



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CRIME AND DISORDER

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2025

This meeting will be webcast

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

Note: a briefing session will be held for members at 10:00am

Location

Siambwr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

And virtually via Zoom

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (12)

Councillors

Elwyn Edwards
Elin Hywel
Arwyn Herald Roberts
Beca Brown

Delyth Lloyd Griffiths
Linda Morgan
Beca Roberts
Berwyn Parry Jones

Annwen Hughes
Edgar Wyn Owen
Jina Gwyrfai
Elfed Williams

Independent (5)

Councillors

Robert Glyn Daniels
Peter Thomas
Gruffydd Williams

Elfed Powell Roberts
Rob Triggs

Liberal Democrats / Labour (1)

Councillor Stephen Churchman

Ex-officio Members

Vice-Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. ELECT VICE-CHAIR

To elect Vice-chair for 2024-2025.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

4. URGENT ITEMS

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

5. MINUTES

5 - 11

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 07 November 2024 be signed as a true record.

6. ANNUAL UPDATE FROM GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP 12 - 31

To provide an overview to Members of the activities of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership.

7. CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN: ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 32 - 73

To scrutinise the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2023/24 as part of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 – A Green Gwynedd.

8. GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD PROGRESS REPORT 74 - 88

To scrutinise the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Progress Report.

9. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 89 - 90

To adopt an amended work programme for 2024/25.

10. ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE MEETING 91

To nominate representatives to attend the Environment Department Performance Challenge meeting.

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 07 NOVEMBER 2024

Present:

COUNCILLORS: Annwen Hughes (Chair)
Llio Elenid Owen (Vice-chair)

Stephen Churchman, Elwyn Edwards, Elin Hywel, Beca Roberts, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Rhys Tudur, Linda Morgan, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Jina Gwyrfai, Robert Glyn Daniels, Peter Thomas, Rob Triggs and Gruffydd Williams.

Officers present:

Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for item 5:

Dafydd Williams (Head of Environment Department), Gareth Jones (Assistant Head, Environment Department), Bob Thomas (Planning Policy Team Leader), and Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Edgar Wyn Owen and Elfed Powell Roberts.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Rhys Tudur, for Item 5 as he had been a member of the Welsh Communities Commission in the past. It was not a prejudicial interest, and he did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 12 September 2024 as a true record.

5. PLANNING AND WELSH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES

The report was presented by the Head and the Assistant Head of the Environment Department and the Leader of the Planning Policy Team. The Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor was also present to give guidance on matters pertaining to the Welsh language.

The Head of the Environment Department took the opportunity to thank Councillor Dafydd Meurig for his support to the Department and his passion for the Welsh language and planning matters throughout his time as the Cabinet Member for the Environment. The Chair on behalf of the Committee reiterated the gratitude to the former Cabinet Member.

It was reported that protecting the Welsh language was very important to the Department and that he had worked jointly with the Language Unit to prepare this report.

It was confirmed that the Supplementary Planning Guidance – 'Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities' was in effect to ensure that the impact of developments on the Welsh Language received due attention within the planning field. It was detailed that there were two principal criteria within this Guidance to ensure that developers understood the importance of submitting a language impact assessment / statement when presenting an application for planning permission. It was explained that it was the developers' responsibility to provide a language assessment for any development, noting that the Council would not assist them to do this beyond the guidance given within the Supplementary Planning Guidance.

It was explained that the Supplementary Planning Guidance gives detailed guidance to developers and prospective applicants regarding Welsh language considerations. It was elaborated that it also provided a methodology on how to develop Welsh language impact statements and assessments. It was confirmed that the Department had commenced the process of developing a new Local Development Plan for the Gwynedd Planning Authority Area (except for the areas of the County that are within the National Park's boundaries). It was noted that this process provided an opportunity to consider and revise procedures, policies and the Supplementary Planning Guidance. It was highlighted that there would be an opportunity for Elected Members and the Communities Scrutiny Committee specifically to give input as part of the process of developing the new Plan.

It was noted that there had been examples in the past of planning applications that had been refused for reasons relating to insufficient evidence regarding the Welsh language. It was explained that some of these cases had also been refused on a planning appeal to the Welsh Government.

It was emphasised that the planning field operated within a statutory framework and a framework of national policies. It was explained that these set the basis and context for Gwynedd Planning Policy and affects and limits what may be included within the Local Development Plan. It was explained that further information on national, regional and local policy matters had been included within the Report.

Reference was made to Policy PS 1 'The Welsh Language and Culture' from the Joint Local Development Plan. It was explained that the policy set out the requirements in terms of considering the Welsh Language. The thresholds included in Appendix 1 of the report were highlighted.

It was pointed out that the planning system could promote the Welsh language by encouraging developers to use Welsh or bilingual names as well as using Welsh names in businesses.

It was reported that there was concern about the use made of the housing stock in Gwynedd as many local houses had been converted into second homes and short-term holiday lets in the last few years. Members were reminded that the Article 4 Direction had been operational since 1 September 2024 to get to grips with this challenge. It was hoped that this would ensure more control of the current housing stock, as planning permission was required to change a property from a main residency into a second home or short-term holiday let. It was considered that this would satisfy the housing needs of local communities and encourage the Welsh language to flourish in Gwynedd.

It was confirmed that the planning field and the Welsh Language was very complex and was affected by factors beyond Gwynedd such as national regulations and the census

results. It was added that there were rules in force to ensure that Local Authorities do not control the language of new housing occupants. However, it was emphasised that the Gwynedd policies and guidance ensured that developments were granted in the right areas leading and contributing to the development of sustainable communities.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:-

It was asked on what linguistic grounds had planning applications been rejected, had these applications not submitted a language impact statement / assessment as part of the application? In response to the query, the Assistant Head confirmed that applications were refused on linguistic grounds if the information presented in language statements was not sufficient, or if insufficient linguistic information had been included as part of the entire application. It was confirmed that there had been cases in the past where planning applications had been refused because of the challenges being made on applications.

There was concern that only the developers assess the language impact of planning developments, with the Language Unit providing expert opinion on what they submitted. Concern was raised that this allows developers to focus on the positive points of the development in order to receive planning permission, rather than completing balanced research. It was added that it was difficult for members of the Planning Committee to challenge these language statements due to a lack of evidence. It was proposed to invite Community and Town Councils to make linguistic observations to the Council in response to local planning applications. In response to the comments, the Assistant Head confirmed that not all information submitted by developers was accepted unconditionally. It was stressed that the Planning Service and Language Unit officers challenge the information received to ensure accuracy.

Reference was made to the Language Unit's language statement checklist noting that some of the considerations go beyond linguistic elements. It was noted that all questions and considerations on the checklist should be central to the Welsh language. It was pointed out that there was no reference to births within the checklist. It was noted that this topic should receive fair consideration from developers when formulating a language impact statement / assessment. In response to the comments, the Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor confirmed that the checklist was not exhaustive with all the considerations the Language Unit completes when responding to language statements, but included the main points for consideration. The Advisor assured the members that births did receive the consideration of Language Unit officers if there was concern about the numbers of Welsh speakers in areas given the census figures. It was added that it was an opportunity to consider adding the inclusion of facts of this type as necessary information for developers as they set about formulating a language impact statement / assessment.

It was asked what research and evidence was available to prove that no significant harm had been done to the Welsh language in allowing planning developments. In response, the Assistant Head confirmed that corporate research had been completed by the Council some years ago detailing the County's housing developments. It was explained that the research sought to assess the language of house occupants in the area and further information about who previously lived in the houses. It was noted that the percentage of Welsh speaking occupiers in new housing developments in Gwynedd was consistent with the percentage of Welsh speakers in Gwynedd as a whole. This was considered to be very positive results, but it was noted that this had been completed during the previous Local Development Plan.

It was noted that the Welsh language was central to the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Thriving Welsh Language Communities. The Assistant Head agreed and took pride in the importance of the Welsh language in a number of considerations.

Considerations and concerns were expressed about the impact of the Housing Allocations Policy on Gwynedd communities. In response, the Assistant Head stressed that this policy applied to the Housing and Property Department and did not fall within the responsibilities of the Planning Service. The importance of Housing Associations was recognised, and their ability to provide homes for individuals and families in need. They were thanked for working with the Council. It was also noted that there was extensive evidence about the need for affordable housing in Gwynedd but there was no way to influence the language of those home occupants. Private developments were highlighted, and it was noted that the Council had no influence on their occupation either.

It was asked whether Council procedures need to be monitored more frequently than every 5 years as set out in the Report. The Assistant Head confirmed that the Joint Local Development Plan was monitored annually, with an annual Report prepared. It was confirmed that a specific monitoring framework and indicators were in place. It was acknowledged that the need to carry out specific research had not been identified as an indicator, but he noted that this may be a consideration as the Plan is reviewed.

In response to a query, the Assistant Head confirmed that the Welsh language is central to the Department's work for all the planning authority's areas. It was emphasised that no area received more detailed consideration than others in terms of linguistic needs.

It was asked whether community size was considered when assessing planning applications. It was detailed that there was no requirement to submit a language impact statement / assessment for any development of less than 5 houses, considering this may have a detrimental effect on communities with a low population. In response to the comments, the Assistant Head confirmed that the consideration given is commensurate with the scale and location of the development. It was pointed out that this can lead to the need to submit a Welsh language impact statement / assessment for developments of less than 5 houses. It was emphasised that there had been instances in the past where a language assessment was required for the development of 1 house if the Indicative Growth level in that area had reached its maximum. It was confirmed that Local Members can ask developers to submit a language assessment for a development, and they could also submit comments as the Local Member. However, there was no way of guaranteeing that the developments reached the threshold levels of different assessments, and it was noted that a language impact statement / assessment will not be submitted with all planning applications as a result.

The Language Unit was thanked for its work in providing the checklist for language assessments. It was asked whether officers interpret data to ensure it is up-to-date and accurate. In response to the comments, the Assistant Head confirmed that the expertise of the Language Unit officers fed into the planning process. It was recognised that there was no specific qualification that language or planning officers had to complete to present language assessments. It was confirmed that they used all the information available to them given the interventions that limit the planning system nationally and regionally. Members were reminded that the Council's procedures go beyond Welsh Government requirements, noting that it was timely for the Government to review their regulations to ensure greater support for the Welsh language in this field across Wales. Furthermore, it was confirmed that the Local Development Plan was robust as it had been challenged and approved by the Welsh Government.

Reference was made to Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh language, and to consider when it would be reviewed by the Welsh Government. In response, the Assistant Head confirmed that the recent report and recommendations of the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities might encourage the Welsh Government to change policies at a national level.

It was pointed out that the report stated that the Welsh Language Commissioner 'should' be consulted in the preparation of a Local Development Plan. It was questioned if this was standard as it was felt that the Commissioner must be contacted when preparing the revised Plan. In response, the Assistant Head agreed that contacting the Welsh Language Commissioner should not be an optional step in preparing the plan and he assured members that the department had contacted the Commissioner when preparing the current Local Development Plan. Furthermore, the Planning Policy Team Leader stressed that the Department would consult the Commissioner when preparing the New Local Development Plan.

It was noted that the Report made clear that the authority can encourage people to retain traditional Welsh names for new developments and streets in line with TAN 20, and considered whether it was possible for the Authority to enforce Welsh names on such developments to reflect the language and culture of the area. In response to the query, the Planning Policy Team Leader confirmed that this reference was a direct quote from the TAN 20 policy indicating that this change may be a specific comment for the Welsh Government to consider during their next review of the policy. The Assistant Head added that Cyngor Gwynedd's policies detailed signage. It was detailed that policy PS 1 of the Joint Local Development Plan imposed a planning condition on any new housing and commercial developments to secure a Welsh name on their signs. It was elaborated that the Planning Service was part of the Gwynedd Native Place Names Protection Project Board and they worked together to strive and promote prospective applicants to consider the language and highlight its importance within the area's culture.

In response to a query on monitoring the language impact of the sale and purchase of houses within areas when considering planning applications, the Assistant Head explained that this was a very complex process. It was explained that it was very difficult to obtain evidence on the direct effect of the Article 4 Direction and other interventions. It was noted that the Council was currently undertaking research into the impact of a Council Tax Premium, adding that the Planning Service was using a monitoring framework to consider the impact of the Article 4 Direction on the area. It was reported that the Department was also developing a Supplementary Planning Guidance which addresses the new use class policy issues that exist since the Direction came into force, until the LDP has been adopted, indicating that this is a challenging process. He recognised that they would need to gather data for approximately 2 years so that the actual impact of these interventions could be assessed. It was confirmed that the data collected would be included in the development of a new Local Development Plan and will receive attention from a language impact perspective.

It was asked how the Department addresses the cumulative impact of developments when considering each individual planning application. In response, the Planning Policy Team Leader confirmed that the Department used a housing monitoring system. It was clarified that this system had been in use since the current Local Development Plan was developed in 2011. It was confirmed that the system could effectively provide information on other developments that had been carried out in specific areas. It was explained that this did not include data on changes in housing associations tenancies, but it was noted that the information was held by the housing associations themselves.

The members were pleased that the Department agreed that the Welsh language was important to all areas within the planning authority and beyond. It was considered whether it would be useful to add a measure for assessing whether the Welsh language rates were 'decreasing', 'stable' or 'increasing', to receive consideration when assessing planning applications. In response to the comments, the Assistant Head noted that this was one potential element that should be considered when developing a new Local Development Plan. The need to assess such ideas was emphasised to ensure that they would not lead to a negative language impact in some areas. The Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor added that the Commission for Welsh Speaking Communities had recommended the introduction of Areas of Linguistic Significance in their recommendations to the Government, and they looked forward to the Government's comments on this proposal.

Officers were asked for their views on what would improve the efficiency of language impact statements / assessments and how to develop best practice within this area. In response to the query, the Assistant Head confirmed that the close collaboration between the planning service and the Language Unit helped to ensure that language impact statements / assessments were assessed effectively.

It was considered whether it was possible to re-visit language impact statements / assessments to assess if what had been assumed had been realised, and to challenge further if necessary. The Assistant Head noted that the experience of the Language Unit and Planning Service officers in assessing the language impact statements / assessments was advantageous to enable comparison of the actual language impact of development from what was said within the original assessment.

Consideration was given to language assessments in a planning appeals context. It was asked whether a decision to refuse a planning application had been upheld on appeal due to language issues. The Assistant Head confirmed that cases of refused planning applications due to language matters had also been refused on appeal. Pride was expressed that the Council's policies regarding the Welsh language had been tested within the system and shown to be sound.

It was asked how 'community' was defined within the planning context. In response, the Assistant Head confirmed that definitions of 'community', 'settlements', 'town', 'villages' and others were continuously addressed during the development of a new Local Development Plan.

Members expressed their gratitude for the report and for the work the Department and Council undertake to protect the Welsh language.

RESOLVED

- 1. To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- 2. That the Committee requests the Welsh Government to review 'Planning Policy Wales' and 'Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh language' to ensure that the Welsh language receives appropriate consideration.**
- 3. To request that the Housing Associations provide data to the Council to assess the information on the Welsh language in the planning field.**
- 4. To recognise that no specific qualification has been developed for assessing the linguistic impact of planning developments. To recommend that the Environment Department and the Language Unit contact the Coleg Cymraeg**

Cenedlaethol and Bangor University to encourage them to develop suitable training.

- 5. Community and Town Councils should be reminded that they are free to make representations on the potential linguistic impact that local planning developments may have on the area.**
- 6. Consideration should be given to conducting language planning training for Councillors to enable them to assist Community and Town Councils in making representations on the language impact of planning developments.**

6. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Advisor.

Members were reminded that a revised Forward Programme for 2024/25 had been approved at the meeting of this Committee on 12 September 2024.

It was explained that the item 'New Local Development Plan – Strategic Options, Vision and Objectives' had slipped from this meeting to the 23 January 2025 meeting. It was noted that the item 'Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2023/24' had also been scheduled for this meeting, but a request had been received to re-schedule it for the January 2025 meeting.

It was reported that the item 'Public Toilets' had been scheduled for this meeting, but before the agenda was published a message was received to state that it would not be possible to present the report to this meeting. It was explained that there was a need to scrutinise the item before presenting the Public Toilets Strategy to the Cabinet. The recommendation to schedule this item for the 20 March 2025 meeting was confirmed to ensure that there was an opportunity for scrutiny to add value prior to the Cabinet's consideration of the Strategy.

RESOLVED

1. To schedule the following items:

- 'Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2023/24' for the 23 January 2025 meeting.**
- 'Public Toilets' for the 20 March 2025 meeting.**

2. To adopt a revised programme of work for 2024/25.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and concluded at 12.45pm.

CHAIR

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	23/01/2024
TITLE	Annual Update from Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	The Committee's role as a Crime and Disorder Committee
AUTHOR	Daron Owens – Senior Executive Officer
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr Dilwyn Morgan

1. Why does it need to be scrutinized?

The CSP is required to formally report to the Committee annually to submit an overview of activities. This ensures that the Partnership meets its commitments in accordance with sections 19 and 20, the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006.

2. What needs to be scrutinised?

- The partnership's work over the year
- The partnership priorities and future direction of work

3. Summary and Key Issues

The report summarises the work of the Partnership over the year as well as the direction of the work over the next year.

4. Background / Context

BACKGROUND:

- Local Authorities have a statutory duty in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, **and the subsequent amendments resulting from the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006**, to work in partnership with the Police, Health Service, Probation Service and Fire and Rescue Service. These are the main agencies that make up the CSP. There are also co-operative partners such as the Area Planning Board (Substance Misuse), Education, Youth Justice and Community Cohesion.
- As a statutory member of the Partnership, it is important that the Council is properly represented. This is achieved through the presence of the local member with the Community Safety portfolio, namely Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, and the chief officer with responsibility for the work, namely Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services and current Chair of the Partnership).

- The Partnership has a responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence, following amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act as a result of the new Serious Violence Duty. In North Wales, a regional approach is being taken.
- Under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, CSPs also have a statutory duty to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (*Domestic Homicide Reviews/DHRs*). These are a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by— (a) a person to whom he belonged or had been in a close personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as himself, with a view to identifying the lessons to be learned from the death.
- There is always good attendance at the quarterly meetings. The Partners and Local Members attending the meetings contribute positively, and quarterly data on crime figures is shared. Each responsible member of the partnership contributes financially to the establishment of a partnership analyst within the Police, so that regular data can be provided to support evidence-based decision making.
- Working between partners is fundamental to community safety. The main reason for the introduction of CSPs back in 1998, was to ensure that crime and disorder was seen as a '**problem for everyone**' and not just for the Police.
- It is important to note that we do not commission any projects or services directly (only the DHRs) as **no funds are allocated to Community Safety on an ongoing basis**. Any funding opportunities are 'ad hoc' and are only available by applying for them.
- The partnership works according to an annual plan. Attached is the 2024-25 plan, which is based on the regional priorities of the Safer North Wales Board Strategy. These priorities are:
Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
Tackling Violent Crime
Tackling Serious Organised Crime
Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety

OVERVIEW OF CRIME LEVELS OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD:

- The Police consistently consider crime figures, reviewing all changes regionally and locally. Any significant changes are subject to further analysis. Problem areas will then be reviewed, with policing plans in place to address them. Local policing approaches include placing resources every day to address issues as they emerge.
- The Partnership receives data on crime levels on a quarterly basis. The data we generally use is comparison data between the period in the current year, and the same period in the previous year.

CRIME DATA:

The table below highlights the year-to-date (YTD) volumes of each crime category for the fiscal years 2023/24 and 2024/25. The comparative data used is for the period 1st April to

December 31st for both fiscal years. Also included on the chart, is the current YTD change in volumes for 2024/25 in comparison to 2023/24 and a comparison to the overall change being seen across North Wales:

Gwynedd

Gwynedd - Crime & Incident Data	Fiscal Year		% Change (YTD)	North Wales % Change (YTD)
	2023/24 (YTD)	2024/25 (YTD)		
All Victim Based Crime	5,807	5,989	3.1%	0.6%
Violence with injury	844	843	-0.1%	-0.5%
Violence without injury	1,105	1,106	0.1%	-1.1%
Stalking & Harassment	970	1,082	11.5%	0.8%
Sexual offences	294	376	27.9%	14.6%
All Acquisitive Crime	1,516	1,419	-6.4%	-6.0%
- Burglary Residential	140	140	0.0%	2.4%
- Burglary - Business and Community	75	75	0.0%	4.2%
- Robbery	15	16	6.7%	38.5%
- Vehicle Crime	155	133	-14.2%	2.7%
- Theft and Handling	1131	1055	-6.7%	-9.3%
Criminal Damage & Arson	765	717	-6.3%	0.3%
Domestic Crime	1,171	1,179	0.7%	-3.3%
Domestic Incidents (non-crime)	608	600	-1.3%	-1.7%
Hate Crime	141	164	16.3%	10.9%
Anti-Social Behaviour	1,926	1,756	-8.8%	-4.1%
Substance used by Offender (Alcohol and/or Drugs)	871	614	-29.5%	-28.5%

- Violence against the person offences have, overall, decreased in Gwynedd in 2024/25, compared to the same period last year.
- Year-to-date data for 2024/25 shows an 11.5% increase in Stalking and Harassment offences in comparison to the same period in 2023/24. North Wales Police, along with the other police forces across the UK, have been tasked with producing a problem profile focussing on Stalking offences, to better understand the issue.
- The 2024/25 year-to-date recorded level of Sexual Offences in Gwynedd has seen an increase in comparison to 2023/24. There can be significant fluctuations in reported offences from week to week, partly due to reporting of historic offences. Analysis conducted at the end of May 2024 (when the percentage change was over 80%), showed the increases in Gwynedd were down to an initial increase at the beginning of the fiscal year in the reporting of historic sexual offences. The recorded levels of sexual offences in Gwynedd have stabilised over recent months, resulting in a reduction in the percentage change. The tables below highlight the time period

between the occurrence date of the offence and when it was reported to the police. For all sexual offences, there has been an increase in the first three quarters of 2024/25 in offences being reported to the police **over 12 months** after they have occurred (51 in 2023/24 and 84 in 2024/25):

Gwynedd: All Sexual Offences (April to December)		
Reported to police	Q3 2023/24	Q3 2024/25
Within 7 days of offence	60.6%	58.1%
Within 28 days of offence	9.4%	9.3%
Between 28 days and 1 year of offence	12.2%	8.8%
Over 1 year after offence	17.8%	23.8%

When looking at just rape offences, the increase is higher again, with 22 being reported **after 12 months** in 2023/24, compared to 51 this fiscal year:

Gwynedd: Rape Offences (April to December)		
Reported to police	Q3 2023/24	Q3 2024/25
Within 7 days of offence	50.6%	32.0%
Within 28 days of offence	7.6%	2.9%
Between 28 days and 1 year of offence	13.9%	15.5%
Over 1 year after offence	27.8%	49.5%

In addition, the table below highlights the age group and gender of the suspects in sexual offences in Gwynedd, which are recorded as having occurred between April to December 2024. The data shows that of the 163 suspects identified, over 90% were male, with almost 25% being between the ages of 25-34:

Suspect: Age Group	Female	Male
0 - 11	0	2
12 - 17	4	12
18 - 24	2	27
25 - 34	3	40
35 - 44	2	29
45 - 54	2	19
55 - 64	0	11
65+	0	8
U/K	0	2
Grand Total	13	150

- Acquisitive crime includes the categories Burglary Residential, Burglary Business & Community, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Theft & Handling. Both Burglary Residential and Burglary – Business & Community offences are at the exact same volume this year, in comparison to last year, with reductions being seen in the volumes of Vehicle

Crime and Theft & Handling. Only Robbery has seen an increase so far in 2024/25, however this equates to just one additional occurrence in comparison to last year.

- A decrease in the year-to-date volume of Criminal Damage & Arson offences has been seen so far in Gwynedd this year. This reduction in volumes differs to the picture across North Wales as a whole, where a slight increase has been seen.
- Domestic Crime in Gwynedd has increased very marginally (0.7%) year-to-date, in comparison to last year. As a whole, North Wales has seen an overall reduction in reported Domestic Crime. Domestic Incidents (Non-Crime) are calls received by North Wales Police's Control Room which have a domestic element to them; however do not constitute a criminal offence and are therefore not recorded on the force records management system. They include incidents such as verbal domestic disputes, where no criminal offences have taken place. These incidents generate a CID 16 referral, for consideration of sharing with the relevant safeguarding partners. A slight decrease has been seen in the volumes of these non-crime incidents in Gwynedd in 2024/25, compared to the previous year. Across North Wales, there has also been a slight decrease in volumes.
- Following decreases in Hate Crime in 2023/24 in comparison to 2022/23, there has been an increase in Gwynedd in 2024/25. Increases have also been seen across North Wales.
- ASB in Gwynedd has seen a year-to-date decrease of -8.8% in 2024/25, in comparison to the same period in 2023/24. This equates to over 150 fewer incidents being reported. Repeat victims of ASB, repeat locations where ASB is occurring, and high-risk vulnerable victims are referred for review to monthly multi-agency tasking groups.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING 2024:

- The annual plan was developed in line with the priorities of the Safer North Wales Regional Board. The 2024-25 plan (attached) sets out an activity that the Partnership would undertake during this financial year.
- Crime figures were broken down quarterly through a performance report prepared by a Police analyst, so that any additional trends and activity needed can be discussed.
- We have a statutory duty under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs / definition above). This year, 2 DHRs were submitted to the Home Office and approval was received to publish. The Partnership continued to coordinate 2 DHRs and unfortunately one new case was commissioned recently. This work inevitably has significant and ongoing resource implications, including Home Office approval which can be a very long and complex process. In Wales, since October 2024 DHRs are being included within the new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process. In future, there will be no need to report for Home Office approval. Instead, quality assurance will be a process for Welsh Government.

A summary of the specific work completed this year:

- Implement the annual Community Safety plan on an ongoing basis and report quarterly to the Safer North Wales Regional Partnership Board.
- The North Wales Serious Violence Strategy was published in January 2024, in response to the new Serious Violence Duty. The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Following recent amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act, the CSP had a specific role in evidence-based strategic action on serious violence, and we were involved in developing the regional strategy from the outset. As part of the Serious Violence Strategy, the Partnership received £82k for preventive projects in our region. This funding resulted in eight different projects, including:
 - Training for professionals supporting boys and young men on facilitating constructive dialogue around masculinity and being safe and being safe to be around.
 - 'Don't Steal My Future' sessions run in schools by RASA Cymru. This is an educational campaign, which raises awareness of the widespread nature of sexual violence in society, and most importantly, how we can begin to change attitudes and behaviour.
 - Training for frontline staff across Children and Family Services on the nature of abuse by a child on a parent/carer.
- Working closely with Local Policing Teams, we identified locations that could benefit from the Westminster Government's Common Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). One of the UKSPF's aims is to build resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, which include targeted improvements to the built environment to prevent crime. Following a successful application, the Partnership received £450k from the Fund to upgrade and install new CCTV in Caernarfon, Bangor and Pwllheli with the aim of improving people's perception of safety and reducing crime in the neighbourhood. In close collaboration with the Highways Department, a substantial part of this work has been completed during 2024. The Partnership awaits confirmation on any further opportunities from the SPF for other areas that may benefit from this funding.
- Following Cabinet approval, 3 Public Space Protection Orders were introduced in Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli in August. This intention received considerable public support and will give the Police further powers to crack down on ASB in these areas.
- The Partnership has organised a range of different training sessions on specific topics in this area of work, including:
 - Innovative training through VR (*virtual reality*) on coercive controlling behavior. There were sessions for social workers showing a number of case studies through VR, so attendees could be 'in the room' and understand the victim's perspective. As there was significant interest, a request has been made to the Welsh Government for funding to hold more of these sessions and expand the offer.
 - Training for staff working with young people on '*Mind Mechanics*', an evidence-based mental health education programme. This is to support children and young people to understand their emotions, thoughts and physical responses with the aim of improving well-being and increasing young people's confidence and reducing anti-social behaviour.

-Training by the Welsh Government for the Council's staff on how to intervene in possible harmful situations such as sexual harassment. This training was held on White Ribbon Day in November and intended to equip Council staff with the skills and confidence to intervene safely in a variety of situations. This can be with a stranger, colleague or friend. The Partnership is very keen to organise a number of additional sessions of this training.

- In response to the DHRs, the partnership prepared an application to the Self Harm and Suicide Prevention Fund to undertake a project in collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Safety Unit (DASU), North Wales Police, and the Live Fear Free helpline to provide support to victims of domestic abuse. We have just found out that the application was successful, and this work will take place during 2025.
- We continued our membership with the regional group to implement the North Wales Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The Strategy seeks to minimise the harm associated with alcohol to the individual and wider society and highlights the need for a system-wide approach to collaborative partnership. Membership of this group includes the Health Board, the Area Planning Board, councils across the region and local support service providers. The current Strategy expired in 2024 and is currently being refreshed for the next few years.

PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Continue to implement local projects set out in the plan for Q4 and report to the Safer North Wales Regional Partnership Board.
- Continue to implement the 8 preventive projects under the Serious Violence Duty Funding.
- Continue with the DHR cases and submit to the Home Office for approval.
- Complete the CCTV project funded by the Common Prosperity Fund and ensure all expenditure has been made by the end of February 2025. Prepare for any further opportunities from this Fund.
- Progress with the project funded by the Self Harm and Suicide Prevention Funding to provide support to victims of domestic abuse.
- Continue to be part of the regional group to refresh and implement the North Wales Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- Following the announcement of the Prevent (the statutory duty to prevent terrorism) learning resources by the Home Office in November, we will focus on preparing a training package to hold a number of face-to-face sessions for Council staff. This will mean that our staff have the updated information to identify concerns and make timely referrals.
- Hold discussions with the Welsh Government to explore the possibility of organising further 'bystander intervention' sessions, so that a large number of Council staff can attend.

- An application for funding has been made by the Partnership to the Welsh Government's VAWDASV (*Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence*) Grant. If successful, we will organise more coercive control VR training so that more social workers can attend. Additionally in this application, the Partnership would like to organise 2 webinars from a renowned expert in the domestic abuse field, Professor Jane Monkton-Smith on identifying risk for death in an abusive relationship. DHRs in Gwynedd clearly demonstrate these risks and it is vital that agencies are aware of this to prevent domestic abuse related deaths.

5. Consultation

N/A does not apply for an annual update report.

In general, the public were consulted between January-March 2024 about the proposed introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Criccieth, Caernarfon, and Pwllheli. Over 100 complete responses were received. It was clear from the consultation that a significant number of people were concerned about antisocial behaviour and supported the introduction of the Orders.

The SPF CCTV project was dependent on close consultation and collaboration with the Department of Highways.

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you plan to consult them?

The partnership included Gwynedd residents through the public consultation on the introduction of PSPOs early in 2024. Following an urgent request from the Police in September to extend the PSPO area in Criccieth following incidents of anti-social behaviour, a 'drop-in' session was held at Criccieth Library. Around 45 residents of the town attended and there was significant support for the proposed expansion of the area. It was a valuable opportunity for the community to discuss their concerns with the Community Safety Department and the Police.

Have you considered **collaborating**?

*All of the Partnership's work is **dependent** on collaboration – between the responsible partners (Gwynedd and Anglesey Council, Police, Fire, Probation, Health) and more widely across the region (Regional Board, Police Commissioner's Office, other CSPs in the region etc). The Partnership works collaboratively to get the best value with the resources available.*

What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems arising or worsening in the future?

Prevention and early intervention is a particular priority within the Regional Serious Violence Strategy. All the local projects we have commissioned with the Serious Violence funding are based on the intention of preventing violence.

In addition, the domestic abuse and bystander intervention training organised by the Partnership is intended to prevent these incidents and support professionals to intervene at an earlier stage.

CCTV is recognised as a visible deterrent to crime and is a valuable tool for the Police to have timely access to evidence of a very high standard.

How have you considered the **long term** and what will people's needs be in years to come?

All the training we organize has longevity long after they have taken place. The skills and information gained is used throughout professionals' practice and shared through agencies. Recent statistics show the scale of violence against women in the country, and these numbers are not going to decrease without a change in mindset and culture by society. This is a priority for the Partnership. Due to fiscal constraints every decision we make takes into account the long term and getting the best value from the resources available.

To ensure **integration**, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?

Again, the Partnership is dependent on co-operation with other public bodies in the Gwynedd and Anglesey area. Any decisions are made in partnership with other relevant agencies.

7. Impact on Equality Characteristics, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty

In collaboration with the Equality Officer, an equality impact assessment was carried out during the introduction of the PSPOs in the Spring of 2024. No negative significant effect was reported and continued with intent as it was robust.

All Partnership meetings are held in Welsh. All publications and Communications are bilingual (Welsh first).

8. Next Steps

Continue with the priorities set out in Section 5 of the Report.

Background Information

Introducing the PSPOs in Summer - [PSPO.pdf](#)

Expansion of PSPO Criccieth area - [20241115-Variation-of-the-Criccieth-PSPO-area.pdf](#)

The Serious Violence Duty - [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance](#)

Regional Strategy Serious Violence [Serious Violence Duty | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales](#)

Domestic Homicide Review undertaking guidelines - [DHR-Statutory-Guidance-161206.pdf](#)

Prevent Duty - [Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales](#)

Appendices

The Partnership's 2024-25 Plan.

Safer North Wales Regional Board Strategy 2022-24



Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2024-25

Background

The Community Safety Partnership is a group of organisations that collaborate to consider how best to address crime and disorder. The requirement to have such a partnership in place on a local level is part of the law, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Several organisations have a part to play within the partnership, including the local authority, the police, the probation service, the fire and rescue service and the health board.

We have responsibilities under the 1998 Act for a number of areas, including – reducing crime and disorder, reducing re-offending, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. In addition, we have a duty to commission Domestic Homicide reviews under certain circumstances.

Our plan will deliver against the priorities within the Safer North Wales Partnership Board Strategy, namely:

1. Prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
2. Tackle violent crime
3. Tackle serious organised crime
4. Safeguard and build resilient communities and maintain public safety

#	Action	Output	Outcome	Responsibility	Timescale	Regional Priority
1	Meet our responsibilities under the new Serious Violence Duty – serious violence is now an explicit priority for CSPs. A regional strategy has been developed to be embedded in both Counties. We will coordinate local spend of SVD Funding on several preventative interventions in Anglesey and Gwynedd.	Based on 4 priorities, respond to Regional Strategy published in January 2024 Business case to be submitted end of May 2024 June 2024 – Business case approved Projects completed by March 2025	Responsibilities under the Duty are met locally. Actions resulting from the strategy are delivered and reviewed. Local interventions delivered focused on prevention through SVD funding. SVD implemented across the region, serious violence prevented and reduced across the region	CSP / relevant LA departments / SVD Regional Steering Group	Throughout 2024/25.	Priority 2.4 in the Safer North Wales Plan



2	We will ensure that responsibilities placed upon the CSP in relation to undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) will be appropriately completed. Essentially, this means ensuring that appropriate review panels, chairs and authors are commissioned, and that final review reports are submitted and accepted by the Home Office before publication.	Commission review panels, chairs, and authors for the DHRs Undertake the DHR and submit to the Home Office.	The responsibilities placed upon the CSP in relation to undertaking DHR reviews are appropriately completed. Action plans in place to respond to recommendations - lessons learned to improve services in the future and safeguard victims.	CSP	Ongoing	Priority 2.3 in the Safer North Wales Plan
3	Respond and share DHR Learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for improved professional and agency understanding of, and response to, domestic abuse and its impact on mental health and suicidality. - Ensure identified learning is implemented in Local training frameworks. - Engage with Women’s Aid ‘Ask Me’ Project to support communities to give a better response to survivors. - Raising awareness of older people as victims 	Develop work plan with the Regional Coordinator for Suicide and Self Harm Prevention and Regional VAWDASV Lead Relevant actions/messages to take place nationally Liaise with regional training co-ordinator Attend training and promote project locally	Practice is improved and victims are better safeguarded	CSP / regional leads	Throughout 24-25	Priority 2.3 in the Safer North Wales Plan
4	Increase awareness of reporting domestic abuse and access to services for victims	Promote Live Fear Free Helpline, Clare’s Law and Gorwel Raising awareness with staff of themes arising from DHR learning – Older people as victims, tech-facilitated abuse, filial abuse	The profile of domestic abuse, the situation locally, and the help available, is raised	CSP	Throughout 2024/25.	Priority 2.3 in the Safer North Wales Plan



		Mark the annual White Ribbon campaign in November				
5	Monitor the progress of Ask and Act training - National Training Framework as required by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015	Understand current picture of progress Collaborate with the Regional Training Development Officer and relevant training departments to monitor and improve progress	Improved awareness in Local Authorities of domestic violence to enable effective referral to support services	Training departments in both counties Regional training officer	Throughout 2024/25.	Priority 2.3 in the Safer North Wales Plan
6	Deliver on statutory Prevent Duty Update arrangements as necessary in conjunction with the Home Office Regional Adviser	Update Prevent Plan to reflect current circumstances Respond to annual Assurance Process – complete self assessment Develop and implement a training plan. Continue providing an input to the Regional Prevent Delivery Group	Contribute to the regional CONTEST Board Action Plan Contribute to the Home Office's Prevent outcomes of reducing radicalisation	CSP / Local Authority relevant departments	Throughout 2024/25.	The Home Office's Prevent Scheme Regional CONTEST Board
7	Complete the work under the SPF funding to extend CCTV provision in both Counties.	Additional CCTV installed Project completed by December 31, 2024	Improved perception of safety Reduction in neighbourhood crime	CSP / LA Highways / Anglesey Town Councils	Until Dec 31 2024	Priority 1.1 in the Safer North Wales Strategy



8	Targeting problem ASB areas through our powers within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – consideration of the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders in 3 towns.	Hotspot areas identified Early consultation and research Public consultation Analysis of responses, reported to the Cabinet for final decision	Preventing ASB being committed in public spaces	CSP / Police	Q1 / Q2 2024-25	Priority 1.1 and 4 Safer North Wales Plan
9	In partnership with other LAs across the region, submit a bid to the Preventing Harm Forum to further roll out the Best Bar None Scheme.	Funding application prepared to include awareness sessions for each LA and promotional materials, training for assessors and accreditation plaques.	Customers are able to identify well-run establishments, positive working relationships are fostered and efforts to reduce crime and disorder and supported. Linked with SVD and reducing violence in the night time economy. Also linked to the Protect Duty and ensuring staff are trained in evacuation procedures.	CSP + relevant officers from the region	Throughout 2024-25	Priority 2.1 in the Safer North Wales Strategy
10	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) will continue to present the Phoenix youth referral programme.	Continue to present the intervention programme in the region	A reduction in fires/ASB A reduction in the number of repeat offenders	NWFRS	Throughout 2024/25.	Priority 1 in the Safer North Wales Plan

Safer North Wales Strategy

2022-24

Vision and Purpose:

“Ensuring North Wales is and feels like a safe and inclusive place to live, work in and visit”

The purpose of the Safer North Wales Partnership Board is to work together to achieve this vision, by tackling crime and disorder across the region. This strategy sets out our priorities for the next 2 years.

Strategic Aims and Objectives:

Strategic Priority	Objectives
Priority 1: Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	1.1 Work in partnership, using solution focussed approaches, to identify and tackle issues of crime and Anti-Social behaviour across North Wales, utilising targeted funding where appropriate (e.g. Safer Streets fund)
	1.2 Educate and build confidence amongst communities and businesses to report and remain protected from cybercrime, scams and fraudulent behaviour.
	1.3 Ensure early intervention remains a priority in terms of taking a preventative approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
Priority 2: Tackling Violent Crime	2.1 Ensure the day and night time economy across North Wales provides a safe and supportive environment to prevent and tackle incidences of alcohol/substance related violence, with focus on both victims and perpetrators.

	2.2 Consider the issue of serious violent crime, including knife crime, using local intelligence and work with partners to ensure the appropriate interventions are in place. Raise awareness and educate the public, particularly young people, about the dangers of carrying knives.
	2.3 Identify and our responsibility as a board for contributing to the VAWDASV agenda (Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence). A particular focus to be given to the safety of women and girls in North Wales.
Priority 3: Tackling Serious Organised Crime	3.1 Utilise the 3x North Wales Community Profiles to understand the threat surrounding SOC and agree on any short, medium or long term actions required by partners across the region to address this.
	3.2 Embed the appropriate recommendations of the North Wales County Lines Needs Assessment, raising awareness between partners and communities and ensuring the appropriate responses are in place in order to achieve positive outcomes surrounding this element of SOC.
Priority 4: Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety.	4.1 Engage with communities and partner agencies to understand and address the prevalence and the impact of hate crime and ensure effective measures are in place for reporting such incidences with confidence.
	4.2 Build sustainable and meaningful relationships with seldom heard communities to ensure confidence in raising concerns around crime, community and road safety related issues.
	4.3 Support and contribute to local, regional and national campaigns surrounding crime, community and road safety related issues to raise awareness, build confidence and reduce fear of crime.

COVID-19: In addition to the main aims and objectives highlighted above, we are also frequently considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on community safety, and how we work in partnership towards recovery. This element will be covered across all priority areas.

Prevention and early intervention: Along with addressing emerging issues and problems based on regional and local intelligence, we also focus heavily on taking a preventative approach to all priority areas, looking at how early and primary intervention can be utilised to prevent pathways to offending or partaking in Anti-Social Behaviour, and/or being victimised.

Influencing documents and evidence

The Safer North Wales Strategy has been produced in conjunction with the following strategies and evidence:

North Wales Strategic Assessment

North Wales Police produce an annual strategic assessment to report on the threat and risk posed by significant areas of crime, disorder and emerging issues impacting the North Wales. The aim is to best inform decision makers for strategic decisions and priority setting.

North Wales Police and Crime Plan 2021-24

The plan sets out a vision to ensure communities are safe, victims and vulnerable people feel supported, crime and reoffending are low, and people have confidence in policing and the criminal justice system. The following areas have been set out as priority:

- Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods
- Supporting victims and communities
- Fair and Effective Criminal Justice system

Beating Crime Plan (Home Office 2021)

The Beating Crime Plan sets out the Government's approach to achieving fewer victims, peaceful neighbourhoods and a safer United Kingdom. The plan focuses on three priority areas:

- Cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime
- Exposing and ending hidden harms and prosecuting perpetrators
- Building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime

North Wales Community Profiles

The profiles are designed to inform local multi-agency partnerships, in particular Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Authorities and other relevant partners such as Education, Health and Housing of the threat from Serious Organised Crime and the impact it is having on local communities. Three separate documents are produced for Wrexham & Flintshire, Ynys Mon & Gwynedd and Conwy & Denbighshire.

North Wales Multi-Agency County Lines Needs Assessment

A multi-agency County Lines Needs Assessment for North Wales was produced to provide a holistic informed strategic overview. The multi-agency approach is required not only to identify the current extent of the problem and current threat posed but to work together to understand the issues and inform multi-agency drawn recommendations focusing on the 4Ps (Prepare, Prevent, Pursue, Protect) including early intervention.

North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy (2021-24)

The strategy involves a multi-agency approach to addressing vulnerability and exploitation in North Wales, covering the agendas of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, and Modern Slavery.

Delivery plans

The priorities and objectives set out within this strategy provide a framework for and will monitor local Community Safety Partnership delivery plans, however the CSPs will be responsible for agreeing their own specific actions in response to local need, and the statutory responsibilities to discharge the relevant sections of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 continue to sit with local CSPs.

. North Wales CSPs:

- Wrexham CSP
- Flintshire CSP
- Conwy & Denbighshire CSP
- Ynys Mon & Gwynedd CSP

The following plans will also be considered by the board in terms of specific actions that feed in to our priorities and objectives:

- Community Cohesion Plans
- North Wales Police Serious Organised Crime Plan

Governance and representation

The governance and membership of the SNWPB are referred to in the terms of reference for the board.

Communications

The Chair of the Safer North Wales Board will attend quarterly meetings with the chairs of the other strategic partnership boards (Safeguarding, Contest, Justice, Vulnerability & Exploitation and Area Planning Board), to communicate key themes which may be cross-cutting and to avoid duplication and/or silo working.

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	23 January 2025
TITLE	Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2023/24
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 – A Green Gwynedd
AUTHOR	Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Nia Jeffreys, Leader of the Council

1. Why it needs scrutiny?

- 1.1 The 2022/23 Annual Report was scrutinised at the Committee's meeting on 30 November 2023 before Cabinet approval on 19 December 2023.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 12 March 2024, Cabinet approved prioritising £1,640,495 of the climate fund for the following projects:
 - Green Fleet Plan - £1,048,400
 - Lighting Upgrades Pilot Scheme - £416,617
 - Heat Pumps Scheme - £175,478
- 1.3 In addition, the right to prioritise the expenditure of the remainder of the climate fund was delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Members of the Climate and Nature Board.
- 1.4 The scrutiny of the annual report will enable Committee members to receive assurances that arrangements are in place and that there is sufficient progress in realising a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan- 2029/30.

2. What exactly needs scrutiny?

- 2.1 The progress made to make the Scheme a reality.
- 2.2 What is the progress on the ambition of the Plan - 'Gwynedd Council will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030'?
- 2.3 What funding sources have been identified?
- 2.4 What are the next steps?

3. Summary of the key matters

- 3.1 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan Annual Report 2023/24 in Appendix 1 seeks to provide an accurate and balanced picture of the progress made during the year to implement the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf](#) (CNEP).

- 3.2 The Report states the levels of emissions and carbon sequestration (absorption) that Gwynedd Council was responsible for, which has been calculated based on data accredited by the Welsh Government Energy Service. Based on this data we know how much the 'gap to net zero' is and therefore how much more work lies ahead if we are to reach our target.
- 3.3 The Annual Report also provides evidence on how Cyngor Gwynedd has been implementing Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The relevant information is in chapter 3 and then at the end of each of chapters 6 to 12.
- 3.4 By submitting the Annual Report to this Committee, the Committee has the opportunity to check if the report is accurate and balanced and not. It can also propose any amendments or corrections, all before the report goes to a meeting of the Council's Cabinet for adoption.
- 3.5 This Committee may also offer any ideas for further future actions based on the information in the Annual Report.

4. Background and Context

- 4.1 The Council adopted the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf](#) (CNEP) following a Cabinet meeting on 8 March 2022. The ambition of the plan is "Cyngor Gwynedd will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030." "Responding to the climate change crisis" is also one of the Council's 8 Improvement Priorities within [The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28](#)
- 4.2 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (the Plan/CNEP) outlines how we as a Council will adapt the way we work and deliver services to reduce our carbon emissions and increase carbon absorption capacity. It provides examples of projects we will be pursuing, their outline costs and the timeframe to deliver.
- 4.3 The Scheme became operational in April 2022 and the first annual report in place 2022/23 can be found [here](#).

Main Issues

- 4.4 Chapter 5 of the Annual Report provides information on the levels of emissions and carbon absorption for which the Council was responsible, and on the all-important figure, which is the remaining gap to reach net zero.
- 4.5 Carbon emissions from our procurement processes are currently based solely on expenditure, and this can paint a misleading picture of the true impact of our climate spending. Simply put, the more we spend the greater the emissions.
- 4.6 Cyngor Gwynedd's total carbon emissions, including procurement, fell by 16% between the baseline year 2019/20 and 2023/24. If we rule out procurement then the fall is 37%.

- 4.7 Looking at our carbon emission and absorption data, without taking into account procurement data, then our gap to net zero is 35% smaller in 2023/24 compared to 2019/20 and 1% less than 2022/23.

Funding the Plan

Income

- 4.8 At the Council meeting on 3 March 2022 it was agreed to create a £3m 'climate plan fund' through the one-time revenue bid process, for the purpose of implementing the CAHN.
- 4.9 In addition, Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 22 November 2022 to use £2.8m of its general funds to fund an investment scheme in solar PV panels on 54 of our buildings, with the revenue savings contributing to our savings plan.
- 4.10 A number of the other projects in the CNEP, such as the PV project above, contribute to financial savings for the Council as well as saving carbon emissions. As many of them are pilot projects we do not yet have a firm certainty of the figures, but for example the Green Fleet Plan is expected to result in savings of £603,000 over 5 years, and the Lighting Upgrades Pilot Scheme will result in £53,000 of revenue savings.
- 4.11 As the operating costs of the CAHN projects are so high it is absolutely essential to attract additional funding from external sources in order to augment the internal fund referred to above. The grant funding supports a large number of our projects – eg. energy schemes, fleet purchases, projects run by Gwynedd Nature Partnership.

Expenditure

- 4.12 Up until the end of December 2024 £2,207,984 out of the Council's Climate Fund had either been spent or set aside to be spent. That leaves £792,015 remaining.

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

- 5.1 Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 says public authorities operating in Wales have a duty to maintain and improve biodiversity and to encourage ecosystem strength.
- 5.2 The Welsh Government published a national biodiversity strategy, the 'Nature Restoration Action Plan' in 2015 which outlined the commitment to reverse biodiversity loss in Wales, with which there are 6 objectives for action. In order to comply with the duty of Section 6 public authorities must publish a plan of their own based on the Welsh Government's plan, and then the progress needs to be reported upon.
- 5.3 Cyngor Gwynedd has been updating our own Nature Recovery Plan during 2024/25 to comply with the requirements of the Act, but in the meantime we are reporting on our progress against the 6 objectives of the national Nature Recovery Action Plan

through the Climate and Nature Annual Report. The information can be found in chapter 3 and at the end of chapters 5 to 11.

6. Response to Additional Questions from the Communities Scrutiny Committee

6.1 What has been done in response to the Committee's recommendations at the [30 November 2023](#) meeting of:

- a) Receive the report recommending:
 - Information about 'Active Travel' should be added under Section 3 of the Report: 'Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016'.
 - Consideration should be given to modifying the display form of the information under the titles 'What we said we would do in 2022/23' and 'What we did' in Sections 5-11 of the Report for clarity to the reader.
- b) Recommending to Cabinet that the staff resource be considered to achieve the vision of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.

6.2 Recommendation 1 was realised above, and the final Annual Report was modified before being submitted to Cabinet for adoption.

6.3 Recommendation 2 was realised above, and a Climate and Nature Professional Trainee has been appointed as part of the 'Cynllun Yfory' graduates scheme and the officer has taken up their post since September 2024.

6.4 Is the Climate Change and Nature Board the best way to realise the achievement of the Plan?

6.5 The role of the Climate and Nature Board is to provide strategic leadership in the field and also to scrutinise and challenge the development of the CNEP. Its membership includes the Cabinet Members over the most relevant areas of work including the Leader of the Council; Countryside and Biodiversity Champion; a member representing scrutiny committees; Chief Executive; Principal Officers over the most relevant areas of work; officers who are involved day in and day out with the CNEP projects. In addition to the scrutiny taking place through the Climate and Nature Board, some of the CNEP's projects are also scrutinised at departmental performance meetings.

6.6 What's the latest on the Green Fleet Plans, Lighting Upgrades Pilot Scheme and Heat Pumps Scheme following Cabinet's decision on 12 March 2024 to earmark £1,640,495 from the climate fund for funding?

6.7 Green Fleet Plan –

At the end of December 2024, 70 out of 210 cars and vans were electric or hybrid (33%). Following success in attracting a £124,000 grant from the Welsh Government an order has been placed to purchase an additional 9 vans and 2 electric mini-buses which will reach us by the end of March 2025.

Work continues to weed out our vehicle numbers to reduce fleet size, and to reduce the amount of vehicle hires. It is not currently possible to switch our 4X4 and heavy

fleet to electric vehicles until we are confident that suitable vehicles are available. Nevertheless we are confident that we are keeping to the timetable to make the Plan a reality by its end date of 2029.

Lighting Upgrades Pilot Scheme –

Preparation of assessing the 6 sites that will be part of this project is currently taking place. The work will then go out to tender with a view to the work in residential home and leisure centres taking place in June and July, followed by the work in three schools being carried out over the schools summer holiday period 2025.

Heat Pumps Scheme –

One small change has been made to this pilot, which we believe strengthens it. It was originally intended to install heat pumps in two schools and one leisure centre but now we want to install them in one school, one leisure centre and one residential home. This will provide further scenarios and valuable experience before deciding how to continue work on the remaining Council estate into the future. This is a wider project than just installing heat pumps – additional work such as installing triple glazing, fixing asbestos problems, insulating the buildings and replacing lighting needs to be completed. Work is currently underway on the 3 sites with a view to being finished by the end of March 2025.

6.8 What is the ongoing programme of work and the timetable for delivering the projects?

6.9 The programme of work and timetable for each project are included in chapters 7 to 13 of the CAHN, but there are also detailed project management programmes on a weekly project-by-project basis. The development of this work is being monitored by the Climate and Nature Board, and a number of the projects are also being monitored at departmental performance challenge meetings.

6.10 How much money has been spent so far to make the Scheme a reality?

6.11 See 4.8 – 4.11 above.

6.12 Are there other projects being considered?

6.13 Discussions have taken place during 2024/25 amongst officers and at the Climate and Nature Board to review the CNEP, with a view to publishing a revised version in early 2025/26.

6.14 Existing projects have been evaluated, all considered in the context of the need to continue, extend further, or wind down. There are also proposals to adapt some of the existing projects, such as creating a Tree Management Policy or having low carbon fuel options for a heavy fleet.

6.15 New projects are also being considered, such as encouraging active travel in the school catchment area and reviewing the potential to create heat networks, but it is

important to note that all new projects are considered in the context of the financial and human resources that would be necessary to make it a reality.

6.16 Are there ideas that have been considered but decided not to develop them further?

6.17 Some schemes, such as investing Council funds in creating solar farms, have been ruled out for financial reasons. Millions of pounds would need to be invested to create such farms and the cost is so high because of the cost of paying for the creation of a link between the farm and the National Grid. The Council would also not be allowed to 'claim the carbon credit' that would come from generating electricity in a solar farm and therefore will not be able to contribute to our own target of reaching net zero.

6.18 It would be easier to justify the expenditure if it were possible to build a solar farm capable of feeding electricity directly to one of the Council's sites, but unfortunately there is not enough land adjacent to our main sites (eg. offices, depot) to enable this.

6.19 Are there improvements that can be made to meet the target of Net Zero Carbon that are not costly? What has been considered?

6.20 There are certainly a large number of low-cost or no-cost options that have been considered, many of which have already been implemented, such as:

- Facilitating arrangements to recycle waste on Council sites and running campaigns to influence changing staff practice
- Using Climate Week Wales in November to share information on the steps the public, staff and members can take to reduce their individual carbon footprint
- Use Climate Week Wales to offer electric bike taster sessions, and encourage staff to take advantage of the Council's Green Bike and Car Schemes
- Updating the Climate and Nature on the Council's website and also creating a new section on the Council's staff intranet to share information, news and support that will hopefully lead to behaviour change
- Encouraging staff and elected members to complete the Climate and Nature training e-module
- We are already using remote energy consumption monitoring (M&T) methods to identify any accidental energy wastage, but we are also investigating other remote control methods using the internet
- A questionnaire is due to be circulated to gather information on staff commuting habits to work and to see what changes towards less polluting approaches would be possible to adopt
- Alongside the implementation of the Green Fleet Scheme there are plans to try to reduce business travel – ie. moving away from using personal cars towards using the fleet of electric vehicles

6.21 Can we receive a list of the things that cause the largest proportion of carbon emissions within the Council and what is being done in order to reduce them?

6.22 Chapter 5 of the Annual Report shows the Council's carbon emissions by category, and chapters 6 – 12 show what is being done to reduce them.

6.23 How does the current financial situation affect the realisation of the Scheme?

6.24 While a number of low-cost or no-cost schemes are being considered and implemented, the reality is that significant funding is needed to realise the necessary changes that are going to make the biggest difference. If we are to significantly reduce the carbon emissions from our buildings and fleets (the most polluting areas, after procurement) then we need an investment of millions. We have estimated that it would cost around £3.7m to switch lights across the Council estate to LED ones, but that should also result in around £500,000 of financial savings and a carbon saving of 524 tCO₂e. A pilot scheme to install heat pumps at 3 sites costs £1,950,000, while one small electric van is £26,357.

6.25 While projects require significant capital investment in addition to what we as a Council can offer, it also requires revenue investment in order to carry out projects. Revenue funding is needed to retain staff who will be able to apply for capital grants in the first place, and then to bring those projects to life.

7. Consultation

7.1 The 2023/24 Annual Report has been discussed and accepted by the Climate and Nature Executive Group (a group of officers across Council departments involved in the CNEP projects) and by the Climate and Nature Board.

7.2 Following comments from the Communities Scrutiny Committee the report will be considered by the Council's Cabinet before a final version is published on the Council's website.

8. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

8.1 Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you plan to consult them?

8.2 The final Annual Report will be published on the Council's website after receiving Cabinet approval and we will share information about it to all members of the Council, and to Gwynedd residents and the public at large.

8.3 Have you considered **collaborating**?

- 8.4 Chapters 11 and 12 of the Annual Report report on work that has been undertaken in part by the Gwynedd Nature Partnership, a consortium of local organisations led by the Council. A number of other projects in the CNEP are being undertaken in partnership with others, such as active travel projects in collaboration with Public Service Board partners.
- 8.5 What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems arising or getting worse in the future?
- 8.6 One of the founding principles of the CNEP is to try to prevent further increases in the average temperature of the planet and to limit global warming to "well below 2 °C" in accordance with the UN Paris Agreement. All of the plan's projects seek to stabilise or even reverse the chances that the current situation leads to further problems in the future.
- 8.7 How have you considered the **long term** and what people's needs will be in years to come?
- 8.8 As noted above, the basis of the CNEP is to try to prevent global warming problems from getting worse into the future, and while the Council itself has set a target to be net zero carbon by 2030 the Welsh Government has set a target for the whole of Wales to be net zero by 2050. The CNEP therefore also takes into account that changing the practices of Gwynedd residents and businesses will be long-term work beyond 2030.
- 8.9 The Annual Report highlights that the CNEP itself states that further work needs to be undertaken to incorporate projects that will help residents, businesses and communities respond to climate change that is already changing our landscape, such as the impact of flooding and extreme weather. Work is currently underway to review the CNEP and make any necessary adjustments so it is very likely that we will see additional projects in the future that will focus on helping Gwynedd residents adapt to the different needs over a long period of time.
- 8.10 To ensure **integration**, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?
- 8.11 A large number of CNEP projects are being planned or implemented in collaboration with other public bodies or with the voluntary sector and communities. See 8.4.
- 8.12 A number of local public bodies including Gwynedd Council are members of the Public Services Board and one of the three Wellbeing Objectives of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Wellbeing Plan 2023-2028 is 'We want to work together to support our services and communities to move towards Net Zero Carbon'. There is ongoing collaboration with other local authorities across north Wales, the Welsh

Local Government Association, the Welsh Government Energy Service, Transport for Wales which has resulted in collaborative planning and commissioning. A number of CNEP's projects are also dependent on successful collaborations with other partners, such as our biodiversity and land use projects in collaboration with the Gwynedd Nature Partnership.

9. Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Social Economic Duty

9.1 An Equality Characteristics, Welsh Language and Social Economic Duty Impact Assessment on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan was produced when it was adopted at the Cabinet meeting on 8 March 2022. This assessment is directly relevant to the Annual Report on the CNEP as well.

10. Next Steps

10.1 Following discussion in the Communities Scrutiny Committee any comments the Committee has on the Annual Report will be brought to the attention of Cabinet. The Council's Cabinet will consider the Annual Report at its meeting on 11th February.

10.2 If Cabinet approves the report we will share publicity about it and encourage Gwynedd residents to take advantage of the opportunities to reduce their personal carbon emissions as well as help the Council meet our own net zero target.

11. Background Information

[Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf](#)

[Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan-Annual-Report-2022-23.pdf](#)

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2023/24

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

Annual Report 2023/24



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1. Foreword by the Council Leader

I am pleased to present this report which summarises the work that Cyngor Gwynedd has been leading during 2023/24 in delivering our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 - 2029/30. This is the second year we have been implementing the Scheme, and I am pleased to see that we have further developed our work in a number of areas, and started some other projects from scratch. It must still be remembered that our purpose is that "Gwynedd Council will be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030."

As you browse through this report you will see many examples of project work succeeding in gradually moving us towards the goal of becoming a net zero council. Working in partnership with others enabled the expansion of the Snowdon Sherpa bus service, the introduction of 'fflecsi' services and the introduction of a fleet of electric buses on the T22 route between Blaenau Ffestiniog, Porthmadog and Caernarfon. This change has helped reduce petrol and diesel car journeys and offers residents and visitors more choice on how to get around the county.

We are building on years of experience in converting our buildings and fleet to be less energy consuming and emitting less carbon, and the installation of heat pumps, LED lighting, electrified fleet and chargers will take us several steps further on that journey. We have invested money from the council's coffers in this work, which resulted in significant funding being attracted through external grant schemes.

This additional external investment is absolutely necessary to the success of our work in the climate and nature fields. The cost associated with the work is huge, while at the same time the budget we have is reduced. We simply need to achieve more but with fewer resources.

Our focus, going forward, is on looking creatively at how we can use our scarce resources, and we will be working with other partners across north Wales and with our local communities to push this vital work forward.

Councillor Nia Jeffreys

Leader of Cyngor Gwynedd

2. Background

Cyngor Gwynedd has made it clear that responding to the climate and nature emergency is one of its priorities, and a Green Gwynedd is one of 7 priority areas in the [Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028](#).

To understand more about what the Council is trying to achieve, please turn to the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) (CNEP) which was adopted by the Cabinet in March 2022.

The ambition of the Plan is "Cyngor Gwynedd will be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030."

The ambition corresponds with the Welsh Government's target for joint public sector organisations to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and for Wales to be a net-zero country by 2050.

Our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan includes several projects within the main themes –

- buildings and energy
- movement and transport
- waste
- governance
- procurement
- land use
- ecology

This report will provide an insight into the progress that has been made in each of the CNEP's projects during the 2023/24 year, which is the second year the plan has been operational.

The plan is regularly monitored by the Climate and Nature Board, which has a membership of officers and Cabinet Members and representatives from scrutiny committees.

[This Annual Report will be scrutinised at a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 23 January 2025 and at a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet on 11 February 2025].

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

Our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (CNEP) declares our ambition to be "... ecologically positive by 2030". One of the steps we can take to make this a reality is to act on the contents of Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

According to Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities operating in Wales have a duty to maintain and improve biodiversity and to promote the strength of ecosystems. While our protected sites and species are important, the requirements of Section 6 relate to taking action to protect nature in our towns, cities, public spaces and the wider landscape, through practical action, and in the organisation of all public actions.

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

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

Objective 2: Protecting species and habitats of paramount importance and improving their management

Objective 3: Increasing the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and creating new habitats

Objective 4: Addressing key pressures on species and habitats

Objective 5: Improving our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Objective 6: Implementing a governance framework and support for achieving the objectives

To comply with the duty of Section 6, public authorities must publish a plan of their own outlining what they intend to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and encourage resilience. Welsh Government guidance states that public bodies should consider basing their Section 6 duty scheme too on the national Nature Recovery Action Plan.

Cyngor Gwynedd is currently developing a revised Nature Recovery Plan, but in the meantime, we have also included relevant information in the CNEP. While nature conservation

and biodiversity has been woven throughout the CNEP, the Land Use and Ecology sections list the projects that will focus specifically on this work.
























contributes to the realisation of one or more of the above 6 objectives, which in turn comply with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

At the end of each section of this annual report you will find a description of how the work that has been undertaken

Here is a summary of the link between the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan projects and the Objectives of Section 6:

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

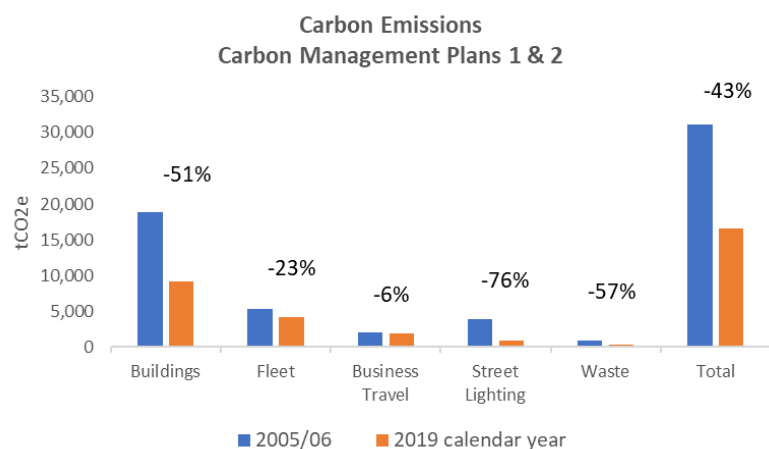
	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
Buildings and Energy						
Movement and Transport						
Waste						
Governance						
Procurement						
Land Use						
Ecology						

4. Reaching the Current Situation

Prior to the existence of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan the Council had already been taking action for years to try to reduce our carbon footprint. The Carbon Management Plan 1 was published in 2010 and the Carbon Management Plan 2 in 2015. 2005/06 was used as the baseline year to measure the data in both plans.

By investing around £8m in energy consumption reduction measures between 2010 and 2019, we managed to reduce our carbon emissions by 58% in the areas of buildings, business travel, street lighting, fleet and waste.

The reduction per field can be seen in the graph below and it is fair to say that our efforts have resulted in national recognition several times:



Measuring our Carbon Emissions

When the council implemented Carbon Management Plans 1 and 2, we followed the Carbon Trust's recognised carbon emissions measurement methods, and measured progress in 5 areas as indicated by the chart. Since 2019, the Welsh Government has adopted a different system of measuring carbon data and therefore the CNEP has used year 2019/20 data as a new baseline. As there are slight variations between the two measures it would be misleading to make a direct comparison between carbon data before, and after, 2019.

We are now also measuring our carbon emissions in additional areas – procurement, staff commuting, and working from home (since 2021/22). We also measure how much carbon our lands absorb, and in offsetting that figure against total emissions we get a net figure, which is the gap to reach net zero.

5. Carbon Emissions and Sequestration 2023/24

Our gap to net zero (**including** procurement) in 2023/24 was 58,181,467 kgCO₂e.

Our gap to net zero (**without** including procurement) in 2023/24 was 17,430,668 kgCO₂e.



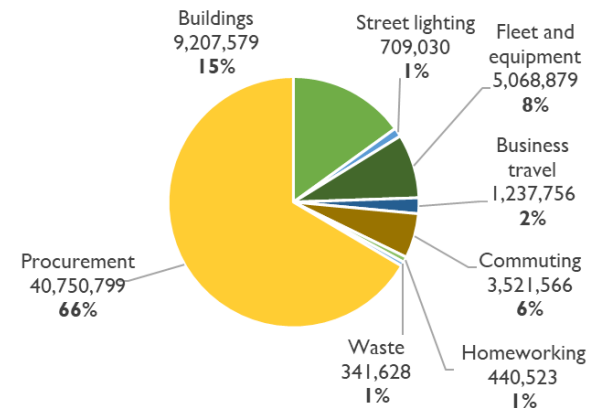
Carbon Emissions

The first chart opposite shows our carbon emissions over 8 headings and includes procurement emissions (purchases of goods and services).

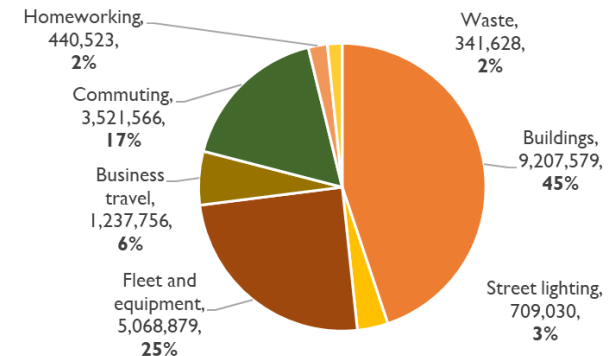
The methodology of measuring carbon emissions resulting from our procurement processes is imperfect because it is based on how much money we spend. The more we spend the greater the emissions.

As the procurement data can create an imperfect picture, the second chart opposite presents data for the remaining 7 headings after procurement is disregarded.

Carbon Emissions kgCO₂e
INCLUDING Procurement 2023/24

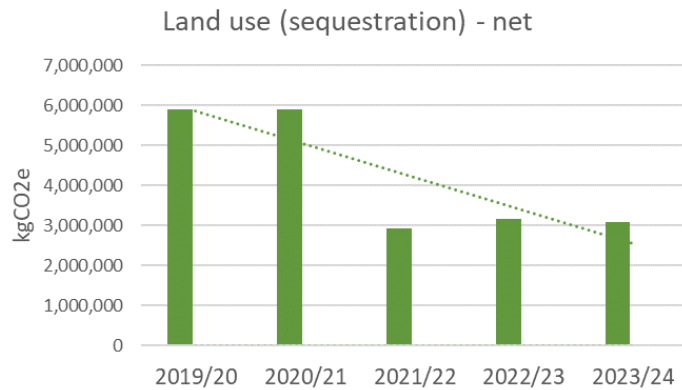


Carbon Emissions kgCO₂e
NOT INCLUDING Procurement 2022/23



Carbon Sequestration (Absorb)

As the chart below shows, carbon absorption levels on Council lands have fallen by 47% between the baseline year 2019/20 and 2023/24, and decreased by 2% between 2022/23 and 2023/24. This is partly because there is a change in the methods of calculation but also because we now own far fewer hectares of land.

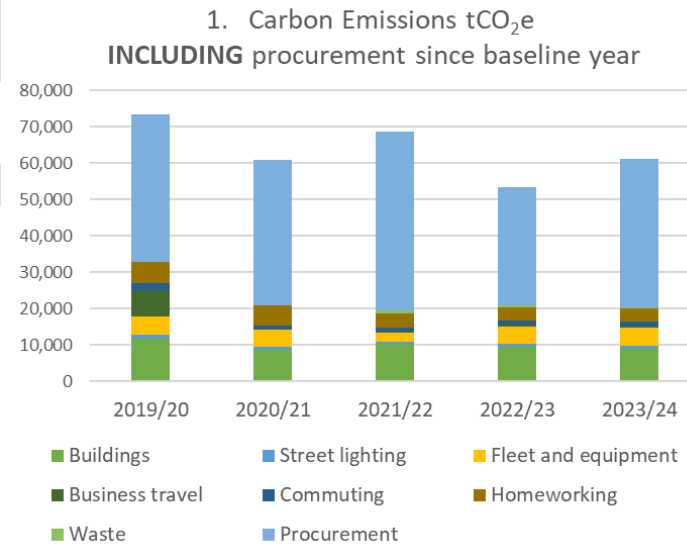


Where are we on the journey of reaching net zero by 2030, and does the 2023/24 data show we are on the right track?

Chart 1 opposite shows that Gwynedd Council's total carbon emissions, including procurement, fell by 16% between the baseline year 2019/20 and 2023/24. If we rule out procurement then the fall is 37%.

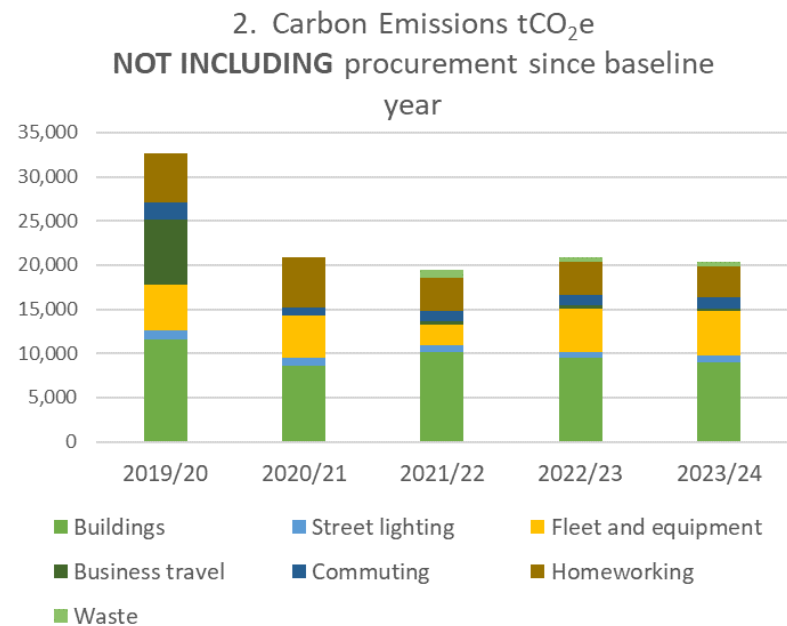
Our procurement emissions increased by just under 1% between the baseline year 2019/20 and 2023/24 but there was a 25% increase in procurement emissions between 2022/23 and 2023/24 which is based on an £11m increase in spending in care, construction and transport.

It has already been noted that the method of measuring procurement emissions is imperfect, and increases in inflation in recent years, coupled with other inevitable rising costs, have led to this reflection that carbon emissions have increased.



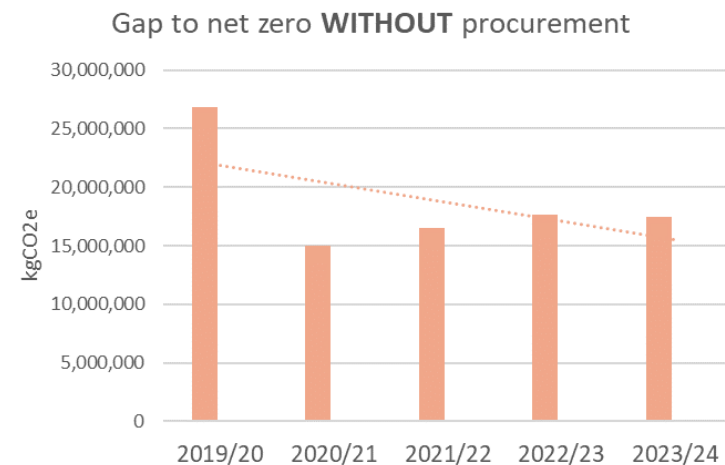
As the procurement emissions data can paint an imperfect picture, chart 2 shows that emissions for the other 7 areas together fell by 37% between 2019/20 and 2023/24 ('working from home' was not measured in 2019/20).

A 2% decline was also seen between 2022/23 and 2023/24. However, there is variation between the 7 areas and 5 areas have seen an increase in 2023/24 on the previous year, namely: Fleet and Equipment, Street Lighting, Business Travel, Waste and Procurement although emissions are still lower than 2019/20 in all categories except procurement. More information on the reasons behind the increase can be found in subsequent chapters.



Gap to Net Zero

Looking at our carbon emission and sequestration data, without taking into account procurement data, then our gap to net zero is 35% smaller in 2023/24 compared to 2019/20 and 1% less than 2022/23.



6. Buildings and Energy

Carbon emissions from buildings and energy in 2023/24 are 45% of the total (not counting procurement), representing a 22% reduction from 2019/20 and a 5% reduction from 2022/23.

Carbon emissions from street lighting in 2023/24 are 3% of the total (not counting procurement), representing a 36% decrease from 2019/20 and an 11% increase from 2022/23.

What did we say we would do in 2023/24?

Short-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

Projects:

1. Aim for long-term benefits when planning construction or building renovations.
2. De-carbonise the Council's energy supply.
3. Use Passivhaus low carbon construction methods in developing our innovative housing pilot scheme.
4. Offer advice and information to Gwynedd residents about the benefits and opportunities of using low carbon building methods when building homes and low carbon heating/energy systems to maintain a home.
5. Set individual room heating regulations to reduce the energy required to heat a building.

6. Upgrade streetlights and traffic signs to use less energy.
7. Improve the energy infrastructure in Gwynedd and north Wales to maintain low carbon energy and transport systems.

What did we do?

Project 1 – The work of improving the fabric of buildings to make them more energy efficient (projects 1, 9 & 14) is ongoing work that has been underway by us as a Council for over a decade. This work continued during 2022/23, as well as exploring if any new work needs to be undertaken in the future.

Projects 2 and 7 – Throughout 2023/24, the Council worked with Ambition North Wales, the ARUP company and local stakeholders to develop a Local Energy Plan. The Local Energy Plan intends to create an integrated low carbon energy system for Gwynedd, improving existing infrastructure which will in turn support all sectors to transform their current energy use. The plan is expected to be completed by September 2024, after which discussions will continue to establish arrangements to be implemented in collaboration with regional and national partners.

Project 3 – Passivhaus principles are a consideration as the Council plans new buildings, e.g. Ysgol Bontnewydd. The exact

construction methods are agreed on a development-by-development basis.

Project 4 - We offer support and advice to Gwynedd residents on how to save energy and money through the Nest and Eco 4 schemes. Our tackling poverty officers and energy advisers have been holding face-to-face information sessions in our communities as well as answering queries via the website or by phone. At the end of 2023/24, 278 houses had been upgraded which means spending around £10m in Gwynedd. See also the report on Project 1.

Project 5 - We have centralised systems for heat management in buildings so we do not see the need to move forward with imposing individual room heating regulations at this time. This need may change in future if the Internet of Things project (within the Cyngor Gwynedd Digital Plan 2023-28) demonstrates that there is added value to changing the current system.

Project 6 - This project to change streetlamps and traffic to LED ones started in 2016/17, and the bulk of this project was completed by the end of 2022/23, but if additional streetlights or traffic come under the Council's care then it is ongoing work to replace and maintain them. During 2022/23, the Council adopted responsibility for large parts of the A487 around Caernarfon from the North and Mid Wales Trunk Roads Agent, and as a result a large number of additional streetlamps without LED. Although we have been gradually switching each one to an LED lamp during 2023/24, electricity consumption increased

during the year due to the significantly additional amount of lighting.

Medium-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

Projects:

8. Save 5% of carbon emissions from buildings by bringing them up to the CIBSE 'good practice' standard.
9. Reduce our carbon emissions by expanding our use of solar panels to create renewable energy.
10. Electrification of building heating systems to reduce carbon emissions.
11. Install EC (electronically commutated) ventilation fans in buildings to reduce the energy needed to run them compared to normal fans.
12. Upgrade specialist lighting in leisure centres to reduce energy consumption.

What did we do?

Projects 8 and 12 – The Council's Cabinet agreed to contribute £416,617 towards the running costs of a pilot scheme to install LED lighting at 6 sites. Lighting installation has slipped due to work on the heat pumps but a large part of the work will take place in Summer 2025. The carbon and financial savings will be measured before the value of extending the scheme to replace lighting across the rest of the Council estate is decided.

Project 9 - During 2022/23, the Council's Cabinet agreed to set aside £2.8m to deliver Phase 4 of a plan to install PV solar panels

at 54 Council-owned sites to generate electricity which will result in financial savings as well as reduce carbon emissions. Work will begin to install panels on sites during 2024. The project is also currently being redesigned to take into account the need for heat pumps and electric vehicle charging points. See also the report on Project 1.

Project 10 – The Council successfully attracted a significant grant to fund a pilot project to install heating pumps at 3 sites, and the Council's Cabinet agreed to contribute 10% of equivalent costs (£175,478). Clause 1 of installing the heat pumps on school sites has started during the 2024 summer holidays and will be completed during the 2025 summer holidays. See also the link between this project and project 9.

Project 11 – Ventilation fans will be installed on 2 school sites as part of the heat pumps project (Project 10).

Long-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2029/30

Project:

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

What did we do?

Project 13 – This project is not currently a priority because the financial costs of connecting to the national grid are so high, and

because the Council, under existing data reporting arrangements, cannot claim the 'carbon credit' on any electricity generated. Nevertheless, the Local Energy Plan has identified opportunities to develop solar farms and we will continue to discuss how to fund such pilot projects. See also project 9.

Ongoing Priorities

Projects:

14. Improve the fabric of Council-owned buildings to make them as energy efficient as possible.
15. Prevent the over-development of fossil fuel energy schemes.
16. Maximise the benefits that come from implementing our energy and heating policies.
17. Equipment used within Council buildings to be as energy efficient as possible.

What did we do?

Project 14 – See Projects 1 & 9.

Project 15 – This matter has been addressed in the creation of the Local Energy Plan (Projects 2 & 7), and also in the development of the Gwynedd Local Development Plan 2024-2039.

Project 16 – Projects 1-17 contribute to this aim.

Project 17 – During 2023/24, the Council adopted the Cyngor Gwynedd Digital Plan 2023-28 which includes a number of

projects that will lead to energy conservation, reduce paper use and reduce waste.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The above projects contribute to the objectives below:

Objective 2: Protecting species and habitats of paramount importance and improving their management

Objective 3: Increasing the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and creating new habitats

During 2023/24, the Council was successful with a grant application to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Schools Challenge fund, and an investment of £12m was received to build a new school in Bontnewydd. One of the first steps in the design process was the appointment of landscape architects, and they have contributed to the design of a building that not only conserves the biodiversity on site but encourages learners to use the landscape of the whole site as a learning space. Planning on the site continues, and in consultation with pupils, nest boxes and flower meadows will be installed.

7. Movement and Transport

Carbon emissions from the Council's fleet in 2023/24 are 25% of the total (not counting procurement) which is a 1% decrease from 2019/20 and a 2% increase from 2022/23.

Carbon emissions from staff commuting in 2023/24 are 17% of the total (not counting procurement) which is a 37% reduction from 2019/20 and a 3% reduction from 2022/23.

Carbon emissions from business travel in 2023/24 are 6% of the total (not counting procurement) which is a 36% decrease from 2019/20 and a 1% increase from 2022/23.

What did we say we would do in 2023/24?

Short-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

Projects:

1. Move away from using fossil fuel vehicles towards a fleet of ULEV (ultra low emission vehicles) vehicles (cars and vans).
2. Install electric vehicle charging points for Council vehicles.
3. Install electric vehicle charging points for Gwynedd residents.
4. Reduce business travel.

5. Reduce carbon emissions and parking problems in areas that are popular with visitors.

What did we do?

Project 1 – The Council adopted our Green Fleet Plan 2023-29 in January 2023 and the Council subsequently joined a national scheme for public organisations to jointly purchase EV vehicles to save money and speed up delivery time. The Council's Cabinet agreed to contribute £1,048,400 towards the costs of buying 67 cars and vans during 2023/24 and 2024/25. Delivery of the ordered vehicles was delayed but 44 electric vehicles arrived in March 2024.

Project 2 – The Council successfully attracted a grant of £66,346 to install charging points for Council vehicles on 10 sites. By the end of March 2024, there were 14 charging points operational at 5 sites, with a programme of work to install further points over an additional 20 sites having already commenced during 2023/24.

Project 3 - By the end of 2023/24, the Council had 16 public charging points operating at 8 locations and an additional 7 charging points at 4 Council-owned sites managed by Transport for Wales. As a Council, we are working with Transport for Wales and Eryri National Park in planning the locations of public charging points. A much higher number of machines have been

installed but we are waiting for the electricity connection to be authorised. Our ongoing programme to install a total of 114 public charging points continues during 2024/25 and we will review it when assessing future needs.

Project 4 – As a Council, we hold a number of internal and public meetings virtually, including all major Council meetings – Full Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny, Planning – significantly reducing the need to travel to workplaces. This approach has resulted in a significant 36% reduction in carbon emissions from business travel since 2019/20. Despite this, there was a slight increase of 1% between 2022/23 and 2023/24 as more journeys were made in petrol and diesel cars as more meetings returned to being face-to-face meetings following the lifting of restrictions that existed during the Covid-19 period.

Work has already begun to reduce carbon emissions and the financial cost of business travel, by moving the journeys to be using the fleet of electric vehicles bought by the Council or public transport. Over the next few years we should see the carbon emissions of business trips fall further.

Project 5 - One of the great successes of an integrated transport system is the Sherpa'r Wyddfa bus service which started in 2022, namely a network of bus services around the Wyddfa catchment area. The Council is one of the partners that developed the provision, which aims to increase active travel options and reduce parking problems at popular spots in Eryri. The service was further extended during 2023/24 and now serves a wide catchment area from Bangor to Betws-y-Coed to Morfa Bychan. This will reduce the number and distance of

journeys in personal cars while reducing Gwynedd's carbon emissions as a county.

A review of the cross-county public bus network was completed and the views of users were gathered, resulting in a new network being introduced to the Dyffryn Nantlle, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd areas. New services and timetables were introduced; standard ticket prices; increasing the frequency of service between Barmouth and Porthmadog; improving integration between local and Transport for Wales services; introducing a 'Flexi' service in Dyffryn Dulas and Dolgellau.

A brand new T22 service was also introduced between Blaenau Ffestiniog – Porthmadog – Caernarfon which uses electric buses only which are charged from a new electricity depot in Porthmadog.

Long-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2029/30

Project:

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

What did we do?

Project 6 - Converting the fleet of heavy vehicles to electricity or hydrogen use is a long-term process, but Council officers are working with Ambition North Wales on their Hydrogen Hub project and with the Welsh Local Government Association to share new developments and good practice among local authorities.

Ongoing Priorities

Projects:

7. Reduce carbon emissions through staff commuting habits
8. Encourage active travel among staff – in the interests of health and well-being and to reduce carbon emissions
9. Encourage active travel among residents and visitors to Gwynedd to improve physical and mental well-being and reduce carbon emissions of short car journeys
10. Increase opportunities for community organisations to access EV or ULEV vehicles or use low carbon technology

What did we do?

Projects 7 and 8 - The Council has a Green Car Scheme and a Green Bike Scheme available to most staff, which are salary sacrifice schemes to lease an electric/hybrid car or a new bike. We have been encouraging staff to take full advantage of these opportunities, holding several open days to pilot electric bikes. A

total of 58 bikes and 14 electric or hybrid cars have been leased by our staff during 2023/24.

We have also been investigating other commuting options that may be available to staff, and are in discussions with community organisations to run pilots to provide alternatives to the private car. These schemes will become operational during 2024/25.

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board, of which the Council is a member, also discussed the Active Travel Charter during 2023/24, and went ahead with adopting the charter in early 2024/25.

Project 9 – Several projects have been completed during 2023/24 that will improve existing provision or provide new active travel opportunities for residents and visitors alike – Safe walking and cycling routes on Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor; the improvement of Lôn Las Ogwen; the installation of cycle shelters at Ysgol Cymerau, Pwllheli; Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn, Y Bala.

See also Projects 5, 7 & 8 above.

Project 10 - The charging point for the Council's fleet at its car park in Caernarfon has also been used by agreement to charge a community electric car run by social enterprise Deg/Co-wheels.

Further observations

2023/24 was a year when work programmes across the Council were back to levels similar to what they were before the Covid-19 pandemic. In comparison with 2022/23, this has meant an increase in the litres of fuel (petrol and diesel) used to run equipment at recycling and highway maintenance centres. Our heavy vehicles were out gritting more frequently during the cold weather of January and February, and there has also been an increase in journeys to carry out care visits.

The Council had 17 electric vehicles during 2023/24 which has led to the reduction in carbon emissions since 2019/20. However, as it was the end of the financial year when we received the 44 new vehicles, we will not see the benefit until we measure the carbon emissions of 2024/25.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The above projects contribute to the objectives below:

Objective 2: Protecting species and habitats of paramount importance and improving their management

One of the positive side effects of increasing the provision of public transport in the Eryri area (Project 5) is that the incidence of irresponsible and dangerous parking has reduced. In turn, this has helped to protect biodiversity on road verges and near locations that support fragile biodiversity.

Objective 3: Increasing the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and creating new habitats

Projects 5, 8 and 9 above run alongside the Council's work to maintain public rights of way, and to maintain grounds. Whilst looking after the county's network of 'lonydd glas', cycle and walking paths we have been protecting path and road verges to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan was adopted by Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet on 22 November 2022. Cyngor Gwynedd is responsible for a Rights of Way network which is approximately 3,800km long and open to pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists, horse and cart and motor vehicles.

8. Waste

Carbon emissions from Council waste in 2023/24 are 2% of the total (not counting procurement) which is a 95% reduction from 2019/20 and a 6% increase from 2022/23.

What did we say we would do in 2023/24?

Short-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

Projects:

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

What did we do?

Projects 1, 4, 5 and 6 – The Council worked closely with a number of community initiatives on new projects to boost the circular economy in Gwynedd, all funded by Welsh Government. The following projects ran successfully during 2023/24: Green Shed with Antur Waunfawr, Ar y Lôn with Msparc, Ffiws spaces, Repair Cafés, and work has started on the Hwb Werdd (Green

Hub) in Penygroes by Siop Griffiths and Hen Bost in Bethesda by Partneriaeth Ogwen.

Project 2 – We completed a work programme of installing public recycling bins on popular beaches and started the programme of installing the bins at our temporary camping sites, Arosfan. We are continually assessing the need to install public recycling bins at sites across the county. The Council also worked with Wrap Cymru to review our street waste data collection processes which have generated discussions about having a dedicated vehicle to collect recycling from public bins.

Project 3 – Following an assessment of paper use in our offices, it was decided to change our printing practices, and by 2023/24 we were not printing papers for meetings unless there was a reasonable exception for doing so. We also reviewed our printers and photocopiers hire agreement and arrangements will change during 2024/25 with the aim of significantly reducing paper consumption and saving energy.

Medium-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

Project:

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

What did we do?

See Project 1 above.

Ongoing Priorities

Project:

5. Repair and modify equipment that would otherwise be disposed of and incinerate, and sold
6. Reduce food waste by supporting community projects seeking to re-distribute food that would otherwise be discarded

What did we do?

Project 5 – See Project 1 above.

Project 6 – £32,000 of grant funding was distributed to 12 community groups during 2023/24 to run food schemes that re-use food for social purposes and reduce waste (food poverty, food clubs to respond to isolation). Although the schemes were successfully carried out, all groups reported that the amount of residual food collected was decreasing, probably because there

were fewer donations from the public and less residual food available from shops.

Further observations

When talking about 'waste', we are referring to waste generated by Gwynedd residents and businesses, and not the waste that Cyngor Gwynedd itself is responsible for as an organisation.

The 6% increase in carbon emissions from waste between 2022/23 and 2023/24 stems from several different reasons:

The factors to calculate the emissions change slightly from year to year, which make it difficult to compare like-for-like between one year and the next. Due to the increased calculation factors of 2023/24, there is a higher carbon 'cost' to our waste. If we had used the 2022/23 calculation factors in 2023/24, then we would have seen a 2.6% increase.

The increase in emissions is based (ironically) on the positive steps of sending more tonnes of waste for recycling. Between 2022-23 and 2023-24, an increase was seen in the tonnage of recycled materials (+3%), garden waste sent for composting (+5%), and nappies sent to a treatment plant (+4%), although there was a reduction in food waste processing (-7%).

However, there has been a slight increase of 0.75% in our residual waste that has to be incinerated in a facility that converts the waste into energy (*Energy from Waste*), and work continues to change the habits of residents and businesses to further reduce this figure.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The above projects contribute to the objectives below:

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

When developing the projects involved in the scheme to boost the circular economy, we consulted continuously with all our community partners, and officers at many levels within the Council have been considering the impact of the projects on biodiversity.

Objective 2: Protecting species and habitats of paramount importance and improving their management

Objective 3: Increasing the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and creating new habitats

Objective 4: Addressing key pressures on species and habitats

Projects 4, 5 and 6 above contribute to objectives 2, 3 and 4 as our food hubs and community gardens have assessed their

influence on biodiversity and developed them in a way that will not harm the surrounding environment.

9. Governance

What did we say we would do in 2023/24?

Short-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

Projects:

1. Share information publicly about the work the Council is doing to reduce carbon emissions to encourage others to change habits
2. Support communities to plan and deliver local solutions to local needs

What did we do?

Project 1 – We regularly share information about projects the Council is involved in through our social media and press releases, and also share information about opportunities to save energy and money through the Nest and Eco4 schemes.

Resource shortages remain a barrier to us moving forward with the wider work of influencing and changing residents' habits. We have prioritised time and resources on reducing the carbon emissions directly from our own activity as a Council during the first two years of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan. However, this does not mean that we have not been engaging and supporting our communities and residents so that everyone can play their part in the journey to net zero. We have supported local work through the Ardal Ni scheme which has highlighted that climate and nature issues are of high priority to residents in

all areas, and we continue to support the communities with their action plans. We are also involved in the work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board to realise their new Well-being Plan which came into force during 2023/24. One of the 3 Well-being Objectives of the new scheme is "We want to work together to support our services and communities to shift towards Net Zero Carbon".

Project 2 - Our other projects as a Council also contribute to helping and influencing residents' habits – Clean and Tidy Communities, circular economy projects such as supporting food hubs, Ffiws/Repair Café, energy saving roadshows.

Medium-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

Project:

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

What did we do?

Project 3 – Carbon literacy training accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project was held for 50 staff and elected members during 2023/24, and a training e-module for all staff and elected Council members was planned which was launched in early 2024/25.

Ongoing Priorities

Project:

4. Encourage staff to develop careers in areas that reduce the impact of climate change or are ecologically positive
5. Review current Council policies and strategies so that reducing carbon emissions or reducing the impact of climate change is a factor in reaching a decision

What did we do?

Project 4 – The Council has two schemes that are successful in attracting applicants, an apprenticeship scheme and a professional trainee scheme ('Cynllun Yfory') for graduates. Information sessions were held for applicants during 2023/24 and we were able to appoint a Climate Change Professional Trainee who will take up their post during 2024/25.

Project 5 – During 2023/24, Cyngor Gwynedd's Digital Plan 2023-28 was published, and this new plan includes a number of projects that will lead to reducing energy consumption and reducing paper waste. Work was also started during the year to

create the Gwynedd Local Development Plan 2024-2039, and to create a Local Energy Plan.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The above projects contribute to the objectives below:

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

Work has been carried out with Town and Community Councils to inform them of their duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Objective 6: Implementing a governance framework and support for achieving the objectives

The work carried out under projects 3 and 5 contributes to the realisation of Objectives 1 and 6.

10. Procurement

67% of the Council's carbon emissions during 2023/24 were from our procurement processes, which is a below 1% increase from 2019/20 and a 25% increase from 2022/23.

The method of measuring procurement carbon emissions, or the supply chain, is based on spending alone. Simply put, the higher the spending, the greater the emissions. This increase in procurement emissions in 2023/24 is based on an £11m increase in spending in the fields of care, construction and transport. The formulas used to measure carbon versus expenditure in certain categories have also changed leading to an increase.

What did we say we would do in 2023/24?

Ongoing Priorities

Projects:

1. Providing market support, particularly to local providers, to be able to measure the impact of their operations on their carbon footprint
2. Understanding and measuring carbon emissions when realising contracts in the procurement chain

What did we do?

Projects 1 and 2 - At the end of 2022/23, the Welsh Local Government Association published a report and toolkit for the use of local authorities so that they seek to further incorporate sustainable procurement into daily practice. There has been a long wait for the package as a resource that would help us as a Council to measure the carbon emissions that derive from the services and materials we buy, and it is an initial step on that journey.

Following the publication of the toolkit, we are now collaborating with [WRAP Cymru](#) to review our Sustainable Procurement Policy and to investigate further support to reduce the emissions of our largest contracts in terms of monetary value (such as food and care).

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The above projects contribute to the objectives below:

Objective 5: Improving our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Objective 6: Implementing a governance framework and support for achieving the objectives

We worked with WRAP Cymru during the year to review our Sustainable Procurement Policy and develop ideas on how we can support our suppliers to reduce carbon emissions through the agreements we will set. This work continues into 2024/25, and we are reviewing existing guidance for suppliers on how they can protect and enhance biodiversity.

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11. Land Use

All Council lands (which include 'brownfield' sites that have been constructed) absorbed a value of 3,096,293 kgCO_{2e} net of carbon in 2023/24. This is 47% less than 2019/20 and 2% less than 2022/23.

Offsetting the carbon absorbed against our carbon emissions contributes to reducing the gap to net zero.

What did we do we would do in 2023/24?

Medium-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

Projects:

1. Identify the contribution of Council-owned trees to carbon absorption and storage and flood reduction
2. Identify the contribution of Council-owned lands to carbon absorption and storage and flood reduction
3. Establish tree nurseries to grow trees ready for planting
4. Identify opportunities to plant trees as part of the National Forest for Wales initiative
5. Conserve agricultural land in Gwynedd and using it for a competent purpose, and managing afforestation projects

What did we do?

Projects 1 and 7 – Essential maintenance work continued to be carried out on 8 sites of Council-owned woodland, and repairs were carried out in Parc Dudley, Waunfawr, and in ancient woodland in Parc Meurig, Bethesda, which is now safe and open to the public to enjoy.

Project 2 – In November 2023, a new tool developed by the Welsh Local Government Association was received to measure the value of carbon in various lands. It will help us not only to measure the carbon absorption capacity of our various lands but also to plan the future use of our lands.

Since we started to use the tool, we are now in the process of evaluating our lands for their use to store carbon and enhance nature. This work takes place alongside the work to maintain coppices and identify opportunities to plant trees. Work will continue into 2024/25.

The work of identifying lands for their flood reduction potential occurs with the creation of a Flood Risk Management Strategy (see Section 12).

Projects 3 and 4 – 2 pilot projects were commenced with community enterprises to establish small tree nurseries during the year, and work had begun to assess possibilities to establish tree nurseries where the Council could be a partner.

Ongoing Priorities

Projects:

6. Controlling Ash Dieback Disease in trees and compensating for any carbon emissions as a result of felling trees
7. Council-owned woods are protected to maximise their potential to absorb carbon and become habitats for nature

What did we do?

Project 6 - Unfortunately, the demand to deal with an increasing number of trees suffering from Ash Dieback disease is placing further pressures on our scarce resources. However, we continue to respond to outbreaks and have had to fell 698 ash trees during the year, which was 14% lower than 2022/23.

Project 7 – See Project 1 above.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The above projects contribute to the objectives below:

- Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision-making at all levels
- Objective 6:** Implementing a governance framework and support for achieving the objectives

Cyngor Gwynedd leads the work of the Gwynedd Nature Partnership, a collective of organisations and individuals who act to protect and enhance biodiversity in the county. A fundamental operating principle of the Partnership is to consult with communities to plan projects at grass roots level.

Objective 2: Protecting species and habitats of paramount importance and improving their management

Projects 1 – 7 contribute to the realisation of this objective.

Objective 3: Increasing the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and creating new habitats

Projects 1 – 7 contribute to the realisation of this objective.

Objective 4: Addressing key pressures on species and habitats

Projects 1 – 7 contribute to the realisation of this objective.

Objective 5: Improving our evidence, understanding and monitoring

The Council has continued to collaborate with the Cofnod recording system which helps us to create a baseline for biodiversity across Gwynedd.

11. Ecology

What did we say we would do in 2023/24?

Short-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2023/24

Projects:

1. Identify the steps we need to take to protect nature's habitats and biodiversity into the future
2. Identify our valuable species and habitats and what measures are needed to protect and restore them

What did we do?

Project 1 – Work

continued during the year to produce our revised Nature Recovery Plan for the county and for the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the plans will be published during 2024/25.

Project 2 - Alongside developing the Nature Recovery Plan, we have also been assessing the biodiversity of the nature reserves we own to establish a baseline against which we can measure progress or decline. We use Cofnod processes to map species, and this work continues. We are also in the process of producing a green infrastructure assessment as part of the work that is led by the Planning Department.

Medium-term Priorities 2022/23 – 2026/27

Projects:

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

What did we do?

Projects 3 and 6 - There are two sites in Gwynedd that used to be landfill sites which have now been converted into sites to protect and enhance nature. Maintenance and tree planting work was carried out at Llwyn Isaf near Clynnog and Ffridd Rasmus near Harlech and both sites have also received a 'gold standard' from [Restor](#), the international hub for nature recovery.

Projects 3 and 5 - A number of new pollinator habitats were planted along some of Gwynedd's highways during the year, in order to develop a Pollinator Network. Particular attention was paid to the highways leading up to the site of the National Eisteddfod in Boduan in August 2023. All Eisteddfod local primary schools took part in our project to plant wildflower meadows and the Council's highways teams planted wildflower meadows along the road verges towards the Pwllheli area, and

we will continue to assess and maintain these meadows in future.

The Council has now adopted new grass-cutting arrangements that will reduce grass-cutting frequency, particularly along highway verges. The highways teams also use specialist equipment to collect grass-cuttings to collect seeds and increase wildflower growth.

Projects 4 & 5 – The Council leads the work of Gwynedd Nature Partnership which, in turn, supports community organisations and schools. Practical support is also offered through the Ardal Ni scheme. Work in this area is just beginning and we will be in further discussions during 2023/24 to see what support the Council can offer within limited resources.

Ongoing Priorities

Projects:

5. Nurturing and maintaining Gwynedd residents' interest in ecological issues so that they want to help conserve nature
6. Protecting valuable habitats for nature

What did we do?

Project 5 – See Project 4 above.

Project 6 – See Project 3 above.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The above projects contribute to the objectives below:

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

Objective 5: Improving our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Objective 6: Implementing a governance framework and support for achieving the objectives

All of the work we undertake as a Council and through the Local Nature Partnership is designed or delivered in collaboration with local organisations, communities or schools.

Projects 1 and 2 also contribute to the above 3 objectives.

Objective 2: Protecting species and habitats of paramount importance and improving their management

Projects 1 – 6 contribute to the realisation of this objective.

Objective 3: Increasing the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and creating new habitats

Projects 1 – 6 contribute to the realisation of this objective.

Objective 4: Addressing key pressures on species and habitats

Projects 1 – 6 contribute to the realisation of this objective.

12. Next Steps

Financial

As a Council, we continue to operate in extremely challenging financial circumstances, with our budgets massively squeezed due to a lack of adequate funding and rising costs.

As the field of climate and nature is a priority for us as a Council, we have done all we can to use the funding we have, and to attract funding in the form of grants, to fund the CNEP's projects to date. Starting any new project from now on will be dependent on receiving additional funding to fund it.

Reviewing the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

There has been a huge amount of new knowledge and technical developments in climate and nature since the implementation of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan began in April 2022. A large number of the projects included in the current plan have evolved to respond to the changes, and we have described that work in this annual report. Considerable extra work has already been commenced which does not get much attention within the current plan – e.g. electric buses, use of 'smart' technology.

It is now timely for us to review the plan in its entirety to ensure it is up to date and enables us to continue the work until 2030. The review process will be completed before the end of March

2025 so that we have a revised plan which will be effective from April 2025.

Renewable energy

Generating our own energy not only means less reliance on using electricity from the grid (which is unlikely to be net zero carbon for many years, if at all) but also offers us little energy security locally. Unfortunately, there is no recognition given to us as an organisation if we generate renewable electricity for export to the grid and we are unable to claim the carbon credit for it. In addition, the infrastructure is poor for sending electricity to the grid from renewable sources in this area e.g. it would require a multi-million pound investment to be able to use some of our lands for setting up solar farms. Currently, therefore, commercial-scale electricity generation from renewable sources is unaffordable.

Having said that, the Local Area Energy Plan to be adopted during 2024/25 takes us a step closer to creating a low carbon integrated energy system for Gwynedd. There are a number of ambitious schemes in the plan and a number of them will require further work, but it is necessary work that we will be involved in.

Flood Risk Management Strategy

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

Managing flood risk and coastal erosion 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 are managed.

The formulation of a *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy* (the Strategy) is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and we are required to review it (since the original ones in 2013) to be consistent with the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales, which was published by the Welsh Government in 2020.

The Strategy examines the flood risks on the coast and inland (mainly river risks), and describes which areas are likely to be affected and which organisations will work together to manage the risk.

The process of formulating the Strategy began in 2022 and the Council has since been a member of a national working group which developed a common template for use by all flood authorities. The Welsh Government have been a member of this working group and also want to give the seal of approval to the final Strategy.

A draft Strategy was drawn up and the public consultation process commenced on 25 March 2024, which continued for 6 weeks. A final version of the Strategy was approved by the Council Cabinet on 11 June 2024. We continue to await comments or approval from the Welsh Government.



MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	23 January 2025
TITLE	Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Progress Report
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	The Committee's role to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board
AUTHOR	Sandra Thomas. Programme Manager Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Nia Jeffreys, Leader of the Council

1. Why it needs scrutiny?

The Communities Scrutiny Committee has a role to monitor the Public Service Board's progress in implementing the Gwynedd and Anglesey Wellbeing Plan 2023-28.

The Wellbeing Plan sets out how the Public Service Board will meet its responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

By scrutinising the governance structure and delivery arrangements of the Board as well as scrutinising the implementation of the scheme the Committee will be satisfied or recommended for improvement.

'Delivery arrangements for Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board' were scrutinised at the Committee meeting on 18 April 2024. Part of the decision on the item was:

"Require future reports to include more detail about delivery arrangements and how progress is measured to realise the objectives of the Wellbeing Plan."

2. What exactly needs scrutiny?

- Governance structure
- What are the monitoring arrangements?
- What progress has been made in realising the Wellbeing Plan?

3. Summary of the key matters

3.1 This is the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board (PSB) delivery arrangements for 2024 and 2025 based on our Well-being Plan 2023-28.

4. Background and Context

4.1.1 The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) places a duty on public bodies to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act is based on the sustainable development principle and places a duty on public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives and to take every

reasonable step to achieve these objectives. The Act also established Public Services Boards with representation from key public and voluntary bodies in each county. Gwynedd and Anglesey's public organisations have come together to collaborate on one Board. Every five years, Public Services Boards must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their areas and use this as a basis for the Well-being Plan for the next five years.

4.1.2 One of the main challenges for the Board is to establish where we can add the most value and make a difference together, with the limited resources and capacity available to us. In developing the Well-being Plan, we had conversations about where we can make the biggest contribution without duplicating the good work already underway in other partnerships and organisations. The Board has learned from experience and adapted its structures over the period.

4.1.3 **Well-being Plan Objectives 2023-28:**

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan 2023-28 was published in May 2023. There are **three specific Well-being Objectives, namely:**

- *We want to work together to mitigate the impact of **poverty** on the well-being of our communities.*
- *We want to work together to safeguard and improve the well-being and success of our **children and young people** to realise their full potential.*
- *We want to work together to support our services and communities to shift towards **Net Zero Carbon**.*

4.1.4 The **Welsh Language** is a permanent priority for the Board and we will promote it in all aspects of our work

4.1.5 The methodology of **Whole System Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales** has been adopted as a way of working through this work. This approach puts the spotlight on leadership and enabling change through local collaboration and participation. It means working jointly with everyone (professionals and local communities) that could influence the flow of healthy and affordable food choices and create opportunities to allow people to move more and keep fit.

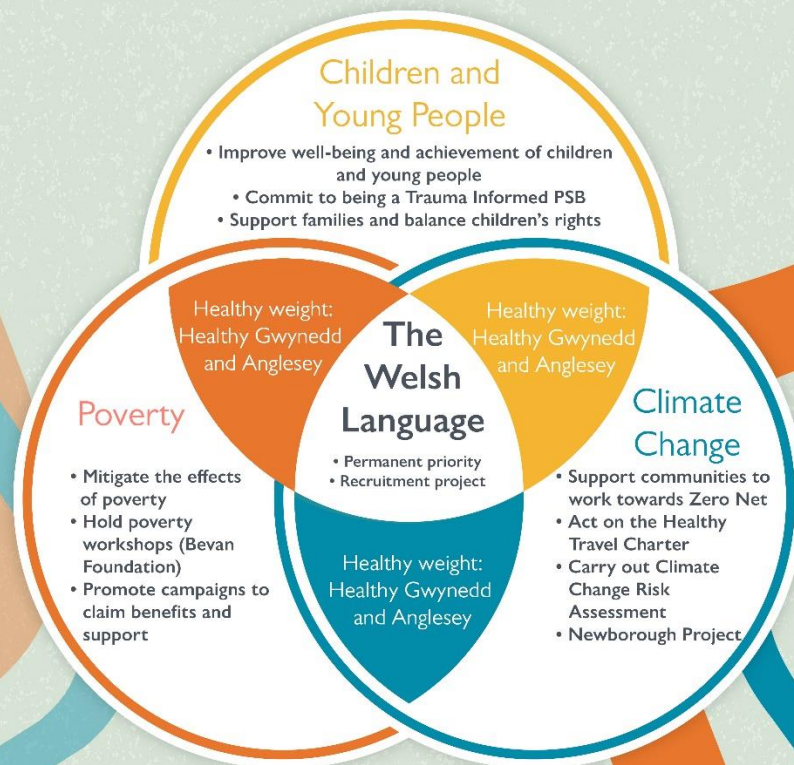
4.2.1 **2024 and 2025 Delivery Plan**

The Board has set its general objectives and direction for the work over the period of the Plan and a detailed plan has been put in place for the initial period, 2023-2025, which is reviewed annually.

The diagram below shows how the Board prioritises achieving the objectives as well as showing the relationship with Healthy Weight and the Welsh Language:

Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board

2023-2025 Priorities



Website - www.llesiantgwyneddamon.org

Email - post@llesiantgwyneddamon.org

4.2.2 Due to previous successes and an ongoing focus in the Welsh Language Sub-group, the PSB agreed that it should continue in its current form - under the chairmanship of Dr Lowri Hughes from Bangor University. Following an independent academic assessment of the efficiency of other PSB sub-groups, it was resolved to proceed with the recommendation to establish a Task and Finish Group with more of an operational focus for the other actions.

4.2.3 Therefore, all the actions prioritised under the three main objectives will be implemented by a Task and Finish Group with operational staff from PSB member organisations working together to reach the short-term goal.

4.3 Progress to date in 2024/25

The following are the key points of progress made in achieving the Language priority and well-being objectives so far this year and intentions for the rest of the year:

4.3.2 The Welsh Language:

Bilingual Workforce Project:	
IAITH cyf have been commissioned to investigate the challenges and successes of bilingual workforce planning among organisations that make up the three Public Service Boards in north Wales. The key question was why public organisations across north Wales were struggling to recruit staff to Welsh-speaking posts, and whether the answer lay within the recruitment processes themselves. The starting point for the research was to collect data from the organisations on vacancies where Welsh was essential, how long jobs had been vacant, whether 2nd/3rd advertisements were required, whether the post needed to be downgraded to Welsh Desirable etc.	
Form of Delivery:	Welsh language Sub-group
Membership of the Sub-group:	Bangor University (Chair); Cyngor Gwynedd, Anglesey Council, North Wales Police, Fire Service, Natural Resources Wales, Eryri National Park
Collaborate with:	Arfor, Welsh Language Commissioner
Funding	£22.5k from the Regional PSB Fund
Completed	July 2024
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report with findings and recommendations for implementation • Good practice checklist for HR managers and officers to follow • The project has already been owned by organisations on the Public Services Boards of north Wales
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor implementation of recommendations and use of checklist • Undertake a review of the core data to confirm if improvements have stemmed from the work • Share the outputs nationally at the request of the Future Generations Commissioner
Next project:	The sub-group has received feedback and suggestions from Board members on what should be the focus of the next project. Suggestions include continuing work to attract and recruit to Welsh jobs – with a focus on myth busting. We are in the

	process of defining the specification and will start work in the new year and report to the next Board meeting in January 2025.
How we will measure progress:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organisations will be more likely to recruit Welsh speakers and confident in their ability to offer a bil-lingual service to the communities of Gwynedd and Anglesey. ➤ Organisations will note an increase in the number of employees learning Welsh. ➤ Organisations will note an increase in a bi-lingual workforce. ➤ The Language will be more visible within services and communities. ➤ There will be an increase in the use of Welsh by promoting activities and services. ➤ Organisations will note an increase in activities and services available through the medium of Welsh

4.3.2 Healthy Weight:

<p>Healthy Weight: Year 1 intentions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All organisations to confirm the extent to which they have incorporated the aims and beliefs into their work (with evidence) • Agreed to establish a sub-group Healthy Weight will work with and add value to regional activity on healthy weight 	
Form of Delivery:	Healthy Weight Sub-group
Membership of the Sub-group:	Bangor University (Chair); Cyngor Gwynedd, Anglesey Council, North Wales Police, Fire Service, Natural Resources Wales, Eryri National Park
Collaborate with:	Healthy Weight Regional Strategic Partnership Group
Funding	No additional funding beyond current member budgets
Timetable	Well-being Plan Period 2023-2028
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed action plan on how Board organisations can commit and collaborate on healthy weight issues, including adapting procurement arrangements, providing feedback on planning applications, preparing services etc
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysing county-level data on Healthy Weight • Report on progress and opportunities to collaborate
How we will measure progress:	Will work with the Regional Partnership and Public Health Wales to agree how this could be measured and if it achieves what has been identified, and what the impact/difference will be.

4.3.3 Climate Change Objective:

Implementing the Active Travel Charter:	
Form of Delivery:	Task and Finish Group
Membership:	Cyngor Gwynedd; Anglesey Council, Bangor University, BCUHB, Natural Resources Wales, Fire Service, Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai
Collaborate with:	Public Health Wales
Funding	No additional funding beyond current member budgets
Timetable	Two years (September 2024 – August 2026)
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and implement the North Wales Active Travel Charter (including collaboration on energy use infrastructure in public sector settings)
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold an official ceremony to sign the Charter in March with Transport Minister Ken Skates in attendance Continue to work together as Board organisations to act to complete the Charter
How we will measure progress:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Using the Welsh Government monitoring matrix tool – for each step there are 4 options – "not started / underway / completed / leading the way." ➤ Reporting the monitoring data consistently ➤ Report on the number of PSB organisations committed to and implementing the Charter. ➤ High level outputs initially, then qualitative outputs.
Welsh Language Action:	We will implement and commit to the Charter in Welsh
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	Support and promote staff of all Board organisations to make more beneficial choices when commuting to work, when travelling during work and in their leisure hours.

Climate Change Risk Assessment:	
Section 38 of the Future Generations Act requires PSBs to consider the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment when preparing their Well-being Assessments. The three north Wales Boards have agreed to work together to provide one joint assessment that will have options to drill down to county and local ward level	
Form of Delivery:	Task and Finish Group
Membership:	6 x North Wales Counties, Bangor University, Wrexham University, BCUHB, Natural Resources Wales, Eryri National Park
Collaborate with:	North Wales Boards
Funding	Regional PSB Fund

Timetable	2 years September 2024 – August 2026
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complying with the Future Generations Act to carry out a Climate Change Risk Assessment Use it to feed the next Well-being Assessments in 2026/27.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning work to collate and coordinate all information with existing reports in the field (see page 4 of the presentation for examples of these)
How we will measure progress:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There will be a complete assessment of the impact of climate change and the well-being and obituaries of that, with and identified response actions to mitigate impact and proactively respond. ➤ Risk assessment completed ➤ Well-being plans respond to the risks and identify outputs and outcomes.
Welsh Language Action:	We will ensure that the interactive output is bilingual – not just a translation
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	The assessment will analyse feedback and data from residents highlighting how climate issues are also having an impact on their well-being

Newborough Project:	
This is a pilot and the intention is to develop a model or good practice that could be applied across the area of partnership working to respond to a problem. We are trialling a different, collaborative approach to addressing access and traffic problems in the Newborough and Llanddwyn area of Anglesey. It's a new way of working collaboratively, where the organisations around the table share challenges and solutions, collaborate on one plan, share resources and communicate as one voice with the stakeholders.	
Form of Delivery:	Task and Finish Group
Membership:	Anglesey Council, Natural Resources Wales, Medrwn Môn
Collaborate with:	Wales Co-Production Network, Menter Môn, Cynghrair Bro Aberffraw
Funding	£8.5k from the Regional PSB Fund
Timetable	Pilot: 18 months (March 2024 – September 2025)
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers from Eryri National Park have shared their experiences and lessons learned from the work they did at Pen y Pass to manage access and transport Taking concerns and solution ideas from the local community, officers have already undertaken some interim measures and are working on a project plan that includes short, medium and long-term actions. Currently piloting a new way of working collaboratively, where the organisations around the table share challenges and solutions, collaborate on one plan, share

	resources and communicate as one voice with the stakeholders.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are in the process of reporting back on progress to the local community in the hope that they will see a genuine difference as early as Easter 2025 • Council officers are assessing the solutions that require capital expenditure and researching specific funding sources • Undertake a review of the pilot to date with the intention of sharing it regionally and offering it as a potential solution for community well-being problems with funding from the regional grant.
How we will measure progress:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Measures such as traffic and visitor data in the area Summer 2025 ➤ Questionnaire for local people measuring satisfaction and well-being improvements
Welsh Language Action:	Have secured bilingual specialists and facilitators in the public sessions and have made a specific effort to ensure that local people take part and can express their concerns and ideas in Welsh. All communication is bilingual.
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	Local people have reported that they do not use the forest or the beach during the summer months as it is so busy and over-tourism. The situation is having a detrimental effect on their day-to-day lives and well-being. This project addresses the lack of access to natural resources such as Llanddwyn for local people.

4.3.4 Poverty objective:

Hold a Workshop on Poverty for Board Members:	
The Bevan Foundation intends to facilitate three workshops in Gwynedd and Anglesey to ensure that organisations in the area have an understanding of poverty and to help organisations think more strategically about their role when providing a solution. Each of these workshops will be targeted at a different audience.	
Form of Delivery:	Workshops for Board Members and officers working in the poverty fields in their organisations
Collaborate with:	Bevan Foundation, Anglesey Council, Cyngor Gwynedd
Funding	No additional funding beyond current member budgets
Timetable	Slipped to Summer 2025
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of the sessions participants will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deeper understanding of which of their services users live in poverty and the implications of this for management and operational decisions for the services provided by them. • The skills to undertake their own analysis of which of their service users live in poverty.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have developed ideas about the best way of managing their services in a way which provides answers to poverty in the area.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm brief and required outcomes • Arrange and hold Workshops • Agree the actions and identify opportunities to work together following the Workshops
How we will measure progress:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Board Members and officers will understand the impact of poverty on residents and communities. ➤ Board members and officers will plan based on evidence and research, to make informed decisions and ensure services are proactive to save and mitigate the impact of poverty.
Welsh Language Action:	<i>To be agreed</i>
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	<i>To be agreed</i>

4.3.5 Children and young people objective:

<p>Commit to being a Trauma-Informed PSB: There is a framework in place in Wales to help ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers in organisations are aware of adversity and trauma and understand how they affect children and young people. • Organisations are aware of how to step in and prevent adversity and trauma from happening. • That organisations are aware of how to support someone that has been affected by trauma. 	
Form of Delivery:	Hold specific sessions with experts on Trauma
Collaborate with:	Anglesey Council
Funding	No additional funding beyond current member budgets
Timetable	Slipped to 2025/26
Outcomes:	To be confirmed
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm brief and outcomes • Arrange and hold Workshops • Agree the actions and identify opportunities to work together following the Workshops
How we will measure progress:	<p>All Board members will be knowledgeable about trauma and the impact of trauma, ensuring that the Boards respond proactively in the Wellbeing Plans.</p> <p>We will know this by monitoring members who have attended the training.</p>

Welsh Language Action:	<i>To be agreed</i>
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	<i>To be agreed</i>

4.4.1 Local Engagement:

Here are three examples of the PSB engaging with communities and schools in 2024:

Community narrative: Porthmadog	
At the request of Adults Services, workshops have been held asking the question of whether people across the demographic range living in Porthmadog feel Porthmadog is age-friendly and if so why and if not, what should be different? Workshops include ice breaking activities, puppet work, 3D and 2D work, painting, collage and textiles.	
Form of Delivery:	Collaboration and commissioning
Collaborate with:	Cyngor Gwynedd Adults Service, Ysgol Eifion Wyn, Ysgol Eifionydd, Porthmadog Youth Club, Hafod y Gest Extra Care and Grŵp Cynefin
Funding	Regional PSB Fund and Wrexham University
Timetable	Completed September 2024
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have gathered feedback on how age-friendly Porthmadog is through creative activities that will be used to shape future services. • Improved intergenerational understanding within the Porthmadog community. • Encouraged understanding of age-based prejudice and what creates an age-friendly society. • Adults Service has used the information to form a strategy / action plan (<i>Mirain a bethanXXX</i>).
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all the information in the Well-being Assessments (2025/26) • Intention to exhibit the artwork in Porthmadog in the new year and to present it to the Board
Welsh Language Action:	A local Welsh artist, Ffion Pritchard, was commissioned to undertake the work and all sessions and resources were provided in Welsh with options available in English if needed.
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	The engagement includes trying to understand the frustrations of older people and young people in Porthmadog regarding keeping fit and healthy eating

Community narrative: Bro Aberffraw	
At the request of Medrwn Môn we asked how we can better address the needs of the local community through access and transport improvements in Bro Aberffraw.	
Is the area an accessible, connected place, and if not, how do we fix that?	
The Workshops have included ice breaking activities, work with puppets, animation, making props and filming.	
Form of Delivery:	Collaboration and commissioning
Collaborate with:	Anglesey Council, Medrwn Môn, Community Groups in Bro Aberffraw
Funding	Regional PSB Fund and Wrexham University
Timetable	Completed September 2024
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Project with local community groups creating artwork from journeys through Bro Aberffraw, linking a variety of start and end points. • Gathered feedback on the connectivity of Bro Aberffraw and the ability to walk around the area through creative activities and improved understanding of the barriers regarding access to public transport and active travel. • Cynghrair Bro Aberffraw has used the information to create a local well-being action plan
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all the information in the Well-being Assessments (2025/26) • Plans to exhibit the artwork at the Bodorgan Centre, Bro Aberffraw in the new year and to present it to the Board.
Welsh Language Action:	A local Welsh artist, Ffion Pritchard, was commissioned to undertake the work and all sessions and resources were provided in Welsh with options available in English if needed.
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	The engagement includes trying to understand the frustrations of the people of Bro Aberffraw on keeping fit and active travel

"Future Leaders": Engaging about the Well-being Plan in the form of a workshop at Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle, Ysgol Y Moelwyn, Ysgol Botwnnog, Ysgol Brynrefail and Ysgol David Hughes	
Working with Xplore we introduced an educational session for schools seeking input, and ideas from young people to connect and understand the challenges and develop conversation/motivational ideas for the Board.	
Form of Delivery:	Collaboration and commissioning
Collaborate with:	Cyngor Gwynedd and Anglesey Council Education Services,
Funding	Regional PSB Fund and Wrexham University
Timetable	Completed October and November 2024
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people were linked directly with the Board and the focus/priorities as well as getting their input on the Board's work programme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We shared insights into what the Well-being of Future Generations Act means.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeding all information into the Well-being Assessments (2025/26) Continue to engage with the schools on a regular basis
Welsh Language Action:	Ensuring a bilingual team from Xplore/Wrexham University leads the workshops at Gwynedd and Anglesey schools
Implement the Healthy Weight Approach	Workshops include mapping how young people stay fit – what control they have over their journey to school, leisure time, access to keep fit resources, time on social media etc

4.4.2 **Regional support and collaboration:**

The PSB is supported regionally by the North Wales Insight Partnership (NWIP), which includes officers from across the public sector and connects organisations and communities across the region. NWIP encourages regional partnership work to align priorities and identify opportunities across Public Services Boards, the Regional Partnership Board, and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The Welsh Government provides a Regional Support Grant to the North Wales PSB which is managed by Cyngor Gwynedd on behalf of the region's PSBs. The purpose of this support is to encourage collaboration and innovation between the three PSBs. This grant supports the development of some innovative approaches to engagement and co-production, which have already helped support the delivery of the local well-being objectives.

The Wales Co-production Network provides long-term support for engagement and co-production across North Wales. The PSB uses the support of this Network to help engage locally with communities.

4.4.3 **Monitoring:**

The Welsh Language Sub-group and the Task and Finish groups are accountable to the Public Service Board in relation to the delivery of any commissioned work. They will update the Board on progress every quarter, and their submitted progress reports will be challenged and discussed at Board meetings. The Board's support team also has a role to play between Board meetings to support and sustain the work of the sub-groups. In addition, an annual report will be published by the Board summarising progress as the Board works towards achieving its strategic aims.

The Board's work will be checked regularly by the Scrutiny Committees of Cyngor Gwynedd and Anglesey Council. The Well-being Act and the associated national guidelines note three roles for scrutiny committees of Local Authorities when providing democratic accountability for the Public Services Board:

- Reviewing the governance arrangements of the PSB
- Statutory consultee on the Well-being Assessment and the Well-being Plan
- Monitoring progress of the efforts of the PSB in the implementation of the Well-being Plan

5. **Consultation**

The Public Service Board formally consults with communities on the Wellbeing Assessments as well as the Wellbeing Plan. We also hold engagement sessions with community groups and with schools (see point 4.4.1).

6. **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board operates in line with seven leading principles. Five of these are the national sustainable development principles (**the five ways of working**) and two have been added by the Board locally. These principles will help us to work together, avoid repeating past mistakes and get to grips with some of the challenges we will face in the future.

6.1 Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you plan to consult them?

Our residents and our communities have an important role to play when planning services for the future and we will ensure that their perspectives and experiences are central to the process of planning the work of the Board. We will adopt the National Participation Standards for all ages and ensure that the Board works within those standards. We will ensure that people can communicate with us in their preferred language and medium.

6.2 Have you considered **collaborating**?

We will try to remove the barriers which prevent effective collaboration. We will also share information and good practice between Board members and our residents about what is being done to realise objectives and priorities. We will consider the Board's membership regularly and will ensure that the right partners are included in order to achieve our objectives.

6.3 What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems arising or getting worse in the future?

We will use trends data to identify the problems which will face our communities in the future and will develop and implement plans to prevent them. We will work with communities to enable them to do more to prevent issues from developing, and support programmes that can make a real difference in the long term.

6.4 How have you considered the **long term** and what people's needs will be in years to come?

We will continue to gather data to ensure a better understanding of how communities look now and how they will look in the future as a result of factors such as demographic changes. We will also look at which national and regional changes are on the horizon and try to analyse the effect on our communities. By doing so, we can work together as partners and residents to plan services for the future.

6.5 To ensure **integration**, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?

We will work in a way that will contribute to more than one goal where appropriate and in accordance with Welsh Government's national wellbeing objectives. We will try to integrate services if evidence shows that this gets the best results for our communities. We will consider other local and regional strategies and plans that work towards the same or similar goals and work together in order to achieve them.

7. **Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Social Economic Duty**

A comprehensive impact assessment was carried out with the adoption of the Wellbeing Plan in 2023. It included assessments on equality characteristics, the Welsh language and the socio-economic duty (Equality Act 2010). We support the Board's partners with Impact Assessments as needed.

8. **Next Steps**

Following reporting to the Communities Scrutiny Committee the report will be shared with PSB Members with any recommendations. The report will also be shared with Anglesey County Council's Scrutiny Committee.

Background Information

Appendices

Welsh language:

[2024.09.09 - Adroddiad Terfynol Cynllunio Gweithlu Dwyieithog - Cym - Glân.docx](#)

[Safle Tîm Uned Partneriaethau - Newydd Denu ymgeiswyr â sgiliau Cymraeg \(4\).pdf - Pob Dogfen](#)

Healthy Weight:

[22146-Healthy Weight Whole System Approach Structure paper-CY.docx](#)

Siarter Teithio:



HTC North Wales
230303-1 cy.pdf

[Adnoddau i gefnogi cynghorau - CLILC](#)

Climate Change Risk Assessment:

[PSB targedau net sero.pptx](#)

Newborough Project:



PSB Newborough
Hackathons Report M

Children and Young people objective:

[Cymru-syn-Ystyriol-o-Drawma.pdf \(traumaframeworkcymru.com\)](#)

Porthmadog Community Narrative:

[Porthmadog Report.pdf](#)



MEETING	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	23 January 2025
TITLE	Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To adopt an amended work programme for 2024/25
AUTHOR	Bethan Adams, Scrutiny Advisor

1. A revised Forward Programme for 2024/25 was adopted at the Committee's meeting on 7 November 2024.
2. The item 'New Local Development Plan - Strategic Options, Vision and Objectives' was programmed to be discussed at this meeting.
3. A request was received to slide the item and to note it as an item to be programmed during 2025/26. Work on the vision, key issues, and objectives has been completed with work to be done on the strategic options. The work related to the strategic options will involve a considerable amount of research, including consideration of data from the Welsh Government such as household growth projections. The relevant data has not yet been published.
4. Following consultation with the Chair, the request was agreed to ensure that scrutiny takes place in a timely manner and can add value.
5. As a result, the item 'New Local Development Plan - Preferred Strategy' slips from the meeting on 20 March 2025, and similarly, will be programmed for scrutiny during 2025/26.
6. See attached as an appendix to the report, the amended work programme for 2024/25.
7. **The Communities Scrutiny Committee is asked to adopt an amended work programme for 2024/25.**

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

Date	Items	Reason for scrutiny
16/5/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 4 Direction – Public Consultation Ash Dieback Disease 	Pre-decision Scrutiny / Council Plan 2023-28 - A Homely Gwynedd
		A matter on the risk register
12/9/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking Fees Developments in the Public Transport field Waste Collection and Recycling Services Dog Control Orders 	Pre-decision Scrutiny
		Council Plan 2023-28 - A Green Gwynedd
		Council Plan 2023-28 - A Green Gwynedd
		Assurance in relation to implementation
7/11/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and Welsh Communities 	Assurance in relation to implementation
23/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Update by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: 2023/24 Annual Report Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Progress Report 	The Committee's role as a Crime and Disorder Committee
		Council Plan 2023-28 - A Green Gwynedd
		The Committee's role to scrutinise the Public Services Board's work
20/3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing public charging points for electric vehicles Public Toilets Grass Cutting and Maintenance of County Roads Verges 	Council Plan 2023-28 - A Green Gwynedd
		Pre-decision Scrutiny / Follow-up following scrutiny at the 5 October 2023 meeting
		Follow-up following scrutiny at the 22 February 2024 meeting

Items to be programmed in 2025/26 - Streetscene Service; Ash Dieback Disease; New Local Development Plan - Strategic Options, Vision and Objectives; New Local Development Plan – Preferred Strategy



MEETING	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	23 January 2025
TITLE	Environment Performance Challenge Meeting
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To nominate representatives to attend the Environment Department Performance Challenge meeting
AUTHOR	Bethan Adams, Scrutiny Advisor

1. The performance challenge meetings are held every other month (apart from April and August), per work field of the Council's departments. An update on the priority projects included in the Council Plan, the day-to-day performance measures as well as the risk register are considered.
2. An invitation is extended for representatives of the scrutiny committees to attend the meetings twice a year.
3. The Scrutiny Committees representatives are invited in order to:
 - Have a flavour of what grasp the individual departments have of performance matters.
 - Identify, if required, any performance matters which could merit the attention of a formal scrutiny committee in due course.
4. Representatives are expected to report back to the first informal meeting of the relevant scrutiny committee following these meetings.
5. The members who represented the Committee at Environment Performance Challenge meetings are no longer members of the committee. Councillor Rhys Tudur has stood down and following her appointment as Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Llio Elenid Owen is no longer a member of the Committee.
6. Therefore, it is necessary to nominate members to represent the committee at the Environment Performance Challenge meeting at 9.30am, Wednesday, 26 March 2025 via Microsoft Teams. This is the last meeting for representatives of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to attend before the arrangements for performance scrutiny in the Committee's formal meetings commence in 2025/26.
7. **The Communities Scrutiny Committee is asked to nominate two members to represent the committee at the Environment Performance Challenge meeting on 26 March 2025.**