the national measures, but as there are so many roads in the County that are unclassified, their condition is all important for the residents of Gwynedd.
- 4.8 It was noted that Performance Measure THS/009, namely the **number of days taken on average during the year to repair all faults in street lamps**, is 2.5 days thus far for 2018/19, which is an improvement compared to 2.77 days for the year 2017/18.
- 4.9 It was noted that plans were afoot to change our street lights and signs to LED technology. It was noted that the Cabinet had given permission to receive a loan of £1.4 million from the Welsh Government Green Growth Fund to change the remaining 7,778 street lights to LED, and this work will commence in April 2019. The current "savings" scheme is progressing fine.

5. UPDATE ON PROJECTS

- 5.1 In the previous report, it was noted that a substantial programme was in the pipeline to **change our street lights and signs to LED technology.** In 2015/16, 1,709 street lighting units and signs were replaced with LED with 3,418 more replaced in 2016/17, and 3,472 in 2017/18. It was noted that the current programme had been completed, having changed 1,680 units to LED. As a result of these changes, it is anticipated that we will save £260,000 per annum and will reduce carbon emissions (414 CO²). It was noted that the new three-year programme to change the residual lights to LED would commence in April 2019 and we will save £185,000 in addition to a reduction in carbon emissions (572 Co2).
- 5.2 With the plan to **Close 50 out of 73 of the county's public toilets (Cuts 51),** the Partnerships' plan with Community and Town Councils have enabled the majority of the toilets that were under threat to remain open, fully or seasonally. In accordance with the Health Act 2018, it is noted that a Public Toilets Strategy

needs to be drawn up by May 2019 and the Draft Strategy will be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee in February 2019. I will update you on this in my next report.

6. Gwynedd Consultancy Department

- 6.1 One main measure has been identified for this Department, namely **Profit against Target**. It is noted that the situation is fairly positive at present with projections for the latest NET situation for July to October 2018/19 showing a profit of **£23,583**. This compares with a profit deficit of £85,637 for the same period in 2017/18 and a profit of £35,246 in October 2016/17.
- 6.2 The **Building Control Unit** is responsible for ensuring that building work meets building standards. The Unit has developed a series of performance measures that measures their performance and has reported on them to the previous performance challenge meetings. The information for **customer satisfaction** (Measure BC 1) for Quarter 2 of 2018 shows a satisfaction score of 9.7 out of 10, which is consistent with the 2017/18 performance of 9.6 out of 10. Work is underway to establish the reason for any dissatisfaction.
- 6.3 It is noted that the percentage of **full planning applications approved** (Measure BC 2) **or conditionally approved** was 94% for Quarter 2 of 2018. The performance of this measure has remained fairly stable over recent years, with the 2016/17 performance at 92.5%, and the 2017/18 performance at 95.7%. I have requested that the Manager further investigate the reasons why not everyone was entirely satisfied and why applications had not been approved, in order to get a better understanding of the situation.

7. FINANCIAL SITUATION / SAVINGS

7.1 Highways and Municipal Department

7.1.1 2015/16 Schemes

In the previous report, it stated that a historical scheme with a total value of £40,000 had not been realised (**PB19 Rationalisation of Recycling Banks**). This scheme has now been realised in full.

7.1.2 2016/17 Schemes

It is noted that all savings and cuts for 2016/17 have been realised.

7.1.3 2017/18 Schemes

In the previous report, it stated that there was a challenge with regard to the implications of implementing four schemes. One of the plans have since been realised, namely **PB10 Rationalise Street Cleaning Circuits**.

At the Cabinet meeting on 11 September 2018, it was agreed to defer the implementation of the **PB5 Recycling Centres**. A slippage into 2019/20 is anticipated for **PB28 Reduce the Frequency of Urban Grass Cutting and Collection Procedure, Reduce Flower Planting and Reduce Overtime**, and the Cuts scheme 51, **Close 50 out of 73 of the county's public toilets**.

7.1.4 Schemes for 2018/19 onwards

It is noted that the only plan for 2018/19, namely **PB33 Street Lighting (LEDs)** has been completed for 2018/19, and it is not anticipated that there would be any problems to realise the 2019/20 element.

7.2 Gwynedd Consultancy Department

7.2.1 The Gwynedd Consultancy Department has achieved all its efficiency schemes and cuts for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

8. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

8.1 None to note.

9. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

9.1 Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No comments in terms of propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

I confirm that the comments in parts 5, 6 and 7 of the report are a fair reflection of the latest position on realising those savings which are the responsibility of the Highways and Municipal Department and YGC.

Although scheme PB19, Rationalisation of Recycling Banks, has been fully realised by now, the full-year impact will not be seen until 2019/20. In addition, it was explained to the Cabinet at its meeting on 11 September that three alternatives have been identified to fill the gap in the PB28 scheme (Reduce the Frequency of Urban Grass Cutting and Collection Procedure); the full-year impact of the three alternative will not be seen until next year. The decisions of three Community Council to keep public toilets open also means slippage of £33k to 2019/20 before the full savings are realised.

9.2 Views of the Local Member:

9.2.1 Not a local matter.

9.3 Results of Any Consultation:

9.3.1 None to note.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Performance Measures for Highways and Municipal and Gwynedd Consultancy