Complete Agenda

Democracy Service
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

THE COUNCIL

Date and Time

1.30 pm, THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2025

*** NOTE ***

This meeting will be webcast

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

Location

Hybrid - Siambr Dafydd Orwig, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor, Caernarfon LL55 1SH

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(DISTRIBUTED 26/02/25)

Ian Jones
Head of Democracy Service

www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Councillor,

MEETING OF CYNGOR GWYNEDD – THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2025

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a multi-location meeting of **CYNGOR GWYNEDD** which will be held at **1.30 pm** on **THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2025 in SIAMBR DAFYDD ORWIG, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR, CAERNARFON LL55 1SH / VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM,** to consider the matters mentioned in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

Head of Democracy Services

The following rooms will be available for the political groups during the morning: -

Plaid Cymru - Siambr Dafydd Orwig
Independent – Siambr Hywel Dda
Lib / Lab – Ystafell Ogwen

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES 7 - 20

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 5th December, 2024 be signed as a true record.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declarations of personal interest.

4. THE CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chair's announcements.

5. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items which are urgent business in the opinion of the Chair so they may be considered.

6. QUESTIONS

(a) To consider any questions from members of the public, the appropriate notice for which have been given under Section 4.17 of the Constitution.

Question by Mr Ieuan Wyn (address provided in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution).

It is completely unacceptable that Gwynedd pupils from Welsh-speaking households and non-Welsh-speaking households receive less Welsh-medium provision than Welsh school pupils in less-Welsh communities in other parts of our nation. Children and young people, parents and communities in Gwynedd deserve schools where the most comprehensive Welsh-medium provision is being offered. This is what would be educationally, culturally and socially appropriate. As a result of the fact that the Welsh Government has published an education bill and that a language shift is intensifying considerably in the county, will Cyngor Gwynedd take this golden and crucial opportunity to replace a dated education language policy and introduce an ambitious, clear and completely new education language policy for their schools?

(b) To consider any questions from elected members, the

appropriate notice for which have been given under Section 4.18 of the Constitution.

7. ANNUAL REPORT - PAY POLICY FOR THE WORKFORCE 21 - 31

To submit the report of the Chair of the Chief Officer Appointments Committee.

8. ADAPTATION TO PROJECTS UNDER 'A CARING GWYNEDD' - CYNGOR GWYNEDD PLAN 32 - 34

To submit the report of the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being.

9. 2025-26 BUDGET 35 - 92

To submit the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance.

10. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2025-26 (INCLUDING INVESTMENT AND BORROWING STRATEGIES) 93 - 133

To submit the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance.

11. ESTABLISHING THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 134 - 148

To submit the report of the Monitoring Officer.

12. COMMUNITY REVIEWS UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEMOCRACY) (WALES) ACT 2013 149 - 165

To submit the report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Legal Services.

13. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION - CABINET PORTFOLIOS 166 - 167

To submit the report of the Monitoring Officer.

14. CONSTITUTION CHANGES - NEW CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES (SECTION 17) 168 - 188

To submit the report of the Monitoring Officer.

15. COMMITTEES CALENDAR 2025-26 189 - 191

To submit the report of the Head of Democracy Services.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ELWYN EDWARDS

In accordance with the Notice of Motion received under Section 4.19 of the Constitution, Councillor Elwyn Edwards will propose as follows:-

Cyngor Gwynedd calls on the Labour Government in Westminster to transfer the Justice Jurisdiction to the Senedd in Cardiff.

In 2017, the Labour Party established a commission to look at the possibility of transferring the responsibility for this in Wales to the Welsh Government. The commission was led by Lord Thomas of Cwmigedd, the former chief officer for Justice in England and Wales. His robust recommendation to the government was that there was an actual need to devolve the Justice Service in Wales to Wales, establishing a separate Welsh jurisdiction.

Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own Justice system, but Wales is attached to England. Wales is the only country in the world that has the legislation, but not the authority to implement this.

Although there is increasing demand to create a separate Welsh Jurisdiction and to devolve powers to the Welsh Government, neither the Tory nor Labour Governments have made any shift towards achieving this.

Therefore, we ask the Labour Government in Westminster to act on the recommendation made by Lord Thomas.

We ask all Welsh councils for their support.

(B) NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ELFED WYN AP ELWYN

In accordance with the Notice of Motion received under Section 4.19 of the Constitution, Councillor Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn will propose as follows:-

The Council calls on the Westminster Government to devolve powers for broadcasting and media to the Senedd, and for the Welsh Government to proceed with the work of preparing and discussing with Westminster how best to realise this.

17. RESPONSES / UPDATES TO PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION 192 - 204

(1) Letter from the UK Government in response to Councillor Meryl Roberts' Notice of Motion to the 3rd October, 2024 Council meeting regarding Winter Fuel Payments.

(2) E-mail from Sian Gwenllian, MS, in response to Councillor Elin Walker Jones' Notice of Motion to the 5th December, 2024 Council regarding the establishment of a School of Dentistry in Bangor.

(3) Letter from the Welsh Government in response to Councillor Rhys Tudur's Notice of Motion to the 5th December, 2024 Council meeting regarding Land Transaction Tax.

(4) Letter from the Welsh Government in response to Councillor John Pughe Roberts' Notice of Motion to the 5th December, 2024 Council meeting regarding APR (Agricultural Property Relief).

(5) Letter from the Welsh Government in response to Councillor Delyth Lloyd Griffiths' Notice of Motion to the 5th December, 2024 Council meeting regarding exchanging social housing.

(6) Letter from the UK Government in response to Councillor June Jones' Notice of Motion to the 5th December, 2024 Council meeting regarding graduated driving licences.

To note also that messages of support for Councillor Elwyn Edwards' Notice of Motion to the 3rd October, 2024 Council meeting calling for St. David's Day to be designated as an official national holiday in Wales have been received from Newport (Pembs) Town Council and Bethesda Community Council.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 5/12/24

Present: Councillor Beca Roberts (Chair)
Councillor Ioan Thomas (Vice-chair).

Councillors:- Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Beca Brown, Stephen Churchman, R. Glyn Daniels, Anwen Davies, Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn, Alan Jones Evans, Gwilym Evans, Dylan Fernley, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Jina Gwyrfai, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, R. Medwyn Hughes, Iwan Huws, Nia Wyn Jeffreys, Anne Lloyd Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Dewi Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Elwyn Jones, Gwilym Jones, Gareth Tudor Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Linda Ann Jones, June Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dewi Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Llio Elenid Owen, Gareth Coj Parry, Nigel Pickavance, Rheinallt Puw, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Elfed P Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Richard Glyn Roberts, Huw Llwyd Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Peter Thomas, Menna Trenholme, Rhys Tudur, Hefin Underwood, Einir Wyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gareth Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Sasha Williams and Sian Williams.

Officers: Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Geraint Owen (Corporate Director), Dylan Owen (Corporate Director and Statutory Director of Social Services), Dewi Morgan (Head of Finance), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Ian Jones (Head of Democracy Services), Carys Fôn Williams (Head of Housing and Property), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education), Gerwyn Jones (Assistant Head Environment Department - Transport), Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Service Manager), Sion Huws (Propriety and Elections Manager), Emyr Edwards (Research and Information Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Dafydd Owen Davies, Elin Hywel, Dawn Lynne Jones, Gwynfor Owen, John Pughe and Rob Triggs.

2. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meetings of the Council held on the following dates as a true record.

3 October, 2024;
24 October 2024 (Special Meeting)

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer referred to a briefing note he had sent in advance to members regarding item 8 - Discretionary Powers to Allow Discounts and / or Raise a Premium 2024-25 and item 9 - Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26.

The Monitoring Officer further noted that, in light of receiving enquiries from members regarding item 13D on the agenda – Notice of Motion by Councillor John Pughe Roberts, he advised that, due to the current multidimensional nature of the Inheritance Tax situation, no change to the taxation system could be theorized to represent an interest at this time.

The following members declared a personal interest in item 8 on the agenda - Discretionary Right to Grant Discounts and/or Charge a Premium 2025/26 for the reasons noted:-

- Councillor Dewi Jones because a family member owns a long-term vacant property following inheritance.
- Councillor Huw Rowlands because a family member has property subject to the Premium.
- Councillor Jina Gwyrfai because she is the co-owner of a vacant property.
- Councillor Gareth Coj Parry because a family member has a vacant property.

The members were of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

4. THE CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was noted that the Council wished to express condolences to everyone within the county's communities who had recently lost loved ones.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect and remembrance.

It was noted that several Council members had been ill recently, and they were wished a full and speedy recovery.

The following were congratulated:-

- Menter Iaith Gwynedd Group on their recent success in the Mentrau Iaith Cymru awards. It was noted that they came out on top and received an excellence award for the work done with the Welsh Language Welcome project - the North Wales Africa Society.
- The Research Team in the Corporate Services Department on reaching the short list across Britain in the annual Local Area Research and Intelligence Association (LARIA) awards for the work undertaken contributing to the Llechen Lân project about the future care needs of older persons.
- The Gwynedd Consultancy Service on receiving High Praise in the Roy Edwards Project of the Year Award at the ICE Wales Cymru Awards 2024 for the Bodfel and Bodefail Boduan Bridges project.
- The family of Cefn Uchaf, Llanbedr following the announcement that their campsite, Rhaeadr Nantcol, has been selected as Britain's best campsite 2024 by Campsites.co.uk.
- Lord Harlech as Glyn Cywarch Talsarnau won the 2024 Historic House Restoration Award, the first house in Wales to do this since the award was established in 2008.
- Elfyn Evans on winning the Japan Rally last week and coming second in the World Rally Championship.
- Wales Women's Football team on their success reaching Euro 2025.

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn was thanked for his work leading the Council since 2017 and for being a strong and consistent voice for Welsh and rural communities regionally and nationally. He was also thanked for his friendship, experience and firm leadership over the years and it was noted that he would certainly have a further contribution to make to local and national public life in the future.

The Deputy Leader, Cllr Nia Jeffreys, Leader of the Independent Group, Cllr Angela Russell, Leader of the Labour / Liberal Group, Cllr Stephen Churchman and the Chief Executive all gave a word of gratitude to Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn.

5. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

6. QUESTIONS

(The Cabinet Members' written responses to the questions had been published in advance.)

(1) Question from Councillor Gruffydd Williams

Is the Education Department doing everything it can to ensure that all schools comply with the recommendations of the Cass Review?

Response – Shadow Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Paul Rowlinson

Providing appropriate national guidance to schools in Wales to support trans, non-binary and gender-questioning children and young people in education is a commitment of the Welsh Government. Since the consultation in April 2024 no guidance has been published. When it is published the Education Department will do everything that is expected of us to promote it among our schools in line with national guidance.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Gruffydd Williams

Given that the Cass Review has been out for many months, what guidance has the Council been using to protect children from social transitioning if we do not use the recommendations of the Cass Review?

Response – Shadow Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Paul Rowlinson

The recommendations of the Cass Report refer to recommendations for the Health Service in England. They make no reference to schools, but the Welsh Government promises guidance for schools in Wales which considers the Cass Report and the views of the stakeholders. When the guidance is published, I can assure you that Gwynedd will ensure that the guidance is followed.

(2) Question by Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams

Will Cyngor Gwynedd be making strong representations to Transport for Wales and the Welsh Government over the loss of the last evening train northwards and southwards on the Cambrian Coast line? There are no buses at all late at night between Machynlleth and Fairbourne or between Barmouth and Porthmadog, so alternative public transport is out of the question. This decision will affect workers in the hospitality industry and local supermarket staff and go against the Welsh Government's policy of encouraging less car journeys, even though many people in this area do not have cars.

Response – Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Craig ab Iago

Thank you for the question. I don't have much to add to the written answer other than to say that I share your concern about Gwynedd's public transport situation, and I welcome any opportunity to raise awareness about this. Indeed, we have already made the Council's voice heard to the Government.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Eryl Jones Williams

I was at a meeting last Friday of the Cambrian Coastal Railway Committee where it was commented that the Welsh Government had introduced changes to the trains without undertaking a disability consultation. Will Cyngor Gwynedd go on to

challenge Transport for Wales and the Government to make sure that the last train here will continue because losing it would have a terrible impact on people who use the train in this area of Gwynedd?

Response – Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Craig ab Iago

Yes. I'll pass your comments on to the Department.

7. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed and seconded to appoint Councillor Nia Jeffreys as Leader of the Council for the term of this Council.

A member noted that he had two questions on a point of order regarding the nomination. In response, the Monitoring Officer indicated that he would advise that the Council first complete the process of inviting nominations for the Leadership appointment process.

The member proposed to appoint Councillor Beca Brown as Leader of the Council for the Council's term. The proposal was seconded.

No further nominations were received.

The member asked for clarity on the two matters of order, namely: -

- Although it was not usual to have a discussion in Council on the issue of appointing a Leader, there was nothing in the Constitution which prevented the Council from discussing the matter. Was it therefore possible for the Council to have a discussion on this?
- How many nominations can one member make?

In response to these questions, the Monitoring Officer stated: -

- That the motion before them was to appoint an individual as Leader of the Council, and not the process etc, and although there was nothing in the Constitution preventing the Council from having a discussion, that was not the norm, and the context of any discussion would have to be given deep consideration.
- As far as the Council's arrangements are concerned, there were two appropriate proposals before us. It was therefore not clear what the significance of the question was about nominations as the Council deals with proposals, regardless of the background to those proposals.

The member further noted that four members of the Cabinet, namely Councillors Beca Brown, Dafydd Meurig, Berwyn Parry Jones and Elin Walker Jones, had recently resigned on a matter of principle and the former Leader, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, had also done the honourable thing, and had resigned. However, it was unclear where the remaining members of the current Cabinet stood, including the Deputy Leader, on the divisive issue of apologising to Foden's victims and holding a public inquiry into the matter. Accordingly, if Cllr Beca Brown was unwilling to put her name forward to become Leader of the Council, he would call on Councillor Dafydd Meurig to do so, and so on.

Councillor Beca Brown indicated she did not want her name to go forward.

With the consent of the seconder, the member withdrew his motion stating that he wanted to propose the appointment of Councillor Dafydd Meurig as Leader of the Council for the Council's term.

The Chair noted that a member could not put forward more than one motion.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Nia Jeffreys as Leader of the Council for the term of this Council.

The Leader gave a short address and stressed that she, and all members, stood together with Foden's victims. She indicated that she wished to send a message to those victims stating that she apologised from the bottom of her heart for what had happened to them, and pledged to leave no stone unturned to prevent such a situation from happening again. She also noted that, on behalf of all members of the Plaid Cymru Group, she was calling again for a public inquiry into what had happened.

8. COUNCIL TAX - DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS AND / OR CHARGE A PREMIUM ON SECOND HOMES AND LONG-TERM EMPTY DWELLINGS 2025-26

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Paul Rowlinson, submitted a report asking the Council to reach a decision on the Premium level set on second homes and long-term empty properties for 2025/26.

The Head of Finance then referred to the detailed research work completed by the Research and Information Team to analyse the impact of the Premium on Gwynedd communities in the context of several other changes, such as the thresholds on self-catering accommodation and the potential impact of Article 4.

Members were given an opportunity to make observations and ask questions.

The Cabinet Member for Housing referred to the Housing Action Plan projects to highlight how the Premium finance was supporting local people to stay in their communities: -

- £68m had been spent creating 757 new units, with £10m of the amount coming from the Premium.
- Tŷ Gwynedd (affordable housing being built by the Council) – 3 on the way to Llanberis, 10 in Coed Mawr, Bangor, 9 in Morfa Nefyn and 5 in Llanystumdwy, with other sites in Tywyn, Bala and Llanfachreth also under consideration.
- New site for 5 local homeless individuals in Dolgellau (that shortlisted for Inside Housing's Best Supported Housing award).
- The purchase of the former Government building in Penrallt, Caernarfon in the hope of housing over 37 people.
- Various developments in Bangor, with at least 15 people housed.
- Housing Lease Scheme - 27 private houses leased to the Council for housing local people, and a further 17 on the way.
- House Purchase Scheme – 37 houses across the county purchased by the Council for gradual renting to local people – 3 in Aberdyfi, 2 in Abersoch, 2 in Barmouth, 6 in Caernarfon, 1 in Edern, 1 in Felinheli, 1 in Penrhyndeudraeth, 3 in Porthmadog, 3 in Pwllheli and 3 in Tywyn, with more on the way.
- Social housing – 346 houses built and more than 100 on the way (with Cyngor Gwynedd receiving national recognition from the Welsh Government for the good collaboration with the housing associations).
- Empty Housing Grants – 85 applications granted and another 20 on the way.
- Gwynedd Home Purchase Scheme – Tai Teg – 42 households have been able to buy houses through the support of the scheme with a further 35 on the way, more than were granted in the previous 5 years.

The view was expressed that the imposition of a 150% Council Tax Premium coupled with the introduction of Article 4 has had a negative impact on tourism resulting in more guest houses for sale in our communities. It was also noted that it was understood that

£17.2m was currently standing in the Premium fund, with more money coming in by March next year, and it was asked whether the money was being adequately spent by the Council. In response, it was noted: -

- That the fund had increased over the years as the Housing Action Plan was a long-term plan.
- With houses for sale exempt from paying the Premium for 12 months, that could be an incentive for second home owners to put their houses on the market to see what happens.
- That research would continue by looking at the trends to see if they are permanent, and the number of houses coming on the market and what happens to them would also be part of the research.

It was noted that there was concern locally that the policy of charging a Premium on second homes was pushing Welsh-speaking natives to let go of their inheritance, and also turning holiday homes, which had hardly any direct linguistic impact, into English-speaking households, which has a direct impact on the linguistic profile of areas. It was suggested that the Premium level be reduced to 50%, which would mark a house as a second-house, but not impose a disproportionate burden on the indigenous population with a second-house for whatever reason. In response, it was noted: -

- When a 50% Premium was imposed on second homes, there was initially a trend for more houses to return to being the main home rather than vice versa, but the research clearly showed that this effect had been very short-term.
- In raising the Premium level to 100%, and then to 150%, the research showed that the trend for more housing to return to the principal home continued, which was thought to justify keeping the level at 150%.
- That the research looked at who was moving into the houses and their language, but people moved for many reasons, and possibly there was more movement among some cohorts than others. The pattern was complex and the research addressed questions like this.

It was noted that there was now a sense that visitors were not welcome in Gwynedd and that builders, etc., who are dependent on business from second homeowners, were concerned about having to lay off staff. On this basis, the following amendment was proposed for the second clause of the decision sought in the report: -

- That Cyngor Gwynedd allows NO discount and CHARGES a 100% PREMIUM on class B second homes, in accordance with Section 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The amendment was seconded.

It was pointed out that the amendment was not disputed, but that it was believed that the matter should be referred to scrutiny following this meeting for consideration:-

- Premium fund trajectory, i.e., was there a danger of the fund growing above what could be spent?
- Was it possible to reduce the fund?
- Are there other ways to spend the money that would benefit our communities?
- Can our communities cope with the pace of change?

In response, it was noted: -

- In terms of the pace of changes, that the proposal before them was not to change anything this year and to keep the Premium at the same level as last year and the previous year.
- Not all of the Premium money went into the fund as the Council previously decided to put £3m of it into the revenue budget each year to deal with the pressures in the homelessness field.

- If the Council decided at some point to reduce the Premium to 100%, that £3m would have to be found elsewhere, whether through cuts or increasing Council Tax or reducing the Housing Action Plan.
- That the suggestion to refer the matter to scrutiny following the decision was sensible, and the Cabinet Member would undoubtedly wish to take this up in due course.

It was noted that keeping the Premium level at 150% was supported until all young people in Gwynedd have a home.

It was asked how quickly we could respond to the situation of co-operatives that deserve to be exempt from paying the Premium, such as Menter y Plu, which uses a former chapel as holiday accommodation. In response, it was noted that it was not possible to provide an estimate of the timeframe as the Finance Department would have to formulate a policy, in consultation with the Legal Department. The Chief Executive added that he wished to know more about the specific case in question, and suggested that he should have a conversation with the member outside the meeting.

The amendment to grant NO discount and CHARGE A 100% PREMIUM ON CLASS B second homes, in accordance with Section 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 was voted upon. The amendment fell.

In his closing remarks, the Cabinet Member reminded members that voting against the original motion meant: -

- Not charging any Premium at all which meant there would be no money available for the Housing Action Plan or homelessness.
- Giving a discount to people with second homes and empty houses thereby creating a huge hole in Council funding.

The original motion was voted upon, namely that the Council make no change to the Council Tax Premium for 2025/26, and this was carried.

RESOLVED that the Council makes no change to Council Tax Premium for 2025/26. That is, for the financial Year 2025/26: -

- **Cyngor Gwynedd allows NO discount on class A second homes, in accordance with Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
- **Cyngor Gwynedd allows NO discount and CHARGES A PREMIUM OF 150% on class B second homes, in accordance with Section 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
- **Cyngor Gwynedd allows NO discount on homes that have been empty for 6 months or more and CHARGES A PREMIUM OF 100% on homes that have been empty for 12 months or more, in accordance with Section 12A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

9. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2025-26

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Paul Rowlinson, submitted a report requesting the Council to confirm the continuation of the current Local Scheme to provide assistance towards paying Council Tax for the year commencing 1 April 2025.

RESOLVED

1. **That Cyngor Gwynedd's Local Scheme for the year commencing 1 April 2025 continues as it was during 2024/25. Therefore, the following conditions (a - c below) regarding the continuation of the discretionary elements would continue:**

a) To apply a 100% disregard for war disablement pensions, war widows' pensions and war widowers' pensions, for both pensioners and working age claimants.

b) Not to increase the extended reduction periods for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard four weeks in the Prescribed Scheme.

c) Not to increase the backdated period for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard three months contained within the Prescribed Scheme.

2. Where appropriate, to delegate powers to the Head of Finance Department, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make minor amendments to the scheme for 2025/26, on condition that it will not change the substance of the scheme.

10. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report inviting the Council to adopt changes to the Delegation Plan listed in Appendix 1 to the report and to receive the information about delegated changes to the Constitution in Appendices 2 and 3 in light of legislative developments or a review of arrangements, particularly in the licensing area.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council adopts the amendments to the Delegation Scheme listed in Appendix 1 of the report.

2. That the Council accepts the information on delegated amendments to the Constitution in Annex 2 and 3 of the report.

11. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Legal Services, Councillor Menna Trenholme, submitted a report inviting the Council to approve the results of the review of voting classes and polling places in the parliamentary constituencies of Dwyfor Meirionnydd and Bangor Aberconwy (insofar as they are within Gwynedd) within Gwynedd, following a consultation period.

RESOLVED to approve the results of the review of voting classes and polling places in the parliamentary constituencies of Dwyfor Meirionnydd and Bangor Aberconwy (to the extent they are within Gwynedd) within Gwynedd, following a consultation period.

12. REQUEST TO CHANGE THE NAME OF LLANAELHAEARN COMMUNITY

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Legal Services, Councillor Menna Trenholme, submitted a report asking the Council to approve Llanaelhaearn Community Council's request to change the name of the Community from Llanaelhaearn to Trefor and Llanaelhaearn in accordance with Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED to approve the change of the name of the Community of Llanaelhaearn to Trefor and Llanaelhaearn in accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Delyth Lloyd Griffiths under Section 4.19 of the Constitution, and it was seconded: -

In order to satisfy the need for local housing, this Council brings pressure to bear on the Welsh Government for the practice of exchanging social housing to cease immediately, unless the house is exchanged [other than] within the local authority, or close to the county's boundary.

The member set out the context to her motion, noting:

- That a house in a rural village in her ward had been swapped twice in the past two years with people from outside Wales, and advertised again online this week.
- Adra reported that 50 of their houses have been swapped in the last year, with only 4 swapped with people from outside Gwynedd. The other housing associations also reported low figures. However, if this was a national pattern, it meant that 88 houses had been transferred in the last year to tenants who are not on any waiting list for a house in Wales.
- Cyngor Gwynedd's allocations policy was being undermined every time a house was swapped while local people remained on the waiting list for long periods of time without being able to secure a home.

During the discussion, the following observations were made: -

It was suggested that the ability to exchange social housing was a means of solving problems or improving the situation of individuals or families, and enabled people to stay in their communities. However, this required better management. It was noted that the proposer, in submitting her motion, had stated that the practice of social housing exchanges should be ended unless the house was exchanged within the local authority, or very close to the county boundary. However, as the original proposal as it appeared on this meeting's agenda did not contain the words 'or very close to the county boundary', and the wish was to propose a formal amendment to this end. Concern was raised about restricting exchanges to Gwynedd only as some communities close to the county border had close contact with communities in a neighbouring county.

The Monitoring Officer noted that as the proposer had recited the words '*or very close to the county boundary*', that she could, with the meeting's consent, modify the motion without proceeding to have a formal amendment.

The proposer agreed to modify her proposal and the meeting consented to that.

It was asked what 'very close' meant. In response, the Monitoring Officer noted that there was no legal term for ' close' and that it would not be appropriate for the Council to attempt to produce a precise definition of that. The motion asked the Council to write to the Welsh Government with a request to change the law and that this was the place to have that detailed discussion.

It was suggested that the proposal was almost irrelevant as the numbers of exchanges involved were very small and everyone's circumstances were different. The housing associations also had tight procedures in terms of allowing swaps, including debt checks, etc. It was also noted that it was not understood why we were trying to restrict people's movements if they have a good reason to move to another part of the country.

It was noted that some areas were not popular, and if housing exchanges were not allowed, we could be left with empty houses. It was noted that some people may wish to move out of the area due to family commitments or job opportunities, and it was up to the housing associations to decide whether to allow them to swap their houses. It was also suggested that the proposal should be aimed at the housing associations, rather than the Government, and that the Council should be in discussion with the housing associations to try and work out a solution for this. In response, the Chief Executive noted that these conversations regularly occur with the housing associations through the

Housing Partnership, but in this particular case, it was a legislative right that was entirely beyond the powers of the housing associations.

It was noted that the motion involved a marginal issue, and it was suggested that there were more central issues in social housing, e.g. housing associations appealing against decisions to refuse planning permission to build estates in places such as Botwnnog. However, it was noted that the proposal should be supported accepting that this was one aspect of a much larger problem.

It was noted that the Council was not thought to be effectively monitoring the linguistic impact that movements in social housing occupancy were having, and that it was inevitable that the housing exchanges would have a detrimental linguistic impact.

It was noted that the exchange system needed to be controlled, and that the housing associations themselves were also asking for more control. It was suggested that Gwynedd Social Housing Options, the Council's Housing Department and the housing associations should lobby the Government to change the rules so that local people do not fall victim to the wishes of people wanting to move here and there. It was noted that full consideration could be given to worthy applications to exchange, ensuring that we do not lose Welsh speakers. However, the regime was currently ad-hoc and undermined the hard efforts to get housing to Gwynedd families.

It was suggested that local councillors should have input to who moves into social housing in their area.

In her closing comments, the proposer stated: -

- That neither housing associations nor the Council's housing officers had any control over the situation at all.
- Unlike the towns, a low number of housing exchanges have a large impact in rural areas.
- That all social housing in the county should be for people on the housing list in Gwynedd.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely: -

In order to satisfy the need for local housing, this Council brings pressure to bear on the Welsh Government for the practice of exchanging social housing to cease immediately, unless the house is exchanged [other than] within the local authority, or close to the county's boundary.

(B) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Huw Rowlands in accordance with Section 4.19 of the Constitution, and it was seconded: -

- Cyngor Gwynedd asks the UK Government to allocate a fair share of the spending on the HS2 rail line in England to Wales.
- The Welsh Government is also asked to continue to bring pressure to bear on the UK Government to ensure this.

The member set out the context to his motion, and noted: -

- That the proposal relates to the undisputed unfairness that Wales receives no consequential funding following the construction of the HS2 rail line, and that Wales is once again treated as inferior to Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- That the Westminster Government's argument is that Wales benefits from HS2, even though the line no longer even goes to Crewe. That argument is based on the fact that rail infrastructure is not devolved to Wales, which is an irrational argument, and it is believed that the situation is completely unjust, and a situation that neither Scotland nor Northern Ireland would accept.

- That we are being trampled on and insulted by the Westminster Government and treated inferiorly to the other parts of the United Kingdom, not only in the context of HS2, but also because of a general lack of funding and a lack of devolution of specific powers to Wales.

The proposal was supported, and it was stated that the £4bn of rail funding owed to Wales could have been invested for the start of rebuilding some of our networks, such as the Afon Wen railway.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely: -

- **Cyngor Gwynedd asks the UK Government to allocate a fair share of the spending on the HS2 rail line in England to Wales.**
- **The Welsh Government is also asked to continue to bring pressure to bear on the UK Government to ensure this.**

(C) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor June Jones, under Section 4.19 of the Constitution, and it was seconded: -

Following the horrific accident on the A4085 road near the village of Garreg, Llanfrothen in November 2023 which saw four young lads lose their lives, that Cyngor Gwynedd corresponds with the Westminster Government's Department for Transport asking them to look at updating the rules to obtain a graduated driving licence where young drivers cannot carry other young passengers without having had six months' driving experience after passing their test.

The member set out the context to her motion, noting that the survey published this week noted that there were more road accidents in the rural areas of Wales than in any other part of the UK.

The proposal was supported, and it was noted that the introduction of a graduated licence for motorcycle driving 30 years ago had made a big difference to the statistics.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely: -

Following the horrific accident on the A4085 road near the village of Garreg, Llanfrothen in November 2023 which saw four young lads lose their lives, that Cyngor Gwynedd corresponds with the Westminster Government's Department for Transport asking them to look at updating the rules to obtain a graduated driving licence where young drivers cannot carry other young passengers without having had six months' driving experience after passing their test.

(D) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor John Pughe Roberts under Section 4.19 of the Constitution, and it was seconded: -

That Cyngor Gwynedd asks the Welsh Government to reconsider their support for the Labour Party in Westminster and that the Welsh Government calls on the Westminster Government to re-establish the Agricultural Property Relief.

The member set out the context to his motion, and noted: -

- That changes by the Westminster Labour Government on agricultural inheritance tax have transformed Agricultural Property Support (APR) so that all farms worth over a million pounds now have to pay inheritance tax.
- With the industry under severe pressure and hedge fund managers looking for carbon offsets through a system of re-wilding and planting trees and therefore raising the value of agricultural land, 100 acres of land reaching the threshold or a self-provisioning farmhouse and cottage worth over a million pounds.

- This meant that the majority of Gwynedd and Wales farms will have to pay huge amounts of tax with some going bankrupt or having to sell land which would leave the farms unable to continue to farm.

The motion was supported based on concern about the future of farming in Wales and concern that large companies will come together and buy these farms.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely: -

That Cyngor Gwynedd asks the Welsh Government to reconsider their support for the Labour Party in Westminster and that the Welsh Government calls on the Westminster Government to re-establish the Agricultural Property Relief.

(E) The following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Elin Walker Jones, in accordance with Section 4.19 of the Constitution and it was seconded.

That the Council supports the campaign to establish a School of Dentistry at Bangor University, to write to our elected representatives in the Senedd to lobby the Welsh Government to consider the economic and public health case for the establishment of a school of dentistry in Bangor based on the key findings presented in the Filling the Gap report.

The member set out the context to her motion, noting that:

- Sian Gwenllian, Member of the Senedd, had commissioned a report "Filling the Gap: Dentistry in Arfon" to find out exactly where dental services are in the area, identifying the challenges and offering solutions.
- There is a significant shortage of NHS and all types of dental services in Gwynedd, and in North Wales, which means that the dental health of Gwynedd's children and adults is poor. There was therefore a strong case for the establishment of a Dental School in Bangor.
- That Sian Gwenllian has been campaigning to establish a Dental School at Bangor University and that the Welsh Government agreed that more dentists need to be trained in Wales.
- That a new dental school in Bangor could play a key role in training more dentists locally, offering a better chance of retaining the dental workforce in the region and providing essential services locally.
- That the establishment of a dental school in Bangor would provide quality new jobs and attract investment to the local economy, supporting Bangor as a centre of excellence in health, alongside the new medical school. In addition, the school of dentistry could augment the provision of Welsh and bilingual dental services, improving access to healthcare for local Welsh-speaking communities.
- That the establishment of a Bangor Dental School would give our young people new opportunities to train and get good jobs locally, and provide staff for dental services, increase the workforce and services and thereby improve the dental health of our children and adults. This, in turn, would put less pressure on our hospitals' emergency services, and improve overall public health.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely: -

That the Council supports the campaign to establish a School of Dentistry at Bangor University, to write to our elected representatives in the Senedd to lobby the Welsh Government to consider the economic and public health case for the establishment of a school of dentistry in Bangor based on the key findings presented in the Filling the Gap report.

(F) Submitted - the following notice of motion by Councillor Rhys Tudur in accordance with Section 4.19 of the Constitution, and it was seconded: -

Given
- That the Welsh Government has conducted a consultation on varying the Land Transaction Tax
- That varying the tax would give the Council the opportunity to tackle effectively the rate at which second homes are purchased
- That varying the tax would open the door for this Council to bring pressure to bear on the Government to give its fair share of the revenue derived from land tax

This Council calls on the Welsh Government to give Gwynedd a greater role in being able to decide on variations for the Land Transaction Tax.

The member set out the context to his motion, and noted: -

- That the Land Transaction Tax is the most potent tool we have to tackle the summer housing problem and effectively manage second house sales over time, without producing side effects as bad as with other taxation tools, such as the Council Tax Premium.
- That the Welsh Government consider exercising more powers to vary the Land Transaction Tax so that it is even higher on second houses, while also devolving some forces to the councils to vary the Land Transaction Tax on second houses within their counties.
- That the motion asks the Government to give Cyngor Gwynedd a greater role to be able to decide on ranges for Land Transaction Tax on second houses, as Gwynedd has the highest number of second houses in Wales.
- That here in Gwynedd the highest revenue was raised from Land Tax on second houses throughout Wales, but rather than coming back to us, the money currently went to central Government. As such, it was hoped that varying the tax would open the door for the Council to receive a fair share of the revenue derived from Land Tax to help fill the financial gap facing the Council.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely: -

Given
- **That the Welsh Government has conducted a consultation on varying the Land Transaction Tax**
- **That varying the tax would give the Council the opportunity to tackle effectively the rate at which second homes are purchased**
- **That varying the tax would open the door for this Council to bring pressure to bear on the Government to give its fair share of the revenue derived from land tax**

This Council calls on the Welsh Government to give Gwynedd a greater role in being able to decide on variations for the Land Transaction Tax.

14. RESPONSES / UPDATES TO PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted, for information: -

(1) A letter from the Welsh Government in response to a notice of motion by Councillor Gwynfor Owen to the Council on 9 May 2024 regarding the frequency of trains on the Cambrian Coast Railway.

(2) A letter from the UK Government in response to Councillor Elwyn Edwards' notice of motion to the Council 3 October 2024 regarding the designation of St David's Day as an official national holiday in Wales.

The meeting commenced at 1.30 p.m. and concluded at 4.30p.m.

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CHAIR

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Date of Meeting:	**6 March 2025**
Title of Item:	**Pay Policy for the Workforce.**
Chair of Chief Officers' Appointment Committee:	**Counc. Ioan Thomas.**
Contact Officer:	**Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive.**

Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council

DECISION SOUGHT

That the Full Council approves the Pay Policy for 2025/26.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

1. Since 2012 there is a statutory responsibility on all Councils to adopt a pay Policy on an annual basis. This statutory requirement states that the responsibility for approving a pay policy rests with the full Council.

2. When adopting the pay policy for 2012/13, the full Council decided to ask the Chief Officers' Appointments Committee to conduct an annual review of the pay Policy's future sustainability and to submit recommendations to a meeting of the full Council in March each year.

3. The Committee was therefore asked to consider the content of the draft Policy for 2025/26 and to submit a recommendation to the meeting of the full Council on the 6th of March.

CHIEF OFFICERS

4. All Chief Officers have the contractual right to the annual pay increases that are agreed upon by the National Joint Council for Chief Officers. These are

contractual terms that each employer must implement. The Pay Policy states that *"Chief Officers employed under JNC terms and conditions are contractually entitled to any national JNC determined pay rises and this Council will therefore pay these as and when determined in accordance with current contractual requirements*". This means that Council approves those pay increases through approving the pay policy. In July 2024 confirmation was received that the employers and the unions that represent chief officers had agreed on a pay increase for 2024/25, that being an increase of 2.5% on the pay of each chief officer. Discussions on any possible pay rise for 2025/26 are in their early stages.

PAY GRADE FOR THE ROLE OF HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

5. There has been a significant increase over the past year in responsibilities attributed to the Monitoring Officer, which are incorporated within the role of the Head of Legal Services. That increase includes work relating to establishing the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, and this requirement will remain in the future. In response, an evaluation of the additional responsibilities was undertaken by *Korn Ferry*, which concluded that a change in pay grade was appropriate. As a result, a decision was taken to pay an honorarium for the 12 months leading up to 31st of March 2025. The increase in responsibilities will not abate after March 2025, and therefore the Committee agreed that we need to respond and act to change the pay grade on a permanent basis. We therefore recommend, in approving the draft pay policy, that the pay grade for the Head of Legal Services should be permanently amended and that the role is placed on grade HS1 on the pay structure (see the policy for further details of the relevant grade).

ROLES BELOW CHIEF OFFICER LEVEL

6. Pay increases for staff working in roles below those of chief officer level are agreed upon by the National Joint Council for Local Government Workforce. As with chief officers, staff have the contractual right to the increases that are determined. After a long period of discussion, in October 2024 the unions and employers came to an agreement on a pay increase for 2024/25. That increase was £1290 on the annual salary for all staff up to pay point 43, and then 2.5% on

all other points. Discussions on any possible rise for 2025/26 are in their early stages.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

The Localism Act 2011 places a statutory duty on the Council to adopt an annual Pay Policy which meets the requirements in the Act. This is a decision of the Full Council. I am satisfied that the Policy recommended for adoption by the Chief Officers Appointments Committee meets the statutory requirements.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Resources to finance the implications of this Pay Policy are provided for in the Budget for 2025/26, which is a separate item on the agenda of this meeting

Pay Policy – 2025 / 26

1. INTRODUCTION

Cyngor Gwynedd is required by Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to prepare a pay policy statement on an annual basis. This statement must articulate the Authority's own policies towards a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior staff (or 'chief officers') and its lowest paid employees. Pay policy statements must be prepared for each financial year and they must be approved by full Council.

Cyngor Gwynedd recognises the importance of managing pay in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner, and the decisions taken in this regard are crucial to ensure equal pay and equality within the organisation.

2. PAY POLICY FOR CHIEF OFFICERS

The Council defines its chief officers as being its Chief Executive, the Corporate Directors, and Heads of Department. The Council is also the host authority on employment for Ambition North Wales and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent, and as a result the relevant chief officers within those organisations also fall within the scope of this policy.

The Council employs its chief executive under the terms and conditions of the Joint National Committee (JNC) for Local Authority Chief Executives, whilst Chief Officers are employed under the terms and conditions as set out by the Joint National Committee (JNC) for Chief Officers. Both sets of terms and conditions are incorporated into the respective employment contracts. The JNC for Chief Officers negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases for this group. Chief Officers employed under JNC terms and conditions are contractually entitled to any national JNC determined pay rises and this Council will therefore pay these as and when determined in accordance with contractual requirements.

3. SALARIES

The policy concerning the salaries of Heads of Department and Corporate Directors was originally adopted by the full Council in October 2009 and subsequently in June 2012, as part of the overall Policy's annual review. A further partial review was conducted in March 2015 to reflect further structural changes within the Council. At that time, chief officer salaries were based on a report produced by *Korn Ferry* (formerly the *Hay Group*), and on their job evaluation scheme.

A review of the Council's chief officer salaries was undertaken in February 2021. The review was based on comparing jobs with similar roles in the regional market, so that the assessment reflects the real and relevant situation to northern and central Wales. The situation was further reviewed in October 2022.

The Chief Executive's salary has been set in accordance with the scale of £120,101 - £129,172.

The Council does not pay any bonus payments or performance related pay to its Chief Officers. The Council's local terms and conditions of service are relevant to Chief Officers, as for all other staff, unless otherwise noted within individual policies.

The salaries of the Council's Chief Officers are available on the Council's website (See Appendix 1).

The Welsh Government has formed an Independent Remuneration Panel. This Panel has the authority to issue advice and recommendations to local authorities who are considering amending employment terms for Chief Executives. When authorities intend to amend the salary level for a Chief Executive, and when this change is not consistent with changes in salaries for all of that authority's employees, then the matter must be discussed with the Panel prior to taking any final decision.

4. POSTS BELOW CHIEF OFFICER LEVEL

The Council's pay policy for its remaining staff is based on the Council's equal pay policy and its collective agreement with the recognised trade unions as introduced on the 1st April 2008. The Council's pay structures are subject to equal pay audits.

The Council has adopted the GLPC Job Evaluation Scheme criteria as the basis for setting salary grades for all posts employed under the Local Government Workers' Conditions of Service. The Council is committed to pay salaries in accordance with equal pay legislation and the "single status" agreement that was set between local government employers and the recognised trade unions in 1997.

The Council does not pay any bonus payments nor pay which is based on workers' performance.

The relationship between the remunerations of its Chief Officers and its other employees is designed to secure the ability of the Council to be able to recruit and retain the best suitable candidates to its various posts, whilst maintaining the differentials as defined by the job's evaluation scheme.

The Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector recommends a maximum ratio of no more than 1:20 between the highest and the lowest paid (full time equivalent). This ratio within the Council is currently 1:5.4.

5. SALARY ON COMMENCEMENT IN POST

The number of increments within each grade reflects the possible period of development in post that could be relevant to individuals on that grade. Members of staff will be appointed to the salary point within the grade which reflects the time required for development in order that they are able to undertake the full responsibilities and duties of the post.

Normally, each employee is appointed to the lowest pay point within the appropriate pay grade. If an employee is already being paid above the lowest pay point or if there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the employee is already fully competent to fulfil several aspects relating to the post, a manager can, in consultation with the Head of Corporate Services or deputy, appoint on a higher pay point within the appropriate pay grade.

If there is a capacity within the job grade, all members of staff will receive an annual pay increment on the 1st April, on condition that they have been appointed to their current post for more than six months prior to that date.

6. RELOCATION EXPENSES

In circumstances when it is essential for staff to relocate to undertake their role, the Council can in certain circumstances contribute to the cost of relocating. The scheme is relevant to staff appointed because of an advertisement or following an internal re-organisation where they must move house.

The employee's present home must be more than 20 miles from his/her administrative centre to consider an application to reimburse costs.

In such circumstances, the cost of the removal of furniture and belongings will be reimbursed subject to accepting the lowest of three estimates as well as the full cost of storing furniture for up to three months. A contribution of up to £3,270 to cover legal expenses, estate agent fees, change of carpets and curtains and other incidental costs of removal will be paid subject to the receipt of supporting invoices.

7. MARKET SUPPLEMENT

The grading of posts is based on the Council's job evaluation scheme as this ensures that the pay system is based on equality as defined in the Equal Pay Act 1970 and ensures consistency in pay decisions. For these reasons any deviation from this system may create a risk to the Council that must be robustly regulated. There must be clear reasons to justify any deviation from this arrangement.

However, there may be occasions when market forces lead to recruitment and/or retention problems in relation to a specific post. The Council therefore may in exceptional circumstances, and to attract and/or retain an individual to a particular post, offer an additional temporary supplement to the substantive salary grade.

In this respect a market supplement will only be used when there is adequate documented evidence of a failure to attract and/or retain an employee to a post. A market supplement is not a permanent addition to the salary. Should circumstances related to the market rate of the post change, or where a member of staff is transferred by the Council to a different post that does not attract a market supplement, then their entitlement to the payment will cease and the supplement will be withdrawn in line with agreed notice.

The Council, at its meeting on the 9 October 2014, approved a market supplement provision of up to £3,000 for Chief Officers where it can be justified by a business case. There is no ceiling set in respect of market supplement levels for other posts.

8. HONORARIA (UNDERTAKING ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES)

An additional payment can be approved when an employee agrees to temporarily undertake some specific additional duties and responsibilities which are beyond the normal duties and responsibilities of their substantive post. The proportion of higher level of duties and responsibilities must be significant, evaluated at a higher salary level and over an extended period before temporary additional pay can be offered.

9. ON-DUTY, STANDBY AND CALL OUT PAYMENTS

The Council is committed to providing services according to the needs of the people of Gwynedd. This means that at times it will be necessary for staff to be called upon to carry out work outside their normal working pattern and at unsociable times. The Council responds to these requirements by:

- having suitably trained staff on duty to take calls and to decide upon the relevant course of action.
- having a suitably trained workforce on standby, to be able to be called out at short notice to respond to emergency work.
- issue payments to staff at suitable rates that recognise the inconvenience and disruption that this work causes.

On duty is defined as a period when an officer is on duty outside of their normal hours of work for a specific period and is available to respond to calls from residents, emergency services, etc.

Standby is defined as a specific period when an officer is **available** to be called out, outside of their normal hours of work.

In some cases, on duty or being on standby will form a part of officers' basic salary and their contract of employment will specifically state this. They will not be entitled to any extra payment whilst on duty or on standby. Payment for other officers will be by way of an additional, separately identified payment that will reflect the level of inconvenience and disruption to the officers' normal home life that is incurred. Officers will receive a minimum of two hours at the appropriate rate of pay for each time they are called out (including travelling time).

On-duty/standby payments will be updated annually in line with the annual salary increase agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

10. PROFESSIONAL FEES

One fee per annum will be reimbursed to officers in respect of membership of recognised bodies which are relevant to their professional function and where that membership is a requirement by the Council.

11. CAR USERS

All staff are denoted as casual car users and reimbursements are paid for business travel on HMRC rates.

12. SUBSISTENCE PAYMENTS

Subsistence repayments will be made when travelling out of County for breakfast, dinner, tea and supper, up to the maximum of the Council's subsistence allowances. For those individuals whose normal work covers more than one County, e.g., Gwynedd and Môn, "Out of County" is defined as outside that normal area of work.

13. WORKING ADDITIONAL HOURS

Employees, in receipt of basic pay at or below point 22 who are required to work additional hours beyond the 37-hour working week are entitled to receive enhancements at the rate of basic pay at time and a half (alternative arrangements in place for those workers with work patterns where those

hours worked are on a fortnightly/monthly or annual basis). Employees paid above point 22 who work beyond the 37-hour week will be paid at their basic rate of pay for those additional hours or will be entitled to time off in lieu, or if the Head of Department has specifically given prior approval to planned work, then it is possible to pay at the rate of time and a half.

14. WORKING UNSOCIABLE HOURS

Salary is paid at the basic rate on weekends, for work that is undertaken within the 37-hour standard week. Enhanced pay of basic pay and a third is paid to those employees who work between the hours of 10pm and 6am.

Salary is paid in accordance with the national agreement for work conducted on bank holidays and additional statutory days.

15. FIRST AID ALLOWANCE

An annual allowance is paid to employees who act as designated First Aiders.

16. LOCAL ELECTION DUTIES

The Council's fees for payments to its Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer for local election duties are included in Appendix 2.

17. SEVERANCE AND RETIREMENT

The Council's severance and retirement schemes are applied equally and fairly to all staff regardless of grade, age or gender and are implemented in accordance with the regulations of the relevant pension schemes. There are no exceptions for Chief Officers. The relevant policies are available on the Council's website.

18. FINANCIAL DETRIMENT SCHEME

Financial detriment is defined as a loss due to a change in salary grade and contractual terms and conditions. The Council provides financial assistance to staff who face financial loss (due to re-structuring or re-designation of responsibilities) for a period of two years, based on one year on 100% protection and one year on 50% protection from the date that the change in the employment package becomes operational. That financial assistance will cease after two years unless the individual member of staff has in the meantime been appointed to another post where he/she is not facing financial detriment.

19. RE-EMPLOYMENT

The Council will consider each candidate on their own merit and will appoint with a view to achieving the best efficiency for the service and best value for its ratepayers. Such an appointment, if made, would be subject to any abatements stipulated in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.

In accordance with tax law, managers must ensure that any proposed arrangement to pay an individual through a 'contract for services' will be assessed through the HMRC's online tool for confirming employment status. This assessment is to be taken objectively.

20. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF OFFICER (SALARY OF £100,000 AND ABOVE)

The Full Council will approve any amendment to the salary package of any such post prior to its recruitment. Any amendment would have to be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel, as stipulated in part 3 of this policy.

Recruitment to any such post will be advertised externally.

APPENDIX 1

Chief Officer Pay 2025/26

1	Chief Executive	£120,101 - £129,172
2	Corporate Director	£97,940 - £108,595
3	Head of Education	£91,772 - £101,743
4	Head of Finance	£83,444 - £92,486
5	Heads of Economy and Community, Corporate Services, Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Children and Supporting Families, Highways, Engineering and YGC, Environment, Housing and Property,	£81,860 - £90,274
6	Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer	£74,200 - £81,400

Cyngor Gwynedd operates as the host authority and employer for the following roles:

7	Programme Director – Ambition North Wales	£105,742 - £116,510
8	Head of North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency	£81,860 - £90,274

*Note that the above does not include any contractual increase that could be awarded in due course during 2025/26.

APPENDIX 2

ELECTION PAYMENT SCHEME AS APPROVED BY GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Fees for the general conduct of the election and performance of all duties which a Returning Officer is required to perform under any order or other enactment relating to the election of Councillors

Returning Officer and Deputy Returning officer Fees	**Contested**	**Uncontested**
Returning Officer	125.00	
For the general conduct of the election and performance of all duties which a Returning Officer is required to perform under any order or other enactment relating to the election of Councillors. For each Electoral Division, Community/Town Council, Community/Town Council Ward		))))) 75.00
Deputy Returning Officer	85.00	)))))
Specific duties to include attending to receive nomination papers, examining them and adjudicating on their validity; dealing with candidates; notifying candidates of decisions on nominations, publishing statements of persons nominated and attending to receive withdrawals and conducting the counts. For each Electoral Division, Community/Town Council, Community/Town Council Ward By-Elections		

In any by-election where a Deputy Returning Officer is employed to manage the count: For each Electoral Division, Community/Town Council, Community/Town Council Ward	34.00	

MEETING	**Full Council**
DATE	**6th March 2025**
TITLE	**Adaptation to projects under 'A Caring Gwynedd' – Cyngor Gwynedd Plan**
PURPOSE	**To seek approval of the modification proposed to the priority 'A Caring Gwynedd'**
CABINET MEMBER	**Councillor Dilwyn Morgan**
AUTHOR	**Aled Davies, Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing**

1 Decision sought/purpose of report

1.1 To approve the addition of the below project to the areas to be prioritised at a strategic level as part of Cyngor Gwynedd's Plan 2023-28.

Ensuring that full and timely support is available to support people to live at home

To ensure that people can live their best lives, we must make prompt and easily accessible support available for individuals and their families.

We will implement plans to:

- *ensure we acknowledge the value of family and unpaid carers by making sure that we can easily identify them and offer them full support with caring*
- *reduce our waiting lists for new home care packages, ensuring no one in Gwynedd waits longer than 28 days following a care assessment*

2 Introduction

2.1 The purpose of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan is to set out the Council's vision and priorities for the period between April 2023 and the end of March 2028. It shows why the Council wishes to focus its energy and resources in certain areas and includes a series of projects for the 5-year period under seven priority areas.

2.2 While the plan sets priorities for the full 5-year period, its preparation and monitoring includes an annual review regime. The process of reviewing the scheme and making adjustments to it for 2025-26 is underway.

2.3 At its meeting on 11th February 2025 the Cabinet approved the recommendation to ensure that home care is addressed as a priority in the Council's Plan, with a view to presenting it to the Full Council for adoption at its meeting on 6th March 2025.

3 Reasons For Recommending the Decision

3.1 One of the seven priority areas in the scheme is A Caring Gwynedd. The ambition for this area is to support the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities'.

3.2 The plan clearly sets out how it will achieve this and identifies eight priority projects/programmes to improve provision and strengthen the Council's ability to achieve the ambition on behalf of Gwynedd residents.

3.3 During Autumn 2024 Care Inspectorate Wales and Audit Wales carried out audits of care services provided by Gwynedd Council's Department for Adults, Health and Wellbeing. During the same period a support audit of the department's older people's services was undertaken by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). The audit was commissioned as a follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the Llechen Lân report. The conclusions of these audits include references to home care services provided or commissioned by the Council and raise a question about the priority given to the field in the Council's strategic plans. Hand in hand were references to the Council’s promotion of support for unpaid carers. Of course, the invaluable contribution of the county's unpaid carers goes a long way towards reducing the demand for home care.

3.4 Following discussions with WLGA and Audit Wales, it was noted that including the field as a priority under the heading of A Caring Gwynedd in the Council Plan is a key first step in responding to their findings by placing an appropriate and necessary emphasis on a matter that represents one of the biggest challenges facing the Council. The department has produced wording for the project that will address this field and this may be found in paragraph 1.1 of this report.

4 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The act imposes a welfare duty on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 of wellbeing goals which are a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales with cohesive communities, a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives and that is responsible at a global level. The recommendations have been prepared with attention to these requirements and in line with the 5 ways of working.

5 Equality Act 2010

5.1 There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider the findings of an equality impact assessment when preparing the plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as implemented in Wales. The assessment on the plan as a whole finds no impact that would justify

deviating from the recommendation and envisages elements that would have a positive impact.

6 Next steps and timetable

6.1 To publish the amendments to the Council's Plan on the Council's website. Progress against the above project will be discussed as part of the Department for Adult, Health and Wellbeing's Performance Challenge and Support arrangements and therefore will also be scrutinised by the Care Scrutiny Committee.

7 Views of Statutory Officers

i. Head of Finance

I have no objection to the decision sought. Evidence, including work by the Finance Department amongst others, shows that the Home Care area is one that needs priority and attention. On the other hand, projects in the Council's Plan are already competing for extremely limited resources and as highlighted when the Plan was adopted in 2023, the resource requirements of all improvement priorities in the Plan already exceed the funds available to them.

ii. The Monitoring Officer

As the Council Plan is a Full Council decision it is appropriate that the decision sought is brought forward on the recommendation of Cabinet. I have no other observations in relation to propriety.

8 Local Member's Views

Not a local issue.

Meeting: Full Council

Date: 6 March 2025

Cabinet Member: Councillor Huw Wyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance

Subject: 2025/26 Budget

Contact Officer: Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance

2025/26 BUDGET

Decision Sought

1. **A budget of £356,815,330 should be set for 2025/26, to be funded by £248,389,720 of Government Grant and £108,425,610 of Council Tax income (which is an increase of 8.66%).**

2. **A capital programme of £53,736,190 in 2025/26 should be established, to be funded from the sources set out in Appendix 4 of the report.**

Impact of the Decision
A Council Tax increase of 8.66% would be a weekly increase of £2.92, neu £152.02 annually, with a Band D tax of £1,907.47 for 2025/26.

The increase in the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority levy represents 0.43% of the increase.

The detailed effect of this is set out in the formal decision which is found in Appendix 11.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council must set a balanced budget for 2025/26.

1.2 This budget is set at a time when Welsh local authorities continue to face financial challenges, where the addition to the settlement does not meet the increase in demand for services.

1.3 Cyngor Gwynedd has received a grant increase for 2025/26 of 3.8%, equivalent to a £8.6m increase in external funding. In addition, a further £6.5m has been included to reflect the transfer of responsibilities to the settlement, which is also included in the grant.

1.4 By 2025/26, our spending would need to be increased by £25.8m to "stand still" (details are in part 3 below). This includes £7.7m to meet pressures on service budgets (details of the individual 'bids' are in Appendix 2).

1.5 It is seen in this report that demand pressures on services, as well as inflationary pressures indicate that a combination of Council Tax increases and the introduction of a new programme of savings and cuts must be considered if a balanced budget is to be set for 2025/26. The 2025/26 budget seeks to protect the services the Council provides to the people of Gwynedd and recommends an 8.66% increase in Council Tax to achieve that objective this year. Even then, we will need to look for savings and cuts to set a balanced budget, and forecasts suggest there will be further pressure in aiming to set a balanced budget for 2026/27.

1.6 The savings and cuts that have been identified have been subject to consultation with Council members in a series of workshops in January 2025. The draft budget has been considered by a majority of Council members at a briefing session on the financial situation held on 28 January 2025, and scrutinised by the Governance and Audit Committee on 6 February. The role of the Cabinet is to recommend a balanced and appropriate budget to the Council meeting on 6 March for 2025/26.

1.7 The 2025/26 budget includes a substantial proportion of the savings that have slipped from previous years, savings identified when setting the 2024/25 budget, as well as new savings.

1.8 This year we propose to establish a capital programme worth £53.7m in 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 4.

1.9 The full Council are required to consider the budget and set Council Tax for 2025/26 based on the issues identified in the following report. This detailed report sets out the factors influencing the proposed revenue budget for 2025/26 and outlines the main changes since 2024/25.

2. WELSH GOVERNMENT GRANT

2.1 The Welsh Government has announced the final local authority funding settlement for 2025/26 as follows:

Revenue Support Grant 2024/25 – 2025/26		**Total Welsh Authorities £**	**Cyngor Gwynedd £**
2024/25 Government Grant		5,877,383,500	239,296,450
2025/26 Government Grant		6,139,077,560	248,389,720
	Increase £	261,694,060	9,093,270
	Increase %	4.5%	3.8%

Further details of the settlement can be found here –

Local government revenue and capital settlement: final 2025 to 2026 | GOV.WALES

2.2 Official Welsh Government figures in the table above show that Cyngor Gwynedd is receiving a grant increase of £9.1m by next year (after adjusting the relative 2025/26 figure to reflect changes to the taxbase and transfers to the settlement), which is a 3.8% increase, while the average across Wales is 4.5%.

2.3 The draft settlement stated that Gwynedd would receive a government grant of £246,818,190. Based on this the Cabinet at its meeting on 11 February 2025 has recommended setting a budget of £355,243,800. Meanwhile, the final local government settlement was announced on 20 February 2025. This settlement was £1.6m higher than that in the draft settlement. This budget uses £1.6m to fund one-off bids for services in 2025/26 placing the difference of £14k in a risk provision. The decisions sought do not include any other changes to the budget recommended by Cabinet.

2.4 Several factors feed into the local government grant allocation formula, such as the county's population, the number of pupils in our schools, and the number of income support claimants.

3. COUNCIL REVENUE EXPENDITURE – 2025/26

3.1 The increase in expenditure required to "stand still" in 2025/26 is set out in the table below.

Additional Expenditure Requirements

	£	£
Base Budget		331,814,710
Staff Salary Inflation	8,597,340	
Additional Employers NI	4,560,100	
Grant Towards Additional Employers NI	(3,500,000)	
Other Inflation (suppliers)	1,715,150	
Levies (Fire, ENPA, NRW & CJC)	505,730	
Demography	(643,000)	
Bids – Pressures on Services	7,688,450	
Various Budget Adjustments	(93,130)	
Interest on Balances	2,254,120	
One-off Bids / Risk Provision	1,571,530	
Transfers to the Settlement	3,094,330	
Net total of increases		25,750,620
Total 2025/26 spending requirements before savings		357,565,330

3.2 **Base Budget 2024/25**

Although the net expenditure for 2024/25 was £332m, it is important to note that the Council's actual expenditure is £590m, because we receive a host of specific grants worth £177m and charge an overall income of £81m for services we provide.

3.3 **Salary Inflation £8.6m**

An agreement was reached on workforce pay (apart from teachers) for April 2024 to March 2025 by agreeing an increase of £1,290 up to pay point 43, and then 2.5% to pay point 44 and above. In line with most other local authorities, we had budgeted prudently for a 5% increase, with the final agreement a little less than what had been budgeted for.

This budget sets aside the objective of an increase in the 2025/26 pay agreement of 3.5% for the whole workforce (teachers from September 2025, remaining workforce from April 2025).

3.4 **Employer National Insurance Net Adjustments £1.1m**

The Chancellor announced in the Budget statement for 2025/26 that there will be an adjustment to the threshold and the rate of national insurance paid by an employer. This budget is set on the basis that the cost will be partly funded by the Government.

3.5 **Other Inflation £1.7m**

This is a 'net' amount which includes provision for a range of changes dependent on the rate of inflation in a number of specific areas. The main areas where increases are seen are:

- Independent Residential Care Homes £1.4m
- Non-residential Care £972k:
  - Supported Housing £624k,
  - Domiciliary Care £234k,
  - Other services £114k
- Energy (Electricity and Gas) (£819k)
- Fuel (Diesel and Petrol) (£184k)
- Increase in other prices:
  - Insurance £133k
  - Property rates £44k

3.6 **Levies £506k**

The levies paid to the relevant bodies will increase as follows between 2024/25 and 2025/26:

- North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority £427k
- Eryri National Park Authority £53k
- Natural Resources Wales (Special Levies) £2k
- North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) £24k

The net increase of £427k to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority levy is equivalent to an increase of 0.43% in council tax, this presumes a grant will be received to contribute towards the authority's additional National Insurance cost.

3.7 **Demography (£643k)**

Due to a reduction in pupil numbers in schools; namely secondary (£228k) and primary (£415k).

3.8 **Pressures on Services £7.7m**

Appendix 2 contains details of each individual request for additional expenditure arising from pressures on the services.

It is recommended that bids worth £7.7m for additional permanent resources submitted by Council departments to meet inevitable pressures on their services are approved.

All departments are asked to identify any expenditure the Council must deliver to ensure continuity of basic service. The procedure here is not for desirable new developments, but rather for the continuation of existing basic services.

An element of these applications of course manifests itself as we review the current year's spending patterns. Others are the result of issues arising where spending is necessary to protect outcomes for the public, or to meet statutory requirements. There is also an element of central government creating pressures and expectations, followed by the Council having to cope with the knock-on effects.

The items presented in Appendix 2 have been thoroughly challenged by the Leadership Team before being recommended for Cabinet approval. Furthermore, all these spending requests were presented at the Budget Seminar held on 28 January 2025.

3.9 **One-off Bids / Risk Provision £1.6m**

The final local government settlement was announced on 20 February 2025. This settlement was £1.6m higher than that in the draft settlement. This budget uses £1.6m to fund one-off bids for services in 2025/26 with the difference, £14k, in a risk provision.

3.10 **Various Budget Adjustments £2.2m**

A total reflecting a significant number of adjustments to different budgets across the Council. This includes the impact of a decrease in interest receipts of £2.3m in returns in investing balances and the Council's cash flow, and a cost decrease of (£93k) due to other budgetary considerations.

4. EXISTING SAVINGS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED

4.1 Cyngor Gwynedd has delivered over £42m of savings plans since 2015/16.

4.2 On 20 February 2024, the Cabinet approved a programme of savings worth £5.2m for the budget of 2024/25 onwards. The profile of this programme is seen in Appendix 3, which shows that £2,860,300 of these savings are profiled for 2025/26. £5.2m in its entirety was actioned in the 2024/25 budget, with subsequent year savings being bridged by funds/reserves. Therefore, the 2025/26 and 2026/27 savings do not assist in reducing the budgetary gap in those years.

4.3 Furthermore, there are three savings plans worth £650k which remain from previous savings programmes that are related to 2025/26.

4.4 The value of these savings by department is summarised in the following table.

Savings that have already been programmed to reduce the 2025/26 Funding Gap	
	£
Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department	1,123,120
Environment Department	949,630
Highways, Engineering and YGC Department	462,500
Finance and I.T. Department	292,540
Education Department	151,960
Economy and Community Department	135,020
Corporate Services Department	218,620
Corporate Management Team	30,000
Subtotal	**3,363,390**
Less: Savings Provision	(286,030)
Existing Planned Savings 2025/26	**3,077,360**

5. FUNDING GAP 2025/26 AND COUNCIL TAX

5.1 Part 3 above shows that the Council's spending requirements (before savings and cuts are removed) for 2025/26 are £357.6m. Part 2 noted that the grant from the Welsh Government will be £248.4m.

5.2 As explained in part 4 above, there are a total of £650k of savings and cuts to be utilised to reduce the funding gap.

Establishing the 2025/26 Budget	
	£
2024/25 Base Budget	331,814,710
Additional Expenditure Requirements	25,750,620
2025/26 Expenditure Requirements before Savings	357,565,330
less Welsh Government Revenue Grant Income	(248,389,720)
Funding Gap from Council Tax and further savings	109,175,610

5.3 That means there is a residual gap of £109.2m that needs to be filled. A savings report will be presented to the Cabinet on February 11, 2025, recommending the implementation of new savings and cuts programmes worth £519k. However, only £100k can be drawn from the budget for 2025/26 with the remaining amounts to be drawn from the 2026/27 and 2027/28 budgets.

5.4 While considering the £3.4m savings previously approved for 2025/26 (see Section 4 above). An additional £100k would bring a total savings and cuts amount of £3.5m for 2025/26. Nevertheless, £750k of this total will contribute towards addressing the budgetary deficit as explained in section 4.3.

Funding Gap from Council Tax and Savings	109,175,610
Less Existing Savings already approved	(650,000)
Less New Savings and Cuts	(100,00)
Funding Gap from Council Tax	108,425,610

5.5 Further details on the savings and cuts are found in Appendix 3.

5.6 It is recommended that the remainder of the gap is to be greeted through Council Tax. Increasing the Tax on individual dwellings by 8.66% will generate £108,425,610 of income, and this would be sufficient to fill the gap.

5.7 This will be £9.9m of additional Council Tax income compared to the 2024/25 budget. That equates to a Council Tax increase of £152.02 for properties in Band D, or £2.92 a week. The tax levied by the Police and Crime Commissioner (an increase of 6.44% for 2025/26) and the community councils (various %) will of course be in addition to this.

5.8 Background information and the context for setting the Tax level is set out in Appendix 6.

5.9 If Council members wanted a less than 8.66% increase in the level of Tax, then fewer permanent resources would have to be committed to deal with the pressures on services, there would be a need to find further savings and cuts, or a combination of both.

5.10 The choice between maintaining services and taxation is always a difficult one. For 2025/26 it is expected that the proposal to raise the tax by 8.66% to meet the pressures on services while setting a balanced budget will be a similar level to the majority of authorities in north Wales.

6. CONCLUSIONS / BUDGET 2025/26

6.1 This report and the appendices set out the factors that should be considered when establishing the 2025/26 budget and historic savings will still have to be harvested, new savings and cuts will have to be introduced, and the level of tax will need to be raised to set a balanced budget.

6.2 It is recommended that revenues of £357.6m be spent, having added £25.8m, which includes the provision of £7.7m to address demand for services.

6.3 Having received a grant from Welsh Government of £248.4m, relying on £750k of savings (£650k of historic savings that have already been programmed and £100k of new savings). The level of Council Tax will need to increase by 8.66% to generate £108.4m of income to close the 2025/26 funding gap.

Balanced budget for 2025/26	
	£
2025/26 Expenditure Requirements before Savings	357,565,330
2025/26 Savings Total	(750,000)
2025/26 Budget	356,815,330
To be funded from -	
Grant Income	248,389,720
Council Tax (yield after raising 8.66%)	108,425,610
2025/26 Budget	356,815,330

6.4 This will involve setting a net budget of **£356,815,530**. A breakdown of the budget per service is given in Appendix 1.

7. CAPITAL

7.1 The 2019/20 onwards asset strategy was established by the Council on 7 March 2019. On 11 July 2024 the strategy was revised and approved by the Council with the period extended to 2033/34. It is incorporated as part of the Capital Programme, and we are adding to that by 2025/26. Details of the current capital programme can be found in Appendix 4.

7.2 The two tables shown in Appendix 4 reflect the capital requirements, together with the funding, for setting the 2025/26 to 2027/28 capital budget, to establish a total programme worth £53,736,190 in 2025/26, to be funded from the sources analysed in Appendix 4.

7.3 The table in Appendix 4 states that £500k is available annually for the funding of capital bids. For 2025/26, £523k has been earmarked for the 3 relevant capital bids detailed in Appendix 2b.

8. LONGER TERM STRATEGY

8.1 When announcing the draft 2025/26 settlement in December 2024, the Welsh Government has not given an indication of the increase in grant that will be paid to Welsh local authorities from 2026/27. However, the outlook is not positive, and Cyngor Gwynedd, like all other councils, is expected to receive below-inflation increases in future – and perhaps no increase at all.

8.2 In considering the increased demand for services on the Council, in the face of shrinking provision because of cuts, there will need to be an early, fundamental consideration of what the Council can provide and how. As can be seen in Appendix 3, further saving plans have been programmed for 2026/27 and beyond but work will commence immediately after setting the budget for 2025/26 on updating a Medium-Term Financial Plan that recognises the situation as envisaged.

9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND VARIOUS ASSESSMENTS

9.1 The current level of the Council's general balances is £7.9m. Given the increased pressures expected on the Council's budgets over the next few years, it is considered that this level of balances will be appropriate to reserve for practical cash flow and unexpected expenditure. Information on the balances and reserves is presented in Appendix 7.

9.2 Appendix 5, 'Addressing the Schools Budget in 2025/26', explains the position of the Gwynedd schools' budget.

9.3 In determining a budget, Cabinet and Council must consider the impact of their decisions in terms of equality, in line with the statutory duties placed on the Council through the Equality Act 2010. Appendix 8 deals specifically with the duty, including the statutory finance officer's comments on the whole Budget in terms of equality. The assessment confirms that there will be a positive overall impact from the continuity of services that are considered a priority for protection and funding to the additional level of demand, and it is not believed that any negative impacts will be significant.

9.4 The Council complies with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the recommendations in the report are based and developed in accordance with the statutory duty on the Council under Section 3 to undertake sustainable development in all its activities. As usual, more detailed information about the Well-being Act and relevant conclusions is provided at Appendix 9.

9.5 The statutory finance officer must express a view on the robustness of the estimates. An appropriate risk assessment and confirmation is presented at Appendix 10.

Views of the local member
Not a local issue

Views of statutory officers

Monitoring Officer:
Inevitably the recommendation by Cabinet for the budget is the result of a detailed process that brings together statutory, fiscal and prioritisation considerations. In accordance with the Council's governance, this includes the oversight of the Governance and Audit Committee. I note the late adaptation to the settlement that is addressed in the report with a recommendation for this year's response. The Council should have regard to all of the assessments and consultations referred to them and the resulting findings when it considers the approval of the recommendation. The Budget is also based on cuts approved by Cabinet in support of the recommendation. I have reviewed these matters and am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought.

Head of Finance:
I have worked with the Cabinet Member to prepare this report in accordance with the Cabinet’s decision of 11 February and confirm the contents. Having considered all the risks outlined in Appendix 10 to the report, and the mitigation, I consider that the Council's Budget for 2025/26 is robust, adequate, and achievable.

APPENDICES

1	Proposed Budgets
2	Summary of Bids
2a	Permanent Revenue Bids
2b	Capital Bids
3	Savings and Cuts
4	Capital
5	Dealing with the Schools Budget in 2025/26
6	Council Tax
7	Balances
8	Assessing the Impact on Protected Characteristics, the Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Disadvantage
9	Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
10	The Statutory Finance Officer's Statement on the Robustness of Estimates
11	Formal Decision

APPENDIX 1 - BUDGET SUMMARY

PROPOSED BUDGETS BY DEPARTMENT 2025/26

DEPARTMENTS	Base Budget 2024/25 £'000	Pay, NI and Pension Inflation £'000	Other Inflation £'000	Demography £'000	Transfer to the Settlement £'000	Grant Income Target Adjustment £'000	Pressure on Services £'000	One-off Bids / Risk Provision £'000	Present Savings £'000	New Savings £'000	Various Adjustments £'000	Base Budget 2025/26 £'000
Central Education	20,472	888	(351)	0	70	0	0	939	(151)	0	(230)	21,637
Schools' Budget	93,627	5,762	(52)	(643)	2,262	0	0	0	0	0	96	101,052
Economy and Community	4,847	277	(283)	0	0	0	202	0	(135)	0	(2)	4,906
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	77,968	1,868	1,753	0	(40)	0	3,040	100	(1,046)	0	117	83,760
Business Service and Care Commissioning	2,622	107	4	0	0	0	90	0	(77)	0	(14)	2,732
Children and Supporting Families	22,949	787	(51)	0	0	0	2,273	115	0	0	92	26,165
Highways, Engineering and YGC	17,395	888	(239)	0	0	0	276	0	(463)	0	(25)	17,832
Environment	17,911	688	(85)	0	0	0	485	0	(950)	0	(14)	18,035
Housing and Property	8,645	156	34	0	0	0	700	500	0	0	50	10,085
Corporate Management Team and Legal	2,757	66	(5)	0	0	0	58	0	(30)	0	(12)	2,834
Corporate Services	7,752	394	17	0	0	0	289	64	(219)	0	19	8,316
Finance	8,368	323	149	0	0	0	275	0	(292)	0	174	8,997
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	285,313	12,204	891	(643)	2,292	0	7,688	1,718	(3,363)	0	251	306,351
Corporate and Capital Matters	53,609	954	1,658	0	802	(3,500)	0	(146)	97	(100)	878	54,252
TOTAL GROSS	338,922	13,158	2,549	(643)	3,094	(3,500)	7,688	1,572	(3,266)	(100)	1,129	360,603
Less Community Council Precepts	(3,116)	0	(328)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(3,444)
TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE	335,806	13,158	2,221	(643)	3,094	(3,500)	7,688	1,572	(3,266)	(100)	1,129	357,159
Balances and Specific Reserves	(3,991)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,616	0	1,032	(343)
NET EXPENDITURE TOTAL =	**331,815**	**13,158**	**2,221**	**(643)**	**3,094**	**(3,500)**	**7,688**	**1,572**	**(650)**	**(100)**	**2,161**	**356,816**
Financed By:-												
Grant	233,317											248,390
Council Tax	98,498											108,426
Total Income	**331,815**											**356,816**

APPENDIX 2 - SUMMARY OF BIDS

	Bids	Permanent (£)	Capital (£)
Group A	Additional resources to cover the true cost of providing existing services, dealing with historical overspend which is beyond the department's ability to resolve and/or additional pressures in 2025/26 due to increases in cost and demand	6,887,130	
Group B	Matters which the Cabinet have already decided to support during the year	90,000	
Group C	New Matters for 2025/26	711,320	
Capital 1	Refurbishment of fitness areas and equipment at Byw'n Iach Arfon and Dwyfor		160,000
Capital 2	(Cist Gwynedd) Community Support Fund		50,000
Capital 3	Social Services' Core System (To replace WCCIS)		312,800
		7,688,450	**522,800**

APPENDIX 2a - PERMANENT REVENUE BIDS 2025/26

Group	Title of Bid	Recommended permanent sum (£)	
A	**Additional resources to cover the true cost of providing existing services, dealing with historical overspend which is beyond the department's ability to resolve and/or additional pressures in 2025/26 due to increases in cost and demand**		
1A	Adjust the income target for the Building Control Service to reflect the percentage of time spent on dealing with unkempt and dangerous buildings, which does not generate a fee	85,000	
2A	Homelessness grant funding that has been transferred to the settlement this year and therefore needs to be added to the Homelessness Service revenue budget	699,680	
3A	Loss of income to central services following the discontinuation of GwE	155,100	
4A	Addressing the increase in demand for home care in the upcoming year and provision of additional care in an attempt to reduce waiting lists	1,100,000	
5A	Funding the income shortfall in the Highways Departments which has lead to overspend for a number of years	100,000	
6A	Increase in the cost of placing children in care in out of county placements	500,000	
7A	Additional costs in addressing the increased demand for Childcare Social Services including increasing capacity and additional spending on direct payments	565,000	
8A	Byw'n Iach National Insurance increase	102,380	
9A	Unvoidable increase in the service costs of external Care Homes	1,026,260	
10A	Correcting discrepancies in the (equated pay) calculation method for the pay of workers on the lowest pay scales in several departments	150,000	
11A	Dealing with a historic budget shortfall in the Street Care Team, which is beyond the department's ability to resolve, resulting in annual overspending for a number of years	175,610	
12A	Dealing with a historic budget shortfall in the Waste Team, beyond the department's ability to resolve, resulting in annual overspending for a number of years	400,000	
13A	An increase in the demand for the support service of the Derwen team for children with disabilities	800,000	
14A	Customer Care Service - correcting a historic budget shortfall that is beyond the department's ability to resolve	37,000	
15A	The actual cost of the current system and addressing the increased demand for home care in 2024/25	900,000	
16A	Additional resources in the Human Resource Advisory service to cope with increased demand for service	33,500	
17A	Dealing with historical overspend in the Corporate Leadership Team	57,600	
			6,887,130
B	**Matters which the Cabinet have already decided to support during the year**		
1B	The annual cost of a Social Care software system, which stores information about all our Children and Adults cases	90,000	
			90,000
C	**New Matters for 2025/26**		
1C	Byw'n Iach - contingency for dealing with the 2025/26 income shortfall that is beyond the company's ability to resolve	100,000	
2C	Costs of running a small group home for a child with significant additional needs	310,000	
3C	Meeting the statutory requirement to fund trade union officers	59,100	
4C	Increasing capacity to deal with 'Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards' (DoLS) assessments of Vulnerable Adults	112,220	
5C	Protecting the Council's computers with antivirus software	100,000	
6C	Emergency response arrangements for the Information Technology (IT) service	30,000	
			711,320
		Total	**7,688,450**

APPENDIX 2b - CAPITAL BIDS

CAPITAL BIDS 2025/26

Bid	Title of Bid	Recommended sum (£)
Capital 1	Refurbishment of fitness areas and equipment at the Arfon and Dwyfor Byw'n Iach Centres	160,000
Capital 2	Community Support Fund (Cist Gwynedd) within the Economy and Community Department which supports voluntary groups to develop projects in local communities	50,000
Capital 3	A new core software system for Social Services to replace the WCCIS system which will soon no longer be supported by the provider	312,800
		522,800

APPENDIX 3

SAVINGS AND CUTS

1. Cyngor Gwynedd has realised over £42m of savings schemes since 2015/16.

2. Once again this year as in previous years the grant from the Welsh Government was not sufficient to meet inflation, and as the pressure continues in various areas such as adult care, waste and homelessness, we have been in a continuous cycle of having to find savings.

3. There is one savings scheme worth £200,000 from the Adult, Health and Wellbeing Department and two schemes worth a total of £450,000 in the waste service from the Environment Department, which derive from previous savings programmes which relate to 2025/26. The schemes have already been approved by the Council, and is therefore not the subject of a decision this year. It has also followed a proper statutory process, see below for information.

Savings	**Total £**
Development of 3 other Additional Care Housing projects in Gwynedd (Pwllheli District, Ffestiniog, South Meirionnydd)	200,000
Waste Services - Rationalising goods distribution arrangements	50,000
Waste Services – Review of Waste Agreements	400,000
TOTAL	**650,000**

4. On 20 February 2024, the Cabinet approved £5.2m worth of savings and cuts for the 2024/25 budget onwards, which came into effect in line with the profile below, with £2,860,300 profiled for 2025/26. The whole £5.2m was implemented in setting the 2024/25 budget and therefore the 2025/26 and 2026/27 savings do not help to reduce the financial gap in those years.

SAVINGS AND CUTS SCHEMES PROFILE 2024/25 ONWARDS

	2024/25 £	**2025/26 £**	**2026/27 £**	**Total £**
Savings and Cuts profile	1,965,760	2,860,300	343,090	**5,169,000**

5. The Cabinet on 21 January 2025 approved the removal of the nappy collection scheme worth £146,910 from the waste service within the Environment Department profiled for 2025/26, using the provision set aside in the budget in order to do so.

6. Due to the current economic climate, it is inevitable that Local Authorities must continue to look at savings and cuts to help the financial situation. A separate report on the Cabinet programme includes a list of further proposed savings and cuts for implementation in 2025/26 – 2027/28 which are worth £519,000, they will come into effect in accordance with the profile below:

NEW SAVINGS AND CUTS SCHEMES PROFILE 2025/26 ONWARDS

	2025/26 £	**2026/27 £**	**2027/28 £**	**Total £**
Savings and Cuts profile	100,000	320,500	98,500	**519,000**

7. Therefore, in summary, the following savings and cuts have been profiled to be realised in 2025/26:

	£
Previously approved savings	200,000
23/24 savings profiled to 25/26	450,000
24/25 savings and cuts profiled to 25/26	2,860,300
Delete one historical scheme in the Environment Department	-146,910
25/26 new savings and cuts profiled to 25/26	100,000
TOTAL	**3,463,390**

APPENDIX 4

CAPITAL

1. Whilst local authority revenue budgets face constraints, capital budgets are also under pressure, and there are revenue implications for capital expenditure which is not funded by specific grants.

2. A proposed programme for schemes for the next three years is set out below:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME			
	2025/26 £'000	**2026/27 £'000**	**2027/28 £'000**
Council Schemes:			
Sustainable Communities for Learning Schemes	12,443	2,795	1,005
Industrial Units	2,652	0	0
Levelling Up Fund Schemes	10,974	1,975	0
Adults' Homes/Centres	4,505	0	0
Highways, Bridges and Municipal	1,203	2,077	1,301
Coastal Flood Protection	1,060	308	2,998
Housing Schemes/Strategy	7,475	6,730	3,860
Property Schemes	3,854	100	194
Departmental Vehicles	6,899	3,854	244
Digital Equipment	606	609	1,248
Other Schemes	1,565	437	1,872
Capital Bids (Unallocated)	500	500	500
PROGRAMME TOTAL	**53,736**	**19,385**	**13,222**

3. The programme will be funded as follows:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING			
	2025/26 £'000	**2026/27 £'000**	**2027/28 £'000**
Supported Borrowing	4,070	4,070	4,070
Other Borrowing	4,740	4,481	362
Grants and Contributions	24,960	6,498	2,540
Capital Receipts	0	0	0
Departmental and Corporate Revenue	0	0	0
Capital Fund	8,709	308	3,700
Renewals and Other Funds	11,257	4,028	2,550
PROGRAMME FUNDING TOTAL	**53,736**	**19,385**	**13,222**

4. The asset strategy from 2019/20 was approved by the Council on 7 March 2019. On 11 July 2024 the strategy was revised and approved by the Council with the period extended to 2033/34. It is incorporated as part of the Capital Programme.

5. The profiles for the schemes were established by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Heads of Department and is dependent on the scheme requirements and the resources available.

6. The above table therefore reflects the general capital requirements (together with the funding) for setting the 2025/26 to 2027/28 budget, whilst the individual scheme details were established by the Council in the 10-year asset strategy, 2024/25 to 2033/34.

7. The 2025/26 Supported Borrowing and General Capital Grant figure in the financial settlement from Welsh Government is higher than anticipated when the asset strategy was established and the programme has been adjusted accordingly.

8. Therefore, the full Council is asked to establish a total programme worth £53,736,190 for 2025/26, to be funded from the sources noted in the table under part 3 above.

APPENDIX 5

DEALING WITH THE SCHOOLS' BUDGET IN 2025/26

1. **Background:** There will be a normal increase in the Gwynedd schools' quantum this year, as the Council (unlike some local authorities) funds inflation, pay increments, and demography.

2. **Inflation:** The schools' budget will increase by **£3.1m** this year for inflationary increases, including teachers' pay and pension inflation. This will cover the cost of teachers' 5.5% pay increase for the 5 months April – August, which is the full year effect of the September 2024 pay agreement, and the cost of an estimated further increase of 3% for the September 2025 pay agreement (for the 7 months September 2025 – March 2026). The increase in non-teaching staff costs for April 2024 and an estimate of 3% for April 2025 is also included.

3. **National Insurance:** There will be a **£1.9m increase** in employer national insurance cost, following the UK Government's announcement to increase the employer rate from 13.8% to 15.0%, along with reducing the threshold to £5,000.

4. **Teachers' Pension:** There was a 5% increase in teachers' pension employer contribution rate from April 2024. A specific grant has been received from the Welsh Government during 2024/25 to fund the increase, with the grant transferring to the settlement for 2025/26.

5. **Staff Pay Increments:** £474k will be added towards the budget for 2025/26 to deal with increments and a reduction of (£134k) for staff turnover.

6. **Demography (pupil numbers):** The schools' budget will reduce this year due to the usual "demography" adjustments, resulting from changes in pupil numbers. The actual number of pupils in September 2024 will be used to calculate 2025/26 allocations. The situation varies from school to school, but overall, the impact of decreasing pupil numbers means that the schools' budget will reduce (£643k), which includes a reduction of (£415k) for the Primary sector and a reduction of (£228k) for the Secondary sector. Individual schools will expect an increase / decrease in their allocations proportionate to the change in pupil numbers in the schools.

7. **Savings and Cuts:** Following implementing cuts of £1.966m in 2023/24 and 2024/25, there are no plans to implement further savings on schools in 2025/26.

8. **Education Specific Grants:** It appears that specific grants from Welsh Government will continue in Education in 2025/26 following the same distribution method as 2024/25.

9. **Overall Conclusion:** Having taken all the above factors into account, the schools' budget will be higher in 2025/26 than in 2024/25.

APPENDIX 6

COUNCIL TAX

1. It is a key decision for Full Council members to make, in light of the considerations presented in this report, to establish the exact level of Council Tax increase for 2025/26. The key to this is achieving an appropriate balance between the need to spend on services for the most vulnerable in our society, and the tax increase that is suitable to be levied on the residents of Gwynedd.

2. In the historical assumptions made in our medium-term financial strategy, we used a figure of 3.5% as an estimate of the average increase in Wales. However, the level that has had to be raised has varied annually, largely to reflect the gap that existed as a result of the Welsh Government grant settlement.

3. The increase seen in Cyngor Gwynedd Tax, and the average increase across Wales, since 2016/17 is set out below:

Year	Cyngor Gwynedd	Wales
2024/25	9.54%	7.8%
2023/24	4.95%	5.5%
2022/23	2.95%	2.2%
2021/22	3.7%	3.6%
2020/21	3.9%	4.6%
2019/20	5.8%	6.2%
2018/19	4.8%	4.9%
2017/18	2.8%	3.0%
2016/17	4.0%	3.6%

In 2024/25 Cyngor Gwynedd's Band D Council Tax level was £1,755 while the average tax level for Welsh counties was £1,631.

More information is found in this document: Council Tax levels: April 2023 to March 2024 | GOV.WALES

4. This year, it is recommended that the tax be raised by 8.66% for 2025/26. That would generate £108m of tax (compared to £98m in 2024/25), which includes £9m of Premium yield. That would equate to a Council Tax increase of £152.02 for a Band D property, or £2.92 a week. The tax charged by the Police and Crime Commissioner (an increase of 6.44% for 2025/26) and the community councils (% variable) will of course be in addition to this.

5. Over 7,950 homes in Gwynedd receive some element of support towards their Council Tax through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and over 60% of Gwynedd properties are in bands below band D. In addition, there are a wide range of statutory exemptions and discounts available, which are related to the status of the property.

6. We do not yet know exactly what the average increase will be across Wales in 2025/26, but the latest information is that there will be quite a wide range across Wales. The proposal to raise the tax by 8.66% is consistent with the situation across north Wales. Every additional 1% tax would adjust the financial gap we would need to find by around £997,840. Therefore, 3.5% would mean adjusting the financial gap by approximately £4,778,820 whilst 5% would involve adjusting the financial gap by approximately £6,275,590.

7. The choice between maintaining services and taxation remains a difficult one, of course, and it is up to all members to take stock and arrive at the balance that they consider appropriate. However, further to several informal conversations at the members' workshops, **a Council Tax increase of 8.66% is recommended, which would be a weekly increase of £2.92 or £152.02 annually, with a Band D tax of £1,907.49 for 2025/26.**

COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM PRODUCTS ON EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES

8. At the Full Council meeting on 5 December 2024, it was decided to continue with the 100% premium on properties that have been empty for 12 months or more for 2025/26 and to continue with the premium of 150% on second homes. It is estimated that the Council will receive £9m of additional income in 2025/26 from the premium. £6m of the money has been allocated to a fund to implement the Housing Action Plan, which will aim to provide housing for young people in our communities, and £3m to the homelessness budget.

9. All income must be incorporated and related expenditure met in the 2025/26 budget.

APPENDIX 7

BALANCES

1. Local authorities need a prudent level of 'working capital' to maintain adequate cash flow and meet unforeseen expenditure. It is projected that the Council will have general balances of about £7.9m at the end of this financial year, representing around 1.3% of the Council's gross revenue expenditure.

2. We have noted, on more than one occasion, that due to the turbulent circumstances we will be facing in the years ahead, it is appropriate to keep sums in reserve in order to deal with problems that could arise.

3. Nothing has happened in the meantime to change this opinion, as the demand for care, homelessness and waste services continues, the risk also continues. Therefore, the need to ensure that we have appropriate balances to deal with any financial shock is still relevant.

4. **The Council has a number of specific reserves** established to meet specific expenditure needs. These are also part of the Council's budget, of course, and have been scrutinised annually. Attention was given to the specific reserves by the Cabinet on 14 May 2024 and the Governance and Audit Committee on 23 May 2024, when it was approved to transfer £1.703 million from reserves to be used in its entirety to assist the departments that had overspent in 2023/24. Also, £1.113 million of the transformation fund was de-committed to use to fund one-off bids in 2024/25. I review the level of these reserves continually, and **the intention is to conduct another review by May 2025**, to consider how much scope there will be for the Council to change its priorities within these reserves.

5. During 2025/26 there is an intention to use £343k from the 'Financial Strategy Fund' to bridge the budget and the savings that have been identified but will not be achieved until 2026/27. This fund has been established specifically to deal with such eventualities as they arise.

6. In their report "Meeting the Financial Challenges facing Local Authorities in Wales" (2014), the **Wales Audit stated** (in paragraph 1.8):

   *"Councils can use reserves to help them to balance their budgets where savings plans do not achieve the expected results or where income is less than anticipated. However, **financing recurrent expenditure from reserves would not normally be appropriate**. A prudent level of useable reserves is a key element of financial stability; the minimum appropriate level will vary dependent on an authority's known and potential liabilities and its spending plans. There are signs that a few councils are over-relying on general reserves to deal with budget shortfalls, which*

than seeking more sustainable approaches, which often involve making unpopular decisions."

7. This message was reinforced by Audit Wales, which reported in October 2020 on the financial sustainability of Welsh local authorities. While Gwynedd Council's usable reserves are in the upper quartile of the range of Welsh local authorities (in terms of the size of their usable reserves), **Audit Wales' opinion is that:**

   "(9) some councils were much better placed than others to weather a financial challenge such as the pandemic. This is most clearly illustrated by the varying levels of usable revenue reserves held by councils" and (18) ***that "the level of usable reserves available to a council is one of the key indicators of financial resilience and sustainability".***

   A copy of the report can be found here:
   Financial Sustainability of Local Government as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic (wao.gov.uk)

8. I am convinced that the Council's use of balances is a totally appropriate action.

9. The Council's balances has been a key instrument. As the Council will have balances of about £7.9 million, we will have kept the bulk of the balances in reserve again, so they are available to 'bridge' the financial position if required.

APPENDIX 8

Assessing the Impact on Protected Characteristics, the Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Disadvantage Disadvantage

For help to complete this form see the *How to Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Gadlys Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708 or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru for further assistance.

The Council is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the effect any change in policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), has on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has a general duty to ensure fairness and foster good relations. A timely Equality Impact Assessment must be undertaken before making any decision on any relevant change (i.e. which has an effect on people with protected characteristics).

The Council is also required, under the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) to consider the effect of a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), in its opportunities for people to use Welsh and to ensure that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English. This document therefore ensures that these decisions protect and promote the use of the Welsh language.

From April 1st 2021 the Council has a duty to have due regard to tackling socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decisions.

1) Details

1.1. What is the name of the policy / service in question?

The Council's Budget for 2025/26.

1.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or amended? What changes are being considered?

Setting an annual budget is a statutory requirement for the Council, as well as being a key step in maintaining good financial stewardship.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance.

1.4 When did you commence the assessment? Which version is this?

March 2024, when considering the Council's financial outlook for the period 2025/26 to 2027/28 immediately following the establishment of the 2024/25 Budget. At that time, it was expected that it would be possible to set balanced budgets in these two years without further savings being discovered.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was approved by Cabinet on 14 May 2024 – this plan identified a significant gap that would need to be filled by a combination of Council Tax increases and cuts if the settlement remained without an increase, as was being suggested at the time.

Detailed work commenced on 11 December 2024, the date of the announcement of the provisional local government revenue and capital settlement: 2025 to 2026.

The provisional settlement has shown that the Council will have to continue to seek financial savings for 2025/26 if we are to set a balanced budget, but there is a need for far fewer cuts than originally envisaged. Each of the individual savings' schemes has been subject to an equality impact assessment.

2) Action

2.1 Who are the stakeholders or partners you need to work with to undertake this assessment?

A number of actions have been taken when preparing this budget:

- Discussions between service accountants and senior officers in the departments to consider bids and savings plans.
- All Council members invited to a budget seminar on 28 January 2025.
- Close collaboration between the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, and finance officers in the consideration of bids.
- Cabinet Members have had the opportunity to express their views on the assessment of bids.
- Governance and Audit Committee has the opportunity to scrutinise the budget on 6 February.
- Cabinet to consider the draft budget on 11 February and make a recommendation to the Full Council.
- Full Council to set budget for 2025/26 and set Council Tax rate on 6 March.

2.2 What measures have you taken to engage with people with equality characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either of place or of need) that live with socio-economic disadvantage?

The budget outlined here seeks to continue to provide appropriate outcomes for all residents of the county. The increase in Government funding this year is not sufficient to meet demand for services as well as inflation, therefore in order to set a balanced budget there is a need to look for further financial savings.

Every savings plan that is now in the programme for implementation has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment at the time it was introduced. It is recognized that there is potential for an impact that would disproportionately affect those with protected characteristics, but the departments that own the savings have proposed efficiency savings plans rather than cuts. In addition, the individual savings plans have been subject to appropriate impact assessments that support the financial decisions presented here.

The 'Gwynedd Council Financial Strategy 2025-2026' public consultation went live on the Council's website on 28 November to 20 December 2024. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather public opinion of which public services were more important to them. The results will assist the advisers with establishing a financial strategy and setting a budget for the financial year 2025-2026.

2.3 What was the result of the engagement?

There has not been a consultation process.

2.4 On the basis of what other evidence are you operating?

The 2025/26 budget is framed on an "incremental" principle. That is, the 2024/25 budget will be used as a base budget, making a number of adjustments before arriving at a draft budget for 2025/26:

- Staff Pay Inflation
- Other Inflation (suppliers)
- Increase in levies
- Adjustments to reflect changes in demography
- Financial bids to address service pressures
- Technical adjustments to the budget
- Increase or decrease in borrowing and interest costs on balances
- Realising savings that have already been agreed
- Additional savings that must be introduced

All of the financial bids and savings plans have been subject to equality impact assessments themselves.

In planning our budgets for the continuity of Council services, our accountants have taken account of equality at all levels, using data and evidence on demographics and trends when planning at a strategic level. Similarly (but more specifically) in reaching a decision on individual savings plans, the heads of Council departments have analysed the impact of plans on services and monitored the impact appropriately.

As well as meeting inflationary pressures, all services have the right to submit a request for resource if they consider that an additional budget is needed to ensure that services continue. The amounts shown under the heading "pressures on services" recognize that the Council provides adequate funding to ensure that our financial arrangements do not adversely affect the level of services provided. Full details can be found in Appendix 2 and shows that a significant part of the total permanent revenue bids go to social care.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be collected?

No

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must give due regard to the effect any changes will have on people with the equality characteristics noted below. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes in the policy or service have on people with these characteristics?

Characteristics	What type of impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	Positive	The fundamentals of our budget, and the system that leads up to it, is to have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.
Disability	Positive	The bidding procedure detailed in Appendix 2 includes additional expenditure on social services and delaying or eliminating savings in this area.
Sex	Positive	The fundamentals of our budget, and the system that leads up to it, is to have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.
Age	Positive	The recommended budget includes a significant increase in the budget of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department.
Sexual orientation	Positive	The fundamentals of our budget, and the system that leads up to it, is to have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.
Religion or belief (or non-belief)	Positive	The fundamentals of our budget, and the system that leads up to it, is to have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.
Gender reassignment	Positive	The fundamentals of our budget, and the system that leads up to it, is to have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive	The fundamentals of our budget, and the system that leads up to it, is to have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.
Marriage and civil partnership	Positive	The fundamentals of our budget, and the system that leads up to it, is to have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Gwynedd.

The Welsh language	Positive	The Council's budget includes ensuring that resources have been put in place to support fully bilingual services. The Council's Corporate Plan is the Council's main policy document and includes a number of schemes that promote the Welsh language. The budget is being drawn up to implement that policy. In drawing up the budget, particular attention was given to the Well-being of Future Generations Act, including the seven well-being goals. That includes addressing the sixth aim, 'Culture and the Welsh Language'.
Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Positive	The nature of the Council's services means that the pressures on services address socio-economic inequality since the measures recommended to deal with pressures on services take this into account. The Council's budgets, and in particular the successful bids, are designed to ensure that the authority can continue to direct resources to reduce discrimination on the grounds of socio-economic disadvantage. Any increase in the Council Tax rate is a financial pressure on the people of Gwynedd, but over 8,100 receive some support towards their Council Tax through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Elected members will come to a decision on the appropriate balance to be found between council tax increases and the need to provide services to the people of Gwynedd.

3.2 The Council has a duty under the 2010 Equality Act to contribute positively to a fairer society by promoting equality and good relations in its activities regarding the following characteristics – age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, gender reassignment, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must give due attention to the way any change affects these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Abolishing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	No	It is believed that none of the effects mentioned in 3.1 will lead to discrimination, harassment, or victimisation.
Promoting equal opportunities	Positive	Setting the budget is based on considerable work over a number of years of ensuring that a budget is in place that reflects the needs and requirements of the people of Gwynedd.
Encouraging good relationships	Neutral	The budget is set within clear boundaries, and the balance of successful bids and savings responds to the real pressures on services.

3.3 How does your proposal ensure that you work in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English and that you seize every opportunity to promote the Welsh language (beyond providing services bilingually) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

The Council's Plan is the Council's main policy document and includes a number of schemes that promote the Welsh language. The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan for 2023-28 was adopted by the Full Council on 2 March 2023 and reviewed in March 2024. The budget is being drawn up to implement that policy.

This year, in drawing up the 2025/26 Budget, the Council had to identify new savings plans, as well as consider the practicality of savings that had previously been identified as savings to be removed from departmental budgets and had already been approved in previous years. The statutory processes included the completion of an equality assessment which includes a question about impact on the Welsh language. When decisions about savings were discussed in the 2020/21 Budget report, it was concluded that **no impact** had been identified on the Welsh language but that there is a need to monitor this on implementation.

When preparing the Budget reports annually since 2021/2022, consideration is given to the intended impact of these budgets on the Welsh language. In line with practice an equality assessment has been completed which includes a question about the impact on the Welsh language. This procedure continues for 2025/26.

3.4 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice in order to have a positive impact on people's opportunities to use the Welsh language, and to reduce or prevent any adverse effects that the policy / practice may have on the Welsh language?

This is a financial policy, and we believe that the current policy achieves the best of our legal and statutory capacity in that regard in terms of having a positive impact on the language.

3.5 How does the proposal show that you have had due regard to the need to address inequality caused by socio-economic disadvantage? (Note that this is about closing inequality gaps rather than just improving outcomes for everyone)?

The establishment of the Council's budget is the result of specific actions that take account of the previous year's base budget and the steps that then need to be taken to reflect adjustments that need to be considered to deal with budget pressures for the following year. In addition, the budgetary position of all Council services is subject to detailed review three times a year, to identify any areas where action is needed to deal with underspends or overspends – particularly if budgets are not sufficient to deal with pressures on services. The nature of the Council's services means that the pressures on services reduce socio-economic inequality as the measures to deal with pressures on services take this into account.

There is a need to present savings plans this year in addition to those that exist in the programme from previous years. All have been subject to a detailed assessment to ensure that inequality due to socio-economic disadvantage is reduced.

Some of the bids recommended to be funded include several specifically designed to reduce inequality caused by socio-economic disadvantage. These are detailed in Appendix 2.

3.6 What other measures or changes might you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice to show that you have had due regard to the need to reduce disproportionate outcomes as a result of socio-economic disadvantage, in accordance with the Socio-Economic Act?

The requests for additional expenditure to deal with service pressures ("bids") have been the subject of detailed assessments by a number of officers and members and we are therefore confident that all steps that are practically possible to reduce socio-economic disadvantage in drawing up the budget have been taken.

4) Analysing the Results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the above and what is the reason for this?

There will be an overall positive impact from the continuation of services that were seen as priorities to be protected and funded to meet the additional level of demand.

4.2 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the above and what is the reason for this?

Any increase in Council Tax will have an impact on the financial position of the people of Gwynedd, and a higher increase than usual is recommended this year, which is necessary to ensure that the Council's financial position remains sustainable for the future.

4.3 What should be done?

Choose one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	✓
Adapt the policy to delete any barriers	
Suspend and delete the policy as the detrimental impacts are too big	
Continue with the policy as any detrimental impact can be justified	
No further action at this time because it is too soon to decide, or there is insufficient evidence	

4.4 If continuing with the project, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

Departments will work to ensure that they mitigate any negative impacts.

4.5 If you are not taking any further action to delete or reduce the negative impacts, explain why here.

Elected members will come to a decision on the appropriate balance to be found between council tax increases and the need to provide services for the people of Gwynedd.

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

It will be necessary for the Full Council to decide annually on the setting of the budget and tax rate.

The savings will be challenged at the Performance Challenge Meetings three times a year and reported to Cabinet as part of individual Cabinet Members' performance reports. In addition, a Savings Overview report will be presented to Cabinet and to the Governance and Audit Committee three times a year.

APPENDIX 9

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

1. The work of planning and preparing the recommendations has taken place in the context of the above Act's requirements. Although the recommendations derive from difficult financial choices, the Council has acted on the basis of the principle of acting in a way that addresses the statutory duty in Section 3 to undertake sustainable development and achieve the Council's Well-being Objectives. This is addressed by identifying and evaluating options for savings, but also by making decisions and choices from the perspective of providing sufficient resources in order to support an appropriate level of services.

2. This budget reflects the following five ways of working the Council is required to consider when applying sustainable development.

   - Looking to the long term - The budget plans for the future, by identifying the needs and demand for services not only in 2025/26, but in the future, and takes a strategic approach to ensure services are sustainable.
   - Understanding issues and preventing them – The budget process facilitates an understanding of the financial position, so that issues can be tackled at the source. Also, the series of Members' Workshops have aided an understanding of the financial strategy.
   - Taking an integrated approach – Cyngor Gwynedd's policies and budgeting practices, and this year's budget proposals, have been considered from the perspective of all well-being goals.
   - Working in a collaborative way – Where better services can be provided by collaboration and working with partners, the budget process and savings strategy encourages this, internally and externally, where that is more sustainable.
   - Including the population in decisions – Part of the budget process included engagement with residents, customers, and partners.

3. Main conclusions for the 2025/26 budget regarding the 7 well-being goals:

   - Prosperous – Neutral (add to the resources of services that put an end to poverty)
   - Resilient - Positive (prudential long-term approach to funding services and enable the Council's Plan)
   - Healthier – Positive (funding additional 'care' service requirements)
   - More Equal - Positive (taxing in order to fund 'welfare' services)
   - Cohesive Communities – Neutral (continue to fund services that protect people)
   - Culture and Language – Positive (by funding bilingual services)
   - Globally Responsible – Neutral (continue to fund digital, environmental, and cooperative projects)

4. Regarding specific financial savings schemes, as part of the corporate and departmental savings regime in previous years when the savings schemes were approved, where appropriate there was a specific well-being assessment for each individual scheme. New savings and cuts schemes that are introduced in this budget ensure that a balanced budget can be set that protects future resources.

5. Generally, coupled with the Council's Plan and Well-being Objectives, this budget supports the Council to realise strategic objectives

APPENDIX 10

THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON THE ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES

1. In accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Finance Officer is required to report on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the proposed reserves. Appendix 7 outlines the position of the balances and reserves, while this appendix confirms the robustness of the budgetary estimates underpinning the budget.

2. The budget estimates are based on assumptions about future expenditure and income and inevitably include an element of risk from assumptions. The impact of this risk can be mitigated through contingency plans, contingency budgets, and financial reserves.

Economic context

3. A Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was adopted by the Cabinet on 14 May 2024, setting out the financial outlook for the 3-year period commencing on 1 April 2025. The estimates within the MTFP were based on the latest available forecasts on the change in income the Council will receive over the period (through Government Grant and Council Tax), and the additional expenditure requirements over the same period.

4. Based on forecasts published by Wales Fiscal Analysis following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget in November 2023, in considering settlement increases for 2025/26 to 2027/28 we had considered the factors and assumed that the Aggregate External Funding to Cyngor Gwynedd would remain "cash flat" (i.e. no increase in line with inflation, but no cut in cash either).

5. However, following a change in government at Westminster, Cyngor Gwynedd has received a 3.1% increase in its settlement for 2025/26 after the base for 2024/25 was adjusted when drawing up the settlement. The Council is therefore in a stronger position in 2025/26 than originally envisaged, although the increase in settlement as a percentage is the second lowest in Wales.

History of financial management

6. Over the past two financial years, the Council has been unable to keep within its budget. The revenue budget review at the end of November 2024 predicted that Council departments would overspend £8.3 million by the end of the 2024/25 financial year, as follows:

Departments	£'000
Adults, Health and Well-being	3,349
Children and Families	3,683
Highways, Engineering and YGC	699
Environment	970
Other Departments	(407)
Total 2024/25 Forecasted Overspend	**8,294**

7. The Medium Term Financial Plan included a detailed programme of work to address the financial situation faced by the Council.

8. In their report *Financial Sustainability Review – Cyngor Gwynedd*, Audit Wales noted " Overall we found that there was a significant increase in the number of Council departments overspending in the last two financial years, and it has developed arrangements to review its budgets. It is yet to set out how it will address future funding gaps."

9. Work has been carried out to look closely at the overspending in the areas of social care (which represent 83% of all overspending), and that continues.

10. This budget is therefore being presented in a context where the Council has been unable to provide services within its budget, particularly in the areas of high demand.

Compliance with the codes and standards

11. Despite this, the Council has a proven track record of being able to demonstrate compliance with financial standards and codes, with prompt reporting and robust internal controls. However, independent work has been commissioned by CIPFA to review the Council's long-term financial resilience as well as compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code.

Robustness of estimates

Inflation

12. Overall inflation has remained above the Bank of England's target of 2% during 2024/25 and independent forecasts received show that inflation rates are expected to remain that way in 2025/26. We believe overall inflation will remain between 2% and 3% on average during the year. This budget including the pay agreement outlook reflects the latest forecasts. I am satisfied that prudential estimates of inflation levels are included in this budget.

Income assumptions

13. The budget is based on achieving a specific increase in income from fees equivalent to the increase in applicable costs.
14. As usual, inflation has been added to the income targets from fees and charges for Council services and in the majority of cases it is expected that the individual fees will be increased in line with inflation in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules. Where fees do not increase in line with inflation, I am satisfied that robust arrangements are in place to reach a conclusion at an appropriate level, including consultation with the Finance Department.
15. If demand for Council services falls, and income targets are not achieved, that can lead to overspending on departmental budgets. The actual budget situation will need to be closely monitored during the year and, if necessary, spending cut back to match the drop in income. That will not be possible with some large corporate budgets, where income estimates have to be set at a prudent level.

Grant assumptions

16. The Council receives a range of individual grants and I am satisfied that there are generally appropriate arrangements within the authority to deal with grants, but a few areas have been addressed by the Council's internal auditors where there is room for improvement. Should the Council receive an additional settlement grant during the year, or after this budget has been passed, appropriate governance arrangements are in place within the Council Constitution to reach a decision on its use.

17. However, there are risks associated with the large number of specific grants from the Welsh Government and other bodies that support a proportion of the Council's spending. We have received significant specific grants in social care in recent financial years, with associated commitments, which makes fiscal planning difficult. Generally, the associated expenditure will have to finish when a grant expires, but the terms of a contract may mean that expenditure cannot be cut as quickly as the grant, or that there are redundancy costs to fund. Furthermore, funded activity may be so important to achieving the Council's own priorities, that the Council decides to continue with the expenditure.

Savings Risk

18. On 20 February 2024, Cabinet approved £5.2m worth of savings for the 2024/25 budget onwards. The programme profile is shown here in Appendix 3, which shows that £2,860,300 worth of savings have been profiled for 2025/26. The whole £5.2m was implemented in the 2024/25 budget, with subsequent years' savings being bridged from funds. Therefore, the savings of 2025/26 and 2026/27 do not help reduce the financial gap in those years.

19. Three £650k savings schemes relevant to 2025/26 are derived from previous savings programmes and are available to fill the 2025/26 gap.

20. Furthermore, a savings report to Cabinet of 11 February 2025 recommends the implementation of new savings schemes and cuts of £519k. However, only £100k can be deducted from the 2025/26 budget with the rest to be deducted from the 2026/27 and 2027/28 budgets.

21. However, some Council departments have a history of failing to deliver on their savings plans and that presents a significant risk to long-term financial sustainability. I believe this is the biggest risk in setting this budget. In line with the usual procedure, we will mitigate the risk by ensuring that departments and Cabinet members have ownership of the savings schemes, and regularly monitor the relevant progress. The budget also includes a strategy of providing 10% of the value of new savings schemes over the lifespan of the programme to deal with situations where savings schemes slip.

Interest Rate Risks

22. Interest rates can affect the revenue budget through interest earned – i.e. an increase in the interest rate would mean more income. In line with the Council's Investment Strategy, the budget does not depend on overly high returns. Interest rates are expected to continue to fall steadily in the 2025/26 financial year. Due to a combination of declining rates and less cash available for investment we anticipate receiving over £2 million less of interest in 2025/26 than in 2024/25.

Adequacy of reserves

23. Cyngor Gwynedd has £7.9 million of general funds which are reserved for true crisis situations.
24. In addition to this the Council's Financial Strategy Fund is in place to be available to deal with overspending within departments. It is anticipated that there will be around £13.5 million in this fund on 1 April 2025 which I consider to be a sufficient level for 2025/26.

Views of the Statutory Finance Officer

Having considered all the risks set out above and mitigations, the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) considers the budgets to be robust, adequate, and achievable.

(i) Penderfyniad drafft y Dreth Cyngor yn seiliedig ar argymhelliad y Cabinet i'r Cyngor ar gyfer ei gyfarfod ar 6 Mawrth 2025 (ar sail cynnydd o 8.66%)

(ii) Tablau yn dangos lefel y Dreth Cyngor a'r cynnydd fesul cymuned

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(i) Draft Council Tax resolution based on the Cabinet's recommendation to the Council for its meeting on 6 March 2025 (on the basis of a 8.66% increase)

(ii) Tables showing the level of Council Tax and increases by community

Penderfynwyd

1. Cymeradwyo'r argymhellion a gyflwynir gan y Cabinet fel y nodir yn yr adroddiad.

2. Nodi fod yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, drwy daflen benderfyniad dyddiedig 30 Rhagfyr 2024, wedi cymeradwyo cyfrifiad y symiau a ganlyn ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2025/26 yn unol â'r rheoliadau a luniwyd dan Adran 33 (5) o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1992 ("Y Ddeddf"):-

   (a) 56,842.05 yw'r swm a gyfrifwyd fel ei Sylfaen Dreth Cyngor am y flwyddyn yn unol â'r Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cyfrifo Sylfaen y Dreth Cyngor) (Cymru) 1995 fel y'i diwygiwyd.

   (b) Rhan o ardal y Cyngor – Sylfaen Drethiannol Cymuned –

Aberdaron	621.88	Llanddeiniolen	1,904.89
Aberdyfi	1,194.77	Llandderfel	528.88
Abergwyngregyn	121.90	Llanegryn	174.80
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,317.52	Llanelltyd	310.17
Arthog	695.76	Llanengan	2,751.39
Y Bala	818.83	Llanfair	362.68
Bangor	4,244.36	Llanfihangel y Pennant	251.76
Beddgelert	350.40	Llanfrothen	237.36
Betws Garmon	146.24	Llangelynnin	484.85
Bethesda	1,765.16	Llangywer	159.19
Bontnewydd	463.21	Llanllechid	371.67
Botwnnog	484.06	Llanllyfni	1,471.45
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	474.36	Llannor	951.51
Bryncrug	355.42	Llanrug	1,154.25
Buan	244.98	Llanuwchllyn	334.68
Caernarfon	3,721.81	Llanwnda	857.37
Clynnog Fawr	489.83	Llanycil	213.75
Corris	319.67	Llanystumdwy	937.44
Criccieth	1,016.89	Maentwrog	319.62
Dolbenmaen	652.91	Mawddwy	378.38
Dolgellau	1,315.09	Nefyn	1,696.20
Dyffryn Ardudwy	873.94	Pennal	238.53
Y Felinheli	1,202.04	Penrhyndeudraeth	838.59
Ffestiniog	1,842.24	Pentir	1,310.58
Y Ganllwyd	88.00	Pistyll	298.51
Harlech	870.85	Porthmadog	2,304.34
Trefor a Llanaelhaearn	475.75	Pwllheli	1,866.35
Llanbedr	359.87	Talsarnau	365.44
Llanbedrog	882.45	Trawsfynydd	528.93
Llanberis	814.21	Tudweiliog	520.39
Llandwrog	1,083.91	Tywyn	1,776.31
Llandygai	1,038.17	Waunfawr	595.31

sef y symiau a gyfrifwyd fel symiau Sylfaen y Dreth Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn ar gyfer tai annedd yn y rhannau hynny o'i ardal lle bo un eitem arbennig neu fwy'n berthnasol.

3. Bod y symiau a ganlyn yn cael eu cyfrifo yn awr gan y Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2025/26 yn unol ag Adrannau 32 i 36 o'r Ddeddf:-

(a)	£581,749,890	Sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn eu hamcangyfrif ar gyfer yr eitemau a nodwyd yn Adran 32(2)(a) i (e) o'r Ddeddf (gwariant gros).
(b)	£221,986,500	Sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn eu hamcangyfrif ar gyfer yr eitemau a nodwyd yn Adran 32(3)(a) i (c) o'r Ddeddf (incwm).
(c)	£359,763,390	Sef y swm sy'n cyfateb i'r gwahaniaeth rhwng cyfanswm 3(a) uchod a chyfanswm 3(b) uchod, a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 32(4) o'r Ddeddf, fel ei ofynion cyllideb ar gyfer y flwyddyn (cyllideb net).
(ch)	£247,894,058	Sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn amcangyfrif y byddant yn daladwy yn ystod y flwyddyn i'w gronfa ar gyfer cyfan o'r Dreth Annomestig Genedlaethol a Grant Cynnal Refeniw, llai amcangyfrif o'r gost i'r Cyngor o ryddhad dewisol o'r dreth annomestig a ganiateir.
(d)	£1,968.07	Sef y swm yn 3(c) uchod llai'r swm yn 3(ch) uchod, y cyfan wedi ei rannu gan y swm a nodir yn 2(a) uchod, a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor yn unol ag Adran 33(1) o'r Ddeddf, sef swm sylfaenol ei Dreth Cyngor am y flwyddyn (treth Cyngor Gwynedd a threth cyfartalog cynghorau cymuned).
(dd)	£3,443,721.04	Sef cyfanswm yr holl eitemau arbennig y cyfeirir atynt yn Adran 34(1) o'r Ddeddf (praeseptau'r cynghorau cymuned).
(e)	£1,907.49	Sef y swm yn 3(d) uchod llai'r canlyniad a geir wrth rannu'r swm yn 3(dd) uchod â'r swm yn 2(a) uchod, a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 34(2) fel swm sylfaenol ei Dreth Cyngor am y flwyddyn ar gyfer tai annedd yn y rhannau hynny o'i ardal lle nad oes unrhyw eitem arbennig yn berthnasol (Band D ar gyfer treth Cyngor Gwynedd yn unig).

(f) Ar gyfer rhannau o ardal y Cyngor –

Aberdaron	1,935.63	Llanddeiniolen	1,923.76
Aberdyfi	1,945.61	Llandderfel	1,935.85
Abergwyngregyn	1,944.41	Llanegryn	1,952.40
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,960.16	Llanelltyd	1,946.18
Arthog	1,929.05	Llanengan	1,931.11
Y Bala	1,942.30	Llanfair	1,957.12
Bangor	2,049.15	Llanfihangel y Pennant	1,957.54
Beddgelert	1,948.02	Llanfrothen	1,961.42
Betws Garmon	1,929.03	Llangelynnin	1,937.20
Bethesda	1,971.14	Llangywer	1,938.90
Bontnewydd	1,947.43	Llanllechid	1,953.82
Botwnnog	1,920.92	Llanllyfni	1,943.51
Brithdir a Llanfachreth	1,932.79	Llannor	1,929.56
Bryncrug	1,945.05	Llanrug	1,994.13
Buan	1,925.86	Llanuwchllyn	1,957.69
Caernarfon	2,022.94	Llanwnda	1,946.10
Clynnog Fawr	1,978.94	Llanycil	1,929.71
Corris	1,966.93	Llanystumdwy	1,929.36
Criccieth	1,966.49	Maentwrog	1,928.99
Dolbenmaen	1,935.06	Mawddwy	1,942.11
Dolgellau	1,966.04	Nefyn	1,963.50
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,970.42	Pennal	1,982.95
Y Felinheli	1,951.27	Penrhyndeudraeth	2,028.65
Ffestiniog	2,043.19	Pentir	1,949.46
Y Ganllwyd	1,944.42	Pistyll	1,947.69
Harlech	2,005.10	Porthmadog	1,939.46
Trefor a Llanaelhaearn	1,960.04	Pwllheli	1,977.14
Llanbedr	1,988.07	Talsarnau	2,000.53
Llanbedrog	1,941.49	Trawsfynydd	1,945.30
Llanberis	1,958.07	Tudweiliog	1,926.71
Llandwrog	1,983.73	Tywyn	1,966.57
Llandygai	1,944.96	Waunfawr	1,927.65

sef y symiau a geir trwy ychwanegu symiau'r eitem neu eitemau arbennig sy'n berthnasol i dai annedd yn y rhannau hynny o ardal y Cyngor y cyfeiriwyd atynt uchod, at y swm a geir yn 3(e) uchod wedi'u rhannu ym mhob achos gan y swm yn 2(b) uchod, a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor yn unol ag Adran 34(3) o'r Ddeddf, fel symiau sylfaenol ei Dreth Cyngor am y flwyddyn ar gyfer tai annedd yn y rhannau hynny o'i ardal lle bo un eitem arbennig neu fwy'n berthnasol.

(ff) Ar gyfer rhannau o ardal y Cyngor, y ffigyrau a nodir yn **Atodiad 1,** sef y symiau a geir trwy luosi'r symiau yn 3(f) uchod â'r rhif sydd yn ôl y cyfrannau a nodir yn Adran 5 (1) o'r Ddeddf, yn berthnasol i dai annedd a restrir mewn band prisio arbennig wedi'i rannu â'r rhif sydd yn ôl y cyfrannau hynny'n berthnasol i dai a restrir ym mand prisio D, a gyfrifir gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 36(1) o'r Ddeddf, yn symiau sydd i'w hystyried ar gyfer y flwyddyn ar gyfer y categorïau o dai annedd a restrir yn y gwahanol fandiau prisio.

4. Nodi ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2025/26 fod Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru wedi nodi'r symiau a ganlyn mewn praesept a roddwyd i'r Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 40 o'r Ddeddf ar gyfer pob un o'r categorïau o dai annedd a ddangosir isod:

Band A	**Band B**	**Band C**	**Band D**	**Band E**	**Band F**	**Band G**	**Band H**	**Band I**
248.10	289.45	330.80	372.15	454.85	537.55	620.25	744.30	868.35

5. Wedi pennu'r cyfanswm ym mhob achos o'r symiau 3(ff) a 4 uchod, bod y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 30(2) o'r Ddeddf trwy hyn, yn pennu'r symiau a nodir yn **Atodiad 2** ar gyfer y Dreth Cyngor yn y flwyddyn 2025/26 ar gyfer pob categori o dai annedd a ddangosir yn yr Atodiad.

Resolved

1. To approve the recommendations of the Cabinet as noted in the report.

2. It be noted that the Cabinet Member for Finance, in a decision notice dated 30 December 2024, approved the calculation of the following amounts for 2025/26 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("The Act"):-

   (a) 56,842.05 being the amount calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, as its Council Tax Base for the year.

   (b) Parts of the Council's Area – Community Tax Base -

Aberdaron	621.88	Llanddeiniolen	1,904.89
Aberdyfi	1,194.77	Llandderfel	528.88
Abergwyngregyn	121.90	Llanegryn	174.80
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,317.52	Llanelltyd	310.17
Arthog	695.76	Llanengan	2,751.39
Y Bala	818.83	Llanfair	362.68
Bangor	4,244.36	Llanfihangel y Pennant	251.76
Beddgelert	350.40	Llanfrothen	237.36
Betws Garmon	146.24	Llangelynnin	484.85
Bethesda	1,765.16	Llangywer	159.19
Bontnewydd	463.21	Llanllechid	371.67
Botwnnog	484.06	Llanllyfni	1,471.45
Brithdir & Llanfachreth	474.36	Llannor	951.51
Bryncrug	355.42	Llanrug	1,154.25
Buan	244.98	Llanuwchllyn	334.68
Caernarfon	3,721.81	Llanwnda	857.37
Clynnog Fawr	489.83	Llanycil	213.75
Corris	319.67	Llanystumdwy	937.44
Criccieth	1,016.89	Maentwrog	319.62
Dolbenmaen	652.91	Mawddwy	378.38
Dolgellau	1,315.09	Nefyn	1,696.20
Dyffryn Ardudwy	873.94	Pennal	238.53
Y Felinheli	1,202.04	Penrhyndeudraeth	838.59
Ffestiniog	1,842.24	Pentir	1,310.58
Y Ganllwyd	88.00	Pistyll	298.51
Harlech	870.85	Porthmadog	2,304.34
Trefor & Llanaelhaearn	475.75	Pwllheli	1,866.35
Llanbedr	359.87	Talsarnau	365.44
Llanbedrog	882.45	Trawsfynydd	528.93
Llanberis	814.21	Tudweiliog	520.39
Llandwrog	1,083.91	Tywyn	1,776.31
Llandygai	1,038.17	Waunfawr	595.31

being the amounts calculated as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Act:-

(a)	£581,749,890	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act (gross expenditure).
(b)	£221,986,500	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act (income).
(c)	£359,763,390	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year (net budget).
(d)	£247,894,058	Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable during the year into its fund in respect of the National Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, less the estimated cost to the Council of discretionary non-domestic rate relief granted.
(e)	£1,968.07	Being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year. (Cyngor Gwynedd tax and average community council tax).
(f)	£3,443,721.04	Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (community council precepts).
(g)	£1,907.49	Being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates (Band D for Cyngor Gwynedd tax only).

(h) Parts of the Council's Area – Community

Aberdaron	1,935.63	Llanddeiniolen	1,923.76
Aberdyfi	1,945.61	Llandderfel	1,935.85
Abergwyngregyn	1,944.41	Llanegryn	1,952.40
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,960.16	Llanelltyd	1,946.18
Arthog	1,929.05	Llanengan	1,931.11
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Beddgelert	1,948.02	Llanfrothen	1,961.42
Betws Garmon	1,929.03	Llangelynnin	1,937.20
Bethesda	1,971.14	Llangywer	1,938.90
Bontnewydd	1,947.43	Llanllechid	1,953.82
Botwnnog	1,920.92	Llanllyfni	1,943.51
Brithdir & Llanfachreth	1,932.79	Llannor	1,929.56
Bryncrug	1,945.05	Llanrug	1,994.13
Buan	1,925.86	Llanuwchllyn	1,957.69
Caernarfon	2,022.94	Llanwnda	1,946.10
Clynnog Fawr	1,978.94	Llanycil	1,929.71
Corris	1,966.93	Llanystumdwy	1,929.36
Criccieth	1,966.49	Maentwrog	1,928.99
Dolbenmaen	1,935.06	Mawddwy	1,942.11
Dolgellau	1,966.04	Nefyn	1,963.50
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,970.42	Pennal	1,982.95
Y Felinheli	1,951.27	Penrhyndeudraeth	2,028.65
Ffestiniog	2,043.19	Pentir	1,949.46
Y Ganllwyd	1,944.42	Pistyll	1,947.69
Harlech	2,005.10	Porthmadog	1,939.46
Trefor & Llanaelhaearn	1,960.04	Pwllheli	1,977.14
Llanbedr	1,988.07	Talsarnau	2,000.53
Llanbedrog	1,941.49	Trawsfynydd	1,945.30
Llanberis	1,958.07	Tudweiliog	1,926.71
Llandwrog	1,983.73	Tywyn	1,966.57
Llandygai	1,944.96	Waunfawr	1,927.65

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount of 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i) In respect of parts of the Council's area, the figures noted in **Appendix 1,** being the amounts given by multiplying the sums specified in 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2025/26 the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales have stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Band A	**Band B**	**Band C**	**Band D**	**Band E**	**Band F**	**Band G**	**Band H**	**Band I**
248.10	289.45	330.80	372.15	454.85	537.55	620.25	744.30	868.35

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, hereby sets the amounts noted in **Appendix 2** as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2025/26 for each of the categories of dwellings shown therein.

Treth Cyngor: Cyngor Gwynedd + Cyngor Cymuned
Council Tax : Cyngor Gwynedd + Community Council

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
Aberdaron	1,290.42	1,505.49	1,720.56	1,935.63	2,365.77	2,795.91	3,226.05	3,871.26	4,516.47
Aberdyfi	1,297.07	1,513.25	1,729.43	1,945.61	2,377.97	2,810.33	3,242.68	3,891.22	4,539.76
Abergwyngregyn	1,296.27	1,512.32	1,728.36	1,944.41	2,376.50	2,808.59	3,240.68	3,888.82	4,536.96
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,306.77	1,524.57	1,742.36	1,960.16	2,395.75	2,831.34	3,266.93	3,920.32	4,573.71
Arthog	1,286.03	1,500.37	1,714.71	1,929.05	2,357.73	2,786.41	3,215.08	3,858.10	4,501.12
Y Bala	1,294.87	1,510.68	1,726.49	1,942.30	2,373.92	2,805.54	3,237.17	3,884.60	4,532.03
Bangor	1,366.10	1,593.78	1,821.47	2,049.15	2,504.52	2,959.88	3,415.25	4,098.30	4,781.35
Beddgelert	1,298.68	1,515.13	1,731.57	1,948.02	2,380.91	2,813.81	3,246.70	3,896.04	4,545.38
Betws Garmon	1,286.02	1,500.36	1,714.69	1,929.03	2,357.70	2,786.38	3,215.05	3,858.06	4,501.07
Bethesda	1,314.09	1,533.11	1,752.12	1,971.14	2,409.17	2,847.20	3,285.23	3,942.28	4,599.33
Bontnewydd	1,298.29	1,514.67	1,731.05	1,947.43	2,380.19	2,812.95	3,245.72	3,894.86	4,544.00
Botwnnog	1,280.61	1,494.05	1,707.48	1,920.92	2,347.79	2,774.66	3,201.53	3,841.84	4,482.15
Brithdir & Llanfachreth	1,288.53	1,503.28	1,718.04	1,932.79	2,362.30	2,791.81	3,221.32	3,865.58	4,509.84
Bryncrug	1,296.70	1,512.82	1,728.93	1,945.05	2,377.28	2,809.52	3,241.75	3,890.10	4,538.45
Buan	1,283.91	1,497.89	1,711.88	1,925.86	2,353.83	2,781.80	3,209.77	3,851.72	4,493.67
Caernarfon	1,348.63	1,573.40	1,798.17	2,022.94	2,472.48	2,922.02	3,371.57	4,045.88	4,720.19
Clynnog Fawr	1,319.29	1,539.18	1,759.06	1,978.94	2,418.70	2,858.47	3,298.23	3,957.88	4,617.53
Corris	1,311.29	1,529.83	1,748.38	1,966.93	2,404.03	2,841.12	3,278.22	3,933.86	4,589.50
Criccieth	1,310.99	1,529.49	1,747.99	1,966.49	2,403.49	2,840.49	3,277.48	3,932.98	4,588.48
Dolbenmaen	1,290.04	1,505.05	1,720.05	1,935.06	2,365.07	2,795.09	3,225.10	3,870.12	4,515.14
Dolgellau	1,310.69	1,529.14	1,747.59	1,966.04	2,402.94	2,839.84	3,276.73	3,932.08	4,587.43
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,313.61	1,532.55	1,751.48	1,970.42	2,408.29	2,846.16	3,284.03	3,940.84	4,597.65
Y Felinheli	1,300.85	1,517.65	1,734.46	1,951.27	2,384.89	2,818.50	3,252.12	3,902.54	4,552.96
Ffestiniog	1,362.13	1,589.15	1,816.17	2,043.19	2,497.23	2,951.27	3,405.32	4,086.38	4,767.44
Y Ganllwyd	1,296.28	1,512.33	1,728.37	1,944.42	2,376.51	2,808.61	3,240.70	3,888.84	4,536.98
Harlech	1,336.73	1,559.52	1,782.31	2,005.10	2,450.68	2,896.26	3,341.83	4,010.20	4,678.57
Trefor & Llanaelhaearn	1,306.69	1,524.48	1,742.26	1,960.04	2,395.60	2,831.17	3,266.73	3,920.08	4,573.43
Llanbedr	1,325.38	1,546.28	1,767.17	1,988.07	2,429.86	2,871.66	3,313.45	3,976.14	4,638.83
Llanbedrog	1,294.33	1,510.05	1,725.77	1,941.49	2,372.93	2,804.37	3,235.82	3,882.98	4,530.14
Llanberis	1,305.38	1,522.94	1,740.51	1,958.07	2,393.20	2,828.32	3,263.45	3,916.14	4,568.83
Llandwrog	1,322.49	1,542.90	1,763.32	1,983.73	2,424.56	2,865.39	3,306.22	3,967.46	4,628.70
Llandygai	1,296.64	1,512.75	1,728.85	1,944.96	2,377.17	2,809.39	3,241.60	3,889.92	4,538.24
Llanddeiniolen	1,282.51	1,496.26	1,710.01	1,923.76	2,351.26	2,778.76	3,206.27	3,847.52	4,488.77
Llandderfel	1,290.57	1,505.66	1,720.76	1,935.85	2,366.04	2,796.23	3,226.42	3,871.70	4,516.98
Llanegryn	1,301.60	1,518.53	1,735.47	1,952.40	2,386.27	2,820.13	3,254.00	3,904.80	4,555.60
Llanelltyd	1,297.45	1,513.70	1,729.94	1,946.18	2,378.66	2,811.15	3,243.63	3,892.36	4,541.09
Llanengan	1,287.41	1,501.97	1,716.54	1,931.11	2,360.25	2,789.38	3,218.52	3,862.22	4,505.92
Llanfair	1,304.75	1,522.20	1,739.66	1,957.12	2,392.04	2,826.95	3,261.87	3,914.24	4,566.61
Llanfihangel y Pennant	1,305.03	1,522.53	1,740.04	1,957.54	2,392.55	2,827.56	3,262.57	3,915.08	4,567.59
Llanfrothen	1,307.61	1,525.55	1,743.48	1,961.42	2,397.29	2,833.16	3,269.03	3,922.84	4,576.65
Llangelynnin	1,291.47	1,506.71	1,721.96	1,937.20	2,367.69	2,798.18	3,228.67	3,874.40	4,520.13
Llangywer	1,292.60	1,508.03	1,723.47	1,938.90	2,369.77	2,800.63	3,231.50	3,877.80	4,524.10
Llanllechid	1,302.55	1,519.64	1,736.73	1,953.82	2,388.00	2,822.18	3,256.37	3,907.64	4,558.91
Llanllyfni	1,295.67	1,511.62	1,727.56	1,943.51	2,375.40	2,807.29	3,239.18	3,887.02	4,534.86
Llannor	1,286.37	1,500.77	1,715.16	1,929.56	2,358.35	2,787.14	3,215.93	3,859.12	4,502.31
Llanrug	1,329.42	1,550.99	1,772.56	1,994.13	2,437.27	2,880.41	3,323.55	3,988.26	4,652.97
Llanuwchllyn	1,305.13	1,522.65	1,740.17	1,957.69	2,392.73	2,827.77	3,262.82	3,915.38	4,567.94
Llanwnda	1,297.40	1,513.63	1,729.87	1,946.10	2,378.57	2,811.03	3,243.50	3,892.20	4,540.90
Llanycil	1,286.47	1,500.89	1,715.30	1,929.71	2,358.53	2,787.36	3,216.18	3,859.42	4,502.66
Llanystumdwy	1,286.24	1,500.61	1,714.99	1,929.36	2,358.11	2,786.85	3,215.60	3,858.72	4,501.84
Maentwrog	1,285.99	1,500.33	1,714.66	1,928.99	2,357.65	2,786.32	3,214.98	3,857.98	4,500.98
Mawddwy	1,294.74	1,510.53	1,726.32	1,942.11	2,373.69	2,805.27	3,236.85	3,884.22	4,531.59
Nefyn	1,309.00	1,527.17	1,745.33	1,963.50	2,399.83	2,836.17	3,272.50	3,927.00	4,581.50
Pennal	1,321.97	1,542.29	1,762.62	1,982.95	2,423.61	2,864.26	3,304.92	3,965.90	4,626.88
Penrhyndeudraeth	1,352.43	1,577.84	1,803.24	2,028.65	2,479.46	2,930.27	3,381.08	4,057.30	4,733.52
Pentir	1,299.64	1,516.25	1,732.85	1,949.46	2,382.67	2,815.89	3,249.10	3,898.92	4,548.74
Pistyll	1,298.46	1,514.87	1,731.28	1,947.69	2,380.51	2,813.33	3,246.15	3,895.38	4,544.61
Porthmadog	1,292.97	1,508.47	1,723.96	1,939.46	2,370.45	2,801.44	3,232.43	3,878.92	4,525.41
Pwllheli	1,318.09	1,537.78	1,757.46	1,977.14	2,416.50	2,855.87	3,295.23	3,954.28	4,613.33
Talsarnau	1,333.69	1,555.97	1,778.25	2,000.53	2,445.09	2,889.65	3,334.22	4,001.06	4,667.90
Trawsfynydd	1,296.87	1,513.01	1,729.16	1,945.30	2,377.59	2,809.88	3,242.17	3,890.60	4,539.03
Tudweiliog	1,284.47	1,498.55	1,712.63	1,926.71	2,354.87	2,783.03	3,211.18	3,853.42	4,495.66
Tywyn	1,311.05	1,529.55	1,748.06	1,966.57	2,403.59	2,840.60	3,277.62	3,933.14	4,588.66
Waunfawr	1,285.10	1,499.28	1,713.47	1,927.65	2,356.02	2,784.38	3,212.75	3,855.30	4,497.85

Treth Cyngor: Cyngor Gwynedd + Cyngor Cymuned + Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru
Council Tax : Cyngor Gwynedd + Community Council + North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
Aberdaron	1,538.52	1,794.94	2,051.36	2,307.78	2,820.62	3,333.46	3,846.30	4,615.56	5,384.82
Aberdyfi	1,545.17	1,802.70	2,060.23	2,317.76	2,832.82	3,347.88	3,862.93	4,635.52	5,408.11
Abergwyngregyn	1,544.37	1,801.77	2,059.16	2,316.56	2,831.35	3,346.14	3,860.93	4,633.12	5,405.31
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,554.87	1,814.02	2,073.16	2,332.31	2,850.60	3,368.89	3,887.18	4,664.62	5,442.06
Arthog	1,534.13	1,789.82	2,045.51	2,301.20	2,812.58	3,323.96	3,835.33	4,602.40	5,369.47
Bala	1,542.97	1,800.13	2,057.29	2,314.45	2,828.77	3,343.09	3,857.42	4,628.90	5,400.38
Bangor	1,614.20	1,883.23	2,152.27	2,421.30	2,959.37	3,497.43	4,035.50	4,842.60	5,649.70
Beddgelert	1,546.78	1,804.58	2,062.37	2,320.17	2,835.76	3,351.36	3,866.95	4,640.34	5,413.73
Betws Garmon	1,534.12	1,789.81	2,045.49	2,301.18	2,812.55	3,323.93	3,835.30	4,602.36	5,369.42
Bethesda	1,562.19	1,822.56	2,082.92	2,343.29	2,864.02	3,384.75	3,905.48	4,686.58	5,467.68
Bontnewydd	1,546.39	1,804.12	2,061.85	2,319.58	2,835.04	3,350.50	3,865.97	4,639.16	5,412.35
Botwnnog	1,528.71	1,783.50	2,038.28	2,293.07	2,802.64	3,312.21	3,821.78	4,586.14	5,350.50
Brithdir & Llanfachreth	1,536.63	1,792.73	2,048.84	2,304.94	2,817.15	3,329.36	3,841.57	4,609.88	5,378.19
Bryncrug	1,544.80	1,802.27	2,059.73	2,317.20	2,832.13	3,347.07	3,862.00	4,634.40	5,406.80
Buan	1,532.01	1,787.34	2,042.68	2,298.01	2,808.68	3,319.35	3,830.02	4,596.02	5,362.02
Caernarfon	1,596.73	1,862.85	2,128.97	2,395.09	2,927.33	3,459.57	3,991.82	4,790.18	5,588.54
Clynnog Fawr	1,567.39	1,828.63	2,089.86	2,351.09	2,873.55	3,396.02	3,918.48	4,702.18	5,485.88
Corris	1,559.39	1,819.28	2,079.18	2,339.08	2,858.88	3,378.67	3,898.47	4,678.16	5,457.85
Criccieth	1,559.09	1,818.94	2,078.79	2,338.64	2,858.34	3,378.04	3,897.73	4,677.28	5,456.83
Dolbenmaen	1,538.14	1,794.50	2,050.85	2,307.21	2,819.92	3,332.64	3,845.35	4,614.42	5,383.49
Dolgellau	1,558.79	1,818.59	2,078.39	2,338.19	2,857.79	3,377.39	3,896.98	4,676.38	5,455.78
Dyffryn Ardudwy	1,561.71	1,822.00	2,082.28	2,342.57	2,863.14	3,383.71	3,904.28	4,685.14	5,466.00
Y Felinheli	1,548.95	1,807.10	2,065.26	2,323.42	2,839.74	3,356.05	3,872.37	4,646.84	5,421.31
Ffestiniog	1,610.23	1,878.60	2,146.97	2,415.34	2,952.08	3,488.82	4,025.57	4,830.68	5,635.79
Y Ganllwyd	1,544.38	1,801.78	2,059.17	2,316.57	2,831.36	3,346.16	3,860.95	4,633.14	5,405.33
Harlech	1,584.83	1,848.97	2,113.11	2,377.25	2,905.53	3,433.81	3,962.08	4,754.50	5,546.92
Trefor & Llanaelhaearn	1,554.79	1,813.93	2,073.06	2,332.19	2,850.45	3,368.72	3,886.98	4,664.38	5,441.78
Llanbedr	1,573.48	1,835.73	2,097.97	2,360.22	2,884.71	3,409.21	3,933.70	4,720.44	5,507.18
Llanbedrog	1,542.43	1,799.50	2,056.57	2,313.64	2,827.78	3,341.92	3,856.07	4,627.28	5,398.49
Llanberis	1,553.48	1,812.39	2,071.31	2,330.22	2,848.05	3,365.87	3,883.70	4,660.44	5,437.18
Llandwrog	1,570.59	1,832.35	2,094.12	2,355.88	2,879.41	3,402.94	3,926.47	4,711.76	5,497.05
Llandygai	1,544.74	1,802.20	2,059.65	2,317.11	2,832.02	3,346.94	3,861.85	4,634.22	5,406.59
Llanddeiniolen	1,530.61	1,785.71	2,040.81	2,295.91	2,806.11	3,316.31	3,826.52	4,591.82	5,357.12
Llandderfel	1,538.67	1,795.11	2,051.56	2,308.00	2,820.89	3,333.78	3,846.67	4,616.00	5,385.33
Llanegryn	1,549.70	1,807.98	2,066.27	2,324.55	2,841.12	3,357.68	3,874.25	4,649.10	5,423.95
Llanelltyd	1,545.55	1,803.15	2,060.74	2,318.33	2,833.51	3,348.70	3,863.88	4,636.66	5,409.44
Llanengan	1,535.51	1,791.42	2,047.34	2,303.26	2,815.10	3,326.93	3,838.77	4,606.52	5,374.27
Llanfair	1,552.85	1,811.65	2,070.46	2,329.27	2,846.89	3,364.50	3,882.12	4,658.54	5,434.96
Llanfihangel y Pennant	1,553.13	1,811.98	2,070.84	2,329.69	2,847.40	3,365.11	3,882.82	4,659.38	5,435.94
Llanfrothen	1,555.71	1,815.00	2,074.28	2,333.57	2,852.14	3,370.71	3,889.28	4,667.14	5,445.00
Llangelynnin	1,539.57	1,796.16	2,052.76	2,309.35	2,822.54	3,335.73	3,848.92	4,618.70	5,388.48
Llangywer	1,540.70	1,797.48	2,054.27	2,311.05	2,824.62	3,338.18	3,851.75	4,622.10	5,392.45
Llanllechid	1,550.65	1,809.09	2,067.53	2,325.97	2,842.85	3,359.73	3,876.62	4,651.94	5,427.26
Llanllyfni	1,543.77	1,801.07	2,058.36	2,315.66	2,830.25	3,344.84	3,859.43	4,631.32	5,403.21
Llannor	1,534.47	1,790.22	2,045.96	2,301.71	2,813.20	3,324.69	3,836.18	4,603.42	5,370.66
Llanrug	1,577.52	1,840.44	2,103.36	2,366.28	2,892.12	3,417.96	3,943.80	4,732.56	5,521.32
Llanuwchllyn	1,553.23	1,812.10	2,070.97	2,329.84	2,847.58	3,365.32	3,883.07	4,659.68	5,436.29
Llanwnda	1,545.50	1,803.08	2,060.67	2,318.25	2,833.42	3,348.58	3,863.75	4,636.50	5,409.25
Llanycil	1,534.57	1,790.34	2,046.10	2,301.86	2,813.38	3,324.91	3,836.43	4,603.72	5,371.01
Llanystumdwy	1,534.34	1,790.06	2,045.79	2,301.51	2,812.96	3,324.40	3,835.85	4,603.02	5,370.19
Maentwrog	1,534.09	1,789.78	2,045.46	2,301.14	2,812.50	3,323.87	3,835.23	4,602.28	5,369.33
Mawddwy	1,542.84	1,799.98	2,057.12	2,314.26	2,828.54	3,342.82	3,857.10	4,628.52	5,399.94
Nefyn	1,557.10	1,816.62	2,076.13	2,335.65	2,854.68	3,373.72	3,892.75	4,671.30	5,449.85
Pennal	1,570.07	1,831.74	2,093.42	2,355.10	2,878.46	3,401.81	3,925.17	4,710.20	5,495.23
Penrhyndeudraeth	1,600.53	1,867.29	2,134.04	2,400.80	2,934.31	3,467.82	4,001.33	4,801.60	5,601.87
Pentir	1,547.74	1,805.70	2,063.65	2,321.61	2,837.52	3,353.44	3,869.35	4,643.22	5,417.09
Pistyll	1,546.56	1,804.32	2,062.08	2,319.84	2,835.36	3,350.88	3,866.40	4,639.68	5,412.96
Porthmadog	1,541.07	1,797.92	2,054.76	2,311.61	2,825.30	3,338.99	3,852.68	4,623.22	5,393.76
Pwllheli	1,566.19	1,827.23	2,088.26	2,349.29	2,871.35	3,393.42	3,915.48	4,698.58	5,481.68
Talsarnau	1,581.79	1,845.42	2,109.05	2,372.68	2,899.94	3,427.20	3,954.47	4,745.36	5,536.25
Trawsfynydd	1,544.97	1,802.46	2,059.96	2,317.45	2,832.44	3,347.43	3,862.42	4,634.90	5,407.38
Tudweiliog	1,532.57	1,788.00	2,043.43	2,298.86	2,809.72	3,320.58	3,831.43	4,597.72	5,364.01
Tywyn	1,559.15	1,819.00	2,078.86	2,338.72	2,858.44	3,378.15	3,897.87	4,677.44	5,457.01
Waunfawr	1,533.20	1,788.73	2,044.27	2,299.80	2,810.87	3,321.93	3,833.00	4,599.60	5,366.20

Cynnydd yn y Dreth Cyngor fesul Cymuned / Increase in Council Tax by Community

Cymuned/ Community	Sylfaen Drethiannol / Taxbase (Band D)	Praesept / Precept £	Treth Cymuned / Community Tax	Treth Gwynedd / Gwynedd Tax	Treth Heddlu / Police Tax	Cyfanswm / Total (Band D) 2025/26	Band D 2024/25 £	Cynnydd / Increase 24/25 - 25/26	Cynnydd / Increase %
Aberdaron	621.88	17,500	28.14	1,907.49	372.15	2,307.78	2,132.26	175.52	8.2%
Aberdyfi	1,194.77	45,546	38.12	1,907.49	372.15	2,317.76	2,141.97	175.79	8.2%
Abergwyngregyn	121.90	4,500	36.92	1,907.49	372.15	2,316.56	2,136.55	180.01	8.4%
Abermaw (Barmouth)	1,317.52	69,400	52.67	1,907.49	372.15	2,332.31	2,156.82	175.49	8.1%
Arthog	695.76	15,000	21.56	1,907.49	372.15	2,301.20	2,125.52	175.68	8.3%
Y Bala	818.83	28,500	34.81	1,907.49	372.15	2,314.45	2,138.63	175.82	8.2%
Bangor	4,244.36	601,240	141.66	1,907.49	372.15	2,421.30	2,238.78	182.52	8.2%
Beddgelert	350.40	14,200	40.53	1,907.49	372.15	2,320.17	2,141.63	178.54	8.3%
Betws Garmon	146.24	3,150	21.54	1,907.49	372.15	2,301.18	2,125.65	175.53	8.3%
Bethesda	1,765.16	112,361	63.65	1,907.49	372.15	2,343.29	2,165.56	177.73	8.2%
Bontnewydd	463.21	18,500	39.94	1,907.49	372.15	2,319.58	2,144.42	175.16	8.2%
Botwnnog	484.06	6,500	13.43	1,907.49	372.15	2,293.07	2,118.93	174.14	8.2%
Brithdir & Llanfachreth	474.36	12,000	25.30	1,907.49	372.15	2,304.94	2,130.61	174.33	8.2%
Bryncrug	355.42	13,350	37.56	1,907.49	372.15	2,317.20	2,143.40	173.80	8.1%
Buan	244.98	4,500	18.37	1,907.49	372.15	2,298.01	2,123.91	174.10	8.2%
Caernarfon	3,721.81	429,665	115.45	1,907.49	372.15	2,395.09	2,213.00	182.09	8.2%
Clynnog Fawr	489.83	35,000	71.45	1,907.49	372.15	2,351.09	2,166.41	184.68	8.5%
Corris	319.67	19,000	59.44	1,907.49	372.15	2,339.08	2,142.23	196.85	9.2%
Criccieth	1,016.89	60,000	59.00	1,907.49	372.15	2,338.64	2,154.89	183.75	8.5%
Dolbenmaen	652.91	18,000	27.57	1,907.49	372.15	2,307.21	2,132.56	174.65	8.2%
Dolgellau	1,315.09	77,000	58.55	1,907.49	372.15	2,338.19	2,165.06	173.13	8.0%
Dyffryn Ardudwy	873.94	55,000	62.93	1,907.49	372.15	2,342.57	2,163.18	179.39	8.3%
Y Felinheli	1,202.04	52,624	43.78	1,907.49	372.15	2,323.42	2,147.54	175.88	8.2%
Ffestiniog	1,842.24	250,000	135.70	1,907.49	372.15	2,415.34	2,231.73	183.61	8.2%
Y Ganllwyd	88.00	3,250	36.93	1,907.49	372.15	2,316.57	2,140.88	175.69	8.2%
Harlech	870.85	85,000	97.61	1,907.49	372.15	2,377.25	2,187.25	190.00	8.7%
Trefor & Llanaelhaearn	475.75	25,000	52.55	1,907.49	372.15	2,332.19	2,156.92	175.27	8.1%
Llanbedr	359.87	29,000	80.58	1,907.49	372.15	2,360.22	2,161.29	198.93	9.2%
Llanbedrog	882.45	30,000	34.00	1,907.49	372.15	2,313.64	2,134.34	179.30	8.4%
Llanberis	814.21	41,184	50.58	1,907.49	372.15	2,330.22	2,154.78	175.44	8.1%
Llandwrog	1,083.91	82,640	76.24	1,907.49	372.15	2,355.88	2,178.79	177.09	8.1%
Llandygai	1,038.17	38,900	37.47	1,907.49	372.15	2,317.11	2,142.69	174.42	8.1%
Llanddeiniolen	1,904.89	31,000	16.27	1,907.49	372.15	2,295.91	2,121.61	174.30	8.2%
Llandderfel	528.88	15,000	28.36	1,907.49	372.15	2,308.00	2,130.43	177.57	8.3%
Llanegryn	174.80	7,850	44.91	1,907.49	372.15	2,324.55	2,147.10	177.45	8.3%
Llanelltyd	310.17	12,000	38.69	1,907.49	372.15	2,318.33	2,136.75	181.58	8.5%
Llanengan	2,751.39	65,000	23.62	1,907.49	372.15	2,303.26	2,128.09	175.17	8.2%
Llanfair	362.68	18,000	49.63	1,907.49	372.15	2,329.27	2,154.43	174.84	8.1%
Llanfihangel y Pennant	251.76	12,600	50.05	1,907.49	372.15	2,329.69	2,152.88	176.81	8.2%
Llanfrothen	237.36	12,800	53.93	1,907.49	372.15	2,333.57	2,152.79	180.78	8.4%
Llangelynnin	484.85	14,405	29.71	1,907.49	372.15	2,309.35	2,133.15	176.20	8.3%
Llangywer	159.19	5,000	31.41	1,907.49	372.15	2,311.05	2,135.65	175.40	8.2%
Llanllechid	371.67	17,219	46.33	1,907.49	372.15	2,325.97	2,151.18	174.79	8.1%
Llanllyfni	1,471.45	53,000	36.02	1,907.49	372.15	2,315.66	2,138.77	176.89	8.3%
Llannor	951.51	21,000	22.07	1,907.49	372.15	2,301.71	2,127.14	174.57	8.2%
Llanrug	1,154.25	100,000	86.64	1,907.49	372.15	2,366.28	2,179.11	187.17	8.6%
Llanuwchllyn	334.68	16,800	50.20	1,907.49	372.15	2,329.84	2,152.88	176.96	8.2%
Llanwnda	857.37	33,100	38.61	1,907.49	372.15	2,318.25	2,142.24	176.01	8.2%
Llanycil	213.75	4,750	22.22	1,907.49	372.15	2,301.86	2,126.37	175.49	8.3%
Llanystumdwy	937.44	20,500	21.87	1,907.49	372.15	2,301.51	2,126.64	174.87	8.2%
Maentwrog	319.62	6,872	21.50	1,907.49	372.15	2,301.14	2,125.06	176.08	8.3%
Mawddwy	378.38	13,100	34.62	1,907.49	372.15	2,314.26	2,138.80	175.46	8.2%
Nefyn	1,696.20	95,000	56.01	1,907.49	372.15	2,335.65	2,159.46	176.19	8.2%
Pennal	238.53	18,000	75.46	1,907.49	372.15	2,355.10	2,180.62	174.48	8.0%
Penrhyndeudraeth	838.59	101,606	121.16	1,907.49	372.15	2,400.80	2,144.42	256.38	12.0%
Pentir	1,310.58	55,000	41.97	1,907.49	372.15	2,321.61	2,147.43	174.18	8.1%
Pistyll	298.51	12,000	40.20	1,907.49	372.15	2,319.84	2,144.27	175.57	8.2%
Porthmadog	2,304.34	73,658	31.97	1,907.49	372.15	2,311.61	2,134.63	176.98	8.3%
Pwllheli	1,866.35	130,000	69.65	1,907.49	372.15	2,349.29	2,162.36	186.93	8.6%
Talsarnau	365.44	34,000	93.04	1,907.49	372.15	2,372.68	2,165.50	207.18	9.6%
Trawsfynydd	528.93	20,000	37.81	1,907.49	372.15	2,317.45	2,143.79	173.66	8.1%
Tudweiliog	520.39	10,000	19.22	1,907.49	372.15	2,298.86	2,124.62	174.24	8.2%
Tywyn	1,776.31	104,951	59.08	1,907.49	372.15	2,338.72	2,162.38	176.34	8.2%
Waunfawr	595.31	12,000	20.16	1,907.49	372.15	2,299.80	2,125.88	173.92	8.2%

Awdurdod	2025/26	2024/25		Authority
Cyngor Gwynedd	**1,907.49**	**1,755.47**	**8.66%**	**Gwynedd Council**
Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru	**372.15**	**349.65**	**6.44%**	**North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner**
Cynghorau Cymuned (Cyfartaledd)	**60.58**	**55.53**	**9.09%**	**Community Councils (Average)**
Cyfanswm	**2,340.22**	**2,160.65**	**8.3%**	**Total**

MEETING:	**THE COUNCIL**
DATE:	**6 MARCH 2025**
SUBJECT:	**CAPITAL STRATEGY 2025/26 (INCLUDES INVESTMENT AND BORROWING STRATEGIES)**
PURPOSE:	**TO ADOPT THE CAPITAL STRATEGY FOR 2025/26**
CONTACT OFFICER:	**DEWI MORGAN**, **HEAD OF FINANCE**
CABINET MEMBER:	**COUNCILLOR HUW WYN JONES, FINANCE CABINET MEMBER**

RESOLUTION SOUGHT

To accept the report and approve the Capital Strategy for 2025/26

INTRODUCTION

1. This capital strategy report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It has been written in an accessible style to enhance members' understanding of these sometimes technical areas.

2. Decisions made this year on capital and treasury management will have financial consequences for the Council for many years into the future. They are therefore subject to both a national regulatory framework and to a local policy framework, summarised in this report.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

3. Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets.

4. In 2025/26, the Council is planning capital expenditure of £53.7m as summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ millions

	2023/24 Actual £m	**2024/25 Forecast £m**	**2025/26 Budget £m**	**2026/27 Budget £m**	**2027/28 Budget £m**
General Fund Services	56.9	103.1	53.7	19.4	13.2
General Fund Leasing *	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	**56.9**	**108.1**	**53.7**	**19.4**	**13.2**

** Capital Expenditure for 2024/25 includes £5m due to a change in the accounting for leases.*

5. The main General Fund capital projects in 2025/26 include:
   - Sustainable Communities for Learning Schemes - £12.4m
   - Levelling Up Fund Schemes - £11.0m
   - Housing Schemes/Strategy - £7.5m
   - Departmental Vehicles - £6.9m
   - Adults' Homes/ Centres - £4.5m
   - Property Schemes - £3.9m

6. **Governance**: The Council has a 10 year Asset Strategy, a plan of the Council's capital spending priorities based on the requirements of departments. Part of the strategy includes an unallocated sum. From this amount departments are able to bid annually for funding for capital schemes. Bids are collated by the Finance Department. The Cabinet appraises all bids based on priorities and makes recommendations. The capital bids and asset strategy are presented to Cabinet and to full Council annually.

   - For full details of the Council's capital programme, refer to **Appendix A**.

7. All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative (PFI)). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

Table 2: Capital Financing in £ millions

	2023/24 Actual £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	2025/26 Budget £m	2026/27 Budget £m	2027/28 Budget £m
External Sources	37.2	55.2	24.9	6.5	2.5
Own Resources	11.6	31.4	20.0	4.3	6.3
Debt *	8.1	21.5	8.8	8.6	4.4
TOTAL	**56.9**	**108.1**	**53.7**	**19.4**	**13.2**

** Debt for 2024/25 includes £5m due to a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent cash expenditure.*

8. Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as minimum revenue provision (MRP). Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned MRP and use of capital receipts are as follows:

Table 3: Replacement of Debt Finance in £ millions

	2023/24 Actual £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	2025/26 Budget £m	2026/27 Budget £m	2027/28 Budget £m
Minimum Revenue Provision	**5.4**	**5.8**	**6.3**	**6.6**	**6.7**

- The Council's full Minimum Revenue Provision Statement is available in **Appendix B** to the Capital Strategy Statement. This statement has been revised for 2025/26.

9. The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt. The CFR is expected to increase by £2.5m during 2025/26. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2024 Actual £m	31.3.2025 Forecast £m	31.3.2026 Budget £m	31.3.2027 Budget £m	31.3.2028 Budget £m
General Fund Services *	173.5	189.2	191.7	193.7	191.4

** The Capital Financing Requirement for 2024/25 and subsequent years includes a £5m increase due to a change in the accounting for leases.*

10. **Asset Management:** To ensure that capital assets continue to be of long-term use, the Council has an asset management strategy. The Asset Strategy was revised for the 10 year period from 2024/25 to 2033/34 and was approved by the full Council on 11/07/2024, see Item 7 on the agenda :

    Agenda for The Council on Thursday, 11th July, 2024, 2.00 pm

11. **Asset Disposals:** When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts. The Council plans to receive capital receipts as indicated in the table below:

Table 5: Capital Receipts in £ millions

	2023/24 Actual £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	2025/26 Budget £m	2026/27 Budget £m	2027/28 Budget £m
Asset Sales	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Loans Repaid	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
TOTAL	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

12. Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Council is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

13. Due to decisions taken in the past, the Council currently has £97.4m borrowing at an average interest rate of 5.37% and £161.9m treasury investments at an average rate of 4.98%.

14. **Borrowing Strategy:** The Council's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Council therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheap short-term loans and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher.

    The Council does not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of financial return and therefore retains full access to the Public Works Loans Board.

15. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities and leases) are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

Table 6: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2024 Actual £m	**31.3.2025 Forecast £m**	**31.3.2026 Budget £m**	**31.3.2027 Budget £m**	**31.3.2028 Budget £m**
Debt (incl. PFI and leases)	101.3	98.7	94.0	88.6	86.6
Capital Financing Requirement	173.5	189.2	191.7	193.7	191.4

16. Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from table 6, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

17. **Liability Benchmark:** To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £21.5m at each year-end.

Table 7: Borrowing and the Liability Benchmark in £ millions

	31.3.2024 Actual £m	**31.3.2025 Forecast £m**	**31.3.2026 Budget £m**	**31.3.2027 Budget £m**	**31.3.2028 Budget £m**
Borrowing	99.6	98.0	89.3	84.9	83.9
Liability Benchmark	-19.0	79.6	105.1	107.1	104.8

18. The table shows that the Council expects to remain borrowed above its liability benchmark up until 2025. This is because the Council holds reserves, and cash outflows to date have been below the assumptions made when the loans were borrowed.

19. **Affordable Borrowing Limit:** The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 8: Prudential Indicators: Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt in £m

	2024/25 Limit £m	**2025/26 Limit £m**	**2026/27 Limit £m**	**2027/28 Limit £m**
Authorised Limit – total external debt	200	200	200	200
Operational Boundary – total external debt	190	190	190	190

The Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for 2024/25 and subsequent years include a £5m increase due to a change in the accounting for leases

- Further details on borrowing are in the Treasury Management Strategy in **Appendix C**.

20. **Treasury Investment Strategy:** Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

21. The Council's policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield; that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example

with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Council may request its money back at short notice.

Table 9: Treasury Management Investments in £millions

	31.3.2024 Actual £m	**31.3.2025 Forecast £m**	**31.3.2026 Budget £m**	**31.3.2027 Budget £m**	**31.3.2028 Budget £m**
Near-Term Investments	129.9	65.0	55.0	45.0	35.0
Longer-Term Investments	11.6	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
TOTAL	**141.5**	**78.0**	**68.0**	**58.0**	**48.0**

- Further details on treasury investments are in the Treasury Management Strategy in **Appendix C**.

22. **Risk management**: The effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of the Council's treasury management activities. The treasury management strategy therefore sets out various indicators and limits to constrain the risk of unexpected losses and details the extent to which financial derivatives may be used to manage treasury risks.

    - The treasury management prudential indicators are on pages 5 and 15 to 17 of the Treasury Management Strategy in **Appendix C**.

23. **Governance**: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Head of Finance and staff, who must act in line with the Treasury Management Strategy approved by full Council. Quarterly reports on treasury management activity are presented to the Governance and Audit Committee. The Governance and Audit Committee is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions. An annual seminar is held for the members of the Governance and Audit Committee and full Council by Arlingclose, our investment advisors and was held on 4th February and 4th March 2025 respectively for the 2025/26 financial year.

INVESTMENTS FOR SERVICE PURPOSES

24. The Council can make investments to assist local public services, including making loans to local small businesses to promote economic growth and to support the housing strategy. In light of the public service objective, the Council is willing to take more risk than with treasury investments, however it still plans for such investments to break even after all costs.

25. **Governance:** Decisions on service investments are made by the relevant Head of Service in consultation with the Head of Finance. Most loans are capital expenditure and would therefore also be approved as part of the capital programme. The relevant Head of Service is responsible for ensuring that adequate due diligence is carried out before investment is made.

LIABILITIES

26. In addition to debt detailed above, the Council is committed to making future payments to cover its pension fund deficit as it occurs (currently valued at £0m). It has also set aside £8m to cover risks of provisions, of which relates to Waste Sites. The Council is also at risk of having to pay for contingent liabilities relating to the capping and aftercare requirements for the Council's Landfill Sites, and also a potential insurance liability relating to the insurance arrangements of its predecessor authorities and the closure of the Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) Fund. In accordance with the accounting requirements, no money has been set aside for such contigent liabilities.

27. **Governance:** Decisions on incurring new discretional liabilities are taken by Heads of Services in consultation with the Head of Finance. The risk of liabilities crystallising and requiring payment is monitored by the Finance Department. New material liabilities are reported to the Governance and Audit Committee.

- Further details on reserves to cover liabilities are on page 11 of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts

  https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Performance-and-spending/Statement-of-accounts-2023-24/Statement-of-Accounts-2023-24.pdf

REVENUE BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

28. Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing

costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and general government grants.

Table 10: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

	2023/24 Actual	**2024/25 Forecast**	**2025/26 Budget**	**2026/27 Budget**	**2027/28 Budget**
Financing Costs * (£m)	7.1	9.1	10.6	11.0	11.1
Proportion of Net Revenue Stream (%)	2.2%	2.7%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

** Financing costs for 2024/25 and subsequent years includes a £0.7m increase due to a change in the accounting for leases.*

- Further details on the revenue implications of capital expenditure are included in the 2025/26 Budget:

https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ielistmeetings.aspx?cid=136&year=0

29. **Sustainability:** Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for 50 years and over into the future. The Head of Finance is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable in the long term.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

30. The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, the Head of Finance is a qualified accountant with a number of years' experience, and the Assistant Head of Housing and Property is a chartered surveyor and member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The Council has qualified staff and pays for junior staff to study towards relevant professional qualifications including CIPFA, ACCA and AAT.

31. The Council currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly, and ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.

32. The relevant staff attend CIPFA and Arlingclose training events to ensure that we are aware of the latest developments, and that knowledge and skills are kept up to date.

RECOMMENDATION

33. The Council is asked to adopt the Capital Strategy for 2025/26.

Opinion of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

No comments to add in relation to propriety.

Head of Finance:

I've worked with the Cabinet Member to prepare this report and confirm the contents.

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL

1. Whilst local authority revenue budgets face constraints, capital budgets are also under pressure, and there are revenue implications for capital expenditure which is not funded by specific grants.

2. A proposed programme for schemes for the next three years is set out below:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME			
	2025/26 £'000	**2026/27 £'000**	**2027/28 £'000**
Council Schemes :			
Sustainable Communities for Learning Schemes	12,443	2,795	1,005
Industrial Units	2,652	0	0
Levelling Up Fund Schemes	10,974	1,975	0
Adults' Homes/Centres	4,505	0	0
Highways, Bridges and Municipal	1,203	2,077	1,301
Coastal Flood Protection	1,060	308	2,998
Housing Schemes/Strategy	7,475	6,730	3,860
Property Schemes	3,854	100	194
Departmental Vehicles	6,899	3,854	244
Digital Equipment	606	609	1,248
Other Schemes	1,565	437	1,872
Capital Bids (Unallocated)	500	500	500
PROGRAMME TOTAL	**53,736**	**19,385**	**13,222**

3. The programme will be funded as follows:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING			
	2025/26 £'000	**2026/27 £'000**	**2027/28 £'000**
Supported Borrowing	4,070	4,070	4,070
Other Borrowing	4,740	4,481	362
Grants and Contributions	24,960	6,498	2,540
Capital Receipts	0	0	0
Departmental and Corporate Revenue	0	0	0
Capital Fund	8,709	308	3,700
Renewals and Other Funds	11,257	4,028	2,550
PROGRAMME FUNDING TOTAL	**53,736**	**19,385**	**13,222**

4. The asset strategy from 2019/20 was approved by the Council on 7 March 2019. On 11 July 2024 the strategy was revised and approved by the full Council with the period extended to 2033/34. It is incorporated as part of the Capital Programme.

5. The profiles for the schemes was established by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Heads of Department and is dependent on the scheme requirements and the resources available.

6. The above table therefore reflects the general capital requirements (together with the funding) for setting the 2025/26 to 2027/28 budget, whilst the individual scheme details were established by the Council in the 10 year asset strategy, 2024/25 to 2033/34.

7. The 2025/26 Supported Borrowing and General Capital Grant figure in the financial settlement from Welsh Government is higher than anticipated when the asset strategy was established. I have adjusted the programme accordingly.

8. Therefore, the full Council is asked to establish a total programme worth £53,736,190 for 2025/26, to be funded from the sources noted in the table under part 3 above.

APPENDIX B

ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT 2025/26

1. Where the Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to the Welsh Government's *Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision* (the WG Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.

2. The broad aim of the WG Guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.

3. The WG Guidance requires the Council to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year, and provides a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP, but does not preclude the use of other appropriate methods. The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance as well as locally determined prudent methods.

4. MRP is calculated by reference to the capital financing requirement (CFR) which is the total amount of past capital expenditure that has yet to be permanently financed, noting that debt must be repaid and therefore can only be a temporary form of funding. The CFR is calculated from the Council's balance sheet in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Prudential Code for Capital Expenditure in Local Authorities, 2021 edition.

   - For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008 and for supported capital expenditure incurred on or after that date, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the assets in equal instalments, starting in the year after the capital expenditure was incurred. A prudent measure of the useful life of a variable range of assets is 50 years and in accordance with the former regulations that applied on 31st March 2008, incorporating an "Adjustment A" of £1.9m.

   - For unsupported capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2008, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset in equal instalments, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be

charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over 20 years.

- For assets acquired by leases or the Private Finance Initiative, MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.
- Where former operating leases have been brought onto the balance sheet due to the adoption of the IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard, and the asset values have been adjusted for accruals, prepayments, premiums and/or incentives, then the MRP charges will be adjusted so that the overall charge for MRP over the life of the lease reflects the value of the right-of-use asset recognised on transition rather than the liability.
- For capital expenditure loans to third parties that are repaid in annual or more frequent instalments of principal, the Council will make nil MRP, but will instead apply the capital receipts arising from principal repayments to reduce the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) instead.

5. Capital expenditure incurred during 2025/26 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2026/27 or later.

6. Based on the Council's latest estimate of its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) on 31st March 2025, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31.03.2025 Estimated CFR £m	**2025/26 Estimated MRP £m**
Capital expenditure before 01.04.2008 and supported capital expenditure after 31.03.2008	133.0	2.7
Unsupported capital expenditure after 31.03.2008	50.5	2.6
Leases and Private Finance Initiative *	5.7	1.0
Total General Fund	**189.2**	**6.3**

** The opening Capital Financing Requirement and MRP charge for 2024/25 and subsequent years includes an increase due to a change in the accounting for leases.*

7. Capital Receipts - Proceeds from the sale of capital assets are classed as capital receipts, and are typically used to finance new capital expenditure. Where the Council decides instead to use capital receipts to repay debt and hence reduce the CFR, the calculation of MRP will be adjusted as follows:

- Capital receipts arising on the repayment of principal on capital loans to third parties will be used to lower the MRP charge in respect of the same loans in the year of receipt, if any.
- Capital receipts arising on the repayment of principal on finance lease receivables will be used to lower the MRP charge in respect of the acquisition of the asset subject to the lease in the year of receipt, if any.
- Capital receipts arising from other assets which form an identified part of the Council's MRP calculations will be used to reduce the MRP charge in respect of the same assets over a period up to their remaining useful lives, starting in the year after the receipt is applied.
- Any other capital receipts applied to repay debt will be used to reduce MRP in up to 10 equal instalments starting in the year after receipt is applied.

APPENDIX C

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26

1. Introduction

1.1 Treasury management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.

1.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issued revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in November 2019 that requires the Council to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the *Local Government Act 2003* to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.

1.3 In accordance with the WG Guidance, the Council will be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement should the assumptions on which this report is based change significantly. Such circumstances would include, for example, a large unexpected change in interest rates, change in the Council's capital programme or in the level of its investment balance, or a material loss in the fair value of a non-financial investment identified as part of the year end accounts preparation and audit process.

2. External Context

2.1 Economic background

The impact on the UK from the government's Autumn Budget, slower expected interest rate cuts, a short-term boost to but modestly weaker economic growth over the medium term, together with the impact from President-elect Trump's second term in office and uncertainties around US domestic and foreign policy, will be major influences on the Council's treasury management strategy for 2025/26.

The Bank of England's (BoE) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.75% at its December 2024 meeting, having reduced it to that level in November and following a previous 25bp cut from the 5.25% peak at the August MPC meeting.

At the December meeting, six Committee members voted to maintain Bank Rate at 4.75% while three members preferred to reduce it to 4.50%.

The November quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) expected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to pick up to around 1.75% (four-quarter GDP) in the early period of the BoE's forecast horizon before falling back. The impact from the Budget pushes GDP higher in 2025 than was expected in the previous MPR, before becoming weaker. Current GDP growth was shown to be zero (0.0%) between July and September 2024 and 0.4% between April and June 2024, a further downward revision from the 0.5% rate previously reported by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

ONS figures reported the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate at 2.6% in November 2024, up from 2.3% in the previous month and in line with expectations. Core CPI also rose, but by more than expected, to 3.6% against a forecast of 3.5% and 3.3% in the previous month. The outlook for CPI inflation in the November MPR showed it rising above the MPC's 2% target from 2024 into 2025 and reaching around 2.75% by the middle of calendar 2025. This represents a modest near-term increase due to the ongoing impacts from higher interest rates, the Autumn Budget, and a projected margin of economic slack. Over the medium-term, once these pressures ease, inflation is expected to stabilise around the 2% target.

The labour market appears to be easing slowly, but the data still require treating with some caution. The latest figures reported the unemployment rate rose to 4.3% in the three months to October 2024 and economic inactivity fell to 21.7%. Pay growth for the same period was reported at 5.2% for both regular earnings (excluding bonuses) and for total earnings. Looking ahead, the BoE MPR showed the unemployment rate is expected to increase modestly, rising to around 4.5%, the assumed medium-term equilibrium unemployment rate, by the end of the forecast horizon.

The US Federal Reserve has continued cutting interest rates, bringing down the Fed Funds Rate by 0.25% at its December 2024 monetary policy meeting to a range of 4.25%-4.50%, marking the third consecutive reduction. Further interest rate cuts are expected, but uncertainties around the potential inflationary impact of incoming President Trump's policies may muddy the waters in terms of the pace and magnitude of further rate reductions. Moreover, the US economy continues to expand at a decent pace, rising at an (upwardly revised) annual rate of 3.1% in the third quarter of 2024, and inflation remains elevated suggesting that monetary policy may need to remain more restrictive in the coming months than had previously been anticipated.

Euro zone inflation rose above the European Central Bank (ECB) 2% target in November 2024, hitting 2.2% as was widely expected and a further increase from 2% in the previous month. Despite the rise, the ECB continued its rate cutting cycle and reduced its three key policy rates by 0.25% in December. Inflation is expected to rise further in the short term, but then fall back towards the 2% target during 2025, with the ECB remaining committed to maintaining rates at levels consistent with bringing inflation to target, but without suggesting a specific path.

2.2 Credit outlook

Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices have typically followed a general trend downwards during 2024, reflecting a relatively more stable financial period compared to the previous year. Improved credit conditions in 2024 have also led to greater convergence in CDS prices between ringfenced (retail) and non-ringfenced (investment) banking entities again.

Higher interest rates can lead to a deterioration in banks' asset quality through increased loan defaults and volatility in the value of capital investments. Fortunately, the rapid interest rate hikes during this monetary tightening cycle, while putting some strain on households and corporate borrowers, has not caused a rise in defaults, and banks have fared better than expected to date, buoyed by strong capital positions. Low unemployment and robust wage growth have also limited the number of problem loans, all of which are positive in terms of creditworthiness.

Moreover, while a potential easing of US financial regulations under a Donald Trump Presidency may aid their banks' competitiveness compared to institutions in the UK and other regions, it is unlikely there will be any material impact on the underlying creditworthiness of the institutions on the counterparty list maintained by Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser.

Overall, the institutions on our adviser Arlingclose's counterparty list remain well-capitalised and their counterparty advice on both recommended institutions and maximum duration remain under constant review and will continue to reflect economic conditions and the credit outlook.

2.3 Interest rate forecast (December 2024)

The Council's treasury management adviser Arlingclose expects the Bank of England's MPC will continue reducing Bank Rate through 2025, taking it to around 3.75% by the end of the 2025/26 financial year. The effect from the Autumn Budget on economic growth and inflation has reduced previous expectations in terms of the pace of rate cuts as well as pushing up the rate at the end of the loosening cycle.

Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to remain broadly at current levels on average (amid continued volatility), but to end the forecast period modestly lower compared to now. Yields will continue remain relatively higher than in the past, due to quantitative tightening and significant bond supply. As ever, there will be short-term volatility due to economic and (geo)political uncertainty and events.

A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is attached in **Appendix 1**.

2.4 For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that new treasury management investments will be made at an average rate of 3.8% and that the Council will not need any new long-term loans in 2025/26.

3. Local Context

3.1 On 31st December 2024, the Council held £97.4m of borrowing and £161.9m of investments. This is set out in further detail at **Appendix 2**. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.3.24 Actual £m	31.3.25 Estimate £m	31.3.26 Forecast £m	31.3.27 Forecast £m	31.3.28 Forecast £m
Capital Finance Requirement	**173.5**	**189.2**	**191.7**	**193.7**	**191.4**
Less: Other debt liabilities *	-1.6	-0.7	-4.7	-3.8	-2.8
Loans CFR	**171.9**	**188.5**	**187.0**	**189.9**	**188.6**
Less: External borrowing **	-99.6	-93.0	-89.3	-84.9	-83.9
Internal borrowing	**72.3**	**95.5**	**97.7**	**105.0**	**104.7**
Less: Balance sheet resources	-214.0	-131.1	-108.1	-108.1	-108.1
Treasury Investments (or new borrowing)	**141.7**	**35.6**	**10.4**	**3.1**	**3.4**

*PFI liabilities

**shows only loans to which the Council is committed and excludes optional refinancing

3.2 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying sums available for investment. The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

3.3 Table 1 shows that the Council does not need to borrow long term in the near future. If there is a requirement, short term borrowing will be used to reduce the interest rate.

3.4 CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Council's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that the Council expects to comply with this recommendation during 2025/26.

4. Liability benchmark

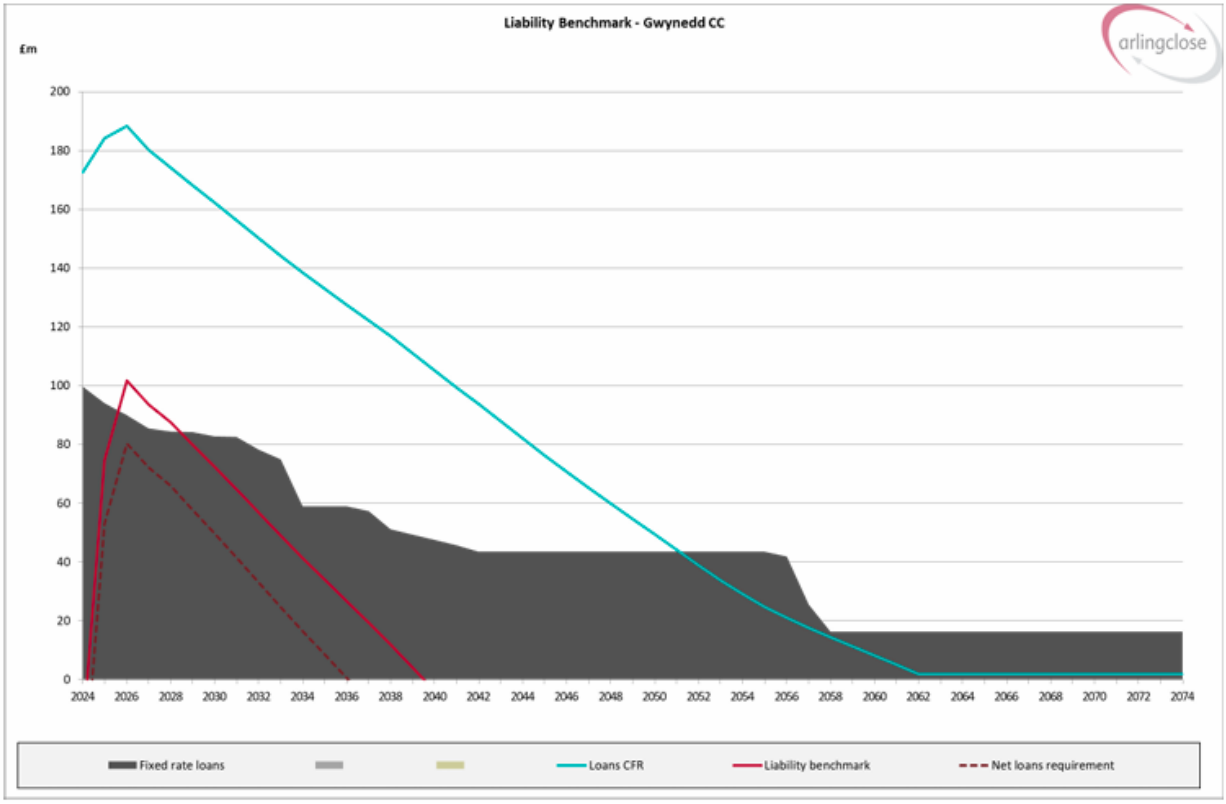
4.1 To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £21.5m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

Table 2: Prudential Indicator: Liability Benchmark

	31.3.24 Actual £m	**31.3.25 Estimate £m**	**31.3.26 Forecast £m**	**31.3.27 Forecast £m**	**31.3.28 Forecast £m**
CFR	**173.5**	**189.2**	**191.7**	**193.7**	**191.4**
Less: Balance sheet resources	-214.0	-131.1	-108.1	-108.1	-108.1
Net loans requirement	**-40.5**	**58.1**	**83.6**	**85.6**	**83.3**
Plus: Liquidity allowance	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5
Liability Benchmark	**-19.0**	**79.6**	**105.1**	**107.1**	**104.8**

4.2 Following on from the medium-term forecasts in table 2 above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes no further debt funded capital expenditure, minimum revenue provision on new capital expenditure based on a 50 year straight line method. This is shown in the following chart together with the maturity profile of the Council's existing borrowing:



The chart shows that there is no need to borrow long- term based on current projections, but there might be a short- term requirement across the year end.

5. Borrowing Strategy

5.1 The Council currently holds £97.4 million of loans as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that the Council does not expect to need to borrow long term in 2025/26 but may need to borrow short term for cash flow reasons. In the future, the Council may also borrow additional sums to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing.

5.2 Objectives

The Council's main objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

5.3 Strategy

Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. Short- term interest rates are currently higher than in the recent past, but are expected to fall in the coming year and it is likely to be more cost effective over the medium term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead. The risks of this approach will be managed by keeping the Council's interest rate exposure within the limit set in the treasury management prudential indicators, see below.

By doing so, the Council is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal and/or short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Council with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Council borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2025/26 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield; the Council intends to avoid this activity in order to retain its access to PWLB loans.

Alternatively, the Council may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

In addition, the Council may borrow short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

5.4 Sources of borrowing

The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- HM Treasury's PWLB Lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)

- National Wealth Fund Ltd (formerly UK Infrastructure Bank Ltd)
- any institution approved for investments (see below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- any other UK public sector body
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except Gwynedd Pension Fund)
- Capital market bond investors
- Retail investors via a regulated peer-to-peer platform
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues

5.5 Other sources of debt finance

In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- Leasing
- Hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- Sale and leaseback
- Similar asset based finance

5.6 Municipal Bonds Agency:

UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It issues bonds on the capital markets and lend the proceeds to local authorities. This is a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to full Council.

5.7 Short-term and variable rate loans

These loans leave the Council exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below. Financial derivatives may be used to manage this interest rate risk (see section below).

5.8 Debt rescheduling

The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Council may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk. The recent rise in interest rates means that more favourable debt rescheduling opportunities should arise that in previous years.

6. Treasury Investment Strategy

6.1 The Council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held on behalf of the Council, Gwynedd Pension Fund, North Wales Economic Ambition Board and UKSPF grant. In the past 12 months, the Council's investment balance has ranged between £106.8 and £235.8 million, and lower levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year due to the transfer of the North Wales Economic Board to the Corporate Joint Committee which is a separate entity.

Loans to organisations providing local public services and purchases of investment property are not normally considered to be treasury investments, and therefore these are covered separately in **Appendix 3**.

6.2 Objectives

Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Council to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Council will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. The Council aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues when investing.

6.3 Strategy

As demonstrated by the liability benchmark above, the Council expects to be a long-term investor and treasury investments will therefore include both short-term

low-risk instruments to manage day-to-day cash flows and longer-term instruments where limited additional risk is accepted in return for higher investment income to support local public services.

6.4 Environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are increasingly a factor in global investors' decision making, and Gwynedd Council is committed to being a responsible investor. The Council will actively seek to invest in organisations that minimise their impact on the world in consideration of environmental, social and governance factors when placing any invesments with current or new counterparties. When investing in banks and funds, the Council will prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.

6.5 Business models

Under the new IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Council's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its internally managed treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

6.6 Approved counterparties

The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty in table 3 below subject to the cash limits (by counterparty) and the time limits shown.

Table 3: Approved investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	50 years	Unlimited	n/a
Local authorities & other government entities	25 years	£8m	Unlimited
Secured investments *	25 years	£8m	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured) *	13 months	£4m	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured) *	13 months	£4m	£8m
Registered providers (unsecured) *	5 years	£4m	£20m
Money market funds *	n/a	£8m	Unlimited
Strategic pooled funds	n/a	£8m	£40m
Real estate investment trusts	n/a	£8m	£20m
Other investments *	5 years	£4m	£8m

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below.

6.7 Minimum Credit rating

Treasury investments in the sectors marked with a * will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

6.8 UK Government

Sterling denominated investments with or explicitly guaranteed by the UK Government, including the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility, treasury bills and gilts. These are deemed to be zero credit risk due to the government's ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

6.9 Local authorities and other government entities

Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, other national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk.

6.10 Secured investments

Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds, secured deposits and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

6.11 Banks and Building Societies (unsecured)

Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

6.12 Registered providers (unsecured)

Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing and registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

6.13 Money Market Funds

Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Council will take care to diversify

its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

6.14 Strategic Pooled funds

Bond, equity and property funds, including exchange traded funds, that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Council to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but can be either withdrawn after a notice period or sold on an exchange, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

6.15 Real Estate Investment Trusts

Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.

6.16 Other investments

This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and unsecured loans to companies and univers. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Council's investment at risk.

6.17 Operational bank accounts

The Council may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £900,000 per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity.

6.18 Risk assessment and credit ratings

Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. The credit rating agencies in current use are listed in the Treasury Management Practices document. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

6.19 Reputational aspects

The Council is aware that investment with certain counterparties, while considered secure from a purely financial perspective, may leave it open to criticism, valid or otherwise, that may affect its public reputation, and this risk will therefore be taken into account when making investment decisions.

6.20 Other information on the security of investments

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2020 and 2022, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Council's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall, but will protect the principal sum invested.

6.21 Investment limits

The Council's revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £98 million on 31st March 2025. In order that no more than 8.2% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £8 million. A group of entities under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes.

Credit risk exposures arising from non-treasury investments, financial derivatives and balances greater than £500,000 in operational bank accounts count against the relevant investment limits.

Limits are also placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts and foreign countries as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Table 4: Additional limits

	Cash limit
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£20m per manager
Investments held in a broker's nominee account	£20m per broker
Foreign countries	£8m per country

6.22 Liquidity management

The Council uses prudent cash flow forecasting techniques to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on the basis that short-term borrowing is used to cover its financial commitments if required. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Council's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

The Council will spread its liquid cash over at least four providers (e.g. bank accounts and money market funds), of which at least two will be UK domiciled, to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

7. Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

7.1 Security

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit score of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit score	6.0

7.2 Liquidity

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity risk indicator	Target
Total cash available within 3 months	£10m

7.3 Interest rate exposures

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

Interest rate risk indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	£1,324,700
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	£1,324,700

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at new market rates.

7.4 Maturity structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	25%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	75%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

7.5 Long- term treasury management investments

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long- term treasury management investments will be:

Price risk indicator	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£40m	£20m	£20m	£20m

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds and real estate investment trusts but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturiry date as these are considered short-term.

8. Related Matters

8.1 The CIPFA Code requires the Council to include the following in its Treasury Management Strategy.

8.2 Financial Derivatives

Local authorities could have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in section 24 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).

The Council will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Council is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria, assessed using the appropriate credit rating for derivative exposures. An allowance for credit risk calculated using the methodology in the Treasury Management Practices document will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

In line with the CIPFA Code, the Council will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.

8.3 External Funds

Included within the Council balances are the balances for Gwynedd Pension Fund, GwE, Welsh Church Fund and North Wales Economic Ambition Board (until 31.03.25). The interest income is allocated to each institution based on daily balances.

8.4 Markets in Financial Instruments Directive

The Council has opted up to professional client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a greater range of services but without the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Council's treasury management activities, the Head of Finance believes this to be the most appropriate status.

9. Welsh Government Guidance

Further matter required by the Welsh Government Guidance are included in **Appendix 3**.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 The budget for investment income in 2025/26 is £1.0 million based on an average investment portfolio of £26.8 million at an interest rate of 3.8% for deposits and £13 million of pooled funds at a return of 3.7%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2025/26 is £5 million, based on an average debt portfolio of £92 million at an average interest rate of 5.4%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

11. Other Options Considered

11.1 The CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Head of Finance, having consulted the Cabinet Member for Finance, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term

		interest costs may be less certain

Appendix 1 – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast December 2024

Underlying assumptions:

• As expected, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.75% in December, although, with a 6-3 voting split and obvious concerns about economic growth, presented a much more dovish stance than had been expected given recent inflationary data.

• The Budget measures remain a concern for policymakers, for both growth and inflation. Additional government spending will boost demand in a constrained supply environment, while pushing up direct costs for employers. The short to medium-term inflationary effects will promote caution amongst policymakers.

• UK GDP recovered well in H1 2024 from technical recession, but underlying growth has petered out as the year has progressed. While government spending should boost GDP growth in 2025, private sector activity appears to be waning, partly due to Budget measures.

• Private sector wage growth and services inflation remain elevated; wage growth picked up sharply in October. The increase in employers' NICs, minimum and public sector wage levels could have wide ranging impacts on private sector employment demand and costs, but the near-term impact will likely be inflationary as these additional costs get passed to consumers.

• CPI inflation rates have risen due to higher energy prices and less favourable base effects. The current CPI rate of 2.6% could rise further in Q1 2025. The Bank of England (BoE) estimates the CPI rate at 2.7% by year end 2025 and to remain over target in 2026.

• The MPC re-emphasised that monetary policy will be eased gradually. Despite recent inflation-related data moving upwards or surprising to the upside, the minutes suggested a significant minority of policymakers are at least as worried about the flatlining UK economy.

• US government bond yields have risen following strong US data and uncertainty about the effects of Donald Trump's policies on the US economy, particularly in terms of inflation and monetary policy. The Federal Reserve pared back its expectations for rate cuts in light of these issues. Higher US yields are also pushing up UK gilt yields, a relationship that will be maintained unless monetary policy in the UK and US diverges.

Forecast:

• In line with our forecast, Bank Rate was held at 4.75% in December.

• The MPC will reduce Bank Rate in a gradual manner. We see a rate cut in February 2025, followed by a cut alongside every Monetary Policy Report publication, to a low of 3.75%.

• Long-term gilt yields have risen to reflect both UK and US economic, monetary and fiscal policy expectations, and increases in bond supply. Volatility will remain elevated as the market digests incoming data for clues around the impact of policy changes.

• This uncertainty may also necessitate more frequent changes to our forecast than has been the case recently.

• The risks around the forecasts lie to the upside over the next 12 months but are broadly balanced in the medium term.

	Current	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Central Case	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Central Case	4.90	4.60	4.35	4.10	3.90	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	4.34	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.95	4.00	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	4.56	4.55	4.45	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	5.05	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	4.52	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80

PWLB Standard Rate = Gilt yield + 1.00%
PWLB Certainty Rate = Gilt yield + 0.80%
PWLB HRA Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%
National Wealth Fund (NWF) Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

Appendix 2- Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	31.12.2024 Actual Portfolio £m	31.12.2024 Average Rate %
External Borrowing:		
Public Works Loan Board	81.2	5.60
Other loans	16.2	4.22
Total external borrowing	**97.4**	**5.37**
Other long- term liabilities:		
Leases	1.6	0.00
Total other long-term liabilities	**1.6**	**0.00**
Total gross external debt	**99.0**	**5.37**
Treasury investments:		
Bank and Building Societies (unsecured)	12.4	4.67
The UK Government	10.9	4.71
Local Authorities	88.0	5.04
Money Market Funds	37.6	4.76
Pooled funds	13.0	5.85
Total treasury investments	**161.9**	**4.98**
Net investments	**-62.9**	

Appendix 3 – Additional requirements of Welsh Government Investment Guidance

The Welsh Government (WG) published revised Investment Guidance in November 2019 which places additional reporting requirements upon local authorities that are not integral to this Council's treasury management processes. The guidance also covers investments that are not part of treasury management, for example investment property and loans to local organisations.

Contribution: The Council's investments contribute to its service delivery objectives and/or to promote wellbeing as follows:

- treasury management investments support effective treasury management activities,
- loans to local organisations provide financial support to those organisations to enable them to deliver local public services that would otherwise be provided directly by the Council, and
- investment property provides a net financial surplus that is reinvested into local public services.

Climate change: The Council's investment decisions consider long-term climate risks to support a low carbon economy to the extent that if a low carbon investment equivalent is available with the same return, then the low carbon investment would be preferred by the Council.

Specified investments: The WG Guidance defines specified investments as those:

- denominated in pound sterling,
- due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement unless the counterparty is a local authority,
- not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- invested with one of:
  - the UK Government,
  - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
  - a body or investment scheme of "high credit quality".

The Council defines "high credit quality" organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds "high credit quality" is defined as those having a credit rating of A- or higher.

Loans: The WG Guidance defines a loan as a written or oral agreement where the Council temporarily transfers cash to a third party, joint venture, subsidiary or associate who agrees a return according to the terms and conditions of receiving the loan, except where the third party is another local authority.

The Council can demonstrate that its financial exposure to loans to local enterprises, local charities, wholly owned companies and joint ventures is proportionate by setting the limits in table 3a. These ensure that the total exposure is no more than 20% of the Council's usable reserves. The Council's loan book is currently within these self-assessed limits.

Table 3a: Loan limits

Borrower	**Cash limit**
Local enterprises and local charities	£3m
Wholly owned companies and joint ventures	£3m
Car and bike loans to employees	£3m
Treasury management investments meeting the definition of a loan	Unlimited

The Council uses an allowed 'expected credit loss' model for loans and receivables as set out in International Financial Reporting Standard 9: Financial Instruments as adopted by proper practices to measure the credit risk of its loan portfolio. Appropriate consideration is given to state aid rules and competition law. The Council has appropriate credit control arrangements to recover overdue repayments in place.

Non-specified investments: Any financial investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment or a loan is classed as non-specified. Given the wide definition of a loan, this category only applies to units in pooled funds and shares in companies. Limits on non-specified investments are shown in table 3b; the Council confirms that its current non-specified investments remain within these limits.

Table 3b: Non-specified investment limits

	Cash limit
Units in pooled funds without credit ratings or rated below A-	£20m
Shares in real estate investment trusts	£10m
Total non-specified investments	£30m

Non-financial investments: This category covers non-financial assets held primarily or partially to generate a profit, primarily investment property. Security is determined by comparing each asset's purchase price to its fair value using the model in International Accounting Standard 40: Investment Property as adapted by proper practices. On an assessment as at 31st March 2024, the Council considers that the scale of its non-financial investments as not significant.

Liquidity: For financial investments that are not treasury management investments, or loans, the Council has procedures in place to ensure that the funds are prudently committed for a maximum period of time.

Investment advisers: The Council has appointed Arlingclose as treasury management advisers and receives specific advice on investment, debt and capital finance issues. The quality of this service is monitored by the Head of Finance and the Investment Manager on a regular basis.

Borrow in advance of need: Welsh Government guidance is that local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. The Council, after having regard the guidance, has decided to depart from explicit provision.

Commercial deals: In the event of a commercial deal, the individuals making the deal are aware of the core principles of the prudential framework and of the regulatory regime within which the Council operates.

Capacity, skills and corporate governance: Elected members and officers were invited to a presentation by Arlingclose in February and March 2025. The information and discussion at the presentation ensures that the members have the appropriate skills and information to enable them to:

- Take informed decisions as to whether to enter into a specific investment.
- To assess individual assessments in the context of the strategic objectives and risk profile of the Council
- Understand how the quantum of these decisions have changed the overall risk exposure of the local authority

Officers also regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. Relevant staff are also encouraged to study professional qualifications from CIPFA, ACA and other appropriate organisations.

MEETING	**COUNCIL**
DATE	**6 March 2025**
TITLE	**Establishing The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Joint Overview And Scrutiny Committee .**
AUTHOR	**Monitoring Officer**
PURPOSE	**1. Establish the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1** **2. Agree that the powers of local Scrutiny Committees provided for under The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 shall be retained** **3. Agree the political balance of Cyngor Gwynedd's nominees to the joint overview and scrutiny committee (JOSC) will reflect the membership of Cyngor Gwynedd rather than the membership of all North Wales councils in aggregate** **4. Agree that the secretariat for the JOSC will be provided by the CJC in accordance with the Terms of Reference**
CABINET MEMBER	**Cllr. Nia Jeffreys, Council Leader**

Reason for the Decision

To provide for scrutiny arrangements for the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC)

Statutory guidance and existing practice points towards the six councils establishing a joint overview scrutiny model so that there is a single dedicated body which is immersed in the work of the CJC. This body will not displace the ability for local scrutiny of the CJC as a partner body .

Background

1. The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC) was established on 1 April 2021 and subsequently gained it's functions in June 2022. Currently these functions are to:

   - prepare, monitor, review and revise a regional Strategic Development Plan;
   - develop a Regional Transport Plan with policies for regional transport;
   - the power to do anything which is likely to promote economic wellbeing

2. It is a separate local authority body with its own functions and membership primarily drawn from the 6 North Wales Council and the Eryri National Park Authority. It has statutory requirement to effectively adopt most of the generic governance arrangements of a Principal Authority including a Constitution, Governance and Audit

Sub- Committee, Standards Sub-Committee and other legal requirements including Performance Reviews, Equalities and Biodiversity Policies and compliance with the Welsh language standards.

3. The need for Scrutiny of the CJC is enshrined in both the Regulations and the Statutory Guidance. An element of "scrutiny" is already in built within the form of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee for example, but this has a specific process and performance role and is not a "Overview and Scrutiny" Committee. There is an expectation that the CJC will be subject to Scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny

4. The requirement to establish Scrutiny Committees is an intrinsic part of the Executive system. However, there is no corresponding statutory requirement for a CJC to establish its own Scrutiny Sub-Committees to exercise similar functions. Indeed, the current statutory guidance (" the Guidance") on CJC the envisages that this will be based on scrutiny by the constituent authorities:

> ***34. Overview and scrutiny arrangements***
>
> *34.1 Regulations on overview and scrutiny are proposed for spring 2022. It is envisioned that this will be based around scrutiny by the constituent councils of the CJC and not scrutiny by the CJC of its own work. This will be an important part of the democratic accountability of the CJC. As part of the councils general approach to scrutiny any scrutiny arrangements should be undertaken in line with any published scrutiny guidance and the Democracy Handbook (when published).*
>
> *34.2 In considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, constituent councils and CJCs should give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils. The clear aim and ambition however must be to create, facilitate and encourage a clear democratic link back to the constituent councils.*
>
> *34.3 As part of the regulations discussed in 34.1 it is proposed that CJC members and staff will have a duty to provide information to the scrutiny committee; attend committee meetings if requested to do so; and consider any report or recommendations made by a committee within the agreed arrangements and which relate to the CJC*
>
> ***(Corporate Joint Committees: Statutory Guidance-WG 2022)***

5. **The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022** impose a duty on the CJC to co-operate with a "relevant" Scrutiny Committee and respond to any reports or recommendations prepared by the Scrutiny Committee. A "Relevant Scrutiny Committee" may be a Committee of the Constituent Authorities, or a Joint

Scrutiny Committee appointed by those authorities. This means that where a scrutiny committee exercises it's powers to make a report to the authority or it's executive "on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area " and that relates to the functions of the CJC, certain requirements stem from this.

The CJC must co-operate with the Relevant Scrutiny Committee and give it such reasonable assistance as it requests including.

- arranging for a member of the CJC to attend to answer questions
- arranging for a member of staff of the CJC to attend to answer questions
- providing information
- providing documents (with provision for exempt information)
- consider the report or recommendation, and
- where the Scrutiny Committee formally publishes a report, the CJC must publish a statement setting out the steps it intends to take in light of the report or recommendation in exercising its functions within 2 months

This right will not be replaced by the establishment of the JOSC

Current Corporate Joint Committee Scrutiny - Wales.

6. Currently in relation to the other three Corporate Joint Committees in Wales joint scrutiny arrangements have been put in place. These are either JOSC'S created and agreed with the constituent Councils or established by CJC as part of their governance arrangements. Some do pre-date the 2022 Regulations.

Outline of proposed JOSC CJC scrutiny roles:

7. (a) To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC (not "call in");

(b) To make reports or recommendations to CJC respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC;

(c) To make reports or recommendations to the CJC on matters which affect the CJC .

It's cycle of meetings would need to be agreed as would the support requirement and work programmes etc.

Membership

8. It is proposed that the JOSC would have 12 members who would not be executive members of the Constituent Councils. This results from an underlying requirement that there is an equal number of members from each of the Councils. In addition, members are appointed by each Council as far as practicable on the basis of their respective political balance, as opposed to the overall North Wales political make up of the membership. So appointments from Conwy e.g would be based on the political balance of Conwy and appointments from Flintshire would be based on their political balance etc..

Resourcing

9. Neither option is a resource neutral arrangement. Officer time and capacity will need to support both the options. It can be anticipated that the JOSC would meet about three times per annum. There would have to be liaison between the CJC staff and Scrutiny Teams to establish agenda items which would involve forward planning of scrutiny work. This would be the same for each model if we are to avoid a general up-date approach to scrutiny. The level of resource required to regularly attend all scrutiny meetings, research agenda items and work planning for each can be anticipated to be significant. A Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting remotely is unlikely to generate additional issues around members remuneration.

Growth Deal

10. On the 17th of December 2021 ,Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Borough Council,Cyngor Gwynedd Isle of Anglesey County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council (the "Constituent Councils") ; together with Bangor and Wrexham Universities, Coleg Cambria and Group Llandrillo Menai entered into a Joint Working Agreement ("GA2) which established a Joint Committee responsible for overseeing and coordinating the discharge of the Councils' obligations in relation to the North Wales Growth Deal and delivering the North Wales Growth Vision.

11. However, and this was anticipated in GA2 that the Growth Deal could potentially be transferred to the CJC, which is a matter specifically reserved to the Councils. The Constituent Councils resolved in their in principle decisions in 21/22 to transfer the growth Deal to the CJC .The overall strategic impetus to transfer stemmed from the correlation in membership between the NWEAB and the CJC and the membership of the CJC, the wish to avoid a multiplicity of regional bodies with similar functions, and the various legal and operational advantages and efficiencies of the CJC being its own corporate entity.

12. As part of GA2 a Scrutiny Protocol was adopted which provided a framework for scrutinising the work of the EAB. This provided for provision of regular reports and attendance by EAB officers at scrutiny. Because, unlike the CJC the EAB was subject to "call in" of it's decisions there was also an agreed process to manage potential multiple call in. In reality there has been no call in of the EAB's decisions. This arrangement was possible because of the narrow scope of the EAB's functions which were limited to economic wellbeing and development and in practice involved one scrutiny committee from each Council. Scrutiny of the CJC with it's range and developing range of functions needs to be considered in a different context. The proposed model of a JOSC would in reality enable a more pro-active scrutiny approach and a closer relationship between the scrutiny function and the CJC. It should also be emphasised that the proposed model does not take away the statutory powers of the individual scrutiny committees of the constituent Councils, where appropriate, to call on the CJC to contribute and respond to a formal report or recommendations. This is reflected in the Standing Orders.

Standing Orders

13. A proposed set of standing Orders have been prepared for the JOSC and these would constitute the agreement to establish the JOSC.

Summary

14. There is a need to recognise that the creation of the CJC involves a change in terms of regional partnering from the current Joint Committee arrangements. It can also be surmised that it's role will see increased prominence and probably expansion of functions or tasks. It will also develop it's own separate governance and management arrangements. There are therefore risks attached to assuming the current arrangements around the Economic Ambition Board or GwE can be transplanted into this new environment and achieve an appropriate level of challenge and scrutiny. Scrutiny is there to provide assurance for the Constituent Authorities and the CJC itself that it is properly exercising it's functions. Whichever body or bodies carry out this function they will need to have a level of understanding and information about the organisation they are scrutinising, it's work , risks and the inter-relationship with their own Councils.

15. The statutory guidance also needs to be borne in mind and the recommended JOSC model. Whilst other regions have also taken the JOSC route albeit with different models, there tends to a presumption in favour of the JOSC.

16. A JOSC would need to maintain a relationship with it's constituent Councils and authorities. It would be acting as their representative body and should not be acting as a wholly stand-alone entity. It would be seen as part of it's terms of reference as having a regional gatekeeping role in the future development of the CJC and it's functions. This would be incorporated into it's terms of reference. On specific local issues "home" scrutiny committees would still maintain the ability to scrutinise the CJC. However, it is a key area as the Guidance suggests for maintaining the democratic relationship with the home authorities. There is a risk nevertheless that this also overlooks the point that unlike traditional Joint Committees the CJC is a separate corporation which needs to develop and maintain a relationship with its partner Councils and organisations in a different way. Scrutiny is a key component of that arrangement and the CJC will be working closely with its Constituent Councils and other partners though other channels. That in its self highlights the need for Scrutiny to be being undertaken from a position of knowledge and understanding of the organisation it has an overview of.

Statutory Officers Comments

Monitoring Officer

Report Author

Finance Officer

"As the report notes, implementing the Decision Sought will not be cost neutral and the additional commitment of resources will create some costs on the local authorities. However, introducing these arrangements are a core part of the governance arrangements of the Corporate Joint Committee and in order to maintain an appropriate level of Oversight and Scrutiny these costs will have to be faced."

Decision Sought

1. **Establish the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1**
2. **Agree that the powers of local Scrutiny Committees provided for under The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 shall be retained .**
3. **Agree the political balance of Cyngor Gwynedd's nominees to the joint overview and scrutiny committee (JOSC) will reflect the membership of Cyngor Gwynedd rather than the membership of all North Wales councils in aggregate**
4. **Agree that the secretatriat for the JOSC will be provided by the CJC in accordance with the Terms of Reference**

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Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT Terms of Reference

1. Statutory Provisions.
2. Name of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
3. Purpose of the Joint Scrutiny Committee
4. Intended outcome(s) of the joint overview and scrutiny committee
5. Elected Member Membership (Councillors)
6. Quorum
7. Co-opted Members
8. Termination / suspension of membership
9. Voting rights
10. Sub Committees of the JOSC
11. Political Balance
12. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
13. Access to meetings and documentation etc.
14. Meetings of the JOSC
15. Work programme (Forward Plan)
16. Access to information rules
17. Rules of Procedure
18. Declarations of Interest
19. Confidentiality of Information
20. Administrative arrangements
21. JOSC meeting procedures (including sub-committees)
22. Responding to the JOSC recommendations
23. Evidence Gathering
24. Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations- Regulation 8 and 9
25. Setting the agenda
26. Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc
27. Training and Development
28. Expenses, Allowances and Salaries
29. Meeting Venue / time

Terms of Reference

1. Statutory Provisions.

a) The joint overview and scrutiny committee ("JOSC") has been established in accordance with the following legislation:-

- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Sec 58 – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees)
- The Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

b) The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 b) The conduct of the JOSC and the arrangements for joint scrutiny shall be subject to the legislative provisions in a) above, and any regulations or guidance made in accordance with the legislation; and in the event of any conflict between the Act and/or Regulations and any joint arrangements, the requirements of the legislation will prevail.

2. Name of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

a) The appointing Authorities ("Appointing Authorities") are –

- Conwy County Borough Council;
- Denbighshire County Council;
- Flintshire County Borough Council;
- Cyngor Gwynedd ;
- Isle of Anglesey County Council;
- Wrexham County Borough Council;

b) The title of the JOSC between the six Appointing Authorities shall be the "North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee" *(The JOSC for the purpose of this document).*

3. Purpose of the Joint Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

a) The overall aim of the JOSC is to scrutinise the overall effectiveness of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC).

b) The core functions of the JOSC are:-

- To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC (not "call in");
- To make reports or recommendations to CJC respect to the discharge or proposed discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC,
- To make reports or recommendations to the CJC on matters which affect the CJC .
- It's cycle of meetings would need to be agreed as would the support requirement and work programmes etc.

c) The remit of the JOSC includes only the activities of the CJC as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations (see also para 5).

4. Intended outcome(s) of the joint overview and scrutiny committee

a) Ensuring that the JOSC achieves the following benefits:-

- **Effective challenge** is provided to the CJC and that it is achieving the desired aims.
- **the focus is on outcomes for people not organisations**: shifting the perspective from inputs to delivering results;
- **the JOSC acting as a unifying force**: helping the appointing authorities address regional decision-making across different political, organisational and geographical boundaries;
- **Accountability**: providing timely review in relation to the CJC's functions.
- **Efficiency**: maximise resources;
- **Innovation**: identifying new insights and solutions.

b) The Joint Scrutiny Committee will prepare an annual report on achieving on it's work and outputs which will be sent to the Appointing Authorities Head of Democratic Services by no later than 31 July in any given year**.**

5. Elected Member Membership (Councillors)

a) There will be an equal number of Elected Members from each appointing authority and no executive members may be on the committee.

b) The JOSC will comprise twelve Elected Members; that is two non-executive Elected Members from each of the Constituent Councils .

c) Each local authority will determine and nominate its Elected committee Members in accordance with its own arrangements. The term of office of the nominated Elected Members shall be a matter for each nominating local authority, subject to a minimum planned term of one municipal year.

d) Each Elected Member will have a key role in reporting back to their Appointing Authority on the scrutiny undertaken and the outputs.

6. Quorum

a) A quorum of one third of Elected Members of the JOSC will be required to enable a meeting to proceed.

b) For the avoidance of doubt presence will include presence through electronic means which allow the member to hear and speak at the meeting.

c) The failure of any technological provision whether that leads to a partial or complete loss of contact shall not invalidate any part of the deliberations or any vote taken. The Chairman may postpone the meeting if they deem that appropriate.

7. Co-opted Members

a) The JOSC may invite additional members to serve on the JOSC or sub-committee as co-opted members subject to:-

- the appointment being approved by a majority of all the members of the JOSC

- the person co-opted to serve on the JOSC, or on a sub-committee, not being entitled to vote at any meeting of the JOSC or sub-committee on any question which falls to be decided at that meeting.
- the person not being an elected member of a local authority, whether that authority is one of the appointing authorities or otherwise.
- the membership of a person co-opted to serve on the JOSC, or on a subcommittee of such a committee, being withdrawn by a majority vote at any time by the JOSC or sub-committee.
- the number of co-opted members on the JOSC not exceeding the number of elected members that sit on the JOSC.

8. Termination / suspension of membership

a) If an Elected Member appointed to the JOSC ceases to be a member of the Appointing Authority, then that person also immediately ceases to be a member of the JOSC.

b) If a person appointed as a member of a JOSC is suspended from being a member or a co-opted member of one of the Appointing Authorities, that person may not serve as a member of the JOSC for the duration of the suspension.

c) If a co-opted member appointed to the JOSC ceases to be an employee/member of the organisation he/she was appointed from, then that person immediately ceases to be a member of the JOSC.

9. Voting rights

a) All Elected Members may vote on any question that falls to be decided at that meeting

b) Where there is an equality of votes at a meeting of a JOSC or sub-committee, the chair has a second or casting vote.

c) A person co-opted to serve on the JOSC or on a sub-committee is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the JOSC or sub-committee on any question which falls to be decided at that meeting (also see Co-opted Members above).

10. Sub Committees of the JOSC

a) The JOSC can establish sub-committees in order to operate in a more streamlined and flexible manner to undertake its statutory functions.

b) Any sub-committees appointed by the JOSC will comprise at least four Elected Members, together with any co-opted members as agreed when establishing the sub-committee. The number of co-opted members on the sub-committee must not exceed the number of Elected Members that sit.

c) A sub-committee is to comprise an equal number of Elected Members of each of the appointing authorities.

d) Any report or recommendations made by a sub-committee of the JOSC is subject to approval by a resolution of the JOSC.

e) Any sub-committee can only exercise the functions conferred upon it by the JOSC.

11. Political Balance

a) Each Appointing Authority must ensure that, as far as practicable, the members of the JOSC reflect the balance of political groups for the time being prevailing among the members of the Appointing Authority.

12. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

a) A JOSC must appoint a chair of the committee from within its Elected Member membership.

b) A JOSC may appoint a vice-chair and this must be from within its Elected Member membership.

c) The Chair will be appointed from within its Elected Member membership on a rotational annual basis and the allocation of the vice-chair (if appointed) will be given to the member of the Authority which is next scheduled to hold the position of Chair.

d) Any sub-committee must appoint a chair, and may appoint a vice chair, from amongst its Elected Member membership.

13. Access to meetings and documentation etc.

a) The JOSC, or a sub-committee, is to be treated as a committee or sub-committee of a principal council for the purposes of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 (access to meetings and documents of certain authorities, committees and subcommittees).

14. Meetings of the JOSC

a) Meetings will initially be held on a quarterly basis with a schedule of meeting dates circulated and agreed at the start of each financial year. Extra meetings may be called where 50% of the Elected Members identify the need.

15. Work programme (Forward Plan)

a) In consultation with the CJC The JOSC should agree a forward plan to identify what issues the JOSC intends to focus upon during the course of the year.

b) The forward plan should provide a clear rationale as to the purpose of considering a particular topic, and to the methods by which it will be investigated.

c) The JOSC must have regard to The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and guidance, which places a requirement to engage with the public.

d) The JOSC must consult the CJC and the Appointing Authorities on the proposed Forward Plan

16. Access to information rules

a) Meetings of the JOSC will be subject to the same access to information rules as other public meetings of the councils.

b) The Chair will adhere to the access to information rules of his/her respective Authority.

17. Rules of Procedure

a) Members of the JOSC and the public must have regard for the Chair who will have the authority to determine on any rules of procedure during meetings of the JOSC.

b) The Chair will adhere to the rules of procedure of his/her respective Authority.

18. Declarations of Interest

a) All Elected Members shall observe the Code of Conduct in force for their respective Authorities, whilst co-opted members shall observe the Code of Conduct of the Authority of the Chair of the JOSC at the time the co-opted member was appointed.

b) Members of the JOSC must declare any interest during meetings of the JOSC (and withdraw from the meeting if necessary) in accordance with the paragraph above.

19. Confidentiality of Information

a) In accordance with Members' respective Authority's Code of Conduct, members (Elected Members and Co-opted Members) of the JOSC must not disclose any information considered 'exempt' in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

b) The Proper Officer for the JOSC shall be ??

20. Administrative arrangements

a) The secretariat function will be provided by the CJC . The function includes:

- Arranging regular meetings of the JOSC - meetings are held within appropriate timescales following meetings of the CJC and it's Sub Committees
- Preparing agendas and commissioning papers for meetings - Agendas and commissioning papers are prepared and distributed in a timely manner.
- Inviting participants
- Managing attendance
- Provision of meeting venues
- Minute taking

b) Professional Scrutiny support for the JOSC will be arranged and provided by the Appointing Authorities,

21. JOSC meeting procedures (including sub-committees)

a) Main agenda items will be identified at the previous meeting in line with the agreed work programme. At this point potential witnesses and broad themes should be considered.

b) Prior to the meeting all JOSC Members should be engaged in raising and discussing possible questions by email. The JOSC Chair will facilitate this process.

c) A pre-meeting for all JOSC Members will be held for 30 minutes immediately before each JOSC meeting. The purpose is to ensure that members are fully prepared for the JOSC meeting and that the questioning strategy is clear.

d) During the meeting, the JOSC Chair will be responsible for ensuring that questioning is effective and that the JOSC achieves its objective.

e) Those invited to attend for a particular agenda item shall not be expected to remain at the meeting.

f) At the close of the meeting, witnesses will be asked to leave to enable JOSC Members to discuss their conclusions and any recommendations arising from the meeting . ~~These conclusions and recommendations will be reported to the PSB and relevant Cabinet~~

~~Member(s) in the form of a Chairs' Letter.~~ The meetings should keep under review the effectiveness of the meeting and identify ways that future meetings could be improved

22. Responding to the JOSC recommendations

a) The JOSC will agree outcomes of its meetings and record the conclusions and any recommendations arising from a JOSC meeting.

b) Where recommendations have been made to the CJC a written response would be expected within two months, indicating whether the recommendation is to be accepted and what action (if any) will be taken in response.

23. Evidence Gathering

a) The JOSC is entitled to gather evidence in connection with any review or inquiry it undertakes as part of their agreed work plan.

b) The JOSC shall adopt methods of gathering evidence to inform its deliberations. These include, but are not limited to, task and finish groups, holding enquiries, undertaking site visits, conducting public surveys, holding public meetings, commissioning research, hearing from witnesses and appointing advisors and assessors. The knowledge of Members is also a valuable source of evidence and should be considered as part of each inquiry.

24. Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations- Regulation 8 and 9

a) Without prejudice to the right of any relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee of an Appointing Authority under Regulation 8 the JOSC when it intends to make a report or recommendations to an Appointing Authority/ies or the executive of an Appointing Authority/ies on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area and the report or recommendations relate to the exercise of a function of the CJC :

- The CJC must co-operate with the JOSC and give it such reasonable assistance as it requests in connection with the exercise of its functions.
- Assistance provided under paragraph (2) may include—
  - arranging for a member of the CJC to attend and answer questions at a meeting of the committee;
  - arranging for a member of the staff of the CJC to attend and answer questions at a meeting of the committee;
  - providing information.
  - providing copies of documents in the possession or under the control of the CJC

b) Where the JOSC formally publishes a report or recommendation in accordance with Section 21B(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulation 13(2) of the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 the CJC must:

- consider the report or recommendation, and
- before the end of the period of 2 months beginning with the day the report by the committee is published publish a statement setting out the steps it intends to take in light of the report or recommendation in exercising its functions.

25. Setting the agenda

a) Individual agenda items, other than standing items, are to be determined in the first instance by the Work Programme which is to be established and agreed by the JOSC. The decision to consider additional items or defer planned items will be a matter for the discretion of the Chair.

b) Any matter that is referred to the JOSC or a sub-committee by any member of the JOSC or a sub-committee will be included on the agenda for, and discussed at, a meeting of the JOSC or the relevant sub-committee. See "Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc" below

26. Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc

a) Any member of the JOSC can refer to the committee any matter which is relevant to its functions.

b) Any member of a sub-committee of the JOSC can refer to the committee any matter which is relevant to its functions.

c) Any member of any of the Appointing Authorities can refer to the JOSC any local government matter which is relevant to the functions of the JOSC.

d) Any referral as per a) to c) above will be included on the agenda for, and discussed at, a meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

e) Where the JOSC makes a report or recommendations in relation to a matter referred to it by that member, it must provide the member with a copy of the report or recommendations.

27. Training and Development

a) Training will be provided to members of the JOSC as and when required / appropriate.

28. Expenses, Allowances and Salaries

a) The JOSC will not be responsible for or pay any expenses or allowances.

b) The remuneration of Chair of the JOSC (or a Sub-Committee of the JOSC) is prescribed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and is a matter for the constituent local authorities to decide whether such a post will be paid.

c) All Elected Members and Co-opted Members will need to apply to their respective Authority or Organisation for any payment of expenses etc.

29 Meeting Venue / time

a) The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) shall conduct all meetings virtually.The committee will utilise secure and reliable digital platforms that enables participation in line with the 2021 Act,

b) Meeting dates and times will be communicated in advance as part of the Corporate Joint Committees annual calendar of meetings..

c) Appropriate technical support and guidance will be provided to committee members to support their use of virtual meeting platforms, including pre-meeting technical briefings and on-call assistance during meetings, if required.

MEETING	**The Full Council**
DATE	**6 March 2025**
REPORT TITLE	**Community Reviews under the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013**
RECOMMENDATION	**That the Council approve the Draft Proposals under sections 25 and 31 of under the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 for the purposes of consultation**
CABINET MEMBER	**Cllr. Llio Elenid Owen**
AUTHOR	**Siôn Huws Propriety and Elections Manager – Legal Services**

Background

1. On 7 March 2024 the Council approved the conduct of community reviews under sections 25 and 31 of the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 (‘the Act’). This is a report on the outcome of the initial consultation and investigation period and propses draft proposals for further public consultation.

What is Community?

2. For the purposes of this report, a 'community' is a local government unit that lies below county council or county borough level (the ‘principal council'). Community areas cover the whole of Wales. The Gwynedd area is divided into 64 communities, with an elected community, town or city council serving each. In this context the legal status of the councils is the same whatever it is called, i.e. they are all classed as 'community councils'. Communities in turn can be divided into wards for electoral purposes but this is not inevitable, and not all communities in Gwynedd are divided into wards.

What is the Role of the Council?

3. As a principal council Gwynedd Council has a statutory duty, under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 to monitor the communities within the county, and the electoral arrangements of those communities. It must also carry out 'community reviews’ when the Act requires, or when it considers appropriate. In carrying out these duties the Council must still seek to ensure effective and convenient local government.

What is a Community Review?

4. This means that the principal council considers the community boundaries and/or the electoral arrangements within the communities. There are two types of community reviews that the Council should thereforeconsider undertaking:

a) Review of community boundaries (under section 25 of the Act)

A review of the boundaries of one or more communities to ensure that they continue to reflect the identity of the area concerned and facilitate effective and convenient local government. Community boundary changes include changes to the boundary of an existing community, or the dissolution of an existing community and the creation of a new community. The Council's recommendations are be submitted to the and Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, which would make the order that would bring the changes into force.

b) Review of electoral arrangements (under section 31 of the Act)

This involves looking at the electoral arrangements within a particular community which means considering the situation in relation to wards and the number of councillors. The order to bring these changes into force would be made by the Council.

Process and Timetable

5. The statutory process in carrying out a community review is largely the same for both types of community review. It differs only in terms of the outcome of the review, and its implementation. The Council is empowered to make an order to implement changes to communities' electoral arrangements but recommendations will have to be made to the Commission, as the implementing authority, to make any changes to community boundaries.

6. The Act lays down four essential steps to the process:

- Initial publicity

- Initial investigations and consultation - the purpose of this phase is to enable a principal council to gather the information it will need when considering and preparing any proposals for change

- Draft proposals (and consultation on those proposals); and

- Final recommendations

7. On 7 March 2024 the Council approved conducting community reviews under sections 25 and 31 of the Act together with the terms of reference and timetable. Due to the snap UK General Election being called in June 2024 it was not possible to proceed with the initial inquiry and consultation as planned and the timetable had to be revised as a result . The revised timetable is set out below.

Stage	Action	Date
Approval of Review	Council approves the principle of the Community Review and its Terms of Reference.	March 2024
Initial Publicity and Consultation 1	Initial publicity and publish Terms of reference. Six-week consultation period starting with publication of the Review Terms of Reference.	11/11/24
Public Consultation ends		20/12/24
Representations considered and Draft Proposals prepared		January – February 2025
Approval of Draft Proposals	Draft Proposals to be considered by Council and approved for further consultation	Full Council 6 March 2025
Consultation 2	Publish the report in accordance with the requirements of the Act and invite comments from the compulsory consultees and other relevant stakeholders (8 weeks)	March/April 2025
Represntations considered and prepration of final report to the Full Council	Council to decide final proposals	Full Council July 2025
Publish final proposals as agreed	Publication of the Final Report (1) Make the Order for the Section 31 review (6 weeks after publication of the Final Report) (2) Submit the recommendations of the Section 25 Review to the Commission	July/August 2025
Order comes into force	Next Local Government Elections	May 2027

Responses to Consultation 1

8. 7 responses to the initial consultation have been received and details can be found in **Appendix 1**

Electoral Arrangements Review (section 31)

9. The intention to look specifically at the question of whether a community should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the community council. Section 33 of the Act requires that, when a principal council considers whether a community should be divided into community wards, the council must consider whether the number or distribution of the local government electors for the community is such as to make a single election of community councillors impractical or inconvenient, and whether it is desirable that any area of the community should be separately represented on the community council.

10. From the point of view of election administration there are implications due to the existence of wards within a community, where, in an election, there are more candidates than seats in one ward, while there are not enough candidates to fill all seats in another ward. This means that an election must be held for one ward despite the fact that, looking at the community council as a whole, there are not enough candidates to fill all seats. As well as the cost to the community council of holding an election, it can complicate the nomination process to the councils and electoral officers.

11. Another factor which has been considered is the relationship of community wards to the county wards. In a situation where several community wards are located within the same single county ward there is a presumption that they should be abolished to try to ensure consistency in the electoral process, unless there are other more compelling reasons to retain them.

12. However, the process requires these considerations to be weighed against any specific reasons why it would be suitable for a section of the community to be represented separately on the community council and be therefore justified in retaining wards. The consultation is an opportunity to put forward such reasons for consideration.

Draft Proposals – Electoral Arrangements Survey

13. The Draft Proposals are presented in **Appendix 2**. They have been formulated on the basis of the above considerations along with any responses received in response to the consultation. Two draft proposals to change ward boundaries within communities can also be found in the form of maps in **Appendix 3**

Boundary Review (section 25)

14. Approval was given to undertake a review of the boundaries of specific communities where specific issues had been brought to our attention. This is often appropriate due to changes such as new housing developments or inconsistencies such as streets or properties separated from the rest of their natural community. The specific issues were the following.

- Llanllechid - the community boundary currently divides the Llwyn Bedw housing estate meaning there are some houses in the Bethesda community. (Put forward by Llanllechis Community Council)

- Y Felinheli – there are currently a number of properties located along Heol Heulyn that are within the village of Felinheli, which are in the community of Pentir rather than the community of Y Felinheli. (put forward by Felinheli Community Council)

- Llanegryn - a private individual has submitted an application to modify the boundary of the community of Llanegryn so that all the land of Rydygarnedd Farm falls within that community as part of it was moved to the community of Tywyn in 1987.

- Llanelltyd and Ganllwyd - that it would be sensible to merge the two councils into a single council in the Mawddach Valley covering the area from Ganllwyd to Bontddu. It was stated that the two areas were very similar to the same issues being discussed. (Submitted by Llanelltyd and Ganllwyd community councils)

15. No additional issues requiring attention under this process were raised in response to the consultation.

Draft Proposals – Boundary Review

16. The Draft Proposals are listed below and can be found on the maps included in **Appendix 3.**

- Transfer of properties along Heol Heulyn and within the village of y Felinheli from the community of Pentir to the community of y Felinheli

- Transfer that part of the Llwyn Bedw housing estate which is in the community of Llanllechid to the community of Bethesda so that the whole estate is in the community of Bethesda.

- Transfer the part of Rhydygarnedd farm currently within the community of Tywyn to the community of Llanegryn so that the whole property is within the community of Llanegryn

- The amalgamation of the communities of Llanelltyd and Ganllwyd to establish a new community.

The existing communities would be dissolved and a new community area and community council established. As a result it will be necessary to consider if the new community should be divided into wards, the number of members and the name of the new community.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales Guidance - 'Guidance For Principal Councils On The Review Of Communities' provides in the context of amalgamation that "*Unless specific considerations would suggest a different approach, it may be most appropriate for the wards of the new community to reflect the boundaries of the former communities that have been amalgamated.*"

It is proposed therefore to establish the '*Dyffryn Mawddach'* community, containgtwo wards '*Ganllwyd'* a *'Llanelltyd'* to correspond geographically and with the same number of members as the current communities that are to be amalgamated.

Next Steps

17. If the Council approves the Draft Proposals, a Draft Proposals Report will be published in accordance with the requirements of the Act publicising the fact that representations may be submitted to the authority during the public consultation period. It shall be sent to the mandatory consultees prescribed in the Act, and will include all who responded at the preliminary stage. In addition to the mandatory consultees it will also be sent to the following

- Community Councils
- County Councillors
- Members of the Senedd
- MP's
- Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales
- The Welsh Language Commissioner

18. An eight-week consultation period is proposed (it may be for a period of between 6-12 weeks under the Act).

Equality Impact Assessment

19. It is not considered that there are any direct implications as a result of the propsals in this report. The authority undertakes a separate, specific statutory review of polling areas and stations, which includes accessibility and access considerations. As part of that process the authority must, as far as is reasonable and practicable, designate places that are easily accessible to constituents with disabilities.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

20. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The act imposes a welfare duty

on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 of the goals of a voice which is a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives and is responsible at a global level. The Work will be carried out keeping attention to these and according to requirements and the 5 ways of working

The Welsh language

21. Any final proposals with implications for the names of communities or wards shall be formulated after taking into account any representations or advice received from the Council's Democracy and Language Service and the Welsh Language Commissioner.

Recommendation

22. To approve of the Draft Proposals under sections 25 and 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 for public consultation under section 35(3) of the Act.

Views of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer

This project has been led by Legal Services and I am sasified with the proporiety of the decision sought.

Chief Finance Officer

No objections from the perspective of financial propriety.

Appendix 1

Community Reviews 2024

Summary of Responses to Consultation 1

Llanddeiniolen Community Council

Residents of Pant y Buarth Farm, Brynrefail, LL55 3PA want to vote in Brynrefail ward rather than Deiniolen. Residents of Caer Bythod, Clwt y bont, LL55 3DE want to vote in Deiniolen Ward rather than Brynrefail.

Barmouth Town Council

No need for any changes.

Caernarfon Town Council

It does not make sense to merge councils as Caernarfon is an urban area and a natural unit.

It would be sensible to keep the wards as they are as they are aligned with the County Council wards. If the County Council's ward arrangements changed then that would be the time to consider the Town Council wards.

The additional electoral costs that can arise for the Town Council should its wards not align with the County Council's wards should be emphasised. It is more important to get people involved with the democratic process instead of fiddling with boundaries.

Dolbenmaen Community Council:

It would have been advantageous for Gwynedd to specifically ask a set of questions for community councils to answer. They also define what is meant by community but don't do the same for wards.

It is ikely if there is no local boundary issue then there will be no proposal to make an adjustment? Would having the council's position have been beneficial to stimulate discussion? Even if the intention is to keep everything the same. In terms of the number of councillors then again do they have a specific proposal for us to consider – that would have been beneficial.

Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Community Council

Following a recent meeting of Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Community Council the above review was discussed by Members and it was agreed to ask whether it would be possible to dispose of the two wards namely Llanenddwyn and Llanddwywe ward and make one ward which would be known as Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont ward.

This was because members saw that some of the Council Members representing Llanendwyn ward lived in Llanddwywe ward and the other way round with that they didn't see much reason to have two wards now.

Criccieth Town Council

Criccieth Town Council confirms that the Town Council is satisfied with the boundary and electoral arrangements in the town, including the number of Councillors.

Y Felinheli Community Council

Confirm that the Council is keen to include the addresses currently in the Community of Pentir but with the Felinheli Postcode to be in the Felinheli Community as well.

Local Member for Morfa Nefyn a Thudweiliog

Adjustment of community ward in relation to the Maes Terfyn Estate

ARFON					
CYMUNEDAU COMMUNITIES	WARDIAU WARDS	NIFER CYNGHORWYR NO.OF COUNCILLORS	ETHOLWYR ELECTORS	DOSBARTHIADAU PLEIDLEISIO POLLING DISTRICTS	Cynigion Drafft/ Draft Proposals
ABER	ABERGWYNGREGYN	7	182	P1A	Dim Newid/ No Change
BANGOR	DEWI	3	1397	T1G	Dim Newid/ No Change
	GARTH	1	521	T1B	
	GLYDER	3	1294	T1H	
	HENDRE	3	1567	T1D, T1CA	
	HIRAEL	3	1360	T1F, T1CB	
	MARCHOG	4	1576	T1E	
	MENAI	3	1244	T1A	
BETHESDA	GERLAN	5	1171	R1C, R1AC	Dim Newid/ No Change
	OGWEN	4	1240	R1AB	
	RACHUB	4	1097	R1B, R1AA	
BETWS GARMON	BETWS GARMON	8	177	H6A	Cyfuno wardiau Betws Garmon a Rhyd Ddu, y ddwy ward o fewn ward Waunfawr Cyngor Gwynedd/ Combine Betws Garmon and Rhyd ddu wards, both wards in Waunfawr Cyngor Gwynedd ward
				H6B	
BONTNEWYDD	BONTNEWYDD	11	871	G6A	Cyfuno wardiau Castellmai a Llanfaglan, y ddwy ward yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Bontnewydd/ Combine Castellmai a Llanfaglan wards, both wards part of Cyngor Gwynedd Bontnewydd ward
				G6B	
CAERNARFON	DEHEUOL (PEBLIG)	4	1787	E1E, E1EC	Dim Newid/ No Change
	DWYRAIN (CADNANT)	3	1335	E1EA, E1ED	
	GOGLEDD (MENAI)	4	1774	E1A, E1BA, E1BB, E1EB	
	HENDRE	3	1420	E1DB	
	GORLLEWIN (CANOL TREF)	3	879	E1C, E1DA	
LLANBERIS	LLANBERIS	13	1555	B1B	Cyfuno wardiau Llanberis a Nant Peris, dim angen wardiau yn y Gymuned/ Combine Llanberis and Nant Peris Wards, no need for wards in Communtiy
				B1A	
LLANDDEINIOLEN	BETHEL	4	1035	A1E	Dim Newid/ No Change
	BRYNREFAIL	1	244	A1D	Dim Newid/ No Change
	DEINIOLEN	6	1425	A1A D0A	Cyfuno wardiau Deiniolen, Clwt y Bont a Dinorwic gan fod y dair ward yn ward Deiniolen Cyngor Gwynedd/Combine Clwt y Bont and Dinorwic because the three are in the Cyngor gwynedd Deiniolen ward.
				A1B	
				A1C	
	PENISARWAUN A RHIWLAS	4	1140	A1F	Cyfuno wardiau Penisarwaun a Rhiwlas oherwydd y ddwy yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Penisarwaun/ Combine Penisarwaun a Rhiwlas because both in Penisarwaun Cyngor Gwynedd ward
				A1G	
LLANDWROG	CARMEL A CESAREA	5	663	J6C	Cyfuno wardiau Carmel a Cesarea oherwydd y ddwy yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Tryfan / Combine Carmel and Cesarea because both are in the Tryfan Cyngor Gwynedd ward.
				J6B	
	DINAS A GROESLON	9	1417	J6E	Cyfuno wardiau Dians a Groeslon ohwrwydd y ddwy yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Llanwnda/ Combine Dinas and Groeslon because both in Cyngor Gwynedd Llanwnda ward
				J6D	
LLANDYGAI	LLANDYGAI	14	1974	S1A	Cyfuno wardiau Llandygai, St Anns a Tregarth, dim angen wardiau, y dair yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Tregarth/ Combine Llandygai, St Anns and Tregarth wards, no wards needed in the Community, all part of Tregarth Cyngor Gwynedd ward.
				S1C	
				S1B	
LLANLLECHID	LLANLLECHID	10	677	Q1B	Cyfuno wardiau Isaf a Uchaf, dim angen wardiau yn y Gymuned/ Combine Isaf and Uchaf wards, no need for ward in the Community
				Q1A	
LLANLLYFNI	LLANLLYFNI, NANTLLE A TALYSARN	8	1463	K1C	Cyfuno wardiau Llanllyfni, Nantlle a Talysarn oherwydd y dair yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Llanllyfni/ Combine Llanllyfni, Nantlle and Talysarn, the three wards parts of Llanllyfni Cyngor Gwynedd ward
				J7A	
				K1A	
	NEBO	1	254	K1E	Dim Newid/ No Change
	PENYGROES	6	1365	K1B	Dim Newid/ No Change
LLANRUG	CEUNANT A CWM Y GLO	6	768	C6D	Cyfuno wardiau Ceunant a Cwm y Glo oherwydd y ddwy yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Cwm y Glo/ Combine Ceuant and Cwm y glo because both in Cwm y Glo Cyngor Gwynedd ward
				C6B	
	LLANRUG	8	1435	C1A	Dim Newid/ No Change
LLANWNDA	DIANS A RHOSTRYFAN	8	1106	I6D	Uno wardiau Dinas A Rhostryfan oherwydd y ddwy yn ward Llanwnda Cyngor Gwynedd/ Combine Dinas and Rhostryfan because both in Llanwnda Cyngor Gwynedd ward
				I6B	
	RHOSGADFAN	4	496	I6A	Dim Newid/ No Change
PENTIR	FAENOL/VAYNOL	8	1759	U1A	Dim Newid/ No Change
	GLASINFRYN	4	517	U1B U1C	
WAUNFAWR	CAEATHRO	2	229	F6B	Dim Newid/ No Change
	WAUNFAWR	9	894	F6A	
Y FELINHELI	Y FELINHELI	13	1787	D1A D2A	Dim Newid/ No Change
		219	**43095**		

DWYFOR

CYMUNEDAU COMMUNITIES	WARDIAU WARDS	NIFER CYNGHORWYR NO.OF COUNCILLORS	ETHOLWYR ELECTORS	DOSBARTHIADAU PLEIDLEISIO POLLING DISTRICTS	Cynigion Drafft/ Draft Proposals
ABERDARON	ABERDARON	12	739	PD6 PC6 PA6 PB6	Cyfuno wardiau Dwyrain, Gogledd a De, y dair ward yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Pen Draw Llyn/ Combine East,North and South ward, the three wards are part of Pen Draw Llyn Cyngor Gwynedd ward.
BEDDGELERT	BEDDGELERT	9	385	BA6	Dim newid/ No change
BOTWNNOG	BOTWNNOG	11	783	OA6 0B6 OC6 OD6	Cyfuno wardiau Bryncroes, Sarn a Botwnnog, y dair ward yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Pen Draw Llyn/ Combine Bryncroes, Sarn and Botwnnog, the three ward are part of Pen Draw Llyn Cyngor Gwynedd ward.
BUAN	BUAN	11	386	LA6 LB6 LC6	Cyfuno wardiau Bachellaeth, Ceidio a Buan, y dair ward yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Buan/ Efailnewydd/ Combine Bachellaeth, Ceidio and Buan, the three wards part of Efailnewydd/ Buan Cyngor Gwynedd ward
CLYNNOG	CLYNNOG	13	794	AB6 AC6 AA6	Cyfuno wardiau Beuno, Derwin a Lleuar, y dair ward yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Clynnog/ Combine Beuno, Derwin and Lleuar ward, the three wards part of Clynnog Cyngor Gwynedd ward
CRICCIETH	CRICCIETH	12	1334	EA1	Dim newid/ No change
DOLBENMAEN	DOLBENMAEN	14	920	CB6 CA6 CC6 CE6 CF6	Uno Golan, Penmorfa, Treflys, Bryncir a Dolbenmaen oherwydd fod y bedair yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Dolbenmaen/ Combine Golan, Penmorfa, Treflys, Bryncir and Dolbenmaen as all four are in the Cynngor Gwynedd Dolbenmaen ward
	PRENTEG	2	92	CD6	Dim newid, Prenteg yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Glaslyn/ No change, Prenteg in Glaslyn Cyngor Gwynedd ward
TREFOR A LLANAELHAEARN	TREFOR A LLANAELHAEARN	12	802	GB6 GA6	Cyfuno wardiau Trefor a Llanaelhaearn, y ddwy ward yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Yr Eifl/ Combine Trefor and Llanaelhearn wards, both wards in the Cyngor Gwynedd Yr Eifl ward
LLANBEDROG	LLANBEDROG	11	690	KA6	Dim newid/ No change
LLANENGAN	LLANENGAN	13	1430	RA1 QB6 QC6	Cyfuno wardiau Llanengan ac Abersoch, y ddwy ward yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd / Combine Llanengan, both ward in Llanengan Cyngor Gwynedd ward.
LLANNOR	ABERERCH A Y FFOR	8	845	ID6 IA6	Cyfuno wardiau Abererch a Y Ffor oherwydd y ddwy yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Abererch/ Combine Abererch and Y Ffor ward because both in Cyngor Gwynedd Abererch ward
	EFAILNEWYDD A PENTREUCHAF	6	832	IB6 IC6	Cyfuno wardiau Efailnewydd a Pentreuchaf oherwydd mae'r ddwy yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Efailnewydd/ Buan/ Combine Efailnewydd and Pentreuchaf ward because both in Efailnewydd/Buan Cyngor Gwynedd Ward
LLANYSTUMDWY	LLANYSTUMDWY	15	1587	FC6 FD6 FA6 FB6	Cyfuno wardiau Llanarmon, Llangybi, Llanystumdwy a Rhoslan, y bedair ward yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Llanystumdwy/ Combine Llanarmon, Llangybi, Llansystumdwy and Rhoslan wards, four wards part of Llanystumdwy Cyngor Gwynedd ward
NEFYN	MORFA NEFYN A EDERN	8	972	MC6 MB6	Uno wardiau Morfa Nefyn a Edern oherwydd y ddwy yn ward Cyngor Gwynedd Morfa Nefyn a Thudweiliog/ Combine Morfa Nefyn and Edern ward, both in Morfa Nefyn a Thydweiliog Cyngor Gwynedd Ward
	NEFYN	7	981	MA6	Dim newid/ No change
PISTYLL	PISTYLL	10	420	HC6 HA6 HB6	Cyfuno wardiau Llithfaen, Pistyll a Carnguwch, y dair ward yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd yr Eifl/ Combine Llithfaen, Pistyll and Carnguwch/ Combine Llithfaen, Pistyll and Carnguwch wards, the three wards part of Yr Eifl Cyngor Gwynedd ward.
PORTHMADOG	DWYRAIN/EAST	4	758	DD6	Dim newid / No change
	GEST	2	278	DA6	
	MORFA BYCHAN	1	473	DC6	
	TREMADOG	3	455	DE6	
	GORLLEWIN/WEST	3	576	DB1	
	YNYS GALCH	3	450	DF6	
PWLLHELI	GOGLEDD/NORTH	7	1573	JA1	Dim newid/ No change
	DE/SOUTH	8	1339	JB1	
TUDWEILIOG	DINAS	5	328	NB6	Cyfuno wardiau Dinas, Llangwnnadl a Tudweiliog, y dair ward yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Morfa Nefyn a Thudweiliog/ Combine Dinas, Llangwnnadl and Tudweiliog, the three wards are part of the Cyngor Gwynedd Morfa Nefyn and Thudweiliog ward
	LLANGWNNADL	2	122	NC6	
	TUDWEILIOG	5	264	NA6	
		217	20608		

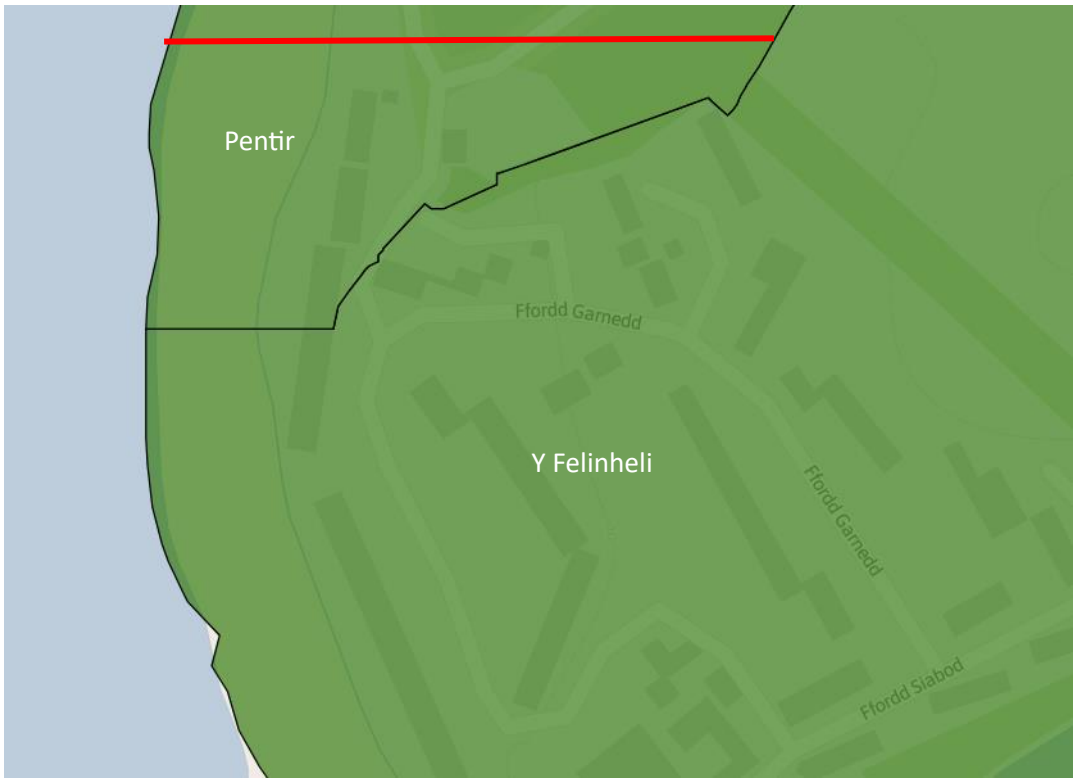
MEIRIONNYDD

CYMUNEDAU COMMUNITIES	WARDIAU WARDS	NIFER CYNGHORWYR NO.OF COUNCILLORS	ETHOLWYR ELECTORS	DOSBARTHIADAU PLEIDLEISIO POLLING DISTRICTS	Cynigion Drafft/ Draft Proposals
ABERDYFI	ABERDYFI	11	710	B2 B1	Cyfuno wardiau Dyfi ac Abertafol, y ddwy yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Aberdyfi/ Combine Dyfi a Abertafol wards, both part of Cyngor Gwynedd Aberdyfi ward
ABERMAW	ABERMAW	13	1650	AG2 E1 E3 E4	Dim newid/ No change
ARTHOG	ARTHOG	10	824	AB2 AR1 AB1 I5	Cyfuno wardiau Friog ac Islaw'r Dre, y ddwy ward yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Arthog a Llangelynnin/ Combine Friog and Islaw'r Dre ward, both part of the Arthog and Llangelynnin Cyngor Gwynedd ward.
BALA	BALA	12	1423	D1	Dim newid/ No change
BRITHDIR A LLANFACHRETH	BRITHDIR A LLANFACHRETH	12	627	AM2 AQ1 AM1 R1	Cyfuno wardiau Machreth a Brithdir, y ddwy ward yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Brithdir a Llanfachreth/ Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd/ Combine Machreth and Brithdir wards, both part of Brithdir a Llanfachreth/ Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd Cyngor Gwynedd ward
BRYNCRUG	BRYNCRUG	9	500	AP1	Dim newid/ No change
CORRIS	CORRIS	9	532	A2	Dim newid/ No change
DOLGELLAU	GOGLEDDOL/NORTHERN	7	1079	I3A, I3B	Dim newid/ No change
	DEHEUOL/SOUTHERN	7	979	I4	
DYFFRYN ARDUDWY	DYFFRYN ARDUDWY	12	1227	E5 J1 J2	Cyfuno wardiau Llanddwywe a Llaneddwyn, y ddwy yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Dyffryn Ardudwy / Combine Llanddwywe and Llaneddwyn, both part of the Cyngor Gwynedd Dyffryn Ardudwy ward
FFESTINIOG	BOWYDD A TANYGRISIAU	6	1300	M1 Y1	Cyfuno wardiau Bowydd a Tangrisiau, y ddwy ward yn Ward Cyngor Gwynedd Bowydd/ Combine Bowydd and Tanygrisiau wards, both in Cyngor Gwynedd Bowydd ward.
	TEIGL A CONGLYWAL	5	1373	F1A, F1B K1	Cyfuno wardiau Teigl a Conglywal, y ddwy ward yn Ward Cyngor Gwynedd Teigl/ Combine Teigl and Conglywal wards, both in Cyngor Gwynedd Teigl ward.
	DIFFWYS/MAENOFFEREN	5	763	L1	Dim newid/ No change
GANLLWYD A LLANELLTYD	GANLLWYD A LLANELLTYD	16	526	AA2 AJ1 R2 AG1 AJ2	Cyfuno Cynghorau Cymuned Ganllwyd a Llanelltyd/ Combine Ganllwyd and Llanelltyd Community Council dwy ward newydd Llanelltyd a Ganllwyd / two new wards Llanelltyd a Ganllwyd
HARLECH	HARLECH	12	1139	N1	Dim newid/ No change
LLANBEDR	LLANBEDR	9	449	AE1	Dim newid/ No change
LLANDDERFEL	LLANDDERFEL	13	841	AK1 O1 AN1 D2	Cyfuno wardiau Llan y Betws a Llanfor, y ddwy yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Llandderfel/ Combine Llan y Betws and Llanfor wards, both part of Cyngor Gwynedd Llandderfel wards
LLANEGRYN	LLANEGRYN	7	253	Q1	Dim newid/ No change
LLANFAIR	LLANFAIR	8	347	AU1 N2	Dim newid/ No change
LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT	LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT	8	280	A1 AP2 C1	Dim newid/ No change
LLANFROTHEN	LLANFROTHEN	8	342	S1	Dim newid/ No change
LLANGELYNIN	LLANGELYNIN	10	562	AV1 V1	Dim newid/ No change
LLANGYWER	LLANGYWER	7	210	D4 U1 D3	Cyfuno wardiau Cwm y Glyn a Gwalia, y ddwy yn rhan o ward Llandderfel Cyngor Gwynedd/ Combine Cwm y Glyn and Gwalia wards, both part of Llandderfel Cyngor Gwynedd ward
LLANUWCHLLYN	LLANUWCHLLYN	11	468	U2	Dim newid/ No change
LLANYCIL	LLANYCIL	9	333	D5	Dim newid/ No change
MAENTWROG	MAENTWROG	9	461	AD1 AO1 Y2	Dim newid/ No change
MAWDDWY	MAWDDWY	11	511	AT1 H2 AS1 H1	Cyfuno wardiau Aberangell, Dinas Mawddwy a Llanymawddwy, y dair yn rhan o ward Cyngor Gwynedd Corris/Mawddwy/ Combine Aberangell, Dinas Mawddwy a Llanymawddwy, the three part of the Cyngor Gwynedd Corris/Mawddwy ward
PENNAL	PENNAL	7	287	W1	Dim newid/ No change
PENRHYNDEUDRAETH	PENRHYNDEUDRAETH	12	1545	X1	Dim newid/ No change
TALSARNAU	TALSARNAU	10	452	AF1	Dim newid/ No change
TRAWSFYNYDD	TRAWSFYNYDD	12	669	AA1	Dim newid/ No change
TYWYN	DWYRAIN GORLLEWIN/ EAST WEST	7	1161	Z3 Z2	Cyfuno wardiau Gorllewin a Dwyrain, y ddwy yn Ward Gorllewin Cyngor Gwynedd/ Combine Gorllewin and Dwyrain ward, both in Cyngor Gwynedd Gorllewin ward
	MORFA	6	1395	Z1	Dim newid/ No change
		304	23823		

Ffordd Heulyn Y Felinheli – Map Cyfredol o'r Ffin / Current Map of Boundary – Section 25

Cynnig Newid i'r Ffin/ Proposed Change to Boundary

Cynnig i newid y ffin rhwng Cyngor Cymuned Y Felinheli a Pentir. Y newid yn sicerhau fod trigolion Ffordd Heulyn i gyd yn pleidleisio yn Y Felinheli. Ar hyn o bryd, rhan o'r stryd yn pleidleisio yn Penrhosgarnedd / Proposal to change the boundary between Y Felinheli Community Council and Pentir Community Council. The ammendment enables electors from Ffordd Heulyn to all vote in Y Felinheli. Currently, part of the street votes in Penrhosgarnedd.

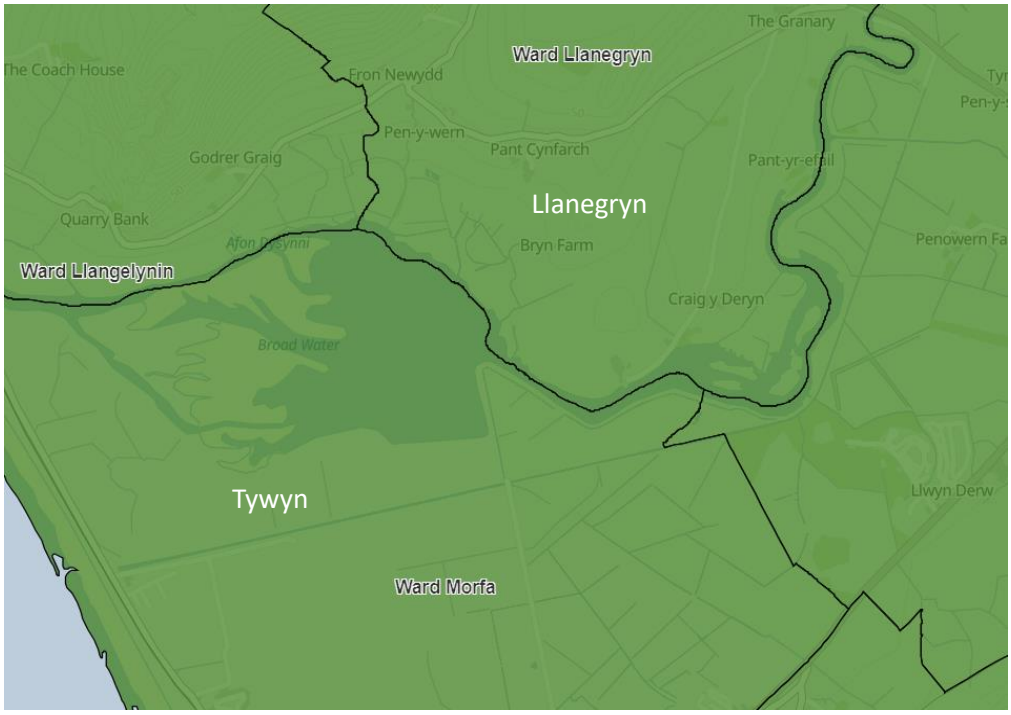


Llwyn Bedw Rachub/Llanllechid – Map y Ffin cyfredol/ Current boundary map – Section 25

Cynnig Newid i'r Ffin/ Proposed change to Boundary

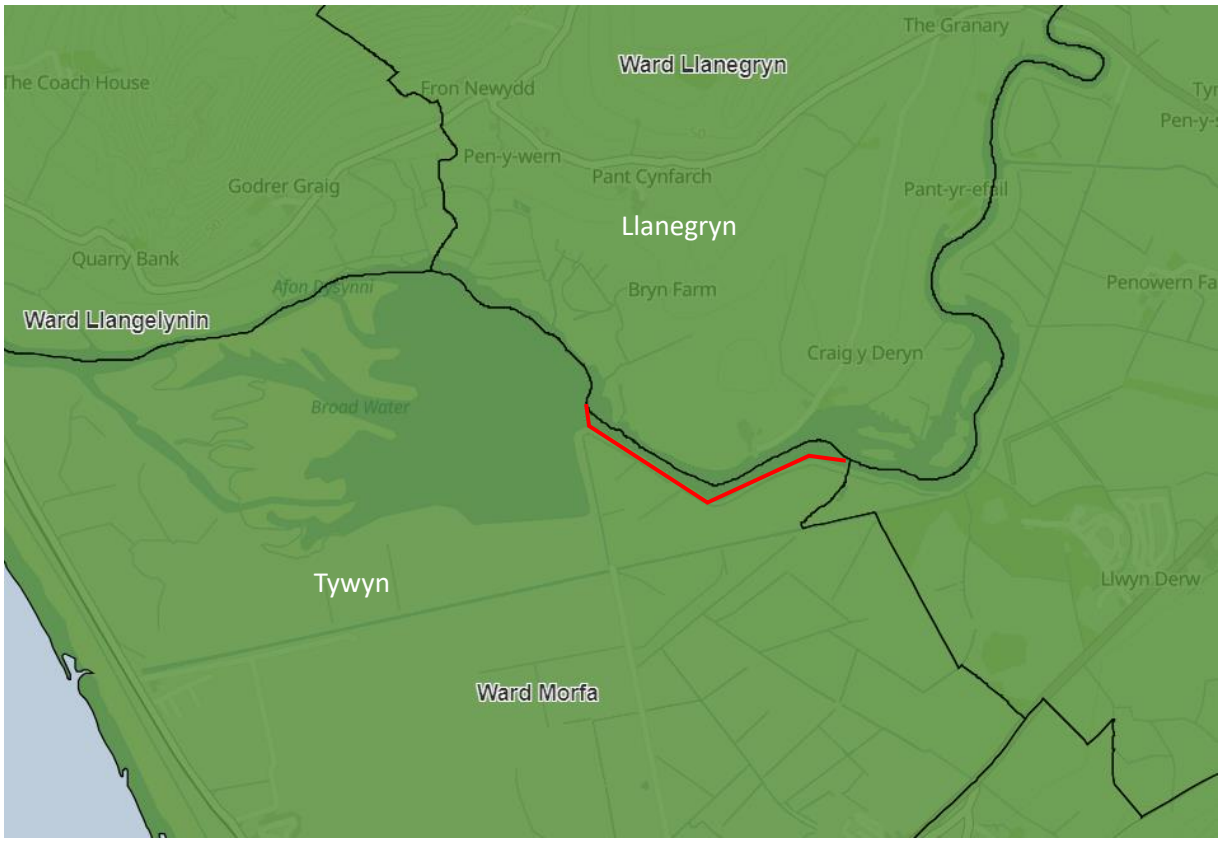
Cynnig i addasu y ffin rhwng Cyngor Cymuned Llanllechid a Bethesda fel bod trigolion Llwyn Bedw i gyd yn rhan o Gymuned Bethesda. Ar hyn o bryd rhan or stad yn pleidleisio yn Llanllechid/ Pproposal to adjust the boundary between Llanllechid Community and Bethesda so that the residents of Llwyn Bedw are all part of the Bethesda Community. Currently part of an estate vote in Llanllechid.

Fferm Rhyd Y Garnedd, Llanegryn, LL36 9LG – Map Ffin cyfredol /Current Boudary Map – Section 25



Cynnig Newid i'r Ffin/ Proposed Change to Boundary

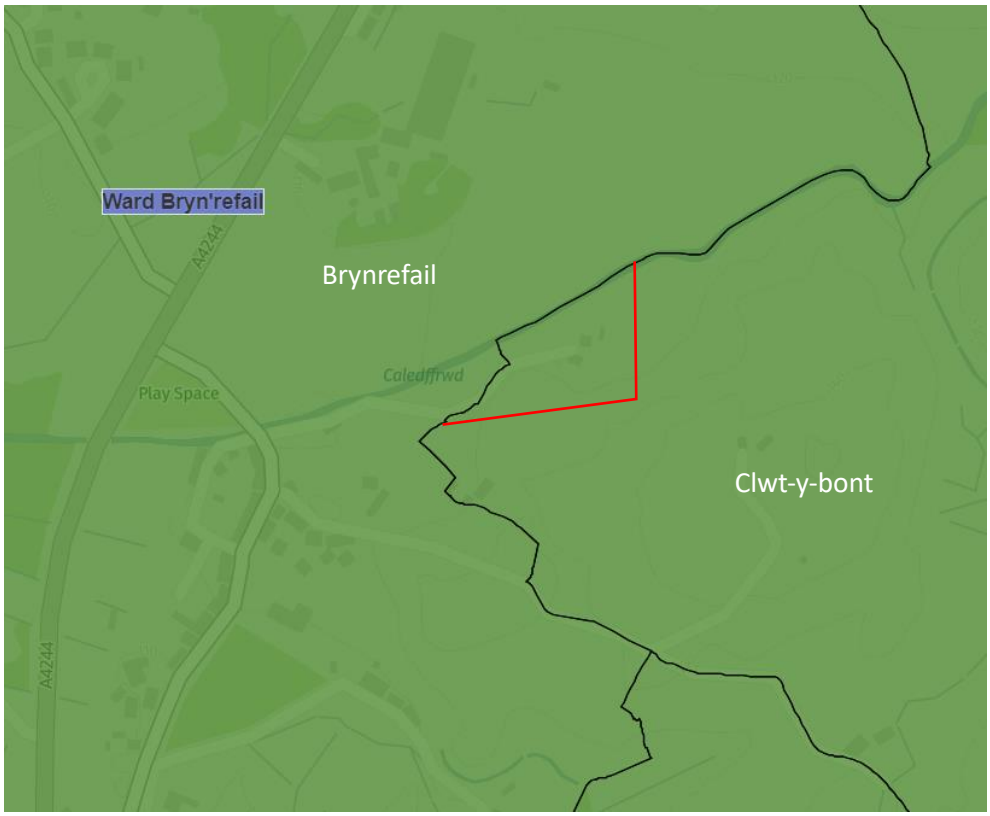
Cynnig newid ffin rhwng Cymuned Llanegryn a Cymuned Tywyn fel bod tir sydd yn berchen i Fferm Rhyd y Garnedd i gyd yn rhan o Gymuned Llanegryn. / Proposal to change the boundary between the Community of Llanegryn and the Community of Tywyn so that the land belonging to Rhyd y Garnedd Farm is all part of the Community of Llanegryn.



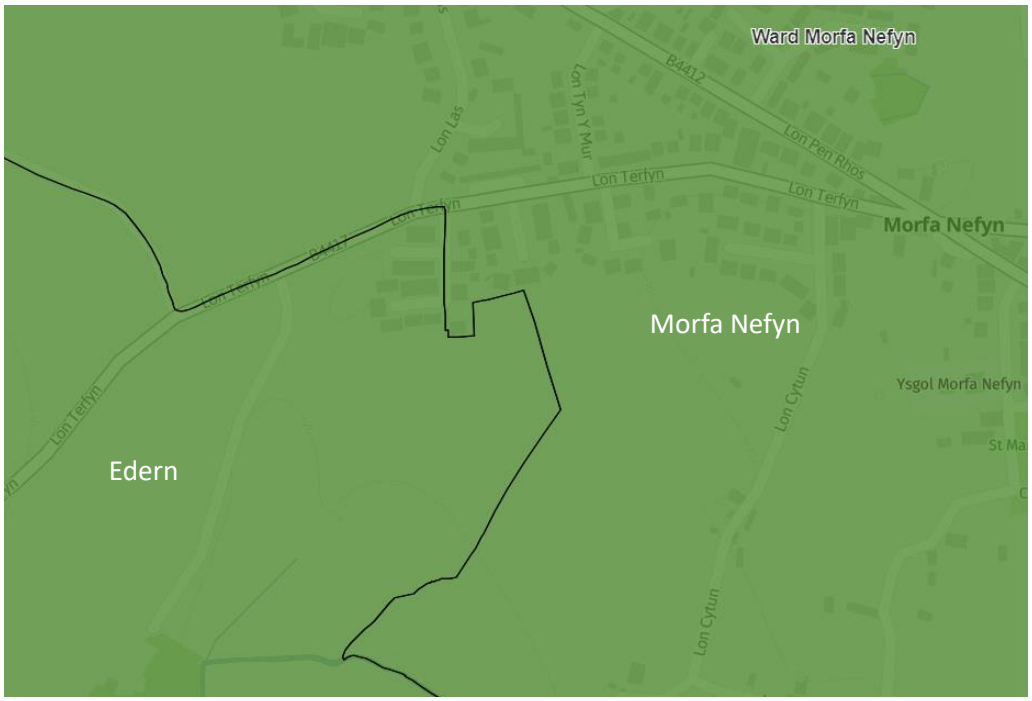
Fferm Pant y Buarth Brynrefail – Map o'r ffin cyfredol/ Map of current boundary - Section 31

Cynnig newid i'r ffin/ Proposed changes to Boundary

Cynnig i addasu y ffin rhwng Brynrefail a Clwt-y-bont fel bod etholwyr Fferm Pant y Buarth yn medru pleidleisio yn Brynrefail. / A proposal to adjust the boundary between Brynrefail and Clwt-y-bont allowing the electors of Pant y Buarth Farm to vote in Brynrefail.



Maes Terfyn Edern – Map y Ffin Cyfredol/ Current map of Boundary – Section 31



Cynnig Newid i'r ffin/ Proposed Boundary Change

Cynnig i symud y ffin rhwng wardiau Edern a Morfa Nefyn ar Gyngor Tref Nefyn. Y newid yn galluogi i drigolion Maes Terfyn i gyd bleidleisio yn Forfa Nefyn. Ar hyn o bryd hanner y stad yn gorfod mynd i Edern i bleidleisio. Proposal to move the border between Edern and Morfa Nefyn wards on Nefyn Town Council. The change enables all residents of Maes Terfyn to vote in Morfa Nefyn. Currently half of the estate has to go to Edern to vote.

MEETING	**COUNCIL**
DATE	**6 March 2025**
TITLE	**Amending the Constitution – Cabinet Portfolios**
AUTHOR	**Monitoring Officer**
PURPOSE	**To report on amendments to the Constitution.**
CABINET MEMBER	**Cllr. Nia Jeffreys, Council Leader**

1. Introduction

The Council Leader in accordance with Part 5 of the Constitution has acted to reorganise the Cabinet Member Portfolios. I am required to formally report to the Council on these changes to the Constitution.

2. Portfolios

The new Portfolios are set out in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

That the Council accepts the report.

Monitoring Officer

Author of the report

Finance Officer

Nothing to add from a financial propriety perspective.

Appendix 1

1. Name	2.Portfolio	3.Main Functional Areas
Councillor Nia Jeffreys	Leader Strategic Leadership.	Strategic Leadership (+ Main Cross-Department Programmes)
Councillor Menna Trenholme	Deputy Leader Children and Young People	Children and Young People
Councillor Medwyn Hughes	Economy Matters	Economic Strategic Issues, Supporting Business, Tourism, Community Regeneration, Strategic Projects, Maritime, Leisure and Libraries, Arts and Museums.
Councillor Dewi Jones	Education	Education and Schools, Youth Services
Councillor Craig Ap Iago	Environment	Environment
Councillor Llio Elenid Owen	Corporate and Legal Support	Corporate, Corporate Governance and Legal Services
Councillor Dilwyn Morgan	Adults Health and Well-Being	Adult Health and Wellbeing, Relationship with Health Service, Council's Supporting People Programme
Councillor Huw Wyn Jones	Finance	Finance, Information Technology
Councillor June Jones	Highways and Consultancy	Highways and , Gwynedd Consultancy, Trunk Roads Agency
Councillor Paul Rowlinson	Housing and Property	Housing and Property.

Note – The areas of responsibility of the Portfolios are in accordance with the areas of responsibility of the Department or Service set out in Column 2 subject to any addition or amendment noted in Column 3.

MEETING	**Full Council**
DATE	**6 March 2025**
TITLE	**Constitution Changes – New Contract Procedure Rules (Section 17)**
PURPOSE	**The Full Council is requested to adopt the new Contract Procedure Rules (Section 17) shown in Annex 1.**
CABINET MEMBER	**Cllr Llio Elenid Owen**
AUTHORS	**Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer)** **Arwel Evans (Procurement Manager)**

1. DECISION SOUGHT

That the Full Council amends the Constitution by adopting the new Contract Procedure Rules (Section 17) shown in Annex 1.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

The Procurement Act 2023 which came into force on 24 February 2025 means that the Council must review and amend our internal procurement rules contained within the Contract Procedure Rules to reflect the change in legislation and to ensure compliance with the Act.

3. BACKGROUND

Since the United Kingdom left the European Union, the Government (UK) has recognised this as an opportunity to review legislation related to public sector procurement. They have passed the Procurement Act 2023 and the Act was originally due to come into force on 28 October 2024 but was pushed back, and came further into force on 24 February 2025. In addition, the Welsh Government has passed the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 which places more responsibilities and duties on public sector organisations in Wales that are also relevant to procurement.

In light of the new legislation, the Procurement department has been preparing the Council for the change in legislation that has taken place. As part of doing this the Legal department, in consultation with the Procurement department, has been reviewing the Council's internal procurement arrangements. In addition, the Legal department has received advice from an external firm who have been working with councils across North Wales and we have incorporated some of their drafting points.

The purpose of the Contract Procedure Rules is to set out the process the Council should follow when carrying out a procurement exercise and in particular a procurement exercise which does not fall under the Procurement Act or Regulations 2024. The Rules set out the different methods and when they should be used. As well as ensuring compliance the review has also provided an opportunity to ensure that the Rules are flexible enough to allow officers to carry out a procurement exercise in the most efficient and effective way. Crucially, it ensures that there is control to any procurement exercise and delivers value for money for the Council. The procurement manager has been sending a series of messages to managers over the past few weeks to prepare for the new National Procurement Regulations and update them of the changes.

The main points to highlight are:

- Thresholds remain the same £5k= 1 quote, £5k-£50k= 3 quotes, open tender for contract over £50k
- The new procedures included for below threshold tenders which are: open, flexible competitive and direct appointment
- Reference towards including social value evaluation but not included a specific amount
- Change to sending letters (standstill) and create notices (contract details notice) for appointments over £30k
- At least 2 people with relevant expertise to be part of tender evaluation team
- Choosing to award a public contract on the basis of the most advantageous tender (MAT) – moving away from the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT)
- Change the terminology to what's in the Act

At its meeting on 6 February 2025, the Governance and Audit Committee decided to accept the Contract Procedure Rules in order to present them to the Full Council here today and no comment or question had arisen.

4. RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

Not reviewing and amending the Rules would raise a significant risk to the Council and the Council would be:

i. open to a legal challenge for failure to comply with the legislation;
ii. likely to receive criticism from auditors and regulators.

The Monitoring Officer:

Monitoring Officers recommendation

Head of Finance:

Updating the Contract Procedure Rules to reflect the latest legislative requirements is a necessary act. I support the Decision Sought from the perspective of the proper financial administration of the Council.

SECTION 17

17. CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

17.1 INTRODUCTION

17.1.1 Procurement is the process by which the Council manages the acquisition of all its Goods, Services and Works. Upon identification of need, it includes consideration of options, the actual procurement process and the subsequent management and review of the contracts.

17.1.2 These Contract Procedure Rules ("CPRs") cover the procurement activities of the Council that are not governed by the Procurement Act 2023 ("Act") and the Procurement (Wales) Regulations 2024/782 ("Regulations"). Compliance with the Act and the Regulations is a strict legal requirement upon the Council, and it is not open to the Council to waive compliance of these for procurements.

17.1.3 These CPRs apply to procurements which are to be commenced on or after 24 February 2025. Any contracts awarded under previous legislation will continue to be managed under that legislation until such a time as the contract ceases to exist.

17.1.4 Procurement by the Council is governed by the Act and Regulations. The law requires all council procurement and contracting to be conducted transparently, fairly and in a non-discriminatory manner. In the event of statutory or other legal requirements exceeding the requirements contained within these CPRs, then statute shall take precedence over any provision within these CPRs.

17.1.5 The Act sets out the following objectives for the procurement of contracts: delivering value for money, maximising public benefit, sharing information for the purpose of allowing suppliers and others to understand the authority's procurement policies and decisions, and acting and being seen to act, with integrity, the ("Procurement Objectives").

17.1.6 In addition, the Council shall have regard to particular participation barriers which may face small and medium sized enterprises and consider whether such barriers can be removed or reduced.

17.1.7 In <u>all</u> its procurements the Council must comply with the based principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, mutual recognition and proportionality and these rules are designed to ensure compliance with the same.

17.2 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

17.2.1 In these Rules the following definitions apply:

- **Authorised Officers** means the holder for the time being of any post named in the Scheme of Delegation as having delegated powers and duties in respect of the procurement concerned.
- **Chief Officer** means any officer in the following categories of officer, Chief Executive, Corporate Director and Head of Department.
- **Contract** means any form of agreement (including, without limitation, official purchase orders) for the supply of Goods, provision of Services or carrying out of Works.

- **Contractor** means any contractor, supplier or provider with whom the Council enters into a Contract for the carrying out of works, provision of services or the supply of goods.
- **Corporate Contract Register** means a list of contracts given by the Council.
- **Frameworks** means an agreement between a contracting authority (the Council) and one or more Suppliers, the purpose of which is to establish the terms (in particular with regard to price and quantity) governing a contract or contracts to be awarded during the period for which the framework applies.
- **Goods** covers all the goods, supplies, substances and materials that the Council purchases, hires or otherwise obtains.
- **Grant and Grants** a sum of money paid or to be paid by the Council to a third party, and in respect of which the Council does not require the grantee to provide the Council with any services, goods or carry out any works for the Council's direct benefit. The Grant may be conditional (i.e. obligation to spend the Grant in a particular manner, to account for that spend and repay the Grant if the Grant conditions are breached).
- **ITT** means an invitation to submit a Tender.
- **Light Touch Contract** means a proposed contract for the provision of certain social or other specific services listed in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.
- **Procurement** means the process by which the Council manages the acquisition of all its goods, services and works. It includes the identification of need, consideration of options, the actual procurement process and the subsequent management and review of the contracts.
- **Procurement Manager** means the Council's Procurement Manager or any officers under his/her supervision or management who are given delegated powers to carry out any of the obligations, duties or activities required to be performed by him/her under these Rules or to act in his/her absence.
- **Procurement Process** means the procurement process spans the whole life cycle, from identification of needs, options appraisal, conditions of participation, award and contract management through to the end of a contract or the end of the useful life of the asset, or disposal of the asset.
- **Rules** means these Contract Procedure Rules.
- **Services** includes all services, which the Council purchases or otherwise obtains including advice, specialist consultancy work, agency, staff, etc.
- **Regulations** means the Procurement (Wales) Regulations 2024 and any amendment or re-enactment thereof.
- **Tenderer/Tenderers**. Individual, individuals, partnerships, companies or other bodies invited to submit quotes/tenders, prices for providing the Council with services, supplying goods or carrying out works.
- **Variation and Variations** means any alterations to a contract, including additions, omissions, substitutions, alterations or changes of any other nature.
- **Works** includes all works of new construction and repairs in respect of physical assets (buildings, roads, etc.) including all those activities constituting works for the purposes of the Regulations.

- **Written** means in writing or in a "written" electronic form.

17.2.2 All values referred to in these Rules are inclusive of V. A. T.

17.2.3 Any dispute regarding interpretation of these Rules shall be referred to the Monitoring Officer for resolution.

17.2.4 These Rules shall be read in conjunction with the Council's Constitution as a whole and in particular the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, which must be complied with.

17.2.5 The Procurement Manager shall undertake a formal review of these Rules at least every two years and advise the Legal Department of any changes needed.

17.2.6 Amendments to Statutory Thresholds will be incorporated in these Rules as a matter of cause.

17.3 <u>COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES</u>

17.3.1 These Rules must be followed when dealing with any Council Procurement except for those Procurements and other matters referred to in Rule 17.4.

17.3.2 Every Procurement undertaken by the Council or any other party on its behalf must comply with

(a) all relevant statutory provisions;

(b) where applicable the Regulations;

(c) the Council's Constitution;

(d) the Council's strategic objective and policies including the Corporate Procurement Strategy.

(e) the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy; and

(f) the guidance on the Procurement Unit Intranet Site.

17.3.3. The Procurement Manager may from time to time issue procurement guidance. Chief Officers must ensure that employees in their Service are aware of such guidance and should ensure compliance.

17.3.4 Any failure by an officer to comply with any provision of these Rules may result in disciplinary action.

17.4 <u>EXEMPT CONTRACTS</u>

17.4.1 Exemptions are where the CPRs are suspended entirely. The following contracts are exempt from the requirements of these CPRs:

i. Internal purchases or service provision;
ii. Vertical arrangements, i.e. a public contract awarded by a Council to a legal person controlled by the Council and which carries out at least 80% of its activities for the Council;
iii. horizontal arrangements, where two or more contracting authorities genuinely cooperate with each other to meet public service obligations that each is entrusted to perform;
iv. utilities contracts between a utility and a relevant joint venture to

which that utility is party, where the joint venture was formed for the purpose of carrying out that utility activity for at least three years and the parties to the joint venture are committed, by way of written agreement to continue to be parties to the joint venture for a period of three years following the date of that agreement;

v. Contracts relating solely to the acquisition, by whatever means, of land, buildings or any other complete work (i.e., a functioning structure that results from the carrying out of works), or of an interest in or right over any of them (with the exception of development agreements);

vi. Contracts for the acquisition, development, production or co-production of material intended for broadcast (by any means) by a contracting authority to the general public;

vii. Contracts to facilitate the provision to the general public of an electronic communications service (within the meaning of s.32 of the Communications Act 2003);

viii. contracts for the provision to a contracting authority of arbitration, mediation or conciliation or other similar services;

ix. contracts for the provision of Exempt Legal Services;

x. financial services – contracts for the lending of money in any currency to a contracting authority;

xi. contracts of employment or worker's contracts;

xii. contracts for the provision of research and development services;

xiii. international agreements and organisations;

xiv. any contracts that a contracting authority determines should not, in the interests of national security, be subject to this Act;

xv. award of Grants (Grants are not regulated by public procurement law as they are not public contracts. However, they are regulated by the rules on state aid and by general public law controls relating to fiduciary duty and proper spending of public money as well as specific conditions which may include procurement requirements);

xvi. individual orders placed under contracts which provide for orders to be placed against agree schedules of rates, or under a measured term contract or under a Framework, provided that such contracts or Framework have been let by the Council in accordance with these Rules;

xvii. individual orders placed under Crown Commercial Service and or Welsh Government let Framework or other public sector Framework where the Council is permitted to place orders under such agreements;

xviii. contracts for services entered into in pursuance of powers under the National Health Services and Community Care Act 1990 and the Children Act 1989 for the benefit of an individual;

xix. instructions and briefings issued by or on behalf of the Monitoring Officer to Counsel. The Monitoring Offices will make arrangements to ensure that a record is kept of all such instructions or briefs together with a record of Counsel's fee;

xx. Goods, Services and Works procured by another public body on behalf of or for the joint benefit of the Council and other parties (i.e. a collaborative procurement agreement such as contracts awarded via the National Procurement Service etc.) and provided that in such case, the other public body's procurement/contract rules, all UK procurement law requirements, and the Procurement Objectives have been complied with. The advice of the Procurement Manager must be sought before placing reliance on any such arrangement;

xxi. Individual "De-minimus" contracts within the Council's public transport support budget up to an aggregated maximum of 40% of that budget.

17.4.2 Where the Council procures health care services as described and provided for in Schedule 1 of the Health Services (Provider Selection Regime) (Wales) Regulations 2024 (**"PSR"**), such procurements shall be carried out in accordance with the PSR and not the Act or Regulations.

17.5 COUNCIL-WIDE FRAMEWORKS AND DYNAMIC MARKETS

17.5.1 Where available, use must be made of the Council's existing corporate purchasing and Framework let or a Dynamic Market in accordance with these Rules, unless in exceptional circumstances the Procurement Manager has agreed otherwise. The Corporate Procurement Unit maintains a register of such agreements and can provide advice on their use.

17.6 ESTIMATING THE CONTRACT VALUE

17.6.1 The general rule for estimating the value of a contract includes a calculation taking into account:

- The value of any goods, services or works providing by the contracting authority under the contract other than for payment;
- Amounts payable if an option to extend or renew the term of the contract was exercised;
- Amounts representing premiums, fees, commissions or interest that could be payable; and
- amounts representing prizes or payments that could be payable to participants in a procurement; and
- inclusive of VAT.

17.6.2 No works or requirements for goods or services may be artificially split to avoid compliance with UK procurement law or these Rules.

17.6.3 In determining the value of the total consideration, which the Council expects to pay, the Council shall, where relevant, take account of:

(a) any form of option

(b) the term/period of the proposed Contract

(c) any rights to renew the Contract/extend the Contract period

(d) any price, payment, premium, fees, commission, interest or other form of remuneration payable under the proposed Contract or in respect of the proposed procurement.

17.6.4 In determining the value of any Contract for the hire of Goods, if the term of the Contract is indefinite or uncertain at the time the Contract is entered into, then the value shall be taken as equating to the value of the monthly consideration multiplied by 48.

17.6.5 In determining the value of any Contract for the provision of Services or carrying out of Works, if the term of the Contract is indefinite or uncertain at the time the Contract is entered into then the value shall be taken as equating to the value of the monthly consideration multiplied by 48.

17.6.6 Where the Council has requirements over a period of time for Goods and Services where the contracts have similar characteristics and the Goods and Services are of the same type, and enters into a series of contracts or a contract which is renewable, then the estimated value shall be calculated by the total spend on such matters over the last 12 months or projected

estimated spend for next 12 months, whichever is the greater. In estimating this value the advice of the Procurement Manager must be sought.

17.6.7 For Frameworks , or similar, without a known annual expenditure but with duration exceeding one year, the number of years duration will be multiplied by the likely annual expenditure and must be determined in consultation with the Procurement Manager. The maximum period now permitted under the UK Procurement Rules for Frameworks is 4 years, unless there are clear justifications for this, which must be set out in the Tender Notice or Transparency Notice relating to the Framework.

17.6.8 Open Frameworks must be valued by including the value of all Frameworks that could be awarded under the Open Framework and therefore, the value of all contracts that could be awarded under each of the Frameworks in the scheme.

17.6.9 Concession contracts are to be valued differently. Concession contracts should be valued by way of estimating the maximum amount the supplier could expect to receive, taking account of a similar non-exhaustive list of variables in the general rule, with certain modifications more pertinent to concession contracts, such as amounts received on the sale of assets held by the supplier under the concession contract.

17.6.10 If a contract value cannot be estimated, then the contract is deemed to be valued as above threshold.

17.7 <u>CONTRACTS UNDER £50,000 (Quotations)</u>

17.7.1 Where possible, goods, services and works must be obtained via existing corporate Frameworks, standing lists or consortia arrangements.

17.7.2 Where there are no existing approved arrangements, the following number of quotations must be sought and evidenced in accordance with Rules 17.7.3 or 17.7.4.

(a) Up to £5,000 require only one quotation;

(b) Between £5,000 and £50,000 require three quotations.

17.7.3 For Procurements up to £5,000 the quotation obtained must be in writing in order that best value and the integrity of the process can be demonstrated. This information must be retained by the Service.

17.7.4 For Procurements of £5,000 to £50,000 records will be kept detailing which Contractors were selected to quote, to whom the Contract was awarded and the reasons for so doing (lowest price or offer which represents best value to the Council and why), so that best value and the integrity of the process can be demonstrated. The confidentiality of quotes will be maintained until the contract has been awarded. This information must be retained by the Service. It is important to appreciate that Contractors must be informed of how their quotations will be evaluated and this information should be set out when Contractors are asked to quote.

17.7.5 Where similar goods, services and works are regularly required, and arrangements described in Rule 17.5 are not available, consideration must be given to awarding a framework and the advice of the Procurement Manager must be obtained.

17.7.6 Where goods, services or works are regularly procured from a single particular supplier under this Rule and the aggregated value of those contract exceed £50,000 in any financial year, the matter must be reported by the Head of Department to the Procurement Manager who will undertake a review of the arrangements with regard to ensuring compliance with these Rules and the Councils Policies and Strategies.

17.8 CONTRACTS VALUED ABOVE £50,000 (TENDERS)

17.8.1 For procurements with an estimated value of more than £50,000 at least three written tenders must be invited.

17.8.2 For the rules as to: Pre-qualification, ITT, Receipt, Custody and Opening of Tenders, Tender Evaluation, Evaluation Team, Risk and Awarding Contracts, see rules 17.12-17.13, 17.18, 17.20-17.24.

17.8.3 The Corporate Procurement Unit shall maintain a Corporate Contract Register which will record to whom contracts are awarded and the procurement route following in each case. The Authorised Officer must provide the Corporate Procurement Manager with all required information to facilitate this.

17.8.4 All tenders must use a tender reference number and advise the Corporate Procurement Unit of this number.

17.9 CONTRACTS TO WHICH THE REGULATIONS APPLY

17.9.1 In the case of procurements that fall to be dealt with under the Regulations:

(a) tenders will be invited in accordance with the requirements of the said Act and Regulations for the time being in force; and

(b) such Act and Regulations will take precedence over these Rules;

(c) such Act and Regulations include requirements which are over and above the requirements set out in these Rules.

17.9.2 Advice and guidance on whether a particular procurement is subject to the Regulations can be obtained from the Procurement Manager and Monitoring Officer.

17.9.3 The current thresholds, as of the 1st of January 2024 are:

- Supplies & Services £214,904
- Subsidised Services Contracts £214,904
- Works £5,372,609
- Light Touch Contract for Services £663,540

The value of a procurement must now be calculated inclusive of VAT as per the Procurement Policy Note 10/21 and 11/23.

The thresholds change every two years and are due to change again on the 1st of January 2026.

17.10 CONSULTANTS

17.10.1 Any consultants used by the Council shall be appointed in accordance with these Rules. Where the Council uses Consultants to act on its behalf in relation to any procurement, then the relevant Head of Service shall ensure

that the consultants carry out any procurement in accordance with these contract procedure rules. No consultant shall make a decision on whether to award a contract or to whom a contract should be awarded. The relevant Head of Service shall ensure that the consultant's performance is monitored.

17.11 NOMINATED AND NAMED SUB-CONTRACTORS

17.11.1 If a sub-contractor, supplier or sub-consultant is to be nominated or named to a main contractor, quotations or tenders must be invited in accordance with these Rules and the terms of the invitation shall be compatible with the main contract.

17.12 PRE QUALIFICATION (Applies to all)

17.12.1 The Council shall only enter into a Contract with a Contractor if it is satisfied as to the Contractor's competencies. The criteria for selecting Tenderers may include, but need not be limited to:

(a) Technical or professional competence and experience including qualifications;

(b) Health and Safety;

(c) Quality including certification by official quality control institutes or agencies of recognised competence and or attesting conformity to quality assurance standards and or measures or equivalent bodies or standards;

(d) Financial and economic standing including appropriate insurance provisions;

(e) Sustainability, including environmental management measures,

(f) Evidence as to whether they are unsuitable on grounds, e.g. of bankruptcy, criminal conviction or failure to pay taxes;

(g) Welsh Language Measures;

(h) Data Protection; and

(i) Ethical Employment and Safeguarding.

17.12.2 Any procurements subject to the Regulations shall comply with the appropriate Regulations.

17.12.3 All Pre Qualification processes shall comply with the Procurement Objectives referred to in 17.1.7. above and any requirements as to Pre Qualification must be formulated so as to avoid breaching those principles.

17.12.4 All time limits for Pre Qualification processes shall be such as are reasonable having regard to the subject matter of the contract, the value of the contract and the Procurement Objectives.

17.13 THE INVITATION TO TENDER

17.13.1 These requirements apply to all invitations to Tender irrespective of value.

17.13.2 The ITT must include details of the Council's requirements for the particular contract including:

(a) a specification of the Services, Goods or Works being procured and instructions on whether any variants are permissible;

(b) the procurement timetable including the tender return date and time, which shall allow a reasonable period for the applicants to prepare their tenders;

(c) the Council's terms and conditions of contract;

(d) the evaluation criteria including attached weightings;

(e) the Form of Tender;

(f) pricing mechanism and instructions for completion;

(g) whether the Council is of the view that TUPE will apply;

(h) form and content of method statements to be provided;

(i) rules for submitting of tenders;

(j) tender reference;

(k) any further information which will inform or assist Tenderers in preparing tenders.

17.13.3 Every Tenderer submitting a tender will be required to sign a declaration to the effect that:

(a) they have not and will not inform any other person of the amount of their tender;

(b) they have not fixed the amount of any tender in accordance with a price fixing arrangement;

(c) they accept that the Council is entitled to cancel the contract and to recover from them the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation if it is discovered that there has been any corrupt or fraudulent act or omission by them which in any way induced the Council to enter into the contract;

(d) acknowledging that the Council is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender submitted, that the tender exercise may be aborted at any stage during the tender process and that they tender at their own cost and expense.

17.13.4 All time limits for Tendering Processes shall be such as are reasonable having regard to the subject matter of the contract, the value of the contract and the Procurement Objectives.

17.14 COMPETITIVE TENDERING PROCEDURE

17.14.1 The Council may choose to award a public contract to a supplier submitting the most advantageous tender ("MAT") in a competitive tendering procedure, which must take one of two forms.

17.14.2 In the case of procurements not governed by the Regulations the Council will publish a notice on the Council's Sell2Wales website. The extent and nature of the publication shall be proportional to the value and subject matter of the Procurement and regard shall be had to the Procurement Objectives.

17.14.3 The advertisement shall contain details of the proposed contract and specify a time limit within which interested parties may express an interest in tendering for the contract. After the expiry of the deadline date for expressions of interest, the Council shall send any party expressing an interest an ITT. The ITT shall specify the return date for tenders.

17.14.4 All Tenderers expressing an interest are invited to tender. In the case of procurements with an estimated value above £50,000 where fewer than three Tenderers have expressed an interest the Authorised Officer must, in consultation with the Procurement Manager, determine whether there is sufficient interest to demonstrate genuine competition before deciding to continue the Procurement.

17.15 OPEN PROCEDURE:

17.15.1 a single stage procedure under which any interested party can submit a tender. The decision to award the contract must be based solely on the single tender, subject to any disregarded tenders. This is a process where all providers interested in the contract and who have responded to an advertisement can submit tenders. All such tenders must be considered without any prior selection process. The conditions of participation and evaluation stages are carried out after the submission of the tenders.

17.16 COMPETITIVE FLEXIBLE PROCEDURE:

17.16.1 this procedure is non-prescriptive and allows the Council flexibility to design their own procurement process, to suit its specific needs and requirements. The Council must have regard to the Procurement Objectives and meet the procedural requirements applicable to the competitive tendering procedure, such as relating to time and transparency. The Council must decide who to award the contract to based on who the Council considers appropriate for the purpose of awarding the public contract.

17.16.2 The Council must use the competitive flexible procedure where:

- it wishes to limit the number of suppliers before inviting tenders;
- when procuring under a dynamic market; and

- when reserving a public contract to Supported Employment Providers or Public Service Mutuals.

17.16.3 A competitive tendering procedure does not need to be used by the Council where a Direct Award is justified in accordance with the Act or when awarding a public contract under a Framework.

17.17 DIRECT AWARD:

17.17.1 This provides for the award of a public contract without using a competitive tendering procedure and the public contract is able to be placed with the supplier directly without competition.

17.17.2 There are limited circumstances in which the Council is permitted to award a public contract without first running a competitive tendering procedure. Officers should refer to the circumstances as set out in section 41 and Schedule 5 of the Act. These circumstances also apply to below-threshold Direct Awards.

17.17.3 Before awarding a contract in this way, the council must consider whether the supplier is an Excludable Supplier, if so, the council will need to determine if it is appropriate for the supplier to be awarded the contract.

17.17.4 Paragraph 15 of Schedule 5 (Direct Award: User Choice Contracts) of the Act allows for Direct Award of a user choice contract provided certain conditions are met. User Choice Contracts are not suitable for a competitive tendering procedure due to the needs or preference of an individual. The council must also be of the view that it is in the best interests of the individual that the contract is not awarded under a competitive tendering procedure. User choice services should be delivered under Light Touch Contracts for the purpose of benefitting a particular individual and where the council is required to take into account the view of the individual or their carer as to who should supply the user choice services.

17.18 RECEIPT, CUSTODY AND OPENING OF TENDERS

17.18.1 Invitations to tender must clearly set out the latest tender return date and time.

17.18.2 All tenders must be returned using the official envelope or official returns labels and the exterior of the envelope may not be marked in any way which identifies the tenderer.

17.18.3 Tenders with an estimated value below £50,000 (if received by post in the official envelope or using the official tender return label) will be returned to the Head of Service. Tenders will be opened in the presence of two employees designated by the Head of Service of the relevant service area as the case may be. Both employees must be independent to the letting of the Contract. When opened, all tenders will be recorded in a tender register and the tenders and register will be initialled and

dated by designated officers present at the time. A copy of such record shall be sent to the Procurement Manager.

17.18.4 Tenders with an estimated value above £50,000 must be addressed to the Monitoring Officer if received by post enclosed in the official envelope or using the official tender return label provided by the Council. The Monitoring Officer will be responsible for the receipt, custody and opening of such tenders. Tenders for the same procurement will be opened consecutively at the same session in the presence of two employees designated for the purpose. One employee will be nominated by the Monitoring Officer and the other employee will be nominated by the relevant Head of Service. Both employees must be independent to the letting of the Contract. When opened, all tenders will be recorded in a tender register and the tenders and register will be initialled and dated by designated employees present at the time. The opened tenders will then be sent to the evaluation officer.

17.18.5 Tenders received after the date and time for receipt of tenders will not be accepted.

17.19 ELECTRONIC TENDERING

17.19.1 With the agreement of the Procurement Manager, the tender process including invitation and receipt of tenders may be conducted electronically using the Council's eProcurement tools and the provisions of Rules 17.14 to 17.18 may be modified to facilitate this, provided that the electronic system used is approved by the Senior Manager Revenues and Risk.

17.19.2 When requesting multiple quotations or tenders the use of personal or generic email addresses should be avoided to ensure that bids are received in accordance with opening procedures and that receipt of bids are correctly recorded.

17.20 TENDER EVALUATION

17.20.1 Tenders shall be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria and weightings set out in the ITT. All contracts, except contracts where lowest price was predetermined to be the appropriate criteria, shall be awarded on the basis of the offer which represents the most advantageous tender having regard to the evaluation criteria and weightings set. The evaluation criteria and weightings must be predetermined and listed in the ITT documentation. In addition, the criteria and weightings shall be strictly observed (and remain unchanged) at all times throughout the contract award procedure. Guidance and assistance on relevant evaluation criteria can be obtained from Corporate Procurement Unit and Legal Unit.

17.20.2 The assessment criteria used shall be given a weighting representing a percentage of the total importance. A consideration to social value shall be included in the assessment criteria or otherwise specified in the requirements of the contract.

17.20.3 If, after the tenders have been opened and examined, an error in computation of the tender is detected, the Tenderer will be given details

of the error and the opportunity to confirm the tender submission as corrected, or withdraw their tender.

17.20.4 At all times during any such clarification process the Council shall consider and comply with the Procurement Objectives of non-discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, mutual recognition and proportionality, principles which apply to all the Council's Procurements.

17.21 EVALUATION TEAM

17.21.1 For each Contract with an estimated value above £50,000 the Authorised Officer shall form an evaluation team ('Evaluation Team') with responsibility for evaluating tenders. The Evaluation Team shall consist of at least two officers with relevant expertise to successfully complete the evaluation. Written records of the evaluation must be kept.

17.22 RISK

17.22.1 For Procurements with an estimated above £50,000 the Authorised Officers shall carry out a risk assessment at the outset and thereafter maintain and update the same throughout the Procurement Process. The decision maker must be informed of any risks identified.

17.22.2 For Procurements with an estimated value of £50,000 or above, the Evaluation Team shall consider whether a performance bond and/or a parent company guarantee (if applicable) will be required from the preferred Supplier and where such a requirement arises ensure that it is included as a requirement of the procurement process.

17.22.3 For all Procurements the Authorised Officer shall consider the appropriate type (employee liability, public liability, professional indemnity, etc.) and level of insurance required for each contract and ensure that it is included as a requirement of the procurement process.

17.23 APPROVED LIST

17.23.1 Approved Lists can only be used where recurrent contracts of a similar type are likely but where such contracts need to be priced individually and cannot easily be aggregated and priced in a single tendering exercise. Approved Lists cannot be used for contracts where the estimated value is above £50,000

17.23.2 No supplier may be entered on an Approved List until there has been an adequate investigation, having regard to Rule 17.12 into both their financial and their technical ability to perform the contract, unless such matters will be investigated each time bids are invited from that list.

17.23.3 Approved Lists must be drawn up after an advertisement inviting applications for inclusion on the list. The advertisement must be placed to secure the widest publicity among relevant suppliers. Persons may be entered on a list between the initial advertisement and re-advertisement provided the requirements of Rule 17.23.2 are complied with.

17.23.4 Approved lists of suppliers to Services shall be maintained in an open, fair and transparent manner and must be made available to the public

on the Council's website. Any request by an economic operator to be included on the list can be accommodated provided that they meet the requirements of Rule 17.23.2.

17.23.5 The list must be reviewed at least annually and re-advertised at least every three years. On re advertisement, a copy of the advertisement must be sent to each person on the list, inviting them to reapply. Review means:

(i) the reassessment of the financial and technical ability and performance of those persons on the list, unless such matters will be investigated each time bids are invited from that list

(ii) the deletion, with notice, of those persons no longer qualified, with a written record kept justifying the deletion.

17.24 AWARDING CONTRACTS

17.24.1 A Contract may only be awarded by an Authorised Officer. The Authorised Officer must ensure, prior to seeking such a decision that sufficient funds are in place to meet all contract payments and if any funding is being obtained from third parties that any conditions attaching to such funding have been complied with.

17.24.2 Where the Contract to be awarded has an estimated value of £250,000 or above the relevant Cabinet Member must within 5 working days of the date of award of the contract be advised in writing of the award of the contract such notification to specify the subject matter, parties and value of the contract.

17.24.3 The Council shall only award a Contract where it represents best value for money. A Contract shall only be awarded using the pre-determined tender evaluation criteria and weightings. Where a tender is to be evaluated on price only, the Contract must, subject to Rule 17.24.4 below, be awarded to the Tenderer submitting the lowest price.

17.24.4 If, in the opinion of the Authorised Officer, a Tender is considered to be abnormally low the Tender may be disregarded but only if:

(a) the Authorised Officer has requested in writing an explanation of the Tender or of those Parts which it considers contribute to the offer being abnormally low;

(b) taken account of the evidence provided in response to a request in writing; and

(c) subsequently verified the Tender.

17.24.5 Save for exceptional circumstances, no Contractor should be asked to provide any Services, supply any Goods or carry out any Works (including preliminary Works) until the Contract is concluded or the Services, Goods or Works concerned are covered by a letter of intent. Any decision to the contrary must be made by the Head of Service for the service area concerned and such decision shall contain a full risk assessment as to the possible implications to the Council of the

Contractor being allowed to start before the contract terms and conditions have been finalised or a letter of intent issued.

17.24.6 Letters of intent shall only be used in exceptional circumstances, as follows:

(a) Where a Supplier is required to provide services, supplies or works prior to formal written acceptance by the Council; or

(b) Where the Council's form of tender does not include a statement that until such time as a formal contract is executed, the Council's written acceptance of a tender shall bind the parties into a contractual relationship.

17.25 NOTIFICATION OF AWARD AND ASSESSMENT SUMMARIES

17.25.1 Once the evaluation has been completed, then save for the successful Tenderer, all those expressing an interest and tendering will receive an assessment summary:

(i) The assessment criteria and weightings

(ii) The score that the Tenderer obtained against those assessment criteria and weightings (where relevant)

(iii) The overall score the winning Tenderer obtained; and

(iv) The name of the winning Tenderer.

17.25.2 If any additional information is to be disclosed to Tenderers, this must be agreed in advance with the Procurement Manager, taking into account the requirements of any legislation relating to the disclosure of information.

17.25.3 The list of points where de-briefing may be appropriate includes:

(i) conditions of participation: where the candidate is not selected (short listed) to take part in the tender process;

(ii) award: where the Tenderer was not awarded the Contract after evaluation of proposals/tender. Such de-briefing should never be conducted before the contract award decision is made and all unsuccessful Tenderers have been formally notified of the same. It should be made clear that the de-briefing process cannot be used to change the choice of a Contractor or to re-open the selection process.

(iii) if any potential supplier is asked to withdraw or withdraws during the Procurement. De-briefing will only be conducted at the request of the Contractor.

17.25.4 The Council may voluntarily enter into a standstill period, which should be for no less than 8 working days from the day on which the Contract Award Notice is published.

17.25.5 A standstill period is not mandatory where the council awards a public contract in accordance with a Direct Award under section 41 and section 43 of the Act; contracts awarded under Frameworks or Dynamic Markets; and Light Touch Contracts.

17.25.6 A Contract Details Notice is a mandatory notice which must be published by the Council each time a public contract is entered into. If the contract is a light touch contract, this must be published before the end of the period of 120 days beginning with the day on which the contract is entered into. Otherwise, the notice must be publishes before the end of the period of 30 days beginning with the day on which the contract is entered into. The Contract Details Notice must set out that the Council has entered into a contract, and include the information contained in Regulation 32 (Contract Details Notices: Open or Competitive Flexible Procedure), Regulation 33 (Contract Details Notices: Frameworks), Regulation 35 (Contract Details Notices: Direct Award) or Regulation 36 (Contract Details Notices: Below-Threshold Contracts) of the Regulations (as applicable depending on the route the Council has taken) as amended from time to time.

17.26 COMPLETION OF CONTRACTS

17.26.1 With the exception of any Contract formed using a purchase order output on a Council electronic purchasing system any Contract with an estimated value above £100,000 must be:

(i) in writing;

(ii) made under the Council's seal.

17.26.2 Contracts of £100,000 and under in value must be made using:

(i) a purchase order generated by Council electronic purchasing system, or

(ii) be an official order form produced by the Council, or

(iii) a written Contract.

17.27 CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

17.27.1 Once the Contract has been awarded the Authorised Officer must identify and nominate an individual who will manage the day to day aspects of the Contract for its term and if requisite to plan what will happen once the Contract comes to an end (plan for any new procurement exercise required).

17.27.2 The day to day management of the Contract shall include monitoring in respect of:

(i) performance

(ii) compliance with specification and contract terms

(iii) cost

(iv) any value for money/best value requirements

(v) user satisfaction, and

(vi) risk management.

17.27.3 Where the total value of the Contract exceeds £250,000 the Authorised Officer must make a written report to the Head of Service evaluating the extent to which the Contract is meeting the objectives set. This should be done normally when the Contract is completed but for term contracts such report should be prepared annually.

17.28 SOCIAL SERVICE CONTRACTS AND THE LIGHT TOUCH REGIME

Section 9 of the Act and Schedule 1 of the Regulations

17.28.1 There is a specific regulatory framework for procuring social service contracts and these are addressed for both contracts that fall under these Rules and the Regulations. Such contracts are in many ways different from contracts for construction work, office supplies and IT equipment.

17.28.2 The light-touch regime (LTR) is a specific set of rules for certain contracts which include certain social, health, education and other public services, defined by Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) codes, and are subject to much more flexible procurement rules.

17.28.3 At and above the threshold level, in the case of procurements where the Regulations apply, the main mandatory requirements are:

a) Tender Advertising: The publication of a Planned Procurement Notice Tender Notice (unless a direct award justification applies);
b) The publication of a contract award notice following each individual procurement;
c) Compliance with the Procurement Objectives of these CPRs;
d) Conduct the procurement in conformity with the information provided in the Tender Notice or Planned Procurement Notice regarding: any conditions for participation; time limits for contacting or responding to the Council; and the award procedure to be applied.
e) Time limits imposed by the Council on suppliers, such as for responding to adverts and tenders, must be reasonable and proportionate. There are no stipulated minimum time periods in the light touch regime rules, so the Council should use its discretion and judgement on a case by case basis.

17.28.4 **Below-Threshold:**

In the case of procurements where these Rules apply, being that the procurement falls below the light touch regime threshold, the main mandatory requirements are:

a) Below threshold procurement procedures should replicate other sections of these Rules to ensure value for money, the required level of quality and performance.

b) Where there are no existing approved arrangements, the following number of quotations should be sought and evidenced:

i) Up to £5,000 requires only one quotation
ii) Between £5,000 and £50,000 requires three quotations preferably via S2W
iii) An openly publicised and available procurement process should be conducted whilst seeking to invite at least three written tenders

c) The flexibility of the light touch regime are utilized whilst also undertaking a procurement activity which is conducted with openness, probity and accountability.

17.28.5 Further considerations to social service contracts and the Light Touch Contract arrangements.

17.28.5.1 Reserved Contracts – Section 33 of the Act provides for procurements for certain service contracts to be "reserved" to organisations that meet certain criteria. These contracts may run for a maximum period of 3 years. In essence, this means it is possible to run a competition in compliance with the new light-touch contracts regime of UK procurement rules where participation is limited to qualifying organisations such as mutual and social enterprises.

17.28.5.2 The same arrangement for awarding reserved contracts will apply for services below the threshold covered by the light touch regime.

17.28.5.3 Standstill Period - We will send a standstill notice and observe the standstill period for light touch procurements that fall under the Regulations as per the 'Guidance on the Standstill Period' which can be found on Procurement Act 2023 guidance: contract details notices | GOV.WALES .

17.28.5.4 Contracts below the light touch regime threshold do not need observe a standstill period. However, the award of contracts should be undertaken in accordance with section 17.24 and the relevant sections of 17.25 of these Rules.

17.29 WAIVERS OF CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

17.29.1 A waiver may be agreed by the relevant Cabinet Member if he or she is satisfied after considering a written report by the Chief Officer, that the waiver is justified because:

(i) the nature of the market for the works to be carried out or the goods or services to be provided has been investigated and is

demonstrated to be such that a departure from the requirements of these Rules is justifiable, or

(ii) the circumstances of the proposed contract are covered by legislative exemptions; or

(iii) it is in the Council's overall interests; or

(iv) there are other circumstances which are genuinely exceptional.

17.29.2 A record of the decision approving a waiver and the reason for it must be kept and an entry made in the appropriate register.

17.29.3 There is no power to provide a waiver in respect of the requirements of the Regulations.

MEETING	**The Full Council**
DATE	**6 March 2025**
SUBJECT	**Committees Calendar 2025/26**
PURPOSE	**To adopt the Committees Calendar for 2025/26**
AUTHOR	**Ian Jones** **Head of Democracy Services**

THE DECISION SOUGHT

To adopt the Committees Calendar for 2025/26

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The calendar of the Council's committee dates for 2025/26 is submitted. The Calendar assists the Council, its Members and the public to plan ahead for the dates and times of the Council's principal meetings.

1.2 Note that these are the dates we have currently scheduled, but situations can arise where additional meetings may need to be arranged in order to carry out Council business.

1.3 While every effort is made to avoid conducting meetings during school holidays, this is not possible on all occasions if the continuation of Council services is to be ensured.

1.4 Relevant officers and Eryri National Park Authority were consulted regarding the draft version of the committees' calendar to ensure, as far as practicable, that there were no clashes with other meetings. In addition, we have sought to ensure that there is no clash with the dates of regional meetings such as the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee meetings, although not all dates for 2025/26 are known yet.

1.5 In addition this year, we have noted a date for the Members' Briefing session every month as well as a monthly Training Day, so that Councillors are given adequate notice of the dates. We will make every effort to try to arrange the Briefings or Training sessions on those dates where possible, noting that there is a possibility of having to change to other dates should key trainers or officers not be available.

1.6 Following a discussion about the Committees Calendar at the Democracy Services Committee on 18 February 2025, a suggestion was made to highlight

on the Calendar which meetings are held as hybrid or multi-location meetings. Following this recommendation we have marked *(H)* next to the hybrid meetings. We note that the rest of the meetings (with the exception of the Employments Appeals Committee) are held virtually.

2 COMMITTEES CALENDAR 2025/26

2.1 Please see the appendix for the dates of Council Meetings 2025/26.

VIEWS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

THE MONITORING OFFICER
No observations to add in relation to propriety.

THE HEAD OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT
I support the decision sought. In relation to financial matters, the proposed dates for the relevant meetings allow the Council to comply with statutory timetables wherever possible.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Calendar of Council Meeting dates 2025/26.

2025/26	Meeting time	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
COUNCIL *(H)*	**pm**	**1***		**3**			**2**		**4**			**5**		**7***
Cabinet *(H)*	**pm**	**13**	**10**	**8**		**16**	**14**	**11**	**16**	**20**	**10**	**10**	**21**	
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee *(H)*	**am / pm**		**19**				**16**		**11**		**12**		**23**	
Communities Scrutiny *(H)*	**am / pm**		**5**			**18**		**6**		**22**		**19**		
Care Scrutiny Committee *(H)*	**am / pm**		**12**			**25**		**20**		**29**		**26**		
Governance and Audit Committee	**am**	**22**				**11**	**9**	**13**		**15**	**5**			
Democracy Services Committee	**pm**		**17**					**4**			**24**			
Planning Committee *(H)*	**pm**	**19**	**16**	**14**		**8 / 29**	**20**	**17**	**8**	**12**	**2**	**2 /23**	**27**	
Central/General Licensing Committee	**am**		**30**			**22**			**1**			**9**		
Standards Committee	**am**		**9**					**3**			**23**			
SACRE	**pm**		**24**					**18**			**3**			
Language Committee	**am**		**23**				**13**				**9**		**20**	
Local Joint Consultative Committee	**am**			**16**										
Employment Appeals Committee	**am / pm**	**16**	**13**	**11**		**12**	**10**	**14**	**12**	**16**	**13**	**20**	**24**	
Pensions Committee	**pm**			**7**		**15**		**24****		**19**		**16**		
Porthmadog Harbour Consultative Committee	**pm**					**30**						**3**		
Pwllheli Harbour Consultative Committee	**pm**						**7**					**10**		
Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee	**pm**						**14**					**17**		
Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee	**pm**						**21**					**24**		
Members Training	**am/pm**	**7**	**4**	**2**		**17**	**8**	**5**	**3**	**7 / 28**		**4**	**15**	
Briefing Session	**pm**	**14**	**18**	**16**		**24**	**22**	**19**	**17**	**14**	**11**	**18**	**22**	

*Annual Meeting

**Pensions Committee (am) / Annual Meeting (pm)

(H) = Hybrid meeting (multi-location)

Meeting time (as required) **am** – morning **pm** – afternoon **am/pm** – all day

These are the dates we have currently scheduled, but situations can arise where additional meetings may need to be arranged to carry out Council business.

DRAFT

Department for Work & Pensions

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LONDON
SW1H 9DA

ministers@dwp.gov.uk

HM Treasury

HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Cllr Beca Roberts
Cyngor Gwynedd,
Shirehall Street,
Caernarfon,
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Your ref:

Our ref: MC2024/97778

23 December 2024

Dear Cllr Beca Roberts,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 October to the Prime Minister regarding the decision to restrict Winter Fuel Payment eligibility. I am replying as the Minister for Pensions and I apologise for the delay.

In face of the substantial pressures faced by the public finances this year and next, the Government has had to make hard choices, including targeting the Winter Fuel Payment, to bring the public finances back under control. This decision means that the Winter Fuel Payment will be targeted to low-income pensioners who need it.

Despite this very difficult decision, we are determined to protect the poorest pensioners and target support to those in greatest need. Winter Fuel Payments will continue to be paid to pensioner households with someone receiving Pension Credit or certain other income-related benefits. They will continue to be worth £200 for eligible households, or £300 for eligible households with someone aged over 80.

The Government wants those eligible for Pension Credit but not currently claiming it to receive the benefits they are entitled to, including the Winter Fuel Payment. As part of this, we have started a new drive to increase take-up of Pension Credit, which is currently far too low - with a third of eligible pensioners not claiming. We know there are low-income pensioners who are not claiming Pension Credit, and we really urge those people to apply.

Claims for Pension Credit can be made online at: www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim. The service is available to use 24/7, and provides those

who may struggle to make their claim alone, the flexibility to have a friend or family to support them when making their claim, at a time that is most convenient to them. Pension Credit claims can also be made through the Freephone telephone number 0800 99 1234, and there is an option to complete a paper application form.

I would like to stress that this Government is absolutely committed to pensioners - everyone in our society, no matter their working history or savings deserves a comfortable and dignified retirement. That is why through our commitment to protect the Triple Lock, over 12 million pensioners will benefit, with many expected to see their State Pensions increase by over a thousand pounds over the next five years. Protecting the Triple Lock even in the current economic climate shows our steadfast commitment to pensioners.

The Warm Home Discount scheme provides eligible low-income households across Great Britain with a £150 rebate on their electricity bill. This winter, we expect over three million households, including over one million pensioners, to benefit under the scheme.

At the Autumn Budget 2024, the Chancellor announced that £1 billion, including Barnett impact, will be invested to extend the Household Support Fund in England by a full year until 31 March 2026, on top of the six months already announced, and to maintain Discretionary Housing Payments in England and Wales. This will help struggling households facing the greatest financial hardship.

We are supporting consumers, including pensioners, through the Government's ambitious Warm Homes Plan which will transform homes across the country by making them cleaner and cheaper to run from installing new insulation to rolling out solar and heat pumps. We have committed £3.4 billion over the next 3 years towards heat decarbonisation and household energy efficiency. This includes £1.8 billion to support fuel poverty schemes, helping over 225,000 households reduce their energy bills by over £200.

Our other steps include cutting waiting times in the NHS which will help many pensioners currently waiting in pain and discomfort for treatment, and delivering the economic stability which is so crucial for pensioners.

Given the substantial pressures faced by the public finances this year and next, the Government has had to make hard choices to bring the public finances back under control.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Reynolds MP

Minister for Pensions

For the attention of the Chair of Cyngor Gwynedd

My sincerest thanks for your letter dated 18 December, and to the wider Council for voting to support my call to establish a Dental School in Bangor.

I can assure you that getting things done in this campaign is a priority for me in my work as the Member of the Senedd representing the city of Bangor. My efforts to attract attention to this important campaign over the past years include:

- **Commissioning a Report:** In September 2024, I launched the "Llenwi'r Bwlch" report, which introduces a strong case for training dentists in Bangor.
- **Launching a Petition:** I have drawn up a petition to gain public support to the dental school, emphasising the essential need for better access to dental care in the region.
- **Leading a Debate at the Senedd:** On 8 January, 2025, I led a debate in the Senedd, and presented a proposal to establish a dental school in Bangor. The proposal drew attention to the dire shortage of NHS dental services in Arfon. In my constituency, only 36.6% of the population has access to an NHS dentist – the lowest percentage in Wales.
- **Secure Cross-party Support:** My proposal received cross-party support, and the Senedd voted in favour of establishing the dental school.

I trust that the above-mentioned steps clearly show my strong commitment to improve dental health services in north Wales by advocating in favour of establishing a dental school in Bangor.

Thank you once again for contacting me.

Yours sincerely,

Siân

Siân Gwenllian AS
Plaid Cymru

Etholaeth **Arfon**
Arfon Constituency

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Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MDFWL/10172/24

Y Cynghorydd Beca Roberts
Cadeirydd y Cyngor

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

16 January 2025

Dear Y Cynghorydd Beca Roberts,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December drawing my attention to the motion adopted by Gwynedd Council.

The Consultation referred to in the motion concluded in March 2022 and a response was published in July 2022. The response referenced our intention to "work with local authorities to develop a national framework within which they can request for increased LTT rates for second homes and holiday lets to be applied in their area".

Subsequent discussions with local authorities have not elicited any impetus to developing a national framework, and hence, this work is not currently being progressed. However, a number of levers have been provided to local authorities, including increasing the premia on council tax, increasing in the threshold for holiday lets for non-domestic rates purposes, and Article 4 directions in relation to planning. It is important to evaluate the influence of these different levers in addressing the issues for local communities arising from significant numbers of second homes and short term holiday lets.

I remain open to exploring with local authorities in Wales the development of a national framework for local variation of the higher residential rates in location specific areas to address issues of second homes and short term holiday lets. However, as the Consultation drew out, devolution of aspects of a national tax to local authorities raise a number of challenges.

One issue highlighted was the need to establish a dividing line between those dwellings bought as holiday homes and for holiday-letting purposes and those for other reasons. That would change the test from a simple fact-based test of how many interests in dwellings were owned by the buyer on the date of the transaction, to one of what the buyer's intent is on the date of the transaction.

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Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In relation to the revenues generated by land transaction tax (LTT), it is important to remember that those revenues are an essential part of the Welsh Government's funding to pay for the delivery of public services across Wales, including funding for local authorities. As with the other devolved taxes, we do not allocate revenue for local authority funding based on the amount generated within each local authority, and as such, do not believe it is appropriate do to so in this case. Likewise, if the initiative resulted in decreased revenue due to the impact on the transactions, the Welsh Government would not seek to claim additional revenue from local authorities to make up for shortfalls.

In the draft Budget on 10 December 2024, I announced an increase to the higher residential rates of LTT of one percentage point coming into effect from the following day. That is forecast to increase revenues by around £7m per annum and is also forecast to decrease the number of transactions that occur. Therefore, the Welsh Government is already taking action to increase the contribution made to Welsh public services by raising the higher rate when appropriate, whilst seeking to balance its impact on both transactions where the buyer is acquiring a second home and where the buyer is acquiring the property for another purpose.

I would be happy for our respective officials to meet to discuss in more detail our collective understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities related to the development of a national framework for the local variation of Land Transaction Tax.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/10848/24

Mair Eirian Roberts
Cyngor Gwynedd

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

16 January 2025

Dear Councillor Roberts,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 December regarding changes to Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and Inheritance Tax (IHT).

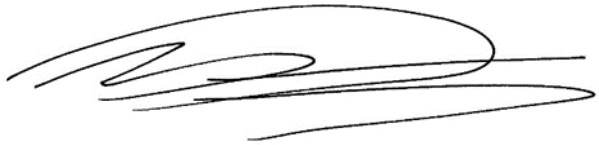
As you are aware, inheritance tax is a retained tax that is overseen by the UK Government. As part of its Budget, the UK Government had to make very difficult decisions. The Welsh Government is aware of the deep concerns on the issue, and I have held discussions with Welsh farming unions, in seeking assurances from the UK Government that their concerns will be heard, and obtained that assurance. I have also outlined to the UK Government that we must ensure that changes to Inheritance Tax and Agricultural Property Relief do not affect the future of sustainable farming in Wales.

It is incorrect to state that all farms worth over £1 million will pay inheritance tax, so I urge the council to look at the information available from the UK Treasury. There are many additional factors that will apply to each farm business according to their individual circumstances, for example the ownership structure of the farm or any gifts given to prospective heirs below the taxation threshold, which will decide which farms will pay tax and the amount concerned. That is why it is important that we return to the data published by HM Treasury, which is based on recent actual probate figures, and which indicate that most farms will not be affected by these changes.

The Welsh Government remains committed to investing in farming businesses to achieve our shared goals of producing sustainable food, achieving our climate and nature objectives, and supporting our rural communities. To this end, we safeguarded the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) budget at £238m for 2025, the same level as 2024. Given the considerable pressures we face, this was not easy.

Several plans have been announced for 2025, providing as much assurance as possible for our farmers. In addition to this, I recently confirmed a further £14m investment for the agriculture and horticulture sectors over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JB/10613/24

Y Cynghorydd Beca Roberts
Cadeirydd y Cyngor

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21 January 2025

Dear Beca,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December regarding social housing exchange in Wales and the proposal that Gwynedd Council is considering regarding their social housing allocation policy.

It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the proposal itself, as it is a matter for the local authority. Under the Housing Act 1996 the responsibility for housing allocation rests with local authorities, who are required to have an allocations scheme to determine priorities for allocating housing. Local authorities are best placed to understand and respond to the housing need of their local communities, and to prioritise those who are most in need.

When determining their specific scheme, all local authorities in Wales must have regard to the Welsh Government's Code of Guidance for Local Authorities: Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness. Chapter 3 of the *Code* provides guidance on the requirements of housing authorities to have an allocation scheme for determining priorities, and for defining the procedures to be followed in allocating housing accommodation.

I hope the information above is useful to inform your update at the next council meeting.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Department for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Lilian Greenwood MP

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Our Ref: MC/00030389
Your Ref: ER

Councillor Beca Roberts
Chair of Cyngor Gwynedd Council
Shirehall Street
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

19 February 2025

Dear Councillor Roberts,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December to the Secretary of State about graduated driving licences. I am responding as Minister for the Future of Roads.

I would like to make clear that improving road safety is one of my Department's highest priorities. Injuries and fatalities from road collisions caused by driving are unacceptable, and this Government will work hard to prevent these tragedies for all road users.

The latest statistics do show that the number of fatalities for car drivers aged 17-24 years-old on Britain's roads is falling. The Department has seen a drop in the number of 17–24-year-old drivers killed from 448 in 1990, to 158 in 2010, and to 90 in 2023. However, this Government believes that there is no room for complacency, particularly because, in terms of population and the number of miles driven, 17–24-year-olds, particularly young men, remain one of the highest fatality risk groups both as car drivers and passengers.

Whilst we are not considering Graduated Driving Licences, we absolutely recognise that young people are disproportionately victims of tragic incidents on our roads, and we are exploring options to tackle the root causes of this without unfairly penalising young drivers.

I want to reiterate that this Government treats road safety with the utmost seriousness, and we are committed to reducing the numbers of those killed and injured on our roads.

My Department is developing our road safety strategy and will set out more details in due course.

Best wishes,

LILIAN GREENWOOD MP

MINISTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ROADS