

## CYNGOR GWYNEDD - Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

<b>Title of item:</b>	Annual Performance Report and Self-assessment 2022/23
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn
<b>Relevant officer:</b>	Dewi Wyn Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	19 September 2023

### 1. Decision Sought:

To approve Cyngor Gwynedd's Performance and Self-Assessment Report 2022/23 and to recommend its adoption by the Full Council.

### 2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision:

In accordance with the Council's performance management procedure, Cyngor Gwynedd's Annual Performance and Self-Assessment Report for 2022/23 is initially submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

### 3. Introduction and Rationale

#### 3.1 Background / Introduction

This report provides information about the progress made against the content of Cyngor Gwynedd's Plan 2018-23 during 2022/23. The intention is to provide a balanced report, that shines light on aspects that were not successfully achieved as well as the successful aspects.

Regular reporting is an essential monitoring requirement within the Council's performance management arrangements. We monitor our performance regularly at Departmental performance challenging meetings and submit the performance reports of individual Cabinet Members to a cycle of Cabinet meetings during the year, and we form this report to evaluate the progress made.

This year, for the first time, the Council's self-assessment, which is a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, has been incorporated within the Annual Performance Report. Cyngor Gwynedd's Performance Report 2022/23 (**Appendix 1**) has been structured to reflect the format of Cyngor Gwynedd's 2018-23 Plan. 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. The third part includes our Self-Assessment.

The main measures have been included within the body of the report so that they are included as a part of conveying the story, rather than as a separate table of measures.

There is a duty to publish a report setting out the conclusions of the self-assessment once in relation to each financial year and to complete the work "as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year in which it relates."

A duty to consult at least once in a financial year with local people, local businesses, council staff and trade unions is also stated. These consultations should be used to obtain feedback on the extent to which the authority is fulfilling the performance requirements. It is a statutory requirement that attention is given to the results of the consultation when preparing the self assessment and it is confirmed that this has been done and highlighted in the document.

The Governance Group has led/taken an overview of the process within the Council to ensure that the work is owned and led at a strategic level.

According to the Act, a draft of the self-assessment report needs to be submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee before it is finally adopted to give them an opportunity to submit any comments and recommendations. These will need to be considered when the document is formally submitted to Cabinet and Council. If there are recommendations for change that are not adopted, the reasons for this must be reported formally.

It is noted that the Chair and Vice-chair of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to feed into the process of drawing up the report and also had the opportunity to provide comments on a draft version over the past few weeks.

The Governance and Scrutiny Committee discussed the self-assessment at its meeting on the 7th of September. The Committee suggested that minor adjustments be made to the wording of part of the document that refers to the Committee's membership and the latest version reflects these adjustments.

In addition, it was suggested that consideration should be given to providing a summary of the evidence base for each part of the assessment in the future. Our arrangements for preparing the self-assessment continue to develop so we will pay attention to this together with comments that have been received to include elected members in the arrangements for preparing the next self-assessment.

### **3.2 The reasoning and justification for recommending the decision.**

In order to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, 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, the well-being objectives, to which the Departments' day-to-day work and projects contribute, have been highlighted in the report.

Reviewing, reporting and assessment arrangements on the Council's performance has been the subject of legislative change through the arrangements of part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. This requires the Council to measure its performance against three aspects, namely;

- (a) That it is exercising its functions effectively
- (b) That it uses resources economically, effectively, efficiently and
- (c) That its governing arrangements are efficient in achieving this.

This report responds to these new requirements. Feedback is sought on the content of this draft Annual Performance Review and Self-assessment for 2022/23, before the Council approves the final document in September 2023.

As part of the process of preparing the 2018-23 Council Plan, 2022-23 review, an Equality Impact Assessment) was prepared. The assessment on the Plan in its entirety does not identify any impact that would justify a departure from the recommendation, and there are elements for which a positive impact is anticipated. Project Leaders are responsible for undertaking a full Equality Impact Assessment on individual projects.

### **3.3 Next steps**

The Council will discuss and accept the report, or not, at its meeting on 28 September 2023. They will also take into account any comments and recommendations made by the Governance and Scrutiny Committee on the self-assessment (if there are any). When the Council approves the final report, it will be published on Cyngor Gwynedd's website.

Arrangements will be made to inform the public of the report by communicating the report and the main successes visually via social media as well as by printing copies and sharing them via the Council's usual media and locations e.g., libraries.

## **4. Views of the Statutory Officers**

### **4.1 Chief Finance Officer**

I am satisfied that the contents of the self-assessment are a fair reflection of the Council's position, whilst recognising that the arrangements for the preparation of the self-assessment will continue to develop over the next few years. I am confident that the work to refine the assessment with regards to assessing the effective, efficient and economic use of resources will continue over the next year, and the services within the Finance Department will contribute as appropriate to this work.

### **4.2 Monitoring Officer**

As noted undertaking a self-assessment is part of new statutory duties placed on the Council in relation to assessing and reporting on its performance. There are a number of statutory steps which relate to reaching this point and these are specifically referenced in the head report and The Performance Report and Self- Assessment as well as how the Cabinet is to have regard to them. These are specifically around consultation and the views of the Governance and Audit Committee. I am satisfied with the propriety of the recommendation.

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Cyngor Gwynedd's Annual Report and Self-assessment 2022/23