



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 2023

This meeting will be webcast:

https://gwynedd.public-i.tv/core//en_GB/portal/home

NOTE: A briefing session will be held for members at 10:15am

Location

Hybrid - Siambr Hywel Dda, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor, Caernarfon LL55 1SH

AND

Virtually via Zoom

Contact Point

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (11)

Councillors

Elwyn Edwards
Elin Hywel
Edgar Wyn Owen
Beca Roberts

Delyth Lloyd Griffiths
Kim Jones
Llio Elenid Owen
Rhys Tudur

Annwen Hughes
Linda Morgan
Arwyn Herald Roberts

Independent (6)

Councillors

Robert Glyn Daniels
Elfed Powell Roberts
Rob Triggs

Gwilym Jones
Peter Thomas
Gruffydd Williams

Liberal Democrats / Labour (1)

Councillor Stephen Churchman

Ex-officio Members

Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 10

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 05 October 2023 be signed as a true record.

5. CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN: ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 11 - 38

Update on progress made since adoption of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022.

6. LOCAL FLOOD STRATEGY

39 - 63

The Council is required to draw up a Local Flood Strategy by October 2023. The work has been allocated as inland and coastal flood risks.

7. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2023/24. 64 - 65

To adopt an amended work programme.

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 OCTOBER 2023

Present:

COUNCILLORS: Elin Hywel (Chair)
Annwen Hughes (Vice-chair)

Stephen Churchman, Glyn Daniels, Linda Morgan, Rob Triggs, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Gwilym Jones, Edgar Owen, Llio Elenid Owen, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Beca Roberts, Elfed P. Roberts, Peter Thomas, Rhys Tudur and Gruffydd Williams.

Officers in attendance:

Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Adviser), Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officers) and Ellie Evans (Democracy Services Administrative Assistant).

Present for Item 5:

Councillor Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member for the Environment), Gareth Jones (Assistant Head of Environment) and Rebeca Angharad Jones (Planning Policy Manager).

Present for item 6:

Councillor Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member for the Environment), Gareth Jones (Assistant Head of Environment) and Iwan ap Trefor (Traffic and Projects Service Manager).

Present for Item 7:

Councillor Berwyn Parry Jones (Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC), Steffan Jones (Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC) and Llifon Arwyn Foulkes (Senior Engineer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Kim Jones and Elwyn Edwards.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

Councillors Elin Hywel, Stephen Churchman, Gruffydd Williams and Rhys Tudur declared, in relation to Item 5, that they were members of the Planning Policy Working Group. The Working Group had already provided their observations on the Delivery Agreement.

They did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on the item.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 13 July 2023 as a true record.

5. GWYNEDD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAFT DELIVERY AGREEMENT

The Vice-chair chaired the discussion on this item.

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for the Environment, the Assistant Head of Environment and the Planning Manager. Attention was drawn briefly to the following principal points:

It was explained that a new Local Development Plan was being prepared following a recent review. It was further noted that the development process was technical with several statutory steps to be followed.

It was confirmed that the first step was to adopt the Delivery Agreement. It was explained that the process of developing the Local Development Plan was split into seven steps with an outline timetable and key consultation periods noted for each aspect.

It was noted that the observations of the Communities Scrutiny Committee would be taken into consideration when the Delivery Agreement was submitted to the Cabinet on 10 October 2023. The matter would be submitted to the Planning Policy Working Group in January before returning to Cabinet and submitted to the Full Council in due course.

Consideration was given to the possibility of adding 'consultation' as a risk within Appendix 5 of the Plan (Potential Risks and Response Methods). It was noted that it was evident from the document that consultation was an important part of the delivery agreement but had not been noted as a risk. Namely, the risk of not consulting was sufficient. It was further explained that as it was such an important element, it would be beneficial to include it as a risk to ensure that it received regular attention. It was accepted that the timetable to complete the Plan was challenging, and a discussion took place regarding the possibility that it would be difficult to consult effectively within this timescale with a high number of responses reaching officers, requiring time for their analysis. A question was asked on what had been learnt from the previous consultation, and whether those lessons had been learnt to feed into the forthcoming consultation.

The fact that the list of intended consultation bodies included under-represented groups and that the consultation was open for everyone was welcomed. Reference was made to the consultation methods, and concern was noted that they were the usual consultation methods. A question was asked on how to ensure responses from under-represented groups, to identify any gaps in the responses early and take action. It was noted that there was a role for councillors to support the work.

In response to these considerations, the Cabinet Member for Environment noted that it was extremely important for the Council to take ownership of this plan, by ensuring that Members encouraged anyone who was suitable to complete any consultations and participate in any discussions on the Plan when appropriate. It was explained that the Department had revised its consultation methods following past feedback, with the hope that it would lead to a higher number of responses this time.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Plan would be submitted to the Full Council on four separate occasions. It was explained that the statutory requirement was to submit the Plan twice, and therefore Cyngor Gwynedd was making every effort to ensure that the process was inclusive and provided a number of opportunities to receive feedback on it.

The Planning Policy Manager stated that an Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken by officers at the beginning of the process of producing a new Plan. This assessment would ensure that the voices of groups and organisations within our communities were heard. It was noted that this had been beneficial when developing Appendix 6 (List of Consultees) within the Plan. It was explained that a high number of consultees had been listed, including bodies that represented the interest of disabled people, business owners and bodies representing the interests of Welsh culture. It was acknowledged that all the potential bodies had not been listed in the Appendix, and assurance was given that this list was not exhaustive. It was confirmed that consultations with additional bodies would be delivered if the need arose.

Assurance was given that Members were provided with regular updates regarding the development of the Local Development Plan.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- 2. To recommend to the Cabinet that 'consultation' should be added as a potential risk to the Local Development Plan.**

6. INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC CHARGING POINTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for the Environment, the Assistant Head of Environment and the Traffic and Projects Service Manager. Attention was drawn briefly to the following main points:

It was explained that the Council was involved in a challenging and technical project to install over 100 charging points in 25 sites across Gwynedd, with 16 of those including rapid charging points. It was explained that the Department was offering its staff new training opportunities to install charging points themselves, rather than contracting the work to an external company.

It was reported that this project was split into five parts, and the installation of the charging points was the first step. It was noted that this was the only step that the Council could deliver independently and that it was dependent upon other bodies to collaborate on the other steps to complete the project. It was explained that this had caused a significant delay with the project to date, as a number of charging points had been installed but had not yet been connected to the network. Assurance was given that the Department had learnt from these challenges and was confident that the difficulties would not arise with the future implementation of the project.

It was noted that the Council had received positive responses to a recent letter regarding the availability of community charging points. It was acknowledged that it was impossible for everyone to charge their cars at home as some houses did not have a convenient parking space, or when the location of the parking space was difficult to connect. It was reported that there were plans for community charging points in the future.

Disappointment was expressed that the Government had changed its target date for banning petrol and diesel cars from 2030 to 2035.

It was confirmed that consultation was an important part of the process, as gathering feedback from the users of charging points was crucial. It was explained that the feedback already received from charging point users was positive. Feedback was

gathered when users finished using a charging point, and their responses were sent to an internal system under the Council's control.

In response to a question regarding the Council's consultations with housing associations on charging points, the Assistant Head of Environment confirmed that the main emphasis was currently on the existing 25 locations. However, it was confirmed that the Council had a close relationship with housing associations and that charging points were included as part of the Council's Housing Action Plan.

In response to a question regarding payment methods for the charging point service, the Traffic and Projects Service Manager confirmed that there were three payment methods. It was detailed that a specific card could be used for the charging points, through a mobile app, and in future it was hoped that there would be provision to pay with a normal bank card.

Concerns were shared that there were insufficient metals to produce batteries for more electric cars and concerns that electric cars would be a huge burden on the electric network. In response to these observations, it was recognised that the challenge of encouraging residents in Gwynedd to use electric cars was significant. However, the Assistant Head of Environment emphasised that this project was important as part of the climate change and nature plan's targets.

A question was asked about whether more rapid charging points could be installed in future, as they were currently very popular. It was acknowledged that using more rapid charging points was challenging for the electricity network, but the Department would provide an update to the Committee on this matter in due course.

Assurance was given that work was being undertaken to develop a business plan for the charging points. It was noted that this would enable the Council to consider how to make best use of the money collected from the use of the charging points, and the possibility of using solar panels to power them. It was confirmed that several ideas had been presented and that research was being undertaken to ensure that the best options were chosen. It was added that the Department would provide a report on the project's progress when appropriate.

It was acknowledged that this change to electric vehicles was a huge change for petrol stations. All opportunities to provide support with this change were welcomed.

RESOLVED

- 1. To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- 2. To ask the Cabinet Member/Environment Department to examine the provision of more rapid charging points**
- 3. To receive a progress report when timely**

7. PUBLIC TOILETS

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC, Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC and the Senior Engineer. Reference was made to the following main points:

It was reported that there were 61 public toilets located across the county. It was recognised that the contribution of Town and Community Councils was crucial in keeping them open. It was added that there were 29 public toilets managed by communities, increasing the total number available to residents to 90 public toilets.

It was confirmed that a new Public Toilets Strategy would be introduced by November 2024 and therefore the Department was re-examining the need to charge a fee to use the public toilets. It was explained that there was a fee of 20 pence to use specific public toilets in Caernarfon, Dolgellau, Porthmadog and Pwllheli.

A member presented an analysis and information about public toilets and community toilets in the areas of Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd. The member was of the view that fees should not be charged until it was possible to pay by a contactless method. A question was asked about how many businesses were on the waiting list for the Community Grant Scheme. It was noted that improvements in the public toilets provision would be welcomed.

In response to the member's observations, the Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC noted his appreciation of the analysis of the information presented: He explained that he would fully respond to the member following the receipt of the information via e-mail. He noted that there was a waiting list for the Community Grant Scheme. He explained that the funding was received annually from the Welsh Government, it did not increase, and therefore this limited the number that could participate in the scheme.

Concerns were shared about the system of charging a fee for using public toilets. It was noted that if the fee was currently 20 pence it would have to be increased to 50 pence as it was a single coin payment. In response to the observations, the Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC noted that investigations were being undertaken to introducing machines that would accept card payments (in addition to the existing cash payment machines). This would reduce the frequency of cash collections by officers and would assist with the process of considering future fees. It was also reported that consideration was being given to whether any increase was necessary in the fees, making the service free, and installing a contributions box instead of a fee.

It was highlighted that the service was considering the three following options for the future, in conjunction with the consideration of charging a fee for the use of public toilets:

1. Abolish the charging provision altogether from the existing five toilets
2. Continue with the payment doors in the five existing public toilets, and replace the payment doors with machines that accept contactless and cash payments.
3. Extend the provision of payment access doors.

It was noted that the department intended to submit a bid through the Council's bids procedure to invest in the county's public toilets.

Attention was drawn to the Community Toilets Grants scheme, where locations could apply for a grant of up to £500 to ensure the cleanliness and safety of toilets to be made available for public use with no expectation to buy products or services. It was explained that approved locations received signage from the Council to inform the public about the service. It was noted that 35 properties were currently participating in the scheme, with additional locations on the waiting list. It was acknowledged that the department had received feedback that the public were not aware of this scheme, and that work would be undertaken to promote it.

It was noted that consideration should be given to specifying operating hours for the public toilets rather than noting whether they were open on a seasonal basis or year-round. It was explained that this would ensure that residents were aware in advance if facilities would be open when they were travelling.

It was noted that better use could be made of the signs that informed users where public toilets were located. It was explained that there were some examples of unclear signage, or places where there was no sign, and it was confirmed that the department was working to ensure that there were clear signs indicating the location of each public toilet.

In response to an enquiry about vandalism, the Senior Engineer confirmed that it was a combination of general vandalism within the public toilets and vandalism due to the fees that were charged.

In response to a request to ensure that everyone was able to use the public toilets, the Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC noted that a review was being held to ensure that public toilets were available for all, and what changes were required to make them more accessible. The department's intention to hold an equality consultation on the public toilets to ensure that all users had the necessary facilities was welcomed.

Consideration was given to the need to hold further discussions with the community councils regarding public toilets that had now closed. It was explained that discussions had been held with the community councils to establish partnerships to manage public toilets. It was noted that there were some examples where these partnerships had failed and the toilets had now closed. Discussion took place on whether it would be beneficial to raise this issue with the community councils again as they had a number of new representatives since the election in 2022.

It was agreed that the department would provide an update, to include an assessment of the possible options for the fees arrangements in due course.

RESOLVED

- 1. To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- 2. To receive an update in due course including an assessment of the possible options for the door payment arrangements.**

8. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2023/24

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Adviser noting the following main points:

Members were reminded that the Communities Committee's Forward Programme for 2023/24 had been adopted at the Committee's meeting on 13 July 2023.

It was explained that the forward programme needed to be revised for 2023/24. It was noted that the 'Governance Structure and Delivery Arrangements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board' item had been scheduled for this meeting, but a request had been received to re-arrange it as it was premature for scrutiny. It was noted that the Board's Programme Manager had confirmed that it would be timely to submit the report as part of the Committee's meeting on 30 November 2023.

It was confirmed that the Highways, Engineering and YGC Department would submit one report to the Committee's meeting on 30 November 2023 under the title 'Local Floods Strategy' It was ensured that this report would also address the matters in question when the 'Coastal Management' item was prioritised in the Committee's annual workshop. It was explained that the decision to merge both items allowed sufficient time to effectively scrutinise these items.

RESOLVED

To adopt the amended work programme for 2023/24.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m. and concluded at 12.55 p.m.

CHAIR

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Communities Scrutiny Committee
MEETING DATE	30 November 2023
TITLE	Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23
AUTHOR	Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader
PURPOSE	Update on progress made since adoption of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council adopted the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) following a Cabinet meeting on 8 March 2022. The ambition of the plan is "Gwynedd Council will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030." "Responding to the climate change crisis" is also one of the Council's 8 Improvement Priorities within [The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 \(llyw.cymru\)](#).
- 1.2 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (the Plan) outlines how we as a Council will adapt the way we work and deliver services to reduce our carbon emissions and increase carbon absorption capacity. It provides examples of projects we will be pursuing, their outline costs and the timeframe to deliver.
- 1.3 The Plan became effective in April 2022 and it is therefore timely to present a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 (Annual Report) which takes stock of what has been achieved during the first year of the scheme's existence. The Annual Report can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The Annual Report will be presented to a meeting of Cabinet on 19th December, so the Communities Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to offer any comments on the contents of the report for Cabinet consideration.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 The 'Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23' provides a summary of the work undertaken during the first year of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan's existence. Below is a summary of the work that has continued between April and October 2023.

2.2 Buildings and Energy –

Consultants have been appointed to the Solar Panels Phase 4 project and are currently assessing the designs and installations of the buildings, along with possibilities for connecting to the national grid.

We have researched a new method of powering LED lighting over the web, but the costs were prohibitively expensive if retrofitting buildings. It can be, though, a technology to be used in buildings that will be built from scratch. A business plan is currently being developed to replace LED lights and power them through a traditional wiring system.

A grant application is being submitted to the Welsh Government for a feasibility study to install heat pumps at 3 sites.

2.3 Mobility and Transport -

As part of the Solar Panels Phase 4 project, some of our buildings are being assessed for solar panel electricity to feed charging points for the use of our fleet or staff and member cars. The Communities Scrutiny Committee received an update of the situation to install charging points for public use at its meeting on 5 October 2023 - [Introducing Public Charging Points for Electric Vehicles](#)

A grant was received from the Welsh Government Energy Service to contribute towards the purchase of electric cars for the Council's fleet, and at the end of October we had 17 electric vehicles. We are waiting for 44 more cars and small vans that have been ordered to be delivered.

2.4 Training –

50 staff and Council members have received Carbon Literacy training, and a training e-module is currently being developed for the use of all staff and Council members.

2.5 Finance -

Our current projects have been funded from a variety of sources - Council Funds; Welsh Government grants (eg. Energy Service, Very Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund), Biodiversity Partnership Wales.

Additional funds we are investigating for funding future work – Welsh Government (Low Carbon Heat Grant) Sport Wales, Westminster Government (ORCS – street charging)

2.6 The Future / Phase 2 -

In the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan we note that we will wait to produce a Local Flood Strategy in 2023/24 before seeing how to bring projects and targets to reduce the impact of climate change into the Plan. As the Local Flood Strategy is also being discussed at this meeting on 30 November we will reflect on that discussion going forward.

Our current focus remains on planning and funding projects that are going to reduce carbon emissions for which the Council is responsible. However, a number of our projects are being developed in collaboration with external partners, or contributing to reducing Gwynedd's carbon emissions as a county – eg. Installing public charging points for electric vehicles; public recycling bins; supporting the successful grant applications of the Ogwen Partnership, Antur Waunfawr and Siop Griffiths; biodiversity promotion projects through the Gwynedd Nature Partnership.

3. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

3.1 Following discussion in the Communities Scrutiny Committee any comments the Committee has on the Annual Report will be brought to the attention of Cabinet.

3.2 The Council's Cabinet will consider the Annual Report at its meeting on 19th December.

3.3 If Cabinet approves the report we will share publicity about it and encourage Gwynedd residents.

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 Cyngor Gwynedd



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1. The Council Leader's Foreword



I am pleased to be able to present the first Annual Report for Cyngor Gwynedd's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30. The report seeks to summarise all the work that has been undertaken in the first year of this important plan, since the Council's Cabinet adopted it in March 2022.

It is great news that carbon emissions that are the Council's responsibility have fallen by 20% between 2019/20 and 2022/23, but the biggest challenge is the one ahead, which is to reach a position of being 'net zero carbon'.

In my foreword to the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan I talk about the "huge challenges ahead" as we respond to the effects of climate change on our world. Those challenges certainly haven't diminished, indeed it's possible to argue that they have increased. We saw an alarming increase in energy costs during the year and that has put significant pressure on the Council's budgets and on Gwynedd residents. Our response to this crisis was to invest £2.8m in a 2 year plan to install more solar panels on our buildings that will generate electricity for us to use. This will result in financial savings but of course it will also go a long way towards reducing the carbon emissions of those buildings.

As the cost of living crisis is hitting the people of Gwynedd hard we have been running walk-in information sessions and workshops, and have been sharing information on how our residents can save money by saving energy in their homes. We are fully aware that no one should be left behind as society moves towards using methods to insulate and heat buildings that emit less carbon.

You will also see many examples in this report of wonderful collaboration between voluntary and community organisations with the Council, particularly on projects to conserve and promote nature. We as a Council are very grateful to every individual who gives up their time to make their local community a nice and healthy place to live, not only today but for future generations.

Although this report looks back at the work of 2022/23, my eyes are certainly focused on the future. There is much more work lying in that direction, and much of the work that has started during 2022/23 is going to take several years before we see its full impact. On with the work!



Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Leader of Cyngor Gwynedd

2. Background

After a 'climate change emergency' was declared in the March 2019 Council meeting, a Climate Change Board was established that led to establishing a [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) (CNEP) that was adopted by the Cabinet March 2022.

The ambition of the Plan is - "Gwynedd Council will be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030." The 'ecologically positive' element was added to the original 'climate change emergency' statement to acknowledge the crisis situation of nature as well, since both elements are so co-dependent.

The plan's ambition corresponds to Welsh Government's target for the public sector *collectively* in Wales to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and for Wales to be a net-zero country by 2050.

Our plans include many work-streams within the main themes -

- buildings and energy
- mobility and transportation
- waste
- governance
- procurement
- land use
- ecology

Green Gwynedd is one of the 7 priority fields in the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028, and within that priority there are 7 projects, and implementing CNEP is one of them. However, every one of Green Gwynedd projects, and many other Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 projects contribute to the CNEP's main objective.

Since CNEP was implemented in 2022/23, this is the first annual report to be published that looks at what the Council achieved during that year. The plan is regularly monitored by the Nature and Climate Board, which has a membership of officers and Cabinet Members and representatives of the scrutiny committees.

3. Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan declares our ambition to be “...ecologically positive by 2030”. One of the steps we can take to reach this aim is to act upon Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

According to Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 every public authority that operates in Wales has a duty to protect and improve biodiversity and to encourage the robustness of ecosystems. Whilst our protected sites and species are important, the requirements of Section 6 involves taking steps to protect nature in our towns, cities, public spaces and wider landscape, by practical actions, and in the way that all public actions are arranged.

Welsh Government published a national biodiversity strategy, namely the 'Nature Recovery Action Plan' in 2015 which outlined the commitment to overturn the loss of biodiversity in Wales, and the objectives for implementation. It includes 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the process of making decisions on every level
- Objective 2:** Protect species and habitats of utmost importance and improve their management
- Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring habitats that have been degraded and create new habitats
- Objective 4:** Tackle key pressure on species and habitats
- Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Objective 6:** Implement a governing framework and support for achieving the objectives

In order to comply with the Section 6 duty of the Environment (Wales) Act, public authorities are required publish their own plan that sets out what they intend to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. Welsh Government guidelines note that public bodies should consider basing their Section 6 duty plan on the national Nature Recovery Action Plan.



















Cyngor Gwynedd are currently developing a reformed Nature Recovery Plan, but in the meantime we are also including relevant

information in the CNEP. Whilst protecting nature and biodiversity is intertwined through the whole CNEP, the Land Use and Ecology sections list the projects that will concentrate specifically on this work.

At the end of every section of this annual report you will see a description of how the work achieved contributes towards realising one or more of the 6 objectives above, that in their turn conform with Section 6 of Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

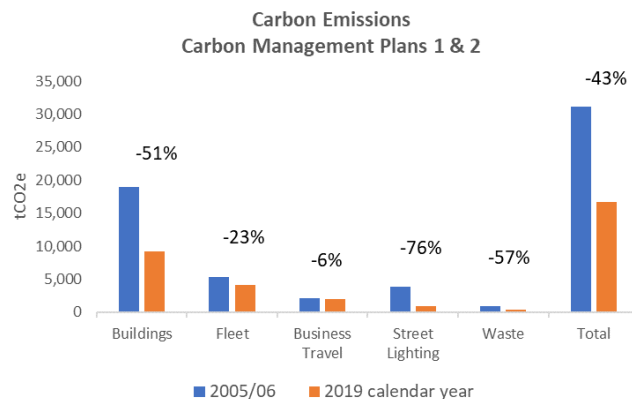
	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Buildings and Energy						
Mobility and Transport						
Waste						
Governance						
Procurement						
Land Use						
Ecology						

4. Reaching the Current Situation

Before the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan's existence the Council has already been acting for years to try and reduce our carbon footprint. The Carbon Management Plan 1 was published in 2010 and Carbon Management Plan 2 in 2015.

We achieved a significant reduction of carbon emissions produced from our day-to-day activities. By investing approximately £8M in measures to reduce energy use over the last decade, we managed to reduce our carbon emissions by 59% in the fields of buildings, business travel, streetlights, fleet and waste.

The reductions for every field can be seen in the following graph and it is fair to say that our efforts have led to national recognition on many occasions:



Measuring our carbon emissions

When the council was implementing Carbon Management Plan 1 and 2 we followed the Carbon Trust's recognised carbon emissions measuring methods, and measured progress in 5 fields as the above chart shows. By now, we are following a methodology for measuring emissions that is set by the Welsh Government and there are minor variants between both procedures, so by creating CNEP we have used 2019/20 data as a new baseline.

By now we also measure our carbon emissions in additional fields - procurement, commuting staff, and working from home (since 2021/22). We also measure how much carbon our lands absorb, and by counterbalancing that figure against the total of emissions we get a net figure, which is the gap to reach net zero. Our gap to net zero in 2022/23 was 17,695 tCO₂e.

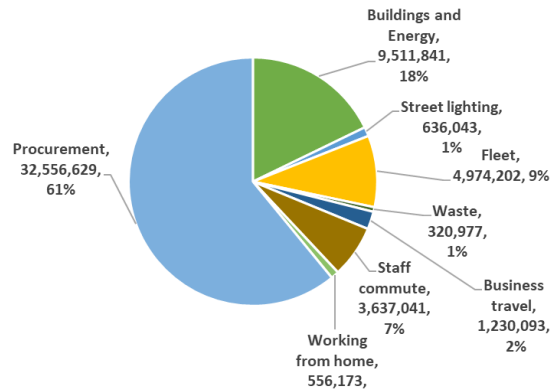
Emissions
20,866 tCO₂e



Sequestration
3,171 tCO₂e

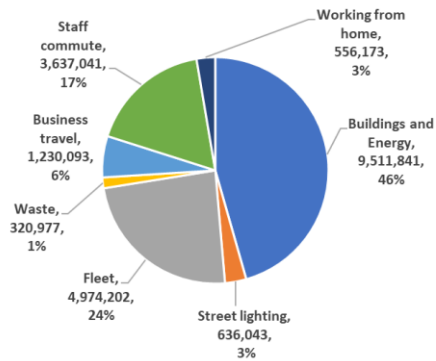
Gap to net zero
17,695 tCO₂e

Carbon Emissions kgCO₂e
INCLUDING Procurement 2022/23



The methodology of measuring carbon emissions that derive from our procurement processes is imperfect because it is based on how much money we spend. The more we spend, the greater the emissions. Because the procurement data could create an imperfect picture, the following chart presents data for the 7 remaining headings having dismissed procurement.

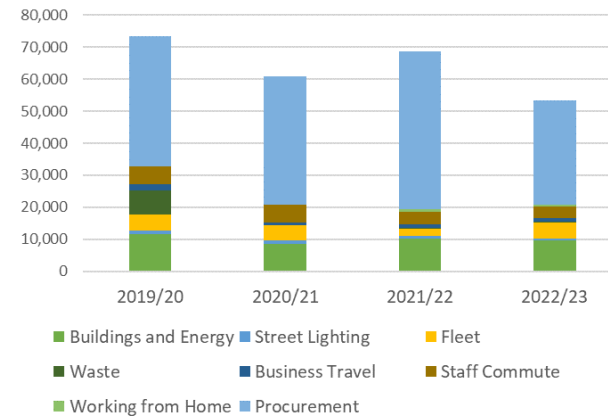
Carbon Emissions kgCO₂e
NOT INCLUDING Procurement 2022/23



Where are we on the journey to reach net zero by 2030, and does 2022/23 data show that we are on the right track?

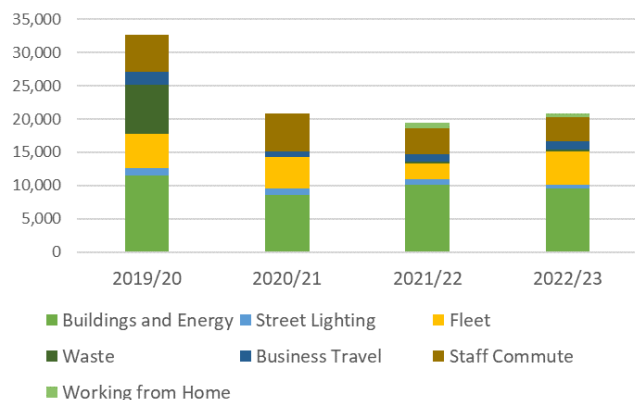
The chart below shows a 20% reduction in our carbon emissions from our procurement processes between the 2019/20 baseline year and 2022/23. It also shows a 34% reduction between 2021/22 and 2022/23, and although we have made an effort to support our suppliers to reduce their carbon emissions it is fair to say that minor changes in the measuring methods is what is mainly responsible for the reduction.

Carbon Emissions tCO₂e
INCLUDING Procurement since baseline year



It has already been stated that procurement data could create an imperfect picture, therefore the chart below shows a 37% reduction in emission for the remaining 7 headings between 2019/20 and 2022/23.

Carbon Emissions tCO₂e
NOT INCLUDING Procurement since baseline
year



Fleet and business travel are the two fields that have seen an increase in 2022/23, although the emissions are still less than that of 2019/20. Some travel restrictions were still in force in 2021/22 due to Covid-19, and so this increase is based on the increase in travel numbers by 2022/23. We have now started to implement our Green Fleet Plan at the end of 2022/23 to rationalise the size of our fleet and start to convert to electric vehicles. In turn, this work will influence our travel habits as staff and elected members as we are also reviewing our use of pool cars.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Climate change is having a significant impact on flooding and the scale of land erosion as sea levels have been rising and storms and periods of heavy rainfall become more intense and occur more regularly.

Flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales is about much more than building defences. Our approach to risk management encourages wider resilience, prevention and risk awareness so that better decisions can be made, both by the public and those who influence how land and water is managed.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and must be consistent with the National Strategy published last year. We are required to review Local Flood Risk Management Strategies in Wales (since the original ones in 2013) to align with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation of the new National Strategy.

We need to complete this task by Spring 2024.

5. Buildings and Energy

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Aim for long term benefits when planning building or renewing buildings work.
2. De-carbonise the Council's energy supply.
3. Use Passivhaus low carbon building methods when developing our innovative housing pilot scheme.
4. Offer Gwynedd residents advice and information regarding the benefits and opportunities of using low carbon building methods when building homes and low carbon heating/energy systems to maintain a home.
5. Set individual rooms heating controls to reduce the energy needed to heat a building.
6. Upgrade streetlights and traffic signs to use less energy.
7. Improve the energy infrastructure in Gwynedd and north Wales to maintain low carbon energy systems and transportation.

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

8. Save 5% of carbon emissions from buildings by bringing them up to CIBSE 'good practice' standard.
9. Reduce our carbon emissions by widening our use of PV to create renewable energy.
10. Electrify building heating systems to reduce carbon emissions.
11. Install EC ventilation fans in buildings to reduce the energy needed to run them compared to regular fans.
12. Upgrade specialist lighting in leisure centres to reduce the energy use.

Long Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2029/30

13. Increase our carbon 'credit' by installing solar farms to generate energy that the Council could use or sell.

Continuous Priorities

14. Improve the fabric of buildings that belong to the Council in order to make them as energy-efficient as possible.
15. Prevent the over-development of fossil fuel energy plans.

16. Maximise the benefits gained as a result of implementing our energy and heating policies as much as possible.
17. The equipment used within the Council's buildings to be as energy-efficient as possible.

What did we do?

The carbon emissions from buildings and energy in 2022/23 is 46% of the total (not including procurement) which is an 18% reduction since 2019/20.

The work of improving the fabric of buildings in order to make them as energy-efficient as possible (projects 1, 9, & 14) is continuous work that has been under way by us as a Council for over a decade. During 2022/23 we continued to maintain the work that had already been completed, as well as investigating if there would be any need to do any additional work for the future.

We offer support and advice to Gwynedd's residents (project 4) on how to save energy and money through the Nyth and Eco 4 schemes. Our officers have been holding face-to-face information sessions in our communities as well as answering enquiries through the website or over the phone.

We have central systems for managing heating in individual rooms therefore we do not see the need to move on to install individual rooms heating controls (project 5) at this moment in time. This need may change in the future if the Internet of Things project

(within the Digital Plan) shows that there is additional value in changing the current arrangement.

Since the project of changing streetlamps (project 6) to LED lights began in 2016/17, 17,811 lamps will have been changed by the end of 2022/23. Between the beginning of the scheme and the end of 2022/23 a reduction of 50% was seen in our use of energy and an 81% reduction in carbon emissions.

At the end of 2022/23 the Council commenced on the process of drawing up the Local Energy Plan (project 7), and it is work that is led by North Wales Ambition and ARUP. The intention of the Local Energy Plan is to create an integrated low carbon system for Gwynedd, improving the current infrastructure which, in its turn, will support every sector in transforming their current use of energy. The work continues throughout 2023/24 with the aim of completing the plan by end of March 2024.

During 2022/23 the Council's Cabinet decided to reserve £2.8m to achieve Phase 4 of the plan to install PV solar panels on the Council's property to generate electricity (projects 1 & 9). They went on to design the tender and the work has commenced during 2023/24.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Following significant fire damage we took advantage of the opportunity to restore the purpose-built bird-watching hide on the banks of the Menai Straits near Caernarfon. The new hide has been created by recycling and re-designing old shipping containers and installing them in specific sites that are accessible for everyone to be able to enjoy wonderful views of the Menai's inter-tidal lands.

6. Mobility and Transport

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Moving away from using fossil fuelled vehicles towards a fleet of ULEV vehicles (cars and vans)
2. Install electric vehicle charging points for the Council's vehicles
3. Install electric vehicle charging points for the residents of Gwynedd
4. Reduce business travel
5. Reduce carbon emissions and parking problems in areas that are popular amongst visitors

Long Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2029/30

6. Have low carbon or non-carbon fuel options for the Council's heavy fleet

Continuous Priorities

7. Reduce carbon emissions through staff commuting habits

8. Encourage active travel amongst staff - for health and well-being and also to reduce carbon emissions
9. Encourage active travel amongst Gwynedd residents and visitors to improve physical and mental well-being and reduce short car journey carbon emissions
10. Increase the opportunities for community organisations to have access to EV or ULEV vehicles or use low carbon technology

What did we do?

The carbon emissions from the Council's fleet in 2022/23 is 24% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 3.5% since 2019/20. The carbon emissions from staff commuting in 2022/23 is 17% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 35.5% since 2019/20. The carbon emissions from business travel in 2022/23 is 6% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 37% since 2019/20.

There was quite a bit of delay in buying new electric vehicles during 2022/23 because of supply issues on the international market, but by the end of the year the Council will have 15 electric vehicles across our fleet (project 1). These are maintained by 23 charging points across 8 Council-owned sites (project 2).

By the end of 2022/23 the Council will have 16 operational charging points for the public in 4 locations (Bangor, Pwllheli, Bala and Dolgellau), and 1 additional charging point in Bala managed by Transport for Wales. As a Council we collaborate with Transport for Wales and Eryri National Park when planning public charging points. A much higher number of machines were installed, but we are waiting for the electric connection to be authorised. Our current programme to install a total of 114 public charging points will continue during 2023/24 and we will review it as we assess the needs of the future (project 3).

Many working habits changed during the Covid-19 period, but one habit that has continued for us in the Council is holding internal and public meetings virtually, significantly reducing the need to travel to work centres. Every one of the Council's main meetings - Full Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny, Planning - continue to be held virtually and in person, and this has reduced our emissions from business travel. As we start to implement our Green Fleet Scheme we have also started to challenge the need for business travel, but changes in this field will happen over the coming years (project 4).

One of the biggest successes of 2022/23 was the introduction of the Sherpa'r Wyddfa buses, namely a network of bus services around the Wyddfa catchment area. The Council is one of the partners which had been developing the provision, and its objective is to increase active travel options and reduce the parking problems in popular areas of Eryri (projects 5 & 9).

Transforming the fleet of heavy vehicles to use electricity or hydrogen as fuel is a long-term process, but the Council's officers

are collaborating with North Wales Ambition on their Hydrogen Hub projects and with the Welsh Local Government Association to share new developments and good practise amongst local authorities (project 6).

The Council has the Green Car Scheme and the Green Bike Scheme available to most staff, which are salary sacrifice schemes for buying a new electric car or bike. We have been encouraging staff to take full advantage of these opportunities, including holding several open days to trial electric bikes. A total of 376 bikes and 128 electric or hybrid cars have been bought by our staff since the beginning of the scheme in 2013/14.

We have also been looking into the other commuting options that could be available for staff, apart from travelling individually in a petrol/diesel car. We will be developing and promoting these schemes more in the future (projects 7 & 8).

The charging point for the Council's fleet in its car park in Caernarfon is also used to charge the community electric car under the care of the Deg/Co-wheels social enterprise (project 10).

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

There is no direct link between the above projects and Section 6 objectives.

7. Waste

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Promote the circular economy in order to reduce the number of items being disposed of and reducing carbon emissions in the supply chain from the purchase of new goods
2. Reduce street waste that goes to landfill and increase the street waste that is recycled
3. Reduce the use of paper

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

4. Reduce the number of items that reach waste incineration sites by encouraging people to repair and re-use (Repair Cafés)

Continuous Priorities

5. Repair and adapt equipment that would otherwise be disposed of and incinerated, and sell them

6. Reduce food waste by supporting community projects that try to re-distribute food that would otherwise be thrown away

What did we do?

The carbon emissions from the Council's waste in 2022/23 is 1% of the total (not including procurement) which is a reduction of 96% since 2019/20.

2022/23 was a very busy year for our business support team as they collaborated with many businesses and community enterprises across Gwynedd and Anglesey to apply for grants from Welsh Government to extend the current provision in the circular economy field. Our aim is to encourage people to reuse or repair goods, which emits less carbon than producing new goods or procession of waste. We are still waiting for a final judgement but in the meantime, we are promoting and supporting the work of our partners - Antur Waunfawr, Partneriaeth Ogwen, Siop Griffiths, Adra (Tŷ Gwyrddfai), BIC Innovation, Menter Môn, MSParc. The work of other community organisations such as GwyrddNi are also important and a valuable contribution to empower communities (projects 1, 4, 5 & 6).

During the year we continued to install bins in public spaces that accept recyclable materials, where there is a different, individual

bin for different materials. 8 sets of 4 bins and 7 sets of 3 bins were installed in 11 locations during 2022/23. This is a continuous work programme, and more recycling bins will be installed over the coming years (project 2).

We have been reviewing our internal use of paper in the Council's offices during the year, it was encouraging that the use had remained much lower than it was before the Covid-19 period. This assessment has led to changing printing habits, and by 2023/24 we will not be printing papers for meetings unless there is a reasonable exception for doing so (project 3).

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process at all levels.

When developing the plans that are a part of the grant application to promote a circular economy we have been continuously consulting with all our community partners, and officers on many levels within the Council have been considering the project's impact on biodiversity before developing the final plan.

Objective 4: Tackle key pressure on species and habitats

Priorities 4, 5 and 6 above contribute to objectives 2, 3 and 4 since our food hubs and community gardens are assessed on their impact on biodiversity, and developed in a way that will not harm the surrounding environment.

8. Governance

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Publicly share information regarding the work the Council does to reduce carbon emissions to encourage others to change their habits.
2. Support communities to plan and provide local solutions to local needs.

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

3. Elected members and staff who:
 - understand the consequences of climate change
 - make decisions based on information about the impacts
 - act in the most positive way as possible towards mitigating the impact of climate change and being ecologically positive

Continuous Priorities

4. Encourage staff to develop careers in fields that reduce the impact of climate change or are ecologically positive.

5. Review the Council's current policies and strategies so that reducing carbon emissions or reducing the impact of climate change is a factor when making decisions.

What did we do?

The scarcity of resources has meant that we have prioritised time and resources on reducing the carbon emissions that derive directly from our own activity as a Council during the first year of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan. However, this has not meant that we have not been engaging and supporting our communities and residents so that everyone can play their part on this journey to net zero.

The consultations held through the Ardal Ni plan has highlighted climate and nature matters are of high priority to residents in every area, and we continue to support the communities with their action plans. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board has also been consulting with communities during the year, and that work has led to drawing up a new well-being plan that came into force during 2023/24 (project 1).

See also the report under the 'Waste' heading.

Our other projects as a Council also contribute to help and influence residents' habits - Clean and Tidy Communities,

supporting food hubs, Ffiws/Repair Café, energy saving travelling shows (projects 1 & 2).

The work of reviewing current policies and strategies (project 5) has highlighted the need to educate and train staff and members to understand and implement changes to those policies. We have been planning our training needs during 2022/23, and carbon literacy training has been held during 2023/24 (project 3).

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process on every level.

Work done with Town and Community Councils to let them know of their duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Objective 6: Implement governance framework and support on achieving the objectives.

The work achieved under priorities 3 and 5 contribute to realising Objectives 1 and 6.

9. Procurement

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Continuous Priorities

1. Provide support for the market, especially to local providers, to be able to measure the impact of their activities on their carbon footprint.
2. Understand and measure carbon emissions to realise contracts in the procurement chain.

What did we do?

At the end of 2022/23 the Welsh Local Government Association published a report and support package for local authorities to use so that they can try to further incorporate sustainable procurement into daily habits. There was quite a wait on the package as a resource that would be useful to us as a Council to measure carbon emissions that derive from the services and the materials that we buy, and it is an initial step on this journey.

Following the publication of the support package we are now collaborating with WRAP Cymru to review our Sustainable Procurement Policy and to investigate further support to reduce the emissions of our largest contracts in terms of financial worth (such as food and care).

61% of the Council's carbon emissions during 2022/23 derived from our procurement processes, which was a reduction from the previous year where the total was 72%. We must acknowledge that changes in accounting methods is mainly responsible for this reduction, but we also continued to support our suppliers on their journeys to become net zero by promoting Wales Business services and offer our own advice.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Objective 6: Implement governance framework and support for achieving the objectives.

As we review our Sustainable Procurement Policy and receive advice from WRAP Cymru on how we can reduce our carbon emissions through the contracts we set up, we will review the current guidelines for suppliers on how they can protect and promote biodiversity.

10. Land Use

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

1. Recognise the contribution of Council-owned trees and how they absorb and store carbon and reduce floods.
2. Recognise the contribution of the Council-owned lands and how they absorb and store carbon and reduce floods.
3. Establish tree nurseries to grow trees ready for planting.
4. Identify opportunities to plant trees as part of the Wales National Forest enterprise.
5. Protect agricultural land in Gwynedd and use it for competent purpose and manage forestation projects.

Continuous Priorities

6. Manage Ash Dieback disease in trees and make good for any carbon emissions that result from felling trees.
7. That Council-owned woodlands are protected in order to make the best of their potential to absorb carbon and be habitats to nature.

What did we do?

During 2022/23, we have been doing essential maintenance work on 8 Council-owned woodland sites, and training staff to use the latest equipment to measure the volume of trees to measure their carbon worth (project 1 & 7). New trees were planted in 4 sites out of 8, and an application has been submitted for Parc Dudley in Waunfawr to receive recognition as a Wales National Forest site (project 4).

As well as the woodlands above, we have also planted or re-planted trees on streets in Pwllheli, Porthmadog, Tremadog and Cricieth. Discussions with partners will need to continue to assess the potential of establishing tree nurseries (project 3).

We are eagerly waiting for a new support package that is being developed by the Welsh Local Government Association to measure carbon value in different lands. It should be available during 2023/24, and it will be of assistance to us, not only to measure the carbon absorption capacity of our various lands, but also to plan the use of our lands in the future (project 2).

Unfortunately, the need to treat the increasing number of trees suffering from Ash Dieback puts increasing pressure on our scarce resources. However, we continue to respond to cases that arise and map where it may be possible to re-plant (project 6).

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process on all levels.

Following consultations by Town Councils the Nature Partnership supported them with the provision of projects that allow them to comply with Section 6 requirements, Biodiversity Duties and Welsh Government Ecosystems Resilience.

New woodlands were planted with the support of local schools, new orchards were created and significant pieces of grasslands were turned into habitats for the benefit of biodiversity.

Objective 2: Protect species and habitats of the utmost importance and improve their management.

Wern Mynach Friends are a very active crew that maintain and protect a piece of land on the outskirts of Barmouth. A piece of land that was previously an old waste site, but by now, with the hard work of volunteers, the site has been transformed for the benefit of biodiversity and the community.

There is always *'something happening'* in Wern Mynach and with investments by the Nature Partnership there were an opportunity to develop the site further by creating a pond and wet area for reptiles and pollinators as well as planting and education activities.

It is always a pleasure to work with the crew as they are so enthusiastic about their work and contribute so much to the local community.

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by recovering habitats that have been degraded and create new habitats.

Yr Heliwr, Nefyn's Community Garden volunteers have been busy transforming the piece of land that was 'polluted' by invasive species into a popular destination for the local community. By coming together to share friendships, a group of volunteers have created a busy and popular garden where a variety of vegetables and crops grow, and it is also a convenient resource in terms of accessibility where many workshops are held on the site for the benefit of local residents' health and well-being.

Objective 4: Tackle key pressure on species and habitats.

Every one of the priorities above contribute to Objectives 2, 3 and 4.

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

Our work on priority 6 depends on evidence and records, but all the woodland maintenance work is based on evidence and regular monitoring.

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11. Ecology

What did we promise to do in 2022/23?

Short Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

1. Identify the steps needed to protect the nature habitats and biodiversity for the future.
2. Identify our valuable species and habitats and what measures need to be taken to protect and recover them.

Medium Term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

3. Increase the number of pollinators by protecting or planting new habitats (landfill sites).
4. Support voluntary and community organisations and town and community councils that protect or promote nature.

Continuous Priorities

5. Foster and maintain Gwynedd residents' interest in ecology matters for them to want to help protect nature.
6. Protect valuable habitats for nature.

What did we do?

We opened a public consultation during 2022/23 to ascertain the views of Gwynedd residents regarding the nature surrounding them and the access they have to the local natural environment. The results of the consultation helped us draw up our reformed Nature Recovery Plan, and that plan will be published during 2023/24. Alongside the Nature Recovery Plan, we have also been assessing the biodiversity of nature reserves that we own to establish a baseline that can be used to measure the progress or the decline against it (projects 1 & 2).

There are two sites in Gwynedd that used to be landfill sites that have now been transformed into sites to protect and promote nature. Tree planting and maintenance work was done in Llwyn Isaf near Clynog and Ffridd Rasus near Harlech during the year, and the fruits of the labour in 2022/23 became obvious by the summer of 2023 (projects 3 & 6). Both sites have also received a 'gold standard' by Restor, the international hub for nature recovery.

2022/23 was also a very busy year as we prepared our lands for the National Eisteddfod's visit to Llŷn in August 2023. All of the primary schools in the Eisteddfod's catchment area took part in our project to plant wildflower meadows and the Council's highway teams planted wild flower meadows along the road verges leading

towards Pwllheli, and we will continue to assess and maintain these meadows in the future (projects 3 & 5).

Maintaining our nature reserves is a continuous task, but during 2022/23 we have been upgrading our facilities in Morfa Madryn near Llanfairfechan to install accessible paths, which has opened the reserve to more residents. We also installed a new bird watching shelter (made out of old shipping containers) in the Foryd near Caernarfon (projects 5 & 6).

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The projects above contribute to the following objectives:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout the decision-making process on all levels.

All of the work that we undertake as a Council through the Local Nature Partnership is planned or provided alongside local establishments, communities or schools.

Objective 2: Protect species and habitats of the utmost importance and improve their management.

The Llŷn and Eifionydd Beekeepers' Association are a busy crew that not only collect honey from over a 100 local beehives but also work has to promote the Welsh Black Bee species here in Gwynedd. The association has new resources by now, including new educational resources, purpose-built display beehives and new equipment for producing honey of high standard. This will allow them to promote their association in the local area, as well as ensuring that the Welsh Black Bee is safeguarded and protected here in Gwynedd.

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by recovering habitats that have been degraded and create new habitats.

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.

Every one of the priorities above contribute to Objectives 2, 3 and 4.

12. Next Steps

Financial

Currently, inflation impacts on the capital cost of every investment plan, but it also means that savings from reducing our energy use is also higher. Despite this, it is very hard to predict energy costs from month to month, and that is also true about inflation in capital costs. It is clear that our own budgets have been hit very hard by national economic circumstances and it is likely that this will leave us in a situation where our aspiration to invest in this field will have to compete against our duties to provide core services to the residents of Gwynedd.

Renewable Energy

Generating our own energy does not only mean less dependency on using electricity from the grid (which is unlikely to be zero net for many years, if at all), but will also provide us with some energy guarantee for us locally. Unfortunately, no recognition is being given to us as an establishment if we generate electricity to export to the grid and we cannot claim the carbon credit for it. In addition to this, the infrastructure is not good enough to send electricity to the grid from renewable sources in this area, e.g. there would be a need to invest millions of pounds to be able to use some of our lands to establish solar farms. Therefore, generating electricity at a commercial scale from renewable sources will not be of any assistance to our ambition of being carbon zero.

Having said that, the Council, along with county partners, are developing a Local Area Energy Plan which will set a foundation to develop a low carbon energy system for Gwynedd for the benefit of residents, the industry and transportation. We will have to wait to see which projects the plan will recommend, and what resources will be available to deliver them.

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	30 October, 2023
Title	Local Flood Strategy
Cabinet Member	Councillor Berwyn Parry Jones
Author	Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal Department and YGC
Purpose	The Council is required to draw up a Local Flood Strategy by October 2023. The work has been allocated as inland and coastal flood risks.

1. Introduction

Climate change is having a significant impact on flooding and erosion rates as sea levels are rising with storms and periods of heavy rain becoming more intense and occurring more regularly.

The Council has published its Climate and Nature Emergency Plan and the plan refers to how we as a Council want to respond to the effects of climate change, which includes the effects of flooding. The Local Flood Strategy and the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan will run together, and help to realise each other's targets.

Managing Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk in Wales involves much more than building defences. Our approach to risk management encourages wider resilience, prevention and risk awareness so that better decisions can be made, by the public and those who influence how the land and water are managed.

A Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is one of the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and they must be consistent with the National Strategy published last year. We are required to review Local Flood Risk Management Strategies in Wales (the original ones were done in 2013) in order to match the objectives, measures and policies and related legislation of the new National Strategy.

We will need to complete this task by Spring 2024.

2. Background and Current Situation

In October 2022 it was explained to this committee that the new Strategy would consider inland and coastal risks separately, this is because the nature of the risk and the ability to mitigate it; difference in statutory and passive roles/responsibilities, policies and strategies (including those of other agencies) together with differences in the funding structure of projects from the Welsh Government. Tables summarising the flood and coastal erosion risks to our communities are provided in Appendices A and B.

3. New Arrangements/Procedures

Over recent months we have been progressing with the Local Strategy in accordance with the framework and guidance provided by Welsh Government. The document discusses the roles and responsibilities of different authorities to manage the risks of flooding; the history of flooding across Gwynedd and the risk of flooding for the future as a result of the effects of climate change, and also what Cyngor Gwynedd is doing within their powers at present in order to manage these risks (list summarized in Appendix C).

As a basis of the document over the coming years are 5 main objectives, and a list of actions that build on our current flood risk management methods (Appendix C) in order to meet these objectives.

The objectives of the Strategy are:

Objective 1: Aim to reduce the level of risk of flooding and coastal erosion for the residents of Gwynedd.

Objective 2: Develop a further understanding of the flood risk to Gwynedd and the effects of climate change.

Objective 3: Continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd.

Objective 4: Raise awareness of the risk of flooding and local coastal erosion.

Objective 5: To work in conjunction with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a co-ordinated response to flooding and coastal erosion events.

A list of the actions relevant to each objective, together with a short description, is included in Appendix D.

One of the main actions included in the Strategy is our intention to prepare long-term capital work programmes for flood and coastal erosion risk management, divided into inland and coastal programmes as already explained. The intention is to update these work programmes annually and use them to elect plans and studies to be included in the national flood risk management programme. The process of identifying and promoting schemes is summarized in Appendix E.

The Strategy explains that our programs will mainly be developed according to the level of risk of flooding/coastal erosion, but that other factors such as the Council's legal responsibilities and our ability to realize plans will also have influence.

Although we recognize that Gwynedd Council is the lead organization for the plans and studies that will be included on our programmes, we anticipate that some specific projects will involve working in partnership with other authorities, and we welcome such opportunities.

4. Matters that have arisen from the previous Committee

The issue of managing the shoreline was raised at the October 2022 meeting, and the need to do this without increasing the risk of flooding to nearby areas.

We must accept that the coast is a very dynamic area and storms and changes in drift patterns can greatly influence the structures that are historically in place in order to maintain and protect our coastline. The coast is regularly monitored by the Council, whether this is through a regular assessment of the condition of our assets or by monitoring the level of our beaches as part of the national monitoring programme. As a result of this we are aware of the risks and threats along the coast over time, e.g. low beach levels exist along parts of Tywyn, Barmouth and Criccieth frontages at present, and this can result in a threat to the stability of structures such as walls at the back of these beaches.

In the most vulnerable locations (for example Barmouth, Criccieth and Pwllheli) studies are underway which will lead to plans to manage these risks for the future in the most sustainable way possible without adversely affecting nearby parts of the coast. The hope is that over time our work program will expand in order to offer better security to many other coastal communities and also to continue to maintain access to the shoreline which is so important to well-being and economic benefit, and that the new strategy will offer a framework to enable this.

In addition to threats linked to the low level our beaches there are some areas (Aberdyfi, Barmouth's main beach) where sand is at present higher than before, which causes different problems as sand prevents access towards the sea and also cause a nuisance beyond the beach. Such problems are also recognized by the Council and we are keen to find a long-term and sustainable response for these situations.

5. Next Steps

The next steps will be to complete a bilingual draft of the document together with the related reports and to conduct an engagement exercise early in the new year. Initial capital works programs (inland and coastal) will be included as appendices to the main document. An outline timetable is provided below but this may be subject to change depending on the consultation process.

Report to Scrutiny Committee	30 November, 2023
Consultation exercise	January/February 2024
Adoption of Strategy	Spring 2024

APPENDIX A - Inland/Catchment Risks

Catchment	Communities	Number of houses at risk (by return periods)					Number of key assets at risk (excluding housing)	Total flood investigations in the catchment.	Lead organisation	Projects
		Total	High (1:30)	Medium (1:100)	Low (1:1000)	Very low (1:1000 + NH)				
Adda Cegin	Bangor Penrhosgarnedd Glasinfryn Minffordd Pentir Rhiwlas Sling	365	13	73	136	143	83	26	Cyngor Gwynedd	A number of small projects underway within the catchment area.
									Cyngor Gwynedd	Hirael Flood Prevention Scheme
Corris	South Tywyn Aberdyfi Pennal Corris Dinas Mawddwy Mallwyd Aberllefenni	247	76	30	91	50	43	15	Cyngor Gwynedd	A number of small projects underway within the catchment area.
Dwyfor	Chwilog Cwm Pennant Garndolbenmaen Criccieth Morfa Bychan Bryncir Pant Glas	107	26	15	29	37	43	23	Cyngor Gwynedd	A number of small projects underway within the catchment area.
Dwryrd	Blaenau Ffestiniog Llan Ffestiniog Gellilydan Llandecwyn Penrhyndeudraeth Harlech Trawsfynydd	662	71	116	346	129	120	30	Cyngor Gwynedd	Blaenau Catchment Project-
									Cyngor Gwynedd	A number of small projects underway within the catchment area.

Dyfrdwy	Bala Llanuwchllyn Llandderfel Frongoch Talardd Llanfor Glan yr Afon	712	95	24	531	62	237	5	Plan will be developed - the leading organisation will be exposed to the future.	Possible joint plans between NRW and Snowdonia National Park
Dysynni	North Tywyn Bryncrug Llwgwrl Abergynolwyn Llangelynnin Tal Y Llyn Rhyd yr Onen	341	127	51	104	59	87	9	Cyngor Gwynedd	A number of small projects underway within the catchment area.
Glaslyn	Nant Gwynant Beddgelert Nantmor Tremadog Porthmadog Croesor Borth Y Gest	859	48	53	146	612	190	30	NRW / Cyngor Gwynedd	Beddgelert Emergency Recovery Works
									Natural Resources Wales	Tremadog Flood Prevention Scheme
									Natural Resources Wales	Porthmadog Flood Prevention Scheme
Gwyrfai	Llanfaglan Caeathro Bontnewydd Waunfawr Betws Garmon Ceunant Rhyd Ddu	0	22	20	69	20	58	40	Cyngor Gwynedd	Gwyrfai Catchment Flood Prevention Plans - Outline Business Case passed to LLC in 2022.
									Cyngor Gwynedd	Bontnewydd Flood Prevention Scheme.
Llanbedr	Llanfair Llanbedr Llandwywe Dyffryn Ardudwy Llanaber Barmouth Bontddu	286	67	37	123	59	50	20	Cyngor Gwynedd	A number of small projects underway within the catchment area.

Llyfni	Penygroes Rhostryfan Nantlle Talysarn Pontllyfni Llanllyfni Aberdesach	453	175	58	122	98	63	91	Cyngor Gwynedd	Rhostryfan Flood Prevention Scheme - £2m scheme completed and details passed to NRW to adjust information on their maps.
Mawddach-Wnion	Dolgellau Fairbourne Brithdir Ganllwyd Llanfachraeth Arthog Llanelltyd	972	50	25	659	238	314	8	Natural Resources Wales	Dolgellau Flood Prevention Scheme
Ogwen	Llandygai Tal y Bont Abergwyngregyn Tregarth Bethesda Mynydd Llandegai Rachub	393	44	36	247	66	68	85	Cyngor Gwynedd	Dyffryn Ogwen Flood Prevention Plans - Outline Business Case passed to LLC in 2022.
Penllyn	Aberdaron Botwnnog Abersoch Mynytho Tudweiliog Nefyn Morfa Nefyn	217	36	40	113	28	58	61	Cyngor Gwynedd	A number of small projects underway within the catchment area.

Rhyd Hir-Erch	Pencaenewydd Llangybi Y For Llannor Efailnewydd Pwllheli Boduan	425	44	66	225	90	156	57	Natural Resources Wales	Pwllheli Flood Prevention Scheme.
Seiont	Nant Peris Llanberis Deiniolen	786	181	67	276	262	297	178	Cyngor Gwynedd	Llanberis Flood Prevention Scheme - £1.5m scheme completed the data is being assessed by NRW to reflect the benefit of the scheme on the maps.
	Cyngor Gwynedd								Cwm Y Glo Flood Prevention Scheme	
	Cyngor Gwynedd								Cadnant Project - Business Case Justification recently submitted to LLC.	

Outline of table contents.

Column 1; Catchments.

Gwynedd is divided into the 15th riverine catchments.

Column 2; Communities

Our significant communities within each catchment area.

Column 3,4,5,6; Number of houses at risk

This core information is from Natural Resources Wales maps which creates an area/layer on a map to reflect the areas with a possibility of being flooded by an event with the severity and ferocity we can expect once every 30 years, 100 years and above.

Column 7;
A number of key assets at risk (excluding housing)

Very similar to the columns above, but this column includes assets other than housing, for example leisure centres, GP surgeries, schools etc.

Column 8;
Flood Investigations.

We as a Lead Local Flood Authority are statutorily required to investigate flood incidents under Section 19 of the 'Flood and Water Management Act 2010' act. This information is useful to verify the theoretical information and ensure that events that were not anticipated are properly addressed.

Column 9;
Lead Organisation
Self-explanatory.

Column 10;
Ongoing Projects.
A summary of recent and upcoming projects to reduce flood and erosion risks.

APPENDIX B - Coastal Risks

Management Area	Communities	A number of houses under risk (against return periods)					Number of key assets under risk (excluding housing)	Number of houses at risk of erosion, and number of houses that are protected (**)	Managed Realignment? (EP1/2)		Lead organisation	Projects
		Total	High (1:30)	Medium (1:200)	Low (1:1000)	Very low (1:1000 + NH)						
19	Pennal Corris	1	1	0	0	0	1	0 (0)	Pennal	No		To be reviewed by 2025
									Corris	No		"
20	Bryncrug Tywyn Aberdyfi	229	154	32	43	0	45	138 (138)	Tywyn	Yes		To be reviewed by 2025
									Aberdyfi	Yes	Cyngor Gwynedd	Aberdyfi Quay Renovation - The £4m scheme will be completed this financial year.
									Tonfannau	Yes		To be reviewed by 2025
									Pennal	Yes		"
21	Llwyngwrlil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	Llwyngwrlil	Yes		No action
22	Fairbourne Arthog Friog	481	0	10	429	42	50	No data available	Fairbourne	Yes	NRW/ Cyngor Gwynedd	Multi-agency specific plans continue.
									Arthog	Yes		
									Friog	Yes		
23	Llanelltyd Pen Y Bryn Bontddu Penmaenpool	51	25	1	5	20	12	0 (0)	Llanelltyd	Yes		To be reviewed by 2025
									Pen-Y-Bryn	Yes		"
									Bontddu	Yes		"
									Penmaenpool	No		"

24	Abermaw	524	15	7	302	200	107	0 (0)	Abermaw	Yes	Cyngor Gwynedd	<p>North Barmouth Prom - Outline Business Case submitted to WG. Money for a detailed design agreed in principle once an understanding about the funding of the scheme is complete thereafter.</p> <p>Viaduct Gardens Barmouth - Detailed design to be completed by the end of next financial year, with a view to commencing work after Summer 2024.</p>
25	Talybont Dyffryn Ardudwy	2	0	1	0	1	10	4 (4)	Talybont	Yes		To be reviewed by 2025
									Dyffryn Ardudwy	No		"
26	Llanbedr Pen-sarn Llandanwg	38	1	9	2	26	22	5 (5)	Llanbedr	Yes	Natural Resources Wales	Llanbedr Area Strategic Plan - NRW takes a strategic look at the area.
									Pen-sarn	Yes		See Above
									Llandanwg	Yes		See Above
27	Penrhyndeudraeth Maentwrog Llandecwyn Talsarnau Harlech	118	2	25	91	0	20	2 (2)	Harlech	No		To be reviewed by 2025
									Talsarnau	Yes		"
									Ynys	Yes		"
									Maentwrog	Yes		"
									Penrhyndeudraeth	No		"
									Glan Y Wern	Yes		"

28	Porthmadog Morfa Bychan Borth y Gest	1797	24	10	1274	489	459	51 (51)	Porthmadog	No	Natural Resources Wales	Porthmadog Strategic Assessment - NRW is working on a project to identify long-term flood risk management solutions for the Porthmadog area, alongside delivering wider environmental, social and economic opportunities. Second CNC modelling has found an increase in the number of houses threatened.
									Morfa Bychan	Yes		See Above
									Borth Y Gest	No	Cyngor Gwynedd	Borth Y Gest - This £325k scheme has been completed with a CNC data challenge introduced at the end of 2022.
29	Criccieth (East)	0	0	0	0	0	2	50 (48)	Criccieth (East)	No	Cyngor Gwynedd	Criccieth Asset Maintenance - Maintenance on coastal assets, mainly the main skins near Dylan's.
30	Afon Wen Criccieth (West)	1	0	0	0	1	0	78 (78)	Afon Wen	Yes		To be reviewed by 2025
									Criccieth (West)	No	Cyngor Gwynedd	Criccieth Outline Business Case - Introduced in 2021 but will likely require further work due to the volume of work on need to extend the scope from the original.

31	Pwllheil Abererch Penrhos Llanbedrog	1456	5	20	1047	384	441	1 (1)	Pwllheli	Yes	Natural Resources Wales	Pwllheli Strategic Assessment - NRW is working on a project to identify long-term flood risk management solutions for the Pwllheli area, alongside delivering wider environmental, social and economic opportunities.
									Abererch	Yes		See Above
									Penrhos	Yes		See Above
									Llanbedrog	No		See Above
32	Abersoch	58	13	3	20	22	22	13 (13)	Machroes	Yes		To be reviewed by 2025
									Abersoch	Yes		"
33	Llanengan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	Llanengan	No		No action
34	Botwnnog	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	Botwnnog	No		No action
35	Uwchmynydd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	Uwchmynydd	No		No action
36	Aberdaron	8	0	0	1	7	7	29 (29)	Aberdaron	Yes	Cyngor Gwynedd	Aberdaron - Asset maintenance completed over the three years to 2023.
37	Ynys Enlli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	Ynys Enlli	No		No action
38	Tudweiliog	0	0	0	0	0	1	2 (2)	Tudweiliog	No		To be reviewed by 2025

39	Porthdinllaen Nefyn Morfa Nefyn	24	12	4	5	3	9	31 (8)	Porthdinllaen	Yes	Cyngor Gwynedd / YG	Porthdinllaen Resilience Scheme - A £300k joint scheme with the National Trust completed in 2022.
									Nefyn	No		To be reviewed by 2025
									Morfa Nefyn	Yes		"
40	Aberdesach Trefor	5	0	0	0	5	1	15 (11)	Aberdesach	Yes		To be reviewed by 2025
									Trefor	Yes		"
41	Dinas Dinlle Pontllyfni	61	10	26	3	22	34	0 (0)	Dinas Dinlle	Yes	Natural Resources Wales	City of Dinlle Strategic Plan - NRW takes a strategic look at the area.
									Pontllyfni	No		See Above
43	Caernarfon Y Felinheli Saron Llanfaglan	303	51	51	26	175	152	89 (89)	Caernarfon	No		To be reviewed by 2025
									Y Felinheli	No	Cyngor Gwynedd	Felinheli Flood Prevention Scheme - This £850k scheme has been completed since 2021, the results of this scheme have presented it as a challenge to NRW mapping information.
									Saron	No		To be reviewed by 2025
									Llanfaglan	Yes		"
46	Tal Y Bont Abergwyngregyn	2	0	0	0	2	0	0 (0)	Tal-Y-Bont	No		To be reviewed by 2025
									Abergwyngregyn	No		"

Outline of table contents.

Column 1;

Managerial Area

See outline for Column 10 below.

Column 2;

Communities

Our communities are within each managerial area.

Column 3,4,5,6,7;

A number of houses at risk

This core information is from Natural Resources Wales maps which creates an area/layer on a map to reflect the areas that have a possibility of being flooded by an event with gravity and ferocity we can expect once every 30 years, 200 years and above.

Column 8;

A number of key assets under risk (housing excluded)

Very similar to the columns above but this time including assets other than housing, for example leisure centres, GP surgeries, schools etc.

Column 9;

A number of houses threatened with erosion

This information is derived from theoretical NRW knowledge which allows us to assess the number of houses within an area threatened by coastal erosion. The number within the brackets is houses that benefit from structure protection.

Column 10;
Managerial Reconstruction

Managed Realignment (Managed Realignment) is one of the policies within the Shoreline Management Plan 2. This is a policy document adopted by the Council in 2014. The Shoreline Management Plan sets the direction of strategic policy for coastal management and identifies the most sustainable methods of managing the risks. It divides our coastline into **Managerial Areas (which is the basis of Pillar 1)**.

There are four policy options available for Shoreline Management Plans:

- *Holding the line*: ambition to build or maintain artificial defences so that the shoreline is maintained. This may include maintaining or changing the standard of defence.
- *Advancing the line*: by constructing new defences on the side of the original sea-facing defences. This is not commonly used, and is limited to policy units where the restoration of a significant area of land is considered. No policy units in Wales have been given the option to advance the line.
- *Managed realignment*: by allowing the shoreline to move back and forth naturally, but controlling the process in order to direct it in specific places.
- *No active intervention*: when there is no plan to invest in defences or coastal operations.

Outlining these areas is important for us in Gwynedd to consider what impact a managerial reconstruction can have on more rural areas that are perhaps less populated but key to the resilience of our County because of historical value, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture etc.

The information presented indicates if an area contains a managerial reconstruction in the medium term.

Column 11;
Lead Organisation

Self-explanatory.

Column 12;
Projects

A summary of recent and upcoming projects to reduce flood and erosion risks.

Appendix C: Methods adopted by Gwynedd Council to manage risk of flooding and coastal erosion

Maintain

<p>Gwynedd Council are responsible for a variety of FCERM structures such as flood walls and overflow systems on rivers, and coastal walls and groyne fields. The Council retain a register of all FCERM assets within the Council's ownership and/or responsibility, which contains key information regarding the construction and function of each asset. The register is supported by a mapping system to display the location and extents of our assets and is updated to incorporate any changes in asset information as a result of improvement works.</p>	<p><i>YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)</i></p>
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<p>The condition of the Council's FCERM assets is assessed on a regular basis using industry standard techniques, for assurance that they remain in adequate condition to provide the desired standard of defence, and to identify any defects which could compromise integrity in the future. Routine inspections are supplemented by post-storm condition inspections.</p>	<p><i>YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)</i></p>
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Additionally, a prioritised routine inspection schedule of the Council's flood risk management assets ensures that they remain unaffected by in-channel debris which could lead to asset failure and potential flooding incidents. Some assets are served by telemetry devices which enable asset status to be inspected remotely, and over time our aim is to develop our sensor network to incorporate more of our assets, and also to provide an alert to our staff when accumulation of debris may lead to asset failure (see Action).

<p>Responsibility for all bridges and culverts on the local highway network which are inspected on a regular basis to ensure that they remain functional and do not pose a flood risk. The Council also maintain all highway gulley's and drains on a cyclic programme and will undertake repairs or improvements as and when condition dictates in accordance with the Council's Highway Maintenance manual.</p>	<p><i>GC Highways Department</i></p>
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Plan

<p>Gwynedd Council deliver FCERM improvement schemes to minimise the risk of local flooding or coastal erosion to our most vulnerable communities. Capital support for schemes of this kind is offered through the Welsh Government's FCERM Programme (see section xxx). Application for Welsh Government funding is supported by business cases which demonstrate the level of flood and/or coastal erosion risk and provide clear and sufficient information to demonstrate that the preferred improvement option provides a sustainable, proportionate and economically viable solution to manage risk.</p>	<p><i>YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)</i></p>
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Further information of FCERM schemes delivered by Gwynedd Council can be found in [section XXX](#).

<p>By acknowledging that not all households can be protected from flooding through capital improvement schemes the Council also offer advice to concerned residents on measures that can be taken to reduce flood risk to their properties.</p>	<p><i>YGC Water and Environment Service</i></p>
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Respond

During a flood event Gwynedd Council will take all reasonable measures to ensure that their network of county roads remain passable for vehicles, although storm conditions, extent of flooding and availability of resources may dictate that some roads will need to be closed to ensure safety of the public.

*GC Highways
Department*

During severe rainfall events the Council will make every effort to distribute sandbags to residents that are at serious risk of flooding, although **residents are strongly advised to source their own flood risk management equipment when a known flood risk exists** as the ability of the Council to share sandbags could be severely compromised during periods of adverse weather when the priority is to keep the highway network open for emergency services.

*GC Highways
Department*

The Council will take appropriate action to support the emergency services and those engaged in emergency in response; will assist with evacuation by arranging transportation; set up and manage rest centre arrangements and carry out clear up work in affected communities following flooding.

*GC Highways
Department*

On becoming aware that a property has experienced internal flooding following severe rainfall or tidal events Gwynedd Council undertake investigations to determine source and cause of flooding. When flooding is from a source for which the Council is not RMA (see **sections XXX**), information for the investigation may be obtained through consultation with a partner authority (usually NRW or DCWW).

*YGC Water and
Environment
Unit (as LLFA)*

Post-event flood investigations are a vital tool in establishing source and cause of flooding to our residents. Investigations allow us to build up an understanding of flood risk to our communities and also provide us with an opportunity to advise our most at-risk residents of any methods to manage the risk of flooding in the future

Regulate

Gwynedd Council (along with Snowdonia National Park Authority) act as local planning authority and in doing so must have regard to potential risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion when developing local policies and determining applications for development.

*GC Planning
Department*

The flood and coastal erosion risk associated with all planning applications received by Gwynedd Council are assessed prior to determination, in accordance with the guidance provided in TAN15 (Development, flooding and coastal erosion), scheduled to be updated in 2023. Gwynedd Council consult with colleagues at NRW and YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA) on all proposed developments for which flooding and/or coastal erosion is a material consideration.

Gwynedd Council as the SAB have a duty to approve SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) which follow the national statutory standards. SAB approval is required for any development with a footprint greater than 100m². Apart from single-curtilage sites, the SAB also has a duty to adopt such drainage systems.

*YGC Water and
Environment
Unit (as LLFA)*

In accordance with Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act Gwynedd Council deliver the role of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Approval Body for all qualifying developments. This ensures that all new developments with drainage implications meet the national SuDS standards to reduce the risk of surface water flooding and realise all

other associated benefits (ecological, amenity, water quality). Over time the SAB will become responsible for maintaining more SuDS systems and therefore existing asset management systems will be expanded to include all elements adopted by the Council.

Under section 23 of the Land Drainage Act Gwynedd Council are responsible for authorising consent to individuals, developers or authorities who wish to carry out changes to an ordinary watercourse that may affect flow or flood risk. Gwynedd Council are provided further powers to regulate activities on or surrounding ordinary watercourses through the Land Drainage (Gwynedd Council) Bylaws. A copy of the bylaws and the Council's position statement can be found on our website.

YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)

In many instances the partial or full blockage of a watercourse can result in flooding to land or in the worst case properties, businesses and/or critical infrastructure. Where Gwynedd Council have been made aware of a potential blockage or obstruction to an ordinary watercourse we will look to work with all parties involved to help resolve the problem before considering the use of permissive enforcement powers afforded under the Land Drainage Act.

YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)

Monitor

The Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre is funded by the Welsh Government and delivers a standard, coastal monitoring programme on behalf of Welsh RMAs to provide the evidence necessary for FCERM decisions. Gwynedd Council monitor beach levels at critical locations along the coastline as part of the national programme. This programme is supplemented by some additional local surveys and also post-storm surveys to identify any large fluctuations in beach levels that may pose immediate risks to coastal assets.

YGC Water and Environment Unit

Appendix D: Gwynedd Council's proposed objectives and actions for managing flood and coastal erosion risk to our communities

Objective 1:	<i>To aim to reduce the level of flood and coastal erosion risk to the residents of Gwynedd</i>
1.1	<i>Flood and coastal erosion risk management programmes</i>
Action 1.1A	<i>Maintain long term capital programme to reduce risk of inland flooding</i>
	Gwynedd Council will prepare and maintain a long-term programme of studies and schemes to manage the risks of inland (river and surface water) flooding upon our communities. The programme will contain high-level details of the objectives and potential benefits of each item and identify opportunities to work alongside partner organisations and/or other stakeholders. The programme will be reviewed and updated annually as more information regarding flood risk and flooding incidents becomes available.
Action 1.1B	<i>Maintain long term capital programme to reduce risk of coastal flooding/erosion, incorporating actions identified within SMP2</i>
	Gwynedd Council will prepare and maintain a long-term programme of studies and schemes to manage the risks of coastal flooding and coastal erosion upon our communities. The programme will contain high-level details of the objectives and potential benefits of each item and identify opportunities to work alongside partner organisations and/or other stakeholders. Our programme will incorporate the actions identified within SMP2 to move towards a sustainable approach of coastal management. The programme will be reviewed and updated annually as more information regarding risk and condition of coastal assets becomes available.
1.2	<i>Flood and coastal erosion risk management improvements</i>
Action 1.2A	<i>Prepare annual list of schemes from long term action plan to reduce risk of flooding and coastal erosion to be presented for inclusion on WG capital programme</i>
	Our works programmes (inland and coastal) will form the basis of our annual submission of studies and schemes to be included on the national FCERM programmes thereby securing grant support from Welsh Government. As well as reducing flood and coastal erosion risks all schemes will be developed with the aim of maximising environmental and socio-economic benefits to the study areas. This will include reducing any adverse effects on designated ecological sites which will be driven by EIA and HRA processes.
1.3	<i>Management of flood/coastal erosion risk management assets</i>
Action 1.3A	<i>Develop register and map of highway drainage assets in flood prone areas</i>
	Information regarding the layout of surface water drainage systems within the Council's ownership and responsibility, as well as supporting records, are often incomplete. The Council will work to improve the records that exist in high surface water flood risk areas, so that opportunities to improve the network can be identified and that adequate maintenance and/or management plans can be developed to reduce surface water flood risk for our communities.
Action 1.3B	<i>Develop register and map of all SuDS elements adopted by the Council</i>

	I their role as SAB Gwynedd Council has a duty to adopt sustainable drainage systems that have been constructed to comply with national standards. The Council will develop a detailed inventory of adopted drainage systems, including information on the construction and function of each element as well as appropriate inspection and maintenance schedules.
1.4	<i>Maintenance and deployment of flood/coastal erosion risk management assets</i>
Action 1.4A	<i>Prepare and deliver minor works programme (revenue) based on findings of asset condition assessment to maintain standard of protection afforded by flood risk/coastal erosion assets</i>
	Following completion of our asset inspection programme the Council shall identify a risk-based programme of maintenance or minor works to ensure that asset condition is maintained and present-day standard of protection is not compromised. Any works that cannot be carried out using the Council's dedicated revenue budget for any given year will be included on a capital works programme (see Actions 1.1).

Objective 2:	<i>To further develop an understanding of the flood risk to Gwynedd and the impacts of climate change</i>
2.1	<i>Working with partner RMAs</i>
Action 2.1A	<i>Contribute to stakeholder events with colleagues from partner RMAs and other stakeholders i.e. North Wales Regional Flood Group, West of Wales Coastal Group</i>
Action 2.1B	<i>Hold regular discussions regarding flood risk issues within Gwynedd with colleagues from NRW and DCWW</i>
	Working alongside partner RMAs and other stakeholders at a local and regional level will allow Gwynedd Council to better understand flood challenges from all sources, and make us aware of policies, studies or schemes that are proposed by partner authorities to manage flood risk. Regular discussions with other organisations will also enable us to identify opportunities for partnership working, by sharing resources or knowledge to address challenges.
2.2	<i>Flood investigations</i>
Action 2.2A	<i>Develop and improve current mechanisms to identify incidents of flooding within Gwynedd as early as possible</i>
	Experience has shown us that information gathering exercises following storm events can take longer than we would like which can delay the commencement of investigation work. We are also aware that the Council are not alerted of all incidents of flooding to properties. Therefore, to build up a complete picture of flood impacts and to enable us to engage with effected residents as early as possible we intend to look at alternative methods of collecting information.
2.3	<i>Flood Modelling</i>
Action 2.3A	<i>Development of high quality hydrological and hydraulic modelling to build on national maps and better understand flood risk at local level</i>

	Detailed investigation of flood risk in high-risk areas will be supplemented by modelling work to enable the Council to estimate the extent and depth of flooding for a range of rainfall and/or tidal events and also for various conditions (blockages, defence failure etc.).
Action 2.3B	<i>Incorporate most up-to-date climate change projections into all flood modelling exercises</i>
	All hydrological and/or tidal modelling exercises carried out to inform investigation or design work will make the correct allowances for future climate change effects, based on the most up to date available guidance
Action 2.3C	<i>Sharing of local flood modelling information with NRW so that national maps can be updated as appropriate</i>
	All hydrological and/or tidal modelling exercises carried out to inform investigation or design work will comply with NRW modelling standards to allow the national flood maps to be updated with more detailed and current information as appropriate.
2.4	Data Collection
Action 2.4A	<i>Enhancing our network of LoraWAN sensors to measure water levels within watercourses as well as groundwater level in areas of particular interest</i>
	Gwynedd Council are in the process of developing a network of telemetry sensors that can continually measure tidal level, the level of water within watercourses and groundwater. We intend to enhance the current network of sensors to build a better picture of the areas most affected by storm events. Further application of the sensors should also enable the Council to be alerted when flood risk requires intervention (e.g., to clear a blocked screen or culvert).
Action 2.4B	<i>Develop and implement a monitoring programme for areas of the coastline where cliff instability poses a risk to people, property and infrastructure.</i>
	The risk of coastal erosion is prevalent along certain areas of the coastline which could lead to instability of property or infrastructure in certain locations. Gwynedd Council is to identify the areas where coastal erosion risks are highest and develop a programme to monitor any movements within the cliff face so that risk can be measured over time and actions to manage these risks can be identified.

Objective 3:	<i>To continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd</i>
3.1	<i>Development Planning/Development Control</i>
Action 3.1A	<i>Incorporation within the Local Development Plan of the requirements contained within TAN15 with regard to Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment</i>
	Gwynedd Council's Local Development Plan is currently under review with replacement plan intended for 2027 in preparation. The replacement plan will be guided by a Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment undertaken in accordance with the updated version of TAN15 (Development, flooding and coastal erosion) scheduled for publication in 2023, along with the information contained within the Flood Map for Planning, in order to direct new developments away from areas at flood risk.

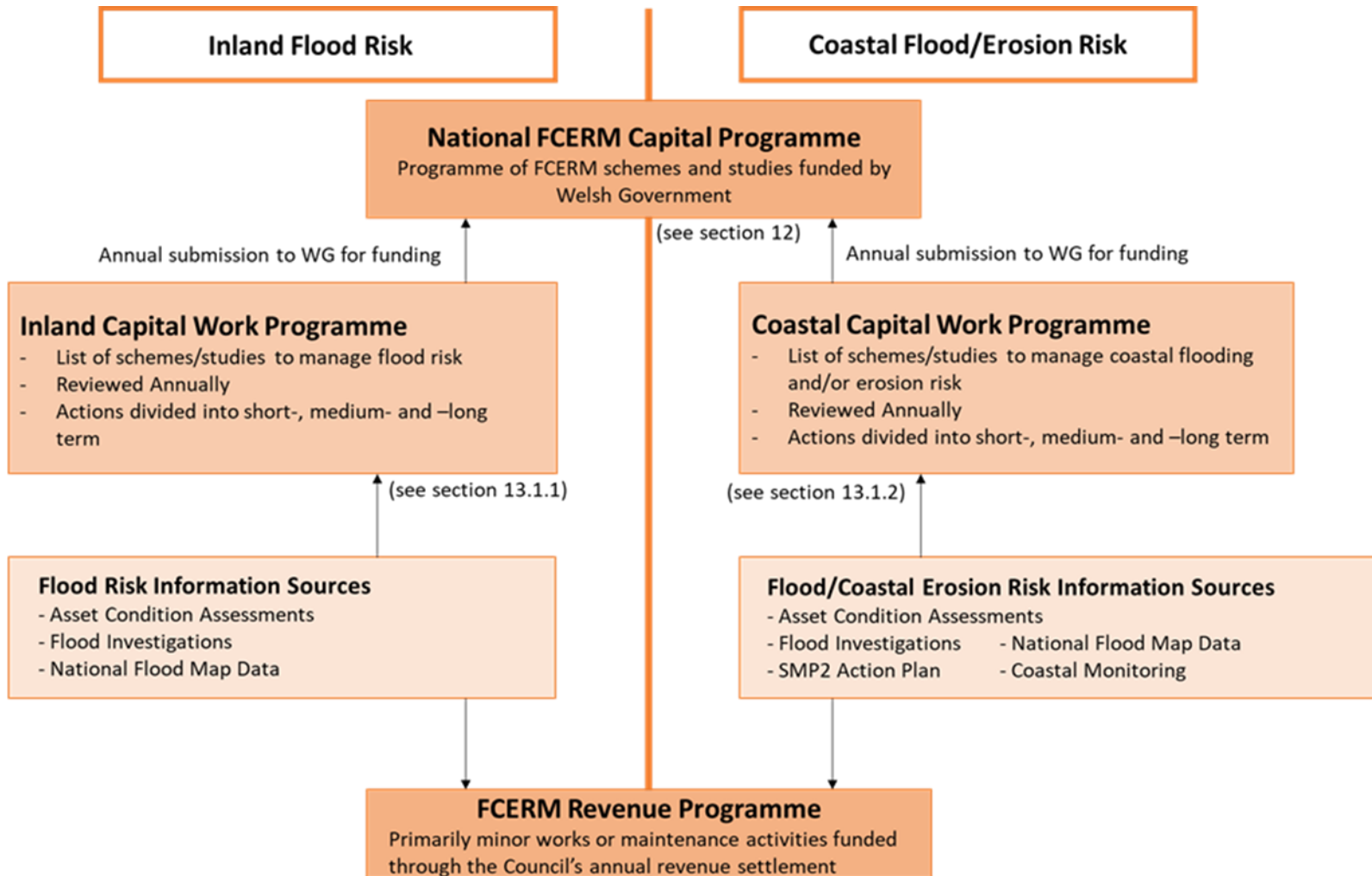
Action 3.1B	<i>Regard within the Local Development Plan of recommendations for future changes in coastal policy, and subsequent implications for land use near the coastline</i>
	The current Local Development Plan includes a Climate Change Management Area policy intended to direct vulnerable developments away from coastal areas that may face a greater risk of flooding and/or coastal erosion in the future due to changes in coastal policies, as outlined in the SMP2. The replacement plan will also include an equivalent policy, whilst taking into consideration specific land use recommendations that may have derived from subsequent coastal adaptation planning studies.
3.2	<i>Works near watercourses</i>
Action 3.2A	<i>Periodic review of all policies relating to Land Drainage consenting procedures to ensure best practice is maintained and proposed developers are aware of design and construction requirements</i>
	<p>Gwynedd Council is opposed to the culverting of watercourses because of the adverse ecological, flood risk, human safety and aesthetic impacts. Watercourses are important linear features of the landscape and should be maintained as continuous corridors to maximise their benefits to society. The Council have a culverting policy which explains to applicants in which circumstances culverting is appropriate and also provides general design criteria. We shall review the content of this policy on a periodic basis to ensure that this guidance provided is fit for purpose and in line with industry guidance.</p> <p>Opportunities to deliver environmental enhancement will be included in such policies where relevant, including proactive use of green infrastructure, reducing volume of silt run-off, and restoring natural processes. WFD objectives and measures are to be delivered where reasonable to do so.</p>
3.3	<i>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Natural Flood Risk Management (NFM)</i>
Action 3.3A	<i>Identify opportunities for the implementation of SuDS and NFM schemes in areas which will deliver meaningful flood risk benefits as well as other environmental and amenity benefits</i>
	<p>SUDS are drainage systems that are considered to be environmentally beneficial, causing minimal or no long-term detrimental damage. They are often regarded as a sequence of management practices, control structures and strategies designed to efficiently and sustainably drain surface water, while minimising pollution and managing the impact on water quality of local water bodies.</p> <p>NFM involves working with nature to reduce the risk of flooding for communities. It uses various techniques to restore or mimic the natural functions of rivers, floodplains and the wider catchment. It aims to store water in the catchment and slow the rate at which water runs into rivers, to help reduce flooding downstream.</p> <p>A key priority of the National Strategy is to deliver more schemes of this kind, and with this in mind Gwynedd Council will identify urban and upland areas that are suitable for delivery of SuDS and NFM interventions respectively, either as stand-alone projects or as part of wider flood risk management schemes.</p>
Action 3.3B	<i>Work with partner authorities and landowners to deliver NFM schemes as part of a national programme</i>

	As funding becomes available for NFM schemes Gwynedd Council will identify and work alongside landowners and partners to deliver successful projects that realise all potential benefits associated with NFM.
Action 3.3C	<i>Develop position statement which clearly outlines how NFM schemes should be designed and developed to obtain necessary watercourse consents (S23 and LD bylaws) from Gwynedd Council</i>
	As explained above Gwynedd Council are responsible for consenting of in-channel works as well as works adjacent to ordinary watercourses. In this role our general aim is to ensure that river channels remain free from obstruction to allow effective conveyance of flow and reduce risk of out of channel flooding. However, some NFM measures are generally opposed to this idea and instead look to re-connect the channel with its floodplain further up the catchment from flood-prone areas, so that peak flows are delayed. Gwynedd Council will develop a position statement to establish design criteria for NFM measures which require our consent to avoid any conflict with our current consenting procedures.

Objective 4: Raising awareness of local flood and coastal erosion risk	
4.1	<i>Raising awareness of local flood risk</i>
Action 4.1A	<i>Gwynedd Council will raise awareness of flood risk to its residents</i>
	As the Council considers the risk of flooding to a community through a scheme or a study we will engage with residents and business/property owners of the area of interest to make them aware of risk from different flood sources. We shall also let our communities know where to find the most up to date information relating to flood risk.
Action 4.1B	<i>Gwynedd Council will advise on and promote flood resilience and resistance measures amongst its residents</i>
Action 4.1C	<i>Gwynedd Council will prepare and publish an information pamphlet available to all residents within flood risk areas, and any residents that have experienced flooding to their properties</i>
	The Council encounter many residents that face a continuous risk of flooding to their properties, and in some cases reducing the level of risk is not feasible or viable. In such cases we shall advise our residents on ways to live alongside the risk in the form of an information pamphlet prepared alongside the National Flood Forum. We shall also provide advice on methods to reduce the likelihood of damages through property level protection, and direct our residents towards reputable agents or suppliers that can provide the quality assured products.
4.2	<i>Raising awareness of coastal erosion risk</i>
Action 4.2A	<i>Gwynedd Council will raise awareness of coastal erosion risk to its residents, focusing on the most at risk areas</i>
	Gwynedd Council will engage with residents and business/property owners in areas where coastal erosion is of concern in order to make them aware of present-day risks and any likely changes in ground stability over time. We shall also let our communities know where to find the most up to date information on coastal erosion risk.

Objective 5:	<i>Working collaboratively with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flood and coastal erosion events</i>
5.1	<i>Preparation and testing of Emergency Plans</i>
Action 5.1A	<i>Gwynedd Council will continue to review and update its flood emergency plans alongside North Wales Councils Regional Planning Service; to include evacuation and rest centre plans.</i>

Appendix E: Summary of how Gwynedd Council FCERM programmes will be identified and promoted



Agenda Item 7

MEETING	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	30 November 2023
TITLE	Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme 2023/24
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To adopt an amended work programme
AUTHOR	Bethan Adams, Scrutiny Advisor

1. A revised Forward Programme for 2023/24 was adopted at the Committee's meeting on 5 October 2023.
2. The item 'Governance Structure and Delivery Arrangements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board' was programmed to be discussed at this meeting. The Public Services Board will agree on a work programme and provide a Delivery Plan for the Well-being Plan at its next meeting on 11 December 2023.
3. The Board is also reviewing its operating arrangements and structures. Confirmation has been received from the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager that it would be timely to submit a report to the Committee's meeting on 18 April 2024. As there is an understanding /requirement to scrutinise the work of the Board twice during a Council year, scrutiny at that time would enable the Committee to meet the requirement.
4. At the annual workshop, the item 'Waste Collection and Recycling Services' was programmed for the April 2024 meeting. At the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair's liaison meeting with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Head of Department, one of the issues discussed was the timing of scrutiny of this item.
5. In order to give work streams in this field an opportunity to develop further, it would be prudent to consider prioritising the matter for scrutiny at the first meeting of 2024/25, when drawing up a work programme for the year in the Annual Workshop. Reprogramming the item would enable the Committee to add value through timely scrutiny.
6. See attached as an appendix to the report, an amended work programme for 2023/24.
7. **The Communities Scrutiny Committee is asked to adopt an amended work programme for 2023/24.**

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2023/24

13/07/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report 2022/23 - Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board • Developments in the Public Transport field
05/10/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Local Development Plan – The Delivery Agreement • Roll-out of public charge points for Electric Vehicles • Public Toilets
30/11/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and Nature Emergency Plan • Local Flood Strategy
22/02/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Update by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership • Article 4 Direction – Public Consultation • Highways Maintenance Manual • Grass Cutting and Land Maintenance
18/04/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Structure and Delivery Arrangements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board • Public Protection Service • Street Scene Service

Item to be programmed in 2024/25:

Waste Collection and Recycling Services