

**CYNGOR GWYNEDD  
CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

<b>Date of Cabinet Meeting:</b>	11 February 2025
<b>Date decision will come into force</b> and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Cyngor Gwynedd Constitution.	26 February 2025

**SUBJECT**

Item 6: 2023/24 CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

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**DECISION**

To approve the 2023/24 Cyngor Gwynedd Climate and Nature Emergency Plan Annual Report.

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan came into existence at the beginning of 2022/23 and an Annual Report was published looking back on the progress made in that first year following a Cabinet meeting in December 2023.

Following the same procedure, this is an opportunity for the Cabinet to decide whether or not they are satisfied that the Annual Report in Appendix 1 provides a correct and balanced picture of the work achieved during 2023/24 in order to achieve the ambition in the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (CNEP).

The Annual Report provides evidence regarding how Cyngor Gwynedd has been implementing Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. The relevant information is in chapter 3 and then at the end of every chapter from 6 to 12.

A draft version of the Annual Report was discussed at a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd's Communities Scrutiny Committee on 23 January, and the committee's observations have been summarised in the report.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which were included in the report.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 7: REVIEW OF THE YSGOL FELINWENDA CATCHMENT AREA

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**DECISION**

The responses received to the consultation on reviewing the Ysgol Felinwnda catchment area were considered, as well as the evaluation of the options presented in the report. It was resolved to approve the preferred option, namely: *'Option 2: Transfer the entire Felinwnda catchment area to the catchment area of Ysgol Bontnewydd'*

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

As a result of implementing the decision to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 December 2023, a decision was required on the future of Ysgol Felinwnda's current catchment area to agree which school/schools will serve as a future catchment area school/schools for the current catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Councillors Llio Elenid Owen and Menna Trenholme stated that they were Governors appointed by the authority at Ysgol Llandwrog and Bontnewydd. In addition, it was noted that Councillor Menna Trenholme had children at Ysgol Bontnewydd. This was not a prejudicial interest and therefore they did not withdraw from the meeting.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

A period of public consultation was held between 24 September and 22 October 2024.

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which were included in the report.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 8: YSGOL GYNRADD NEBO AND YSGOL BALADEULYN

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**DECISION**

It was agreed to commence formal discussions with the Governing Body and relevant stakeholders of Ysgol Gynradd Nebo, discussing the potential options relating to the school's future as a result of a low number of learners and the concerns about the school's sustainability.

It was agreed to commence formal discussions with the Governing Body and relevant stakeholders of Ysgol Baladeulyn, discussing the potential options relating to the school's future as a result of a low number of learners and the concerns about the school's sustainability.

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The number of learners at Ysgol Gynradd Nebo had been vulnerable for some time. In addition to the low numbers, another challenge the school faces was the lack of children living in the catchment area.

The number of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn had reduced over the past few years, with a substantial reduction in the number of learners from 27 in 2017 to 13 in January 2025. In addition to the low numbers attending the school, another challenge the school faces was the lack of children living in the catchment area.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which were included in the report.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 9: SAVINGS AND CUTS PLAN 2025/26

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**DECISION**

The savings and cuts listed in Appendix A (£519k) to be used as contribution towards our financial gap in 2025/26 were approved, and to commission the Departments to move forward to implement the plans taking note of the issues highlighted in the report.

It was approved to delegate the right to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make adjustments to this Savings and Cuts Plan within the Departmental totals as the maturity of the plans listed in Appendix A develop, within the financial totals.

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

We now know what our Welsh Government Revenue Support Grant (RSG) level will be for 2025/26 (an increase of 3.2%), and that it will be significantly lower than what we will need to maintain our current level of services.

We also face a situation where departments are overspending, mainly due to continued increases in demand for their services and that it is now impossible for some services such as children care services, adults care services, waste and highways to be able to operate within their current budget. As a result, overspending by departments this year would be approximately £8M. Most of this deficit derives from the lack of funding to meet the high demand for services and, in most cases, not providing those services is not an option. Therefore, we are going to have to use reserves to cope with the situation.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT  
DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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## **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which were included in the report.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 10: 2025/26 BUDGET

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**DECISION**

Recommend to the Council (at its meeting on 6 March 2025) that a budget of £355,243,800 should be established for 2025/26 to be funded by a £246,818,190 Government Grant and £108,425,610 of Council Tax income (which is an increase of 8.66%).

Recommend to the Council (at its meeting on 6 March 2025) that a capital programme of £53,736,190 should be established for 2025/26 to be funded from the sources noted in Appendix 4 of the report.

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The Council must set a balanced budget for 2025/26. This budget is set at a time when Welsh local authorities continue to face financial challenges, where the addition to the settlement does not meet the increase in the demand for services.

It is a matter for the Full Council to consider the budget and set the Council Tax for 2025/26 based on the matters noted in the following report. This detailed report notes the factors that influence the proposed revenue budget for 2025/26 and outlines the main changes since 2024/25.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

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**SUBJECT**

Item 11: MODIFICATION TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

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**DECISION**

It was approved to add the Domiciliary Care project to the list of projects under the caring Gwynedd priority in the 2023-2028 Council Plan.

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To ensure that there is agreement on the modifications suggested for the Caring Gwynedd priority field within the Council Plan, before presenting them to the Full Council meeting to be adopted at its meeting on 6 March 2025.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

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**SUBJECT**

Item 12: DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: MANAGING THE USE OF DWELLINGS AS HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

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**DECISION**

The Draft SPG: Managing the Use of Dwellings as Holiday Accommodation (Second Homes and Short-Term Holiday Accommodation) was considered as well as any comments and any necessary amendments as appropriate.

It was approved to release the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance: Managing the Use of Dwellings as Second Homes (subject to any necessary amendments) for the public consultation period.

It was approved to delegate the right to the Head of Environment Department to make any insignificant amendments that may be required to the draft SPG.

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

During a Cabinet meeting (16 July 2024), it was decided to confirm the Article 4 Direction (non-immediate effect) for the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority area. The purpose of the Article 4 Direction is to revoke specific permitted development rights associated with changing the use of a residential home to holiday use, whether the use is as a second home (use class C5), short-term holiday accommodation (C6 use) or a mixed use of these classes. The Article 4 Direction came into effect on 1 September 2024.

Although the Plan contains policies that enable the Local Planning Authority to make consistent and transparent decisions on development applications, it cannot provide officers and prospective applicants with all the detailed advice they need to guide proposals locally. To provide this detailed advice, the Council has/is preparing a range of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs) to support the Plan.

Furthermore, the legislative changes relating to the use classes came into force after the Joint Local Development Plan was adopted (as well as implementing the associated Article 4 Direction). As such, it is highlighted that the policies of the Plan were not prepared with the wider objective of the Article 4 Direction in mind, therefore the

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preparation of this SPG is a means of providing the relevant guidance.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

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**SUBJECT**

Item 13: TRANSFERRING THE NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL TO THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

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**DECISION**

- (1) It was agreed to draw up a Partnering and Funding Agreement (Appendix 1) whereby the role of the Accountable Body, the responsibility for achieving the North Wales Growth Deal and the funding arrangements for the Growth Deal are transferred to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on or before 31 March 2025.
  - (2) It was agreed to novate and assign as required the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal and rights and obligations in all incoming funding agreements held by Cyngor Gwynedd as an Accountable Body on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board ("NWEAB") transfer to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee ("NWCJC").
  - (3) It was agreed to transfer and novate and/or assign all interests in the portfolio of projects funded by the North Wales Growth Deal, together with any ancillary agreements, charges and leases from Cyngor Gwynedd as an Accountable Body on behalf of the NWEAB to the NWCJC.
  - (4) It was agreed to transfer and / or assignment of all financial balances, monies due and assets as held on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board by Cyngor Gwynedd to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.
  - (5) It was agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer, to agree and execute the final form agreements, deeds and all other legal documents necessary to implement the transfers referred to in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) above.
  - (6) On completion of the Partnership and Funding Agreement, it was agreed to terminate the GA2 agreement and to the winding up of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee.
  - (7) It was agreed to transfer accountability to the CJC and that the CJC accepts responsibility for decision making for the implementation of the North Wales
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Growth Deal subject to novation of the Growth Deal and approval of additional Standing Orders Page 251 incorporating the key terms of the Joint Working Agreement ("GA2") between the six Constituent Councils and the four Education parties.

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## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Following the in-principle decisions of the executives of Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire Council, Flintshire County Council, Cyngor Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council (the "Constituent Council"); to transfer the implementation of the North Wales Growth Deal to the CJC, the report includes recommendations for a decision to implement and facilitate the proposed transfer on / or before 31 March 2025.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 14: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE AND LEGAL SERVICES

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**DECISION**

To accept and note the information in the report.

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In order to ensure effective and transparent performance management, Cabinet Members are required to report periodically on the performance of the field for which they are responsible to the Cabinet.

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