Complete Agenda

CABINET

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

DATE	Tuesday, 11th June, 2024
TIME	1.00 pm
LOCATION	Siambr Hywel Dda, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor Caernarfon ac yn rhithiol drwy Zoom
CONTACT POINT	Annes Sion 01286 679490 / cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

Members	
Dyfrig Siencyn	Leader of the Council
Nia Wyn Jeffreys	Deputy Leader
Craig ab Iago	Cabinet Member for Housing
Beca Brown	Cabinet Member for Education
Berwyn Parry Jones	Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC
Dafydd Meurig	Cabinet Member for Environment
Dilwyn Morgan	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Elin Walker Jones	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Paul John Rowlinson	Cabinet Member for Finance
Menna Trenholme	Cabinet Member for Corporate Support

AGENDA

	Item	Submitted by	Officer	Page
1	APOLOGIES			
2	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST			
3	URGENT ITEMS			
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY			
5	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2024			3 - 14
6	ASSET PLAN 2024/25 - 2034/35	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn	Dafydd Gibbard	15 - 35
7	STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24	Cllr. Menna Trenholme	Dylan Owen	36 - 55
8	LOCAL FLOOD STRATEGY	Cllr. Berwyn Parry Jones	Steffan Jones	56 - 205
9	PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMEBER FOR ADULT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Cllr. Dilwyn Morgan	Aled Davies	206 - 212
10	PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES	Cllr. Elin Walker Jones	Marian Parry Hughes	213 - 217

THE CABINET, TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024

Present -
Councillors: Dyfrig Siencyn, Beca Brown, Berwyn Parry Jones, Craig ab Iago, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Elin Walker Jones, Menna Trenholme and Paul Rowlinson.

Also present-
Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Huw Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Dewi Aeron Morgan (Head of Finance Department) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Item 6:	Ian Jones (Head of Corporate Services Department) and Meinir Griffiths (Service Improvement Officer, Corporate Services Department).
Items 7,8 and 9:	Ffion Madog Evans (Assistant Head - Finance Department)
Item 10:	Aled Gibbard (Assistant Head, Children and Supporting Families Department)
Item 11:	Carys Fôn Williams (Head of Housing and Property Department)
Item 14:	Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Adviser) and Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Services Manager).

1. APOLOGIES

The Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

Councillor Ioan Thomas was thanked for his work as a Former Cabinet Member for Finance and Councillor Paul Rowlinson was welcomed to his first meeting as the new Cabinet Member for Finance.

Apologies were received from Councillor Nia Jeffreys and Geraint Owen (Corporate Director).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2024 were accepted as a true record.

6. COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The report was submitted by Cllr. Menna Trenholme

DECISION

The report was approved, and relevant comments and suggestions were offered about
the Council's performance in dealing with complaints in an appropriate and timely manner.

DISCUSSION

The Members were reminded of the reporting procedure for the complaints statistics to the Cabinet twice a year in accordance with the Concerns and Complaints Policy. It was confirmed that statutory procedures were separate for social and school service users. It was detailed that the live statistics of the complaints received were available on request for the Cabinet and Heads of departments.

It was emphasised that the departments encouraged service users to complain when problems emerged to relieve frustrations and ensure better service quality in the future. It was confirmed that the Service Improvement Officer re-visited the complaints monthly, by emphasising that only 3 live complaints had been received where no solution had been currently found. It was detailed that these complaints had arrived 20 days ago and the general target to resolve complaints was 7 days. There was pride that the complaints levels for the waste service had reduced quite a bit over the 2023-24 period.

It was acknowledged that there was room for improvement by emphasising that the Customer Care Charter was being developed currently to highlight the appropriate customer care for our users and to respond to residents' concerns.

It was reported that arrangements were in place if there were patterns of complaints raised in services. It was confirmed that the Service Improvement Officer had a good relationship with officers and drew their attention when several complaints were raised for the same reason within the same service. It was noted that the service would be encouraged to re-consider their arrangements by noting that unresolved historical matters were highlighted to the Corporate Director and the Chief Executive when appropriate. It was ensured that no complaints were closed unless there was a clear solution or explanation provided to the user.

7. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2023/24 – REVENUE OUT-TURN

The report was submitted by Cllr. Paul Rowlinson

DECISION

The report was accepted and the final financial position of the Council's departments for 2023/24 was considered:

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
	Gross Under / (Over) Spend	Recommended Adjustments		Amended Over / Under Spend
	2023/24			2023/24
	£ '000	£'000	£'000	£ '000
Adults, Health and Well-being	3,906	(3,806)	0	100
Children and Families	2,611	(2,511)	0	100
Education	0	0	0	0
Economy and Community	308	0	(308)	0
Highways, Engineering and YGC	687	(587)	0	100
Environment	1,237	(1,137)	0	100
Housing and Property	255	(155)	0	100
Corporate Management Team and Legal	(11)	0	0	(11)
Corporate Support	(10)	0	0	(10)
Finance	(7)	0	0	(7)

It was noted that there was significant overspend in the Adults, Health and Well-being Department, the Children and Families Department, the Highways, Engineering and YGC Department, the Environment Department and the Housing and Property Department this year (See column A in the table above). To approve the following financial virements (as outlined in Appendix 2):

The departments that are over-spending to receive one-off financial assistance and to limit the overspend that will be carried forward by the Department to £100k (See column B in the above table).

It was confirmed that financial support of £308k would be provided above the contracted payment to Byw'n Iach (see column C in the above table).

On Corporate budgets:

- Use the remaining balance in the Covid Fund of £4,402k to assist the departments that have overspent in 2023/24.
- Use (£2,091k) of the corporate net underspend to assist the departments that have overspent in 2023/24.
- The remainder of the net underspend of (£495k) on corporate budgets to be transferred to the Financial Strategy Support Fund.

The amounts to be carried forward were approved (the “Revised Over/(Under) Spend” in column D above and in Appendix 1.

The financial virements from the specific reserves were approved as outlined in Appendix 3 following a review of the reserves:

- Harvesting (£1,703k) from reserves to be used in its entirety to assist the departments that have overspent in 2023/24.
- To use £2,975k to fund one-off bids in 2024/25 following the release of £1,113k from the Transformation Fund and transfer of £1,862k from the Financial Strategy Support Fund.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted and it was noted that there was an overspend of around £9 million amongst Council departments within the 2023-24 financial year. An update on the position of each department was provided by drawing attention to the main matters and fields where there were significant variances such as:

- **Adults, Health and Well-being Department** - It was noted that the November 2023 forecasts suggested that there would be £5.4 million overspend within the Department. It was confirmed that the Department's actual overspend at the end of the financial year was £3.9 million following receiving additional grants and income. It was elaborated that £1.8 million of the overspend was due to the increasing pressure and the expense of supported accommodation in the Learning Disabilities Service but it was emphasised that a financial bid of £1.6 million had been submitted by the Department for the 2024-25 financial year to try and address this challenge. Reference was also made to the sickness levels' challenges, non-contact working hours rates and staff costs that led to overspending in the Residential Care field, but it was emphasised that work was underway to resolve these challenges.
- **Children and Families Department** - It was acknowledged that the Department's overspend had increased to £2.6 million by the end of the financial year compared to the assumption of £1.3 million in the 2023 November review.
  It was emphasised that this overspend derived from the increase in the costs of out-of-county placements due to the complexity of packages and the recent increased use of non-registered placements. It was noted that the hope was to internalise these services in the future. Reference was also made to the fact that pressures could also be seen on the Derwen Service budget.
- **Education Department** - It was emphasised that the trend of increasing pressures on the school taxi and bus budget continued with an overspend of £1.5m at the end of the year. It was noted that an officer had been appointed to undertake a review of the situation. It was explained that staff turnover, income receipts and grants, as well as less pressure on other budgets, had reduced the departmental overspend to £95k. It was reported that the Department used £95k from its departmental underspend fund to completely delete the overspend.
- **Byw’n lach** - Members were reminded that the Council gave £550k to the company in the 2022/23 financial year as financial support above the agreed payment within the provision contract, to help the company because of the

Pandemic. It was confirmed that the financial support continued this year and the required amount had reduced to £308k. It was emphasised that it was anticipated that the company would not need financial support by the end of the current financial year.

- **Highways, Engineering and YGC Department** - It was noted that there was an overspend of £687k due to pressures on the road maintenance and lighting budget and a reduction in the work being commissioned by external agencies. There was pride that YGC had made a profit of £100k, which exceeded the profit assumption of £39k expected for 2023-25.
- **Environment Department** - It was explained that the overspend trend in the field of waste and recycling collection continued and had increased to £1.2m by the end of the year. It was noted that the Department implemented WRAP Cymru's recommendations to address this trend. It was acknowledged that the car park's lack of income of £601k had contributed to the overspend within the Department.
- **Housing and Property Department** - It was explained that significant pressure on temporary homelessness accommodation remained intense by causing an overspend of £2 million within the Department. It was emphasised that this situation was a huge challenge as there was overspending despite an additional budget of £3m of council tax premium and a grant of £597k from the Government had been allocated to the field. It was stressed that the one-off allocation of £1.4m from the corporate Covid provision and the £701k from the departmental underspend fund had reduced the overspend this year to £255k.
- **Schools** - It was updated that the total county school balances had reduced by £3.4 million, namely £11.9m in 2022/23 to £8.5m in 2023/24. It was noted that there had been a significant increase in school balances in recent years due to the receipt of significant grants, but it was anticipated that they would be back to usual levels by the end of 2024/25.

The Financial Department was thanked for providing a clear summary of the departments' situation and the financial challenge that faced the Council in the future. There was pride that the departments considered the current financial challenges with responsibility by giving this continuous consideration when trying to continue to maintain services.

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 - END OF YEAR REVIEW (POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

The report was submitted by Cllr. Paul Rowlinson

DECISION

To accept the report on the end of year review (31 March 2024 position) of the capital programme.

To approve the revised financing as shown in part 3.2.3 of the report, namely:

- An increase of £2,189,000 in the use of grants and contributions
- An increase of £132,000 in the use of capital receipts
- An increase of £645,000 in the use of revenue contributions
- An increase of £87,000 in the use of renewal and other reserves.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, and reference was made to the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2025/26 worth £189 million in addition to an analysis per Department. It was confirmed that there was an increase of £3,053k in the budget for this capital programme since the 2023 November review.

It was explained that the Council had managed to spend £57 million in 2023/24 on capital plans. It was elaborated that 58% of the expenditure would be funded through specific grants. However, it was acknowledged that the impact of recent financial challenges on the capital programme could be seen.

It was reported that an additional £34 million proposed spending had been re-profiled from 2023/24 to 2024/25 and 2025/26. It was explained that this change had been planned whilst some of the Council's main plans had slipped since the original budget, such as:

- £16 million - Housing Strategy Plans
- £14.6 million - Schools Schemes (Sustainable Learning Communities and Others)
- £6.4 million - Shared Prosperity Fund Schemes
- £5.7 million – Renewal of vehicles and equipment
- £4.1 million - Carbon Management and Solar Panels Schemes
- £3.8 million - Shared Prosperity Fund Plans

There was pride that the Council had managed to receive additional grants since the recent review in November 2023. Reference was made to the grants below as the largest ones submitted to the Council since the review:

- £1,755 - A grant towards the plan to de-carbonise heat within the Council.
- £1,100k – Flying Start and Childcare Capital Grant from the Welsh Government.
- £659k- Welsh Government grant towards the purchase of a property to meet the needs of the Homelessness field.
- £392k - Litter Infrastructure Grant from the Welsh Government.
- £358k – Schools' Maintenance Grant 2023/24 from the Welsh Government.

It was explained that it was now required for the Council to share information on smart Prudential Indicators from 2023/24 forward and attention was drawn to that information within the report.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the capital levels had been going down for many years as had not increased with inflation. It was noted that this could appear as a future challenge.

The Finance Department was thanked for the report and their work of planning and protecting the Council's interests.

9. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The report was submitted by Cllr. Paul Rowlinson.

DECISION

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was approved for the period of 2025/26 - 2027/28.

To commission the Chief Executive to establish and lead on a range of measures and work packages, as outlined in part 4.6 of the report, to pre-prepare for dealing with the significant gap in our budget over the next three years.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted to the Cabinet following the financial challenges that faced the Council, to be proactive to plan to deal with the financial squeeze.

It was explained that finding cuts in the Council's budget and services was not a new process as cuts had been presented annually for 18 years. It was commended that the Council had managed to maintain services despite the reduction in the departments' budgets but the need to bring some services to an end in the future was acknowledged.

It was confirmed that the budget for this year was set and a significant lack of Council income by 2027/38 was anticipated therefore, work was underway to try and fill the gap through a factual plan. Emphasis was given to the fact that the assumptions were based on information of recent years, and it was a preliminary plan to address the medium- term budget.

Reference was made to the summary of the plan by noting that it elaborated on the known factors that impacted the Council's financial situation during the medium-term (between 2025/26 until the end of 2027/28). It was detailed that inflation was anticipated on the salaries of Council staff in addition to the prices of goods, as well as the increase of levies impacting the Council's budget within this period. However, it was emphasised that there was no agreement to increase salaries with the unions at present. Emphasis was also given to the fact that there was no detailed consideration given to adapt the Council tax levels, and that any adaptions would need the approval of the Full Council. It was noted that officers had anticipated an increase of 5% within the plan to address this risk for the budget, but it was anticipated that the increase to salaries would be less than that rate.

It was explained that the rate of inflation that was used in the Plan was based on the outlook of the Bank of England and advice by Arlingclose company, which were the Council's treasury advisers. It was noted that the officers had based the anticipated inflation rate at 2% for the number of years in the medium term to plan to address that gap. It was acknowledged that an annual demand for an additional budget above inflation in some fields and it was anticipated that there would be a need for £3 million a year to deal with this demand. It was emphasised that it was a prudent provision, not an expenditure target and any financial bid would receive careful consideration.

It was reported that the Plan suggested a financial gap of £36,000k (before considering any Council Tax increase and savings that were already identified) during the medium term based on assumptions and objectives. It was confirmed that the hope was to present various options on the next steps in the future and the need to find a balance between maintaining services and adapting the levels of Council tax was noted. The Cabinet's permission was requested to research all the departments' services to draw up options and Members were asked to give detailed consideration to their departments' services in consultation with the relevant officers.

It was emphasised that there was a need to be considerate of Council staff well-being when moving towards the future, especially those staff who deliver statutory services on behalf of the Council, by ensuring that clear communication continued with all staff. The three step procedure was outlined and submitted to try and protect statutory services:

1. Get expenditure in order, by freezing expenditure in some fields and receive early warnings if some services overspend early in the year.
2. It was intended for every Department to come before the panel of members and officers to go through each activity of those in their departments' teams, their costs, the impact and the impact of bringing the services to an end. It was noted that those meetings' results would be shared with the Cabinet. It was confirmed that every effort would be made to prioritise on the basis of risk and the residents' needs.
3. To ensure consideration in every aspect and equivalent to ensure that no stone was left unturned.

Frustration was expressed that the Government was not likely to increase the grant settlement total because that would be of huge benefit to fill the gap in the Council's budget.

The Finance Department was thanked for their thorough work whilst preparing the report.

10. FINANCIAL VIREMENT FOR THE SMALL GROUP HOMES SCHEME

The report was submitted by Cllr. Elin Walker Jones

DECISION

A permanent financial virement was authorised of £454,580 from the out-of-county residential placements' budget for funding in-house provision as part of developing the Small Group Homes scheme.

DISCUSSION

It was reported that the Council had a duty to provide sufficient residential placements for looked-after children. It was explained that the Council's financial procedures allowed financial virement between headings in a department's budget. However, it was emphasised that the Cabinet needed to approve the transfer of a higher sum than £200,000. Details were given that there was a need to advertise permanent jobs

to register the homes with Care Inspectorate Wales. It was noted that there was a need for permanent funding to manage to do this.

It was reported that developing the residential provision through the Small Group Homes Scheme was a priority in the Council Plan 2023-28. It was also noted that the Placement Strategy for Looked-after children addressed the range of placement provisions needed to achieve statutory duties by detailing that 80% of Gwynedd fostering placements were provided through an internal provision.

It was acknowledged that there was no residential provision currently for looked-after children in Cyngor Gwynedd's ownership and that all the placements used by the Council came from external providers, with 92% of them being private providers. It was detailed that 76% of current residential placements were outside Gwynedd, with 46% of those in North Wales and 30% outside Wales. It was explained that the demand for residential placements were high, and the current supply did not address the demand.

It was explained that the Council's expenditure on out-of-county residential placements was £6 million within the 2023-24 financial year. It was acknowledged that this was significantly higher than the budget of £5.53 million. It was noted that the task of funding out-of-county residential placements could be unforeseen as the cost varied between placements. It was emphasised that out-of-county residential placements' budget represented 50% of the whole budget for the looked-after children's placements.

It was confirmed that developing the submitted plan in the report would be an opportunity to save costs and ensuring that children in residential placements could stay locally, be part of the community and receive education within the County. It was detailed that the residential placement annual average cost was £330k. It was noted whilst setting a budget of £454,580, there was a potential annual saving of around £215k per Small Group Homes with 2 children in a placement. It was confirmed that there would be no full expenditure of the budget this year as £255k of grant money was ensured through the Regional Integrated Fund.

11. PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND PROPERTY

The report was submitted by Cllr. Craig ab Iago.

DECISION

To accept and note the information in the report.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented, and attention was drawn to projects that were a part of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028.

It was reported that 885 homeless presentations had reached the Department between April 2023 and March 2024, it was elaborated that the number of individuals and families in emergency accommodation also continued to be high. It was noted

that nearly 250 households were placed in temporary accommodation across the County. It was emphasised that the Department continued to work tirelessly to offer solutions to this situation through many work streams and projects.

It was confirmed that the Department aimed to develop at least 83 supported housing units for individuals in locations across the County, in accordance with the Housing Action Plan. Attention was drawn to the Dôl Sadler development in Dolgellau which had received good feedback recently. It was detailed that the current accommodation units plan included locations in Bangor, Pwllheli and Caernarfon.

Attention was drawn to the Department's plan to encourage private landlords to lease their property to the Council for a guaranteed rent for a period of 5-25 years. It was noted that the department had managed to attract a grant of over £2.7m to develop these packages and were aiming to bring 100 houses on the Scheme over the next ten years. It was confirmed that 14 properties were now on the scheme that had enabled the Department to help 22 people to rent a house. It was elaborated that 11 other properties were currently being assessed and that the Department continued to respond to expressions of interest.

There was pride that the Department had appointed two officers to assist with the support for individuals with mental health problems to avoid situations where vulnerable individuals lose their tenancy. Details were provided that the officers had been successful in helping 100 people over the last year and a half and currently supported 40 additional people.

It was acknowledged that there was currently a housing crisis in Gwynedd and it was emphasised that increasing the supply of housing for local people was a priority for the Council. Details were given that there were 278 of social housing units, by confirming that 260 of additional units were currently in the pipeline. Attention was drawn to the Tŷ Gwynedd scheme namely a development of 33 intermediate houses that would be available to buy.

It was reported that the Department was on track to achieve the number of purchases that were set as a Buy to Let Scheme ambition for 2023-24, as 22 houses were bought with an additional 5 nearly completed.

It was updated that the Department had now distributed 4102 energy vouchers to provide support for people with the increasing energy costs and fuel poverty. It was detailed that the cost of these vouchers was £167,820 and had gone directly to help the people of Gwynedd.

It was noted that the Department faced a challenge when trying to contact utility companies especially in relation to repair and construction companies. It was detailed that agencies such as Welsh Water and others could be causing delay on developments as they had taken some time to connect essential supplies to sites. It was confirmed that the Department had raised these concerns and barriers with the Government.

The department was thanked for all their work throughout last year.

12. THE CABINET'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report was submitted by Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn

DECISION

The Cabinet's Forward Work Programme for meetings held between 14 May 2024 and 5 November 2024 was adopted.

DISCUSSION

Consideration was given to the items noted for the Cabinet's meetings between 14 May 2024 and 5 November 2024.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the rest of Item 7 and Item 9 due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - information about the financial or business transactions of any specific person (including the authority that retains that information).

There was an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It is recognised, however, that there were occasions to protect public financial and commercial interests, where such information must be discussed without being publicised. The reports related specifically to financial and business matters and related discussions. Publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the bodies and the Councils and undermine the confidence of other Growth Deal participants in sharing sensitive information for consideration. This would be contrary to the wider public interest of securing the best overall outcome.

14. HUNANIAITH: GWYNEDD'S LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

The report was submitted by Cllr. Menna Trenholme

DECISION

It was approved for Gwynedd Language Initiative Ltd to apply for a grant to Promote and Facilitate the Welsh language for 2025/26, rather than Cyngor Gwynedd and to transfer current staff to work for the Gwynedd Language Initiative on 1 April 2025.

Delegated powers were granted to the Head of Corporate Support in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and Head of Finance Department to agree on conditions and complete an agreement with Gwynedd Language Initiative Ltd. in accordance with the report and providing the indemnities noted in paragraph 3.4.6 of the report on the costs of staff.

A grant of £61,000 was granted to the Gwynedd Language Initiative to realise some elements of Cyngor Gwynedd's language strategy and contribute towards staff costs for 2025-2026. It was agreed to provide expenditure for the Access Agreement to the Gwynedd Pension Fund for Gwynedd's Language Initiative.

DISCUSSION

The report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 2.45pm.

CHAIR

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET

Meeting date:	**11th June 2024**
Relevant Cabinet Member:	**Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn, Council Leader**
Contact officer:	**Dafydd Gibbard – Chief Executive**
Item Title:	**Asset Plan 2024/25 – 2034/35**

1. The Decision Sought

a) The Cabinet is asked to recommend that the Council adopts the Asset Management Plan 2024-2034, including:

- The financial sums recommended in Appendix 1 for the high-risk plans.
- The two sums in Appendix 2 for the moderate risk plans.
- Uncommit the financial sums in the current Asset Management Plan as specified in paragraph 26 of this report.

b) To commission the Chief Executive to carry out a further review in one year's time to seek a solution for issues whereby funding cannot be committed at present, as stated in paragraphs 29 to 32 of this report, namely planned maintenance for buildings and the next phase of projects to modernise schools, and report back to Cabinet to confirm division of resources in relation to these two issues.

Rationale and justification for recommending the decision

2. Our assets (namely our buildings, roads, vehicles, Information technology and equipment), are essential for being able to provide services to the people of Gwynedd.

3. The costs of using our assets on a day-to-day basis come under the Council's revenue expenditure, while costs to renew, upgrade and provide new assets are capital expenditure.

4. Our Asset Management Plan is our long-term strategy in order to plan ahead to prioritise capital expenditure enabling us to manage our essential assets and avoid the risk of failing to provide services.

5. Our current Asset Management Plan was adopted in 2019 and reviewed in 2021. Although five years remains of our current Asset Management Plan, it is good practice to have a 10-year plan for multiple reasons:

a) Capital expenditure requires time to plan in advance

b) Departments need assurance if they will have the capital to manage risks

c) Opportunities to apply for grants - need to know if we have match funding

d) The capital situation is constantly changing - inflation has had an impact which means we cannot achieve as much, as well as less money available

e) Departments' requirements change over time - much has changed since 2019.

6. The conclusion of all this is that we need a current Asset Management Plan in order to respond to the risks and needs that are alive today and for the next few years.

Likely resources to fund the Asset Management Plan

7. The Council receives a capital grant from the Welsh Government annually to use for our asset management priorities.

8. When the Asset Management Plan was adopted in 2019, it was reported at that time that we received £6.6M of capital resource each year, and it has not increased since establishing that plan, back in 2009. Between 2018 and last year, we also received amounts above that, around £2M per year on average, in the form of grants for specific purposes.

9. However, the messages we receive from the Government indicate that the additional grants will cease, and that our core capital grant will remain at the same level for the coming years, which is approximately £ 6.6M per year. In reality, this means that we will not be able to achieve as much with the core resource - considering inflation levels over the last 5 years the value of £6.6M in 2019 is equivalent to £4.3M today, which is a 34% reduction.

10. When setting out our new 10 year plan, we predict that £47.7M of capital funding is available for us to extend our plan for an additional 5 years. This is calculated having considered our annual capital grant amount, together with unallocated capital and funds in the current Asset Management Plan.

11. To be able to respond to new schemes that arise, and which could not be foreseen when this plan was established, we will continue to make a provision of £0.5M per year to meet those requirements.

12. This brings the additional amount available to us to extend the Asset Management Plan up to 2034 to **£45.2M**.

13. In our current Asset Management Plan, several projects have been completed and therefore would not form part of this new Plan. There are other projects that are ongoing, or not fully completed and therefore transfer to the new plan, together with the finance that has already been approved for their funding, namely £41.96M.

14. By adding the new money referred to in paragraph 10 above (£47.7M) to the money we had already earmarked in the Current Plan (£41.96M), this means that our Asset Management Plan for 2024-2034 includes an investment of £89.7M in our assets to be able to provide services to the residents of Gwynedd.

Procedure for identifying capital investment requirements.

15. To start the work of establishing our new 10-year Plan, Departments were asked to identify their capital needs over the next 10 years and invited to submit their applications to that effect. Department Heads and their officers were asked to consider their capital requirements to continue providing a service to residents, to manage risks and to develop plans such as the Council's Plan priorities.

16. 70 applications were received with a total value of **£129.3M.** These applications were a combination of new schemes and continuation of annual schemes. Each of these were assessed placing each plan in one of the following categories, which indicate the risk of not realising them.

HIGH RISK – unable to continue using the asset due to significant health and safety risks, regulatory requirements or coming to the end of its life. Or, a significant loss of income for the Council if we are unable to invest.
MODERATE RISK – Some impact on service provision or a developing plan, and included in the Council's Plan.
LOW RISK – Developing scheme only and not included in the Council's Plan.

17. The result of all this was that £79.1M worth of schemes were in the high risk category, £44.8M worth in the moderate risk category, and £5.4M worth in the low risk category.

18. A session was held with the Elected Members on 24 and 25 April 2024 in order to present the challenge to set a balanced plan, and to gather their views on our risk assessment of not fulfilling each of the plans.

19. I also presented options that we could implement in order to level the balance, asking for members' feedback on these options, namely;

- Take advantage of every opportunity to attract grants towards the Asset Management Plan priorities.
- Consider smaller schemes under £500k as part of the annual biding process.
- Look for opportunities to reduce the annual amount for some of the ongoing schemes.
- Funding an amount less than the full amount applied for.

- Refer some housing issues for consideration when reviewing our Housing Action Plan.
- Asking the Education Department to prioritise school modernisation plans.
- Prudent borrowing.

20. At the end of the session with the members, a questionnaire was distributed in order to gather their opinions. The table below summarises some of the main messages received from Members:

The steer sought	Members' views
1. Note the investment requirements across the Council and the extent of the challenge to set a balanced plan	• Recognised that the choices are difficult • Members of the Governance and Audit Committee present
2. Are you comfortable that we have correctly assessed the risk of the investment requirements?	• Move some issues from orange to green e.g. Playing fields, toilets, business units • Cibyn offices – is there scope to reduce the demand for office space or relocate staff to another office? • Upgrade establishing Children's Homes from the orange risk category to red • Aberdyfi Harbourmaster's Office – it became evident during discussions with the Members and Head of Department that we would have to invest in order to resolve the situation as we are unable to use the building at present.
3. Do you support the type of solutions offered (at the end of the presentation) to try to set a balanced plan?	• Using the premium to fund housing issues - specifically small holdings- a number of members supported this • Borrowing - a few comments for and against • Is there scope to transfer assets to communities e.g. Toilets and playing fields • Schools – reducing the program (several comments about children's demography)

21. With our forecasts predicting that an additional **£45.2M** would be available for our capital investments for the next 10 years, we will not be in a position to fund all the schemes and indeed we appear to be around £34M short to be able to realise all of the high risk plans.

22. With this in mind, there is no option but to limit what we are able achieve.

23. As a result, we assessed each of the applications once again and to establish a plan that we are able to fund I have had to recommend approving a sum less than that requested by departments. For those schemes, the table below indicates the

department's original request and a sum that is recommended to be approved as part of the Asset Management Plan, considering the limited funding available to us.

Department	Project	Departments' bid	Sum recommended to set a balanced plan
Edcuation	Securing high school sites	£500,000	£300,000
Envrionment	Transport department feasibility studies	£375,000	£300,000
Corporate Support	Relocate registrars' records to Bloc B	£75,000	To come out of the annual biding process
Finance	Renew IT equipment	£7,000,000	£5,500,000
Economy	Renew Byw'n Iach equipment	£1,000,000	To come out of the annual biding process
Highways, Engineering & YGC	Cibyn Offices Improvement	£700,000	£0
Highways, Engineering & YGC	Structures deterioration prevention	£500,000	£250,000
Highways, Engineering & YGC	Highways deterioration prevention	£6,000,000	£4,800,000
Highways, Engineering & YGC	Safety fencing	£500,000	£250,000
Highways, Engineering & YGC	Flooding on highways	£500,000	£250,000
Highways, Engineering & YGC	Renew fleet without renewal fund	£1,000,000	£500,000
Housing and Property	Grants to adapt homes for the disabled	£10,500,000	£6,500,000
Housing and Property	Planned maintenance of our buildings	£20,000,000	£0
Housing and Property	Small holdings – urgent investment to manage health and safety risks	£616,000	Council tax premium

24. Although there are a number of schemes in the orange risk category that we would like to carry out as they are a priority for the Council, the capital available to us will not enable that. However, there are two schemes where I recommend that we should try to prioritise them for the following reasons:

- Aberdyfi Harbour Master's Office - it is a statutory requirement for us, as the Harbour Authority, to provide a suitable work location for the harbour master to be able to carry out their duties. The current building has come to the end of its life and its repair is not economically viable. We will therefore have to make provision for the construction of a new building (£500,000) but before that we need to ensure that we have explored all other possible solutions e.g. share a building with someone else in the vicinity.
- Bangor Health Hub - Members will be aware that a business case has been drawn up in order to submit a significant grant application to realise an innovative scheme between the Council and the Health Board on a site in the centre of Bangor City. It is proposed that the old "Debenhams" unit in the Menai centre is transformed into a Health Hub for the city and as a result increase the number of daily visitors to the city centre significantly. The business case includes a contribution of £500,000 from the Council towards the £25M needed to carry out the work.

25. With the addition of these two schemes, the total comes to £49.5M which is still £4.3M higher than the funding available and as a result, we will have to revisit what has already been approved in our current plan.

26. As a result, it is recommended that the following sums are uncommitted, as set out in the table below:

Department	**Scheme**	**Sum in the current Asset Plan**	**Sum to be uncommitted**
Housing and Property	Extra Care Housing (third scheme)	£1,500,000	£1,500,000
Environment	Transport service feasibility studies	£375,000	£60,000
Adults	Residential Homes	£790,000	£500,000
PP/YGC	Preventing Highway Deterioration	£4,000,000	£600,000
PP/YGC	Traffic Light upgrades	£325,000	£75,000
PP/YGC	Safety fencing	£500,000	£250,000
PP/YGC	Highway flooding	£500,000	£125,000
PP/YGC	Upgrading water pipes to housing estates	£1,500,000	£1,000,000

Children	Maesgeirchen Centre	£415,000	£215,000
			£4,325,000

27. In a number of the above cases, I have to recommend reducing our current expenditure and that for financial reasons only i.e. in order to be able to reduce our spending requirements to match the available budget. In those cases, I recommend lesser amounts following a comparison of the level of risk in these areas with the level of risk attached to some of the new investment requirements.

28. Additional reasons lead me to recommend less investment on some schemes:

- Extra Care Housing - although the development of more Extra Care Housing is going to be essential as our population ages and the numbers needing care increase, the Social Housing Grant can be used to fund this and given our lack of capital it will be necessary ask the Housing and Property Department to prioritise the funding of a further Extended Care housing scheme out of the Social Housing Grant over the next few years.
- Upgrading water pipes to housing estates - the work program has now dealt with pipes that were in the worst condition category and the annual maintenance costs for the remaining pipes have decreased as a result. By now, there is no justification for us to continue investing capital in this area.
- Maesgeirchen Centre - as a result of discussions with the community, an alternative solution has been agreed for this project.

29. At the end of all this, we continue to face two significant challenges, for which we presently do not have a solution, namely that we do not have sufficient financial provision for planned maintenance of our buildings, or the next phase of projects to modernise schools.

30. In that regard, and considering the impact and seriousness of not investing in these two areas, I recommend that we should carry out a review of the Asset Management Plan in a year's time in the hope that our capital situation will have improved by then, that some plans cheaper as we set about valuing them more accurately, or that we will have discovered a way to finance a capital loan out of revenue savings. There is also the possibility that some schemes will not continue if we are unable to succeed with grant applications for match funding e.g. Penygroes Health Hub, Bangor Health Hub and Adaptability work at Ysgol Brynrefail).

31. If that happens, I recommend that we should prioritise any capital that is released for investment in these two specific areas that are currently unaddressed.

32. In the meantime, some Education schemes are already part of this Plan (Tryfan, Hirael, Brynrefail Suitability, Secondary Safety) and we have some funds displaced by grants to invest in programmed maintenance on buildings.

Governance and Audit Committee

33. On 23 May 2024, I had the opportunity to present the proposed Asset Management Plan to the Governance and Audit Committee so that they could scrutinise the process of establishing our Asset Management Plan and the members noted that they were satisfied with the process.

Further considerations

35. 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 well-being duty on public bodies which is aimed at achieving 7 well-being goals which are a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture where the Welsh language flourishes and which responsible on a global level. The plan was prepared within the principles of the Act.

36. Reducing the impact on the residents of Gwynedd and future generations was at the core of the process of establishing our Asset Management Plan. The process itself has prioritised the requests that would pose the greatest risks to the residents of Gwynedd if we are unable to fulfil them, and those that contribute to our well-being objectives / priority areas in the Council Plan. In addition, many of the plans relate to prevention work and look to the long-term, trying to ensure sustainable services for the future.

37. In accordance with the legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 ("The Act") (including Welsh public sector duties) when making decisions the Council must pay due regard to the need (1) to abolish unlawful discrimination (2) promoting equal opportunities and (3) fostering good relationships based on the protected characteristics together with paying attention to socio-economic impacts.

38. This report does not recommend any action that is going to impair the Service provided to anyone with protected characteristics. Indeed, the intention of the Asset Plan is to ensure that we direct any available capital Resources to those areas that want to have a positive impact on all our residents including those with protected characteristics.

39. Some plans, particularly in the social care field, aim to improve the quality of service for those with protected characteristics, and those plans are evident from the list.

Next steps

40. The Cabinet's recommendation will be presented to the Full Council on 4 July 2024 in order to adopt the 2024-2034 Asset Management Plan.

The views of the statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

The responsibility for formulating the Asset Plan to be recommended to the Council rests with the Cabinet. This involves the Cabinet evaluating and coming to a view on a range of matters including statutory and legal issues, priorities and meeting needs within the anticipated

resource. The information for reaching this conclusion is included in the report and the draft Asset Plan.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

The Asset Management Plan is an important and far-reaching statement which sets the direction for the Council's capital strategy for the next 10 years, and I support the decision sought. Officers from the Finance Department have worked closely with the report's author and I can confirm the accuracy of the financial information contained therein, and I believe that the budgetary forecasts are reasonable and fair.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of high risk schemes recommended to fund

Appendix 2: List of moderate risk schemes recommended to fund

Appendix 3: List of schemes continuing from the current Plan

Appendix 4: Equality Assessment

Appendix 1 – High risk schemes recommended for the Asset Management Plan 2024-2034

Department	Plan	Description	Department Bid	Sum recommended to set a balanced plan
Education	**Treferthyr**	New school to replace building in serious condition that cannot be maintained in future - funding an increase in costs that have already been approved by Cabinet	**£1,100,000**	**£1,100,000**
Education	**Ysgol Hirael, Bangor**	Completion of investment in Bangor's primary sector (35%) which has already Cabinet approval	**£1,975,000**	**£1,975,000**
Education	**Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor**	Strengthening the provision of Secondary Welsh Education in Bangor (35%) which has already received Cabinet approval	**£5,200,000**	**£5,200,000**
Education	**Securing County High School sites**	Numerous applications from secondary schools for financial aid to resolve safeguarding issues	**£500,000**	**£300,000**
Education	**Ysgol Brynrefail / Condition and suitability**	Funding of Ysgol Brynrefail's suitability work originally intended to be included in the Post-16 Scheme – has already received Cabinet approval	**£940,000**	**£940,000**
Environment	**Transformation of Caergylchu and Ffrdd Rasus distribution and sorting centres**	Significant investment is needed in Caergylchu and Ffridd Rasus in the near future to continue with the transformation programme. Contribution towards an 80% Welsh Government grant	**£1,000,000**	**£1,000,000**
Environment	**Transport service feasibility studies**	Conduct feasibility studies and complete preparation work to enable us to apply for significant grant funding towards essential plans to deal with highway safety issues or significant repairs	**£375,000**	**£300,000**
Finance	**IT equipment renewal**	The use of information technology is now key to all Council services and a resource is needed to renew equipment as it comes to the end of its life. This amount is required to do so over the 10-year period of the Plan.	**£7,000,000**	**£5,500,000**

Economy and community	**Pwllheli Harbour and Pontoons Renovation - Dredging**	Dredging the harbour	**£1,400,000**	**£1,400,000**
Economy and community	**Pwllheli Harbour and Pontoons Renovation - Pontoon Renovation**	Renewing the pontoons that have reached the end of their lives.	**£4,000,000**	**£4,000,000**
Economy and community	**Doc Fictoria**	Marine gate replacement and pontoon refurbishment. The gate is in urgent need of replacement – broken for a period last year and risk losing income. Pontoons have also reached the end of their lives.	**£1,700,000**	**£1,700,000**
Adults	**Provision for match funding of projects in the care sector**	Provision for Cyngor Gwynedd match funding to enable us to apply for capital grants for projects in the care sector	**£5,000,000**	**£5,000,000**
Children	**Small Group Homes**	Set up Small Group Homes for children. We have already received a grant for the first 3 homes and this bid is for homes 4 and 5.	**£1,400,000**	**£1,400,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Flood Prevention - North Prom, Barmouth**	Gwynedd's contribution (15%) to attract a grant for the £23m scheme.	**£3,450,000**	**£3,450,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Flood Prevention - Viaduct Gardens, Barmouth**	Gwynedd's contribution (15%) to attract a grant for the £4m scheme.	**£115,000**	**£115,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Ogwen Catchment Flood Prevention Scheme**	Gwynedd's contribution (15%) to attract a grant for the £2m scheme.	**£300,000**	**£300,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Gwyrfai Catchment Flood Prevention Scheme**	Gwynedd's contribution (15%) to attract a grant for the £2m scheme.	**£300,000**	**£300,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Preventing the Deterioration of Structures**	Preventing deterioration of bridges- £100k a year	**£500,000**	**£250,000**

Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Preventing Highway Deterioration**	Continue with the £1m a year to stop the deterioration of Highways.	**£6,000,000**	**£4,800,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Safety fencing**	Work to upgrade security fencing to compliance and statutory rules.	**£500,000**	**£250,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Highway flooding**	Responding to flood damage on the highway	**£500,000**	**£250,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Cremator Renewal**	Bangor Crematorium – the main burner was upgraded in 2023. A backup burner is likely to need upgrading within the next 10 years.	**£550,000**	**£550,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Refreshing Friog Wall Parapet**	Refurbishment of a parapet above retaining walls on the A493.	**£600,000**	**£600,000**
Highways, Engineering & YGC	**Fleet renewal- vehicles without renewal fund**	A number of Council services use vehicles to deliver services, and while some departments refurbish those vehicles by setting up a Renewal Fund for it, others are dependent on the capital programme to refurbish them.	**£1,000,000**	**£500,000**
Housing and Property	**Asbestos removal**	Continue with the current scheme to remove asbestos from our buildings.	**£850,000**	**£850,000**
Housing and Property	**Grants to make housing modifications for the disabled**	Continue with the scheme to make property modifications to enable disabled people to continue to live in their homes and to facilitate leaving hospital. Bid for an additional £400k a year for the next 5 years and £1.7m a year for 5 years thereafter.	**£10,500,000**	**£6,500,000**
	TOTAL			**£48,530,000**

Appendix 3 – List of moderate risk plans recomended for the Asset Management Plan

Department	Plan	Description	Department Bid	Sum recommended to set a balanced plan
Economy and community	Aberdyfi Office	Harbourmaster Building has come to the end of its life	**£700,000**	£500,000
Economy and community	Bangor Health Hub	Gwynedd Council's contribution to the Hub. An opportunity to relocate health services to the City centre.	**£500,000**	£500,000
TOTAL				**£1,000,000**

Appendix 3 - Plans to continue from the current asset plan within the original financial envelope

Department	Title	Description
Education	**Upgrading the condition and suitability of schools**	Condition and suitability upgrades from a number of schools that would not likely qualify on their own for a scheme to make them fit for the twenty-first century
Economy and community	**Health and Safety Issues in leisure centres**	Carrying out works to separate traffic and people in two leisure centres
Economy and community	**Padarn Park, Llanberis**	Invest in trails and carry out work to protect the safety of Park visitors and public footpath users
Adults	**Health and Care Hub, Penygroes**	Development of a Healthcare 'hub' in collaboration with the Health Board and Grŵp Cynefin
Adults	**Dolfeurig Centre**	A new building for improving day care provision for adults with learning disabilities to replace an unsuitable building that is inefficient to maintain in the future
Adults	**Elderly Homes**	Modifications to residential homes - many completed
Children	**Maesgeirchen Centre, Kitchen House**	Developing provision to support families in the Maesgerichen area of Bangor
PP/YGC	**Flood Prevention**	Flood prevention works in Hirael, Pwllheli, Felinheli areas
PP/YGC	**Traffic Light Renovation**	Renovation / replacement of traffic lights and columns
PP/YGC	**Burial grounds**	Ensuring an adequate burial ground

Assessing the Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Disadvantage

Please see the leaflet *How to Make an Equality Impact Assessment* for support to complete this form. You are also welcome to contact Delyth 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 impact that any changes in any policy or procedures (or the creation of a new policy or procedure) will have on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and to foster good relationships. Therefore, a timely assessment should be made before any decision is taken on any relevant change (i.e., that affects people with protected equality characteristics). The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and to foster good relationships. Therefore, a timely assessment must be made before a decision is taken on any relevant change (i.e. that affects people with protected equality 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 impact that any change in policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), will have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English. This document therefore ensures that these decisions safeguard and promote the use made of the Welsh language. This document therefore ensures that these decisions safeguard and promote the use made of the Welsh language.

From 1 April 2021 onwards, the Council has a duty to give due attention to addressing socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decisions.

1) Details

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

Asset Management Plan 2024-2034

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

Establish an Asset Management Plan for the period 2024-2034 to ensure that our Asset Management Plan is up to date.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Dafydd Gibbard

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

There was an informal assessment in March 2024. This formal assessment was started on 22 April 2024.

2) Implementation

2.1 Who are the stakeholders or partners with whom we will have to work to carry out this assessment?

Council Departments
The People of Gwynedd
The Cabinet
Elected members
Governance and Audit Committee Lay Members

2.2 What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either due to location or due to need), who are living with a socio-economic disadvantage?

No specific engagement has taken place to date but a corporate engagement process has meant that Elected Members have had the opportunity to provide input based on their awareness of their areas and what their constituents are raising with them.

Departments will need to decide what level of engagement will be required to carry out their individual impact assessments and that will feed into the method of implementation.

2.3 What was the outcome of the engagement?

The plan has been developed and co-designed to include members' views.

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

Our capital plans need time to prepare and therefore it is good practice to have a current Plan for an extended period. The budget we anticipate available for capital plans for the next 10 years is £45.2M while departments' requirements are £129.3M. It was therefore necessary to go through a process of prioritisation in order to set a balanced plan

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

It is possible that, due to a lack of adequate information, there is an impact on certain features and it is important to look at them individually to identify if a full assessment needs to be undertaken. Of course an impact assessment may have been done on a number of these already.

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must duly address the impact that any changes will have on people with the following equality characteristics. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes in the policy or service have on people with these characteristics? It is also necessary to consider the impact on Socio-Economic disadvantage and on the Welsh Language.

Characteristics	What type of impact?	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.
Disability	Positive	A grant scheme to make adaptations to housing for the disabled is included in the Assets Plan.
Gender	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.
Age	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.
Religion or belief (or non-belief)	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.

Gender reassignment	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	The impact appears to be neutral in terms of the scheme, but it is necessary for departments to ensure that they carry out an impact assessment on the individual issues.
The Welsh language	Positive	A plan to strengthen the provision of Welsh education in the secondary sector is likely to have a positive effect on the Welsh language.
Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Positive	The Bangor Health Hub scheme will aim to boost the economy of Bangor city centre, while investment in Pwllheli Harbour and Victoria Dock will protect income and also mean that users will be able to continue using the resources.

3.2 The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to contribute positively to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in its activities in the fields of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must duly address the way any change impacts on these duties. The Council must duly address the way any change impacts on these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?	In what way? What is the evidence?
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	No	The effect mentioned in 3.1 is not thought to be sufficient to lead to discrimination, harassment or persecution.
Promote equal opportunities	No	The effect mentioned in 3.1 is not thought to be sufficient to affect equal opportunities.
Building good relationships	No	The effect mentioned in 3.1 is not thought to be sufficient to affect building good relationships.

3.3 How does your proposal ensure that you work in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English, and that every opportunity to promote the Welsh language is taken

(beyond providing bilingual services) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

This is a capital expenditure prioritisation plan, and some of the projects include making improvements to Welsh provision such as the secondary education sector in Bangor.

It is not anticipated that any of the other plans will lead to the Welsh language being treated less favourably than English. In some cases, specific projects or plans within the Asset Plan will be expected as they develop and these assessments will need to identify any further opportunities to promote the Welsh language. It is the duty of the person responsible for the plan or individual project to carry out the assessment(s).

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

n/a

3.5 How does the proposal show that you have given due regard to the need to address inequality due to socio-economic disadvantage? (Please note that this relates to closing the inequality gap, rather than improving outcomes for everyone only).

The procedure for establishing the Asset Plan takes into account the likely resources available for the next 10 years, and prioritises them based on the risk of not achieving them as Departments' requirements are above the available budget.

The individual plans vary from those that are for the whole of Gwynedd to specific ones and have been subject to assessment to ensure that inequality due to economic - social disadvantage is reduced.

Some of the plans that are recommended to be included in the Asset Plan are specifically designed to reduce inequality due to socio-economic disadvantage. These are detailed in Appendix 1, 2 and 3.

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

This will be addressed more thoroughly in the individual assessments

4) Analysing the results

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

These have a varying impact and there will be constant monitoring during their implementation, but it must be noted that they are capital plans that must be carried out within the resources available to us.

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

No

4.3 What should be done?

Select one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	X
Revise the policy to remove any barriers	
Suspend and abolish the policy as the harmful impacts are too great	
Continue with the policy as any harmful impact can be justified	
No further steps at present, it is premature to decide, or there is insufficient evidence	

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

The departments will work to ensure they mitigate any negative impacts.

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

n/a

5) Monitoring

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

The Asset Plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the plans are up to date. Some individual plans will also be monitored through the performance challenge and support system.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	**11 June 2024**
Cabinet Member:	**Councillor Menna Trenholme**
Contact Officer:	**Dylan Owen, Social Services Director**
Title of Item:	**Strategic Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2023/24**

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 The Cabinet is asked to accept the report on the work of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel for the year 2023/24.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

2.1. It is essential that Cabinet members are aware of the Panel's work on safeguarding and are satisfied that the Panel has undertaken the required work in a thorough and conscientious manner.

2.2. The Statutory Director is required to consistently and regularly report upon safeguarding matters to members.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on what has been achieved by the Strategic Safeguarding Panel during the year.

3.2. It is considered that the report accurately and fairly summarises the work of the Panel, and also includes references to reports or observations made by external inspectors in relation to this work.

4. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i) The Monitoring Officer:

As a member of this Panel, I welcome this report that appropriately summarises its work. It provides the Cabinet with assurance about this key responsibility.

ii) Head of Finance:

Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety

STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING PANEL REPORT

2023/24

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The report gives an overview of the work of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel over the period April 2023 until March 2024 outlining the work undertaken by the Council themselves, and by the Council in partnership with others.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2.1. The aim of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel is to ensure that appropriate arrangements and procedures are in place at a corporate level across the Council to ensure the safety of children, young people and adults. Since 2017/18 the Panel is also responsible for overview of wider safeguarding issues across Gwynedd, such as Community Safety.

2.2. The Panel in turn is accountable to the Statutory Director of Social Services, who has the final accountability for safeguarding issues.

2.3. The Chair of the Panel is Councillor Menna Trenholme, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support. The new Terms of Reference is seen in **Appendix 1**, which includes a list of the Panel's current members. The Terms of Reference was updated during 2023/24.

2.4. A Safeguarding Operational Group supports the Strategic Panel to implement its priorities and to deal with practical issues in its remit. This is an internal group of officers, with the safeguarding champion of each department serving on it, to ensure whole-Council ownership of safeguarding issues. The new Terms of Reference for the Safeguarding Operational Group is seen in **Appendix 2**. The Terms of Reference was updated during 2023/24.

2.5. Parts of the Council's performance in the safeguarding field are assessed in performance challenge meetings with the relevant Cabinet Members and by independent external inspectors as part of their work in assessing wider performance.

3. NEW SAFEGUARDING POLICY

3.1. During 2023, a review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy was undertaken, which states how we intend to fulfil our statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults who are at risk in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014). As the previous version was an adaptation of a Policy created in

2013, it was decided that it was timely to prepare a new policy instead of updating the document in accordance with the usual procedure.

3.2. There was a workshop in October 2023 led by the Statutory Director of Social Services. Representation of officers from across the Council attended, including the Assistant Head of Children, Safeguarding and Quality and the Senior Manager of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health.

3.3. Several changes were agreed in the workshop:

- The amended Safeguarding Policy reiterates that everyone has a safeguarding responsibility, but it also notes that each Councillor and staff member has specific responsibilities, as well as detailing how safeguarding should be reflected in contracting and commissioning arrangements.
- The expectations for Cyngor Gwynedd staff and Councillors to always act according to the principles noted in the policy was highlighted, whether during work hours or otherwise.
- There was ambiguity in the old version between safeguarding and protection, which has now been addressed. The Policy makes it clear that safeguarding is what is being discussed, and there are other procedures to follow for "protection".
- The amended Policy highlights the role of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel. It was decided to revise the Panel's Terms of Reference, and further attention was given to the membership to ensure that senior officers across the Council, as well as experts in the field of safeguarding Children and Adults, receive an invitation.
- As a result of this, the need for a Terms of Reference for the Safeguarding Operational Group was also reviewed, including a description of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Persons.
- Strengthen the reporting and monitoring arrangements. An Annual Report will be presented to the Cabinet annually. That Report will also be submitted to the Full Council annually.
- In terms of the Safeguarding Policies of individual departments, it was noted that the Council has one corporate Policy. However, the department could present their own specific policy if deemed necessary.

3.4. On 20 February 2024, the Cabinet approved the amended Policy, and it was presented to the Council in March 2024, therefore the above changes have now been adopted. During 2024/25, further work will need to be done to promote the amended Policy amongst all Council staff.

4. PROGRESS AGAINST SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

4.1. **Safeguarding Children**

4.1.1. The number of referrals to children's services remained fairly consistent, with **7,230** referrals in 2023/24 compared with **7,175** last year. It is therefore suggested that the significant increase in the number of referrals seen during the COVID-19 period is stabilising, however, it is not returning to the pre-pandemic level of approximately 5,000 referrals a year.

4.1.2. The work pressure on the service was tremendous and the workforce was extremely busy supporting our children and families. It is noted that the cases seen were much more intensive and complex, and during 2024/25 further work is needed to understand the trends affecting the children's services.

4.1.3. There were also cases during the year of crime against children. Whilst legal proceedings and the courts are doing their work, it is important that, as social services, we consistently learn from these incidents through reviews and improve our services to ensure the safety of those who are most vulnerable in our community.

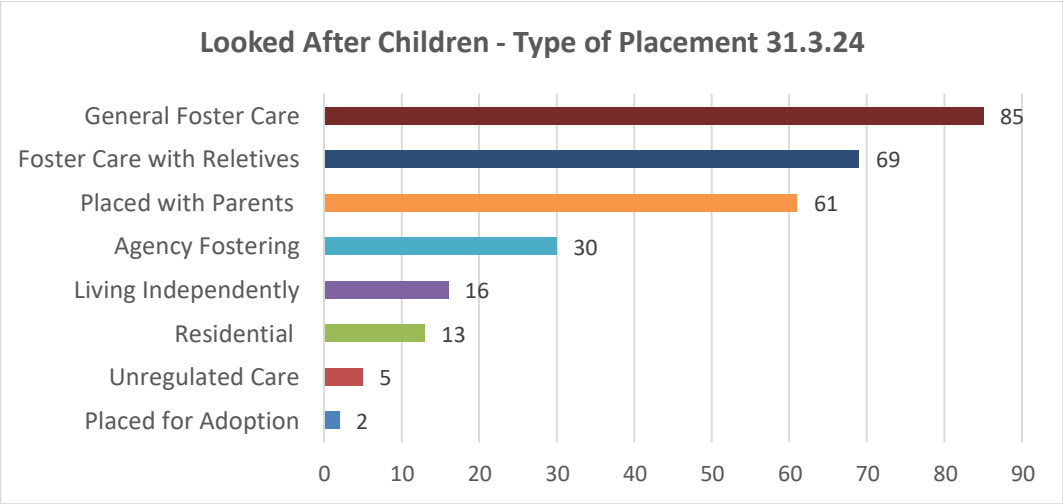
4.1.4. An increase of **248%** was seen in the work relating to Part 5 in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. Part 5 relates to safeguarding concerns about practitioners and those in posts of trust, and these procedures identify arrangements for responding to safeguarding concerns about those whose work, whether employed or voluntary, brings them into contact with children or adults at risk.

4.1.5. **79% (↓5%)** of child protection reviews were held within the statutory timetable during the year. The percentage of risk assessments submitted to Case Conferences which were considered as exhibiting quality in decision making remained high at **99% (↑1%)**.

4.1.6. At the end of March there were **281** children in care, the same number as last year. **37%** of the children who came into care during the year were under 5 years old, with most having been on the Child Protection Register as part of safeguarding processes before coming into care. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children represent **18%** of the children who came into care this year.

4.1.7. Of the total number of children in care, **65%** are in foster placements, **13** (5%) are in residential placements and **61** (**21%**) are placed with their parents. **2**

children were in adopted placements at the end of the period, with 16 young people living independently with support (**10** of them Asylum Seekers).



4.1.8. During 2023/24, unregistered placements arrangements (OWR) were used for **5** looked after young people.

4.1.9. Historically, our use of unregistered placements arrangements has been very rare, and for short periods of a few days or weeks at most, until a placement identified for the young person was ready. However, the situation nationally is much more serious by now, with the majority, if not all authorities having to ensure that such an arrangement is available due to the lack of registered placements across the United Kingdom. This is especially true for teenagers with intense and complex needs or who have experienced a placement breakdown because of challenging behaviour.

4.1.10. We strive to respond to the challenge by developing our own residential provision through the Small Group Homes Scheme, which is a priority in the Council Plan 2023-28. The first property was bought in March 2024, with the intention to open before the end of the year.

4.2. **<u>Safeguarding Adults</u>**

4.2.1. **719** Adults reports were received during 2023/24, which was similar to the figure in 2022/23 of **714**. However, on average, **94% (↓1%)** of the initial s.126 enquiries from safeguarding referrals have been completed within the statutory period of 7 days.

4.2.2. From the reports of Adults at Risk received, the risk was managed in **100% (↑2%)** of the cases.

4.2.3. Regular visits were held to monitor the county's care homes, with a small number of homes being considered under the 'Escalating Concerns' procedure regarding various reasons, most including lack of management, documentation problems and lack of overview. The Quality Assurance team is small, and therefore their ability to visit every service is restricted, especially domiciliary care services, therefore the work needs to be prioritised based on timely and appropriate information. Specific reports in that field regarding the quality of care and its provision are relied upon.

4.2.4. Concern remained about the DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) service during the year as some individuals were on the waiting list for up to 3 years. At the end of March 2023, **350** were waiting for a DoLS assessment. Whilst this type of experience and situation is shared with other counties, it is not good practice, and the service has to prioritise individuals according to their risk.

4.2.5. An additional grant was received from the Senedd to support the work and the money will be used to commission an agency to undertake many assessments. An internal audit report will be presented on the DoLS situation to the Scrutiny Committee in June 2024.

4.3. **Education**

4.3.1. Since April 2023, the Designated Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education has visited **41** schools to check safeguarding arrangements, policies and procedures. Every school receives a quality check visit in a two-year cycle. Every school visited complies with the appropriate safeguarding arrangements, and this opinion was confirmed by Estyn visits. Some minor adjustments were suggested in a small number of schools to improve arrangements, but no school needed a follow-up visit.

4.3.2. An Annual Safeguarding Survey was held by the Designated Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Education in March 2024. It was noted that:

- **92% (↑5%)** of the "Main Safeguarding Persons" in schools had received specific safeguarding training during the past two years;
- **84% (↑14%)** of Designated Governors in Gwynedd's schools had also received the relevant training for their role in the last two years;
- **95% (↓2%)** of Gwynedd Schools had introduced Basic Safeguarding Training to all staff before the end of the Winter term;

- **100% (to remain the same)** of Gwynedd Schools noted that they were confident that all school staff and volunteers know what to do if a child should disclose information on abuse.

4.3.3. During the 2023/24 academic year, **10** level 2 training sessions and **9** standard training sessions have been offered to Gwynedd schools' staff. In addition, the Designated Lead officer has held training sessions for Governors, supply teachers, early years staff, the education modernisation team and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) staff. By now, the Designated Lead for safeguarding is qualified to train instructors in the Safeguarding field.

4.3.4. Following a regional effort to review the reasonable Force Policy for schools, the example policy has been shared with schools for the Governors to adopt it.

4.3.5. Following changes to the Looked After Children grants funding method by the Welsh Government, the Authority will now receive the funding directly. This therefore means that we can ensure that the money reaches the pupils in a timely manner and it will be possible to manage and evaluate the use of the money.

4.3.6. At the end of March 2024, there was a total of **208** children receiving their education at home, through parents' choice. The main reasons for educating from home was the parent and pupil's anxiety and mental health problems. We managed to keep consistent contact with the majority of these families, with a small number refusing any contact (in accordance with their rights).

4.4. **Domestic Abuse**

4.4.1. There is good co-operation between the Council and the relevant organisations and efforts continue to promote the importance of reporting and identifying domestic abuse signs. Following an application prepared by officers from the Corporate Support Department, the Council received a 'White Ribbon' accreditation in May 2022. The accreditation ensures that organisations use a strategic approach to put an end to violence against women, by changing the culture and raising awareness. There is close co-operation between Community Safety and Corporate Support to monitor and report on the action plan.

4.4.2. There has been focus recently on sharing information regarding the 'Live Fear Free' Helpline and 'Clare's Law', which gives people the right to know whether their current partner or previous partner has any previous history of violence or abuse. Various messages have been published internally and externally, and

recent sessions have been arranged with the manager of the helpline to explain the support available to victims, but also to staff.

4.4.3. By now, the Domestic Abuse e-module is mandatory for all members of staff. It is vital that the workforce receives the training to ensure that the Council is doing everything within its ability to support individuals and to raise awareness. 'Ask and Act' training is also promoted to give staff confidence to help individuals experiencing violence, domestic abuse, or sexual violence. **55%** of the Council's staff (including Permanent, Casual and Fixed Term staff) have completed the training.

4.4.4. We must remember that not all Council staff members have easy access to the Council's IT systems, and this creates a barrier. The Corporate Support Department is looking at the induction programme to try and ensure that everyone completes the e-modules in their first days of starting their job.

4.4.5. The Community Safety Partnership works closely with the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Regional Advisor (North Wales). This co-operation is vital for implementing the recommendations following Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR). The Partnership is responsible for commissioning, presenting and monitoring the action plan for DHRs in our area.

4.4.6. Over the last year, **1** DHR case has been commissioned and is now with the Home Office for a quality assurance process. Following approval from the Home Office, another report has been published in March and we are now in the process of implementing the recommendations.

4.4.7. A new arrangement is expected by the Welsh Government for Reports in September, by establishing a Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) system. This process would simplify the current arrangement by combining the current Adults Practice Review, Children's Practice Review, Mental Health Homicide Review, Domestic Homicide Review and Offensive Weapons Homicide Review processes.

4.5. **Crime**

4.5.1. There was a clear increase in the number of Thefts and Handling crimes in Gwynedd and across North Wales, compared with last year. This is mainly driven by an increase in Retail Offences (Shoplifting), which falls into the Thefts and Handling category. Stealing from shops in Gwynedd is **43.2%** higher this year compared with last year, with the Police seeing a general increase in North

Wales of over **35%.** The cost-of-living crisis is widely acknowledged as one of the biggest factors in the increased number of incidents. Retail Offences are now a priority for the police and substantial work is being done to get to grips with the increase experienced.

4.5.2. The Serious Violence Duty came into force in January 2023. The duty makes it a requirement for specified authorities to work together to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. The final Strategy was published in January 2024. As part of this work, the Partnership has received funding for preventative and early intervention projects to reduce serious violence by children and young people. The Partnership remains a part of the Regional Steering Group to implement the Duty.

4.6. **Modern Slavery and Ethical Employment in Supply Chains Declaration**

4.6.1. The cases of Modern Slavery in the area relate mainly to drug misuse. Regionally, this matter is a priority within the new Serious Violence Strategy. The Police is raising awareness of Modern Slavery amongst authorities and businesses across the region.

4.6.2. During the year, a "pop-up" brothel was reported in the Bangor area, which included three women from Romania, each of them having entered the country through Ireland claiming that they were on holiday. There is suspicion that “pop-up” brothels are more common than the few reports suggest, and officers have received additional awareness training to identify the signs. North Wales Police also hold regular visits with hotels and holiday sites and provide literature in sexual health clinics and surgeries.

4.7. **Counter Terrorism**

4.7.1. Cyngor Gwynedd holds a Public Places Group: Preparedness to Protect and Safeguard, and is also a member of the equivalent regional groups. The purpose of the Group is to:

- Collaborate with organisations to provide effective and efficient protective security arrangements in Gwynedd;
- Provide an integrated security approach, that corresponds with the national standards and guidelines, to identify and provide proportionate actions to keep communities safe in Gwynedd;
- Improve and support the preparedness to safeguard and protect in accessible public locations in Gwynedd.

4.8. **Prevent**

4.8.1. The Home Office has created a new training for Prevent, and the e-module is mandatory for the whole workforce by now. In Gwynedd, the e-learning portal is used to track the numbers that complete the training, which means that it is possible to give specific attention to encourage staff in some Departments or fields. The other North Wales authorities have reported that gathering data was an obstacle for them as they, differently to Gwynedd, use the external link.

4.8.2. Following the success of the three benchmarks last year, during 2023/24 the Community Safety Partnership will concentrate on:

1) Create a Training Plan to increase the number that take up the Prevent training
2) Work with regional partners to develop a Prevent Communication and Engagement Plan
3) Develop a Venue Hire Policy for the Council and its partners

4.9. **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

4.9.1. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is responsible for processing criminal checks. The purpose of DBS checks is to help employers make safer recruiting and licensing decisions, although the check is only one part of the recruitment process. When the check has been processed and completed by the DBS, the applicant will receive a DBS certificate.

4.9.2. The Operational Group has undertaken some significant work to check, challenge and revisit the corporate procedure in respect of the DBS. As a result, Departments now have more ownership of the DBS arrangements, and this has transformed how the Operational Group reports on its compliance with departmental disclosures.

5. PRACTICE REVIEWS

5.1. Wales has developed a Child Practice Review (CPR) framework to improve the culture of learning lessons from child protection cases. 'Brief' or 'extended' reviews exist depending on the circumstances of the child in question. They are undertaken by the North Wales Regional Safeguarding Children Board with the aim of learning lessons to be shared to try and avoid such cases in the future.

5.2. The North Wales Safeguarding Adults Board also conduct Adults Practice Reviews, in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The purpose of these Reviews is to identify the lessons to be learnt from complex and difficult Adult Safeguarding cases, and to implement changes to improve services as a result of these lessons.

6. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

6.1. Although the Strategic Safeguarding Panel focuses on corporate responsibilities regarding safeguarding issues within Gwynedd, it also receives information and guidance via Regional Safeguarding Boards for Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Adults working across north Wales. These are Statutory Boards with cross-agency membership and specific statutory and legal responsibilities. The Council is a member of these Boards and contributes to implementing their plans. Further information regarding the work of the Boards can be seen here - https://www.northwalessafeguardingboard.wales/

6.2. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership has also shown that working in partnership across county borders is proving to be a success. The Partnership's work in areas such as Atal/Prevent is essential if the Panel is to ensure the quality of safeguarding arrangements in Gwynedd.

6.3. Several organisations have a statutory duty to be part of the partnership, including Local Authorities, Police, Probation Services, Fire and Rescue Service and the Health Board. Information on all aspects of community safety that the Council deal with is available on our website.

7. THE FUTURE

7.1. In terms of the Panel's priorities for the coming year, it is intended to concentrate on the following priorities:

- Further work will be needed to promote the amended Safeguarding Policy amongst all Council staff.
- Ensure that the Designated Persons understand their role and take it seriously.
- Consider introducing a data dashboard to reflect the work in the safeguarding field.
- Following a very public court case regarding a secondary school headteacher in Gwynedd, it is likely that a Child Practice Review will be needed according to statutory guidelines led by the Regional Safeguarding Children's Board. The Gwynedd Strategic Safeguarding Panel will keep a close eye on this and consider the lessons to be learned from the case.

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Safeguarding Children and Adults Strategic Panel Terms of Reference

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS STRATEGIC PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Safeguarding children and adults is a priority for Cyngor Gwynedd. To ensure that suitable and appropriate safeguarding procedures are in force, the Statutory Director of Social Services convenes a Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Adults, which represents Members and senior managers from all the Council's departments.

1.2. The Safeguarding Children and Adults Strategic Panel is expected to lead and advise on the safeguarding requirements contained in paragraphs 64-69 of Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being Wales Act (2014).

1.3. All agencies also need to establish internal arrangements for ensuring that the counter-terrorism agenda, prevention of radicalisation, and community safety issues, receive the appropriate attention.

1.4. For the purpose of this Panel, the term 'safeguarding' applies to adults, children and young people and means preventing them from being abused or neglected and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers. Safeguarding, and promoting the welfare of individuals, is a broader term than ‘protecting’ individuals from being abused. It is about individuals and services recognising the risk factors and taking steps to prevent vulnerable individuals from being abused. Protection is part of the safeguarding and promoting well-being work. It refers to the activity of protecting children, young people and adults who suffer or are at risk of suffering significant harm because of abuse or neglect.

2. SAFEGUARDING STRATEGIC PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1. The aim of the Panel is to give assurance to Members and to the Statutory Director of Social Services, as the senior officer within the Council who has full final responsibility for safeguarding children, young people, and adults, that suitable arrangements and procedures are in place at a corporate level to ensure the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. The Panel will fulfil 3 statutory duties, namely:

2.1.1. general corporate duty to safeguard,

2.1.2. Social Services statutory duty

2.1.3. And the Community safety duty.

2.2. To meet these duties, the Panel is expected to:

2.2.1. Identify any gaps in relation to safeguarding at corporate level and approve work programs to respond to these. Collaborate with the Safeguarding Operational Group to respond to any identified gaps.

2.2.2. Identify lessons to be learned, at a corporate level, from reviews of serious cases and from other relevant reviews and ensure action on these. (Adult Practice Review, Child Practice Review and Domestic Homicide Review).

2.2.3. Identify lessons to be learned from external and internal audits and ensure action on these.

2.2.4. Inform relevant lead members of key issues/developments in the field of safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

2.2.5. Be a vehicle to raise the awareness of all members of the Council's staff and all elected members of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

2.2.6. Be a vehicle to ensure that staff members and elected members receive suitable training (for example the two mandatory VAWDASV and Prevention) in a timely manner, and monitor attendance at this training.

2.2.7. Ensure inter-departmental work correlation and effective communication within the Council in the field of safeguarding.

2.2.8. Ensure inter-departmental work correlation and effective communication within the Council in the field of safeguarding.

2.2.9. Ensure an overview of wider Safeguarding issues including counter-terrorism procedures, modern slavery, domestic violence, and community safety.

3. PERFORMANGE MONITORING

3.1. The Safeguarding Strategic Panel will have a responsibility to monitor and challenge performance relating to the Safeguarding field.

4. CHAIRSHIP

4.1. The Panel shall appoint a Chair and a Vice-Chair every two years.

5. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

5.1. The Panel will meet three times per year.

6. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

6.1. The Safeguarding Strategic Panel is accountable to Cabinet. An Annual Report will be submitted to Cabinet on an annual basis. The Annual Report will also be submitted to the Full Council on an annual basis.

6.2. Business management [i.e. formulating a work programme, meetings programme, 'secretariat', central communication point, organising additional professional advice (if necessary)] is the responsibility of the Corporate Support Department.

7. MEMBERSHIP

Title
Children and Supporting Families Cabinet Member
Adult, Health, and Wellbeing Cabinet Member
Education Cabinet Member
Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety
Corporate Support Cabinet Member
Chief Executive
Corporate Director
Statutory Director of Social Services
Head of Department for Children and Family Support
Head of Education
Head of Adults, Health, and Wellbeing
Head of Corporate Support
Chair of the Operational Safeguarding Group
Head of Legal Service
Anglesey and Gwynedd Safety Partnership Manager
Senior Child Protection and Quality and Family Support Manager
Senior Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health Manager

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Safeguarding Adults and Children Operational Group Terms of Reference

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Safeguarding children and adults is a priority for Cyngor Gwynedd. To ensure that suitable and appropriate safeguarding procedures are in force, the Statutory Director of Social Services convenes a Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Adults, which represents Members and senior managers from all the Council's departments.

1.2. The Safeguarding Operational Group reports to, and works for, the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

1.3. For the purpose of this Panel, the term 'safeguarding' applies to adults, children and young people and means preventing them from being abused or neglected and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers. Safeguarding, and promoting the welfare of individuals, is a broader term than 'protecting' individuals from being abused. It is about individuals and services recognising the risk factors and taking steps to prevent vulnerable individuals from being abused. Protection is part of the safeguarding and promoting well-being work. It refers to the activity of protecting children, young people and adults who suffer or are at risk of suffering significant harm because of abuse or neglect.

2. OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1. The Operational Safeguarding Group operates in accordance with the guidance and requirements of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

2.2. The Operational Safeguarding Group will monitor the performance across the services from a child and adult safeguarding perspective. The Group will report to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel at each meeting, clearly outlining any concerns or obstacles. The Panel will work together with the Group to respond to any identified gaps.

2.3. The Operational Safeguarding Group will ensure:

- A clear understanding in the Council's workplace, and those who work on behalf of the Council, of the policies and guidelines for protecting children and adults at risk of harm and/or abuse.
- That each department in the Council has its own safeguarding procedures documented and used appropriately, and compatible with the Council's Safeguarding Policy.
- Staff and volunteers receive appropriate and timely safeguarding information and training.
- Safer recruitment takes place and that the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is used consistently and effectively.

2.4. The Designated Safeguarding Officers will undertake the role of raising awareness within their departments.

3. CHAIRSHIP

3.1. The Group shall appoint a Chair and a Vice-Chair every two years

4. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

4.1. The Group will meet four times per year.

5. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

5.1. The Operational Safeguarding Group reports to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

5.2. Business management [i.e. drawing up a work programme, meeting agenda, 'secretariat', central communication point, organising additional professional advice if necessary)] is the responsibility of the Corporate Support Department.

6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1. The membership of the Operational Group is Designated Officers for the field of safeguarding children and adults within each Council Department.

6.2. A list of Designated Safeguarding Officer for each Department can be found on the staff self-service (Hunanwasanaeth).

CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of Item:	Local Flood Strategy
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Berwyn Parry Jones
Relevant Officer:	Steffan Jones, Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC
Date of Meeting:	11 June, 2024

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 Granting approval for adoption *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy* ('the Strategy') of the Council.

1.2 Receive a delegated right in consultation with the Cabinet Member to complete the document following approval from the Welsh Government.

2. THE REASON WHY THE CABINET MUST MAKE THE DECISION

2.1 The need for Local Authorities to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a requirement of the *Flood and Water Management Act 2010*. Gwynedd Council is required to review the original Strategy (2013) to align with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation of the *National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales* published in 2020.

2.2 A draft of the new Strategy was completed earlier this year and a 6-week period of public consultation closed on the 6th of May. The results of the consultation are summarised in Appendix 1, and are incorporated into the current version of the Strategy (Appendices 2 and 3)

3. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

3.1 Climate change is having a significant impact on flooding and erosion rates as sea levels are rising and storms and periods of heavy rainfall become more intense and occur more regularly.

3.2 The Council has published its *Climate and Nature Emergency Plan* and the plan refers to how we as a Council want to respond to the impacts of climate change, which include the effects of flooding. The Strategy and *Climate and Nature Emergency Plan* co-exist to help realise each other's aims.

3.3 The Strategy was prepared in accordance with the framework and guidance provided by the Welsh Government. The information contained in the main document is as follows:

- Introduction, including the purpose of the Strategy
- How the strategy responds to climate change
- Coordination i.e. alignment with other policies and plans
- Roles and responsibilities for flood risk management
- Measures used by Gwynedd Council to manage risks
- Summary of historic flooding in Gwynedd
- Summary of flood and coastal erosion risks in Gwynedd
- Strategic Objectives and Actions
- Finance
- Work Programmes
- Monitoring progress
- Environmental impacts

3.4 Underpinning the document over the coming years are 5 main objectives, and a list of actions that build on our current flood risk management tools to meet these objectives.

The objectives of the Strategy are:

Objective 1: Aim to reduce the level of flood and coastal erosion risk to Gwynedd residents
Objective 2: Develop further understanding of flood risk to Gwynedd and the impacts of climate change
Objective 3: Continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd
Objective 4: Raise awareness of local flood and coastal erosion risk
Objective 5: Work collaboratively with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flooding and coastal erosion events.

3.5 One of the key actions included in the Strategy is our intention to prepare long-term capital works programmes for flood and coastal erosion risk management, divided into inland and coastal programmes. The intention is to update these work programmes annually and use them to elect plans and studies for inclusion on the national flood risk management programme.

3.6 The Strategy explains that the programmes will be shaped largely according to the level of risk of flooding/coastal erosion but will also be influenced by other factors such as the Council's legal responsibilities and our ability to make plans a reality. While we recognise that Gwynedd Council is the lead organisation for the plans and studies that will be included on our programmes, we anticipate that some specific projects will involve working in partnership with other authorities and we would greet such opportunities.

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

4. THE RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

4.1 A 6-week period of public consultation ended on the 6th of May. A summary of the contents and results of this consultation is included as an appendix (Appendix 1).

4.2 The main intention was to seek the opinion of the public as well as partner authorities and organisations on the content of the Strategy, particularly the following areas:

- Consideration of climate change on flood and coastal erosion risks
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Methods used to estimate flood and coastal erosion risks
- Suitability of objectives and actions.

4.3 There were 77 responses to the consultation, mainly from individuals living within Gwynedd (i.e. as opposed to responses from partner authorities and organisations, local councils or businesses).

4.4 It is not considered that the consultation responses make a case for significant changes to the Strategy or associated documents, however suggestions have been made for the document to be reviewed or modified to greet the comments received, including:

i. Review of the Strategy to ensure that the Council's desire to manage the effects of climate change within their capacity is evident.
ii. Review of the Strategy document to ensure that references to work programs are clearly visible.
iii. Review of the Strategy to ensure that our desire for collaboration has been clearly communicated.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

5.1 Once the Cabinet has approved and adopted the Strategy we are required to formally present the document to the Welsh Government. They will then review the document against the requirements of the *Flood and Water Management Act 2010*. We hope this will be completed before the Summer.

5.2 On receiving the Welsh Government's conclusions, we will be in consultation with the Cabinet Member, finalising the document and implementing the strategy and raising awareness within the area forums.

6. FUTURE GENERATIONS WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT 2015

6.1 A Prosperous Wales: Building resilience and reducing risk to people and places, help the economy and sustain long term employment. Construction of flood schemes creates jobs and safer places to work and invest.

6.2 A Resilient Wales: A key aim of the Strategy is to build resilience in our communities and deliver sustainable, safer places, helping mitigate the impacts from climate change. Schemes also provide an opportunity for wider benefits such as biodiversity enhancements improving ecosystem resilience.

6.3 A Healthier Wales: Sharing information on risk and what to do before, during and after a flood, together with the real reduction in risk to homes, helps to improve mental well-being. Schemes can help create more attractive and safe communities to live and work in and provide wider health benefits such as recreation and amenity improvements.

6.4 A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Reducing flood and coastal erosion risk helps to create attractive and safe communities to live, work and travel through. Closer working with communities to discuss risk and collaborate on alleviation schemes also helps bring people together and take greater collective responsibility.

6.5 A Responsible Wales: Supporting sustainable approaches such as Natural Flood Management and hybrid schemes to help reduce flood and coastal erosion risk.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An impact assessment has been completed. It is not considered that the Strategy will have a significant positive impact on any of the equality features or general duties. The Strategy aims to build more resilience within the whole community in order to be able to cope with the risk of flooding.

8. VIEWS OF STATUTORY OFFICER

Chief Finance Officer:

The Local Flood Strategy is an important document that outlines the risks faced in Gwynedd, and provides an overview of the actions in place to deal with the situation. Part 13 of the Strategy refers to Finance matters and I am satisfied with its accuracy. Securing revenue and capital budgets to fund the necessary schemes is an ongoing process involving consideration of annual budgets, the capital programme, the Asset Management Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan. I believe that this position has been explained succinctly and clearly in the Local Flood Strategy and I can confirm that the mechanisms for funding individual schemes will be subject to full assessment as they are developed.

Monitoring Officer:

I will provide any observations in relation to propriety at the meeting.

APPENDIX 1

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy: Public Consultation Results

Consultation period:	6 weeks between 25/03/2024 – 06/05/2024
Documents presented:	Strategy main document (Draft) Appendix to the main document (Draft) Summary of the Strategy (Draft) Habitat Regulations Assessment (Draft) Strategic Environmental Assessment (Draft)
Form:	Survey
Location:	Online with hard copies available in all Siop Gwynedd locations and in public libraries (All responses received online)
Number of participants:	77 (including 1 un-named Public Body, 1 business and 1 Community Council)
Methods of promotion:	Cyngor Gwynedd social media accounts Cyngor Gwynedd website Direct notification to partner authorities Email to Residents Panel Advertisements in the regional newspapers Advertisements in local newspapers (if date of publication allowed)

Summary

Shown below are the results of the 5 questions in the online survey regarding the Draft Strategy and further questions regarding the content of the two related environmental documents.

Overall, the response to the draft Strategy is mixed and the results do not suggest clear support for the document. When looking through the results we must consider that the number of participants that have viewed the consultation documents are relatively low - the number of visitors that opened the main document is around half the number that opened the online survey, with the visitor numbers for the other documents lower still (e.g. around 10% of those which opened the online survey also viewed the appendix to the main document and/or the Strategic Environmental Assessment).

Having reviewed the comments provided within the responses some themes appear to be repeated between the participants, including:

- Lack of a clear action plan within the document
- Concern about the effects of climate change and the Council's ability to respond
- Concern about funding and prioritizing of flood risk management work
- Concern that different authorities are not working together to manage risks
- Not enough emphasis on natural flood risk management across the catchments
- Concerns about unsuitable developments increasing risks

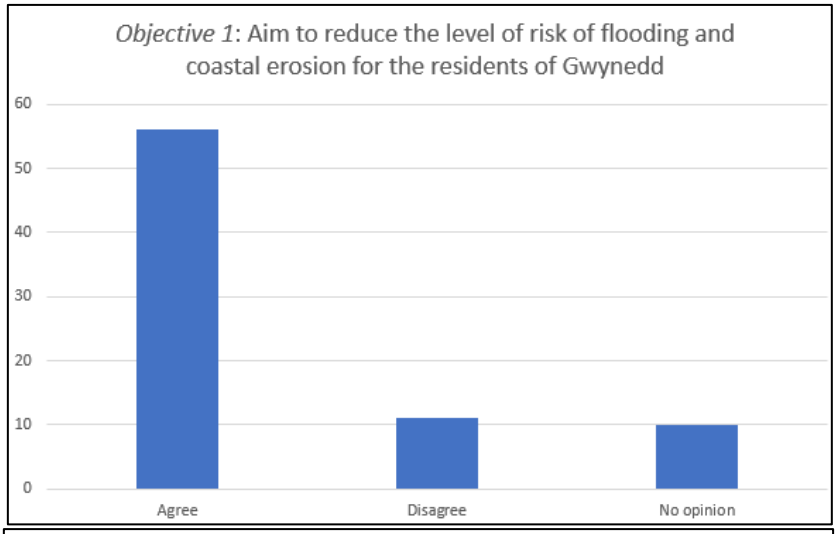
In addition to the above, several responses refer to the need to maintain surface water drains and to open water courses in order to increase capacity. Local issues are also included within the responses although we did advise participants to direct such concerns to a specific mailbox.

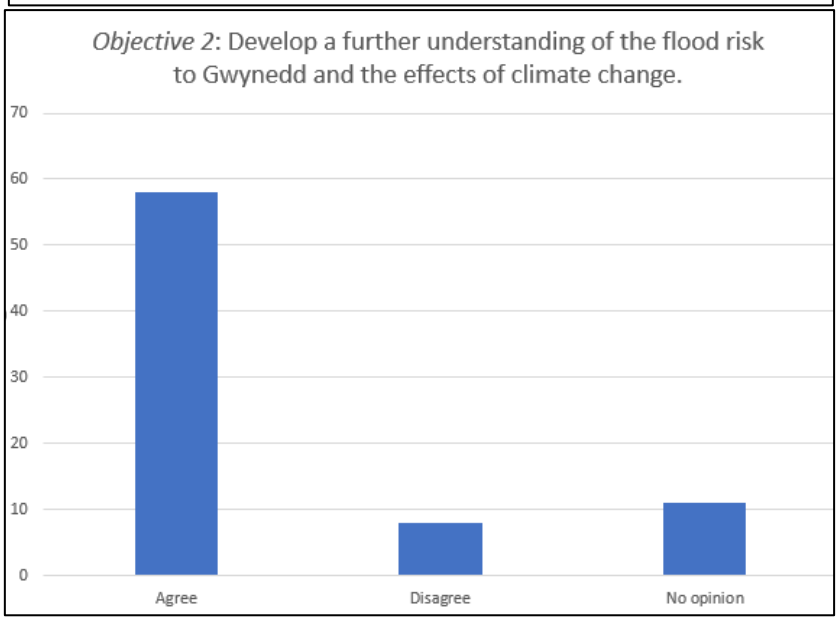
A brief analysis of the responses is also provided below. On the whole it is not considered that the responses to the survey make a case for significant changes to the Strategy or the related documents, however some suggestions are made to review or modify the documents in order to address the comments expressed.

Results

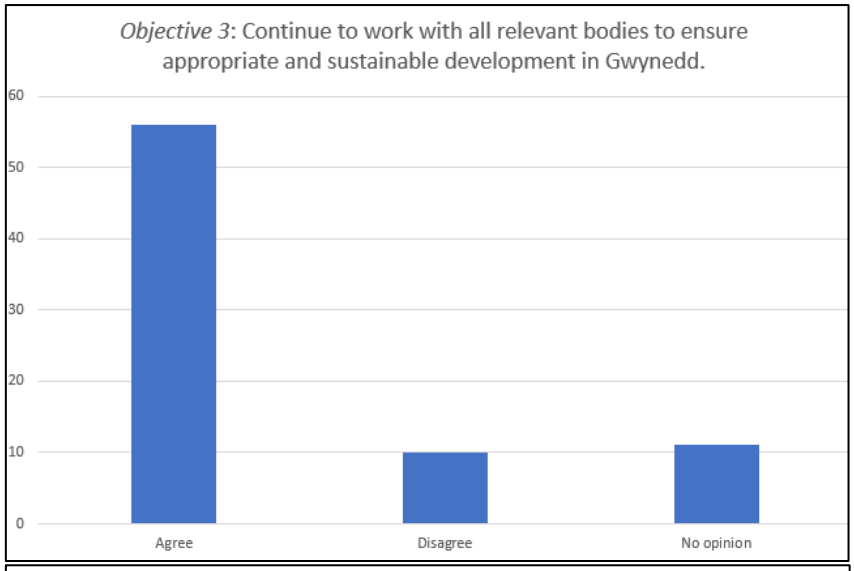
Local Flood Risk Strategy

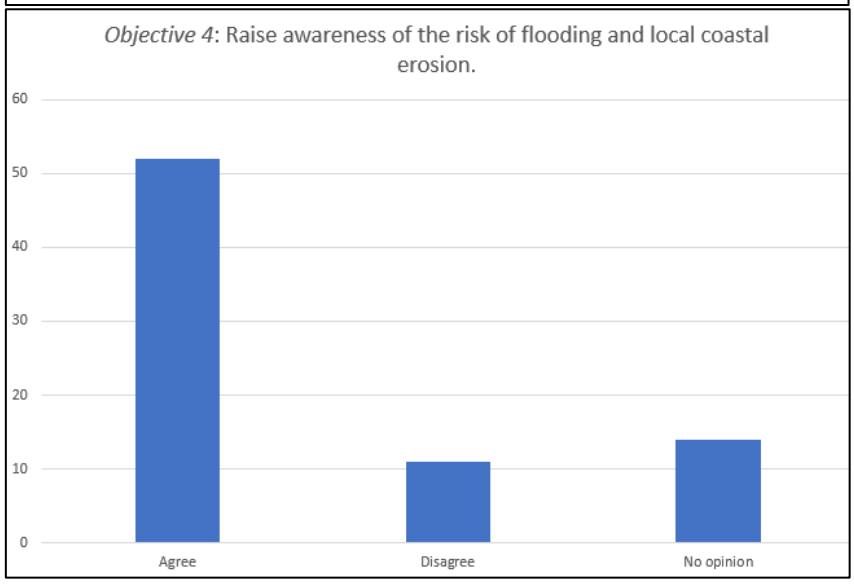
What is your opinion of the Strategic Objectives listed in the Local Strategy?

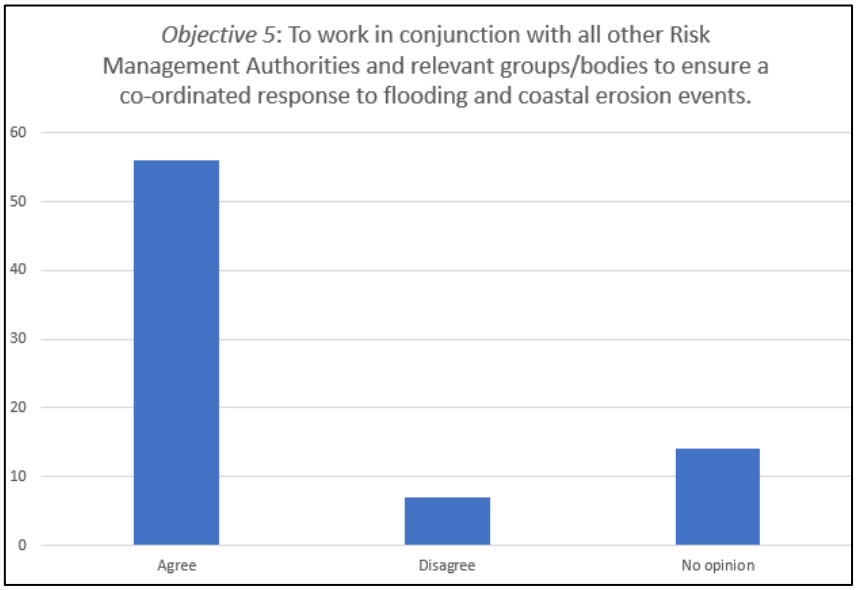




APPENDIX 1


Objective 3: Continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd.
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Agree
Disagree
No opinion

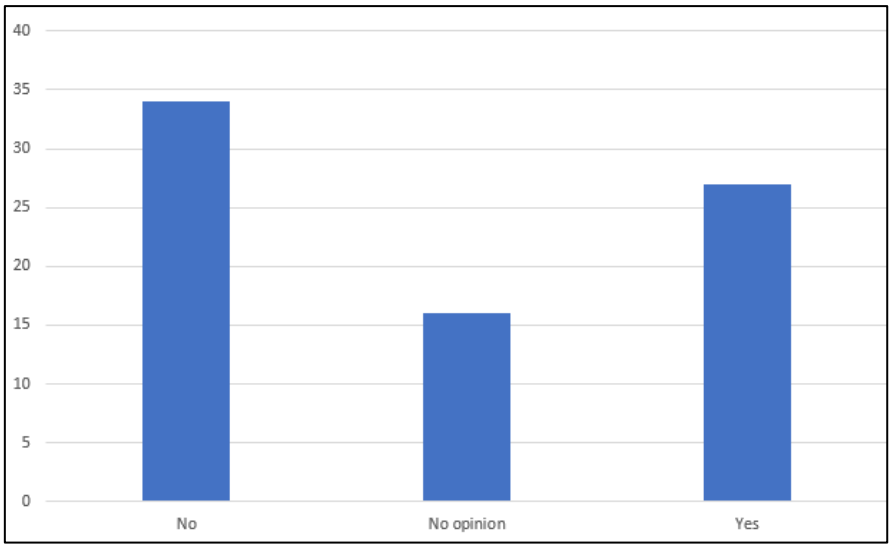

Objective 4: Raise awareness of the risk of flooding and local coastal erosion.
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Agree
Disagree
No opinion


Objective 5: To work in conjunction with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a co-ordinated response to flooding and coastal erosion events.
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Agree
Disagree
No opinion

Clear support can be seen above for the objectives that have been drawn up for the Strategy. There is a suggestion within the responses that disagree with the objectives that they are at too high level and do not give confidence that the Council will act to tackle the problems of flooding.

For information the objectives were listed within the survey and therefore the participants did not need to search for them elsewhere.

Do you consider that the Local Strategy does enough to address the effects of climate change in the future?

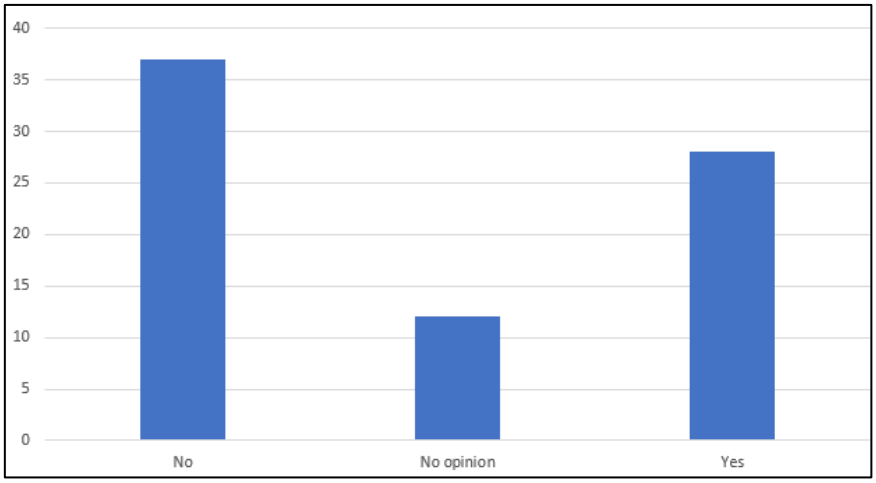


Mixed response to the question above although there is reference throughout the Strategy to the effects of climate change (Part 3, Part 9) and the methods proposed to identify and manage related risks in the future (including Objective 1: Action 1.1 ; Objective 2 Actions 2.3, 2.4).

The comments offered in the responses are mixed and not always relevant to the question being asked but it is clear that there is concern within participants regarding the effects of climate change and the Council's ability to manage related risks in the future.

Suggestion: Review the Strategy to ensure that the Council's intention to manage the effects of climate change to the best of their ability is clearly evident.

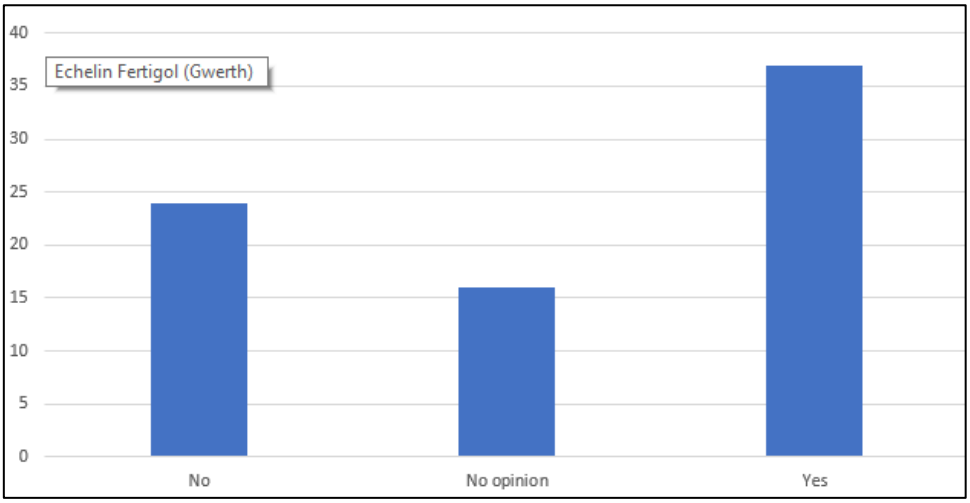
Do you consider that the Strategic Objectives have been supported by appropriate Actions?



A mixed response has been provided to the question above. The comments suggest a feeling within the participants that the document does not identify definite steps or an action plan to manage risks for the future. Pages 55-61 of the main document specifically list actions relevant to the 5 strategic objectives and inland and coastal work programs are listed in the appendix of the main document (pages 22-27 and 56-60).

Suggestion: The relatively low number who have opened the consultation documents possibly partially explains the response to this question but the feedback also suggests that the public are eager to understand what is being done to control the risks of flooding and coastal erosion and therefore it is suggested to review the Strategy document to ensure that references to work programs are clearly visible, and also that references to the latest work programs in the future are in a prominent place to be found on the Council's website.

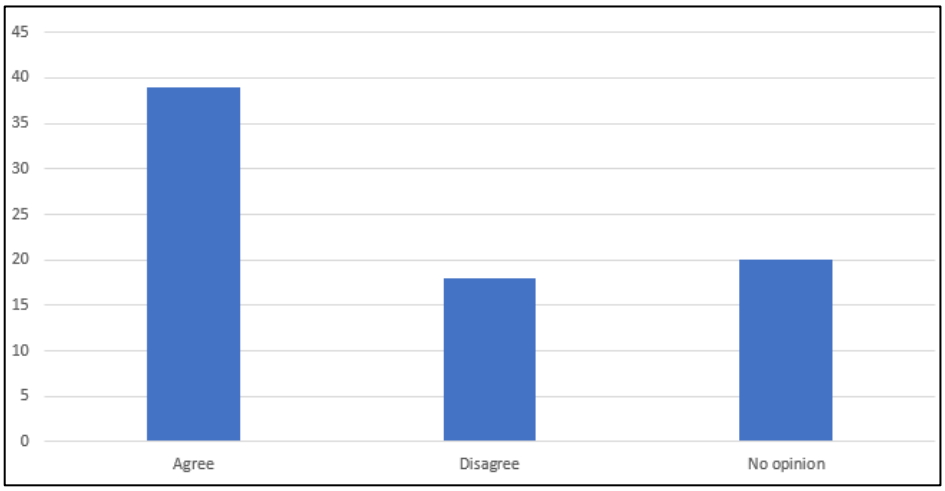
Does the Local Strategy highlight clearly enough roles and responsibilities of diffreent organisations in managing flood risk and coastal erosion?



Although the response to the above question is generally positive, the feedback in the comments suggests that the public does not have faith that different authorities work together to respond to flood events and manage risks for the future.

Suggestion: Actions 2.1 A and B (page 57 in the main document) refer to the Council's intention to work together with other Risk Management Authorities such as NRW and DCWW. Considering the feedback from the survey, the Strategy should be reviewed to ensure that the Council's commitment to collaborative working has been clearly communicated, and also possibly to highlight some examples of recent successful collaboration.

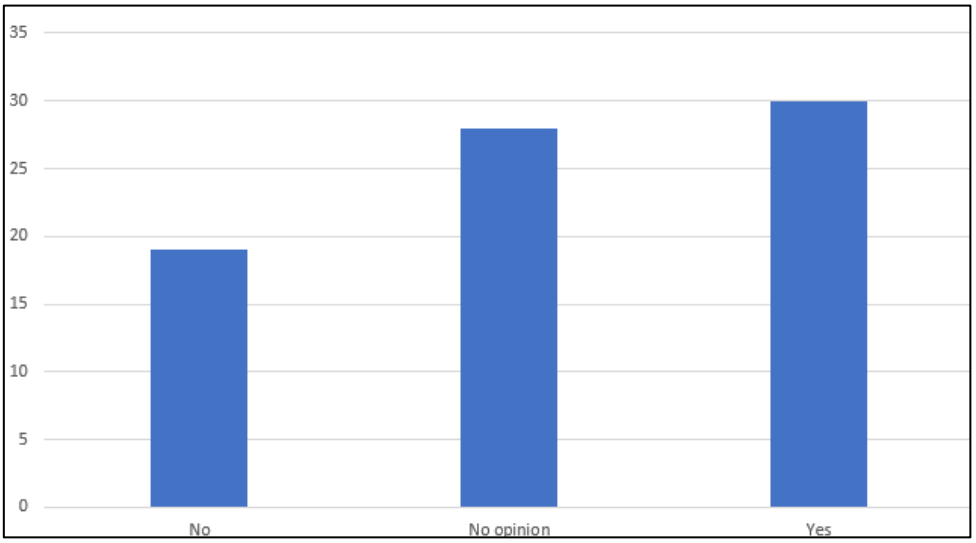
Do you agree with the method that has been used to identify the risks of flooding and coastal erosion across Gwynedd?



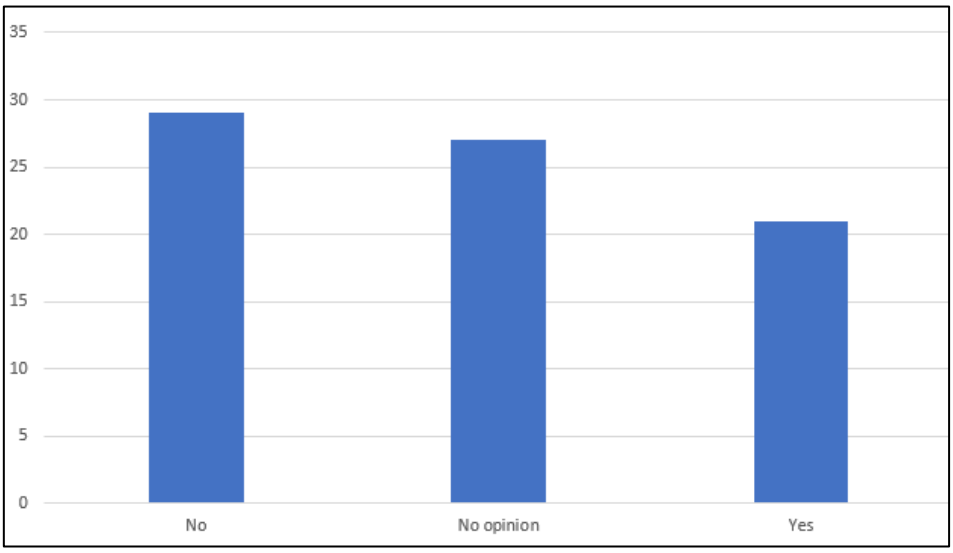
The response to the above question is generally positive. Possibly because it is a relatively technical question there are no relevant comments within the need to be considered further.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Do you consider that the SEA is comprehensive in terms of the environmental issues discussed?



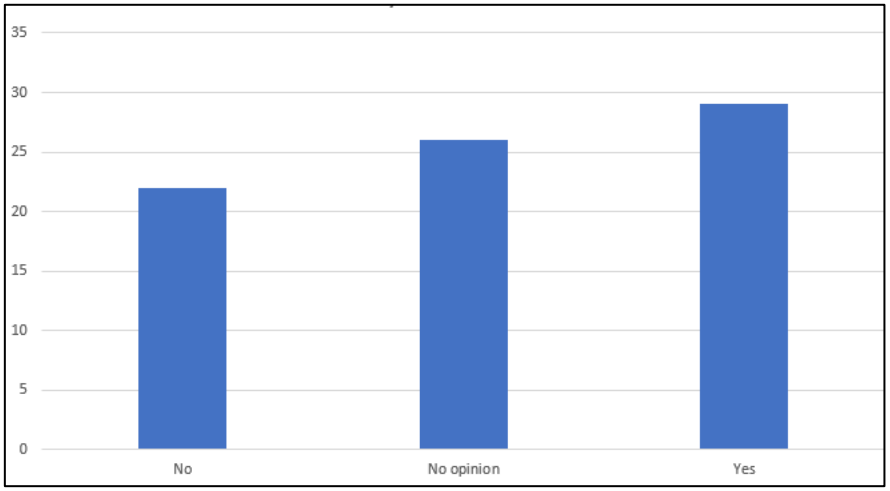
Do you think that the mitigation measures listed in the SEA are sufficient in order to manage environmental impacts effectively?



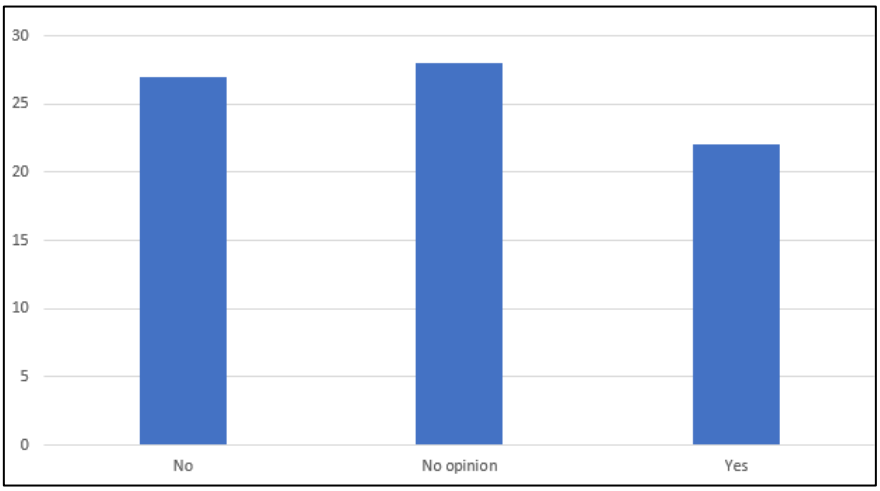
The response to the questions above is mixed. Possibly because it is relatively technical there are no comments within the responses that are relevant to the questions being asked that need to be considered further. Regard must also be given to the low number of contributors who are likely to have reviewed the document based on the numbers who have opened the link

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Do you consider that the assessment is comprehensive in terms of the designated sites considered?



Do you consider that the mitigation measures listed in the HRA are sufficient to manage harmful effects on designated sites?



The response to the questions above is mixed. Possibly because it is relatively technical there are no comments within the responses that are relevant to the questions being asked that need to be considered further. Regard must also be given to the low number of contributors who are likely to have reviewed the document based on the numbers who have opened the link.

YGC

Cyngor Gwynedd

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy DRAFT

Document Control Sheet

Document Title:	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Document Author(s):	Various
Project Ref / Title:	
Project Manager:	

Revision History

Date	Version No.	Summary of Changes
09/02/2024	0.01	For public consultation
22/05/2024	0.02	Reviewed following public consultation

Reviews

Name	Title	Date	Version

Approvals

Name	Title	Date	Version

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ISO9001:2015 FS526386

ISO14001:2015 EMS 526388

ISO45001 OHS 526389

Local Strategy Template: Summary	
Local Strategy Template: Main Document	
1.	**Foreword**
2.	**Introduction**
2.1	The need for a Local Strategy
2.2	The purpose of this Local Strategy
2.3	Targets within this Local Strategy – Objectives, Measures and Actions
3.	**How this strategy responds to climate change**
3.1	Climate change risk in our area
3.2	How our strategy addresses these risks
4.	**Coordination**
4.1	How this strategy aligns with our other strategic plans
4.2	Coordination with others
5.	**Roles and responsibilities for managing flood risk in our area**
5.1	Sources of flooding and key points of contact
5.2	Risk Management Authorities and their functions
5.3	Other responsible partners
6.	**How we manage flooding in our area**
7.	**Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Schemes**
8.	**Historic Flooding**
9.	**What is the risk of flooding in Gwynedd?**
9.1	How we assess flood and coastal erosion risk
9.2	Overview of risk in Gwynedd
10.	**Flood risk by area**
10.1	Inland risk by Catchment
10.2	Coastal risk by Management Area
11.	**Our strategic Objectives**
11.1	National Strategy Objectives
11.2	Objectives in Gwynedd
12.	**Strategic Actions**
12.1	Introduction to Actions
12.2	Our Action Plan
13.	**Funding**
13.1	Funding options
13.2	Prioritisation

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14.	**FCERM Works Programmes**
14.1	Capital Works Programmes
14.2	Revenue Programmes
15.	**Monitoring progress**
15.1	How we measure progress
15.2	How regularly we monitor progress
16.	**Environmental assessments**
16.1	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
16.2	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Appendices	
Appendix A	**Inland Flood Risk by Area**
Appendix B	**Coastal Risk by Area**

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Summary

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1. Foreword

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2. Introduction

2.1 The need for a Local Strategy

The *Flood and Water Management Act 2010*[1] requires all 22 Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) in Wales to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategies (Local Strategy).

The Welsh Government's *National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales (National Strategy)*[2] sets out that over 245,000 properties across Wales are at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water, with almost 400 properties also at risk from coastal erosion. The National Strategy explains that, as the climate changes, we can expect those risks to increase, with more frequent and severe floods, rising sea levels and faster rates of erosion of the coast.

The National Strategy sets out the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales. In certain cases, Local Authorities are also required to produce Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), under the *2009 Flood Risk Regulations*[3] (now revoked under the Retained EU Law Act).

Different Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in Wales are responsible for different sources of flood risk. LLFAs are responsible for "local flood risk" which is defined as flood risk from:

- Surface water runoff
- Groundwater; and
- Ordinary watercourses (generally smaller watercourses)

This Local Strategy focuses on these local sources of flood risk but acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including the sea, larger watercourses and sewers) and associated RMAs.

2.2 The purpose of this Local Strategy

We published our first Local Strategy in 2014, setting out our overarching approach to managing local flood risk. Alongside our Local Strategy, we published a FRMP. Our FRMP developed the objectives and high-level actions outlined in our Local Strategy into a more detailed plan for managing flooding in our communities.

This document is our second Local Strategy. Whilst we previously published our Local Strategy and FRMP separately, this new Local Strategy integrates the two documents into one. This reduces complexity and enables us to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively.

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[1] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents

[2] https://www.gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales

[3] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/made

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In this document we identify the present day and future risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion. Our aim is to make the reader aware of all sources of flooding within their community, rather than focus only on the sources for which Cyngor Gwynedd act as RMA.

We also explain how these risks will be managed across our Local Authority area, consistent with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation set out in the National Strategy.

This document considers inland and coastal risks separately, this is because there is often little correlation between the nature of the risks and the ability to mitigate them. Also there is a difference in statutory and passive roles/responsibilities, policies and strategies (including those of other agencies) between inland and coastal risks.

Furthermore, in order to segregate the risk across Gwynedd and help identify the areas of most concern we shall discuss inland flood risk by main hydrological catchments, of which there are 15 in total (see section 10 and Appendix A). Coastal risks are assessed and discussed according to specific lengths of the coastline termed as Management Areas (see section 10 and Appendix B).

This Local Strategy published on XXX will be reviewed in X years.

2.3 Targets within this Local Strategy – Objectives and Actions

This Local Strategy sets out our flood and coastal erosion risk management Objectives and Actions, listed in sections 11 and 12 respectively. These groupings provide different levels of detail on how risks will be managed, and the meaning of each is summarised below:

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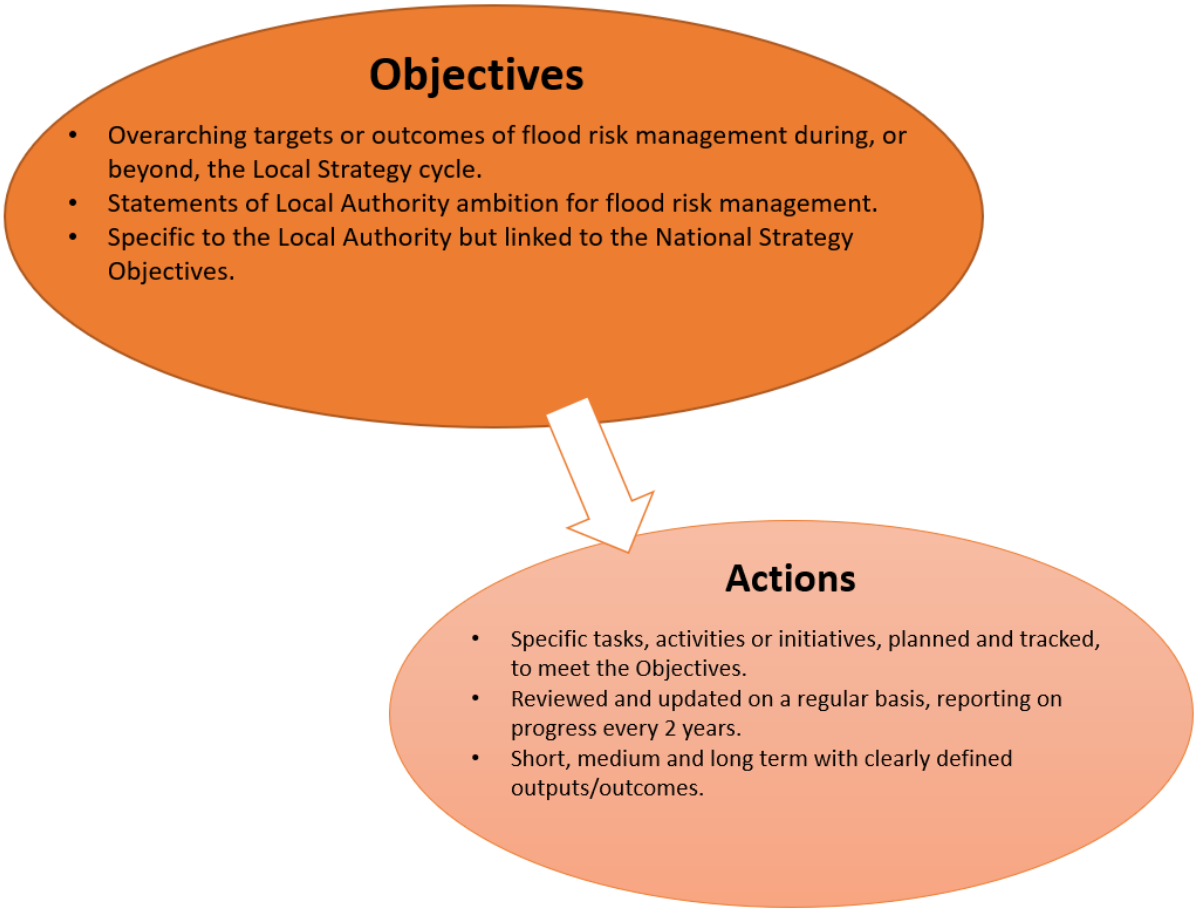
Figure 2.1: Description of Objectives and Actions as listed in this Local Strategy



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3. How this strategy responds to climate change

3.1 Climate change risk in our area

The Senedd was the first Parliament in the world to declare a climate emergency. Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding across Wales, not only through sea level rise but also from more frequent and intense storms, flash flooding and storm surges.

In March 2019 Cyngor Gwynedd declared its own climate emergency and vowed to take definitive steps to reduce carbon emissions and to work towards a carbon-free future. Subsequently the Council have published a *Climate and Nature Emergency Plan*[4], which outlines the steps that we will take between 2022 and 2030 to reach our ambition of being a net zero council.

The level of flood risk to property across Gwynedd is expected to rise significantly in the future due to the effects of climate change, with an increase in frequency and depth of flooding to coastal and low-lying areas. Within Gwynedd we anticipate that an additional 2127 residential

[4] https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Climate-and-Nature.aspx

properties will be at risk of coastal flooding over the next 100 years (up 50% from 4228 at present day), and additional 1826 residential properties face risk of fluvial or surface water flooding over this time period (up 35% from 5258 at present day). This in addition to an increase in the level of flood risk for properties currently located within flood zones. Detailed flood risk definitions and projections are provided in section 9 of this Local Strategy.

The *Climate and Nature Emergency Plan* acknowledges that measures need to be taken to manage the increase in flood risk to people and properties because of climate change. This Local Strategy will help to manage some of the effects of climate change in our area. The objectives and actions identified will help us to reduce the risk of flooding where we can, as well as adapt our communities and infrastructure to become more resilient to flooding when it occurs.

3.2 How our strategy addresses these risks

This Local Strategy has been developed to continually assess and manage flood and coastal erosion risks across Gwynedd into the future and will address the increase in risks due to the effects of climate change as part of this process. The following steps are key in embedding future climate change effects into the objectives and actions of this Local Strategy:

- The flood risk projections provided in section 10 have been derived from national flood maps (including *Flood Map for Planning*) which include an allowance for climate change effects, thereby enabling us to identify areas of Gwynedd that will face an increased flood risk into the future.

- Coastal studies or schemes that may derive from this Local Strategy will coincide with the policies for future coastal management identified within the West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 (see section 4), which have been developed to manage the effects of future sea level rise upon our coastal communities.

- Studies or schemes to assess and/or address flood and coastal erosion risk within particular areas of Gwynedd in the future will make the correct allowances for climate change effects to be incorporated into the modelling and design process, based on the most up to date available guidance[5]

[5] https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-11/guidance-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-authorities-in-wales_0.pdf

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4. Coordination

4.1 How this strategy aligns with our other strategic plans

This Local Strategy is one of several strategic documents that influence how local flood risk is managed in Gwynedd. Some of the key local strategies and plans that have informed the development of this Local Strategy are listed below:

4.1.1 National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales (National Strategy)

The National Strategy sets out how the Welsh Government intend to manage the risks from flooding and coastal erosion across Wales. It sets objectives and measures for all partners to work towards over the 10 years from its publication in 2020. The links between this Local Strategy and the objectives and measures outlined in the National Strategy are outlined in section 6.

4.1.2 The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28[6]

This plan outlines the Council's vision and priorities for the next five years by identifying a series of priorities and projects that will allow the Council to further develop and improve the services provided to the people of Gwynedd.

One of the priority fields within the plan involves protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis; and acting on flood risk is identified as an action to meet this priority. This Local Strategy will drive this action by identifying means to manage flood and coastal erosion risk for our communities into the future. Measures included in this Local Strategy should also enable delivery and success of the plan to be monitored over time.

The plan outlines the Council's well-being objectives which contribute directly to achieving the national well-being goals as defined in the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*[7]. Any schemes or studies that derive from this Local Strategy will be developed with full consideration of both local and national wellbeing objectives, as is a requirement of Welsh Government grant terms (see section 13).

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[6] https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Strategies-and-policies/Corporate-plans-and-strategies/The-Council-Plan/The-Cyngor-Gwynedd-Plan-2023-28.aspx

[7] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted

4.1.3 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

This plan (discussed in section 3.1) was published in response to the Council's climate emergency declaration and outline the steps intended to be taken between 2022 and 2030 to reach our ambition of being a net zero Council.

This Local Strategy will complement the plan by contributing to a programme for responding to flooding risk, intended for future versions of the plan. Measures included in this Local Strategy should also enable delivery and success of the plan to be monitored over time.

4.1.4 Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026[8]

This plan sets out the growth strategy, vision and the policies for development and land use for the Plan area, namely the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Planning Authority area over the period from 2011 to 2026. The Plan has a significant influence on developments for the whole area as well as individual communities by providing guidance on matters such as the location of new houses, employment opportunities, leisure facilities and community facilities.

4.1.5 Eryri Local Development Plan 2016 - 2031[9]

The plan includes strategic policies and development policies which will deliver the long-term spatial vision for the future of Snowdonia National Park.

Cyngor Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority have reviewed their Local Development Plans and Review Reports have been published, which outline the need for a full review of the Local Development Plans. That meant the need to prepare new Local Development Plans. Cyngor Gwynedd has prepared a Delivery Agreement for Gwynedd's new Local Development Plan to be agreed with Welsh Government in the spring of 2024, and with a timetable of 3.5 years for the preparation of the plan as stated in the Development Plan Manual meaning that the new Plan should be adopted by the end of 2027.

With regard to flood and coastal erosion risk the replacement plans, including the Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment process, will be guided by the updated version of TAN15 (Development, flooding and coastal erosion) scheduled for publication in 2023, along with the information contained within the Flood Map for Planning. Any location specific actions contained within this Local Strategy or its accompanying works programmes will also be

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[8] https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Strategies-and-policies/Environment-and-planning/Planning-policy/Joint-Local-Development-Plan/Joint-Local-Development-Plan.aspx

[9] https://planning.snowdonia.gov.wales/policy/local-development-plan/?_gl=1*1k2umpy*_ga*NDQ3NjkyODI1LjE3MDMxNTcyMzY.*_ga_2SRYFPWD50*MTcwNjE5MzcxNC42LjEuMTcwNjE5MzcyMS4wLjAuMA..

considered during preparation of the replacement plans, so that decisions relating to flood and coastal erosion risks are based on the most up to date information.

4.1.6 West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2[10]

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. The West of Wales SMP2 was prepared on behalf of the Cardigan Bay (now West of Wales) Coastal Group in 2009 and was subsequently adopted by the Council as a policy document in 2013.

The plan provides broad scale assessment of coastal risks, as well as quite specific advice to operating authorities in their management of defences, therefore the plan has a strong alignment with this Local Strategy and the way in which Cyngor Gwynedd is to manage their coastal structures into the future which ultimately dictates how flood and erosion risks will be managed for our coastal communities.

The West Wales shoreline is divided up into 309 short sections called 'Policy Units'. For each section, one of the following three policy options is recommended:

Table 4.1: Shoreline Management Policies as described in SMP2

No active intervention (NAI)	No investment in the construction of new defences, maintenance or upgrade of existing defences
Hold the line (HTL)	Keeping the line of defence in approximately the same location as it is now. Existing defences are maintained, replaced or upgraded along their current alignment. This may or may not include upgrades to counter climate change and sea level rise
Managed realignment (MR)	Landward retreat of defences, giving up some land to the sea to form a more sustainable defence in the long-term

To aid delivery of SMP2 policies an Action Plan was also published which recommends which actions should be taken at coastal areas to instigate a movement towards a more sustainable management approach and assigns a lead authority to each action. Coastal studies or schemes that derive from this Local Strategy will coincide with the policies for future coastal management identified within SMP2 and will link directly to actions assigned to Cyngor Gwynedd within the SMP2 Action Plan.

The method of identifying and prioritising FCERM improvement projects is described further in section 14.

Further information on the SMP2 and the SMP2 Action Plan can be found of the West of Wales Coastal Group website.

[10] https://www.westofwalescoastalgroup.wales/page/home-page

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4.2 Coordination with others

Cyngor Gwynedd are committed to working in partnership with RMAs, other stakeholders and local communities to achieve the flood risk objectives and actions in this Local Strategy.

Cyngor Gwynedd is adopting a catchment-based approach to managing flood risk, which promotes collaborative working and forward planning with other stakeholders to reduce risk of flooding whilst also delivering wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Exploring opportunities for catchment-scale interventions, including the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) and Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures, will form a large part of our commitment to working closely with partner organisations.

The Local Strategy has been developed and will be implemented in coordination with the strategic planning processes and plans of other RMAs. A summary of which is provided below:

4.2.1 Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales (FRMP)[11]

The FRMP has been prepared by NRW to outline their priorities and subsequent actions for managing the risk of flooding in Wales. This FRMP covers flooding from rivers, reservoirs and the sea. It does not include flooding from surface water and smaller watercourses, for which LLFAs have powers and take the lead. This Local Strategy has been developed to complement the measures included within the FRMP, in particular the North West Wales Place section of the plan. As such Cyngor Gwynedd will work alongside our colleagues at NRW to ensure that the relevant authority takes the lead in managing flood and coastal erosion risks at various locations across Gwynedd, and to identify areas for collaborative working in the future.

Gwynedd specific schemes and studies contained in the FRMP are listed according to in Appendices A and B, to demonstrate the efforts made by different organisations to manage FCERM risks in each area.

4.2.2 Western Wales River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)[12] *2021-2027*

The production of the West Wales RBMP by NRW is a requirement of the *Water Framework Directive 2000* (WFD). The management plan outlines the measures that NRW plan to implement to meet the requirements of the Directive which involve improving water quality, promoting sustainable use of water as a natural resource, and habitats and species conservation. In the development of this Local Strategy's objectives and actions, Cyngor

[11] https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/flooding-reports-evidence-and-data/flood-risk-management-plans/?lang=en

[12] https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plans-2021-2027/?lang=en

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Gwynedd have considered how it can assist, and benefit from, the delivery of the WFD objectives, particularly through the use of catchment scale interventions.

4.2.3 Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)[13]

The Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) is a long-term planning study by DCWW that looks at drainage and sewerage needs over the next 25 years as a minimum. The Plan looks at future trends and embeds an approach of working together with others to investigate and identify options for the sustainable management of DCWW's wastewater services. Cyngor Gwynedd as LLFA will continue to liaise with DCWW regarding opportunities to manage surface water flood risk for our communities as part of the Plan delivery and will welcome opportunities for partnership working.

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[13] https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/our-services/wastewater/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plan

5. Roles and responsibilities for managing flood risk in our area

5.1 Sources of flooding and key points of contact

The term 'flood and coastal erosion risk' covers all flooding from rivers, the sea, reservoirs, ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water, as well as coastal erosion. Figure 5.1 below summarises the different types of risks and the key points of contact in each case, with the specific role of different RMAs discussed further in section 5.2.

Table 5.1: Types of risks & who you should contact

	River flooding (fluvial) tends to follow sustained rainfall resulting in high river levels and river banks being breached, or defences overtopped. It can also be caused by blockages where the river or stream flows within or beneath a structure such as a bridge or culvert. Contact **CG** as **LLFA** for flooding associated with **Ordinary Watercourses** Contact **NRW** for flooding associated with **Main Rivers**
	Surface water flooding (pluvial) happens when rainfall saturates the ground and drainage systems and excess water cannot drain away. Whilst more common in urban areas, it also affects rural communities, hitting transport, agriculture and the local economy. It can occur at any time of year: whilst winter sees more rain coming from Atlantic weather systems, the summer months bring an increased risk of flash flooding. Contact **CG** as **LLFA**
	Coastal flooding usually occurs when high tides combine with severe weather resulting in coastal or estuarine communities being flooded. A combination of significantly high tides, high on-shore winds and low atmospheric pressure can result in increase in tide level known as storm surge. Contact **NRW**
	Coastal erosion is defined as the wearing away of land by wave action, tidal currents, wave currents, drainage, weathering or high winds. Contact **CG** or **NRW** as **Coastal Protection Authorities**
	Sewer flooding is often caused by excess surface water entering the drainage network and exceeding the capacity of the sewer or failure of a sewer due to collapse or debris build up. During sewer flooding both foul and surface water can occur. Contact **DCWW** as the **Water and Sewerage Undertaker**

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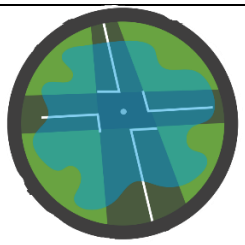	**Flooding from Roads** occurs when the volume of rainwater does not drain away through existing drainage systems. Contact the **North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency** for flooding from **trunk roads**. Contact **CG** as the **Highway Authority** for flooding from other roads

5.2 Risk Management Authorities and their functions

As suggested above FCERM in Wales involves a number of organisations, including 28 RMAs which include NRW, the 22 Local Authorities, water companies, and the Welsh Government. Each RMA is required to fulfil a number of statutory duties, as defined under the *FWMA 2010*. In addition to these statutory duties, the Act sets out a range of permissive powers for RMAs, enabling them to undertake defined activities if they so wish.

The basic responsibilities of RMAs and key stakeholders in Wales are described in further detail below.

Welsh Government

Welsh Ministers set strategic direction and have overall responsibility for flooding and coastal erosion policy in Wales. As part of that role, the Welsh Government produces and publishes the National Strategy and ensures compliance and implementation of measures to achieve its objectives. It is responsible for FCERM legislation through powers under the *Government of Wales Act*. The Welsh Government manages the FCERM Programmes, including allocating budget to RMAs, appraising Local Authority schemes, and developing a programme of investment (see section 13).

Natural Resources Wales

Under the *FWMA 2010*, Natural Resources Wales is responsible for managing the risks of flooding from main rivers and the sea, and for regulating the safety of reservoirs. In addition, NRW also have a wider oversight role for all flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales.

The oversight role is integral to the delivery of national policy on flooding and coastal erosion risk management and has been taken forward to ensure that Natural Resources Wales has the remit to support the Welsh Government across the full range of flood and coastal erosion risks affecting Wales. As part of their oversight role, Natural Resources Wales will lead on the provision of technical advice and support to other RMAs. They will also lead on national initiatives such as Flood Awareness Wales, the national raising awareness program, and be the single point of contact for enquiries and information on flood risk, via their Flood Line warning service. The *FWMA 2010* places a number of statutory duties on Natural Resources Wales including:

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- Co-operating with other authorities, including sharing data;
- Reporting to the Minister on flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales including the application of the National Strategy; and
- The establishment of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees.

NRW carries out all Internal Drainage Board (IDB) functions in Wales and hence can also manage risks from ordinary watercourses in those drainage districts. Internal Drainage Districts within Gwynedd include Glaslyn and Penseflog, Llanfrothen, Dwyryd, Harlech and Maentwrog, Ardudwy Marches, Mawddach and Wnion (E and W), Dysynni Valley and Tywyn.

NRW are also afforded permissive powers as a coastal erosion risk management authority under the *Coastal Protection Act 1949*[14].

Cyngor Gwynedd

Further information on how the Council manages flood risk is provided in section 6 below.

Cyngor Gwynedd as LLFA are responsible for managing flood risk from surface water and ground water, or from ordinary watercourses. LLFAs have the following duties under the *Flood and Water Management Act 2010*:

- Prepare and maintain a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for their areas, coordinating views and activity with other local bodies and communities through public consultation and scrutiny, and delivery planning. They must consult RMAs and the public about their strategy;
- Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations;
- Maintain a register of structures and features likely to affect flood risk
- Co-operate with other RMAs.
- Under Schedule 3 to the 2010 Act, Cyngor Gwynedd as the SuDS Approving Body[15] (the SAB) have a duty to approve SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) which follow the national statutory standards. With the exception of single-curtilage sites, the SAB also has a duty to adopt such systems.

[14] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/74

[15] https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Planning-and-building-control/Planning/Sustainable-Drainage-Systems.aspx

Cyngor Gwynedd as LLFA has powers under the *Land Drainage Act 1991*[16], which allow them to:

- Manage flood risk from ordinary watercourses.
- Manage flood risk from surface water or groundwater.
- Monitor, maintain, operate or repair works to manage flood risk from sea.
- All such works must be in accordance with this Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Coastal Local Authorities such as Cyngor Gwynedd are also designated as a Coastal Erosion RMA under the *Coast Protection Act 1949*, which gives them powers to protect the land against erosion or encroachment by the sea. Under the Act, the Council can do works to protect against coastal erosion and defend against sea flooding where they are best placed to do so and with approval from NRW. This is a power but not a duty. Cyngor Gwynedd are responsible for maintaining a total of 229 coastal erosion assets across 21km of the coastline, many of which are historic structure situated along our promenades and harbours, and some of which also provide a level of protection from coastal flooding.

The role of LLFA and Coastal Erosion RMA is discharged on behalf of Cyngor Gwynedd by the Water and Environment Unit within YGC (Highways, Engineering and YGC Department).

Cyngor Gwynedd have other important responsibilities relating to flood risk management:

- Cyngor Gwynedd are responsible for drainage of local highways under the *Highways Act, s100*[17], whilst the Welsh Government has a responsibility for trunk road drainage.
- Under the *Civil Contingencies Act 2004*[18], Cyngor Gwynedd are Category 1 responders giving them duties to:
  - maintain arrangements to warn the public, and to provide information and advice to the public, if an emergency is likely to occur or has occurred
  - play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event and must have plans to respond to emergencies,
- Cyngor Gwynedd (along with Snowdonia National Park Authority) act as local planning authority and in doing so must have regard to potential risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion when developing local policies and determining applications for development. Specialist advice is provided by NRW and the Water and Environment Unit within YGC.

[16] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents

[17] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/data.pdf

[18] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/contents

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) is the regional water and sewerage treatment company serving Gwynedd. Water and sewerage companies are responsible not only for the provision of water, but also for making appropriate arrangements for the drainage of foul water, the treatment of waste, surface water sewers and combined sewers. They have primary responsibility for floods from water and sewerage systems, which can include sewer flooding, burst pipes or water mains or floods caused by system failures.

Water companies, when exercising their flood risk management functions in relation to an area within Wales, must have regard to the relevant Local Strategies and any associated guidance. The *Flood and Water Management Act 2010* places a number of statutory duties on water and sewerage companies including:

- a duty to act consistently with the National Strategy;
- a duty to have regard to the content of the relevant Local Strategy; and
- co-operate with other Authorities, including sharing data.

Water and sewerage companies often hold valuable information which could greatly aid the understanding of flood risks faced by communities across Wales. They are required to maintain a register of properties and areas that have suffered internal flooding, the DG5 register, but may have access to significantly greater information from incident records, previous investigations and hydraulic modelling.

5.3 Other responsible partners

Utility and Infrastructure Providers

Utility and infrastructure providers such as Network Rail, energy companies and telecommunication companies are not RMAs. However, they may have assets such as culverts, information about which needs to be shared with flood RMAs. They already maintain plans for the future development and maintenance of the services they provide and it is important that they factor in flood risk management issues into this planning process so that their assets and systems are resilient to flood and coastal risks and that the required level of service can be maintained.

Riparian Owners

Landowners, householders and businesses whose property is adjacent to a river or a stream or a ditch are likely to be riparian owners, owning the land up to the centre of the watercourse with recognised legal rights and responsibilities.

Riparian owners have a right to protect their property from flooding and erosion as long as they do not exacerbate the situation for others elsewhere but in most cases will need to discuss the method of doing this with NRW or Cyngor Gwynedd. They also have responsibility for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and ensuring there is no obstruction,

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diversion or pollution to the flow of the watercourse. For further information regarding riparian rights and responsibilities see NRW's pamphlet *A guide to your rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership in Wales*[19]

Property Owners and Residents

Ultimately it is the responsibility of householders and businesses to look after their home or business, and this extends to protection of the property from flooding.

While in some circumstances other organisations or property owners may be liable due to neglect of their own responsibilities, there will be many occasions when flooding occurs despite all parties meeting their responsibilities. Consequently, it is important that householders whose homes are at risk of flooding, take steps to ensure that their house is protected. Information and advice intended for owners of properties at risk of flooding is widely available, including the following sources:

The *National Flood Forum* website:

https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/reducing-your-risk/

Natural Resources Wales website*:*

https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/?lang=en

Cyngor Gwynedd website:

https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Parking-roads-and-travel/Flooding/Personal-flood-preparedness-and-resilience.aspx

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[19] https://naturalresources.wales/media/680422/living-on-the-edge-final-jan-2017.pdf

6. How we manage flooding in our area

Cyngor Gwynedd manage the risk of flooding within its communities through a range of different methods, these are described in Table 6.1 below under the headings of Maintain, Plan, Respond, Regulate, Monitor and Inform.

Table 6.1: Methods adopted by Cyngor Gwynedd to manage risk of flooding and coastal erosion

Maintain	
Cyngor Gwynedd are responsible for a variety of FCERM structures such as flood walls and overflow systems on rivers, and coastal walls and groyne fields. The Council retain a register of all FCERM assets within the Council's ownership and/or responsibility, which contains key information regarding the construction and function of each asset. The register is supported by a mapping system to display the location and extents of our assets and is updated to incorporate any changes in asset information as a result of improvement works.	*YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)*
The condition of the Council's FCERM assets is assessed on a regular basis using industry standard techniques, for assurance that they remain in adequate condition to provide the desired standard of defence, and to identify any defects which could compromise integrity in the future. Routine inspections are supplemented by post-storm condition inspections. Additionally, a prioritised routine inspection schedule of the Council's flood risk management assets ensures that they remain unaffected by in-channel debris which could lead to asset failure and potential flooding incidents. Some assets are served by telemetry devices which enable asset status to be inspected remotely, and over time our aim is to develop our sensor network to incorporate more of our assets, and also to provide an alert to our staff when accumulation of debris may lead to asset failure (see Action 2.4A).	*YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)*
Responsibility for all bridges and culverts on the local highway network which are inspected on a regular basis to ensure that they remain functional and do not pose a flood risk. The Council also maintain all highway gulley's and drains on a cyclic programme and will undertake repairs or improvements as and when condition dictates in accordance with the Council's Highway Maintenance manual.	*GC Highways Department*
Plan	
Cyngor Gwynedd deliver FCERM improvement schemes to minimise the risk of local flooding or coastal erosion to our most vulnerable communities. Capital support for schemes of this kind is offered through the Welsh Government's FCERM Programme (see section 13). Application for Welsh Government funding is supported by business cases which demonstrate the level of flood and/or coastal erosion risk and provide clear and sufficient information to demonstrate that the preferred improvement option provides a sustainable, proportionate and economically viable solution to manage risk.	*YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)*

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Further information of FCERM schemes delivered by Cyngor Gwynedd can be found in section 7.	
By acknowledging that not all households can be protected from flooding through capital improvement schemes the Council also offer advice to concerned residents on measures that can be taken to reduce flood risk to their properties.	*YGC Water and Environment Service*
Respond	
During a flood event Cyngor Gwynedd will take all reasonable measures to ensure that their network of county roads remain passable for vehicles, although storm conditions, extent of flooding and availability of resources may dictate that some roads will need to be closed to ensure safety of the public.	*GC Highways Department*
During severe rainfall events the Council will make every effort to distribute sandbags to residents that are at serious risk of flooding, although **residents are strongly advised to source their own flood risk management equipment when a known flood risk exists** as the ability of the Council to share sandbags could be severely compromised during periods of adverse weather when the priority is to keep the highway network open for emergency services.	*GC Highways Department*
Under the guidance of the North Wales Resilience Forum, and the measures included in the Multi-Agency Flood Plan, the Council will take appropriate action to support the emergency services and those engaged in emergency response; will assist with evacuation by arranging transportation; set up and manage rest centre arrangements and carry out clear up work in affected communities following flooding.	*Various Council Departments*
On becoming aware that a property has experienced internal flooding following severe rainfall or tidal events Cyngor Gwynedd undertake investigations to determine source and cause of flooding. When flooding is from a source for which the Council is not RMA (see section 5), information for the investigation may be obtained through consultation with a partner authority (usually NRW or DCWW). Post-event flood investigations are a vital tool in establishing source and cause of flooding to our residents. Investigations allow us to build up an understanding of flood risk to our communities and also provide us with an opportunity to advice our most at-risk residents of any methods to manage the risk of flooding in the future	*YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)*
Regulate	
Cyngor Gwynedd (along with Snowdonia National Park Authority) act as local planning authority and in doing so must have regard to potential risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion when developing local policies and determining applications for development. The flood and coastal erosion risk associated with all planning applications received by Cyngor Gwynedd are assessed prior to determination, in accordance with the guidance provided in TAN15 (Development, flooding and coastal erosion), scheduled to be updated in 2023. Cyngor Gwynedd consult with colleagues at NRW and YGC Water	*GC Planning Department*

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and Environment Unit (as LLFA) on all proposed developments for which flooding and/or coastal erosion is a material consideration.	
Cyngor Gwynedd as the SAB have a duty to approve SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) which follow the national statutory standards. SAB approval is required for any development with a footprint greater that 100m^2. Apart from single-curtilage sites, the SAB also has a duty to adopt such drainage systems. In accordance with Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act Cyngor Gwynedd deliver the role of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Approval Body for all qualifying developments. This ensures that all new developments with drainage implications meet the national SuDS standards to reduce the risk of surface water flooding and realise all other associated benefits (ecological, amenity, water quality). Over time the SAB will become responsible for maintaining more SuDS systems and therefore existing asset management systems will be expanded to include all elements adopted by the Council.	*YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)*
Under section 23 of the Land Drainage Act Cyngor Gwynedd are responsible for authorising consent to individuals, developers or authorities who wish to carry out changes to an ordinary watercourse that may affect flow or flood risk. Cyngor Gwynedd are provided further powers to regulate activities on or surrounding ordinary watercourses through the Land Drainage (Cyngor Gwynedd) Bylaws. A copy of the bylaws and the Council's position statement can be found on our website[20]	*YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)*
In many instances the partial or full blockage of a watercourse can result in flooding to land or in the worst-case properties, businesses and/or critical infrastructure. Where Cyngor Gwynedd have been made aware of a potential blockage or obstruction to an ordinary watercourse we will look to work with all parties involved to help resolve the problem before considering the use of permissive enforcement powers afforded under the Land Drainage Act.	*YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)*
Monitor	
The Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre is funded by the Welsh Government and delivers a standard, coastal monitoring programme on behalf of Welsh RMAs to provide the evidence necessary for FCERM decisions. Cyngor Gwynedd monitor beach levels at critical locations along the coastline as part of the national programme. This programme is supplemented by some additional local surveys and also post-storm surveys to identify any large fluctuations in beach levels that may pose immediate risks to coastal assets.	*YGC Water and Environment Unit*

[20] https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Parking-roads-and-travel/Flooding/Ordinary-watercourses-land-drainage-consent.aspx

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7. Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Schemes

Over recent years, and since publication of the previous Strategy, Cyngor Gwynedd in their role as LLFA (and Coastal Erosion RMA) have carried out works to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to many communities across Gwynedd. Some of the most notable schemes are described below. These improvements have been completed using grant in aid from Welsh Government FCERM programmes described in section 13 of this Local Strategy.

In delivering this Local Strategy the Council hope to complete similar flood risk management improvement into the future which will safeguard more of our residents from the risks of flooding and coastal erosion.

Tywyn Coastal Defence Scheme	***2011***

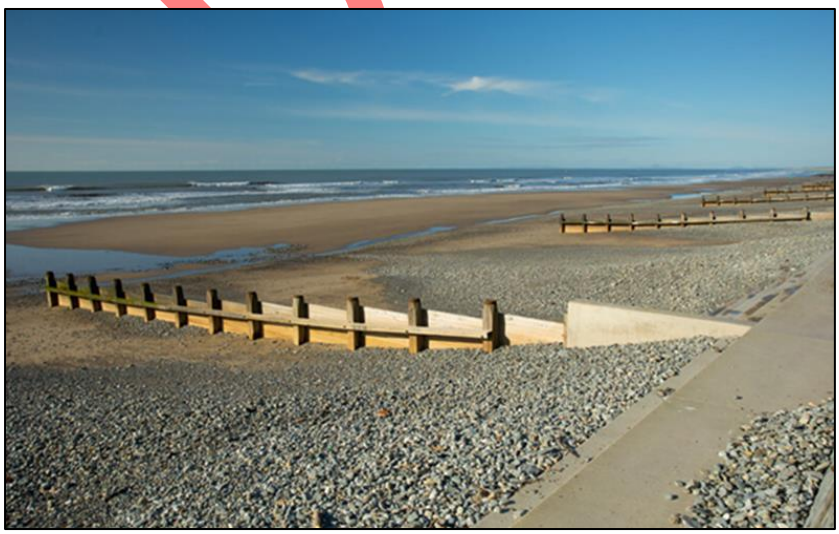
Background

Tywyn coastal frontage has suffered significant storm damage since it was first constructed in the 1930s. Over years the width of the beach had decreased and the beach level had dropped significantly. Erosion of the beach, combined with deterioration of the groynes contributed to the undermining of the sea wall and an increase in flooding. Cyngor Gwynedd is responsible for all coastal structures on the Tywyn frontage.

Scheme Description

The completed scheme included an offshore breakwater and new rock groynes to stabilize beach levels. Refurbishment of the sea wall, restoration of the stepped revetment and new shorter timber groynes were now possible, extending the design life of the flood defence structures and substantially improving access to the beach.

Not only was the scheme designed to reduce the risk of flooding for 78 homes and various businesses, but it has transformed the beach from its dilapidated condition to a fully improved amenity with greater access to the beach, which will be a boost to tourism, business prospects and regeneration opportunities.



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Tal-y-Bont Flood Alleviation	***2016***

Background

Extensive flooding history of flooding existed at Talybont near Bangor. The most notable events occured in 1987, November 2012 and most recently Boxing Day 2016. The flooding affected up to 30 properties and closed the A55 for 12 hours.

Scheme Description

The scheme consisted of 700m of new cut off channel/culvert across farmland to the north of Tal-y-Bont and the A55 trunk road to intercept catchment flows which historically flow under the A55 and through the village. 3 large concrete structures were installed to aid the transition of flow from watercourse to culvert, open channel then outfall to the River Ogwen directly upstream of the A55 Ogwen Viaduct. Sensors were installed to inform the Council of potential blockages at the new intake structure which could compromise performance of the scheme during heavy rainfall events.

Borth Y Gest Flood Alleviation Scheme	***2018***

Background

Situated on the northern side of the Glaslyn estuary Borth y Gest has suffered a number of coastal flooding events. The floods were a result of the sea breaching the footpath on the north side of the frontage and flowing along the highway and into both residential and commercial properties.

Scheme Description

The scheme consists of ~170m new sea walls to join onto the main wall that has existed in the bay since the 1800s, thereby providing flood protection from one end of the bay to the other. The new wall was designed to be able to withstand hydrostatic pressures from the sea and wave action.

The walls were constructed from reinforced concrete clad in local slate (from Blaenau Ffestiniog) and were cast in situ using bespoke formwork for each section of the wall. The walls also included two flood gates at the slipway and pedestrian access, and a number of drainage holes with non-return valves through the wall to allow any surface water to be drained away.

In combination with the wall extensions to protect against tidal flooding, a non-return gate was also installed on the inlet of the Afon Llety watercourse. This was to provide protection to the village from tidal waters backing up through the culvert and posing a flooding risk.

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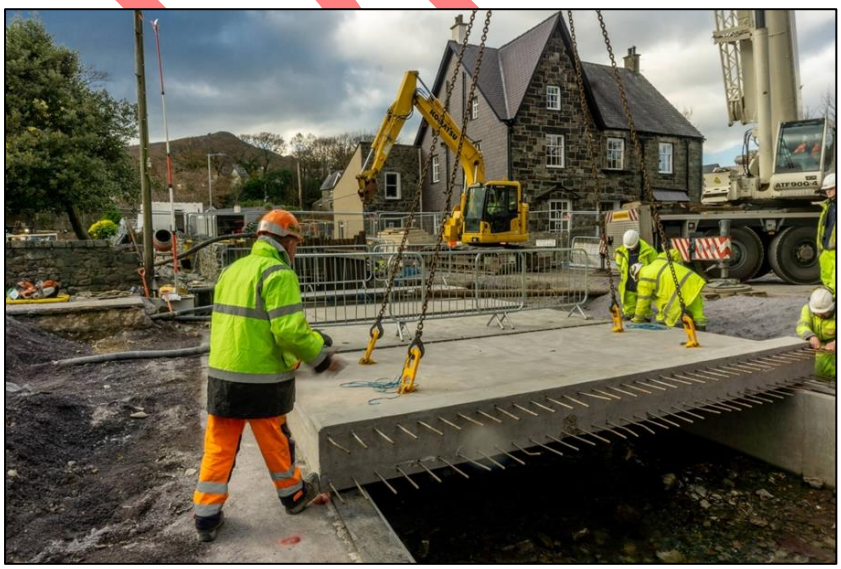
Pont Ddol – Llanberis Flood Alleviation Scheme	***2019***

Background

The Afon Goch flows through the centre of village and discharges into Llyn Padarn. Due to the steepness of catchment area, the river responds quickly to rainfall, and the river can rise rapidly. The village has flooded in the past, with the most recent flooding in 2012 affecting 81 properties near the centre of the village. This was caused by a particularly heavy rainfall and a blockage at Pont Ddol, with the river breaking its banks upstream as a result.

Scheme Description

The old Pont Ddol structure was an old masonry arch bridge, with two reinforced concrete slab extensions to provide footways for the high street. The bridge opening had a cross sectional area of 1.8m^2 and was prone to blockage from debris washed downstream. A replacement bridge was designed which had a greater span, thinner deck, and removed the arch section. This resulted in an increased opening of nearly 6m^2, resulting in improved conveyance in a flood, and reduced water levels upstream.



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Beach Road, Y Felinheli Flood Alleviation Scheme	***2020***

Background

All properties along Beach Road have views towards the Menai Strait and Anglesey, with the grassed area between the road and the strait being used for community activities, including a playground, seating and hosting the annual Felinheli Festival. Beach Road is also the route of the Wales Coastal Footpath as well as Systrans's Cardiff to Holyhead cycle route 8. Properties along Beach Road have been subject to periodic flooding despite a historic land-reclamation programme from the mid-1900s as well as the addition of a new sea wall in the 1970s. On analysis , Cyngor Gwynedd identified Beach Road as being at significant tidal flood risk, with that risk expected to increase substantially over the coming century due to climate change induced sea level rise. Of the 65 homes and businesses along Beach Road, 58 were identified as being at flood risk in a 0.5% probability flood event (1 in 200 year return period).

Scheme Description

The design brief for a scheme to reduce the flood risk to Beach Road identified that, as well as providing a high standard of protection for as many properties as possible, conserving and enhancing the area's natural beauty and its use as a recreational amenity area were critical. The preferred option – a sea wall – therefore needed to be perform its function of preventing ingress of tidal water whilst at the same time not detracting from the natural beauty of the location and ensuring that access to the recreational area is not compromised.

The preferred option involved a new set-back sea wall along a 250m length of the frontage, positioned directly between the open grassed area and Beach Road itself. The wall was designed to be in-keeping with the local setting and includes 6 tidal gates to maintain access towards the frontage, which form part of the defence and have been specifically designed to ensure longevity in a marine environment. The gates are operated by a local group of volunteer Flood Wardens.

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Rhostryfan Fluvial Flood Alleviation Scheme	***2021***

Background

Rhostryfan has suffered a number of flood events since the early 1980s, most recently in 2012. The River Wyled flows from the upper catchment through the village through a significantly altered river channel. The channel has high stone walls, a number of bridge crossings and a 30m length culvert. These structures were pinch points along the river and were prone to blockage due to the size restrictions below the structures. At the mouth of the culvert there was a debris screen which was prone to blockage from woody debris and gravel washed down from the upper catchments. Combined with significant structural defects within the culvert, which was made from large stones with a slate sofit, the culvert and screen posed a significant risk of flooding to the village.

Scheme Description

The scheme consisted of replacement of a vehicle bridge, a foot bridge, removal of other informal crossing over the river, river bank repairs, upgrade of the culvert and removal of the debris screen. The implementation of the scheme would reduce the risk of river flooding to 38 residential properties up to an including the 1 in 100 year event with an allowance for climate change. The culvert was replaced with 15 box culvert units under the square in the village which meant that the debris screen could be removed. The culvert replacement increased the capacity from the old culvert by 4 times. The two bridges were replaced with precast bridges and lifted into place. All excavated material was taken to a local quarry for recycling and was used to repair a local football clubs car parking area. The scheme took 12 months to complete with a final cost of £1.9M.

Aberdyfi Wharf	***2023***

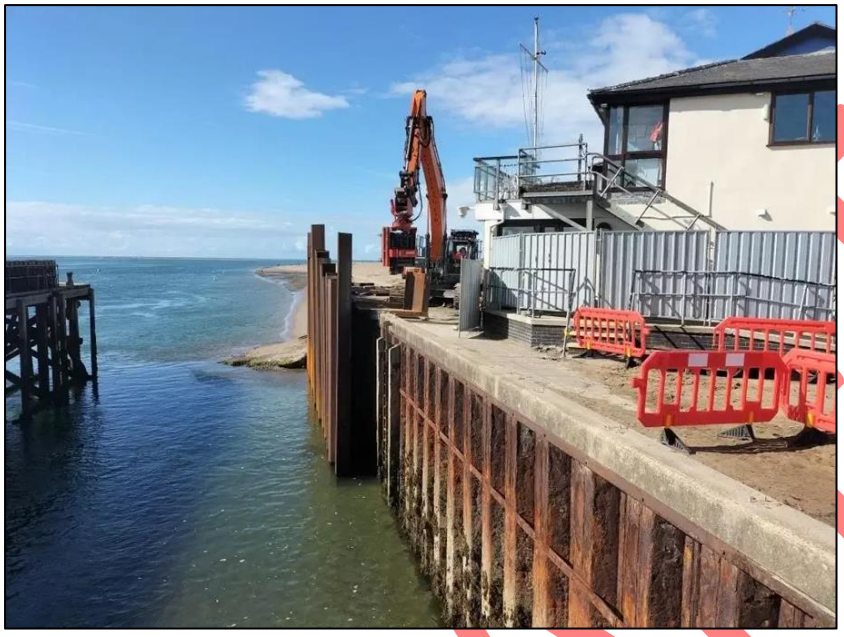
Background

The quay wall in Aberdyfi is located in the heart of the village, the structure on the wharf is crucial to a wide range of harbour activities which contribute significantly to the local economy. Over the years, the state of steel sheet piles steel has been deteriorating, and the situation was constantly monitored by the Coast Protection Unit. As part of the monitoring arrangement, a report was commissioned in October 2012, this report stated that the structure was nearing the end of its life and a new quay wall was needed in the next few years.

Scheme Description

The project involved the installation of a new sheet pile line in front of the existing piles that had deteriorated significantly. The anchor ties were extended to support the new piles. The top of the existing piles including the capping beam was removed and the new wharf surfacing cast over the top of the original pile line.

The new pile face incorporated inset stairs to complement traditional ladder access down the piles to allow safer access for users.



Wnion catchment Natural Flood Management	***2022***

Background

Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority collaborated on a project aimed at introducing NFM measures within an area of the Afon Wnion catchment near Rhydymain. The project made use of Welsh Government funding with the objectives of reducing peak surface water run-off and introducing multiple ecological benefits. The project ran from 2020 to 2022. The project was set up collaboratively to make best use of expertise. SNPA had a prominent role in the project as main liaison for landowners due to close relationship with the industry, woodlands and hedges expertise as well as providing ecological advice.

Scheme Description

Natural Flood management is a term used to describe works that seeks to alleviate peak waterflows through natural controls to prevent flooding downstream. Works include but not exclusive – planting of trees and hedges, creation of ponds for attenuation, sediment traps and blocking of drainage ditches on uplands (see photos below).

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8. Historic flooding in Gwynedd

Since adopting the role of LLFA in 2010 Cyngor Gwynedd have a duty to investigate incidents of flooding to property, and as such have a comprehensive record of flooding incidents that have been bought to our attention from this date. Historic flooding problems exist from different sources across all areas of Gwynedd, with rainfall patterns and local conditions dictating which areas suffer most damage during any given storm event. Table 8.1 summarises the number of properties that have flooded within Gwynedd during each year from 2010 and also shows which areas have suffered multiple property flooding during this period. Figure 8.1 shows the distribution of known historic flood incidents. Most of the incidents on record are associated with fluvial (mainly ordinary watercourse) or surface water flooding sources. Further details regarding the cause and nature of these flooding incidents are held by the Council.

Table 8.1: Flood incident records held by Cyngor Gwynedd between 2011-2023

Year	Total properties flooded	Areas mainly affected	
2011	11	Tremadog (5)	
2012	357	Llanberis (81) Pwllheli (35) Deiniolen (35) Mynydd Llandygai (17) Talybont (17)	Llanllyfni (11) Nantlle (10) Rhostryfan (8) Groeslon (7) Dinorwig (6)
2013	12	No obvious clusters	
2014	20	Trefor (11) Pwllheli (6)	
2015	111	Bontnewydd (9) Tremadog (9)	
2016	34	No obvious clusters	
2017	56	No obvious clusters	
2018	4	No obvious clusters	
2019	13	Pwllheli (6)	
2020	102	Beddgelert (47) Bethesda (13)	
2021	46	Barmouth (7)	
2022	38	Criccieth (26)	
2023	19	No obvious clusters	

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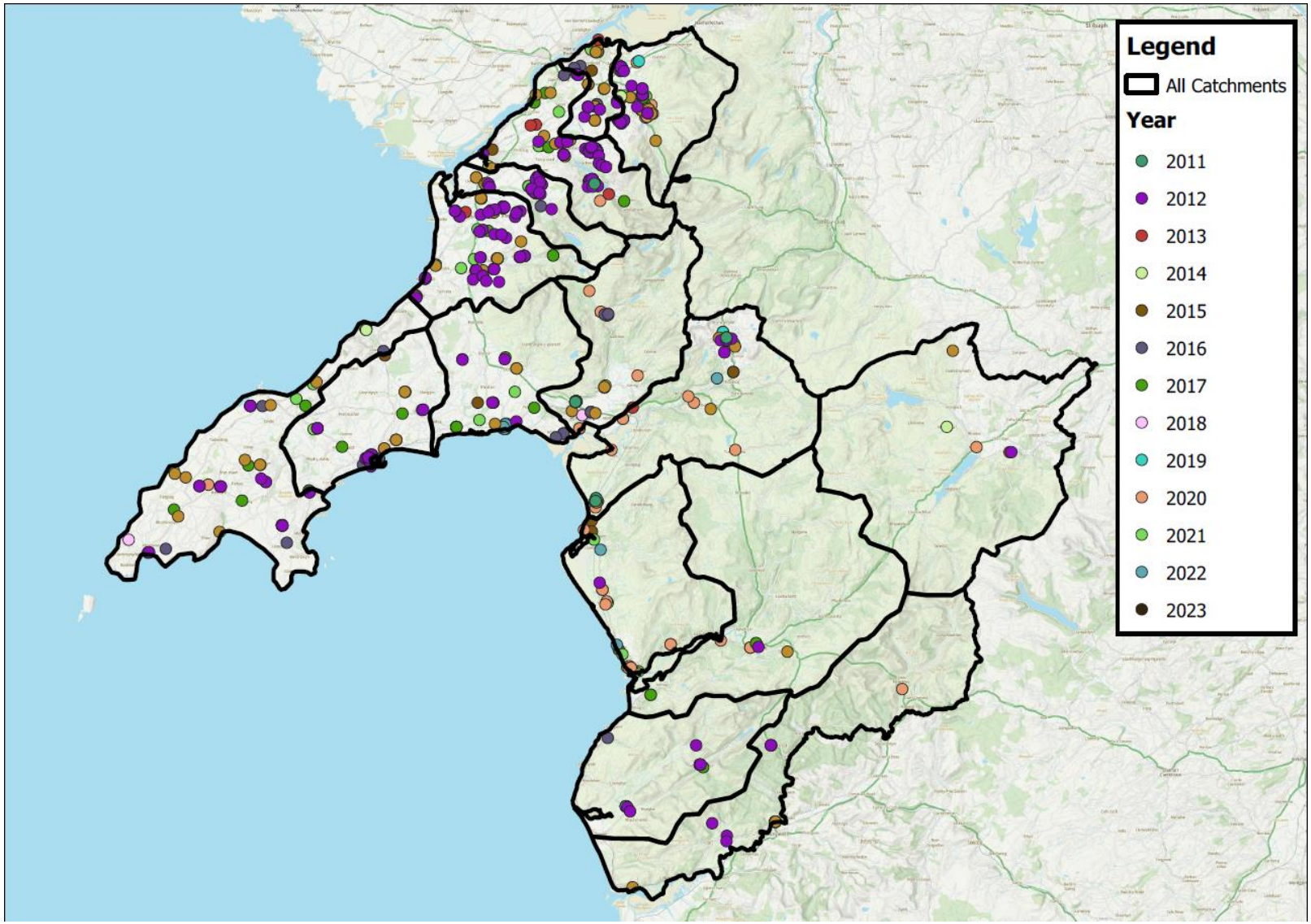
Figure 8.1: Distribution of flood incident records held by Cyngor Gwynedd between 2011-2023



9. What is the risk of flooding in Gwynedd?

9.1 How we assess flood and coastal erosion risk

This section will provide information regarding the number of residential properties, non-residential properties and essential services considered to be at risk from flooding in Gwynedd. Not all properties or receptors identified as being at risk will have experienced flooding in the past, however they are located within a specific band of flood risk according to the national-scale flood modelling exercises described below.

Table 9.1 below summarizes the type of receptors that form part of the assessment, which we feel best represent the severity of flood risk to our communities. Receptor data has been retrieved from the *National Receptor Dataset*[21] which is a spatial dataset of risk receptors primarily intended for use in FCERM.

Table 9.1: Type of receptors considered when establishing flood and coastal erosion risk across Gwynedd

Category	Receptor type
Residential	Dwelling House in Multiple Occupation Residential Institution
Essential services	Education Industrial (Recycling plant only) Medical Office (government) Utility Emergency rescue service
Non-residential	Agriculture Community services Hotels Inustrial (except recycling plant) Lesiure Animal centers Office (except government) Retail Millitary Place of worship

As discuss in section 5 flooding can occur from several sources and different authorities are assigned as RMA according to the source of the risk. For the purpose of this Local Strategy, we intend to highlight the risk of flooding from all natural sources (i.e. excluding sewer, reservoir) regardless of leading RMA. Some receptors may well be susceptible to flooding from more than one source, but this can complicate explanations and data presentation, so flood risk sources have been divided into two broad categories:

[21] https://support.environment.data.gov.uk/space/DPK/15859733/How+Can+I+Get+A+Copy+Of+The+National+Receptors+Dataset+(NRD)%3F

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- inland (watercourses and surface water)
- coastal

To identify areas and receptors at risk of flooding we have used information obtained from the national flood maps developed by NRW; these include the *Flood Risk Assessment of Wales* (FRAW[22]) map and also the *Flood Map for Planning* (FMfP[23]), both of which are considered as the most up to date high level flood risk assessment product available in Wales. Flood outlines were retrieved from these maps during January 2024.

The level of flood risk to any area, and subsequently to any receptor, is described as the likelihood or 'chance' of flooding in any year. There are three risk categories provided by FRAW that are summarised in Table 9.2 below. To consider future changes in flood risk across Gwynedd as a result of climate change we also incorporate an additional level of flood risk, which includes areas not considered to be at present day flood risk (up to 1 in 1000 or 0.1%) but are expected to face risk of flooding over the next century, mainly due to forecasted sea level rise.

Table 9.2: Flood risk categories used in our assessment

Level of flood risk	Likelihood of flooding
High	This area has a chance of flooding greater than 1 in 30 in any given year (annual probability of flooding 3.3%)
Medium	This area has a chance of flooding between 1 in 100 (1%) and 1 in 30 (3.3%) in any given year
Low	This area has a chance of flooding between 1 in 1000 (0.1%) and 1 in 100 (1%) in any given year
Climate Change	Expected to be at risk of flooding due to climate change effects (mainly sea level rise)

Our assessment identifies the number of receptors within each flood risk band for a particular area but does not consider the depth or velocity of flood water to any receptor. Also, as we don't have information regarding floor heights or construction fabric of each receptor there is no way to determine at which flood depth they may become truly susceptible to ingress of flood water.

The risk assessment takes into account the effect of flood defences where information is available. Flood defences reduce, but do not completely stop the chance of flooding as they can be overtopped or fail.

[22] https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-on-a-map-flood-risk-assessment-wales-map/?lang=en

[23] https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/flood-map-for-planning-development-advice-map/?lang=cy

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Properties at risk from coastal erosion (see Table 9.4) have been estimated using information from the National Coastal Erosion Risk Management (NCERM) maps, using erosion rates for the long-term scenario assuming no active intervention to protect the coastline and applying figures from the 'medium' confidence level estimates. Further information regarding the data displayed on the NCERM maps is contained on NRW's website[24].

9.2 Overview of flood risk in Gwynedd

This section provides an overview of inland and coastal flood risk across the whole of Gwynedd according to the assessment described above.

9.2.1 Inland flood risk in Gwynedd

Table 9.3 summarises the number of residential properties within various inland flood risk zones across Gwynedd and Figure 9.1 displays the geographic spread of these properties as a heatmap; for this map the transparency of each receptor has been adjusted according to level of flood risk, i.e. a cluster could represent an area with a high number of low risk receptors, or alternatively a relatively low number of high risk receptors.

Table 9.3: Summary of properties at risk of inland flooding across Gwynedd

Number of properties at flood risk					***Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk***
Total	***High risk***	***Medium risk***	***Low risk***	***Very Low risk***	
7084	**1048**	**721**	**3489**	**1826**	**2023**

Figure 9.1 demonstrates that inland flood risk is generally spread across the whole of Gwynedd, except for the most mountainous and rural areas. As expected, the largest concentrations of flood risk receptors are located within the most populated areas, with obvious hotspots occurring at Caernarfon, Llanberis, Bethesda, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Y Bala; and in most of these cases the risk is linked to large watercourses flowing through or nearby populated areas. In general, areas where a high number of properties are at risk from a single source are afforded protection in the form of flood defences (e.g. Bala, Porthmadog, Pwllheli), however this is less often the case where source of flooding is more sporadic.

Table 9.3 suggests that the effects of climate change could be prominent in the future with an increase of 35% in the number of properties at risk from inland flooding; this in addition to an increase in the level of flood risk for present day receptors.

[24] https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-coastal-erosion-risk-national-coastal-erosion-risk-management-map/?lang=en

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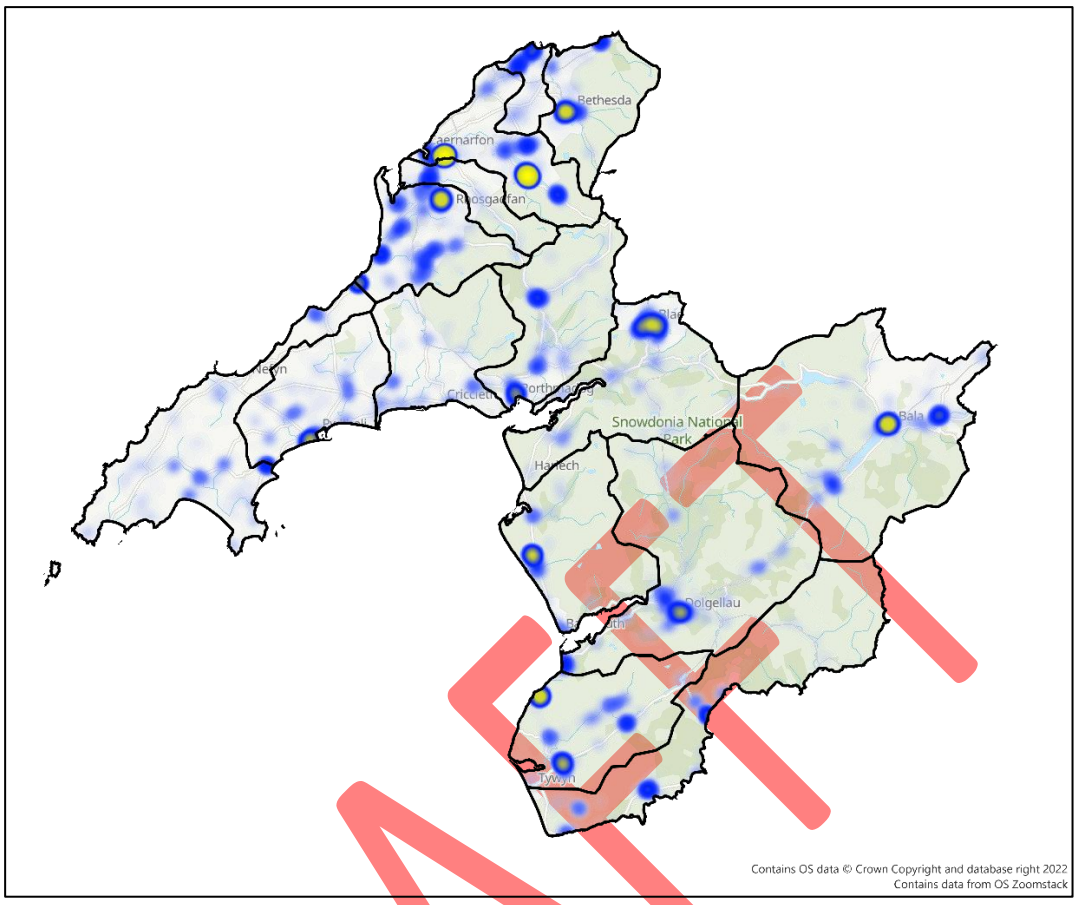
Figure 9.1: Geographic spread of properties at risk of inland flooding as a heatmap (description above)



9.2.2 Coastal flood risk in Gwynedd

Table 9.4 summarises the number of properties within various coastal flood risk zones across Gwynedd and similarly Figure 9.2 displays the geographic spread of these receptors as a heatmap, with a similar representation of different flood risk levels as described above.

According to Figure 9.2 the areas of highest coastal flood risk are centred around highly populated lowland locations, where large rivers such as the Dysynni, Mawddach, Dwyryd, Glaslyn, Rhyd-Hîr and the Erch enter Cardigan Bay. There are also areas of increased flood risk in the populated centres along the southern edge of the Menai Strait, including Caernarfon, Y Felinheli and Bangor. Most of the areas at risk of coastal flooding are defended from inundation, however the standard of protection afforded by defences will vary between different areas, and defences in general are not adequate to withstand increase in sea level expected because of climate change. Furthermore, future shoreline policies outlined in SMP2 may dictate that certain defences are gradually abandoned or moved in-land, which would change the flood risk profile of coastal areas over time as a result.

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Figure 9.2: Geographic spread of properties at risk of coastal flooding as a heatmap

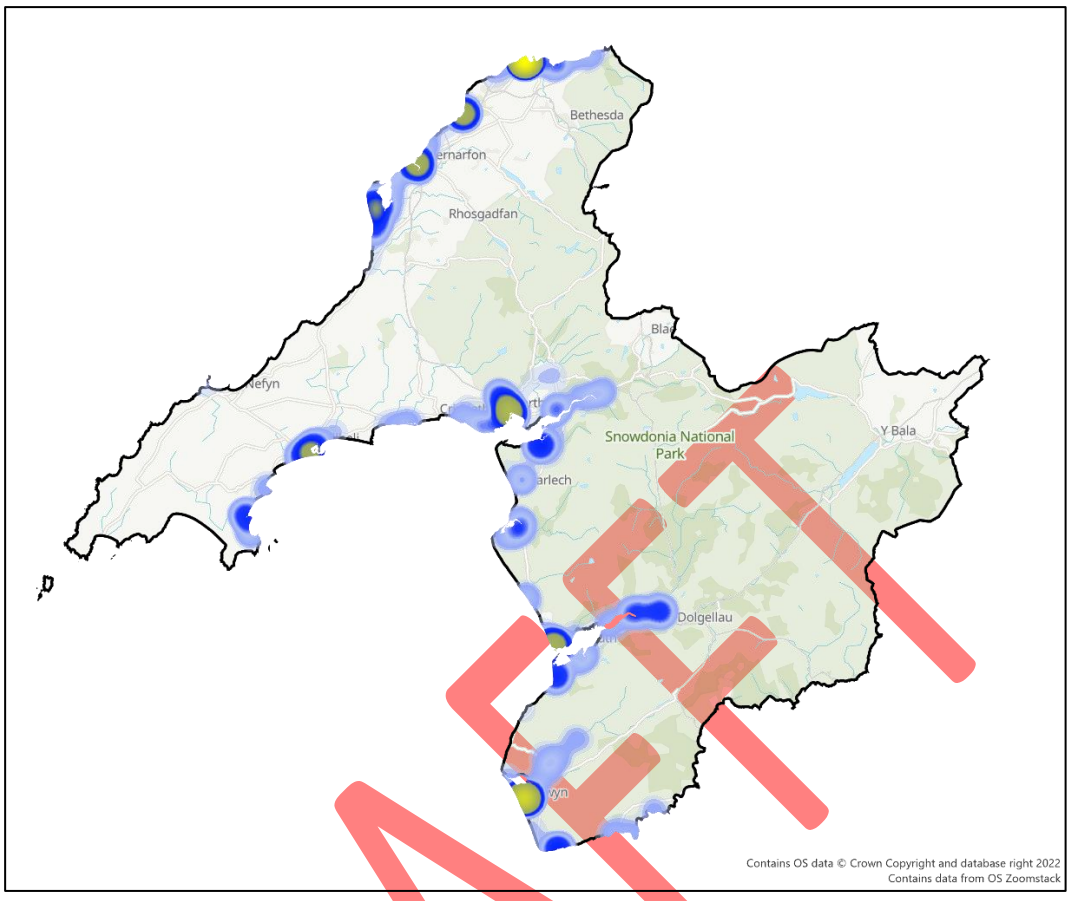

Table 9.4: Summary of properties at risk of coastal flooding and erosion across Gwynedd

Number of properties at flood risk					***Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk***	***Properties at risk of coastal erosion***
Total	***High risk***	***Medium risk***	***Low risk***	***Very Low risk***		
6355	**520**	**237**	**3471**	**2127**	**1864**	**508**

Table 9.4 suggests strongly that unmitigated effects of future sea level rise could be significant for coastal areas, with an increase of 50% in the number of properties expected to be at risk of flooding; as per the inland scenario this figure is in addition to the increase in flood risk level expected for present day receptors. The number of properties estimated to be at risk form coastal erosion is also contained in Table 9.4, although the distribution is not represented in Figure 9.2.

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10. Risk by Area

10.1 Inland risk by Catchment

This section dissects the flood risk information provided in section 9 further by looking at flood risk within specific areas. To segregate the risk across Gwynedd and help identify the areas of most concern we shall discuss inland flood risk by main hydrological catchments, of which there are 15 in total. Figure 10.1 below shows the location and extent of all catchments described. Table 10.1 provides the number of receptors at risk of flooding for each catchment respectively.

Appendix A provides further information regarding the nature and setting of each catchment along with a description of the spatial distribution of flood risk zones, and how this corresponds with location of defences and historic flood records.

For a more detailed view of flood risk distribution within an area of interest the reader is referred to the Flood Risk Assessment Wales maps on NRW's webpage.

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Figure 10.1: Hydrological catchments in Gwynedd

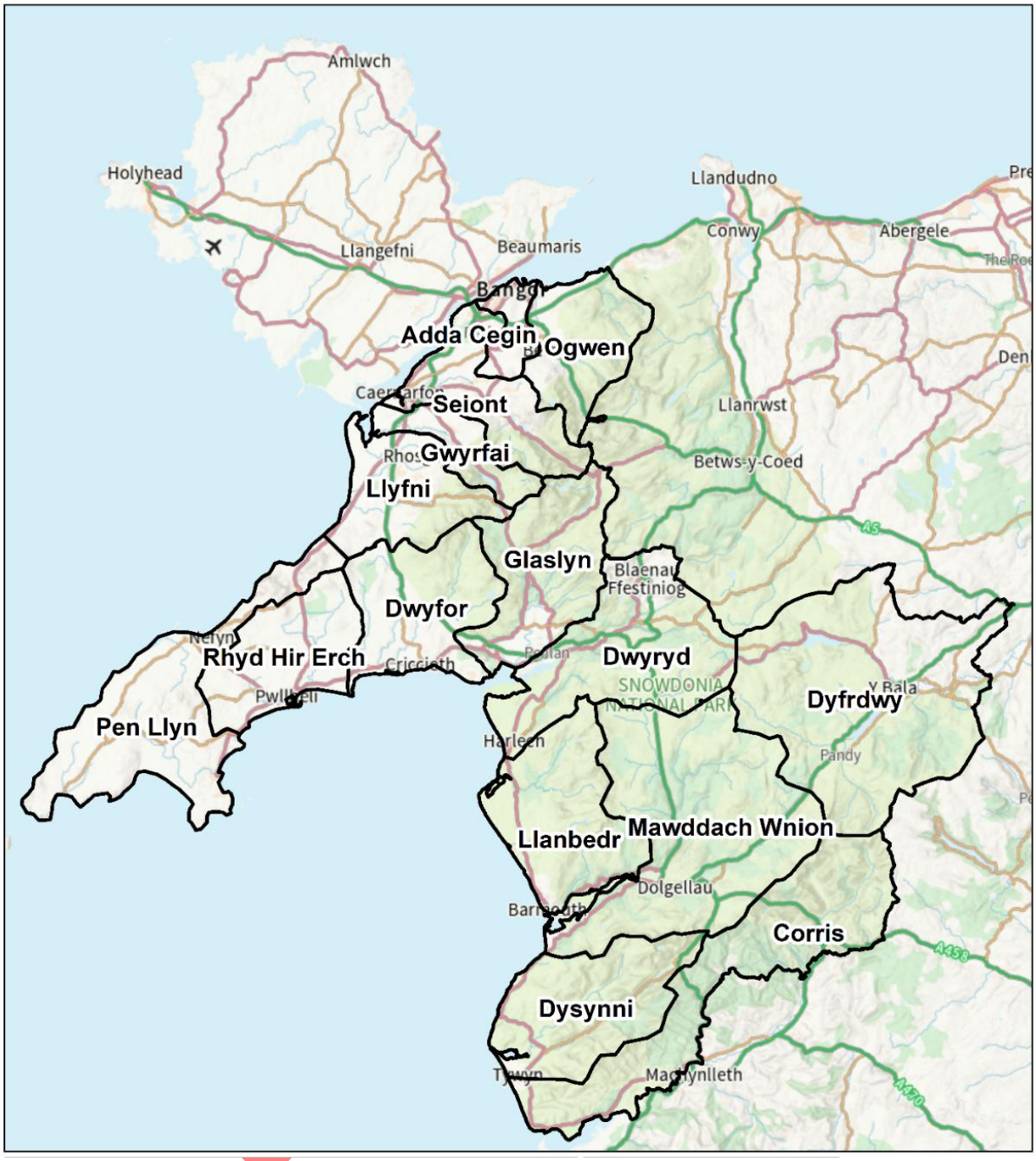

Table 10.1: Number of receptors at risk of flooding for each area (catchment)

Catchment	***Communities***	***Number of properties at flood risk[25]***					***Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk[26]***	***Number of known incidents[27]***
		Total	***High risk***	***Medium risk***	***Low risk***	***Very Low risk***		
Adda-Cegin	Bangor Penrhosgarnedd Glasinfryn Minffordd Pentir Rhiwlas Sling	353	17	80	153	103	60	28
Corris	South Tywyn Aberdyfi Pennal Corris Dinas Mawddwy Mallwyd Aberllefenni	272	88	34	104	46	52	15
Dwyfor	Chwilog Cwm Pennant Garndolbenmaen Criccieth Morfa Bychan Bryncir Pant Glas	125	31	16	42	36	38	51

DRAFT

[25] See section 9.1

[26] See section 9.1

[27] Number of individual properties known to have suffered from internal flooding according to records held by Cyngor Gwynedd

Catchment	*Communities*	*Number of properties at flood risk*					*Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk*	*Number of known incidents*
		Total	*High risk*	*Medium risk*	*Low risk*	*Very Low risk*		
Dwyryd	Blaenau Ffestiniog Llan Ffestiniog Gellilydan Llandecwyn Penrhyndeudraeth Harlech Trawsfynydd	654	83	100	355	116	131	38
Dyfrdwy	Bala Llanuwchllyn Llandderfel Frongoch Talardd Llanfor Glan Yr Afon	800	112	37	573	78	276	5
Dysynni	North Tywyn Bryncrug Llwyngwril Abergynolwyn Llangelynnin Tal Y Llyn Rhyd Yr Onen	378	145	56	117	60	110	16
Glaslyn	Nant Gwynant Beddgelert Nantmor Tremadog Porthmadog Croesor Borth Y Gest	877	20	54	194	609	211	77

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Catchment	*Communities*	*Number of properties at flood risk*					*Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk*	*Number of known incidents*
		Total	*High risk*	*Medium risk*	*Low risk*	*Very Low risk*		
Gwyrfai	Llanfaglan Caeathro Bontnewydd Waunfawr Betws Garmon Ceunant Rhyd Ddu	140	22	20	74	24	31	45
Llanbedr	Llanfair Llanbedr Llanddwywe Dyffryn Ardudwy Llanaber Abermaw Bontddu	255	16	41	123	59	46	27
Llyfni	Penygroes Rhostryfan Nantlle Talysarn Pontllyfni Llanllyfni Aberdesach	495	205	64	123	103	63	95
Mawddach - Wnion	Dolgellau Fairbourne Brithdir Ganllwyd Llanfachraeth Arthog Llanelltyd	994	54	33	676	231	385	8

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Catchment	*Communities*	*Number of properties at flood risk*					*Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk*	*Number of known incidents*
		Total	*High risk*	*Medium risk*	*Low risk*	*Very Low risk*		
Ogwen	Llandygai Tal Y Bont Abergwyngregyn Tregarth Bethesda Mynydd Llandegai Rachub	412	52	37	254	69	81	89
Penllyn	Aberdaron Botwnnog Abersoch Mynytho Tudweiliog Nefyn Morfa Nefyn	246	62	43	115	26	103	66
Rhyd Hîr-Erch	Pencaenewydd Llangybi Y Ffor Llannor Efailnewydd Pwllheli Boduan	472	62	67	247	96	164	63
Seiont	Nant Peris Llanberis Deiniolen Llanrug Bethel Caernarfon Felinheli	611	79	39	339	154	272	187

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10.2 Coastal risk by Management Area

The following section describes coastal flood risk in greater detail by considering each coastal Management Area in its turn. Management Areas (MA) along the Gwynedd coastline have been defined within the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) and represent a length of the coastline where the various frontages are interdependent in terms of coastal processes, and therefore should be managed as a collective to achieve the desired environmental outcome. With this in mind the policies for neighbouring frontages within a MA are designed to complement each other.

Management Areas is Gwynedd extend from MA 20 on the north side of the Dyfi estuary to MA 46 on the north coast, to the east of the mouth of the Afon Ogwen (see Figure 10.2 below). Table 10.2 provides the number of receptors at risk of flooding for each MA respectively as well as an estimate of the number of properties at risk of coastal erosion, according to information provided in the latest NCERM Map.

Appendix B provides further information regarding the nature and setting of each MA along with a description of the spatial distribution of flood risk zones, and how this corresponds with location of defences and changes in future shoreline policies (as described in section 4).

For a more detailed view of flood risk distribution within an area of interest the reader is referred to the Flood Risk Assessment Wales maps on NRW's webpage.

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Figure 10.2:Distribution of Management Areas along Gwynedd coastline

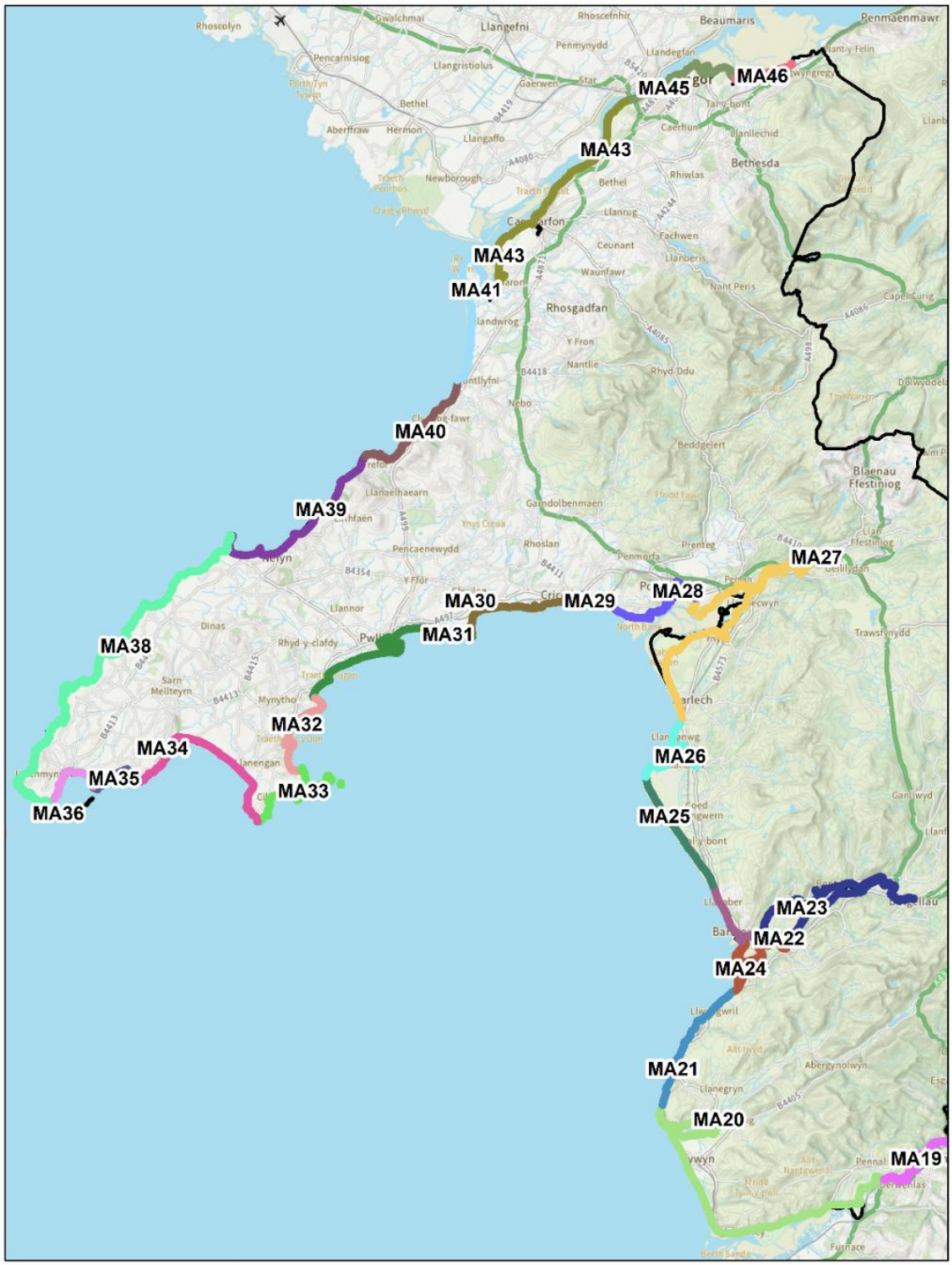

Table 10.2: Number of receptors at risk of coastal flooding/erosion for each area (MA)

Management Area	***Communities***	***Number of properties at flood risk[28]***					***Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk[29]***	***Properties at risk of coastal erosion[30]***
		Total	***High risk***	***Medium risk***	***Low risk***	***Very Low risk***		
19	Pennal	1	1	0	0	0	1	0 (0)
20	Bryncrug Tywyn Aberdyfi	500	170	44	53	233	45	138 (138)
21	Llwyngwril	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)
22	Fairbourne Arthog Friog	493	1	1	449	42	63	No data available
23	Llanelltyd Pen Y Bryn Bontddu Penmaenpool	62	25	5	7	25	14	0 (0)
24	Abermaw	548	12	7	308	221	127	0 (0)

[28] See section 9.1

[29] See section 9.1

[30] See section 9.1

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Management Area	*Communities*	*Number of properties at flood risk*					*Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk*	*Properties at risk of coastal erosion*
		Total	*High risk*	*Medium risk*	*Low risk*	*Very Low risk*		
25	Talybont Dyffryn Ardudwy	2	0	1	0	1	7	4 (4)
26	Llanbedr Pen-sarn Llandanwg	41	1	10	2	28	48	5 (5)
27	Penrhyndeudraeth Maentwrog Llandecwyn Talsarnau Harlech	516	8	46	93	369	52	2 (2)
28	Porthmadog Morfa Bychan Borth Y Gest	1877	27	7	1358	485	583	51 (51)
29	Criccieth (East)	1	0	0	0	1	0	50 (48)
30	Afon Wen Criccieth (West)	1	0	0	0	1	0	78 (78)

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Management Area	Communities	Number of properties at flood risk					Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk	Properties at risk of coastal erosion
		Total	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk	Very Low risk		
31	Pwllheil Abererch Penrhos Llanbedrog	1498	0	1	1091	406	428	1 (1)
32	Abersoch	69	23	8	11	27	44	13 (13)
33	Llanengan	1	0	0	0	1	0	0 (0)
34	Botwnnog	4	0	0	1	3	0	0 (0)
35	Uwchmynydd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)
36	Aberdaron	6	0	0	1	5	11	29 (29)

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Management Area	Communities	Number of properties at flood risk					Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk	Properties at risk of coastal erosion
		Total	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk	Very Low risk		
37	Ynys Enlli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)
38	Tudweiliog	0	0	0	0	0	1	2 (2)
39	Porthdinllaen Nefyn Morfa Nefyn	25	13	4	5	3	13	31 (8)
40	Aberdesach Trefor	6	0	0	0	6	1	15 (11)
41	Dinas Dinlle Pontllyfni	72	8	34	5	25	49	0 (0)
43	Caernarfon Y Felinheli Saron Llanfaglan	305	26	42	68	169	226	89 (89)

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Management Area	*Communities*	*Number of properties at flood risk*					*Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk*	*Properties at risk of coastal erosion*
		Total	*High risk*	*Medium risk*	*Low risk*	*Very Low risk*		
45	Bangor Treborth	313	199	24	17	73	44	9(9)
46	Tal Y Bont Abergwyngregyn	14	6	3	2	3	3	0 (0)

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11. Our strategic Objectives

11.1 National Strategy Objectives

The Welsh Government National Strategy provides the framework for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales. The framework is centred around five key objectives and the measures to achieve those objectives.

The aim of the National Strategy is to 'reduce the risk to people and communities from flooding and coastal erosion'. The aim is supported by five objectives that complement and overlap each other with the intention of reducing the risk to life. These are summarised in Table 11.1 below.

Table 11.1: The five main objectives identified within the National Strategy

11.2 Local Strategy Objectives

For this Local Strategy, we have developed our own strategic objectives which both align with the National Strategy objectives and reflect our local context and priorities. Our objectives are listed in Table 11.2 and have been selected to address our greatest areas of priority whilst considering the Council's remit for managing risks associated with local flooding and coastal erosion. All objectives are supported by a range of actions, listed and described in section 12.

Table 11.2: The strategic objectives of our Local Strategy

Local Strategy Objectives	Link to National Strategy Objectives
Objective 1: To aim to reduce the level of flood and coastal erosion risk to the residents of Gwynedd	**C, D**
Objective 2: To further develop an understanding of the flood risk to Gwynedd and the impacts of climate change	**A**
Objective 3: To continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd	**B, D**
Objective 4: Raising awareness of local flood and coastal erosion risk	**A**
Objective 5: Working collaboratively with all other RMAs and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flood and coastal erosion events	**E**

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12. Strategic Actions

12.1 Introduction to Actions

Cyngor Gwynedd's objectives for managing flood and coastal erosion risk to our communities are listed in section 11, each objective is supported by the range of actions described below. These actions supplement the methods currently employed by the Council to manage FCERM risks, as described in section 6. The majority of the actions included below are to be discharge by the Water and Environment Unit within YGC (as LLFA), however where listed some actions are the responsibility of other departments. The mechanisms for financing and monitoring delivery of these actions over time are described in sections 13, 14 and 15.

12.2 Our Action Plan

Objective 1:	***To aim to reduce the level of flood and coastal erosion risk to the residents of Gwynedd***
1.1	***Flood and coastal erosion risk management programmes***
Action 1.1A	*Maintain long term capital programme to reduce risk of inland flooding*
	Cyngor Gwynedd will prepare and maintain a long-term programme of studies and schemes to manage the risks of inland (river and surface water) flooding upon our communities. The programme will contain high-level details of the objectives and potential benefits of each item and identify opportunities to work alongside partner organisations and/or other stakeholders. The programme will be reviewed and updated annually as more information regarding flood risk and flooding incidents becomes available. Schemes currently included on the Councils inland flood risk management programme are listed in Appendix A of this Local Strategy.
Action 1.1B	*Maintain long term capital programme to reduce risk of coastal flooding/erosion, incorporating actions identified within SMP2*
	Cyngor Gwynedd will prepare and maintain a long-term programme of studies and schemes to manage the risks of coastal flooding and coastal erosion upon our communities. The programme will contain high-level details of the objectives and potential benefits of each item and identify opportunities to work alongside partner organisations and/or other stakeholders. Our programme will incorporate the actions identified within SMP2 to move towards a sustainable approach of coastal management. The programme will be reviewed and updated annually as more information regarding risk and condition of coastal assets becomes available. Schemes currently included on the Councils coastal risk management programme are listed in Appendix B of this Local Strategy.
1.2	***Flood and coastal erosion risk management improvements***
Action 1.2A	*Prepare annual list of schemes from long term action plan to reduce risk of flooding and coastal erosion to be presented for inclusion on WG capital programme*
	Our works programmes (inland and coastal) will form the basis of our annual submission of studies and schemes to be included on the national FCERM programmes thereby securing grant support from Welsh Government. Further

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	information regarding prioritisation of work and means of funding our programmes is provided in section 13 and 14. As well as reducing flood and coastal erosion risks all schemes will be developed with the aim of maximising environmental and socio-economic benefits to the study areas. This will include reducing any adverse effects on designated ecological sites which will be driven by EIA and HRA processes.
1.3	***Management of flood/coastal erosion risk management assets***
Action 1.3A	*Develop register and map of highway drainage assets in flood prone areas*
	Information regarding the layout of surface water drainage systems within the Council's ownership and responsibility, as well as supporting records, are often incomplete. The Council will work to improve the records that exist in high surface water flood risk areas, so that opportunities to the improve the network can be identified and that adequate maintenance and/or management plans can be developed to reduce surface water flood risk for our communities. The record of drainage assets shall include information on sensitive environmental features associated with the asset (if applicable), such as any archaeological and/or biodiversity designations, so that these can be considered if any maintenance arises.
Action 1.3B	*Develop register and map of all SuDS elements adopted by the Council*
	I their role as SAB Cyngor Gwynedd has a duty to adopt sustainable drainage systems that have been constructed to comply with national standards. The Council will develop a detailed inventory of adopted drainage systems, including information on the construction and function of each element as well as appropriate inspection and maintenance schedules.
1.4	***Maintenance and deployment of flood/coastal erosion risk management assets***
Action 1.4A	*Prepare and deliver minor works programme (revenue) based on findings of asset condition assessment to maintain standard of protection afforded by flood risk/costal erosion assets*
	Following completion of our asset inspection programme the Council shall identity a risk-based programme of maintenance or minor works to ensure that asset condition is maintained and present-day standard of protection is not compromised. Any works that cannot be carried out using the Council's dedicated revenue budget for any given year will be included on a capital works programme (see Actions 1.1).

Objective 2:	***To further develop an understanding of the flood risk to Gwynedd and the impacts of climate change***
2.1	***Working with partner RMAs***
Action 2.1A	*Contribute to stakeholder events with colleagues from partner RMAs and other stakeholders i.e. North Wales Regional Flood Group, West of Wales Coastal Group*
Action 2.1B	*Hold regular discussions regarding flood risk issues within Gwynedd with colleagues from NRW and DCWW*

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	Working alongside partner RMAs and other stakeholders at a local and regional level will allow Cyngor Gwynedd to better understand flood challenges from all sources, and make us aware of policies, studies or schemes that are proposed by partner authorities to manage flood risk. Regular discussions with other organisations will also enable us to identify opportunities for partnership working, by sharing resources or knowledge to address challenges.
2.2	***Flood investigations***
Action 2.2A	*Develop and improve current mechanisms to identify incidents of flooding within Gwynedd as early as possible*
	Experience has shown us that information gathering exercises following storm events can take longer than we would like which can delay the commencement of investigation work. We are also aware that the Council are not alerted of all incidents of flooding to properties. Therefore, to build up a complete picture of flood impacts and to enable us to engage with effected residents as early as possible we intend to look at alternative methods of collecting information.
2.3	***Flooding to highway network***
Action 2.3A	*Initiate study to identify areas of the county highway network that are most vulnerable to flooding and will become more susceptible as a results of climate change effects in the future*
	Prevention of access towards populated areas during storm events is a significant risk to our communities and therefore a good understanding is needed of present day and future risks of flooding to the highway network so that measures to mitigate these risks can be considered.
2.4	***Flood Modelling***
Action 2.4A	*Development of high quality hydrological and hydraulic modelling to build on national maps and better understand flood risk at local level*
	Detailed investigation of flood risk in high-risk areas will be supplemented by modelling work to enable the Council to estimate the extent and depth of flooding for a range of rainfall and/or tidal events and also for various conditions (blockages, defence failure etc.).
Action 2.4B	*Incorporate most up-to-date climate change projections into all flood modelling exercises*
	All hydrological and/or tidal modelling exercises carried out to inform investigation or design work will make the correct allowances for future climate change effects, based on the most up to date available guidance
Action 2.4C	*Sharing of local flood modelling information with NRW so that national maps can be updated as appropriate*
	All hydrological and/or tidal modelling exercises carried out to inform investigation or design work will comply with NRW modelling standards to allow the national flood maps to be updated with more detailed and current information as appropriate. Challenging and updating national flood maps will enable the Council to identify the number of properties and other receptors that have benefitted from FCERM

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	schemes in the future, thereby allowing success of this Local Strategy to be measured (see section 15).
2.5	***Data Collection***
Action 2.5A	*Enhancing our network of LoraWAN sensors to measure water levels within watercourses as well as groundwater level in areas of particular interest*
	Cyngor Gwynedd are in the processing of developing a network of telemetry sensors that can continually measure tidal level, the level of water within watercourses and groundwater. We intend to enhance the current network of sensors to build a better picture of the areas most affected by storm events. Further application of the sensors should also enable the Council to be alerted when flood risk requires intervention (e.g., to clear a blocked screen or culvert).
Action 2.5B	*Develop and implement a monitoring programme for areas of the coastline where cliff instability poses a risk to people, property and infrastructure.*
	The risk of coastal erosion is prevalent along certain areas of the coastline which could lead to instability of property or infrastructure in certain locations. Cyngor Gwynedd is to identify the areas where coastal erosion risks are highest and develop a programme to monitor any movements within the cliff face so that risk can be measured over time and actions to manage these risks can be identified.

Objective 3:	***To continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd***
3.1	***Development Planning/Development Control***
Action 3.1A	*Incorporation within the Local Development Plan of the requirements contained within TAN15 with regard to Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment*
	Cyngor Gwynedd's Local Development Plan is currently under review with replacement plan intended for the period from 2027 in preparation. The replacement plan will be guided by a Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment undertaken in accordance with the updated version of TAN15 (Development, flooding and coastal erosion) scheduled for publication in 2024, along with the information contained within the Flood Map for Planning.
Action 3.1B	*Regard within the Local Development Plan of recommendations for future changes in coastal policy, and subsequent implications for land use near the coastline*
	The current Local Development Plan includes a Climate Change Management Area policy intended to direct vulnerable developments away from coastal areas that may face a greater risk of flooding and/or coastal erosion in the future due to changes in coastal policies, as outlined in the SMP2. Consideration will be given to include a corresponding policy within the new Plan, ensuring that that policy meets the relevant planning policy requirements and guidance.
3.2	***Works near watercourses***
Action 3.2A	*Review of all policies relating to Land Drainage consenting procedures to ensure best practice is maintained and proposed developers are aware of design and construction requirements*

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	Cyngor Gwynedd is opposed to the culverting of watercourses because of the adverse ecological, flood risk, human safety and aesthetic impacts. Watercourses are important linear features of the landscape and should be maintained as continuous corridors to maximise their benefits to society. The Council have a culverting policy which explains to applicants in which circumstances culverting is appropriate and also provides general design criteria[31]. We shall review the content of this policy to ensure that this guidance provided is fit for purpose and in line with industry guidance. Opportunities to deliver environmental enhancement will be included in such policies where relevant, including proactive use of green infrastructure and restoring natural processes. WFD objectives and measures are to be delivered where reasonable to do so.
3.3	***Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Natural Flood Risk Management (NFM)***
Action 3.3A	*Identify opportunities for the implementation of SuDS and NFM schemes in areas which will deliver meaningful flood risk benefits as well as other environmental and amenity benefits*
	SUDS are drainage systems that are considered to be environmentally beneficial, causing minimal or no long-term detrimental damage. They are often regarded as a sequence of management practices, control structures and strategies designed to efficiently and sustainably drain surface water, while minimising pollution and managing the impact on water quality of local water bodies. NFM involves working with nature to reduce the risk of flooding for communities. It uses various techniques to restore or mimic the natural functions of rivers, floodplains and the wider catchment. It aims to store water in the catchment and slow the rate at which water runs into rivers, to help reduce flooding downstream. A key priority of the National Strategy is to deliver more schemes of this kind, and with this in mind Cyngor Gwynedd will identify urban and upland areas that are suitable for delivery of SuDS and NFM interventions respectively, either as stand-alone projects or as part of wider flood risk management schemes.
Action 3.3B	*Work with partner authorities and landowners to deliver NFM schemes as part of a national programme*
	As funding becomes available for NFM schemes Cyngor Gwynedd will identify and work alongside landowners and partners to deliver successful projects that realise all potential benefits associated with NFM. A successful example of partnership working on NFM schemes can be found in section 7 above.
Action 3.3C	*Develop position statement which clearly outlines how NFM schemes should be designed and developed to obtain necessary watercourse consents (S23 and LD bylaws) from Cyngor Gwynedd*
	As explained above Cyngor Gwynedd are responsible for consenting of in-channel works as well as works adjacent to ordinary watercourses. In this role our general aim is to ensure that river channels remain free from obstruction to allow effective conveyance of flow and reduce risk of out of channel flooding. However, some NFM

[31] https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Parking,-roads-and-travel/Flooding/Ordinary-watercourses/Gwynedd-Council-Culverting-Policy.pdf

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	measures are generally opposed to this idea and instead look to re-connect the channel with its floodplain further up the catchment from flood-prone areas, so that peak flows are delayed. Cyngor Gwynedd will develop a position statement to establish design criteria for NFM measures which require our consent to avoid any conflict with our current consenting procedures. Our criteria will promote options that provide environmental enhancement measures.

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

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Objective 5:	***Working collaboratively with all other RMAs and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flood and coastal erosion events***
5.1	*Preparation and testing of Emergency Plans*
Action 5.1A	*Cyngor Gwynedd will review and update its flood emergency plans alongside North Wales Councils Regional Planning Service; to include evacuation and rest centre plans.*
	The Council has an important role to play if our communities are unfortunate enough to experience a significant flood event. It is therefore important that concrete plans are in place to protect our residents in such an event and that these plans are tested occasionally to ensure that they are appropriate and that all the relevant agencies have an understanding of their responsibilities.

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13. Funding and Prioritisation

13.1 Funding options

Measures to manage flood and coastal erosion risk are funded from a range of sources with most of the funding available through the Welsh Governments capital and revenue programmes. Welsh Government run a variety of capital works programmes which are aimed at different types and scales of FCERM schemes – these programmes are described briefly in table 13.1 below.

Cyngor Gwynedd will also makes funds available for capital works where match-funding is a pre-requisite for Welsh Government grant, and also makes annual contribution towards revenue funding which supplements the grant received from Welsh Government.

Table 13.1: FCERM funding sources

Welsh Government FCERM Capital Grant Funding: Intended to support the development, design and construction of new flood alleviation schemes as well as major maintenance works. The Welsh Government will work with RMAs to develop a 5- to 10-year investment programme of future FCERM capital schemes, justified in accordance with the FCERM Business Case Guidance[32]. Cyngor Gwynedd are usually required to match-fund at least the construction phase of a Capital Grant project with the rate of contribution varying between 15-25%. Match-funding is subject to a timely application to the Council for core funding.
Welsh Government Small Scale Work Grant: Supports Local Authorities carry out smaller works, resilience measures on a community scale, NFM and essential maintenance through a simplified process. Funding is available annually for works up to £200,000 (2022/23) and has proved successful in driving delivery and risk reduction, with up to £4.3 million allocated annually for such schemes (2020-21). Works under this programme are subject to 15% match-funding which is usually provided from the annual FCERM core funding made available to the department (Highways, Engineering & YGC) by Cyngor Gwynedd.
***Welsh Government NFM Accelerator Grant*:** This programme aims to accelerate RMAs delivery of natural flood management interventions by providing funding for the delivery of NFM schemes, including appraisal, design, construction and monitoring equipment.
Welsh Government Revenue Funding: Revenue funding remains a vital part of FCERM funding intended to support the duties and functions of LLFAs under the FWMA. In addition to work such as flood investigations, awareness raising and maintenance of assets, Cyngor Gwynedd have historically used revenue funding to carry out monitoring tasks, provide training opportunities for FCERM staff and invest in equipment.
Cyngor Gwynedd Revenue Funding and Staff Costs: As discussed above Cyngor Gwynedd provide an annual FCERM allowance to the Highways, Engineering & YGC department. This core funding secures staff salaries, allows for minor works and asset maintenance, and can be used as match funding against Welsh Government grant contribution (usually only Small Scale Works).

[32] https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-fcerm-business-case-guidance_0.pdf

Partnership Funding: Opportunities for partnership working amongst RMAs is encouraged by Welsh Government and therefore options for partnership funding should be explored more thoroughly in the future as a way of achieving FCERM objectives which are of mutual interest to parties. This type of funding will become more important as we look to integrate flood schemes with other infrastructure and environmental projects to bring multiple benefits, seek sustainable and better value interventions.

13.2 Prioritisation

Section 14 below explains how Cyngor Gwynedd will develop works programmes (inland and coastal) to benefit from the funding sources described above, with all schemes and/or studies reviewed and prioritised by Welsh Government before funding programmes are announced each year.

The Welsh Government prioritises FCERM schemes which primarily reduce risk to homes. Businesses and public buildings can also benefit from schemes, in particular those which reduce risk to a mix of development types such as homes and shops along a high street or local district centre. Schemes which only reduce risk to businesses remain eligible but should not be prioritised over schemes which reduce risk to homes. Funding is not available to enable new development.

RMAs applying for funding are encouraged to identify wider benefits such as regeneration opportunities, improvements to habitats/biodiversity, mental health or recreational benefits. Early consideration of aligning multiple benefits to secure wider funding is encouraged. Where significant benefits are identified to third parties, it is expected RMAs will work both internally and externally (for example with infrastructure providers, utilities, industry and commerce) to identify and secure appropriate partnership funding contributions from those benefitting from a scheme.

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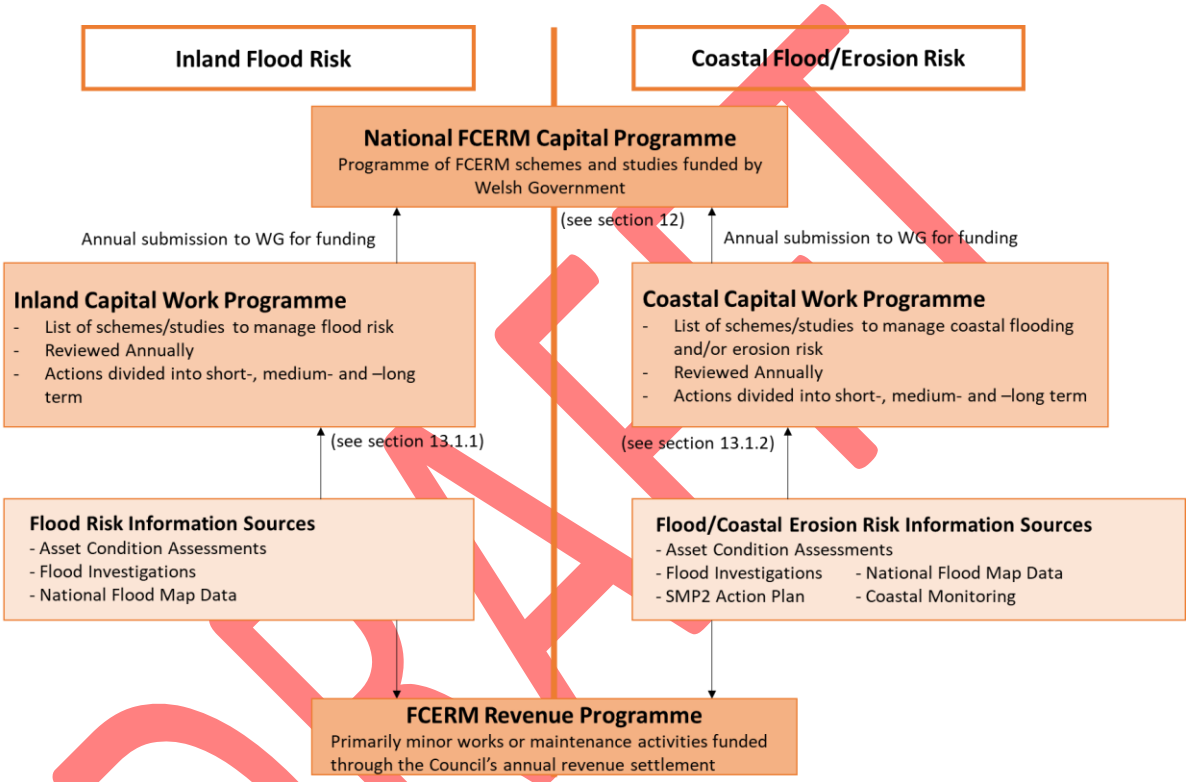
14.0 FCERM Works Programmes

Actions 1.1A – 1.3A in section 12 describe how the Council will prepare long-term capital programmes centred around inland and coastal risks to our communities into the future. The preparation and delivery of our works programmes is pivotal to successful delivery of this Local Strategy.

Figure 14.1 below summarises how Cyngor Gwynedd FCERM programmes will be identified and promoted, using the different funding streams described above for delivery.

Figure 14.1: Development and promotion of Cyngor Gwynedd FCERM schemes



14.1 Capital Programme

Each year Cyngor Gwynedd will prepare a pipeline of FCERM schemes and/or studies to be included on Welsh Governments capital programme for the following year/s, the pipeline submission will be based on the two separate long-term works programmes described below. Whilst we acknowledge that Cyngor Gwynedd are the lead organisation for the schemes and studies included on our programmes, we do anticipate that certain project will involve working in partnership with other RMAs.

Schemes are separated into short-, medium- and long-term projects according to priority (<5 years, 5-10 years and 10+ years respectively). Priority will mainly be assigned according to level of flood/coastal erosion risk, but other factors such as the Council's legal responsibilities will also influence priority. The selection of schemes from our programmes onto the annual

pipeline will be according to priority and the Council's confidence of delivering a scheme or stage of scheme within the approaching funding window.

All schemes promoted though the inland/coastal programme and onto our pipeline submission will be developed in accordance with the FCERM Business Case Guidance to ensure that an affordable and sustainable solution is identified.

These works programmes will be reviewed by the Council on an annual basis.

14.1.1 Inland Flood Risk

The inland flood risk management programme will include a list of flood risk management scheme and studies that have been identified from of the sources described in Table 14.2 below.

Table 14.1: Sources of information used to develop inland flood risk management programme

Asset inspection: Routine inspection of our flood risk assets will enable us to identify when damage or deterioration could lead to an unacceptable risk of flooding. In such cases we shall plan for necessary repair or replacement works to reduce flood risk to an acceptable level.
Flood risk data: Information provided on the national flood maps (as presented in Appendix A) will indicate the areas where flood risk is greatest and where further study could provide more detail regarding nature and level of risk, and whether feasible solutions exist to manage this flood risk as necessary.
Flood Investigation: The greatest trigger for flood risk management intervention is responding to actual flooding events where people and property have been affected. In such cases the Council will build on initial investigation works to identify a solution which will reduce the risks of a similar incident.

Schemes currently included on the Councils inland flood risk management programme are listed in Appendix A of this Local Strategy. The programme includes local flood risk management schemes that have previously been identified and are currently at various stages of the business case cycle. Our desire is to assess flood risk across each hydrological catchment in its turn to identify a series of integrated flood risk management interventions within each catchment. This approach allows us to take a broad view of flood risks and concerns to develop schemes that can complement each other to provide benefit for a high number of properties.

14.1.2 Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk

The coastal flood/erosion risk management programme will include a list of flood and coastal erosion risk management scheme and studies that have been identified from any of the following sources:

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Table 14.2: Sources of information used to develop coastal risk management programme

Asset inspection: Routine inspection of our FCERM assets will enable us to identify when damage or deterioration could lead to an unacceptable risk of flooding or coastal erosion. In such cases we shall plan for necessary repair or replacement works to reduce risk to an acceptable level.
Flood risk data: Information provided on the national flood maps (as presented in Appendix B) will indicate the areas where flood risk is greatest and where further study could provide more detail regarding nature and level of risk, and whether feasible solutions exist to manage this flood risk as necessary.
Flood Investigation: The greatest trigger for flood risk management intervention is responding to actual flooding events where people and property have been affected. In such cases the Council will build on initial investigation works to identify a solution which will reduce the risks of a similar incident.
SMP2 Action Plan: The action plan provides a framework for delivering the long-term coastal management objectives identified within the SMP2 document. Actions are assigned for different areas of the coastline with a lead organisation designated to deliver each action. Cyngor Gwynedd are tasked with managing flood and coastal erosion risk and promoting coastal adaptation according to the West of Wales SMP2 Action Plan. A copy of the Action Plan can be found on the West of Wales Coastal Group's website.

Schemes currently included on the Councils coastal risk management programme are listed in Appendix B of this Local Strategy. The programme includes coastal risk management schemes that have previously been identified and are currently at various stages of the business case cycle, as well as schemes or studies which are included on the SMP2 Action Plan to manage risks associated with climate change effects on our coastline in the future. The type of intervention which emerge from our SMP2 studies could be wide ranging depending on the nature of the risk and opportunities for adaptation and will not always involve construction or upgrading of physical defences.

14.2 Revenue Programme

The Council's revenue works programme mainly consists of asset management, maintenance and repair tasks which have been identified following routine and post-storm condition inspections. Minor drainage improvements are also carried out as part of the revenue programme. The programme is updated on a more regular basis as issues come to the Council's attention over the course of a year. Generally, such works do not require advance planning or detailed design phases and therefore the programme has a shorter turn-around.

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15. Monitoring progress

15.1 How we measure progress

As the LLFA, Cyngor Gwynedd is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this Local Strategy. Measuring progress of strategy implementation will focus upon the delivery of the actions described in section 12, and the benefits derived from these actions. All actions have been developed to supplement the methods currently employed by the Council to manage FCERM risks, in order to achieve the objectives within this Local Strategy.

Measures will focus on but not limited to the following aspects:

- Number of properties benefitting from FCERM schemes included on the capital work programmes described under Actions 1.1A and 1.1B (and further in section 13.1 above)
- Long-term value to the Council of the schemes included on the capital works programmes (described under Actions 1.1A and 1.1B)
- Number of our FCERM assets in adequate condition to fulfil their function
- Effectiveness of flood investigation procedure

15.2 How regularly we monitor progress

Generally, progress will be monitored through the Council's 'Performance Challenge and Support' procedure, which requires all services to report against a list of specific measures every 2 months. However specific reporting periods will need to be agreed for measures that focus on longer-term benefits, for example the number of properties benefiting from FCERM schemes or interventions may only be reviewed annually.

In addition to this a progress report on the delivery of actions will be published every 2 years to monitor progress against the Local Strategy's objectives and actions and will be made available on the Council's website. As described in section 14 the capital works programmes will be reviewed on an annual basis to reflect the Council's continual assessment of flood and coastal erosion risks to our communities, and updates will also be available on the Council's website.

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16. Environmental assessments

Assessments have been undertaken alongside the development of this Local Strategy to ensure the Objectives and Actions presented take into account potential impacts on the environment.

16.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a way of assessing and monitoring the likely effects (positive and negative) of plans, programmes and strategies on the environment. It applies at the level of the plan or strategy (i.e. Local Strategy) which sets the direction for future development projects.

An SEA is a legal requirement to accompany a Local Strategy. Such assessments help to enable informed and transparent decision-making for the benefit of plan makers and the wider community in Wales.

The SEA was developed alongside this Local Strategy and is contained within a separate report.

The main environmental effects of the Local Strategy are considered to be a result of the delivery of minor works programme associated with flood risk / coastal erosion asset maintenance, and the implementation of SMP2 coastal policies. It was assessed that potential negative environmental effects could arise from works carried out at the project level (minor works programme) that does not allow for consideration of Environmental effects on biodiversity (such as disturbance of protected species), water quality (through water pollution from construction activities), and cultural heritage (disturbance / damage to cultural heritage features), depending on the extent and location of such work. Potential negative environmental effects were identified with actions associated with implementing coastal policies (SMP2), which could adversely affect SEA objectives due to potential loss of habitat, loss of agricultural land, and loss of cultural heritage features.

Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to alleviate such effects are outlined. Assuming that the recommended mitigation is implemented for Local Strategy Objectives 1 and 3 the potential negative effects associated with them would be expected to be avoided or at least reduced so that they were no longer significant. Monitoring will involve testing the assessment criteria that have been proposed for the SEA objectives using the relevant indicators.

16.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) considers the possible harm a project or plan could cause to certain specially protected sites, with the aim of ensuring damage to these sites is avoided.

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Due to the potential of this Local Strategy to impact the Natura 2000 network of protected sites, namely Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites, it was identified that a HRA needed to be undertaken in parallel with the SEA process.

The full HRA is contained within a separate report, the conclusions of the HRA process is summarised as follows.

A scoping exercise was initially completed to identify the European sites that fall within the Local Strategy area. This exercise then proceeded to identify which of these sites are likely to remain unaffected by the Local Strategy and hence not requiring to be considered further. 7 sites were scoped out, leaving 25 European sites, comprising 18 SAC's, 4 SPA's, and 3 Ramsar Sites, to be considered in the assessment.

A scoping exercise was also completed to investigate which of the Local Strategy Objectives / Actions have the potential for a significant effect on European sites. Potential adverse effects associated with the Local Strategy may occur from a limited number of the Local Strategy objectives. Many of the options are involved with non-environmentally damaging operations, such as development of flood risk community engagement and emergency planning, and hence will not have an adverse effect on the environment.

A screening process was undertaken which involved an assessment of likely significant effects on the identified European sites screened in, taking account of the screened in Local Strategy objectives and the likely impacts from these objectives / actions. The screening exercise concluded that likely significant effects (LSE) could not be ruled out for a total of 18 SAC's, 4 SPA's, and 3 Ramsar sites. Therefore, an appropriate assessment was required for these likely significant effects.

The Appropriate Assessment found that some of the objectives/actions of the Local Strategy could effect the integrity of European sites. However, due to the high level of the strategy it is not possible to conclude with any certainty which, if any sites will be effected, or if the effects will be significant. Subsequent plans and projects / schemes arising from the Local Strategy will need to be subject to HRA if there is a potential to affect European Designated Sites, under the Habitats Regulations.

The assessment showed that for identified likely impacts, effective mitigation approaches are available at lower – tier levels. Provided that effective and appropriate mitigation is implemented it can be concluded that no adverse effects on European Site integrity will occur as a result of adopting the Local Strategy. The Appropriate Assessment therefore concluded that the Local Strategy is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Detailed assessments will be required at lower-tier levels to identify any likely significant effects at the site-specific level and implementation of the required mitigation to avoid these.

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Cyngor Gwynedd

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy DRAFT Appendices

Document Control Sheet

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Reviews

Name	Title	Date	Version

Approvals

Name	Title	Date	Version

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Appendix A	**Inland Flood Risk by Area (with summary table)**
Appendix B	**Coastal Risk by Area (with summary table)**

Appendix A Inland Flood Risk by Area (with summary table)

Inland flood risk by area

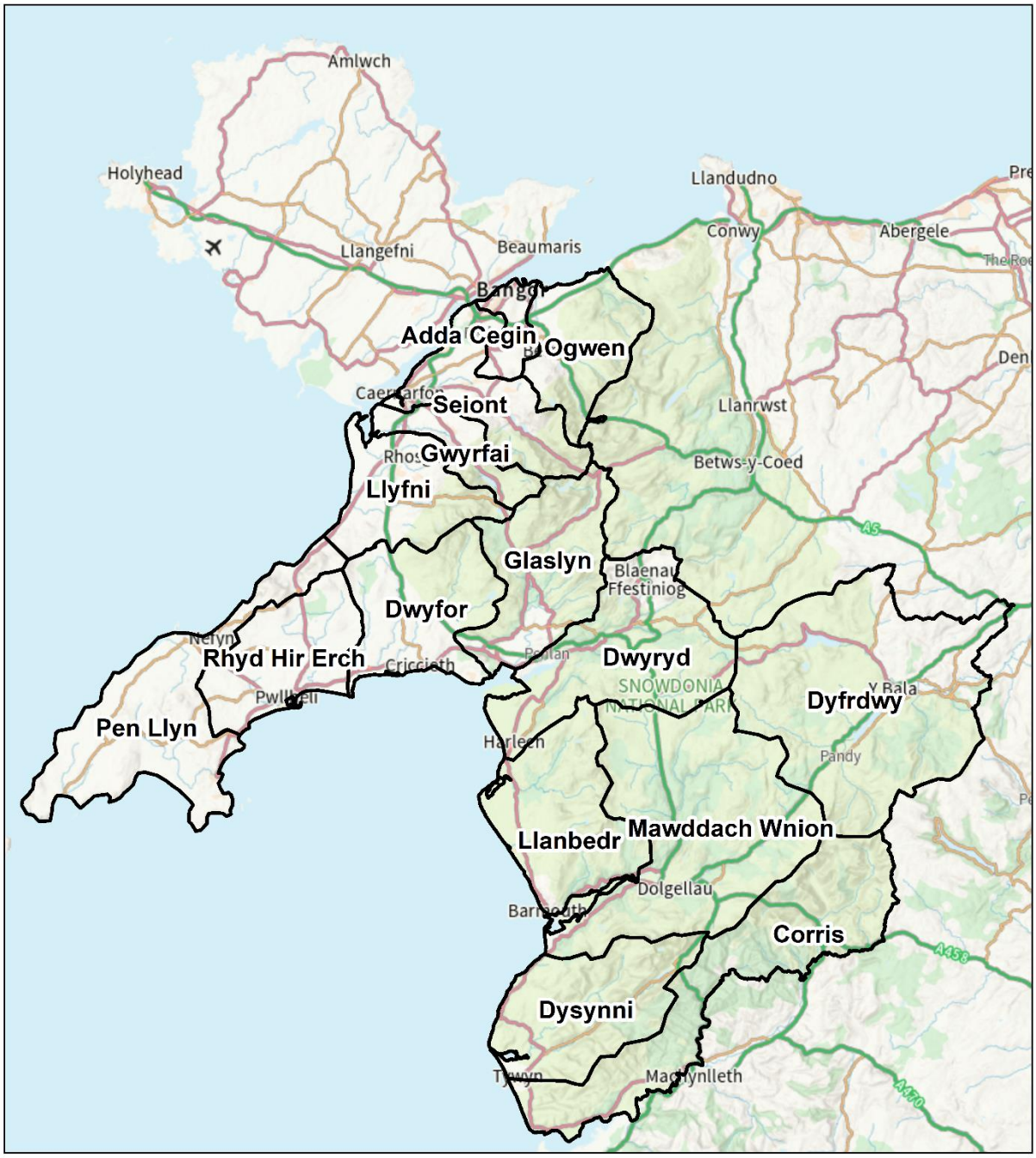
The following section describes inland flood risk in greater detail by considering each hydrological catchment in its turn. The nature and setting of each catchment is described along with a description of the spatial distribution of flood risk zones, and how this corresponds with location of defences and records of historic flooding. Figure A1 below shows the location and extent of all catchments described.

For a more detailed view of flood risk distribution within an area of interest the reader is referred to the Flood Risk Assessment Wales maps on NRW's webpage[1].

Table A2 summarises the level of flood risk within each catchment in its turn and also lists flood risk management schemes and/or studies which are ongoing at present to address risks within each catchment.

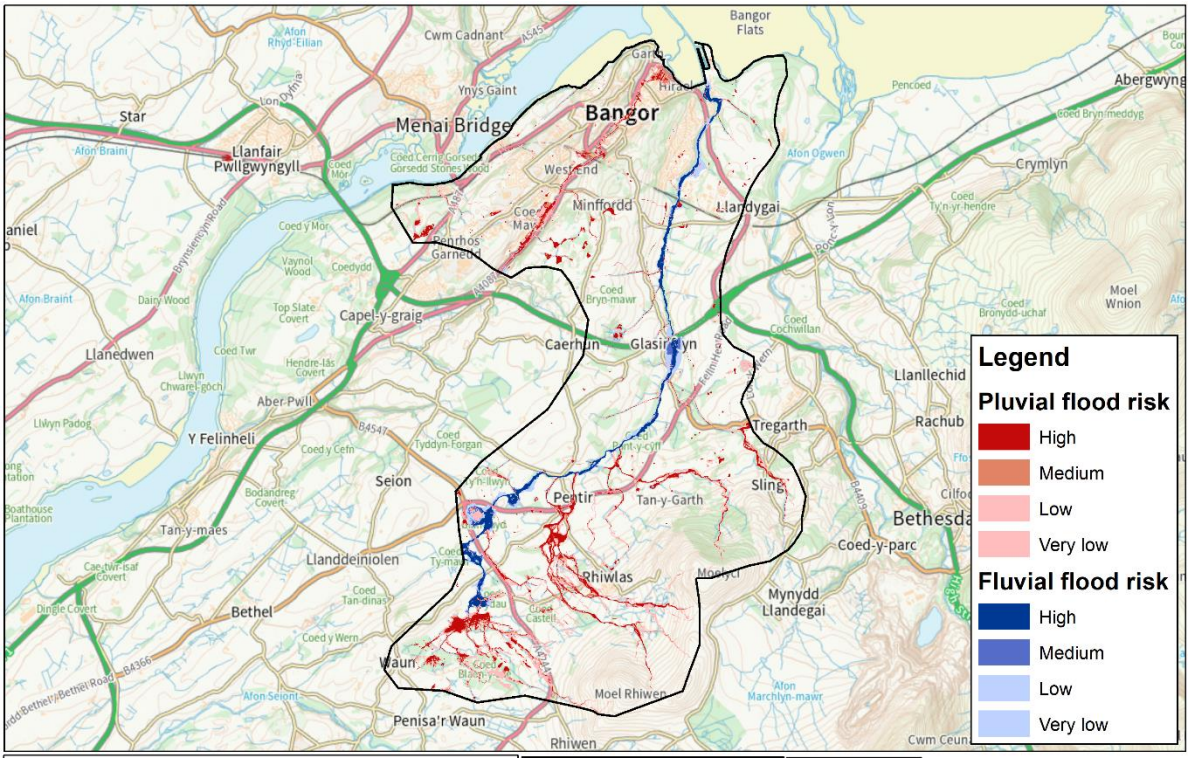
[1] https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-on-a-map-flood-risk-assessment-wales-map/?lang=en

Figure A1: Hydrological catchments in Gwynedd



Catchment 1: Adda-Cegin

Figure A2: Outline of the Adda-Cegin Catchment and areas of flood risk



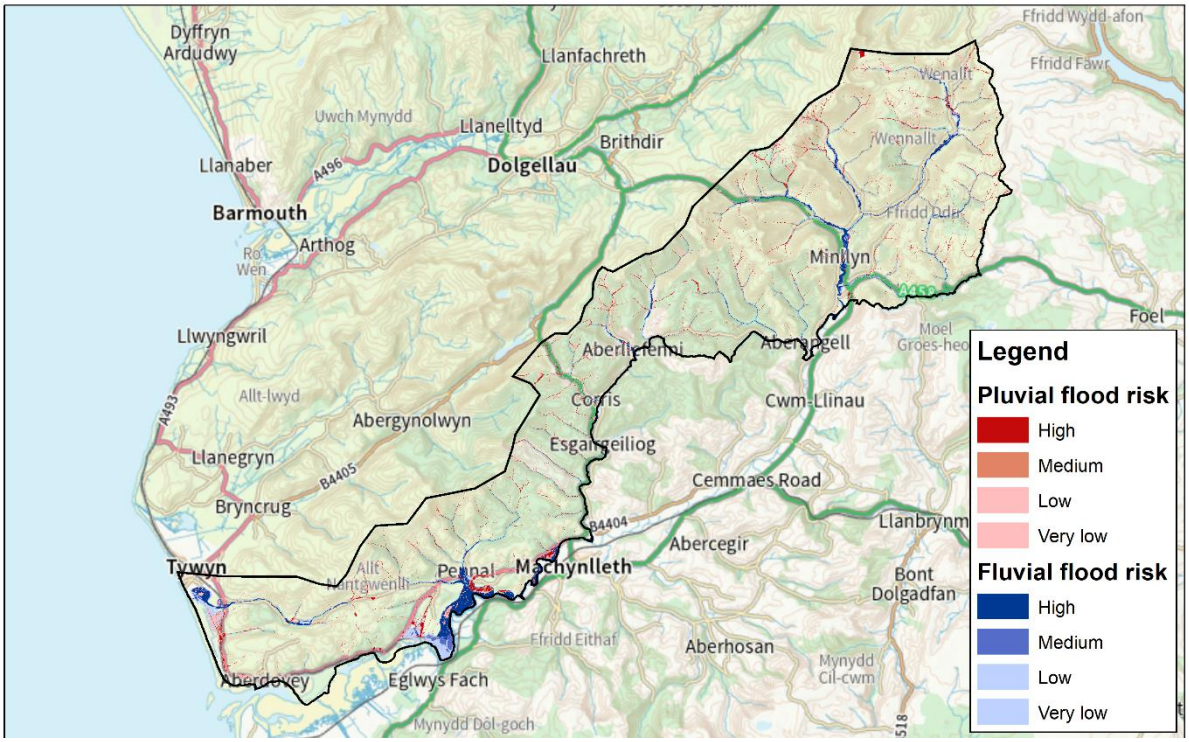
The Adda-Cegin catchment includes the communities of Bangor, Minffordd, Glasinfryn, Pentir, Rhiwlas and Sling. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Adda and Cegin. The catchment's headwaters are located on the slopes of ~400 m hills on the fringes of Eryri. No areas or properties formally benefit from fluvial flood defences within the catchment.

The principal areas subject to pluvial and fluvial flood risk are the areas immediately surrounding the Afon Adda through the centre of Bangor, and in isolated locations along the upper reaches of the Afon Cegin. Fluvial flood risk is particularly prevalent along the Afon Adda along the Caernarfon Road area of Bangor where it is culverted, having caused a number of flooding issues historically.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 28 flooding incidents across the Afon Adda and Cegin since 2011, there is also several known surface-water related flood incidents across the catchment.

Catchment 2: Corris

Figure A3: Outline of the Corris Catchment and areas of flood risk



Most of the watercourses within the Corris catchment flow into the Afon Dyfi. The catchment includes the communities of lower Tywyn, Aberdyfi, Pennal, Corris, Aberllefenni and Minllyn. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Dyffryn-Gwyn, Pennal, Dulas and the upper Dyfi. The catchment's headwaters are heavily forested and many sub-catchments are steep and very responsive to short term rainfall events. The catchment is very rural in nature.

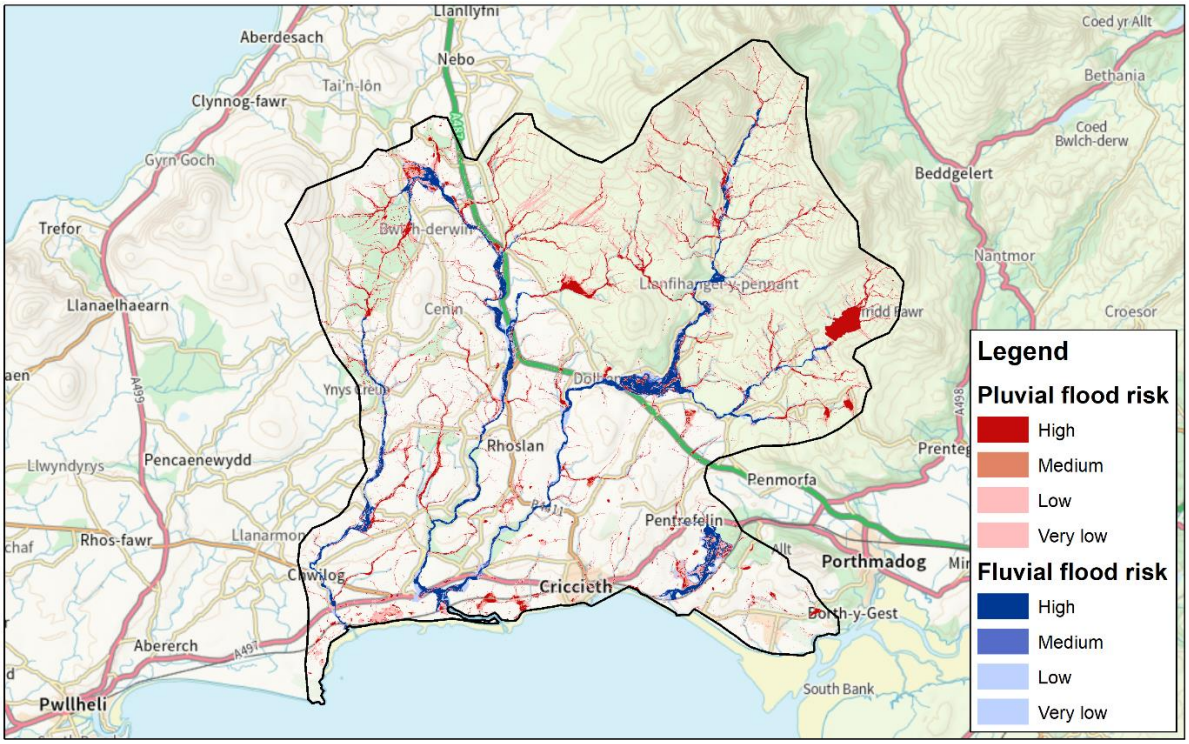
Assets at risk are well-distributed across the catchment. However, there are small concentrations in the villages of Pennal, Corris and Dinas Maddwy, which are particularly susceptible to surface water flooding due to the steep-sided valleys of the headwater areas of the catchment.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 15 flooding incidents in the catchment, with many having been reported in late winter, 2012 due to a period of prolonged heavy rainfall.

A small number of properties benefit from a short section of flood wall on the east bank of the Afon Pennal in the village of Pennal, no other formal defences exist within the catchment.

Catchment 3: Dwyfor

Figure A4: Outline of the Dwyfor Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Dwyfor catchment has its headwaters on the western fringes of Eryri, and as such contains a number of steep-sided, mostly wet catchments as the face the prevailing wind (and weather) direction. A number of large watercourses merge to form the Afon Dwyfor in the low-lying areas of the catchment. The catchment includes the communities of lower Chwilog, Criccieth, Borth-y-gest, Rhoslan, Bryncir and Cwm Pennant. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Dwyfor, Dwyfach and Wen.

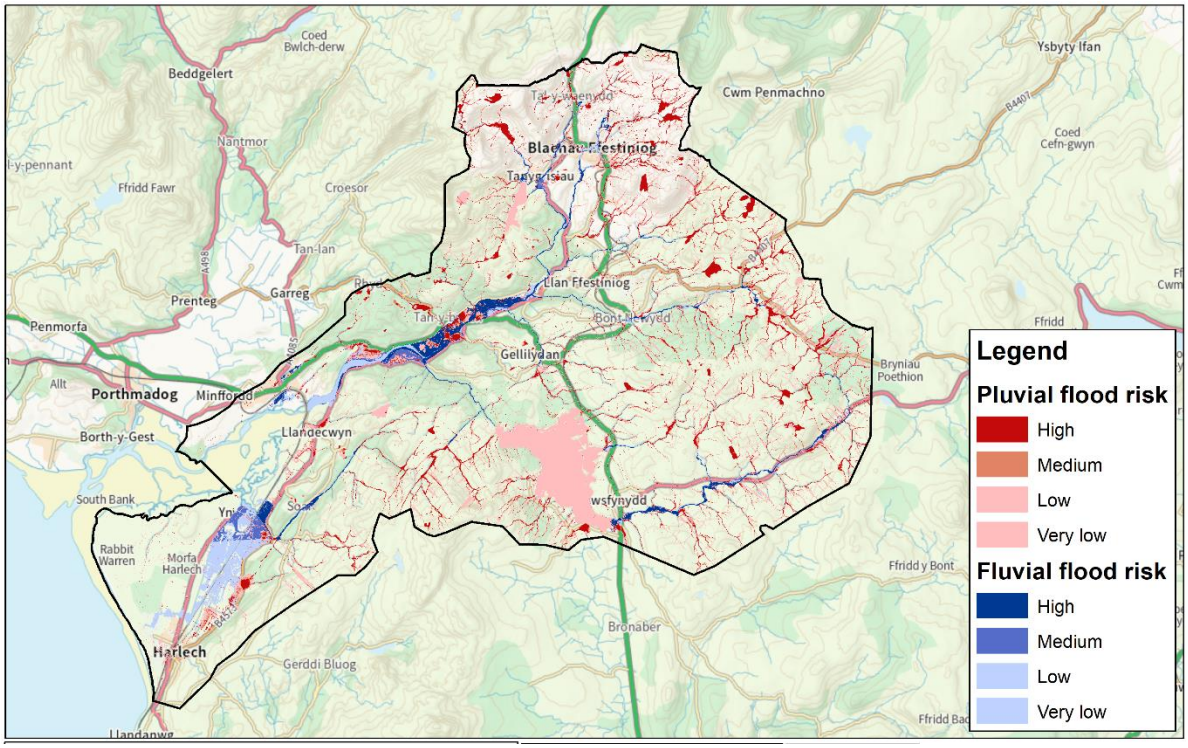
The catchment's land is used almost exclusively for agriculture, with little to no forest cover, and is very rural and as such assets at risk are well-distributed across the catchment However, there are small concentrations near Afon Wen and along the B4411 leading into Criccieth from the north.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 51 flooding incidents in the catchment, with many having been reported in Criccieth during June 2022 due to a severe thunderstorm.

Flood defences are present along sections of the Afon Wen and lower reaches of the Afon Dwyfor to protect agricultural land on the floodplain from inundation.

Catchment 4: Dwyryd

Figure A5: Outline of the Dwyryd Catchment and areas of flood risk



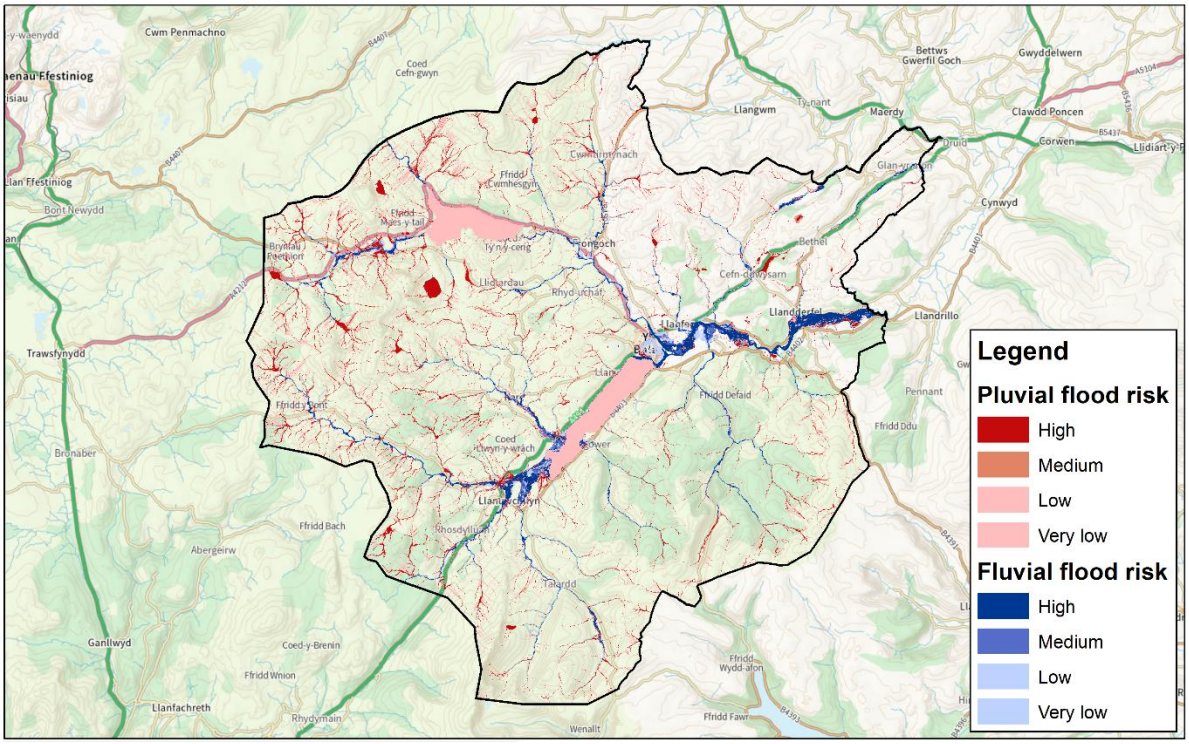
The Dwyryd catchment, similarly to the Dwyfor catchment, has its headwaters on the Western fringes of Eryri. The catchment transitions quickly from a steep, upland catchment to a low-energy, lowland catchment, with many large floodplains along the coast and along the Dwyryd estuary. The catchment includes the communities of Blaenau Ffestiniog, Llan Ffestiniog, Gellilydan, Trawsfynydd, Llandecwyn and Harlech. The catchment also contains Trawsfynydd lake which has a notable impact on the flow of the Afon Prysor. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Dwyryd, Prysor and Cynfal. The catchment's land is a diverse mixture of raised peat bog, quarries, agricultural land, and coastal marshland.

Flood risk is prominent throughout the catchment, with risk from surface water or small watercourses affecting most communities. The largest clusters of flood risk receptors are located in Blaenau Ffestiniog as the Bowydd and Barlwyd from through built-up areas.

The mapped flood risk pattern matches well with the geographical distribution of flood incidents known to Cyngor Gwynedd. There have been 38 flooding incidents in the catchment, with many having been reported in summer, 2016 due to a prolonged period of heavy rainfall. Surface water flooding problems have been known to exist in Blaenau and Harlech, where numerous small watercourses are culverted beneath the town.

Catchment 5: Dyfrdwy

Figure A6: Outline of the Dyfrdwy Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Dyfrdwy catchment includes the communities of Llanuwchllyn, Bala, Llandderfel, Frongoch, Glan Yr Afon and Llanycil. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Dyfrdwy, Twrch, Lliw, Tryweryn and Mynach. The catchment's land is largely a mixture of peat bogs and agricultural fields. The catchment contains two large lakes; Capel Celyn reservoir which regulates flow into the Afon Dyfrdwy, and Llyn Tegid, which provide increased flood lag times, therefby generally helping to regulate flooding issues.

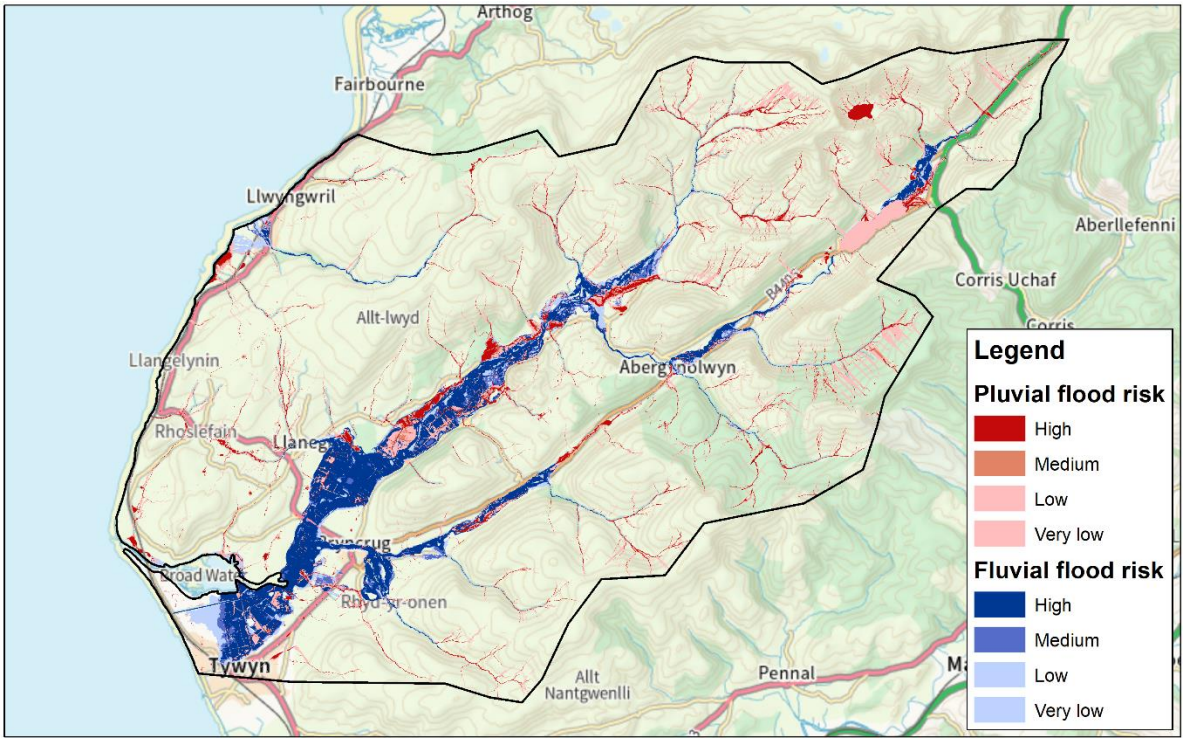
Large, formal flood embankments run along the Eastern edge of Llyn Tegid, and encircle the town centre of Bala, defending it from both the Dyfrdwy and Tryweryn, and the large number of low-risk receptors within this catchment represent the properties afforded protection by these defences.

Flood risk is prominent throughout the catchment, with risk from surface water or small watercourses affecting most communities. The largest clusters of flood risk receptors are located in at the northern end of Bala, along the western bank of the Tryweryn.

Records of flooding within the catchment are generally low and the majority of flooding issues in the catchment appear to be related to surface water issues. There have been 5 incidents of internal flooding since Gwynedd assumed the role of LLFA in 2011.

Catchment 6: Dysynni

Figure A7: Outline of the Dysynni Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Dysynni catchment includes the communities of Tal Y Llyn, Abergynolwyn, Llanfihangel-y-pennant, Llanergyn, Bryncrug and Upper Tywyn. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Dysynni, Gwril and Fathew.

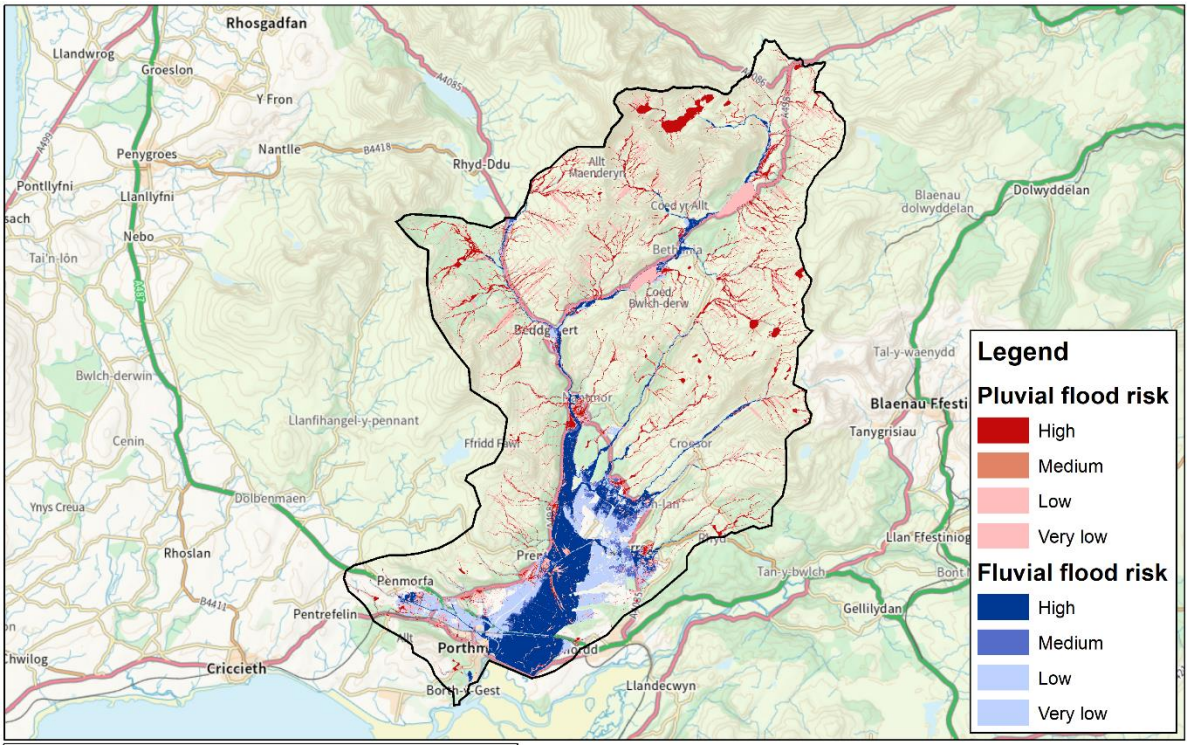
The receptors at risk of flooding in the catchment are almost entirely confined to the valley floors owing to the steep-sided nature of the hills in this area. There are distinct flood risk hot-spots in Abergynolwyn, Llwyngwril, Bryncrug and Llanergyn owing to the catchment's rapid transition from steep upland nature to flat, low energy nature.

Residential properties at the northern end of Tywyn are afforded protection from defences along the sourth bank of the Dysynni; fluvial defences also acto to protect property in Bryncrug. Large, formal flood embankments run along the Afon Dysynni along its upper reaches within the Pennant valley to protect agricultural land within the floodplain. Similar defences run along the flooplains of the Dysynni and Fathew at their confluence.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 16 flooding incidents with n the catchment since 2011. Of those that have been reported, most occurred in summer 2012 due to the Afon Dysynni breaking its banks in Abergynolwyn following heavy rainfall.

Catchment 7: Glaslyn

Figure A8: Outline of the Glaslyn Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Glaslyn catchment has its headwaters amongst the highest peaks of Eryri, and quickly transitions into a low energy, estuarine environment with a broad floodplain. The catchment includes the communities of Beddgelert, Nantgwynant, Nantmor, Llanfrothen, Tremadog and Porthmadog. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Glaslyn, Colwyn and Croesor.

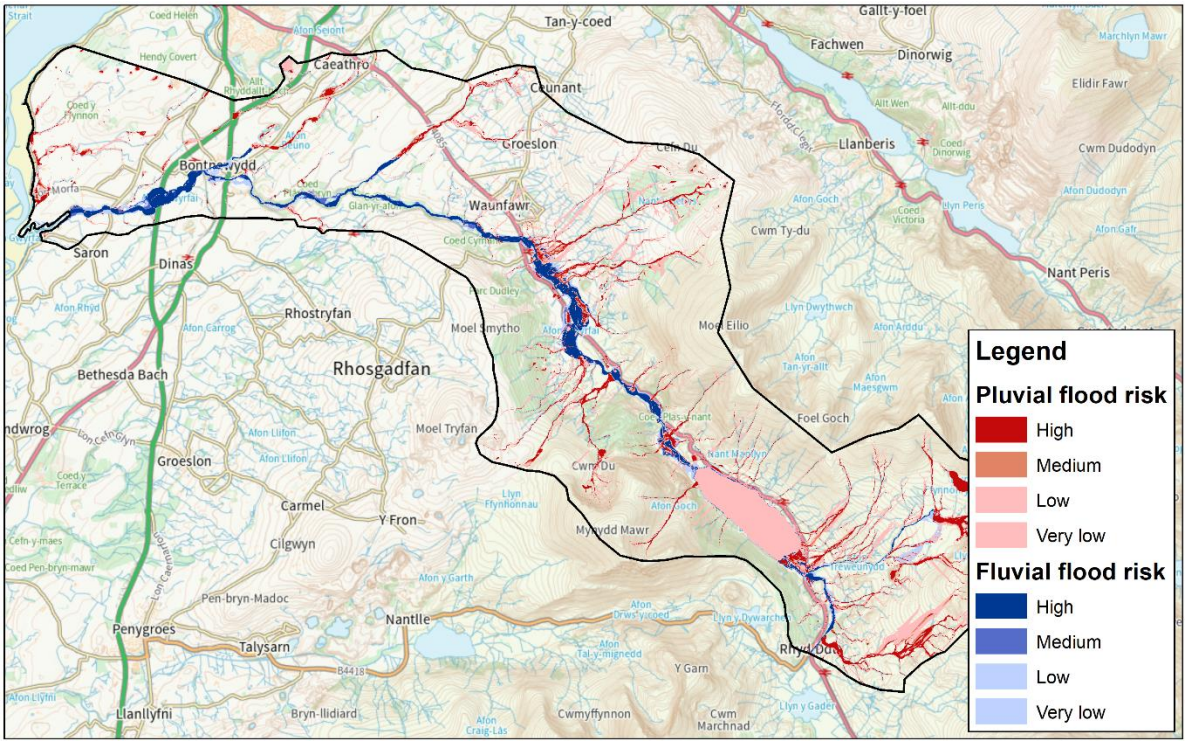
The receptors at risk of flooding in the catchment are mostly confined to Beddgelert, Tremadog and Porthmadog and associated with flooding from the main rivers. However, surface water flood risk also exists throughout all built-up areas, and there are a number of more rural properties scattered throughout the catchment which are at risk of surface water/small watercourse flooding.

The centre of Beddgelert is defended by flood walls along the north and south banks of the Colwyn, and the north and south banks of the Glaslyn. The network of watercourses and surface water systems through Porthmadog and Tremadog are heavily influenced by the tidal gates at Cob Crwn, and flood defences exist along Y Cyt to protect properties along the northern parts of Porthmadog. Climate change effects are likely to result in more properties along Y Cyt becoming at risk from fluvial flooding in the future.

Gwynedd Council holds records of 77 flooding incidents within the catchment since 2011. In late December 2015 in the floodplain areas surrounding Tremadog, many small watercourses were overwhelmed by prolonged, heavy rainfall which prompted flooding problems. Shortly afterwards in mid-January 2016, following heavy rainfall in the upper catchment, Beddgelert suffered severe flooding from the Afon Colwyn and Glaslyn. Beddgelert also suffered significant flooding from the Colwyn in August 2020.

Catchment 8: Gwyrfai

Figure A9: Outline of the Gwyrfai Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Gwyrfai catchment has its headwaters amongst the highest peaks of Eryri, and includes the communities of Rhyd Ddu, Betws Garmon, Waunfawr, Caeathro, Bontnewydd and Llanfaglan. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Gwyrfai and Beuno.

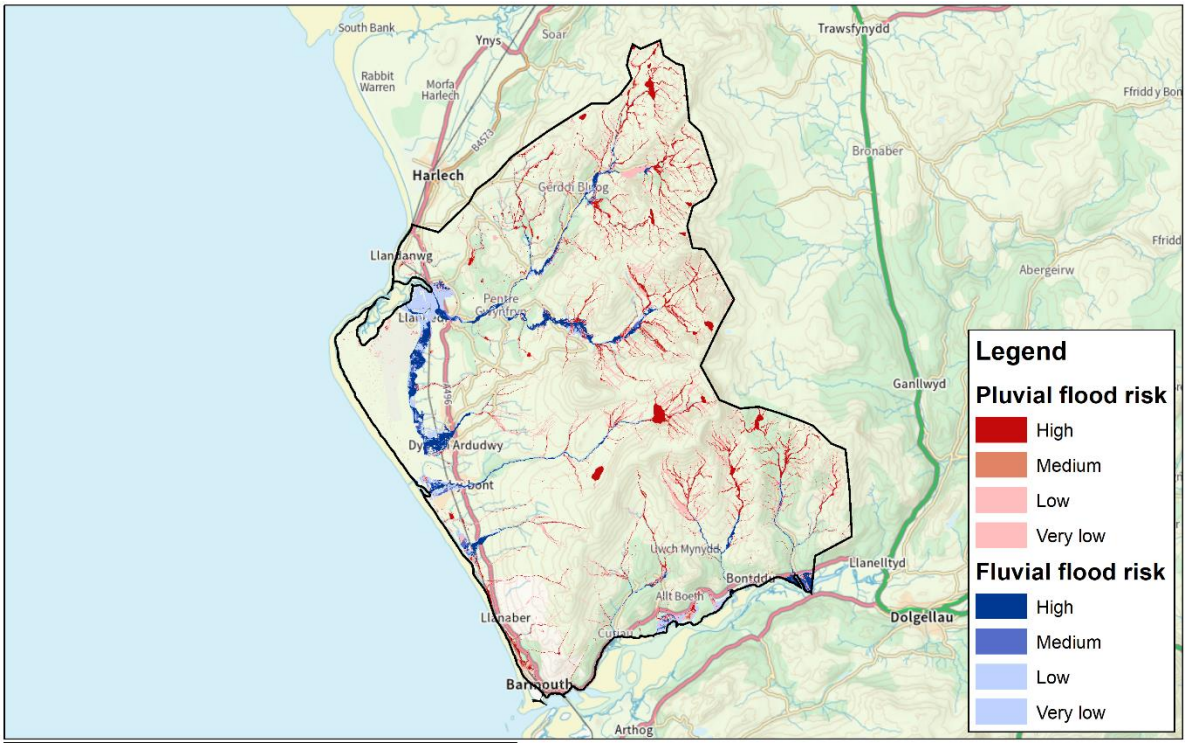
The receptors at risk of flooding in the catchment are mostly confined to Waunfawr and Bontnewydd, however there are a number of receptors scattered evenly throughout the catchment which are at risk of surface water flooding. Bontnewydd is located directly on the confluence of the Gwyrfai and Beuno and facing risk of flooding from both watercourses. A flood defence exists along the north bank of the Gwyrfai as it passes Glanrafon estate.

Numerous streams and drainage ditches flow through Waunfawr from higher ground, many of which are culverted beneath built-up areas in the village, which often results in surface water related issues during high-intensity rainfall events.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 45 flooding incidents with n the catchment since 2011. In late December 2015, Bontnewydd suffered extensive flooding due to a prolonged heavy rainfall event Many surface water flooding incidents were reported over Winter 2012 in the areas in and surrounding Waunfawr, with the period between October 2012 and February 2013 being a much wetter than average winter. There is also a history of flooding problems at Gwyrfai Terrace to the south of Waunfawr.

Catchment 9: Llanbedr

Figure A10: Outline of the Llanbedr Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Llanbedr catchment forms a group of small rivers flowing from east to west from the slopes of the Rhinog hills to the coast. The catchment includes the communities of Llanbedr, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Tal-y-bont, Llanaber, Barmouth and Bontddu. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Artro, Cwmnantcol, Ysgethin, Dwynant, Cwm llechen, and Cwm-mynach.

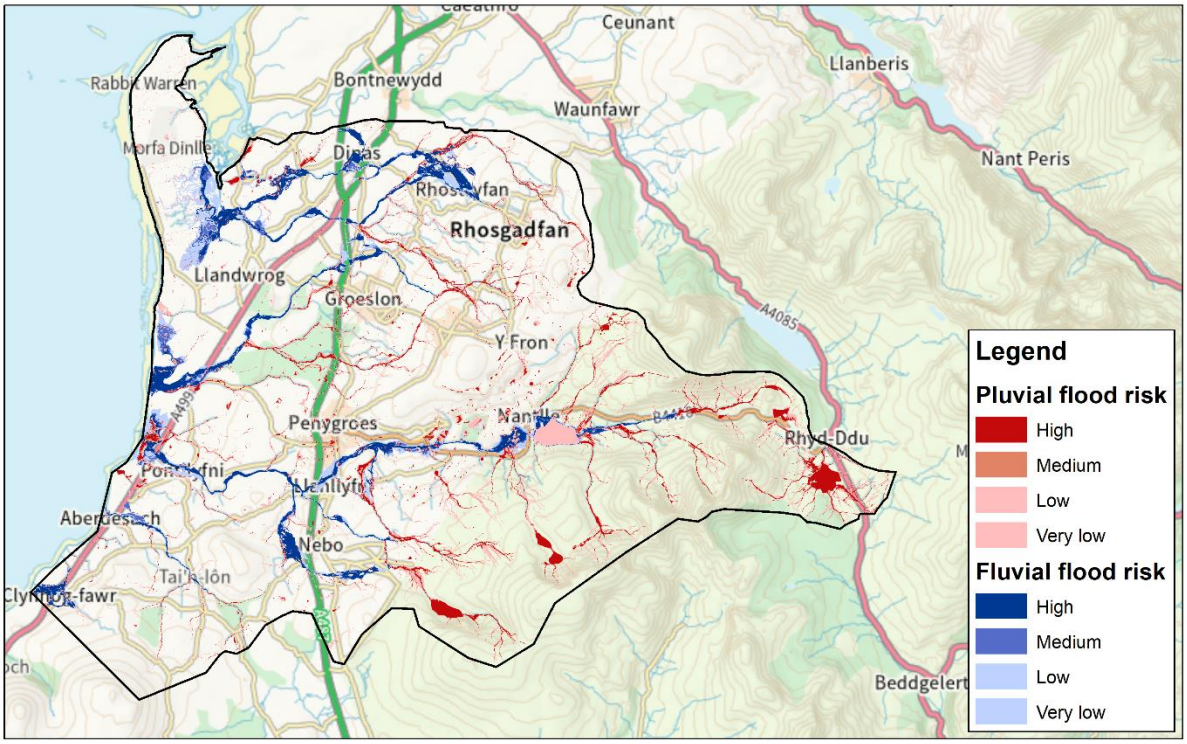
Within this catchment there are concentrations of receptors at flood risk at the centre of Llanbedr and in Talybont, linked to potential flooding from the Artro and Ysgethin respectively. There is also a collection of receptors at risk in the low-lying area to the rear of Barmouth north promenade linked to potential flooding of a watercourse which is culverted beneath Heol y Plas towards a pumping station on the promenade allowing the watercourse to discharge onto the frontage during periods of high tide.

Flood defences are present of the right-hand bank of the Artro as it flows through Llanbedr and also along the tidal section to the west of the A496. A short section of defences are also present on the right-hand bank of the Ysgethin as it approaches the mainline railway to the west of Talybont.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 27 flooding incidents with n the catchment since 2011. Most reports were filed in 2020 and 2021, almost all of which were surface water related. Two notable concentrations of incidents appear in Barmouth and Dyffryn Ardudwy, possibly owing to the steepness of the hills to the east

Catchment 10: Llyfni

Figure A11: Outline of the Llyfni Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Llyfni catchment lies on the western fringes of Eryri and contains several upland sub-catchments. The catchment includes the communities of Nantlle, Talysarn, Llanllyfni, Penygroes, Pontllyfni, Rhostryfan, Groeslon, Y Fron, Bethesda Bach, Clynnog Fawr and Llandwrog. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Llyfni, Desach, Llifon, and Rhyd. The catchment contains Llyn Nantlle Uchaf, Llyn Cwm Dulyn and Llynnau Cwm Silyn.

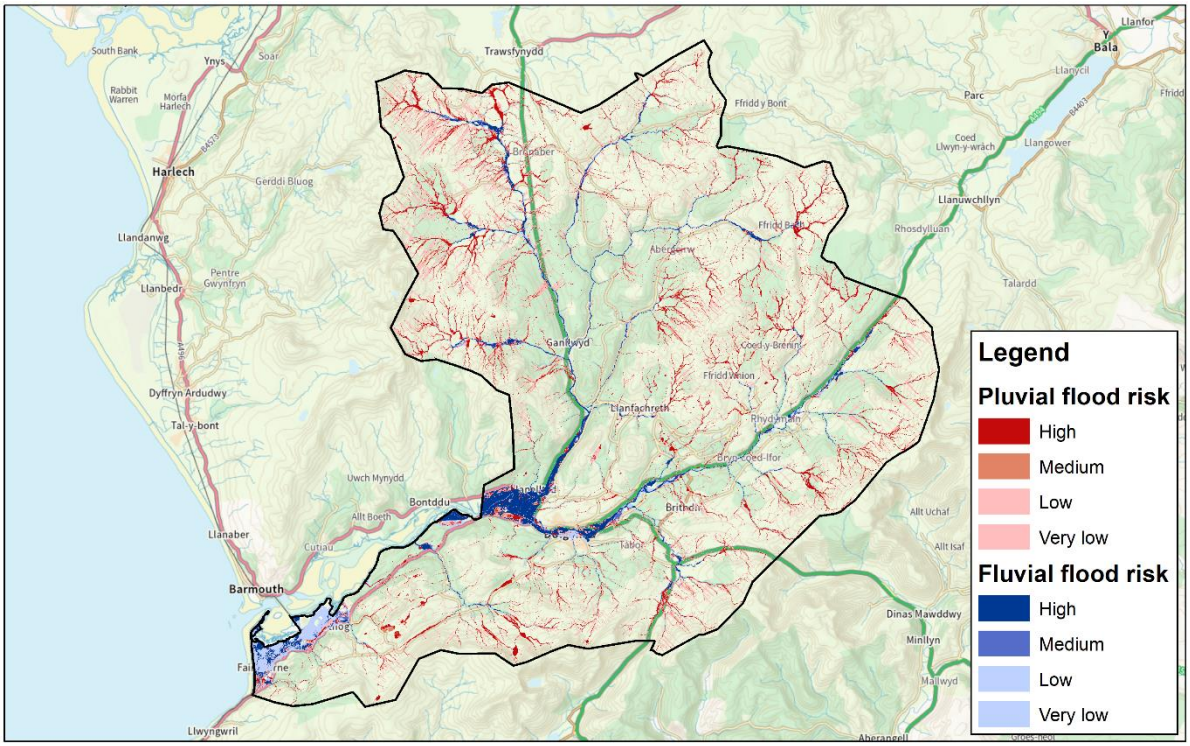
The receptors at risk of flooding are spread across the many villages of the catchment. Notable flood-prone areas include Rhostryfan, Groeslon, Talysarn, Llanllyfni, Pont Llyfni and Clynnog Fawr. No formal inland flood defences exist within the catchment.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 95 flooding incidents within the catchment since 2011. Flood reports (mostly surface water related) were filed over Winter 2012 across a wide area of the catchment. Rhostryfan and Clynnog Fawr have seen a number of flood reports being submitted due to recent, high intensity storm events.

See section 7 of the Local Strategy for details of a flood risk management scheme recently completed by Cyngor Gwynedd in Rhostryfan.

Catchment 11: Mawddach Wnion

Figure A12: Outline of the Mawddach Wnion Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Mawddach Wnion catchment has headwaters in the surrounding uplans before flowing towards estuarine floodplains, and then into the sea. The catchment includes the communities of Bronaber, Ganllwyd, Llanelltyd, Llanfachraeth, Rhydymain, Brithdir, Dolgellau, Arthog, and Fairbourne. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Mawddach, Wnion, Eden, Gwynant and Clwyedog.

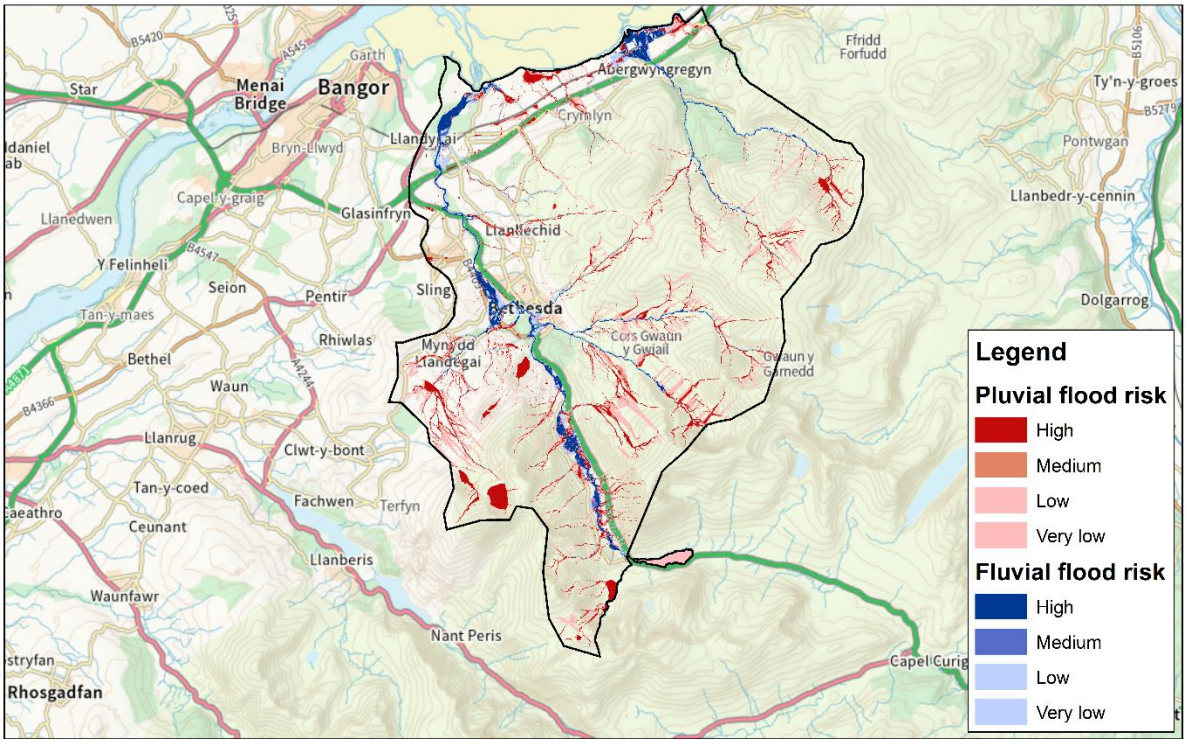
Although there is an even distribution of receptors at flood risk across most of the lower-lying areas of the catchment, the majority of risk confined to Fairbourne and Dolgellau. Dolgellau lies at the confluence of the Wnion and Arran and is at particular risk of flooding from fluvial/pluvial sources as its town centre has been built on an alluvial fan which is now defended by continuous lengths flood walls. The coastal town of Fairbourne has a complex combination of tidal, fluvial and pluvial flood risk due to its situation of a reclaimed salt marsh immediately adjacent to the Afon Mawddach and Cadair Idris hills and is defended from the tidal reach of the Mawddach where it enters the sea by a flood bank.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 8 flooding incidents within the catchment since 2011. Of those recorded, most have been in Dolgellau due to surface water issues.

See section 7 of the Local Strategy for details of a NFM scheme recently completed by Cyngor Gwynedd in the Wnion catchment.

Catchment 12: Ogwen

Figure A13: Outline of the Ogwen Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Ogwen catchment comprises several large watercourses which have their headwaters amongst the highest peaks of Eryri. The catchment includes the communities of Bethesda, Mynydd Llandegai, Rachub, Tregarth, Llandygai, Talybont, and Abergwyngregyn. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Ogwen, Galedffrwd, Caseg, Aber, Llafar and Ffrydlas.

The villages of Mynydd Llandegai, Bethesda, and Talybont are well-known problem areas for flooding within the catchment although there are a number of other isolated receptors at risk from surface water. Bethesda spreads across the Afon Ogwen's confluence with the Galedffrwd, Caseg, and Ffrydlas, making it particularly liable to extreme rainfall events. Talybont is now protected by a flood alleviation scheme but did historically suffer from intense rainfall events via the small watercourse flowing from the Llanllechid area. Mynydd Llandegai has a recent history of flooding from various sources.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 89 flooding incidents within the catchment since 2011. Of those recorded, most have been in Bethesda due to surface water issues, or in Talybont in response to the severe flooding that occurred in February, 2013.

See section 7 of the Local Strategy for details of a flood risk management scheme recently completed by Cyngor Gwynedd near Talybont.

Catchment 13: Penllyn

Figure A14: Outline of the Penllyn Catchment and areas of flood risk

The Penllyn catchment comprises a selection of small watercourses on the northern and western coast of the Llyn Peninsula and is not centred around any principal river catchment due to the peninsula's shape. The catchment includes the communities of Trefor, Llanaelhaearn, Nefyn, Tudweiliog, Aberdaron, Sarn Mellteryn, Mynytho, Botwnnog, Llanbedrog and Abersoch. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Soch, Daron, Cyllyfelin, Horon, Elernion and Fawr.

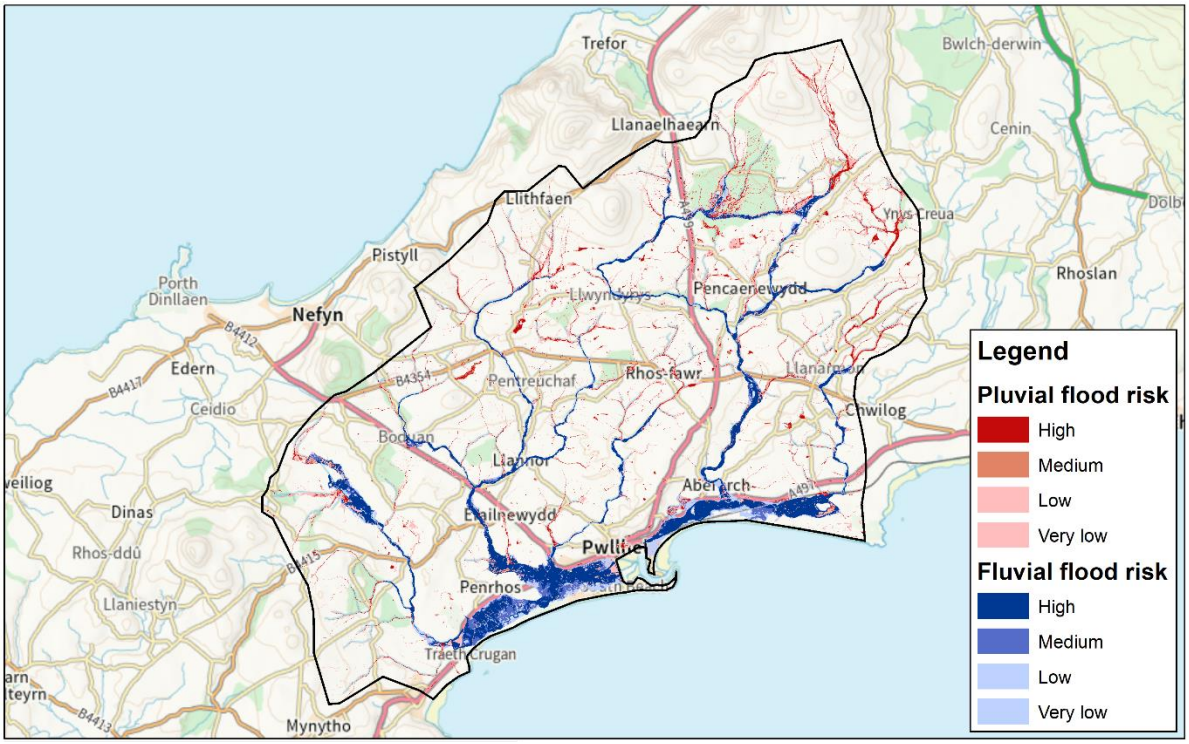
Due to the largely agrarian nature of the catchment, the receptors at risk are mostly spread out evenly. However, there are small concentrations of receptors at risk from flooding in Botwnnog, Aberdaron and Llanbedrog.

The centre of the village of Aberdaron is protected from the Afon Daron and Cyllyfelin by a series of flood walls. Also, two short section of defences protect properties from river flooding in the centre of Botwnnog.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 66 flooding incidents within the catchment since 2011. There seems to be no concentrations of these incidents, with a broad variety of reports detailing many different causes and sources in different years.

Catchment 14: Rhyd Hir Erch

Figure A15: Outline of the Rhyd Hir Erch Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Rhyd Hir Erch catchment centres around the town of Pwllheli, which sits on the confluence of the Afon Rhyd Hir and the Afon Erch, the headwaters of which are found in in the areas running along the north coast of the Llyn Peninsula. The catchment includes the communities of Llithfaen, Y For, Rhyd-y-clafdy, Efailnewydd, Pwllheli, Abererch and Pencaenewydd. The largest watercourses within the catchment include the Rhyd Hir, Penrhos, Erch, Nant y Gledrydd, Ddwyryd, and Ddu.

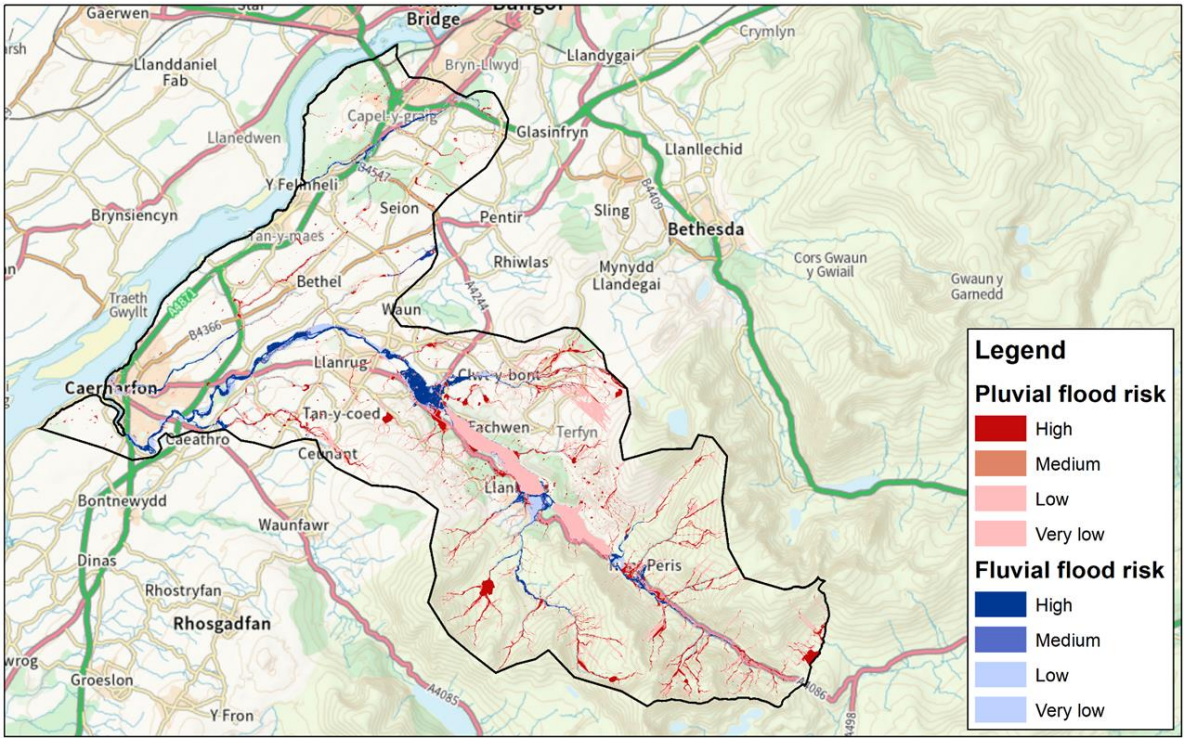
Most of the receptors at risk are in Pwllheli, with the town lying on the floodplain of two main rivers. Both the Rhyd Hir and Erch are heavily influenced by the tidal gates at Pwllheli harbour which prevent tidal ingress at high tide, and as expected most receptors at risk of flooding are within the expanded flood plains of these rivers. Surface water flooding problems are also prevalent in Pwllheli due to the flat nature of the drainage systems as well as tide-locking effects. Numerous properties in the centre of Abererch are also at risk of fluvial flooding. The expansion of these floodplains due to climate change effects in the future is likely to introduce flood risk to more properties.

The centre of Pwllheli is currently protected by flood walls and embankments either side of Cob Bach (upstream of the Rhyd Hir tidal gate), and a flood embankment along the west bank of the Erch serves properties at flood risk within Abererch.

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 63 flooding incidents within the catchment since 2011. Of those recorded, most have been in Pwllheli due to surface water issues (overwhelmed domestic gullies) in November 2012. There are other flood reports scattered across the catchment from the winters of 2019 and 2021.

Catchment 15: Seiont

Figure A16: Outline of Seiont Catchment and areas of flood risk



The Seiont catchment contains the sub-catchments of the Seiont, Caledffrwd, Cadnant and Afon Heulyn and includes the communities of Bethel, Caernarfon, Deiniolen, Llanberis, Llanrug and Y Felinheli.

Receptors of flood risk due to surface water and small watercourses are spread throughout the catchment, however clusters of fluvial flood risk receptors are located along the route of the larger rivers at Llanberis (Afon Goch and Afoin Hwch), Cwm y Glo (Seiont), Caernarfon (Seiont and Cadnant) and Deiniolen (Caledffrwd). Properties are afforded protection from flooding by purpose-built defences at Llanberis (Afon Goch) and Cwm y Glo (Seiont).

Cyngor Gwynedd holds records of 187 incidents within the catchment since 2011, most of which occurred following a significant rainfall event in November 2012 when the centre of Llanberis suffered severe flooding as the Afon Goch breached its banks, the same event saw numerous properties in Deiniolen affected by flooding.

See section 7 of the Local Strategy for details of a flood risk management scheme recently completed by Cyngor Gwynedd in Llanberis, which protects numerous properties in the centre of the village.

Catchment	*Communities*	*Number of properties at flood risk*[2]					*Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk*[3]	*Number of known incidents*[4]	*Current flood risk management schemes/studies*[5]
		Total	*High risk*	*Medium risk*	*Low risk*	*Very Low risk*			
Adda-Cegin	Bangor Penrhosgarnedd Glasinfryn Minffordd Pentir Rhiwlas Sling	353	17	80	153	103	60	28	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Bangor* *Source: River* *Measure: Update hydraulic model* *Status: Ongoing*
Corris	South Tywyn Aberdyfi Pennal Corris Dinas Mawddwy Mallwyd Aberllefenni	272	88	34	104	46	52	15	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Aberllyfenni ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Explore options to manage flood risk concerns towards the northern end of the village where the Afon Llyfenni regularly breaks its banks during periods of heavy rainfall ***Status:*** Not started
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Pennal* *Source: River* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Not started*
Dwyfor	Chwilog Cwm Pennant Garndolbenmaen Criccieth Morfa Bychan Bryncir Pant Glas	125	31	16	42	36	38	51	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Criccieth ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Following widespread surface water flooding in June 2022 Cyngor Gwynedd have initiated a study to assess the capacity and condition of the surface water drainage network in the areas affected. This study will identify areas of most concerns as well as sustainable options to improve flood risk for the community. ***Status:*** Ongoing (Strategic Outline Case)
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Criccieth* *Source: River* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Not started*
Dwyryd	Blaenau Ffestiniog Llan Ffestiniog Gellilydan Llandecwyn Penrhyndeudraeth Harlech Trawsfynydd	654	83	100	355	116	131	38	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Blaenau Ffestiniog ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Study to assess the capacity and condition of the surface water drainage network in the areas in Manod affected by persistent surface water flooding issues. ***Status:*** Not started
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Summerhill Terrace, Blaenau Ffestiniog ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses

[2] See main document section 9.1

[3] See main document section 9.1

[4] Number of individual properties known to have suffered from internal flooding according to records held by Cyngor Gwynedd

[5] NRW Schemes and/or studies are as listed in *FRMP Delivery Plan for North West Wales Place*

									Measure: Small improvement to address persistent local surface water flooding issues ***Status:*** Not started
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Y Sgwar, Blaenau Ffestiniog ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Small improvement to address persistent local surface water flooding issues ***Status:*** Not started
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Ffordd Uchaf, Harlech ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Small improvement to address persistent local surface water flooding issues ***Status:*** Not started
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Ffordd Newydd, Harlech ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Small improvement to address persistent local surface water flooding issues ner the bottom of Twtil ***Status:*** Not started
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Penrhyndeudraeth ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Scheme to reduce surface water flood risk to properties at Trem yr Wyddfa ***Status:*** On hold
Dyfrdwy	Bala Llanuwchllyn Llandderfel Frongoch Talardd Llanfor Glan Yr Afon	800	112	37	573	78	276	5	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Bala* *Source: River* *Measure: Improve existing flood warning service* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Bala* *Source: River* *Measure: Update existing hydraulic model* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Bala* *Source: River* *Measure: Design and construction of flood risk asset improvements* *Status: Not started*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Bala* *Source: River* *Measure: Maintain existing defences and inspection regime* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Llanuwchllyn* *Source: River* *Measure: Develop scheme appraisal for flood alleviation scheme* *Status: Ongoing*

									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Llanuwchllyn* *Source: River* *Measure: Improve existing flood warning service* *Status: Not started*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Llyn Tegid* *Source: River* *Measure: Improve existing flood warning service* *Status: Not started*
Dysynni	North Tywyn Bryncrug Llwyngwril Abergynolwyn Llangelynnin Tal Y Llyn Rhyd Yr Onen	378	145	56	117	60	110	16	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Tywyn* *Source: River* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Tywyn* *Source: River* *Measure: Improve existing flood warning service* *Status: Not started*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Bryncrug* *Source: River* *Measure: Design and construction of flood alleviation scheme* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Bryncrug* *Source: River* *Measure: Maintain existing defences and inspection regime* *Status: Ongoing*
Glaslyn	Nant Gwynant Beddgelert Nantmor Tremadog Porthmadog Croesor Borth Y Gest	877	20	54	194	609	211	77	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Porthmadog* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Improve existing flood warning service* *Status: Not started*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Porthmadog* *Source: River* *Measure: Develop scheme appraisal for flood alleviation scheme* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Beddgelert* *Source: River* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Ongoing*

									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Beddgelert* *Source: River* *Measure: Improve existing flood warning service* *Status: Not started*
Gwyrfai	Llanfaglan Caeathro Bontnewydd Waunfawr Betws Garmon Ceunant Rhyd Ddu	140	22	20	74	24	31	45	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Bontnewydd ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Flood risk management measures along the course of the Afon Beuno as it flows through Bontnewydd, to improve in-channel capacity and improve unobstructed conveyance of peak flows following periods of heavy rainfall. ***Status:*** Ongoing (Full Business Case/Detailed Design)
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Beuno Catchment ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Identification and implementation of Natural Flood Management upstream of Bontnewydd to store surface water run-off and reduce peak flows further downstream. ***Status:*** Ongoing
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Waunfawr ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Study to establish flood risk and identify flood risk management measures at two specific areas of concern near Croes-y-waun and Pant-y-waun following series of flooding problems over recent years. ***Status:*** Ongoing (Full Business Case/Detailed Design)
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Waunfawr ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Small scale scheme to repair and improve section of culverted watercourse upstream of Pen-y-bont following incidents of flooding in 2023. ***Status:*** Not started
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Betws Garmon* *Source: River* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Bontnewydd* *Source: River* *Measure: Design and construction of flood risk asset improvements* *Status: Ongoing*
Llanbedr	Llanfair Llanbedr Llanddwywe Dyffryn Ardudwy Llanaber Abermaw Bontddu	255	16	41	123	59	46	27	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Dyffryn Ardudwy ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Study to investigate flood risk associated with an unnamed watercourse that passes through the centre of the village near the site of the old Berwyn Garage ***Status:*** Not started

									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Gwehelog-Mochras* *Source: River* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Not started*
Llyfni	Penygroes Rhostryfan Nantlle Talysarn Pontllyfni Llanllyfni Aberdesach	495	205	64	123	103	63	95	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Clynnog Fawr ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Deliver scheme to reduce risk of flooding from unnamed ordinary watercourses that flows towards the village from the south-east, near Llwyn y Ne ***Status:*** Ongoing (Full Business Case/Detailed Design)
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Groeslon ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Deliver scheme to reduce risk of flooding from unnamed ordinary watercourses near Cae Sarn and Dyffryn Terrace ***Status:*** Ongoing (Full Business Case/Detailed Design)
Mawddach - Wnion	Dolgellau Fairbourne Brithdir Ganllwyd Llanfachraeth Arthog Llanelltyd	994	54	33	676	231	385	8	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Bridge Street, Dolgellau ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Study to identify solution for local surface water flooding issues near Bridge Street ***Status:*** Not started
Ogwen	Llandygai Tal Y Bont Abergwyngregyn Tregarth Bethesda Mynydd Llandegai Rachub	412	52	37	254	69	81	89	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Mynydd Llandegai ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Study to establish flood risk and identify flood risk management measures at various locations across the village following series of flooding problems over recent years ***Status:*** Ongoing (Full Business Case/Detailed Design)
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Mynydd Llandegai ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure****:* Identification and implementation of Natural Flood Management in the catchment surrounding Mynydd Llandegai, to store surface water run-off and reduce peak flows further downstream. ***Status:*** Ongoing
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Abergwyngregyn* *Source: River* *Measure: Build hydraulic model* *Status: Ongoing*
Penllyn	Aberdaron Botwnnog Abersoch Mynytho Tudweiliog Nefyn Morfa Nefyn	246	62	43	115	26	103	66	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Lon Mynydd, Nefun ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Small improvement to address local surface water flooding issues near Lon Mynydd ***Status:*** Not started

Rhyd Hîr-Erch	Abererch Pencaenewydd Llangybi Y Ffor Llannor Efailnewydd Pwllheli Boduan	472	62	67	247	96	156	63	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Pencaenewydd ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Improvement scheme to reduce flood risk to the centre of the village following previous incidents of multi-property flooding, most recently in 2021. ***Status:*** Ongoing
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Ffordd Mela, Pwllheli ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Small improvement to address local surface water flooding issues near Ffordd y Mela ***Status:*** Not started
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Pwllheli* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Update existing hydraulic model* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Pwllheli* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Develop scheme appraisal for flood alleviation scheme* *Status: Ongoing*
Seiont	Nant Peris Llanberis Deiniolen Llanrug Bethel Caernarfon Felinheli	611	79	39	339	154	272	187	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Caernarfon ***Source:*** River ***Measure:*** Scheme to improve the intake structure of the Afon Cadnant below Maes Cadnant to reduce likelyhood of blockages and subsequent risk of flooding (main river but Council owned asset). ***Status:*** Ongoing (Full Business Case/Detailed Design)
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Dolafon ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Scheme to improve capacity of culverted watercourse system beneath Dolafon estate and reduce risk of flooding for surrounding properties. ***Status:*** On hold
									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Llanrug ***Source:*** Surface water and small watercourses ***Measure:*** Small scheme to improve surface water drainage capacity at the northern end of Glanffynnon estate ***Status:*** Ongoing
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Caernarfon (Seiont Mill)* *Source: River* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Ongoing*

Appendix B Coastal Risk by Area (with summary table)

Coastal risk by area

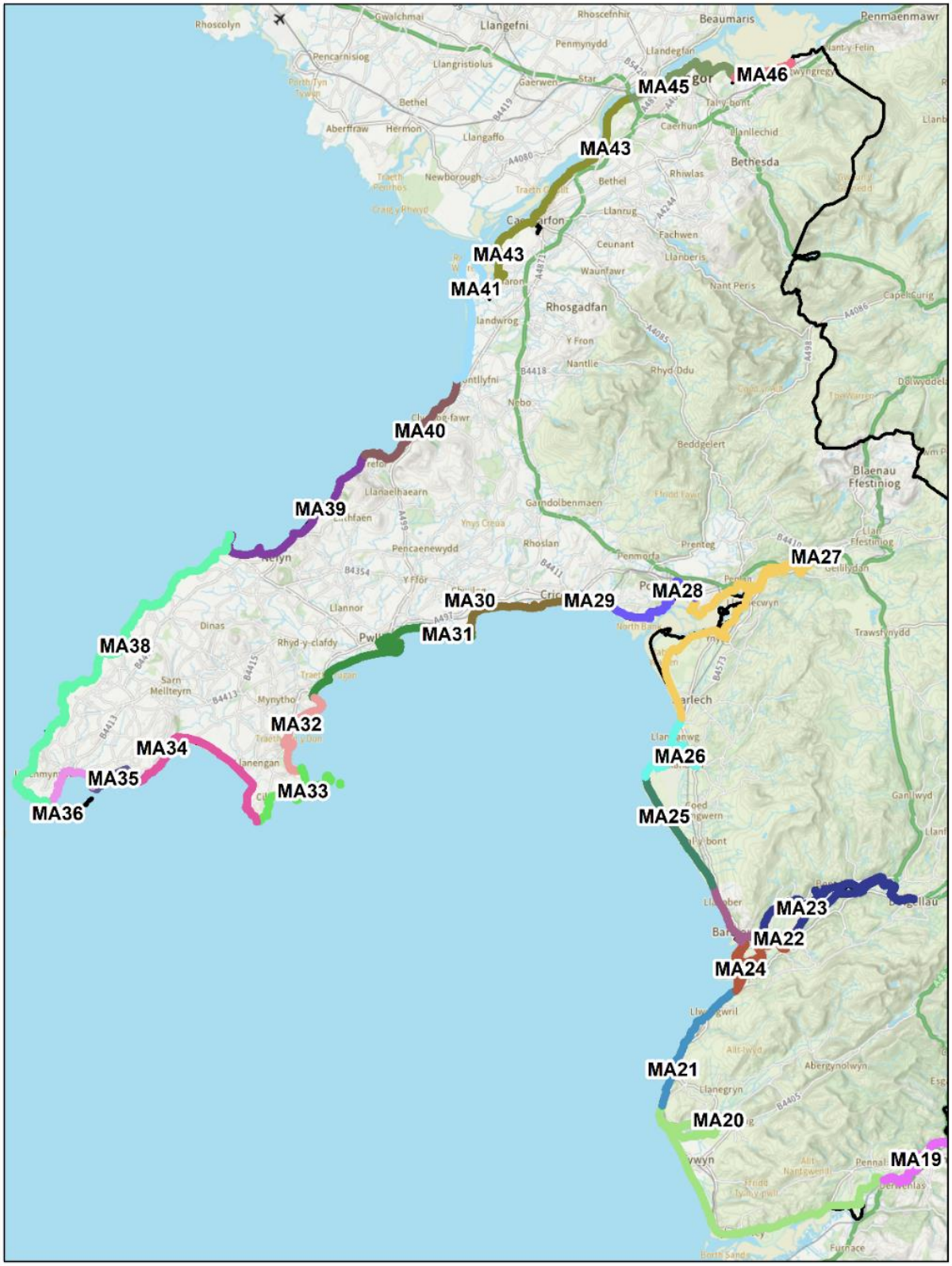
The following section describes coastal flood risk in greater detail by considering each coastal Management Area in its turn. Management Areas (MA) along the Gwynedd coastline have been defined within the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2), and represent a length of the coastline where the various frontages are interdependent in terms of coastal processes, and therefore should be managed as a collective to achieve the desired environmental outcome. With this in mind the policies for neighbouring frontages within a MA are designed to complement each other.

Management Areas is Gwynedd extend from MA 20 on the north side of the Dyfi estuary to MA 46 on the north coast, to the east of the mouth of the Afon Ogwen (see Figure B1 below).

The nature and setting of each MA is described along with a description of the spatial distribution of flood risk zones, and how this corresponds with location of defences and changes in future shoreline policies. For a more detailed view of coastal risk distribution within an area of interest the reader is referred to the Flood Risk Assessment Wales maps on NRW's webpage.

Table B1 summarises the level of coastal risk within each MA in its turn and also lists coastal risk management schemes and/or studies which are ongoing at present or programmed for the future to address risks within each MA.

Figure B1: Distribution of Management Areas along Gwynedd coastline



Management Area 20

Figure B2: Outline of Management Area 20 and areas at coastal flood risk

Management Area 20 extends from Pennal to Tonfannau and includes the communities of Bryncrug, Tywyn, Aberdyfi and Pennal.

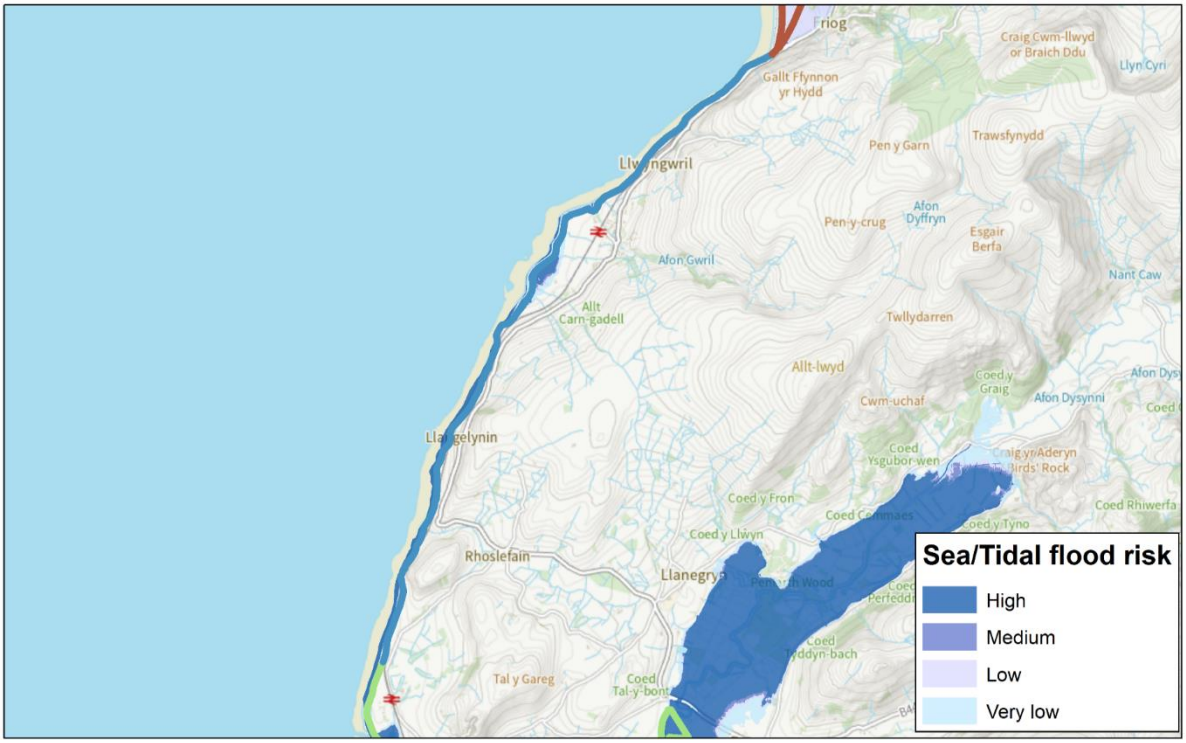
The main residential area at present day flood risk is the area surrounding Sandilands on the northern fridges of Tywyn which is currently defended from tidal ingress via the Dysynni to the north. Otherwise, large low-lying areas of the Dysynni and Dyfi Valleys are at flood risk as well as the Penllyn marshes to the south of Tywyn, which is currently defended from tidal ingress at the Afon Dyffryn Gwyn outfall.

Managed realignment policies apply to many of the existing defences along this Management Area although long-term Hold the Line policies apply for the main frontages of Tywyn and Aberdyfi.

See section 7 of the Local Strategy for details of a coastal risk management scheme completed by Cyngor Gwynedd in Tywyn.

Management Area 21

Figure B3: Outline of Management Area 21 and areas at coastal flood risk



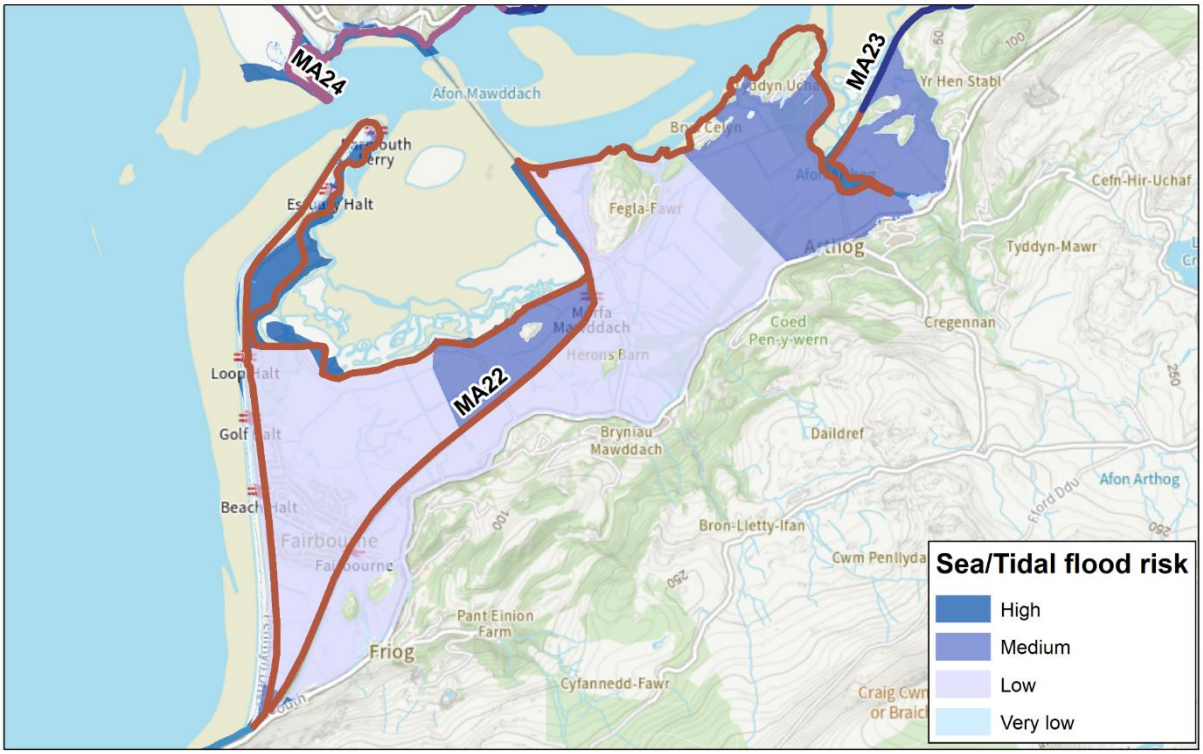
Management Area 22 extends from Tonfannau to Friog Cliffs and includes the communities of Llangylenin and Llwyngwril.

Ground level generally rises steeply from the shoreline in this location and therefore flood risk to property and essential services is low, although the coastal flood zone does extend into the low lying area to the south-west of Llwyngwyil, extending into the two holiday parks.

The shoreline policy for the majority of this MA is to hold the line due to the position of the railway line adjacent to the coast although there is a Managed Realignment section along the frontage facing Llwyngwril.

Management Area 22

Figure B4: Outline of Management Area 22 and areas at coastal flood risk

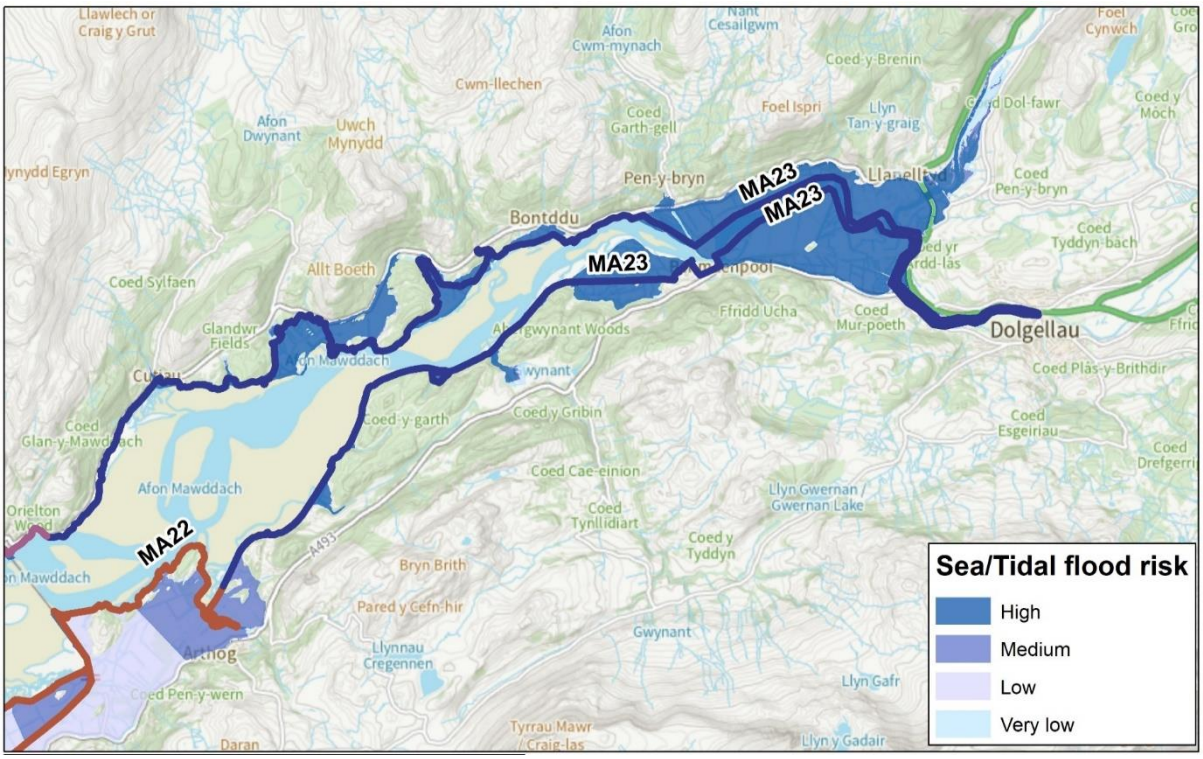


Management Area 22 extends from Friog Cliffs to Arthog and includes the communities of Friog, Fairbourne and Arthog, all of which are low-lying and heavily dependant on coastal defences, which include a shingle bank along the Fairbourne frontage and a tidal embankment along the southern banks of the Maddway estuary. Flood risk levels along this MA reflect the protection provided by these defences.

The SMP2 policy for this MA is for a gradual Managed Realignment of all defences and multi-agency efforts have been ongoing for a number of years to determine when and how defences could be retreated, and how resulting impacts upon these communities should be managed.

Management Area 23

Figure B5: Outline of Management Area 23 and areas at coastal flood risk



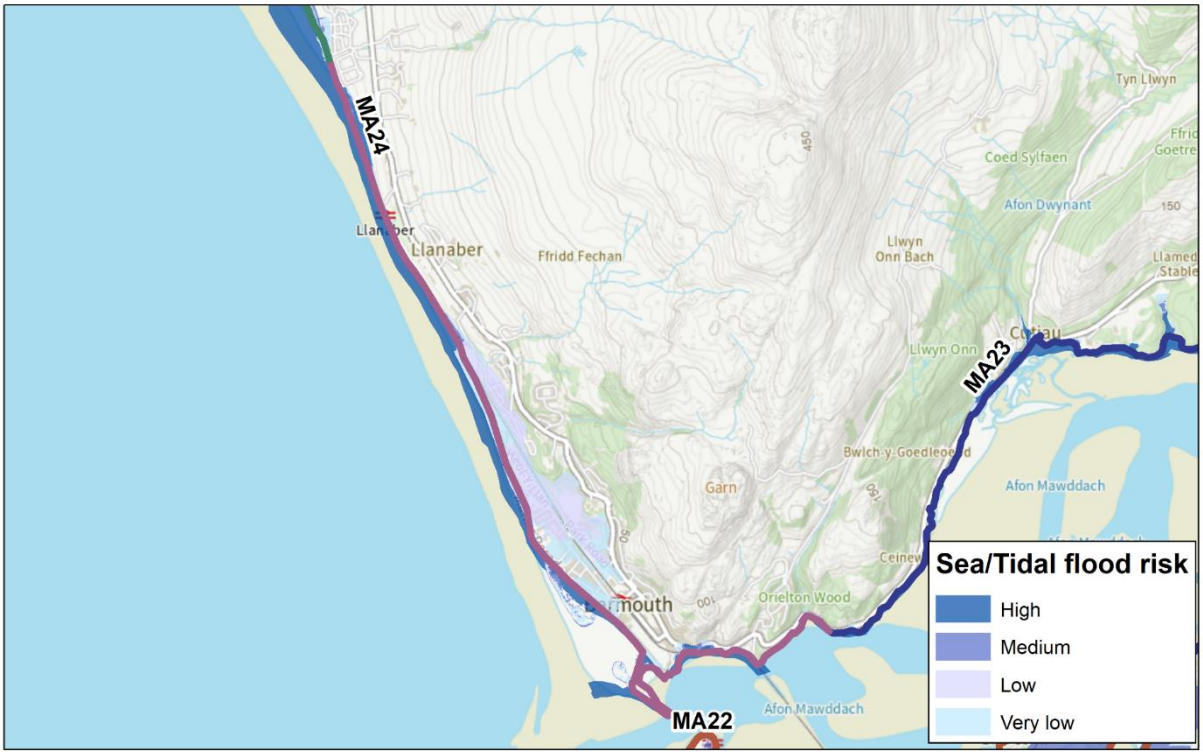
Management Area 23 extends along the lower reach of the Afon Mawddach from Arthog to Porth Aberamffra, and includes the communities of Arthog, Dolgellau, Llanelltyd and Bontddu.

Small clusters of high risk receptors exist on both sides of the Mawddach, namely at Penmaenpool, Abergwynant, Llanelltyd and Bnot Ddu. With increase in tidal level due to climate change more low-lying receptors accross the whole estuary will face risk of flooding, a cluster of which are located along the Afon Wnin in Llanelltyd.

Private/informal flood defences exist on both sides of the estuary, with the old railway embankment along the south bank providing some protection to the low lying areas along its landward side. Managed realignment policies exist along most defended sections of the estuary.

Management Area 24

Figure B6: Outline of Management Area 24 and areas at coastal flood risk



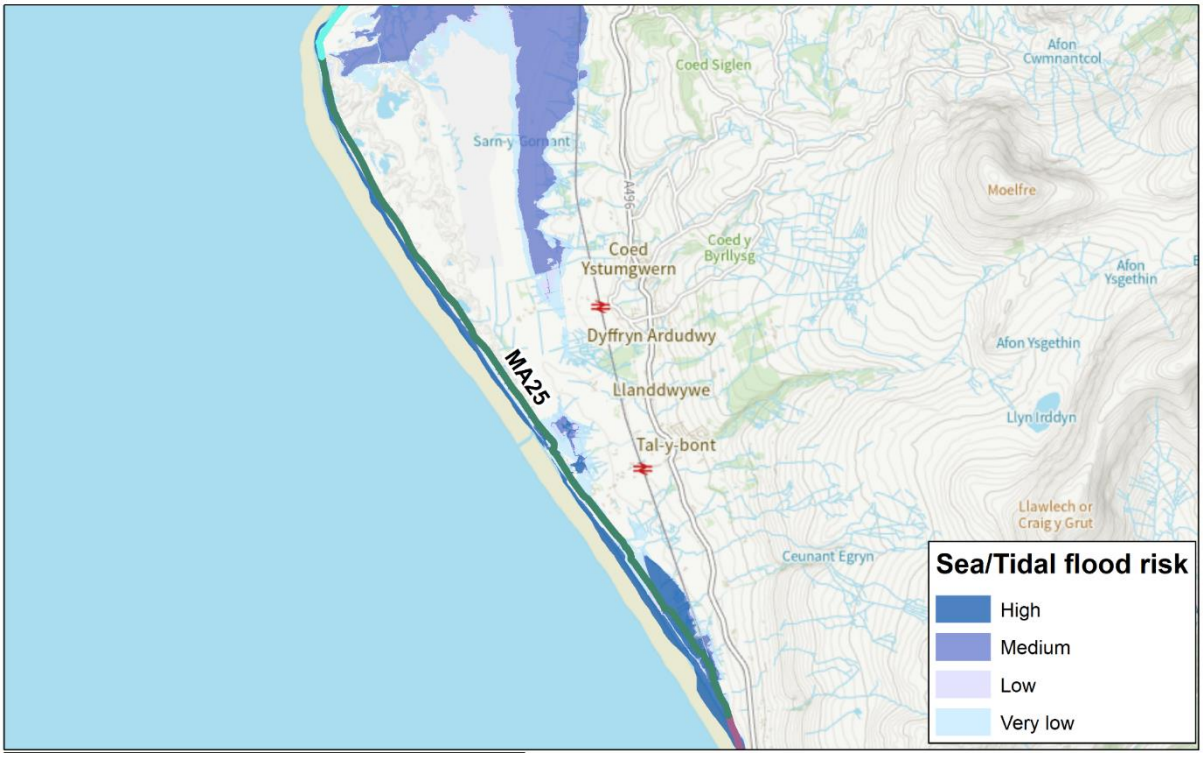
Management Area 24 extends from Porth Aberamffra to Llanaber Point and includes the communities of Barmouth and Llanaber.

The receptors at high risk of flooding are mainly located around the harbour area of Barmouth, and nearby along Church Street. The centre of Barmouth is provided protection from coastal flooding from the seal wall along the length of the promenade, and the number of receptors in the low and very low risk columns emphasises the importance of these defences.

HTL coastal policies exist for all southern parts of Barmouth but this transitions to a medium/long-term MR policy for the northern promenade where pressure upon existing defences is much greater. To the north of Barmouth the shoreline is fixed by the mainline railway embankment and the policy reverts to HTL.

Management Area 25

Figure B7: Outline of Management Area 25 and areas at coastal flood risk



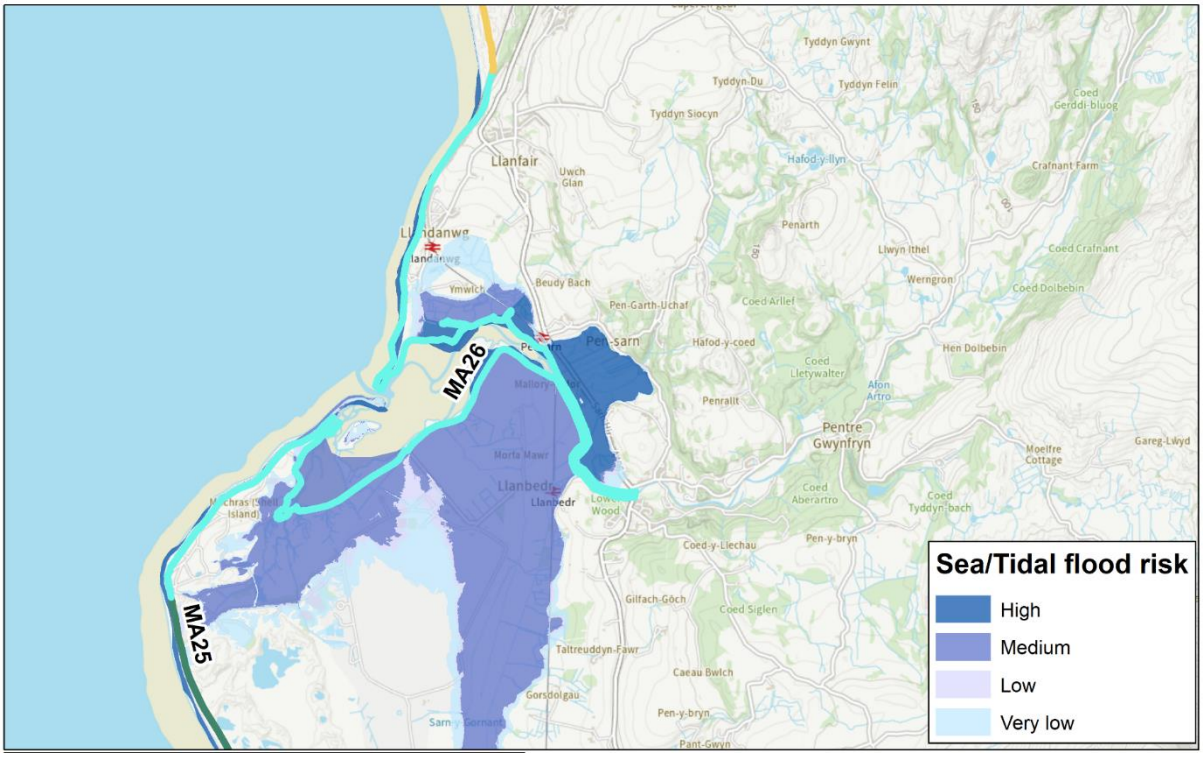
Management Area 25 extends from Llanaber Point to Mochras and includes the communities of Talybont and Dyffryn Ardudwy.

Coastal flood risk to residential properties and essential services is generally low along this area although the holiday parks between the shoreline and the mainline railway will face an increased flood risk in the future.

No formal defences exist along this frontage although isolated pockets of the frontage are served by private defences. The shoreline policy for the whole frontage is either MR or NAI.

Management Area 26

Figure B8: Outline of Management Area 26 and areas at coastal flood risk



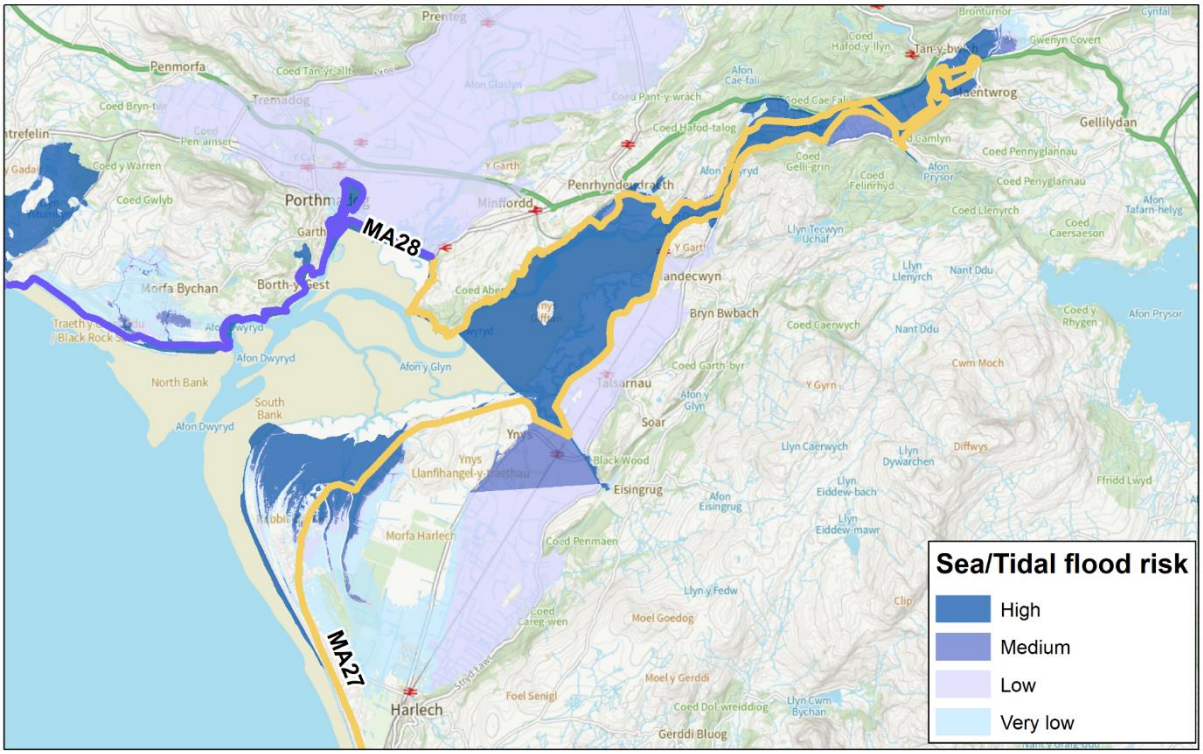
Management Area 26 extends from Mochras to Llanadanwg headland and includes the communities of Llanbedr, Pensarn and Llandanwg.

Both sides of the Artro estuary are served by defences and the majority of receptors at medium coastal flood risk are located within the low-lying area on the landward side of the southern defences. With an increase in sea level in the future more receptors within the lower lying areas of Llanbedr village become at risk from coastal flooding, along with residential receptors at the southern end of Llandanwg.

Future flood risk in the area is also likely to be influenced by shoreline policy, with the southern side of the Artro and the frontage at Llandanwg served by MR policies.

Management Area 27

Figure B9: Outline of Management Area 27 and areas at coastal flood risk



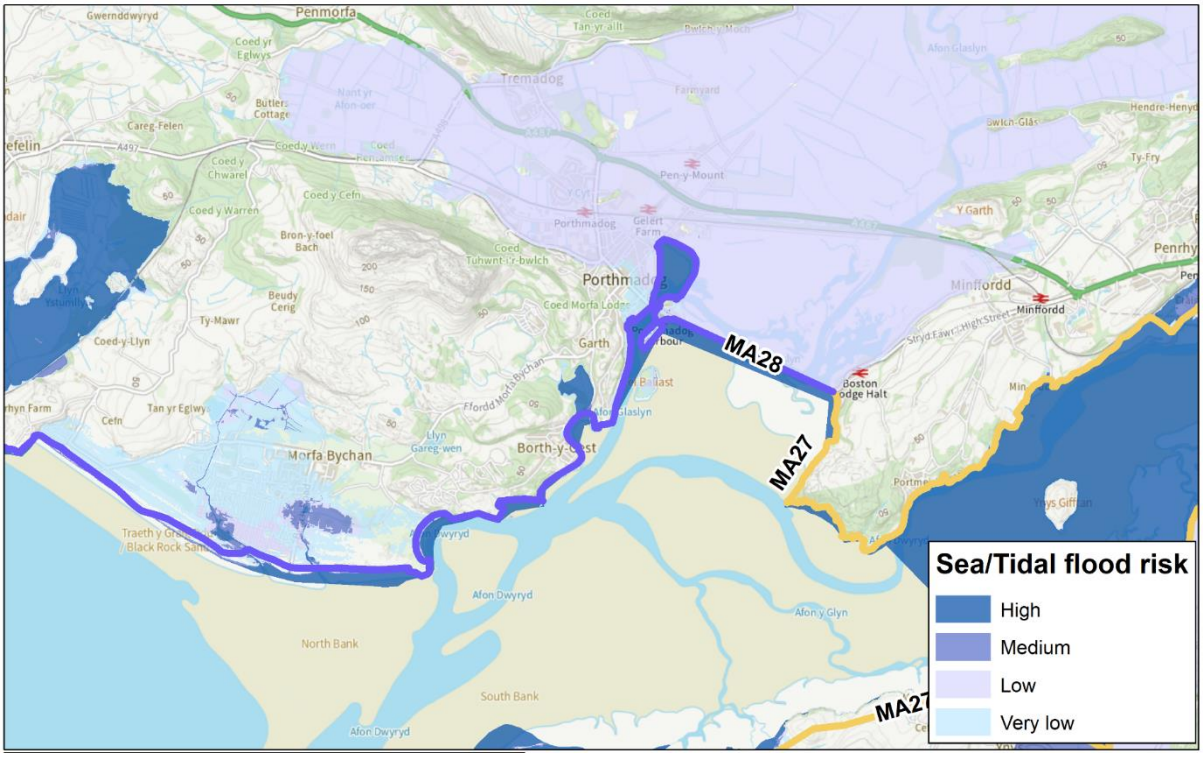
Management Area 27 extends from Llandanwg Headland to the east end of Porthmadog Cob and includes the communities of Harlech, Talsarnau, Llandecwyn, Maentwrog and Penrhyndeudraeth.

The receptors at risk of flooding are mostly located on the southern side of the Dwyryd estuary with the medium and low risk receptors located near Ynys and Talsarnau respectively, both of which are currently served by coastal defences. With an increase in future sea level the lower-lying residential area at the northern end of Harlech also faces increased flood risk.

MR policy exists along most of the defended lengths of the Dwyryd estuary, most notably the section of the Dwyryd on the seaward side of the mainline railway opposite Talsarnau.

Management Area 28

Figure B10: Outline of Management Area 28 and areas at coastal flood risk



Management Area 28 extends from the east end of the Porthmadog Cob to Graig Ddu and includes the communities of Porthmadog, Tremadog, Morfa Bychan and Borth Y Gest.

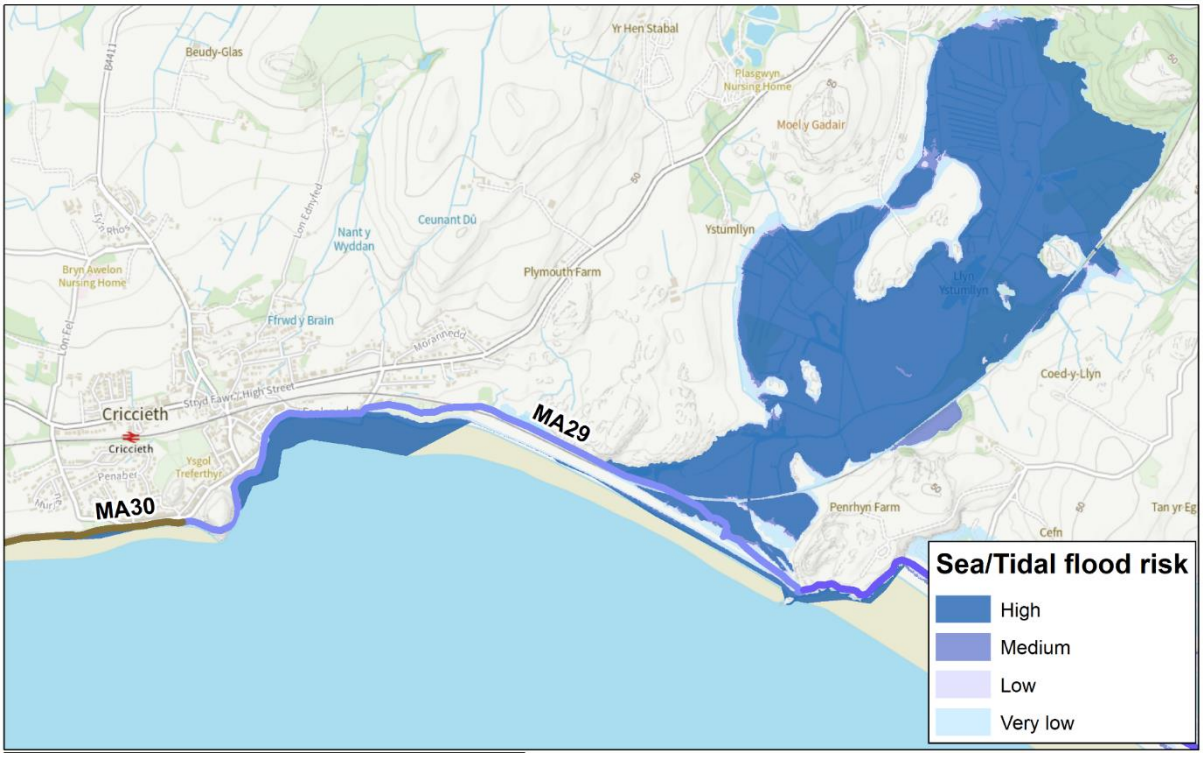
Most of Porthmadog, Tremadog and the large low-lying area to the north of the Cob are defended by two sets of tidal gates at Cob Crwn, and large number of low-risk assets within this MA reflects the level of protection provided by these defences. The areaa of higher flood risk are concentrated around Porthmadoig Harbour.

An increase in sea level rise puts more properties in the centre of Porthmadog at risk of coastal flooding, along with more properties in the lower-lying areas of Morfa Bychan. Future flood risk at Morfa Bychan could be influenced further by a MR policy along its frontage.

See section 7 of the Local Strategy for details of a coastal risk management scheme recently completed by Cyngor Gwynedd at Borth y Gest.

Management Area 29

Figure B11: Outline of Management Area 29 and areas at coastal flood risk



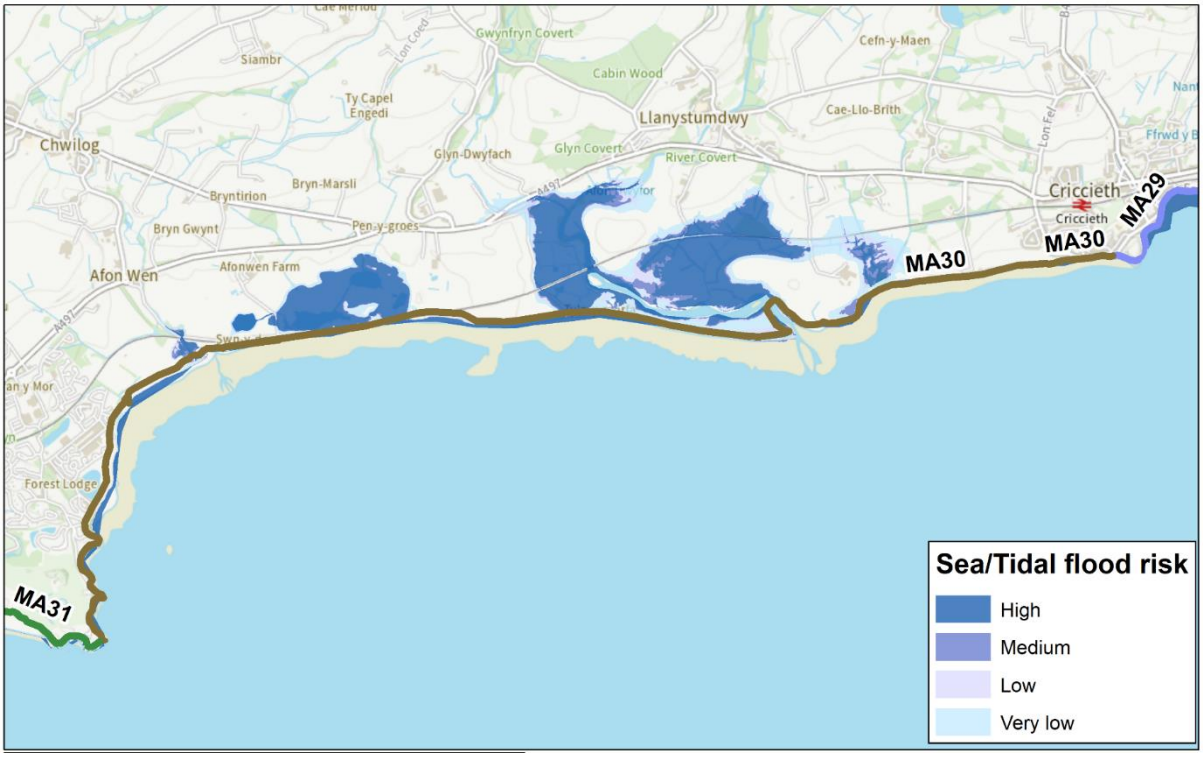
Management Area 29 extends from Graig Ddu to Criccieth Castle and includes the communitiy of Criccieth (East).

Flood risk is generally low along this MA due to its rural setting although the low-lying agricultural land between Pentrefelin and shoreline is susceptible to coastal inundation, which could be exacerbated in the future due to a MR coastal policy along this frontage.

Coastal flood risk in Criccieth is low but challenges do exist to maintain beach levels in order to protect the sea walls that extend from the esplanade to the harbour.

Management Area 30

Figure B12: Outline of Management Area 30 and areas at coastal flood risk



Management Area 30 extends from Criccieth Castle to Penychain and includes the communities of Criccieth (West) and Afon Wen.

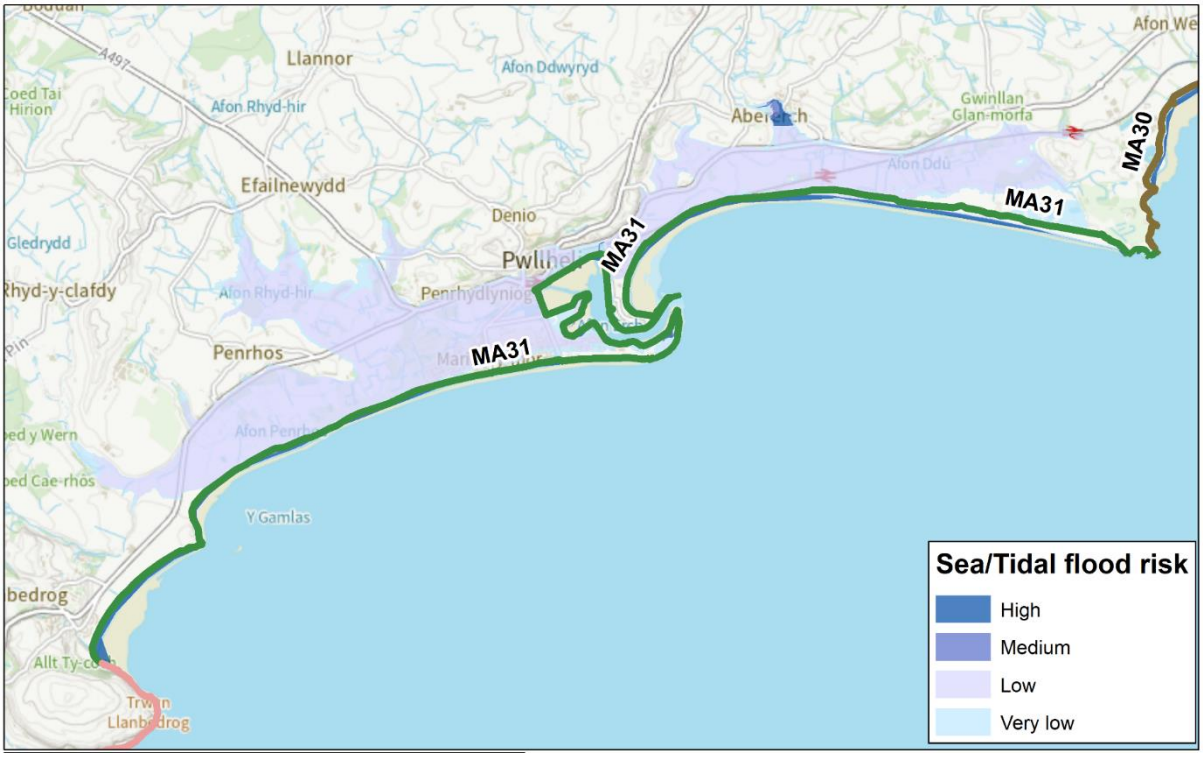
Flood risk to property and essential services is low.

A HTL shoreline policy applies to the defences along the west Criccieth frontage where tall structures at the back of the beach support the highway and properties on its landward side. A recent pattern of lowering beach levels pose a risk to the stability of these structures into the future.

A MR policy exists where the railway embankment fixes the shoreline at Afon Wen, otherwise the general policy for this frontage is NAI.

Management Area 31

Figure B13: Outline of Management Area 31 and areas at coastal flood risk



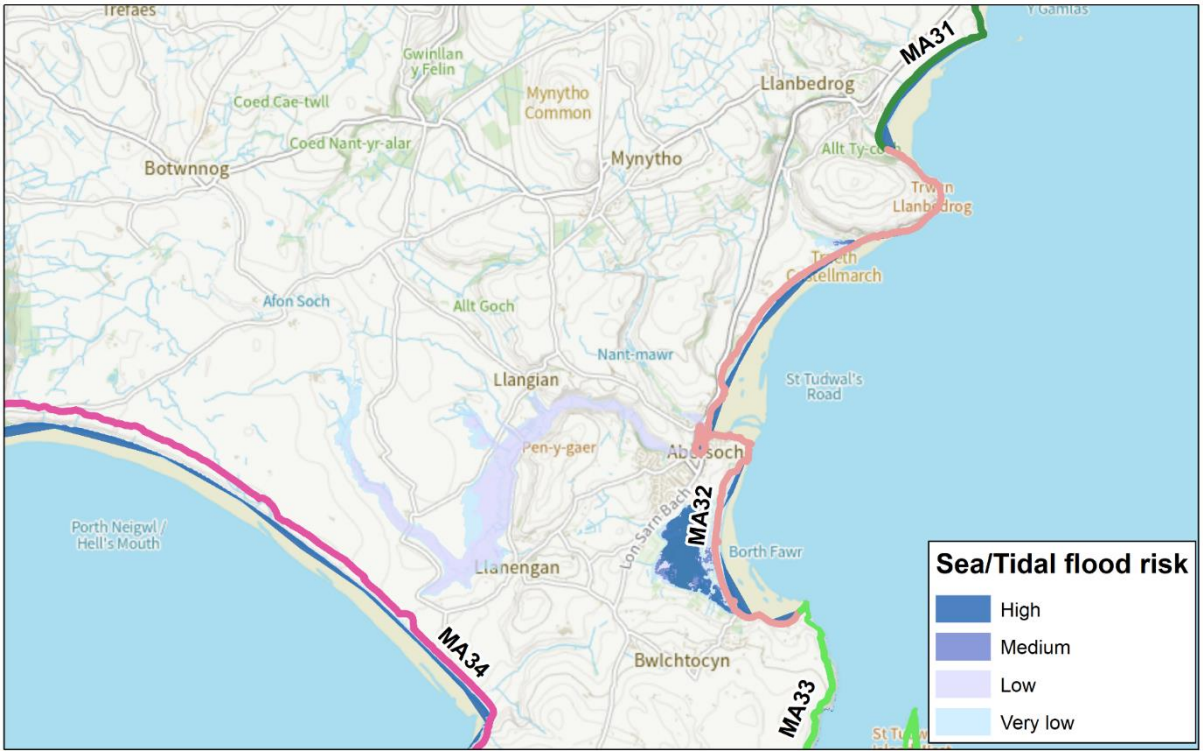
Management Area 31 extends from Penychain to Mynydd Tir-cwmwd and includes the communities of Abererch, Pwllheli, Penrhos and Llanbedrog.

Most of Pwllheli and the low-lying area to the south of Abererch are defended by a variety of coastal flood risk structures including the tidal gates within the harbour and the dune systems either side of Pwllheli, and the large number of low-risk receptors within this MA reflects the level of protection provided by these defences.

An increase in sea level puts more receptors at Pwllheli and Abererch at risk of coastal flooding. Future flood risk in this area is likely to be influenced by long-term MR policies along the Abererch and Traeth Cugan frontages.

Management Area 32

Figure B14: Outline of Management Area 32 and areas at coastal flood risk



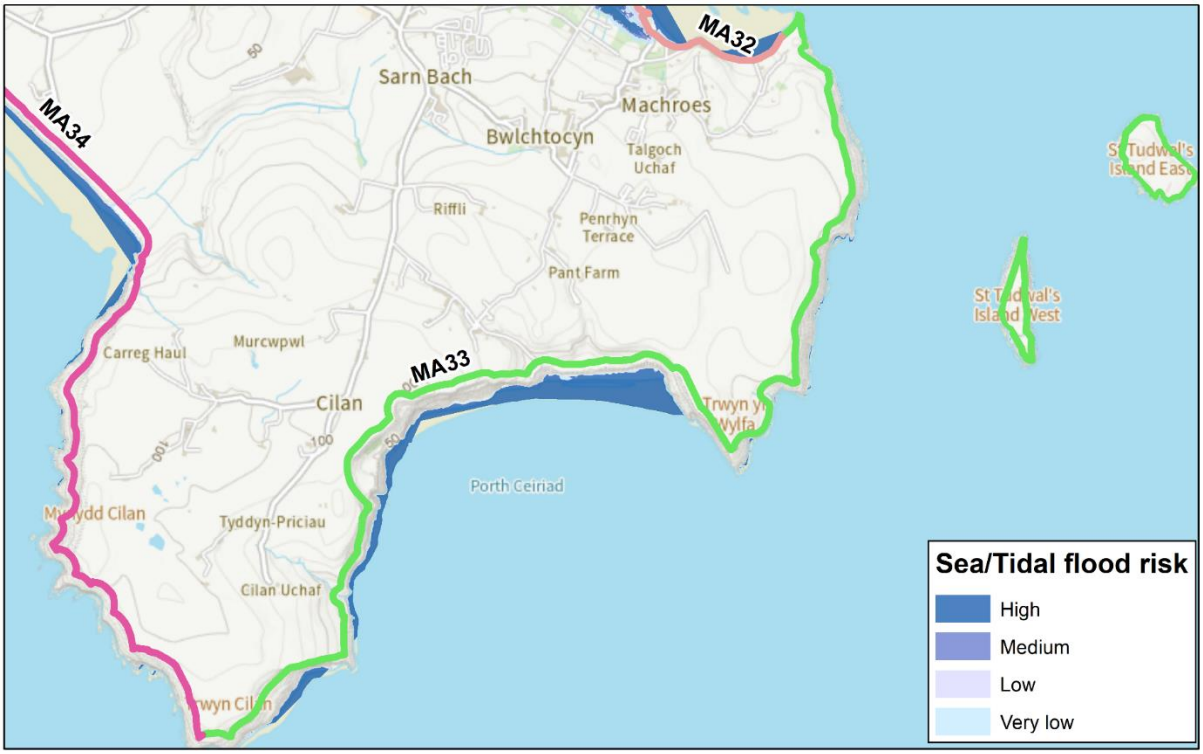
Management Area 32 extends from Mynydd Tir-cwmwd to Penrhyn Du and includes the community of Abersoch, Machroes, Llangian and Llanengan.

The areas of high coastal flooding risk are mainly located near the Abersoch harbour and further south at Machroes. Properties are also at present risk in the low-lying areas on the landward side of the harbour, along the defended valley of the Afon Soch and also near the golf club via a flood route from the direction of Machroes. Numbers of receptors at risk in these areas increase with an expected rise in future sea level.

MR policies apply to most of the shoreline within this area, including Abersoch harbour and the defended section of Borth Fawr to the south.

Management Area 33

Figure B15: Outline of Management Area 33 and areas at coastal flood risk

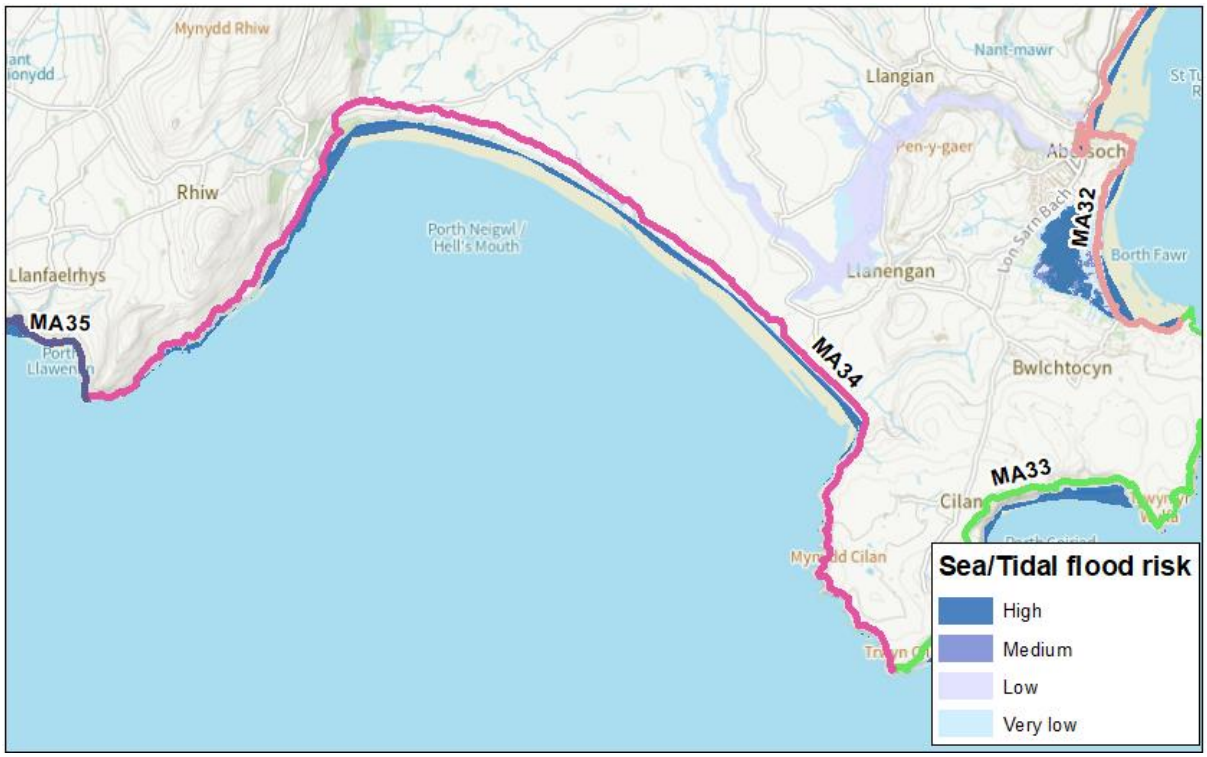


Management Area 33 extends from Penrhyn Du to Trwyn Cilian with Porth Ceiriad at its centre.

Ground level generally rises steeply from the shoreline in this area and therefore flood risk to property and essential services is low. The natural steep rocky cliffs along the frontage means that the general shoreline policy is NAI.

Management Area 34

Figure B16: Outline of Management Area 34 and areas at coastal flood risk

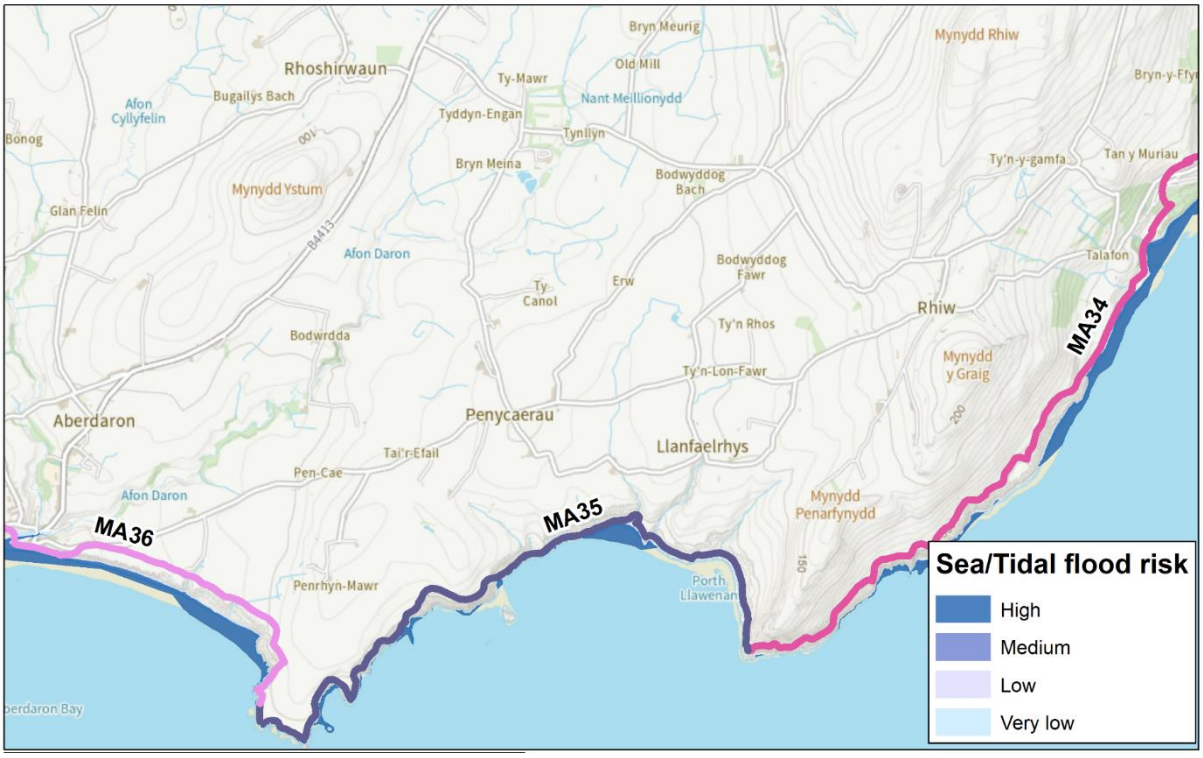


Management Area 34 extends from Trwyn Cilian to Trwyn Talfarach with Porth Neigwl at its centre.

Ground levels generally rise steeply from the shoreline in this area and therefore flood risk to property and essential services is low. The whole frontage is undefended and as a result the general shoreline policy is NAI. There is a pattern of cliff retreat along Porth Neigwl which could put isolated properties as well as the unclassified road towards Plas yn Rhiw at risk from coastal erosion in the future.

Management Area 35

Figure B17: Outline of Management Area 35 and areas at coastal flood risk

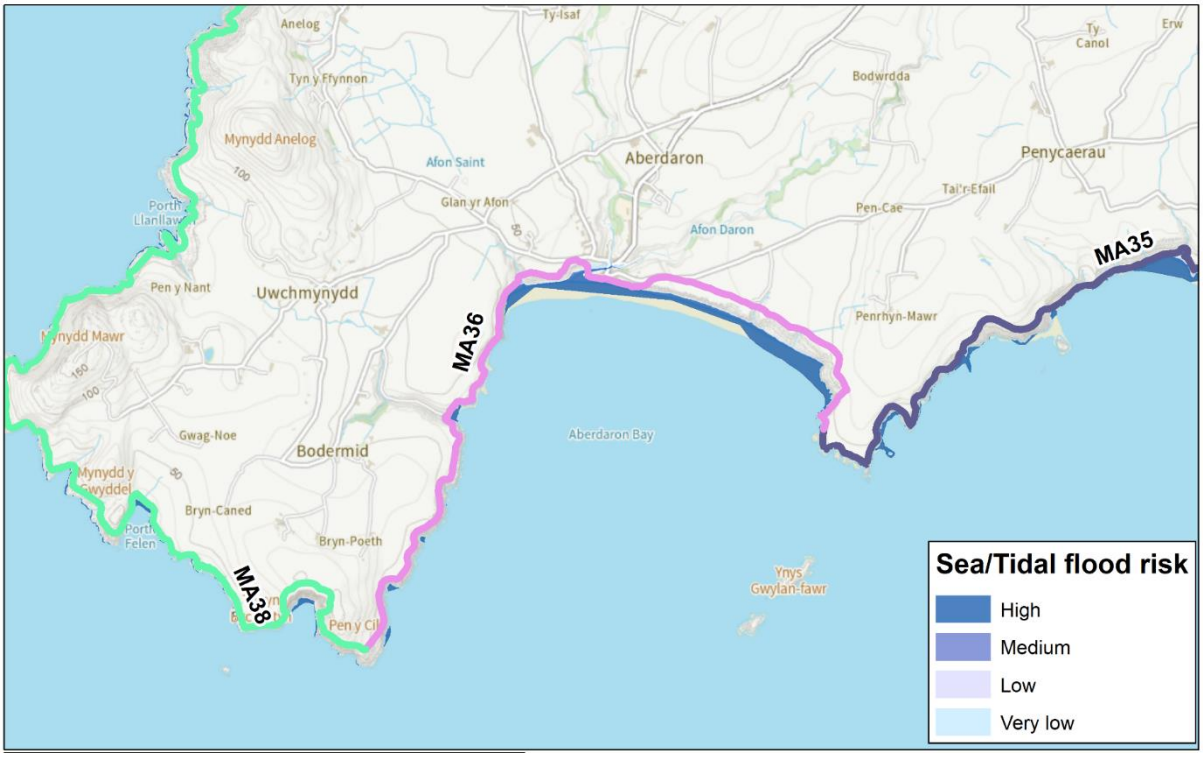


Management Area 35 extends from Trwyn Talfarach to Trwyn Penrhyn which includes the coastal slopes above Porth Llawenan.

Ground level generally rises steeply from the shoreline in this area and therefore flood risk to property and essential services is low. The natural steep rocky cliffs along the frontage means that the general shoreline policy is NAI.

Management Area 36

Figure B18: Outline of Management Area 36 and areas at coastal flood risk



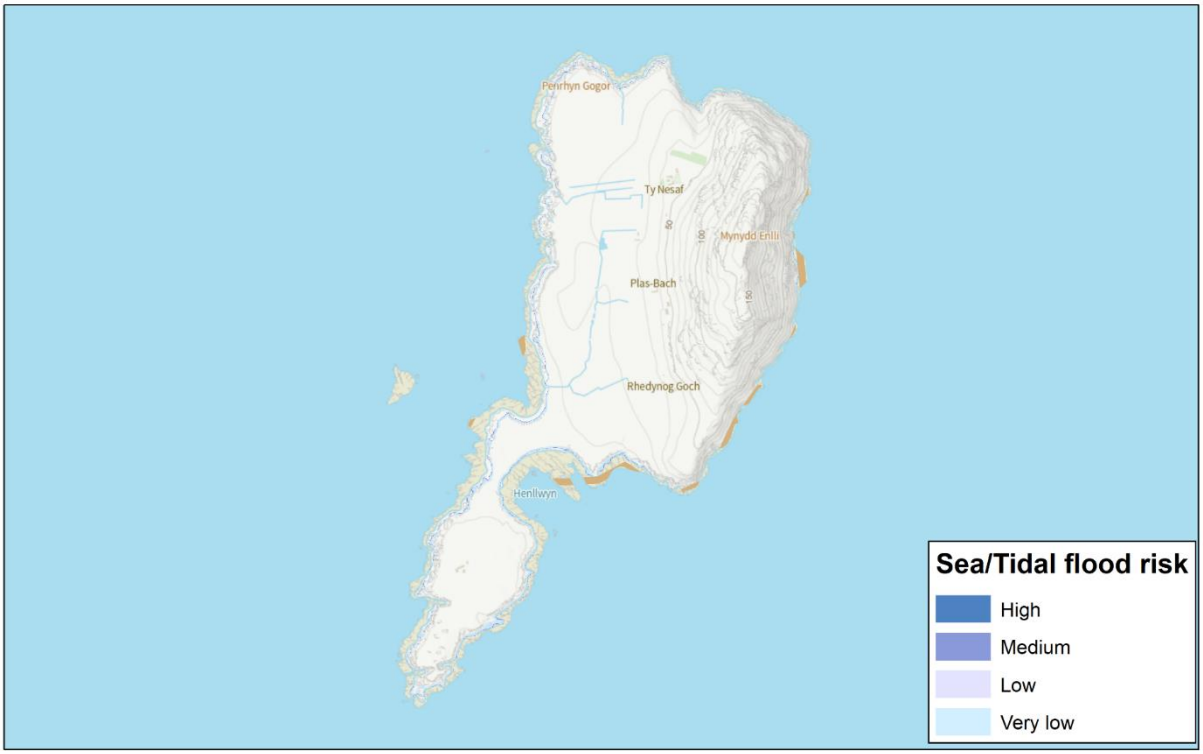
Management Area 36 extends from Trwyn Penrhyn to Pen y Cil and includes the community of Aberdaron.

Flood risk in this area is generally low although some receptors are at low risk within the defended area near the mouth of the Afon Soch, and more receptors in this area will face risk of coastal flooding with an increase in sea level rise in the future.

Risks from coastal erosion exist along the slopes to the east of the village, parts of which are defended at beach level. A MR policy exists across the whole Aberdaron frontage, either side of Aberdaron coastal erosion risks are low and shoreline policy is for NAI.

Management Area 37

Figure B19: Outline of Management Area 37 and areas at coastal flood risk

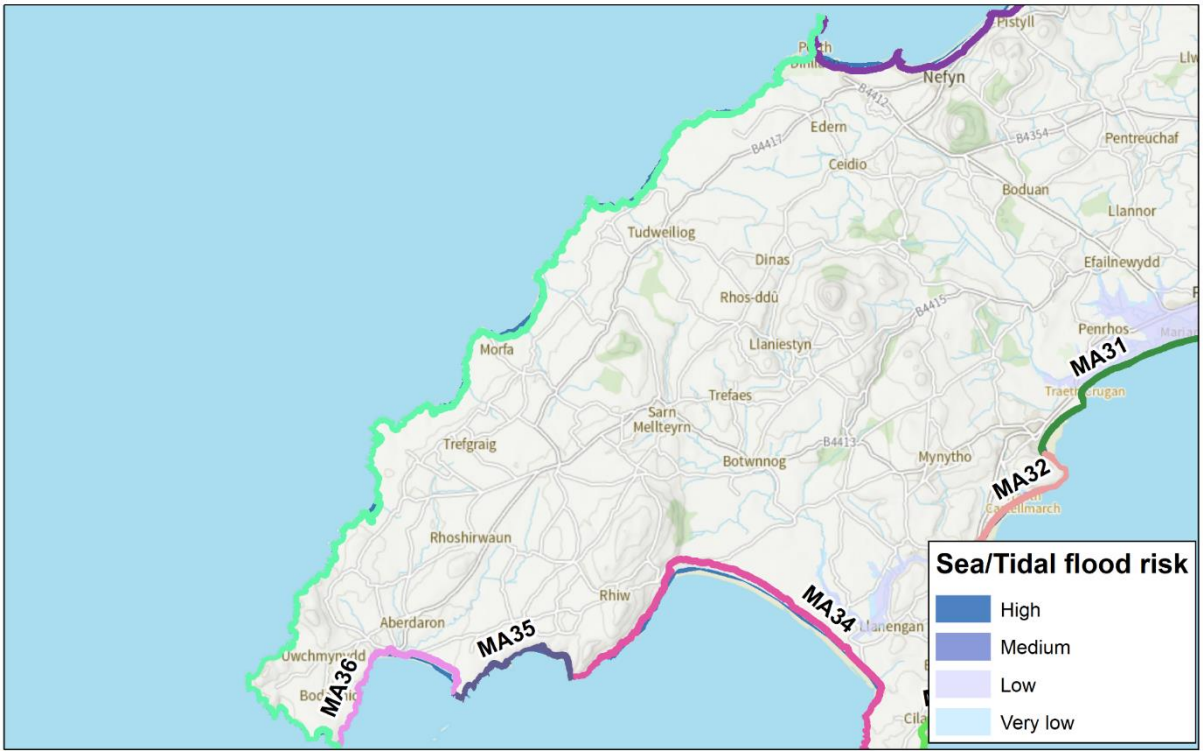


Management Area 32 extends along the Ynys Enlli coastline.

Flood risk to property and essential services at Ynys Enlli is low. The natural rocky cliffs along the frontage means that the general shoreline policy is NAI.

Management Area 38

Figure B20: Outline of Management Area 38 and areas at coastal flood risk

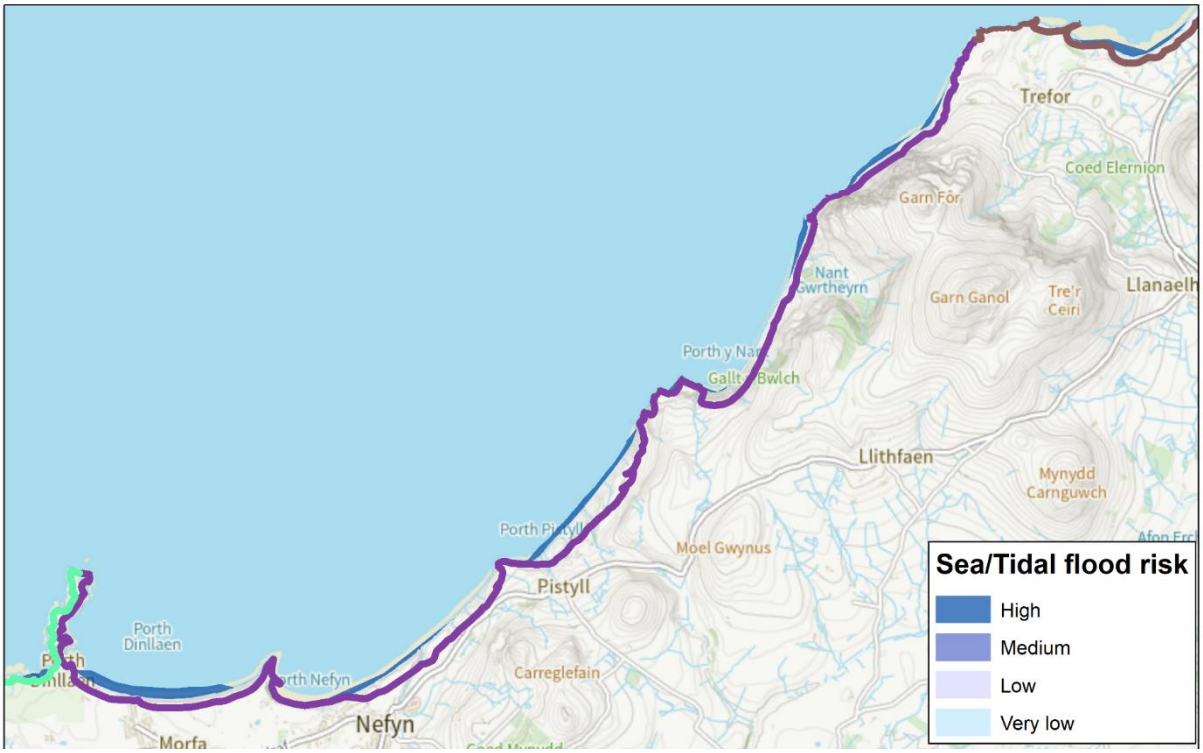


Management Area 38 extends from Pen y Cil to Carreg Du and includes the community of Tudweiliog. Numerous small bays exist along this length of the coastline including Porth Oer and Porth Towyn.

This is a largely rural area and as ground level also rises steeply from the shoreline the flood risk to property and essential services is low. The natural steep rocky cliffs along the frontage means that the general shoreline policy is NAI.

Management Area 39

Figure B21: Outline of Management Area 39 and areas at coastal flood risk



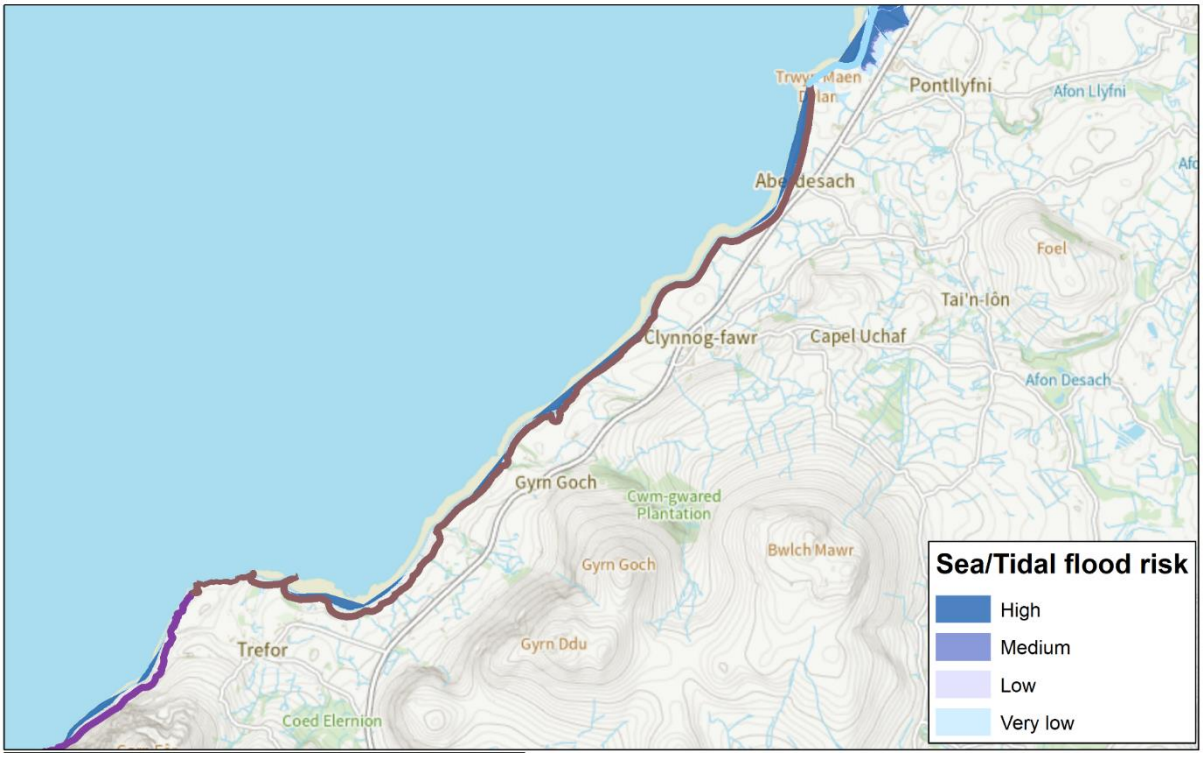
Management Area 39 extends from Carreg Du to Trwyn y Tal and includes the communities of Porthdinllaen, Morfa Nefyn and Nefyn.

The majority of high-risk receptors are located at Poerth Dinllaen and the northern end of Morfa Nefyn, while receptors at flood risk also exist at the northern end of Porth Nefyn.

The coastal slopes above Morfa Nefyn and Porth Nefyn are dynamic with a history of coastal slips placing properties above the slopes at risk from coastal erosion. Large areas of these bays are defended by beach level structures although the general long-term policy for all of these defended areas is MR.

Management Area 40

Figure B22: Outline of Management Area 40 and areas at coastal flood risk

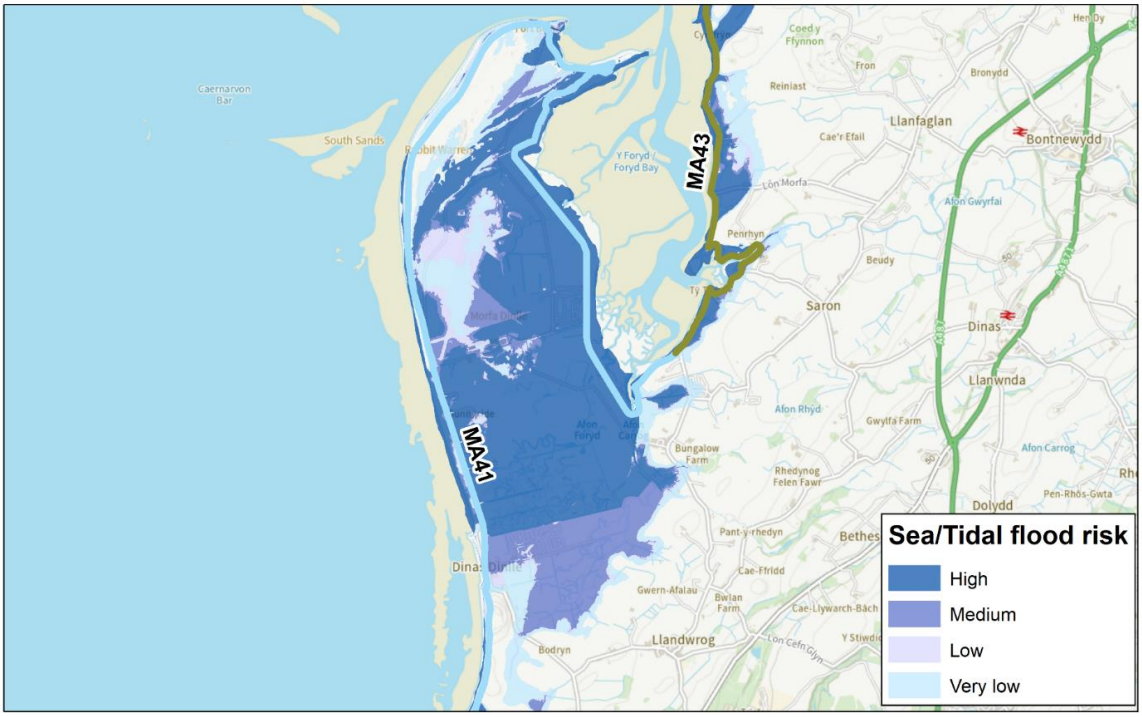


Management Area 40 extends from Trwyn y Tal to Trwyn Maen Dylan and includes the communities of Trefor and Aberdesach.

Coastal flood risk is generally low across the whole frontage with a limited number of properties located near the shoreline. A cluster of properties along the frontage at Aberdesach face risk of flooding with future rise in sea level due to climate change. A risk of coastal erosion also exists for properties near the frontage at Aberdesach due to the retreat of the shingle bank at the back of the beach, with the shoreline policy for the frontage recommended as MR.

Management Area 41

Figure B23: Outline of Management Area 41 and areas at coastal flood risk



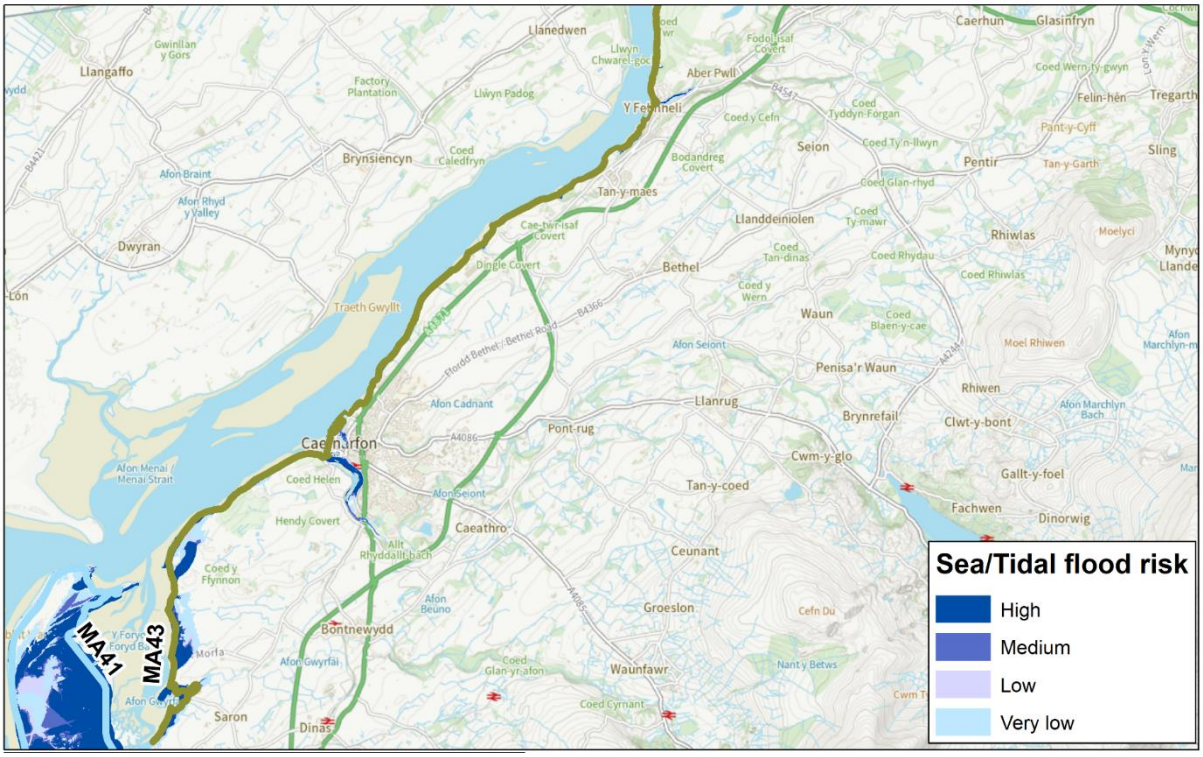
Management Area 41 extends from Trwyn Maen Dylan to Llanddwyn Island (including Foryd and Abermenai) and includes the communities of Pontllyfni and Dinas Dinlle.

The low-lying headland of Morfa Dinlle faces flood risk from the direction of the open coastline and also from Foryd Bay to the west, as a result numerous properties in the area are at present day flood risk. The total number of properties at risk, at Dinas Dinlle in particular, is expected to rise with an increase in tidal extent in the future. Other areas at flood risk within this MA include the low-lying agricultural land either side of the tidal reaches of the Afon Llyfni and Afon Llifon to the south.

Morfa Dinlle is defended from inundation from Foryd Bay by a flood embankment with a similar embankment protecting Dinas Dinlle to the north of the village. An offshore structure stabilizes the level of the beach at Dinas Dinlle thereby providing protection from incoming waves. A MR policy applies to most of the coastline in this area.

Management Area 43

Figure B24: Outline of Management Area 43 and areas at coastal flood risk



Management Area 43 extends from Foryd Bay to the Britannia Bridge and to the Mermaid Inn and includes the communities of Saron, Caernarfon and Y Felinheli.

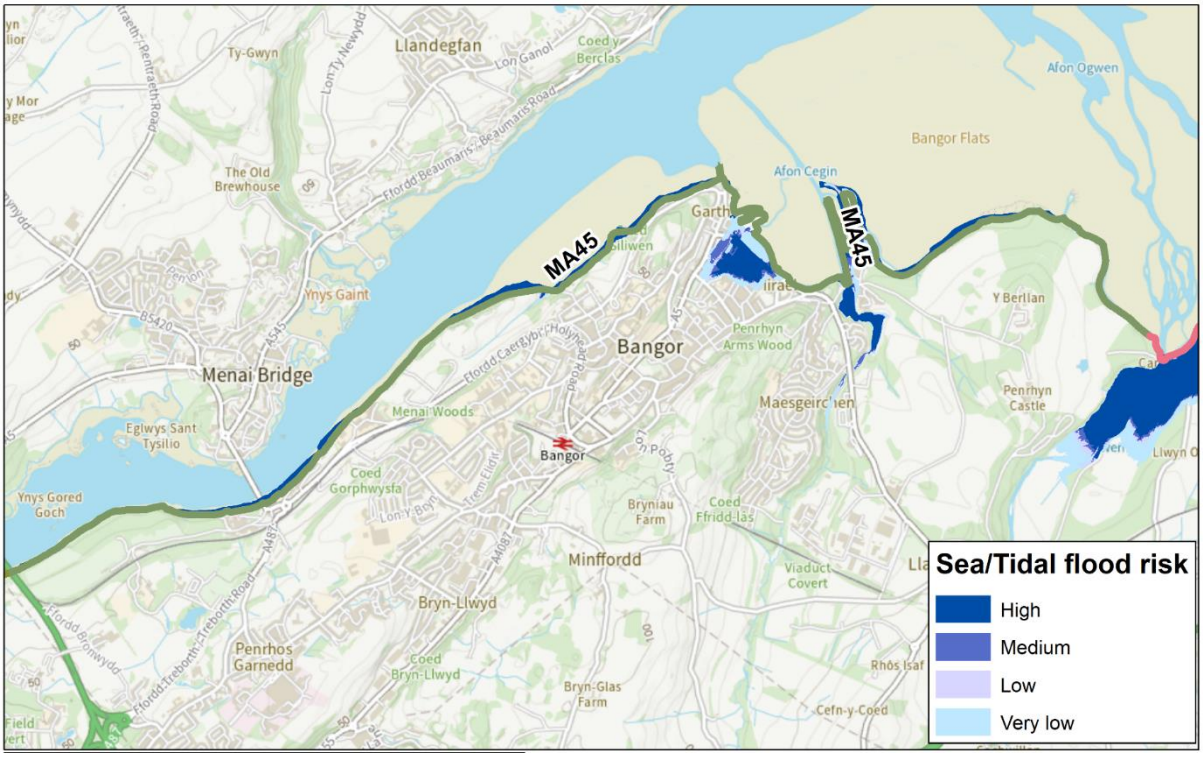
The receptors at flood risk are mainly concentrated along the tidal reach of the Afon Seiont in Caernarfon, near Waterloo Port and also the lower frontage of Felinheli. With an increase in sea level in the future due to climate change more receptors in the area of Dock Victoria and Felinheli harbour are expected to face risk of flooding.

Tidal flood defences now exist along Beach Road in Felinheli in the form of a set-back wall adjacent to the highway (see section 7 of the Local Strategy).

A long-term MR policy applies to the frontage between Caernarfon and Foryd Bay, where the foreshore road is largely supported by a structural embankment at present.

Management Area 45

Figure B25: Outline of Management Area 45 and areas at coastal flood risk



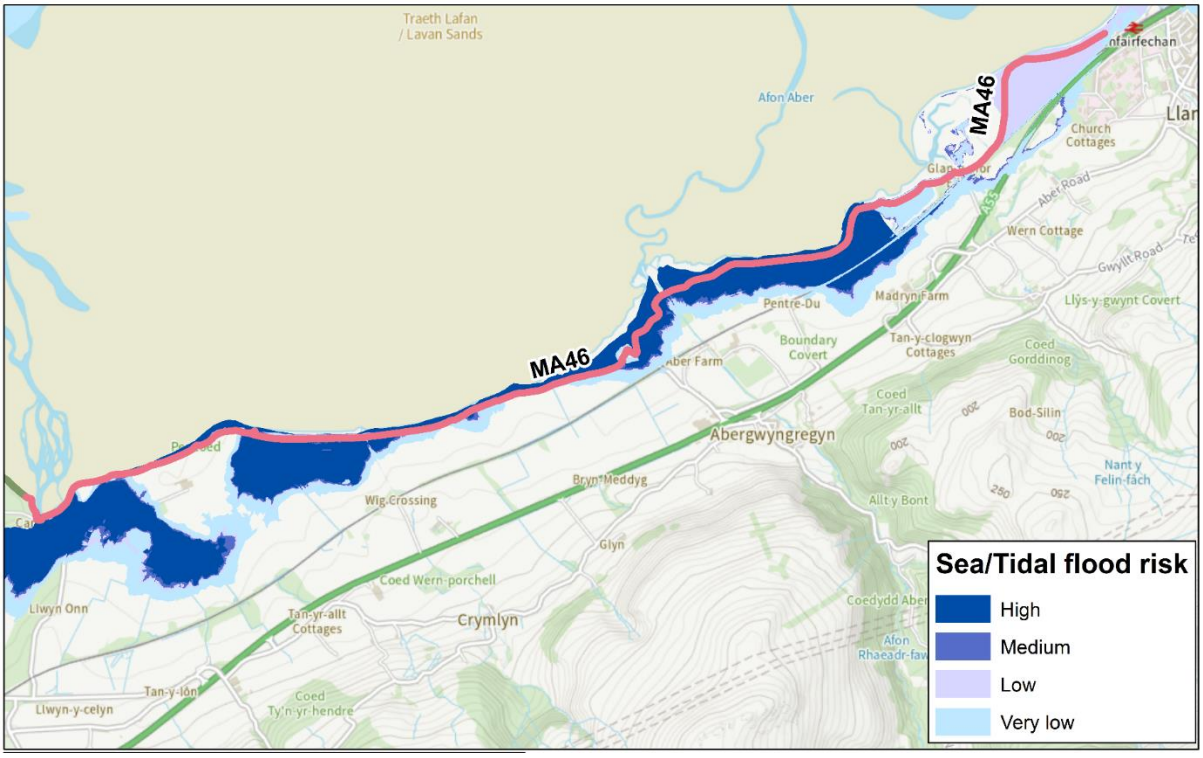
Management Area 45 extends from the Britannia Bridge to Afon Ogwen and includes the community of Bangor.

There is a large number of receptors at risk of flooding within the low-lying residential area on the landward side of Hirael Bay, the number of receptors at risk in this area is expected to rise with an increase in sea level due to climate change in the future. Some properties near the shore of the Menai Strait between Siliwen Road and Garth Point are also at risk of flooding, otherwise the level of risk within this area is low.

A long-term MR shoreline policy applies to the Hirael Bay frontage, otherwise the prevalent policy along the shore of the Strait is for NAI.

Management Area 46

Figure B26: Outline of Management Area 46 and areas at coastal flood risk



Management Area 46 extends from Afon Ogwen to Llanfairfechan and includes the communities of Tal y Bont and Abergwyngregyn.

Due to the agricultural nature of the landscape, flood risk is low in this area, but there is a threat to property near Abergwyngregyn due to an expected rise in sea level in the future.

A MR shoreline policy exists near the Afon Aber area, while the policy to the west is NAI.

Management Area	*Communities*	*Number of properties at flood risk*[6]					*Number of Essential Services / Non-residential properties at flood risk*[7]	*Properties at risk of coastal erosion*[8]	*Current FCERM management schemes/studies*[9]
		Total	*High risk*	*Medium risk*	*Low risk*	*Very Low risk*			
19	Pennal	1	1	0	0	0	1	0 (0)	*Arrangements for future adaptation planning for Pennal Valley based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between partner authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.*
20	Bryncrug Tywyn Aberdyfi	500	170	44	53	233	45	138 (138)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Tywyn frontage ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Monitoring and maintenance of coastal defence structures across the frontage to maintain standard of defence and allow continued access towards the beach ***Status:*** Ongoing
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Dysynni* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Consider future management options and undertake coastal adaptation planning* *Status: Ongoing*
									Arrangements for future adaptation planning for the Penllyn marshes area based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between partner authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.
21	Llwyngwril	0	0	0	0	0	0	0(0)	
22	Fairbourne Arthog Friog	493	1	1	449	42	63	No data available	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Fairbourne* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Ongoing*
23	Llanelltyd Pen Y Bryn Bontddu Penmaenpool	62	25	5	7	25	14	0(0)	
24	Abermaw	548	12	7	308	221	127	0 (0)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Abermaw, Viaduct Gardens ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Develop scheme to reduce flood risk on landward side of sea wall, namely Church Street and the area surrounding the Harbour Office ***Status:*** Start of construction scheduled for 2024

[6] See main document section 9.1

[7] See main document section 9.1

[8] See main document section 9.1

[9] NRW Schemes and/or studies are as listed in *FRMP Delivery Plan for North West Wales Place*

									Cyngor Gwynedd ***Location:*** Abermaw, North Promenade ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Deliver a scheme to improve flood and coastal erosion risk at the northern end of the promenade ***Status:*** Ongoing (Full Business Case/Detailed design)
25	Talybont Dyffryn Ardudwy	2	0	1	0	1	7	4 (4)	*Arrangements for managements of the frontage area based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between partner authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.*
26	Llanbedr Pen-sarn Llandanwg	41	1	10	2	28	48	5 (5)	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Llanbedr* *Source: Tidal* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Not started*
27	Penrhyndeudraeth Maentwrog Llandecwyn Talsarnau Harlech	516	8	46	93	369	52	2 (2)	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Harlech* *Source: Tidal* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Not started*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Talsarnau* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Consider future management options and undertake coastal adaptation planning* *Status: Not started*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Llanfihangel - y - Traethau -Ty Gwyn Tidal Door* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Design and construction of flood risk asset improvements* *Status: Not started*
28	Porthmadog Morfa Bychan Borth Y Gest	1877	27	7	1358	485	583	51 (51)	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Porthmadog* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Improve existing flood warning service* *Status: Not started*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Porthmadog* *Source: River* *Measure: Develop scheme appraisal for flood alleviation scheme* *Status: Ongoing*
									Arrangements for future management planning for the natural dune defence based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between parted authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.
29	Criccieth (East)	1	0	0	0	1	0	50 (48)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Criccieth ***Source:*** Sea

									Measure**:* Criccieth long term adaptation planning - Develop longer term planning for management of defences within the area looking to potential realignment in the medium term of the shingle banks and the longer-term management of Criccieth sea front ***Status: Not started
30	Afon Wen Criccieth (West)	1	0	0	0	1	0	78 (78)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Criccieth ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure**:* Develop and implement strategy to manage decline of coastal defences on Criccieth West Beach ***Status:*** Ongoing (Strategic Outline Case)
31	Pwllheil Abererch Penrhos Llanbedrog	1498	0	1	1091	406	428	1 (1)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Pwllheli ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure**:* Develop and implement strategy for maintaining flood defence offered by the dunes at the back of Traeth Crugan ***Status:*** Ongoing
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Abererch* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Develop scheme appraisal for flood alleviation scheme* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Pwllheli* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Develop scheme appraisal for flood alleviation scheme* *Status: Ongoing*
									Natural Resources Wales *Location: Pwllheli* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Update existing hydraulic model* *Status: Ongoing*
32	Abersoch	69	23	8	11	27	44	13 (13)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Borth Fawr, Abersoch ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure**:* Borth Fawr realignment strategy - Develop and discuss potential realignment strategy for the area based on SMP2 policy for managed realignment ***Status:*** Not started
									Arrangements for future adaptation planning for the Warren frontage based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between parted authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.
									Arrangements for future adaptation planning for Abersoch Valley area based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between parted authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.
33	Llanengan	1	0	0	0	1	0	0 (0)	*Arrangements for future adaptation planning at Porth Neigwl based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between parted authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.*

34	Botwnnog	4	0	0	1	3	0	0 (0)	
35	Uwchmynydd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	
36	Aberdaron	6	0	0	1	5	11	29 (29)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Aberdaron frontage ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Develop an integrated plan for management of defence and land use within the area based on SMP2 policy for managed realignment ***Status:*** Not started *Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Aberdaron* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk* *Status: Not started* *Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Aberdaron* *Source: River/Sea* *Measure: Maintain existing defences and inspection regime* *Status: Ongoing*
37	Ynys Enlli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	
38	Tudweiliog	0	0	0	0	0	1	2 (2)	*Arrangements for future adaptation planning at Porth Oer based on SMP2 managed realignment policy to be discussed and agreed between parted authorities at West of Wales Coastal Group.*
39	Porthdinllaen Nefyn Morfa Nefyn	25	13	4	5	3	13	31 (8)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Porth Nefyn ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Develop a plan for monitoring, management and communication of risks associated with cliff instability in the area ***Status:*** Not started
40	Aberdesach Trefor	6	0	0	0	6	1	15 (11)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Trefor ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Develop a local action plan for adaptation and management of existing structures ***Status:*** Not started **Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Aberdesach ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Develop and discuss potential need for adaptation of management of the frontage based on SMP2 policy for managed realignment ***Status:*** Not started

41	Dinas Dinlle Pontllyfni	72	8	34	5	25	49	0 (0)	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Dinas Dinlle* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Consider future management options and undertake coastal adaptation planning* *Status: Ongoing* *Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Pontllyfni* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Consider future management options and undertake coastal adaptation planning* *Status: Not started*
43	Caernarfon Y Felinheli Saron Llanfaglan	305	26	42	68	169	226	89 (89)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Ffordd yr Aber, Caernarfon ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* Develop a plan for management and maintenance for the area based on SMP2 policy for managed realignment ***Status:*** Not started
45	Bangor Treborth	313	199	24	17	73	44	9(9)	**Cyngor Gwynedd** ***Location:*** Hirael Bay ***Source:*** Sea ***Measure****:* FCERM scheme to reduce risk of coastal flooding to the low-lying area of Hirael Bay and address ongoing coastal erosion concerns at the frontage. ***Status:*** Construction ongoing
46	Tal Y Bont Abergwyngregyn	2	0	0	0	2	0	0 (0)	*Natural Resources Wales* *Location: Abergwyngregyn* *Source: Sea* *Measure: Build hydraulic model* *Status: Ongoing*

Equality Impact Assessment

Please see the *How to do an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet for help in completing this form. You are welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708, or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further help.

The Council is required (under Equality Act 2010) to consider the impact of a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new one) on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties set out in part 2b. A timely equality impact assessment must therefore be made before making a decision on any relevant change (i.e. one that affects people with a specific protected characteristic).

1 Details

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

Cyngor Gwynedd Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy.

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

The aim of the strategy is to reduce the risk to people and communities from flooding and coastal erosion, in line with Welsh Governments' National Strategy.

The Local Strategy has 5 main objectives which include:

1: To aim to reduce the level of flood and coastal erosion risk to the residents of Gwynedd
2: To further develop an understanding of the flood risk to Gwynedd and the impacts of climate change
3: To continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Gwynedd
4: Raising awareness of local flood and coastal erosion risk
5: Working collaboratively with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flood and coastal erosion events.

Each of the five objectives have an underlying set of actions that will be implemented in order to achieve the overarching objectives. These can be found on page 55 of the Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (draft version).

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

YGC, Cyngor Gwynedd

1.4 When did you begin the assessment? What version is this?

This assessment has been carried out alongside the first draft version of the strategy in December 2023 and reviewed in May 2024. Any additional considerations from this assessment will be incorporated into the final draft of the strategy.

2) Implementation

2.1 Who are the stakeholders or partners whom we will have to work with to carry out this assessment?

This assessment is carried out by YGC, on behalf of Cyngor Gwynedd as the Lead Local Flood Authority and authors of the Local Strategy. In order to achieve and implement the conclusions of this report, Gwynedd will be working alongside other Risk Management Authorities (RMA) to deliver the Local Strategy. The findings of this assessment will be adopted into the ways of working, with all parties involved informed and made aware.

2.2. What steps have you taken to engage with people who have protected characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either due to location or due to need), who are living with a socio-economic disadvantage?

The Draft Local Strategy will be consulted upon with the public of Gwynedd. A consultation questionnaire will be made available on the Cyngor Gwynedd website with paper copies also available if needed.

Gwynedd residents will be encouraged to participate in the questionnaire through the Council website, local press, social media, staff forums and councillors' forum.

Specific questions on the Welsh language and socio-economic characteristics will be included within the questionnaire.

2.3 What was the outcome of the engagement?

77 responses were received to the consultation.

In terms of age selection of respondents 29% belonged to the 65-74 age group, with 23% belonging to the 55-64 age group. 24% of respondents were aged between 16 and 54 followed by 14% aged over 75. 10% of respondents indicated a preference not

to specify their age group.

As part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to answer what they believe will be the impact of the strategy on the Welsh language, the opportunities for its use and its status within the community. 69% reported a neutral effect with 15.5% indicating a positive effect and 15.5% indicating a negative effect. Some, as a relevant rationale to the question identified points such as the need to hold open meetings with the Community Councils and modify the report for good, need to communicate in a language of residents' choice etc.

Respondents were also asked if they thought the introduction of the Draft Local Flooding Strategy was likely to have an impact on socio-economically disadvantaged people, This was an open-ended question and 30 of the 77 responded to this question. The range of responses included comments such as:

- *"Will have a good effect if it works"*
- *"The poorest in society usually suffer the most"*
- *"People with lower income levels will need more help protecting their homes"*
- *"Yes, it should help them"*

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

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy derives from The Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The act requires all 22 Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) in Wales to produce a Local Strategy. Wales also has a higher-level National Strategy.

The Welsh Government's *National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales (National Strategy)* sets out that over 245,000 properties across Wales are at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water, with almost 400 properties also at risk from coastal erosion. The National Strategy explains that, as the climate changes, we can expect those risks to increase, with more frequent and severe floods, rising sea levels and faster rates of erosion of the coast.

The National Strategy sets out the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales. In certain cases, Local Authorities are also required to produce Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), under the 2009 Flood Risk Regulations.

Gwynedd's first Local Strategy was published in 2014, setting out the overarching approach to managing local flood risk. Alongside the Local Strategy, a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) was published. The FRMP developed the objectives and high-level actions outlined in the Local Strategy into a more detailed plan for managing flooding.

The Local Strategy relevant to this assessment is the second Local Strategy, which includes both the elements of the Local Strategy and FRMP within one document in order to reduce complexity and to enable a more effective means of communicating the Strategy.

Present day and future risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion is identified

within the second Local Strategy. The aim is to make the reader aware of all sources of flooding within their community, rather than focusing solely on the sources for which Cyngor Gwynedd act as an RMA (Risk Management Authority).

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

The Council and Risk Management Authorities (RMA) are responsible for developing and implementing plans derived from the Local Strategy. All projects resulting from the Local Strategy will consider the characteristics of equality and Welsh language considerations during the development phase. This assessment will be reviewed annually and/or in accordance with any legislative changes.

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must duly address the impact that any changes will have on people with equality characteristics. What effect will the new policy/service or the proposed changes in the policy or service have on people with these characteristics? We must also consider the impact on socio-economic disadvantage and on the Welsh language.

Characteristics	What type of impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	**Positive**	The aim of the local strategy is to reduce local flood risk to all. The objectives that are relevant to this characteristic are mainly objectives 1, 2 and 4 and reduction of the impacts will be carried through the underpinning actions 1.1, 1.2, 2.2A and 2.4B. The implementation steps can be seen in fill on page 55 on the Flood Strategy. The strategy will consider people of all groups within the communication strategy and whilst preparing community flood plans. The strategy will develop the communication and engagement strategy for each individual scheme that derives from the strategy, to encourage people of all characteristics within the community to take a more pro-active approach to flood prevention and resilience. The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely and updated in line with service requirements.

The Welsh language	**Neutral**	The work that the strategy proposes will not have a direct positive impact on the Welsh language due to the nature of the works, however, the Welsh language will be at the forefront of the communication element. The strategy will be implemented bilingually with all associated documentation available in both Welsh and English. The strategy will also promote the Welsh language within the community (Objective 4 in particular), allowing both the strategy and associated actions to be communicated through Welsh and also allowing a safe space for both staff working on the strategy and residents to practice, speak and learn Welsh.
Disability	**Positive**	The reduction of flood risk will have a positive impact on disabled individuals. This category is considered highly vulnerable in a flood event as they may be less able to prepare for and respond to flooding. In addition, there is the emotional recovery associated with flooding. Every effort will be made during the development of each individual scheme that derives from the Strategy to understand the needs of the community and identify if there are any adapted housing etc within the vicinity – and respond to them within the schemes. Objectives 1, 4 and 5 in particular, and their associated actions aim to ensuring robust flood protection plans and effective communication and engagement mechanisms.
Gender	**Neutral**	There is no evidence to suggest that this strategy will have a negative or positive impact on this characteristic, however, the implementation of this Strategy will be closely monitored and updated accordingly in line with service requirements.
Age	**Positive**	The aim of the strategy is to reduce local flood risk to all. The reduction of flood risk will have the greatest positive impact on both the younger generation and the elderly. These age categories are considered particularly vulnerable in a flood event as they may be less able to prepare and respond. Gwynedd is a county that is seeing an increasing percentage of an ageing population. The Strategy will therefore identify the type of demographics in those areas at risk in order to plan any considerations into the individual projects that will result from the Strategy, when appropriate to do so. Objectives 1, 4 and 5 in particular, and their associated actions aim to ensuring robust flood protection plans and effective communication and engagement mechanisms.
Sexual orientation	**Neutral**	There is no evidence to suggest that this strategy will have a negative or positive impact on this characteristic, however, the implementation of this Strategy will be closely monitored and updated accordingly in line with

		service requirements.
Religion or belief (or lack of belief)	**Neutral**	There is no evidence to suggest that this strategy will have a negative or positive impact on this characteristic, however, the implementation of this Strategy will be closely monitored and updated accordingly in line with service requirements. Every effort will be made within the individual schemes that derive from the strategy to identify places of worship and consider them within the schemes.
Gender reassignment	**Neutral**	There is no evidence to suggest that this strategy will have a negative or positive impact on this characteristic, however, the implantation of this Strategy will be closely monitored and updated accordingly in line with service requirements.
Pregnancy and maternity	**Positive**	Pregnant people and those on maternity are also considered highly vulnerable when it comes to flood risk and flooding events. It is considered that the strategy will have a positive impact on this category as the strategy will encourage more consideration and inclusion of this group when developing and communicating projects. Objectives 1, 4 and 5 in particular, and their associated actions aim to reduce distress and community disruption to all, through ensuring robust flood protection plans and effective communication and engagement mechanisms.
Marriage and civil partnership	**None**	There is no evidence to suggest that this strategy will have a negative or positive impact on this characteristic, however, the implementation of this Strategy will be closely monitored and updated accordingly in line with service requirements.

***** delete as appropriate

3.2 The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to contribute positively to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relationships in its activities in the fields of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must duly address the way any change impacts on these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	No	Not applicable

Promote equal opportunities	No	Not applicable to this type of strategy, however, the strategy is focused on communication and building good relationships with both RMA and the community in order to build flood resilience.
Foster good relationships	No	Not applicable to this type of strategy however the strategy is focused on communication and building good relationships with both RMA and the community in order to build flood resilience.

***** delete as appropriate

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 the English language, and that every opportunity is taken to promote the Welsh language (beyond providing bilingual services) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

The strategy will provide opportunities to promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language within both the community, between RMA's and other associated partners. This will be done primarily through increasing the use of the Welsh language when dealing with the public and risk management authorities.

3.4 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practiceso as to have a positive impact on people's opportunities to use the Welsh language, and to reduce or prevent any detrimental impacts that the policy / practice could have on the Welsh language?

One of the priority fields within Cyngor Gwynedd's Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd 2018-23 is increasing the presence and use of the Welsh language within the community. The strategy will contribute towards this priority field through all aspects of the work, in particular through Objectives 2 and 4 (listed below).

Objective 2: Further developing an understanding of flood risk and the effects of climate change in Gwynedd.
Objective 4: Raise awareness of local flood and coastal erosion risk.

This assessment will look at the Local Strategy in it entirety.

3.5 How does the proposal show that you have given due regard to the need to address inequality due to socio-economic disadvantage? (Please note that this relates to closing the inequality gap, rather than only improving outcomes for everyone).

Of the vulnerable groups that are classified within the socio-economic disadvantaged category, the following groups are considered relevant in regard to the Local Strategy.

Low income / income poverty
Low and / or no wealth
Area deprevation
Material deprevation

The Strategy aims to have a positive impact on those experiencing low income / income poverty by alleviating and managing the likelihood and consequences of flooding to those communities at highest risk. Low income individuals are potentially less able to prepare for and recover from flood events, particularly due to the costs associated with flood damages, insurance premiums and flood preventative equipment.

The strategy has taken this into account and aims to mitigate the above impacts through the development of an effective communication pathway that will allow for a two way dialouge between the Council and residents in regards to flood risk. The Strategy aims to carry out regular engagement (through the individual schemes that will derive from the Strategy) to improve both individual and communities ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding.

Look for opportunities to educate and raise awareness of flood risk from a school age onwards to try and ensure that all age groups receive the information.

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

It is expected of each individual scheme that derives from the Local Strategy to give due regard to the need of considering socio-economic disadvantages and look for further ways to reduce equalities through the implementation of the project.

4) Analysing the results

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

It is not considered that the strategy will have a significant positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or general duties, however, there will small positive indirect impacts as a result of increase in more robust flood defences, safety and understanding of flooding and prevention. The Local Strategy also aims to build greater resilience within the whole community in order to be able to deal with the risk of flooding.

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

No, the plan is not likely to have a substantial negative impact on any of the equality characteristics. The Strategy is likely to have a positive impact.

4.3 What should be done?

Select one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	X
Revise the policy to remove any barriers	
Suspend and abolish the policy as the harmful impacts are too great	
Continue with the policy as any harmful impact can be justified	
No further steps at present, it is premature to decide, or there is insufficient evidence	

4.4 If you decide to continue with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

YGC will continue to work closely with the Equality Officer during the development of the Draft Strategy and beyond. The equality aspect will be continuously reviewed and adapted in line with any changes within the Strategy itself and in line with legislation.

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

Not applicable.

5) Monitoring

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

Each relevant scheme that derives from the strategy will be subject to a form of Equality Impact Assessment, that will be agreed upon between YGC and the Equality Officer. This is to ensure consistency and a level of accountability across all projects that derive from the Strategy, where possible to do so.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Item Title:	Performance Report for the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dilwyn Morgan, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Relevant Officer:	Aled Davies, Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Date of meeting:	11/6/2024

1. Decision Sought:

To accept and acknowledge the information in the report.

2. The reason why the Cabinet must make the decision:

To ensure effective performance management.

3. Introduction and Rationale

3.1 The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on what has happened in the areas for which I am responsible as the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing. This will include outlining what has happened against the promises of Gwynedd Council's Plan 2023-2028; where the performance measures are at; and the latest in terms of the department's finances.

3.2 I would like to remind you that all issues were discussed at a meeting between myself, the Corporate Director for Social Services and representation from the Department of Adults, Health and Wellbeing. It should be noted that it was the February, March and April 2024 information that was scrutinised at that May meeting, and I do not intend to detail every measure and project but have outlined the specific areas to be celebrated or of concern to me.

4. Cyngor Gwynedd Plan projects 2023-2028

4.1 Below is a project-by-project update to highlight the main areas that have seen progress or are of concern, but it should be noted that I am not referring to every single workflow as the department's projects are very broad.

4.2 It should be noted that the projects have been repackaged to try and ensure clarity on the milestones, and therefore the titles differ to what you will have seen in the past.

Modernising our care resources to meet future needs

4.3 Work on upgrading our homes in Barmouth and Dolgellau is coming to an end, and applications have been submitted to Care Inspectorate Wales to change the registration

for our home in Barmouth. The recruitment situation is starting to look better at our home in Bangor and so it is hoped that better use of the new dementia unit can be made over the next period.

4.4 Arrangements to provide 2 new supported houses for individuals with Learning Disabilities in the county are ongoing, and positive discussions are taking place regarding the appointment of a site for Extra Care Housing in Caernarfon.

Making more use of technology to improve the ability of Gwynedd residents to access support and care

4.5 We are currently piloting the use of Dewis Cymru's electronic directory in Bangor and Dolgellau whilst also developing Gwynedd's version of AskSara, a virtual occupational therapist. These resources will help residents to support themselves and discover opportunities that promote their well-being locally.

4.6 The work to upgrade telecare equipment is in full swing and going well so far, and we anticipate finishing this work by December this year. We have also started meeting with companies offering a virtual wallet service as part of our Direct Payments project to discuss the options available.

Working with Health Services to enable people to live their best life in the community

4.7 To further develop Community Resource Teams, we have appointed a Project Manager to lead the work and she has already started in her new role.

4.8 The new Mental Health Service has been established and the workforce relocated to council locations. The service is currently establishing their arrangements and ensuring that the collaboration with the Health Service remains strong to the future.

Developing training and work opportunities for individuals who need support

4.9 The period for tendering to carry out work on the development of a new Dolfeurig Centre has closed on 28 May and I hope to be able to share a start date for the work very soon.

4.10 We have appointed a Learning Disability Career Pathway Coordinator using regional funding. The co-ordinator will work across Gwynedd and Anglesey. We have also freed up the time of 3 Support Officers within the service to promote work opportunities and support individuals into paid work. This has already been a success as the measures will show later in the report.

Llechen Lân

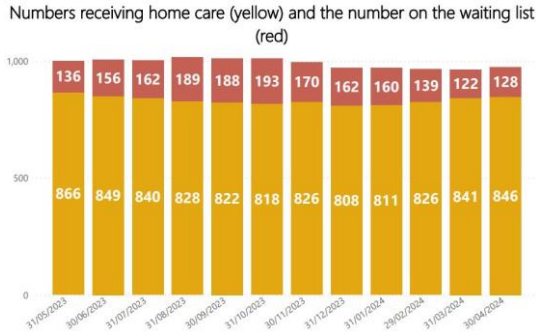
4.11 Our initial analysis has been completed and presented to the Leadership Team. The recommendations have been agreed at that meeting, and the next step will be to confirm the timetable for the work and appoint who will lead on the various recommendations.

5. Performance and Measures

5.1 The department continues with the work to strengthen their performance arrangements and measures and is making progress from one meeting to the next. The department has many measures by now, but I will refer below to those of specific concern or congratulation.

5.2 Within the **Older People, Physical and Sensory Disabilities Service** the waiting list for receiving an occupational therapy assessment continues to increase. However, individuals now appear to be waiting for less time in total with the number waiting for more than 90 days having reduced from 62 at the end of January to 43 by the end of April. As I have reported before, capacity and appointment to therapist roles has been very challenging, but a new Therapy Leader has started in her role and a Lead Practitioner appointment has also been made to fill the gap. The leader will address the waiting list as one of her priorities. There is also a trainee therapist due to qualify in June. I previously noted that we have modified the job descriptions of Social Work Practitioners, and they have now completed BTEC Level 4 training which will allow them to assess more complex cases in future.

5.3



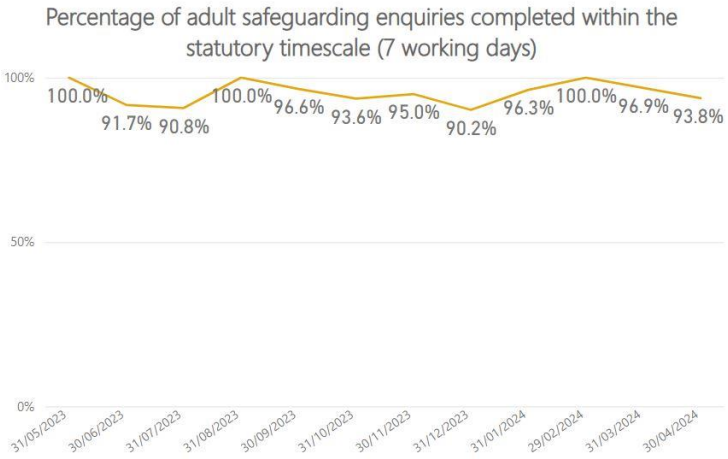
In my last report, I shared concerns that there had once again been an increase in the percentage of **home care** hours left unmet. This percentage has fallen sharply and is at a year-long low. However, it was still 10% at the end of April with 113 individuals waiting for new home care packages and 14 awaiting an increase to their current package (compared to 157 and 30, respectively, at the end of September 2023). Waiting lists continue because of the lack of ability of care providers to meet demand in our areas. However, a provider has by now been successful in winning the tender in Blaenau Ffestiniog. Despite this, we have been unable to attract applicants for the tender in the Porthmadog area. The department is therefore looking at the options for collaboration across both areas. There are also other areas of concern including Tywyn, Harlech and Llanberis and the department's Quality Assurance service is working closely with providers to support them with current challenges.

5.4 As I previously noted, there are new Work Opportunities Officers in place in the **Learning Disability** service, and the number of individuals on the work opportunity route has increased significantly from 51 in September 2023 to 99 by April 2024. The number in paid work has also increased from 23 to 37 in the same period. I am delighted to note these numbers and look forward to seeing the service's development over the next period, following the appointment of the Career Pathways Coordinator.

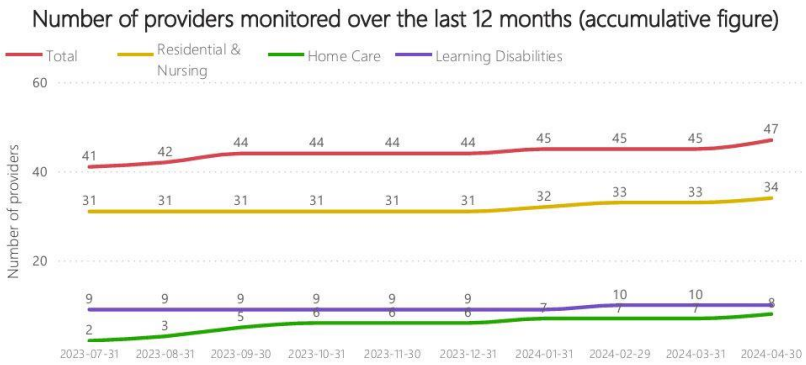
5.5 The wellbeing service has successfully attracted 253 individuals across the county to **Dementia Actif** services in the last few months. This service is vital to support individuals living with dementia and their families but 166 of these individuals are individuals who

have not been diagnosed with dementia and are not carers either. I'm delighted to see these numbers, it emphasises how vital preventative services are to supporting people to continue to live independently and contribute within their communities, whilst also providing vital support to unpaid carers.

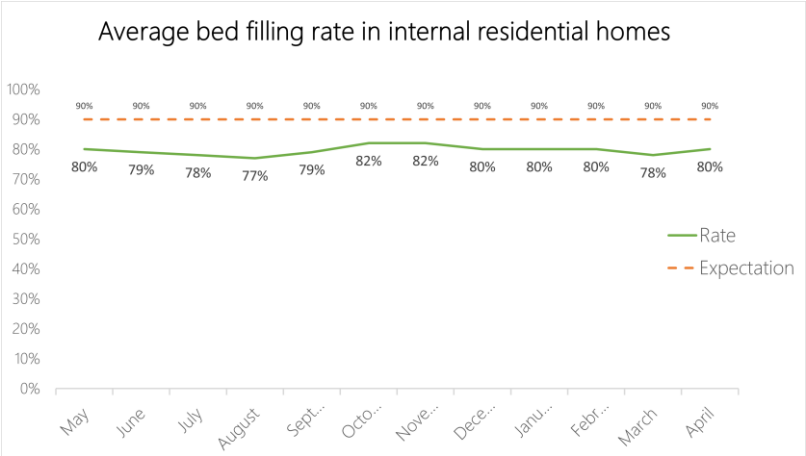
5.6 I am pleased to note that the performance of the **Safeguarding Adults service and the Community Resource Teams** remains consistent as they manage to respond to referrals in a timely manner amidst other work pressures. We have seen a slight decline in the number of enquiries completed within 7 days over the last few weeks. This is due to the Safeguarding Officer's illness and the fact that the investigation and recording workload falls on the Area Leaders on top of their normal workload. However, despite this decline in completing enquiries, support has not deteriorated and the risk has been managed in 100% of cases. This is an excellent performance for the department to be proud of. However, the number awaiting a **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)** assessment remains concerning with 340 individuals on the waiting list for assessment at the end of April. The department has received a further government grant to support the reduction of the waiting list and arrangements for an agency to undertake some assessments will be ongoing over the coming weeks. The department plans to submit an internal audit report on the DoLS situation to the Scrutiny Committee in June.



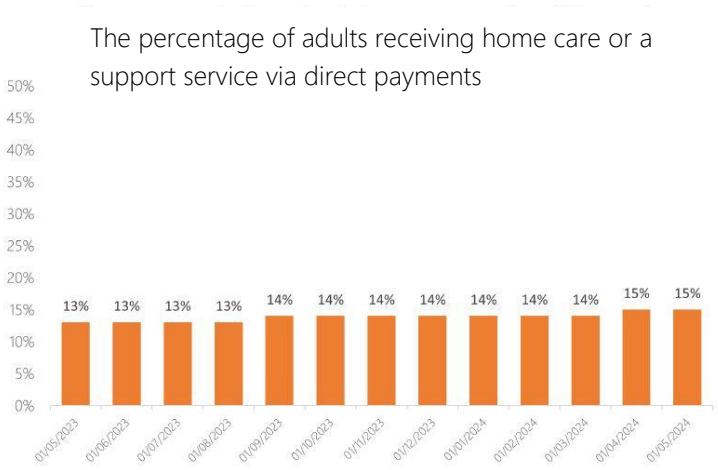
5.7 The performance of the **Quality Assurance** service is commendable as they have successfully conducted monitoring activities with 76% of care providers in the last 12 months. This is a much higher figure than we've seen for a while, and the team's new work arrangements have contributed. They now undertake shorter and consistent visits focusing on specific areas with providers rather than lengthy visits with each provider to discuss all aspects of their service. This ensures a better relationship between the service and providers and enables them to reach more providers.



5.8 I consistently report that our bed filling rate in our internal **residential homes** is concerning, and continues at 80% despite a slight increase at times over the past few months. I have received clarification from the department that this figure includes beds which are currently unused because of ongoing work on the homes and without these, the figure would be 86%. However, I am delighted to note that the request to increase the number in Hafod Mawddach, Barmouth's registration has been submitted and work is taking place to respond to issues raised by Care Inspectorate Wales, so that the beds can be opened. I am also pleased to note that work has been completed at Plas Hafan, Nefyn and 7 new individuals have moved into the home during April and May. The process of increasing the registration capacity of Plas Hedd, Bangor is also underway. I sincerely hope that all this work will enable me to report progress when presenting my next report. However, the department notes that a few homes have empty beds due to a lack of demand in the area. The older people's service is regularly discussing with the hospitals to try and fill beds.



5.9 I am pleased to report that we are seeing a slight increase in the percentage of adults receiving their services through **direct payments** (15% by the end of April compared to 13% in September 2023). A project is currently underway to overhaul the direct payment regime and promote its use to reduce pressure on our care providers and to give individuals greater control of their care arrangements. Similarly, we have been looking at the **telecare** service too to tidy up the arrangements and ensure consistency across the board in terms of individuals' financial contribution to the service. The numbers of people paying the weekly fee have seen a slight increase over the last few months and, now that this work has been done, we will be focusing on actively promoting the use of the service and adjust our performance measure to focus on that. I will be able to provide these figures in my next report.



6. Financial Situation

6.1 Based on the August 2023 review, the Department of Finance predicted that the Department for Adults, Health and Wellbeing would overspend by approximately £6.5m on the budget for 2023/24. By the time of the 2023/24 account closure, final overspending had reduced to £3.9m. One-time grants and additional income were partly responsible for the reduction in overspending, while the department's efforts to address some issues also contributed. In the last report I mentioned that there was an intention to ask for specific plans about the main issues contributing to the overspending – mainly home care provision, commissioning residential and nursing placements, and the Learning Disabilities Service. I have received these plans and am clearer in my mind with regards to addressing these different elements.

6.2 A group led by the Head of Adults has been set up to address the internal and external home care service. I will receive a regular update from the group on the progress of the work. An additional temporary resource has been put in to assist with the issues that contribute to the significant overspending from internal provision, in particular. A bid of £1.6m has been accepted to fund the pressures in the Learning Disability field, specifically in relation to supported accommodation for individuals. The Learning Disability service will be better placed to maintain a balanced budget for 2024/25. In terms of residential and nursing placements, the market situation continues to inhibit our ability to keep control of the fees paid for more specialist placements (mainly nursing with dementia), but Gwynedd is involved in regional work to try to establish a new fee setting regime, using CareCubed software.

6.3 I consistently report the risk that Welsh Government grants (for example the RIF grant which is approximately £2m for the Adults Department) are being shrunk and add to financial pressures. The RIF allocation for 2024/25 has been frozen, which means a cut in real terms. I will continue to work with our partners regionally and nationally to emphasise to Welsh Government the need to maintain and increase the level of investment in the sector.

6.4 Historic savings schemes worth £1.48m were written off by cabinet at its meeting on the 7/11/23 as the plans were unable to be realised due to changing circumstances/increasing pressure on services. However, due to the financial pressures forecast for 2024/25 and onwards, new savings plans worth around £1.45m have been added to the department's budget for 2024/25. This means there is additional pressure on top of the overspending. I will be asking the department to report back regularly on the progress of the new savings schemes.

6.5 Work is progressing under the guidance of corporate director Huw Dylan Owen to look at 'Llechen Lân' for Social Services. That being, what good practice with regards to Social Services look like to the future, and how much those services would cost. The findings of this work will be published during 2024/25, and recommendations and timescales will follow.

7. Opinion of the Statutory Officers

7.1 Head of Finance

I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of the Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department.

7.2 Monitoring Officer

No observations to add in relation to propriety

CABINET CYNGOR GWYNEDD

A report for a meeting of the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Date:	11 June 2024
Title of Item:	Performance Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Supporting Families
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Elin Walker-Jones
Contact Officer:	Marian Parry Hughes, Head of Children and Supporting Families Department

THE DECISION SOUGHT

To accept and note the information in the report.

THE REASONS WHY A DECISION IS NEEDED

To ensure effective performance management

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on developments in the fields within my remit as Cabinet Member for Children and Supporting Families. This will involve outlining what has happened at the end of the 23/24 year, and the work to date during 2024-25 against the pledges within the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan; and outlining where the department has reached in terms of performance measures; and the latest on the savings and cuts schemes.

1.2 The purpose of the Children and Supporting Families Department is to ensure that we do the best we can to put the people of Gwynedd central to our services. This will be measured through Performance Challenge and Support. It is important for the Department to secure the voices and experiences of individuals from Gwynedd who use our services, to ensure that the best experiences are given to the people of Gwynedd.

1.3 The priority projects featured in the Council Plan are progressing, namely the Autism Plan and the Small Group Homes Scheme.

2 CYNGOR GWYNEDD PLAN PROJECTS

2.1 Below, we note the progress that has been made to date against the Department's priority projects. These priorities address the department's main risks. Overall, I feel that all projects are making progress against the pledges we have made in the Council Plan.

Cyswllt:
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cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

2.2 Small Group Homes Scheme

We wish to improve the experiences of children who have intensive and complex needs, who currently have to leave the county or Wales in order to get suitable provision. We will develop registered residential homes for small groups of up to two children, which will allow them to be looked after in Gwynedd, attend local schools, and participate fully in the lives of their communities. We have now purchased a property in the Dwyfor area in Morfa Bychan at the end of March. A project group has been established and is meeting monthly. The process of recruiting to posts for the scheme has begun. A manager's post is already being advertised and the posts of deputy and residential workers will follow soon. To aid recruitment we will be holding a recruitment afternoon in Porthmadog on 26 June for the posts of deputy manager and residential workers. We are currently working towards registration with Care Inspectorate Wales, in the hope of opening the doors to children / young people around September time. We are also still seeking a second and third property in Gwynedd to enable us to open the doors to another two homes in the future within the scheme.

2.3 Autism Plan

Children, young people and adults with autism find it difficult to obtain the specialist support they require. Therefore, we will improve our provision and make it easier for individuals and their families to transfer between different services. The team is developing parent/carer support programmes to be undertaken at the same time as the workshops that are offered to young people and those who are offered 1-1 support, in order to achieve any change that the autistic individual and the parent/carer requires to be able to access information/develop knowledge. The team is continuing to work on the Llwybrau Ni project, which will provide social opportunities to young people, breaks for parent and carers of individuals who have an autism diagnosis, who are awaiting an assessment/diagnosis and individuals who will not reach the criteria for specialist services when they transition to adult age. These sessions will focus on socialising and developing independent living skills and will offer a short break to parents and carers. The groups are proving to be successful, we have run three sessions and the numbers have increased every week. There were a higher number of referrals for individuals aged 14-25. After completing assessments of what matters, the themes identified were separation, not understanding their autism diagnosis, emotional regulation, burnout and independent living skills. As a result, the team has started 'explore my autism' (14-18 year olds) which offers information, advice, support and education whilst also offering individuals the opportunity to socialise and meet other autistic young people. The team has held an information day in Porthmadog (a central location) where a host of services from all parts of the county attended to offer advice and guidance and show individuals and families what their service could offer. The autism bus was also available on the day for parents/carers to experience it. Over 100 people attended on the day, with 62 people experiencing the Autism Virtual Experience.

3. PERFORMANCE AND MEASURES

3.1 I wish to draw your attention to the following matters, which are unrelated to the Priority Projects, but are being addressed by the department because they are affecting the performance of services and/or causing us concern.

3.2 Workforce Capacity – The workforce situation remains a matter of concern. Through the Workforce Planning Project and WeCare Wales, we have started to put targeted recruitment campaigns in place. As the concerns are far reaching, work is underway to try to stabilise the situation for the future. We took part in a focus group in Bangor University with the Childhood and Youth Studies course. We are keen to collaborate more on offering work placements and also explore what more can the course do to prepare individuals for the world of work. Since November, more work experience placements have been arranged with an extra 80 placements to date which brings the total to 150. Various services have benefited from these, and some individuals were employed following the work experiences. The young people were a mix of Health and Care college students, students from local Universities and sixth form groups who were looking for more experience. There are long-running campaigns on social media to encourage individuals to apply for posts in the field of Social Services. 80 people have got in touch through the campaign since November. We have also used social media to promote good news stories e.g. Derwen on the 'Prosiect Pum Mil' TV programme, and Lleisau Llawen on the 'Cais Quinnell' programme. As already noted, we are organising a recruitment event in Porthmadog on 26 June for the posts of residential workers for Small Group Homes that are being developed as a residential provision for looked after children as part of the Council's Plan and to return children back to their local areas.

3.3 The demand and the type of support – The department is still seeing that the nature of the cases being supported shows that children and families' needs are complex and are intensifying, and therefore require broad, comprehensive and very specialist support packages and care packages. This is the case for all the services within the Children's Department. The numbers that are open to teams have increased. The numbers that are open to the Post-16 Team remain at their highest ever. The problem of homelessness is still continuing, and problems persist in finding suitable accommodation for individuals. We are already in discussions with the third sector to see if it is possible to plan for the future in respect of young people who see themselves leaving care and potentially being homeless. The demand especially for the support element of the Derwen service as well as the social workers support has also increased recently.

3.4 The numbers who contact the department for Information, Advice or Support continue to be significantly higher than before the pandemic. Over a six-month period from October 2023 to March 2024, 3,598 individuals made contact. The requests and calls that the Admission Team received during the second and third quarters of 23/24 have been at their highest ever. We believe that the effects of the pandemic continue to drive the demand, as well as the cost-of-living crisis and the resulting strain on families which subsequently contributes to the need for support.

3.5 We have been a part of the Foster Wales national fostering campaign to attract more people to consider fostering. These campaigns are one way in which we try to address the need to ensure enough care placements locally for children should they need to come into

care. Since the last report, Gwynedd have appointed a second recruitment officer for the south of the County. There is also a part 2 regional digital campaign to build up digital presence and brand awareness for Foster Wales North Wales. During January/February a national campaign titled 'Everyone can Bring Something to the Table' was launched. These conversations highlighted three key things that prevent potential carers from making an enquiry, which include:

- Lack of confidence in their skills and their ability to support a looked after child.
- The belief that fostering is not suited to some lifestyles.
- Misconceptions about the criteria to become a carer.

With this information, Foster Wales have created real-life stories of carers in Wales to show that fostering with the local authority is flexible, inclusive and offers extensive opportunities for training and professional development.

During March and April, a campaign was run to promote for fostering teenagers. There are more than 280 children looked after by the local authority in Gwynedd, with 13 children waiting for a foster home, and eight of these are 11 years old or older. As a focal point of the campaign, a local young woman spoke about how a foster family changed her life when she was a teen and after she became an adult, and she encouraged others to consider putting their names forward as prospective foster carers.

During May the Foster Wales fortnight is held during which the new Foster Wales cookbook, 'Everyone can Bring Something to the Table' will be launched, supported by famous people, with the aim of sharing realistic experiences of foster care and showing every-day experiences – such as cooking supper every night. There will be representation from the region with Meinir Bebb on the stall in the Urdd Eisteddfod in Montgomery where she will be discussing the 'Everyone can Bring Something to the Table' campaign and the new cookbook. Also, a team from Foster Wales Gwynedd, alongside colleagues from Foster Wales Anglesey and Cwm Taf Morgannwg, climbed the 15 summits to raise awareness of the incredible difference that foster care makes and to raise money for Voices from Care Cymru, a charity that supports care experienced young people in Wales. A special day for foster carers and staff was held in Porthmadog Football Club to celebrate the theme of the Foster Care Fortnight this year.

3.6 In terms of the department's measures, I am generally happy with their performance. There are no measures that currently cause me any concern, but I will be working with the Head of Department through the usual performance challenge arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL SITUATION / SAVINGS

4.1 The total Savings Schemes 2023-24 for the department is £44,010, but by taking out-of-county expenditure and four unregulated placements into account, overspend within the Children's Department at the end of the 23-24 financial year is £2.611m. This situation will improve once the small group homes scheme is operational. This is because expenditure on out-of-county / unregulated placements will be funded through the small group homes scheme, therefore the service will be internal rather than through external providers.

4.2 For 2023/24, as part of the bids process, the Department has received £130,000 as a one-off bid towards continuing to employ 3 social care practitioners. The jobs have been evaluated and appointments made, and the officers are in post. A bid to make the posts

permanent was submitted for 24/25, however it was unsuccessful. Another five bids were submitted for 24/25. Out of these bids only one permanent bid was successful which was the "Social Workers Career Pathway" bid for £86,250. 2 one-time bids were successful which were the "Social Workers Career Path One-off Costs" bid for £99,520 over 3 years, and the bid “Additional Workers for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers” for £115k.

5. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of the Children and Supporting Families Department.

a. Views of the Local Member:

i. Not a local matter.

b. Results of Any Consultation:

i. None to note.