



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2025

This meeting will be webcast

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

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

Location

Siambr Hywel Dda, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

Ac 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. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT ITEMS

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

4. MINUTES

4 - 13

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 23 January 2025 be signed as a true record.

5. INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

14 - 27

To scrutinise the introduction of public electric vehicle charging points as The Council Plan 2023-28 – A Green Gwynedd.

6. PUBLIC TOILETS

28 - 42

To consider the Progress Report on Gwynedd Local Toilet Strategy.

7. GRASS CUTTING AND MAINTAINING COUNTY ROAD VERGES

43 - 55

Follow-up discussion following scrutiny at the 22 February 2024 meeting.

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CRIME AND DISORDER, 23 JANUARY 2025

Present:

COUNCILLORS: Annwen Hughes (Chair)

Elwyn Edwards, Elin Hywel, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Beca Brown, Linda Morgan, Beca Roberts, Berwyn Parry Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Jina Gwyrfai, Robert Glyn Daniels, Peter Thomas, Gruffydd Williams, Elfed Powell Roberts, Rob Triggs, Elfed Williams and Stephen Churchman.

Officers present:

Geraint Owen (Corporate Director), Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for Item 6:

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being), Mannon Trappe (Senior Manager for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health), Daron Marged Owens (Senior Operational Officer Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership), Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services) and Stephen Pawson (Chief Inspector, North Wales Police).

Present for Item 7:

Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Council Leader), Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive) and Bethan Richardson (Climate Change Programme Manager).

Present for Item 8:

Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Council Leader) and Sandra Lynne Thomas (Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager).

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Delyth Lloyd Griffiths as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the year 2024/25.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

4. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

5. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 07 November 2024, as a true record.

6. ANNUAL UPDATE BY THE GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being, Senior Manager for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health, Senior Operational Officer of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership, Statutory Director of Social Services and Chief Inspector of North Wales Police.

All were reminded that submitting an annual update on the implementation of the Safety Partnership was a statutory requirement for Local Authorities in accordance with the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006.

It was explained that Community Safety Partnerships had been established in 1988 to ensure that crime and disorder was considered as a problem for everyone within society, not just for the police. It was added that the Partnership had a responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence and this was being done regionally across north Wales.

It was emphasised that no funds were permanently allocated for community safety and the Partnership was dependent on ad-hoc funding opportunities following the submission of detailed bids. It was noted that the only service directly commissioned by the Partnership were the Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR). It was explained that the Domestic Homicide Reviews were a statutory duty as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2024. It was confirmed that two reviews had been submitted to the Home Office and had been approved. Members were updated that the Partnership had submitted a bid to the Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Fund to deliver a joint project with the Domestic Abuse Safety Unit, North Wales Police, and the 'Live Fear Free' helpline to provide support to victims of domestic abuse. Pride was expressed that this bid had been approved and the project would be developed during 2025.

Several priority issues were highlighted for the partnership during 2024-25, based on the regional priorities of the Safer North Wales Board Strategy. It was explained that these included:

- Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackling violent crime
- Tackling serious organised crime
- Safeguarding and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety.

Data was shared on several different types of crime and compared with the 2023/24 data statistics to look if Gwynedd's statistics were similar to what was seen across north Wales. It was recognised that there was a significant increase in the rates of stalking and harassment (+11.5%) and sex offences (+27.9%) compared with 2023/24 rates. It was considered that this increase derived from the fact that more cases were being reported as victims were more confident to do so following recent campaigns. It was added that there was an increase in the number of offences being reported after more than 12 months had elapsed since the offence. Reference was also made to hate crime rates, and it was also noted that these were 16.3% higher in Gwynedd compared to 2023/24. It was emphasised that a 10.9% increase in this type of crime appeared to be regional. However, it was assured that the rates of all types of crime were not on the rise, such as domestic incidents (-1.3% compared to 2023/24) and rates of individuals offending under the influence of alcohol or drugs (-28.5% regionally compared to 2023/24).

It was reported that the North Wales Serious Violence Strategy had been published in January 2024. It was explained that this Strategy imposed a Serious Violence Duty on specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious crime in their communities. It was emphasised that the Partnership had played a central role in developing this Strategy. The Partnership received £82,000 for this work which was designated to fund eight new projects.

Pride was expressed that the Partnership had received £450,000 through the Shared Prosperity Fund to install and upgrade close circuit television (CCTV) in areas of Caernarfon, Bangor and Pwllheli. Thanks were given for the close collaboration with the Highways, Engineering and YGC Department who had been assisting with the installation of the cameras. It was added that the Partnership intended to submit applications for additional funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund so that more CCTV cameras could be installed in other areas of Gwynedd.

An update was given that Public Spaces Protection Orders had been issued in areas of Caernarfon, Cricieth and Pwllheli in August 2024 following the Cabinet's approval. It was noted that these had been introduced to ensure the public felt safe within their communities and to give police extra powers to tackle anti-social behaviour.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:-

Concern was raised that the data presented within the report indicated that sex offences had increased significantly more in Gwynedd (+27.9%) than regionally (+14.6%) compared to the 2023/24 data. The Partnership was thanked for the work being done to support victims of sex offences. However, it was considered that the Partnership should ensure that preventative work in this area was a future priority to ensure that rates are reduced. In response to the comments, the Senior Manager for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health confirmed that preventative work was being implemented such as the programmes undertaken in schools to learn about acceptable behaviours and healthy relationships.

The Partnership was congratulated on their success in refurbishing CCTV systems in the Caernarfon, Bangor and Pwllheli areas. It was considered that if work was being carried out to assess crime rates before the new cameras were installed and to compare these to see if this project had resulted in fewer offences. In response to the comments, the Senior Operational Officer of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership confirmed that this was an important element of the project and positive data would give information to support additional applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund. It was confirmed that the Wavehill company had been commissioned to ascertain the relevant data and confirm that the information would be included in the Partnership's 2025/26 annual update, and it would be possible to share information with this Committee if desired.

Reference was made to the North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy 2021-24 which involved violence against women, domestic abuse, sexual abuse and modern slavery, and it was asked what work was taking place to support communities to recognise signs that individuals were victims of modern slavery. In response to the query, the Senior Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health Manager confirmed that this work was not being implemented directly by the Partnership but that a Vulnerability Board was looking into these issues and educating residents on the awareness of modern slavery and how they could recognise signs that someone was suffering.

It was highlighted that hate crime was a growing issue in Gwynedd and regionally, with statistics increasing annually. In response to a query on how to deal with this challenge,

the Senior Operational Officer of Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership confirmed that the Partnership was aware of the challenge. It was noted that it was difficult to deal with this using one specific method as there were several different aspects to the offences. However, it was emphasised that the Partnership was working together to develop powerful plans to respond to the challenge with a view of reducing the number of this type of crime in the future.

It was considered that rates of domestic, sexual offences and stalking could fall if more resources were earmarked to deal with them, such as ensuring more police officers were on patrol in our communities. In response to the comments, the Senior Operational Officer of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership agreed that this could be an effective way of lowering the crime rates. However, it was confirmed that the Welsh Government was responsible for the various grants that fund the Partnership and there were limits as to how those funds could be spent. It was emphasised that lobbying work was happening to see an increase in the grants available to the Partnership this year and that officers were enquiring about the grants' forecasts for the 2025/26 financial year.

It was noted that house and business burglary crime statistics were relatively similar to those seen in 2023/24. It was asked whether it was possible to receive data to outline how many of these crimes occur in rural settings compared to urban areas. It was also considered whether any consideration had been given to a mobile CCTV device which can be used in different areas as required. In response to the comments, the Senior Operational Officer of Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership explained that due to the complexity of the task and that there was only one analyst carrying out the work across north Wales that this data could not be received for the whole of the County, but that data could be provided if information about a particular area was requested. The Chief Inspector elaborated that the Police and CSP welcomed the idea of a mobile CCTV device but financial considerations were a barrier to purchase.

It was asked whether the locations where crime takes place were assessed (such as the quality of the streetlight, if it was a shaded or hidden area) and being considered following crimes, to consider improvements to prevent future crime. In response to the question, the Chief Inspector confirmed that this was a very important part of police investigations and led to adjustments in the way those spaces were protected.

It was considered whether the increase in sexual offences figures was due to any changes to crime reporting. In response to the query the Senior Manager for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health confirmed that victims felt more confident to report crime following campaigns to raise awareness about this process. It was added that this has led to victims reporting historical crimes which had been included in the figures in the report.

It was mentioned that the statistics presented in the report reflected the crimes reported. It was discussed that a number of offences had not been included in the report as no one had reported them, and to consider what work was being done by the Partnership to try to ensure that as many crimes as possible were detected and that data was processed annually. In response to the query, the Senior Manager for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health confirmed that collecting this data could be challenging but the Partnership was working with support services such as the Live Fear Free Helpline, North Wales Violence and Sexual Abuse Support Centre, Gorwel and the Domestic Abuse Safety Unit (DASU) to be able to consider the type of challenges that affect them. The Chief Inspector added that offenders were often not caught when undertaking their first offence and work was being done to try to catch offenders sooner and to encourage victims to report offences earlier.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

RESOLVED

- 1. To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- 2. To support the priorities and the future direction of the work.**
- 3. To recommend that the Partnership adds preventative work linked to sexual offences as a specific future priority.**

7. 2023/24 CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

The report was presented by the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and Climate Change Programme Manager.

Members were reminded that a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan was adopted by Cabinet on 8 March 2022 with the ambition that 'Cyngor Gwynedd will be carbon net zero and ecologically positive by 2030'. It was added that the issue of responding to a climate change crisis was one of the priorities of 'Improving the Council' within the 2023-28 Cyngor Gwynedd Plan.

It was explained that the Council's carbon emissions had been reduced by 16% compared to the baseline established in 2019/20, including procurement. It was recognised that carbon emissions from procurement processes presented a challenge to achieving this ambition as it was purely expenditure-based and did not take into account the locations where the Council purchased goods. It was noted that this painted a misleading picture of the true impact of climate expenditure.

It was noted that £3million had been earmarked for the creation of a Climate Plan fund through the one-time revenue bid process. An update was provided that £792,015 remained in this fund at the end of December 2024 as £2,207,984 had been spent or earmarked for expenditure. It was explained that this expenditure included £500,000 on electric car charging points and £2.1million on a low carbon heating scheme.

It was explained that issues relevant to the Plan were developing rapidly and that it was timely to consider reviewing the Plan. Members were encouraged to share any appropriate ideas and developments to consider them when reviewing the Plan.

During the discussion, the following observations were made: -

Reference was made to the proposed review of the Plan. It was proposed and seconded that conclusions from the Plan review be submitted to this Committee when timely so that the Committee could provide input before submitting the review to the Cabinet.

It was asked whether the Board was effectively realising the needs of the objectives of the Plan, or whether other options need to be considered to ensure that the ambition was addressed. The Chief Executive noted that the review of this Plan would assess whether the projects that are in place are sufficient to meet the ambition, or whether new plans need to be developed. It was added that other aspects of the Plan would be assessed to consider if it was fit for purpose, to save money and protect services. It was also confirmed that consideration would be given to establish if the Board was the best vehicle to drive the Plan forward or if there was a need to re-consider the structure.

It was noted that investing in schemes to reduce carbon emissions had saved the Council a great deal of money. The Council was encouraged to continue to invest in these schemes in the future.

It was asked how this Committee or Elected Members could help lobby the Government in relation to the challenges of the Procurement processes to call for a change to how procurement was recorded in the pursuit of reducing carbon emissions. In response to the comments, the Climate Change Programme Manager confirmed that work was being undertaken to reduce carbon emissions in the procurement field despite challenges within the processes. It was detailed that officers were working with Business Wales to hold specific seminars within the care field to see how they could reduce their carbon emissions. It was elaborated that support was available for external providers to encourage them to de-carbonise, in the hope that they would see the benefit of this. Pride was expressed that most providers working with the Council within the care area see value from these schemes but that financial challenges were preventing some companies from realising the changes.

Reference was made to the chart on page 8 of the annual report which demonstrated that 'Buildings' were responsible for 45% of carbon emissions (excluding procurement) during 2023/24. It was noted that it would be useful to have more detailed data to be able to identify what challenges were contributing to carbon emissions. It was thought that detailing this data would lead to solutions to the current challenges.

It was noted that the Report confirmed that the construction of solar panel farms had been removed from the Plan due to financial issues. It was mentioned this would have had a major impact on the area's landscape, and it was considered whether the Council had considered putting solar panels on other locations such as on buildings or car parks. In response to the comments, the Chief Executive confirmed that not all areas were suitable for solar panels but extended work was being carried out on car parks to install solar panels in appropriate spaces.

It was highlighted that the Report identified an 11% increase in carbon emissions from street lighting since 2022/23. In response to the comments, the Chief Executive confirmed that this figure has increased this year due to the Council inheriting more street lighting following developments such as the Caernarfon bypass. It was confirmed that this figure was expected to fall by the next annual report.

Reference was made to integrated public transport plans as part of the Plan's 'Moving and Transport' priority, noting that bus timetables were creating problems in some communities. It was detailed that residents' confidence in using public transport needed to be gained, by confirming that bus timetables allow them to come and go from the workplace, socialise and travel around with certainty in order to increase the use made of the services. It was also considered that this would discourage residents from buying personal cars as public transport addressed their needs.

Comments were noted which questioned the need to try to reduce carbon emissions. In response, it was confirmed that the Council had decided to strive to make the Plan a reality in line with the recommendations of experts.

It was asked how much of the money saved by implementing the Scheme's projects was invested back into the Plan for funding future projects. In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that the money saved was not currently being reinvested in the scheme due to the current financial pressures on the Council. However, it had been confirmed that the financial saving was being made to ensure that other services offered by the Council were protected when trying to cope with the situation.

It was asked what developments were underway in connection with the Council's 'Green Fleet' plan. In response to the query, the Chief Executive confirmed that consideration was being given to see if the Council's fleet could be reduced by considering what jobs required their use and what impact reducing the fleet would have on services provided by the Council. It was also noted that efforts were being made to purchase electric vehicles when replacing vehicles but it was acknowledged that this could currently be done for all vehicles, such as waste collection lorries. It was ensured that all Council electric vehicles would be charged at the centres where the vehicles were stored and there would be no expectation for any member of staff to do so in a personal household.

Several ideas which could be developed as part of the future Plan were shared, such as letting the Rural Energy Developments (DEG) social enterprise to rent car parks from the Council for the installation of solar panels with the agreement that they would sell the electricity to the Council at a discounted price. Reference was also made to community energy enterprises stating that working with these would be able to benefit the Plan. In response to these ideas, the Chief Executive confirmed they would be considered and he welcomed that community energy enterprises and other organisations be invited to attend Board meetings to share information and presentations.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

RESOLVED

- 1. To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- 2. To recommend that more information should be included in the Annual Report regarding what was responsible for the carbon emissions percentages.**
- 3. That the committee scrutinises the conclusions of the review of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan prior to being considered by the Cabinet.**
- 4. To request that the Council Leader lobbies the Welsh Government in the context of reviewing the methodology of measuring carbon emissions that derive from procurement processes.**

8. GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD PROGRESS REPORT

The report was presented by the Council Leader, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager and the Corporate Director.

The members were reminded that Cyngor Gwynedd was one of the five statutory members of the Board, noting that a total of 15 organisations were members of it. Further details were given that these included the Chief Executives and Senior Officers of the Fire Service, Natural Resources Wales, Mantell Gwynedd, Coleg Llandrillo Menai, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

It was noted that Gwynedd and Anglesey's Well-being Plan 2023-28 was published in May 2023. It was elaborated that this Plan set out three objectives where Board Members would work together to achieve them, namely:

- Mitigate the impact of poverty on the well-being of communities.
- Improving the well-being and success of children and young people to realise their full potential.
- Support services and communities to move towards carbon net zero.

It was announced that the Board's delivery arrangements had been modified following comments received from Cyngor Gwynedd's Scrutiny Committees and the Isle of Anglesey Council. It was elaborated that the only Sub-group accountable to the Board

was the Welsh Language Sub-Group. It was explained that this permanent Sub-group had been working closely with the Language Commissioner and the ARFOR project to solve bilingual workforce planning challenges, developing a good practice checklist for employers to follow. It was added that the Sub-group had presented ideas for a 'myth-busting' project soon to continue to address workforce planning challenges.

It was confirmed that the Board was committed to the Healthy Weight scheme. It was detailed that the Board was working together at a regional level to ensure that the scheme adds value and that procedures are in place to assess the future impact of the scheme.

Pride was expressed that the Board was leading on an Active Travel Charter, noting that an event had been organised for March where Board Members will officially commit to the Plan in the presence of the Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales. It was added that an active Task and Finish Group was in place for the implementation of this Charter, ensuring that good practice and resources were shared with all Members.

It was reported that a delivery plan had been developed by the Board, noting that reports on the progress of the Board's Objectives were received on a regular basis. It was explained that this information enabled the Board to identify whether there was any timeframe slipping to complete any Objective, and the reasons for this.

Attention was drawn to the engagement work the Board had undertaken with communities. It was explained that this included visits to four secondary schools in Gwynedd to discuss the implications of the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Well-being Plan. It was added that work had been carried out at Hafod y Gest, Porthmadog to establish how 'age-friendly' the area was, at the request of Cyngor Gwynedd's Adults, Health and Well-being Department. It was confirmed that further engagement activities were planned in the future in preparation for the development of new well-being assessments in 2025/26.

During the discussion, the following observations were made: -

The Board was thanked for acting on this Committee's comments following the Progress Report submitted to the Committee in 2024/25 by ensuring that project progress monitoring arrangements were included in the Report. It was asked whether future Reports could include information showing whether the plans were delivering to ensure that the Scrutiny process was as effective as possible. In response to the query, the Programme Manager for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board confirmed that the Committee was able to receive this data as it was being shared with the Board as part of a new arrangement. Assurance was given that this information would be included in future Progress Reports.

It was asked why Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board had not been identified as Members of the Welsh Language Sub-group or the Healthy Weight Sub-group. It was also asked what the arrangements were in terms of determining membership and how the Health Board could be encouraged to get involved in the work in these key areas as they had an important input to deliver. In response, the Programme Manager for Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board confirmed that this was due to staffing issues this year, but they had committed to being part of the Welsh Language Sub-group. It was explained that Public Health Wales was leading on the work of the Healthy Weight Sub-group and the Board's work on healthy weight was being fed into the work of the Regional Strategic Group led by the Health Board. For clarity, it was confirmed that future Reports would detail whether there were any vacancies on the Sub-groups by any of the

Board Members. Similarly, it was noted that the Housing Associations currently had a vacant seat on the Board and were striving to find the right person to attend meetings.

It was pointed out that the Trauma-Informed training session for Board Members, to enable the objective of 'Improving the well-being and success of children and young people to realise their full potential' had slipped. In response to the comments, the Programme Manager for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board confirmed that there had been a slippage in the timetable to provide this training to Board Members and this delay had arisen due to difficulty in securing a convenient date for each Member. It was emphasised that it was hoped that this training session would take place before the end of the summer and the Isle of Anglesey Council were thanked for their pledge to provide free training to Board Members. It was expressed that this Public Service Board would be the first Board to become Trauma Informed when this training had been undertaken and Members would complete the work with enhanced awareness of the issue.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

RESOLVED

- 1. To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- 2. To request that future reports contain information/data on progress in terms of delivering**

9. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Advisor.

The members were reminded that a revised Forward Programme for 2024/25 had been approved at the meeting of this Committee on 07 November 2024.

It was explained that the item 'New Local Development Plan – Strategic Choices, Vision with Objectives' had slipped from this meeting and was to be scheduled for 2025/26. It was noted that it would be timelier to scrutinise this following the completion of detailed research and consideration of data to be published by the Welsh Government.

It was resolved, following a consultation with the Chair, that scheduling this item during 2025/26 would ensure that scrutiny took place in a timely manner and could add value. It was added that this meant that the item 'New Local Development Plan – Favourite Strategy' would slip from the 20 March 2025 meeting and would be scheduled for scrutiny during 2025/26.

In response to comments regarding the impact of refusing affordable housing planning applications on future learner numbers in Gwynedd schools, the Scrutiny Advisor noted that the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee had identified the need to scrutinise the Education Strategy. She added that a draft Strategy was being developed and learner numbers were an issue that was being addressed during the development of the Strategy.

RESOLVED

To adopt the Communities Scrutiny Committee's revised programme of work for 2024/25.

10. ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE MEETING

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Advisor.

It was explained that members who represented the Committee at the Environment Department's Performance Challenge meetings were no longer Members of the Committee. The need to nominate members to represent the Committee at the next Performance Challenge meeting, to be held at 9:30am on Wednesday, 26 March 2025 via Microsoft Teams, was noted. It was emphasised that Members were expected to report back to this Committee on any Performance Challenge matters relevant to the work of this Committee.

It was reported that this meeting would be the last Performance Challenge meeting attended by representatives from the Committee, before Performance Challenge arrangements at formal Scrutiny Committee meetings come into effect in 2025/26.

RESOLVED to elect Councillors Beca Roberts and Berwyn Parry Jones to represent the Committee at the Environment Department's Performance Challenge meeting on 26 March 2025.

The meeting commenced at 10:30am and concluded at 13:00pm

CHAIR

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| MEETING | Communities Scrutiny Committee |
| DATE | 20 March 2025 |
| TITLE | Introduction of public electric vehicle charging points |
| REASON TO SCRUTINISE | The Council Plan 2023-28 – A Green Gwynedd |
| AUTHOR | Gerwyn Jones, Assistant Head of Environment Department |
| CABINET MEMBER | Councillor Craig ab Iago |

1. Why it needs to be scrutinised?

- 1.1 Installing electric vehicle charging points for Gwynedd residents is a project that has been included in the Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23-2029/30.
- 1.2 The progress of the project and the plans for the introduction of public charging points was scrutinised at the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 5 October 2023. It was resolved:
 - (i) To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion;
 - (ii) To ask the Cabinet Member/Environment Department to look into providing more rapid charging points;
 - (iii) To receive a progress report when timely.

2. What exactly needs scrutiny?

The following responds to the specific questions that have been raised by the Committee:

2.1 Has consideration been given to the provision of more rapid charging points?

Since the last meeting in October 2023, the Department has placed more emphasis on introducing rapid chargers.

We have reviewed our plans on the former 'Shell' car park site in Caernarfon to include installing rapid points alongside the current fast points. In addition, we are prioritising installing rapid charging points at other locations.

2.2 What progress has been made?

Since the last meeting, six additional sites have become live, which has increased the number of charging points available for public use to 52.

Of the six new sites, two sites include rapid charging points. A summary of the current provision and plans underway can be seen in **Appendix A**.

2.3 What payment methods are available for the public to pay for charging vehicles?

It is possible to use a smartphone app or an 'RFID' smartcard to pay for the service at every Council site.

In some sites, it is also possible to use a bank card.

Our long-term intention is to ensure that the three above methods can be used at every site.

2.4 How much use has been made of charging points on Council land?

Generally, the use of the charging points has been positive:

- In August 2024, 2,181 charging sessions were recorded (which is the busiest month).
- In December 2024, 1,030 charging sessions were recorded (which is the least busy month).

3. Additional Questions

3.1 What is the Plan / Timetable for delivery?

The details about the proposed plans can be seen in **Appendix A**, but to summarise, we are working on a work programme to introduce four additional sites to become live by this year's summer period, namely Abermaw, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon and Bangor.

3.2 How are the best locations to install charging points determined?

As part of the initial feasibility study which is a basis to our strategy for introducing charging points, work was undertaken to assess the availability of electrical power that could be supplied in specific locations in Gwynedd.

In addition, there was a need to look at the demand for the service in the area, and land ownership in the particular locations. To ensure a simpler process and to avoid complex contracts with third-party landowners, only sites that are specifically owned by Cyngor Gwynedd were assessed.

3.3 What work is being done to put pressure on Scottish Power to ensure that sufficient infrastructure is available to power the charging points? Can you confirm the latest situation in terms of the Scottish Power timeline?

Since the last meeting, our work relationship with SP Network has improved and we are seeing more progress in the number of sites connected to the national grid. However, there is work to be done to ensure that things continue to develop.

Since we last reported, we have received electrical supply to sites in Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon and Bangor, and we have been working closely with SP Network to upgrade the charging site in Abermaw.

There is still more work to be achieved to ensure that sites in Dolgellau, Llanberis and Ffordd Caerdydd, Pwllheli also receive attention.

3.4 Is there certainty that there will be no need to purchase new charging points to replace the chargers that have been installed by the time the dedicated infrastructure becomes available to power the charging points?

It is not a problem that we have encountered at other locations where the points have been installed for a long time before being connected to the network.

However, the following risk was identified at the start of the project, and we have therefore purchased more chargers in case the problem arises in some locations.

Purchasing more chargers than necessary also allows us to reduce the risk of not being able to maintain a charging service should a charger that is currently operational break or be damaged/vandalised.

3.5 Will the Council/Scottish Power pay compensation to any company impacted when electricity is switched off temporarily to be able to connect the charging points to the grid?

The Council has no legal requirement to offer a charging service, and therefore there is no commitment that would mean a duty or an expectation to pay any compensation. Arrangements to connect to the grid are subject to the usual protocols that impact or disrupt electric provision to dwellings.

3.6 There are no plans to install rapid charging points in tourist hotspots in the County (namely Llŷn). Is there any intention to install rapid charging points in these areas to encourage visitors to use them?

This year, we are working on introducing more rapid chargers in Caernarfon, Bangor and Abermaw.

We have also submitted a bid for funding to provide rapid charging points in Pwllheli.

4. Summary of the Key Matters

- 4.1 The following report offers a further update on the Cyngor Gwynedd plan to provide charging opportunities to the public in public car parks that are under the Council's management.
- 4.2 There will be a need to consider the way forward and any further action in the field as this specific project is being completed.
- 4.3 The Gwynedd Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Strategy, which is currently being developed, as well as the experience of the progress to date will clearly have an influence on this.
- 4.4 It is anticipated that the Strategy will go through the appropriate internal processes with the aim of being adopted during the coming months.
- 4.5 There is an expectation for every Local Authority in Wales to develop and present such a strategy, which will reflect factors and local dynamics that are unique to every area.

5. Background

- 5.1 Providing a network of electric vehicles charging points for Gwynedd residents is one of the action steps included in the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30.

- 5.2 The aim of the plan is to encourage sustainable travel in the county and facilitate the use of electric vehicles for local residents and visitors to the county to travel to all parts of Gwynedd.
- 5.3 The Council is developing a network of over a hundred charging points for electric vehicles across Gwynedd. The timeframe for the charging points to become operational varies and **Appendix A** shows the current situation.
- 5.4 The programme for installing charging points for public use contributes towards the Council's aim to reach a target of net zero by 2030. This is also the date the UK Government has set to end the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles.
- 5.5 There is no doubt that this far-reaching change highlights the need to move towards de-carbonising the transport sector over the next few years.
- 5.6 Ensuring that there is a suitable provision of charging points that will meet the needs of the residents of Gwynedd and people who visit our communities is essential in order to realise this. However, it is important to note that the change is a significant one, not seen for generations in the transport sector.
- 5.7 At the moment, there is a gap in the private provision of vehicle charging points in Gwynedd, and this reflects the situation in several rural areas throughout the country as providing the service is not economically viable for the private sector at present.
- 5.8 The work of providing charging points on Council sites is therefore an attempt to fill this gap, ensuring that there is suitable provision for the people of Gwynedd and those who travel through the county or visit for a while.
- 5.9 It is clear that the number of electric cars across the United Kingdom is now increasing substantially.
- 5.10 **Appendix B** shows the Types of Public Charging Points currently available in the United Kingdom.
- 5.11 Zapmap shows where the charging points are across the United Kingdom and some other relevant information.
[Map of electric charging points for electric cars UK: Zapmap](#)
- 5.12 Information regarding the charging facilities for the public that Cyngor Gwynedd provides can be seen in: [Electric car charging points](#)
- 5.13 A selection of photos of Gwynedd Public Charging Points have been included in **Appendix C**.

6. Context

6.1 The link with the Council Plan 2023-28

Encouraging, promoting and facilitating environmentally sustainable methods achieve the Green Gwynedd ambition of the Council Plan 2023-28. Providing a network of charging points is also a priority in the Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, which is a priority in the Council Plan.

6.2 Ffordd Gwynedd Considerations

Providing charging facilities in public spaces ensure that there are opportunities for Gwynedd residents who do not have availability or access to their own charging points to charge and use electric vehicles.

6.3 The legislative context

Whilst there is no legislative requirement for local authorities to provide public charging facilities, providing them supports various ambitions and strategic aspirations on several levels.

6.4 Possible options for the future

Options for the future will be partially considered as part of the Gwynedd Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Strategy which is under development.

The Strategy will give consideration to charging provision which will include private/personal points, as well as some which will be available for the public and off-street.

6.5 Risks – what are the risks and what can be done to mitigate them

It is a dynamic and unpredictable field. Developments in technology are ongoing and the interest in, and the use of electric vehicles specifically are increasing as communities move from petrol and diesel vehicles.

The work of providing the public charging points thus far has been carried out within current resources. This has influenced the resource and capacity that has been available to implement the plan. This will be a consideration and a possible risk when moving forward because, without an additional or dedicated resource, the work will complete with other priorities and work. Consideration to the model of provision will be a possible way of mitigating risks and expectations of the Council in terms of the provision.

The Council uses the expertise of the street lighting service to install the chargers but it is dependent on external specialist providers to ensure that the charging points are connected and ready for the public to use. There has been some delay in some locations to connect the chargers to the supply and receive the relevant certificate to confirm that the charger can be used by the public.

Work is proceeding to provide the network of charging points and Council officers are discussing with providers to try to ensure that the chargers are operational as soon as possible. As the situation varies at different sites, the time-frame for the chargers to be operational differs and is not full within the Council's control.

There is work involved to install an electricity supply and meter, secure an electrical certificate and the necessary commissioning work before all the chargers installed are operational. Work continues with the suppliers to ensure that all sites are operational as soon as possible. However, once again, as this work depends on others, it is not fully within the Council's control and therefore presents a risk.

6.6 The financial situation of the field, estimated cost of implementing any changes, funding sources etc.

Grants and funding from the Council's coffers have supported this plan thus far. The new Strategy will be key to setting the framework for the provision, and arrangements underpinning that which includes from a financial perspective, that the Council wishes to adopt.

Fuel prices are very volatile and it is impossible to project what will be the climate and costs associated with electric provision in the medium to long term.

6.7 Good practice in the field

As there are unique characteristics relevant to Gwynedd, good practice from different perspectives and from other locations can be considered, and then tailored to this aspect.

Good practice has been identified, influences and has been included in the Strategy.

6.8 Regional and National Developments

Work is progressing to consider how facilities can be provided on the street, whether for local residents to charge from their homes and/or that charging points form part of the highway and are available for public use. There are several considerations and challenges associated with this and we will be live to developments that include feedback from pilot schemes that will take place.

6.9 Performance data

Data is gathered on an ongoing basis in terms of the use of the charging points as noted above (2.4), the costs and income associated with the provision. In 2024/25, it is projected that a net income of approximately £30,000 will derive from the plan.

6.10 What has been achieved

What has been achieved has already been referred to in the report and a summary of this can be seen in **Appendix A**.

6.11 Priorities for the future

The Strategy will identify the priorities and what is most relevant and likely to meet the expectations and demand in an area such as Gwynedd.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The Council carried out an engagement exercise in order to receive observations from residents about locations where they would like to see charging points being introduced for public use.

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 intend to consult with them?

The Council carried out an engagement exercise to receive observations from residents about locations where they would like to see charging points being introduced for public use.

We are receive feedback from the public regarding the field of work and look to respond positively to this.

8.2 Have you considered joint-working?

We have worked with the Welsh Government and Transport for Wales to deliver the provision. This will be an ongoing factor with developments in this field, as there is not one body completely responsible for and/or leading on it.

It is very likely that more and more local residents will be introducing charging points in their homes, work locations and other centres such as shops will also offer provision as the demand and expectation grows.

Transport for Wales is working with and supporting the development of the Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Strategy.

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

Implementing the plan will ensure some level of provision in areas where the private sector or third sector will currently not. The likelihood is that the landscape will change over the next few years.

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

As society in general moves from diesel and petrol vehicles, people's needs for availability and access to charging points will increase. It is currently unclear what will be the profile and/or demand for this and the role of local authorities in realising this, if at all.

8.5 To ensure integration, have you considered the possible impact on other public bodies?

Ensuring charging opportunities for residents and visitors will be subject to ongoing collaboration with public bodies, but also with the private sector and third sector. The intention will be to avoid duplication but offer charging opportunities geographically across Gwynedd.

9. Next steps

9.1 Continue with the programme to introduce charging points that have been agreed as part of this specific plan outlined in **Appendix A**.

9.2 That the Council considers and then adopts the Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Strategy and that this steers and guides the Council's approach to this particular field for the future. This will include considering the provision models and the resource to manage and realise the strategy.

10. Conclusion

10.1 The report is submitted to the Communities Scrutiny Committee as an update on the work that has been achieved thus far in developing a charging points network and what is planned over the next period.

11. Appendices

Appendix A Cyngor Gwynedd public charging locations

Appendix B Types of Charging Points

Appendix C Gwynedd Public Charging Points

Appendix A
Cyngor Gwynedd public charging locations

| Locations | | Is the site live? | 7kW | 22kW | 50kW | 150kW | Comments |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Intec, Parc Menai | Bangor | Yes | 4 | | | | |
| Arfon Leisure Centre | Caernarfon | Yes | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Dwyfor Leisure Centre | Pwllheli | Yes | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Penmount Car Park | Pwllheli | Yes | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Penllyn Leisure Centre | Bala | Yes | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Glan Wnion Leisure Centre | Dolgellau | Yes | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Bro Dysynni Leisure Centre | Tywyn | Yes | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Main Car Park, Aberdyfi | Aberdyfi | Yes | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Bron-y-Graig Uchaf | Harlech | Yes | 4 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Plas Ffrancon Leisure Centre | Bethesda | Yes | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Transport for Wales Site | | | | | | | |
| Iard yr Orsaf | Porthmadog | Yes | | 2 | 2 | | |
| Y Marian, Dolgellau | Dolgellau | Yes | | 2 | 2 | | |
| The Green | Y Bala | Yes | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Diffwys | Blaenau Ffestiniog | Yes | | 2 | 2 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Total | | 34 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 52 |

2025 Work Programme List

| Proposed locations | Location | Is the site live? | 7kW | 22kW | 50kW | 150kW | Comments |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| Shell Site Car Park | Caernarfon | No | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Site connected to the grid, waiting for electrical connection work. |
| Diffwys Car Park | Blaenau Ffestiniog | No | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Need a test certificate. |
| Kyffin Square Car Park | Bangor | No | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Waiting for a meter and a test certificate. |
| Main Car Park, Abermaw | Abermaw | No | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Expecting the electric infrastructure to be upgraded in the leisure centre. |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Total | | 14 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 28 |





Other locations (finance to be confirmed)

| Proposed locations | Location | Is the site live? | 7kW | 22kW | 50kW | 150kW | Comments |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------|-----|------|------|-------|---|
| Y Marian Car Park | Dolgellau | | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Charging points in place, waiting for electrical connection |
| Bangor Swimming Pool Car-park | Bangor | No | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | - |
| Plas Silyn Leisure Centre | Penygroes | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Charging point has been installed, waiting for funding for the power connection |
| Glaslyn Leisure Centre | Porthmadog | No | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Power being used to connect electric bus |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|----|-----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| | | | | | | | vehicles, need to assess other sites in Porthmadog |
| Ger-y-Llyn Car Park | Llanberis | | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Unable to enter the site to complete the work of connecting the chargers due to National Grid upgrade works |
| Ffordd Caerdydd Car Park | Pwllheli | No | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Expecting a new sub-station to be built |
| Dinas Dinlle Car Park | Dinas Dinlle | No | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Total | | 26 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 31 |

Appendix B

Types of Charging Points

| Type | Power | Charging Time 250 miles |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| Slow  | 3.6kW | Up to 24 hours |
| Fast  | 7-22kW | 4-8 hours |
| Rapid  | 50-120kW | 1-2 hours |
| Ultra Rapid  | 100-350kW | 20-40 minutes |

Appendix C Public Charging Points Gwynedd





| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| MEETING | Communities Scrutiny Committee |
| DATE | 20 March, 2025 |
| TITLE | Public Toilets |
| REASON TO SCRUTINISE | Progress Report on Gwynedd Local Toilet Strategy |
| AUTHOR | Steffan Jones, Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC) |
| CABINET MEMBER | Councillor June Jones |

1. Why does it need to be scrutinised

- 1.1 The Council has 61 public toilets in Gwynedd which, in terms of numbers, is the highest provision in Wales. These are managed by the Highways, Engineering and YGC Department. We also have 39 toilets available for public use as part of the Public Facilities Grant Scheme which allows members of the public to use toilets at various local establishments within their opening hours.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government agreed to adopt the Public Health (Wales) Bill back in 2017. The overall aim of this legislation was to ensure that all local authorities in Wales assessed the needs of their communities in terms of public toilet provision. In line with these responsibilities, the 'Gwynedd Local Toilets' Strategy was formulated in May 2019. It is timely to review the current Strategy assessing its suitability and relevance to the needs of the Council and the needs of our communities today.

2. What needs to be scrutinised

- The Public Toilet Strategy
- What has been done to improve the image of public toilets and meet consumer expectations
- What funding sources are available to improve the provision
- What's the latest timeline on the rollout of contactless payment technology
- What is the income situation.

3. Summary of the Key Issues

3.1 As noted above, the current 'Gwynedd Local Toilets Strategy' was adopted by the Cabinet back in May 2019. The main aim of the strategy was/is:

- Provision of clean, safe and well-maintained facilities;
- Maximising toilet availability through a partnership with the Council and other provision;
- Informing and promoting information about toilet provision through websites and other media;
- Ensure public awareness of the location of toilets through the use of good reference signs and individual facility information signs;
- Assess the availability and distribution of facilities as needed;
- Suitable provision within the available budget.

4. Background / Context

4.1 The management of public toilet provision was scrutinised at the Committee meeting on 5 October 2023 and an update is provided below on our progress to date which also addresses the matters discussed at the above Committee.

4.2 Over the last year we have successfully attracted grants for improving the condition and standard of the following toilets: - Y Maes Pwllheli, Y Cei Aberdyfi and Y Maes Criccieth.

4.3 The service will continue to apply for similar grant opportunities, building on recent success in improving the provision.

4.4 We will also make best use of the available revenue budget, however, with ageing buildings and pressure at times due to the level of vandalism, the revenue budget is often prioritised for maintenance requirements.

4.5 The Grant Scheme is extremely popular with a full list of businesses participating at the current time. There is also a waiting list of businesses as any changes arise.

4.6 The service monitors the above regime ensuring that the business display signs highlighting that their toilet is available for public use. This is undertaken through an annual visit to the business and discussions with the owner. This is also a requirement of the grant. Overall, this scheme is a success with minimal examples where businesses need to be reminded of the requirements and their commitment.

4.7 The Council's Website identifies the businesses participating in the above scheme and is updated with any changes as they arise. It is recognised that there are opportunities to improve on promoting this scheme which will be undertaken before the summer holidays.

4.8 The toilet cleaning provision is now part of the service and overall, the standard is satisfactory. It is recognised that there are opportunities for improvement and the service is currently reviewing cleaning arrangements together with opening and closing times.

- 4.9 As previously reported, we are now in partnership with the Community and Town Councils, which is essential to running the current public toilet service. An annual funding contribution of £227,450.00 is collected via the partnering arrangement which is a combination of an annual or seasonal fee. This contribution will need to be reviewed this year as no inflation has been raised on the contribution since the scheme was introduced.
- 4.10 There are 5 toilets where we charge for their use. The locations of these toilets are: Caernarfon, Pwllheli, Porthmadog and Dolgellau. These payment doors are no longer fit for purpose as they have reached the end of their lifespan, the service submitted a bid to renew the doors looking to install modern payment doors where it is possible to pay by either by card or cash.
- 4.11 Our bid for funds was successful and the service has now decided on the type of door to be installed. However, due to work pressures there has been a delay in the programme seeing the first new doors to be installed in the Pwllheli toilet before the Easter break.
- 4.12 On completion of installation of all the new doors, the service will monitor their use and present a report early in the new year highlighting their success or failures before considering extending the arrangements to other toilets within the County.
- 4.13 You will find in Appendix 1 a copy of the updated Local Toilet Strategy with a complete list of the Public Toilets within the County. The updated Strategy contains an Action Plan which addresses our aims for the next term ensuring that we maintain and provide the standard of public toilet provision.

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

Improving the image of the asset and greeting consumer expectations – It is important to note that our public facilities contribute towards the well-being goal of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which is a 'Wales of cohesive communities' which focuses on creating attractive, viable and safe communities.

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

The Service has already considered, and recognises the need for, impact assessments (e.g. Language and Equality), and assessments will be reviewed and changed during any further need to consult/engage with our communities.

7. Next Steps

Accept the Scrutiny Committee's comments to the progress report on the implementation of the actions set out in Gwynedd Council's Local Toilet Strategy, by subsequently submitting a further report to Cabinet.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Public Toilet Strategy

Appendix 1a - List of Public Toilets



Gwynedd Council

Local Toilet Strategy (Draft)

May 2025



1. Background

The Welsh Government agreed the adoption of the Public Health (Wales) Bill in May 2017. This Act brings together a range of practical actions for improving and protecting health. Part 8 of the Act introduces provision of toilets and specifically local toilet strategies. In terms of public conveniences, the overall aim of the legislation is to ensure that all local authorities assess the needs of its community in relation to the provision of public conveniences and that it takes a strategic and transparent approach to best meet that need.

The intended effect of Part 8 is not to prevent local authorities from taking decisions which they need to take during the course of their activities, which may include decisions to close a traditional public toilet or building when appropriate to do so. Instead, the intended effect is to improve the planning of provision so that any such decisions are taken within the overall context of meeting their communities' identified needs. A strategic approach will also help to mitigate any negative impacts of changes to provision.

Local authorities in Wales now have the responsibility to:

- Assess the need for toilet provision for their communities;
- Plan to meet those needs;
- Produce a local toilets strategy; and
- Review the strategy, update and publicise revisions.

Gwynedd Council as such in line with these recommendations will set out to address the needs of the community and improving the standards of public conveniences under the local authority's control.

2. Introduction

Our objective in this strategy is to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of the people of Gwynedd despite the fact that the Council's resources are becoming scarcer. The emphasis in this strategy will be to ensure that Gwynedd has adequate provision for the future and we are able to work closely with our stakeholders to provide alternative delivery models in order to achieve this.

This strategy is also being prepared in a period of financial hardship therefore, that context has to be considered. The provision of public conveniences provides infrastructure necessary to facilitate the enjoyment of areas within Gwynedd by residents and visitors. They can make a significant impact upon the comfort of individuals and families who visit public spaces within the area and their perception of Gwynedd as a desirable place to visit.

Access to toilet facilities is important to all part of our population and not just older people. Lack of public toilets is commonly given as a reason that older people become socially isolated and loneliness can set it. However, many people (including younger people, families and people of all ages with a disability or health condition) require access to toilet facilities and a lack of provision can often lead to them also limiting their social contact with others.

Although the Public Health (Wales) Bill focuses on the 'Provision of Toilets', currently a local authority provision of public conveniences is not a statutory duty.

Increasingly the Council faces challenges to maintain standards of toilet provision, maintenance and cleaning due to limited funding and pressure on resources and yet Gwynedd still has the second highest number of council maintained toilets in Wales.

3. The aims of this strategy

The aim of this strategy is to meet the needs of the residents and visitors to Gwynedd by providing:-

- Provision of clean, safe, appropriately maintained facilities;
- Maximise availability of toilets through Council partnership and other provision;
- Publicise and promote toilet provision information through webpages and other media;
- Ensuring public awareness of toilet location, through good direction signage and individual facility information signs;
- Assess the availability and distribution of facilities based upon demand;
- Sustainable provision within the budget available;

This strategy outlines an Action Plan to indicate how Cyngor Gwynedd will work towards meeting the needs of the local population within its current budget for public conveniences.

4. How has this strategy been developed?

This strategy links into other Council priorities and services and contributes to our vision as a Council to support all the people of Gwynedd to thrive and live full lives in their community, in a county which is one of the best counties to live in.

In developing this strategy, the Council must fully consider the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The aim of the Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It makes local authorities think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. The Act also puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act, this means that Gwynedd Council have to act in a more sustainable way.

The Local Toilet Strategy incorporates the five ways of working which Gwynedd Council must follow in order to ensure we develop a sustainable strategy:

- Consider the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs;
- Taking an integrated approach;
- Working with others in order to find sustainable solutions;
- Involving people in decisions that will affect them; and
- Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.

5. Reviewing the Strategy

The Act requires constant reviews and progress reports to be submitted.

6. Gwynedd Council Provision

Gwynedd has a mixture of toilet provision. We currently provide 61 traditional public toilets operated by the Council, as well as 39 community toilet facilities. A large part of the county is also part of the Snowdonia National Park which also provides toilet facilities.

Attached in Appendix A is a list of current provision within Gwynedd.

7. What is Gwynedd currently doing?

The Town and Community Council Partnership Scheme

Following the Gwynedd Challenge Engagement Exercise in 2016, the Cabinet revised its decision to achieve the £244,000 service cuts by agreeing to implement a proposed Partnership Scheme with Town and Community Councils, in order to keep the majority of the County's existing toilets open for the future.

This scheme was developed as an alternative to the decision taken to close up to 50 toilets as part of the regime of cuts. We consulted with all the Town and Community Councils within Gwynedd to ascertain whether or not there would be sufficient interest in working in partnership in order to keep the toilets open. The Partnership Scheme works by the Town and Community Councils contributing towards the running costs of the toilets on an annual or seasonal basis.

Up to 61 toilets have now been kept open with the assistance of the local Town and Community Councils and others.

Working with Others

Where it has not been possible for the Town and Community Councils to contribute financially in order to keep the facilities open within their areas, the Council has sought to work with others, i.e. third sector partners, private businesses and local community groups in order to keep the provision open within their local areas. There are now several examples of this in operation.

Community toilet grant scheme

The Public Toilets Grant Scheme is funded and managed by Gwynedd Council. This Scheme allows members of the general public to use toilet facilities in a range of approved local establishments during their opening hours. The facilities are made available free of charge and without any expectation that users will purchase goods or services whilst on the premises. Participating premises will be required to keep their toilets safe, clean, accessible and well-stocked. The maximum grant is £500 per location per year. We have currently 37 premises across Gwynedd participating in the scheme.

The service provider must display at least one sign provided by Gwynedd Council on their window(s) or door(s) to show that there are members of the scheme in order to inform the public of their right to use their toilets.

Improving Facilities through Grant Funding

Since 2019, we have managed to attract grants equivalent to over £500k. This money has been used to upgrade 5 of the County's toilets.

Changing Places

Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. These needs are met by Changing Places toilets. There are now 3 sites with 'changing places' provision within the County (Ffestiniog and Eryri Railway Station in Caernarfon, Pontio in Bangor and Corris Craft Centre).

9. What will we be doing for the coming period?

It must be recognized that we are facing financial pressure, but the Council commits to the following Action Plan:

Action Plan 2025 - 2029

| Number | Purpose | Target |
|--------|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Revise the charging structure on some of the County's toilets by installing new payment doors which will include the option of paying by card or cash. | September, 2025 |
| 2 | Review the provision of toilets within Council buildings, including libraries etc, to ensure maximising the use for the public where it is possible. | January, 2026 |
| 3 | Continue to promote and inform the Community Grant Scheme to local businesses, as a way to obtain additional provision in areas where the greatest need has been identified. | Continuous |
| 4 | Review existing provision of public toilets and monitor the cleaning regime to ensure the most effective and efficient provision. | September, 2025 |
| 5 | Engage in seeking further grant opportunities as they arise to develop further and collaborate with Council Departments and partnerships in order, to increase provision of 'Changing Places' facilities available in Gwynedd. | Continuous |
| 6 | Review the Partnership with Community and Town Councils. | Financial Year 2025/26 |
| 7 | Continue to attract opportunities for grants to upgrade the existing public toilets stock. | Continuous |

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| 8 | Explore enhancement options for environmental and sustainable energy developments. | Financial Year 2025/26 |
| 9 | The Council will continue to engage with Police, Community Safety and residents, community groups and others to ensure that the facilities are as safe as possible. | Continuous |

Author:

Amanda Murray – Municipal Asset Manager, Highways, Engineering and YGC Department

ATODIAD 1a

| Tref neu Bentref / Town or Village | Lleoliad / Location | Agored / Open | Darpariaeth ar gyfer yr anabl / Provision for disabled RADAR | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----|
| Ardal ARFON Area | | | | |
| Bangor | Glanrafon | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 1 |
| Bangor | Tanyfynwent | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 2 |
| Bangor | Y Pier | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 3 |
| Bethesda | Stryd Fawr | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 4 |
| Caernarfon | Allt y Castell | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 5 |
| Caernarfon | Empire | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 6 |
| Caernarfon | Penllyn | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 7 |
| Dinas Dinlle | Marine | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 8 |
| Felinheli | Ffordd y Traeth | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 9 |
| Llanberis | Ger y Llyn | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 10 |
| Llanberis | Maes Padarn | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 11 |
| Llanberis | Y Glyn | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 12 |
| | | | | |
| Ardal DWYFOR Area | | | | |
| Aberdaron | Traeth | Tymhorol / Seasonal | ✓ | 1 |
| Abersoch | Ger y bont | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 2 |
| Abersoch | Golff | Tymhorol / Seasonal | ✓ | 3 |
| Abersoch | Machroes | Tymhorol / Seasonal | ✓ | 4 |
| Beddgelert | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 5 |
| Borth y Gest | Maes Parcio | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 6 |
| Criccieth | Esplanade | Tymhorol / Seasonal | ✓ | 7 |
| Criccieth | Maes Parcio | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 8 |
| Llanbedrog | Traeth | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 9 |
| Llanystumdwy | | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 10 |
| Morfa Bychan | Traeth | Tymhorol / Seasonal | ✓ | 11 |
| Morfa Bychan | Gwydryn | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 12 |
| Morfa Nefyn | Cae Coch | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 13 |
| Morfa Nefyn | Traeth | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 14 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----|
| Mynytho | | Tymhorol / Seasonal | ✓ | 15 |
| Nefyn | Cefn Twr | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 16 |
| Nefyn | Lon Gam | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 17 |
| Porthmadog | Y Parc | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 18 |
| Pwllheli | South Beach | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 19 |
| Pwllheli | Stryd Penlan | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 20 |
| Pwllheli | Y Maes | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 21 |
| Trefor | Traeth | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 22 |
| | | | | |
| Ardal MEIRIONNYDD Area | | | | |
| Aberdyfi | Neuadd Dyfi | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 1 |
| Aberdyfi | Y Cei | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 2 |
| Abergynolwyn | | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 3 |
| Abermaw | Llys Cambrian | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 4 |
| Abermaw | Promenad y Gogledd | Tymhorol / Seasonal | ✓ | 5 |
| Abermaw | Y Cei | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 6 |
| Bala | Plase | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 7 |
| Bala | Y Grin | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 8 |
| Blaenau Ffestiniog | Diffwys | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 9 |
| Bryncrug | | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 10 |
| Corris Isaf | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 11 |
| Dinas Mawddwy | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 12 |
| Dolgellau | Maes Parcio'r Marian | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 13 |
| Ganllwyd | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 14 |
| Harlech | Bron y Graig | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 15 |
| Harlech | Min y Don | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 16 |
| Harlech | Queen's | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 17 |
| Llanbedr | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 18 |
| Llandanwg | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 19 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|----|
| Llwyngwrl | | Tymhorol / Seasonal | | 20 |
| Maentwrog | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 21 |
| Pennal | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 22 |
| Penrhyndeudraeth | Maes Parcio | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 23 |
| Talybont | Pentre | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | | 24 |
| Trawsfynydd | | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 25 |
| Tywyn | Maes Adloniant | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 26 |
| Tywyn | Sinema | Agor trwy'r flwyddyn / Open all Year | ✓ | 27 |
| | | | | |
| CYFANSWM / TOTAL | | | | 61 |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| MEETING | Communities Scrutiny Committee |
| DATE | 20 March 2025 |
| TITLE | Grass cutting and maintaining county road verges |
| REASON FOR SCRUTINY | Follow-up following scrutiny at the 22 February 2024 meeting |
| AUTHOR | Steffan Jones, Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC |
| CABINET MEMBER | Councillor June Jones |

1. Why does it need to be scrutinized?

- 1.1 A progress report in relation to a review of county road verge maintenance was scrutinised at the Committee's meeting on 22 February 2024.
- 1.2 The report included an update on the cutting and collection trials taking place in selected areas within the County to promote wildlife and biodiversity needs. It was noted that the trials were in line with the duty of public authorities to make biodiversity a natural and integral part of their policies and processes in accordance with Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 1.3 The report also included details of the new rural road cutting contract as well as the Department's aims and objectives going forward.
- 1.4 It was decided to accept the report and the Department was asked to submit an update in a year's time.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

- How successful are the trials?
- Are the new mowing arrangements promoting/improving biodiversity?
- Has further work been undertaken to look into the possibility of the Grounds Maintenance Service offering their services to authorities or other organisations wishing to carry out similar work in order to improve their roads and lands for the benefit of nature?

3. Summary and Key Issues

- 3.1 Gwynedd's road verge management has historically focused on road safety considerations rather than any wider benefits such as supporting biodiversity.
- 3.2 Keen to make a difference, and meet legislative duties as well as the Council's strategic requirements, a plan was developed jointly with the Environment Department in 2023/24 to trial a cut-and-collect regime at selected sites on the A499 and A497 in Dwyfor.
- 3.3 The initial trials received positive comments; so much so that it has spurred the Department to continue with the existing trial sites and establish new trial sites in Meirionnydd this financial year.

3.4 In addition, the Department amended the specification of its new rural mowing agreement to limit the amount of grass cut annually and thereby increase the area on road verges available for wildflower growth.

3.5 To this end, the Department seeks the Committee's support for its intention to extend the trials to Arfon during the next financial year in order to create more biodiversity corridors and assist in supporting the recovery of threatened species.

4. Background / Context

4.1 Rural Grass Cutting Contract

4.1.1 The verges of rural roads, which are the county roads outside towns and villages, are cut mainly for safety reasons i.e. to maintain good visibility at junctions, bends etc. so as to ensure that drivers, cyclists and pedestrians can see ahead unobstructed.

4.1.2 The Department tends to enter into a new contract for rural grass cutting services (on a cut and leave basis) every two years, with an option to extend it annually up to a maximum of two years.

4.1.3 The cutting work is divided into seventeen sub-areas within the county with contractors able to bid for more than one sub-area up to a maximum of eight. The tenders are scored on the basis of commercial/cost element (70%) and quality/technical element (30%). All cutting work must begin on a date specified by the relevant Area Engineer and be completed within a period of 6 weeks.

4.1.4 The contract used to state that the rural road verges were to be cut twice a year (between May and June and between September and October) with little regard for anything other than road safety. However, these arrangements have now been amended to ensure that biodiversity is given at least equal importance to road safety.

4.1.5 The benefits of managing roadsides to promote biodiversity are highlighted in 4.3 below.

4.1.6 The Department went out to tender for its latest mowing contract in 2023/24. The specification was changed to limit the amount of grass to be cut so as to increase the area available for wildflower growth. As a result, in the spring, only a 1 metre wide swathe is cut on the verges of Class 1 and 2 roads with the verges of Class 3 and Unclassified roads left uncut. Also, in autumn, the full width of the verges of Class 1 and 2 roads are cut, as well as a 1 metre wide swathe on Class 3 and Unclassified roads.

4.1.7 It is hoped to be able to prepare the next grass cutting contract based on the results of the cut and collect trials, i.e. that the grass on many more county road rural verges is cut and collected rather than cut and left on the surface.

4.2 Legislative and strategic context in relation to biodiversity

4.2.1 Public authorities in Wales must meet many statutory duties to maintain and enhance biodiversity and to boost ecosystem resilience, including the following:

- **COP15 - United Nations diversity framework to address the global loss of diversity and restore natural ecosystems 2022.**

Protect 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas by 2030.

- **Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - Section 6.**
Public authorities have a duty to make biodiversity a natural and integral part of their policies and processes.
- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**
Local authorities have a duty to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
- **The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales 2013.**
The Welsh Government's plan for co-ordinated policies and governance, and better and more connected habitats, to tackle the decline in pollinators in Wales.

4.2.2 Council officers are also required to comply with the following:

- **Gwynedd Biodiversity Duty Plan 2019**
The Council's plan for greeting its Section 6 duty in relation to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting resilience.
- **Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022**
The Council's plan to reach its ambition to become a net zero council by 2030.

4.3 Road verge management for pollinators

4.3.1 Pollinators are subject to global decline, mainly due to habitat loss and fragmentation. With proper management, road verges have a particularly high potential to support pollinators because they incorporate a variety of habitat types including grassland, wetlands, hedgerows and scrub.

4.3.2 Historically, the edges of Gwynedd's roads may have been cut too often, at the wrong times with grass left on the surface after cutting. However, this type of control is not ideal to support pollinators.

4.3.3 It is recognised that the best way to assist in supporting pollinators, not only on road verges but other areas of grassland, is by adopting a cut and collect regime rather than a cut and leave regime. Collecting the grass after cutting is important because:

- it prevents the accumulation of dead vegetation that suffocates other plants such as wildflowers.
- it leaves more open ground to allow seeds to grow.
- it reduces soil fertility and therefore aids in slowing the growth of some of the grass varieties that choke wildflowers.

4.3.4 In addition, there is a need to reduce the number of cuts to give wildflowers a chance to grow and thrive. Ideally, the verges should only be cut and collected once a year, around September. However, additional cuts may also be required later in the year, or early in the following year, depending on the circumstances.

4.3.5 The ideal mowing regime for supporting biodiversity is illustrated in **Appendix 1**.

4.4 Cut-and-collect trials

- 4.4.1 In collaboration with the Environment Department's Biodiversity Service, a plan has been developed to set aside sites on the county highway network to trial a grass cutting and collecting regime in order to create more appealing habitats for pollinators. As a result of this collaboration, the Department has also been able to secure funding through the Gwynedd Nature Partnership to purchase specialist equipment such as a tractor, collection machine and a baler so that the Grounds Maintenance Service can carry out this type of work itself in the future and gain expertise in the field.
- 4.4.2 The first trials were located at selected sites on the A499 and A497 in Dwyfor. These sites were chosen because they were straight, wide and long and therefore large enough to provide meaningful data that could ultimately be used to justify changing the Department's historic mowing arrangements.
- 4.4.3 The locations of the sites in Dwyfor, along with other similar sites developed by the Biodiversity Service, can be seen in **Appendix 2**:
- 4.4.4 Road verges left uncut during the spring and summer can be considered untidy by the public and road users. As a result, it was vital that the Department managed the public's perception of the trials and informed them of its ambition to extend the cut and collect scheme in the future. Therefore, all Local Members and Community Councils where the sites were located were notified of the trials and 'It's for Them' signs, a Welsh Government campaign to try and change people's mindsets in relation to cutting grass for the benefit of nature, were posted at each site.
- 4.4.5 Details of the 'It's for Them' signs can be found in **Appendix 3**.

4.5 Continuation of the trials

- 4.5.1 The results on the ground, and the positive comments received about the initial trials, spurred the Department not only to continue the existing trials but to extend them to other roads within the County. As a result, the trials were extended to the Meirionnydd area this financial year.
- 4.5.2 In partnership with the Biodiversity Service, a local ecologist was commissioned to identify and inspect sites suitable for implementing the trials. Further specialist equipment was purchased, again through the Gwynedd Nature Partnership, to enable the Department to continue with the trials and realise its future aims and objectives.
- 4.5.3 By following parameters similar to those set out in 4.4.2 above, the ecologist identified approximately seven main sites on the network suitable to conduct the trials. However, due to a lack of funding, only two sites were developed this financial year, namely at the junction of the A496 with the A487 near Maentwrog, and the western approach on the A493 into Aberdyfi.
- 4.5.4 The locations of the sites in Meirionnydd can be found in **Appendix 4**.

4.5.5 Similar to the trials in Dwyfor, an assessment of the biodiversity value of each site was carried out before preparation. The grass was subsequently cut and collected and the surface scarified to remove unsuitable vegetation. The sites were then sown with native wildflower seeds such as yellow rattle, a flower that is often used to create or restore wildflower meadows.

4.5.6 Photos of the work that took place on the sites can be seen at **Appendix 5**.

5. Consultation

5.1 Local Members and relevant Community Councils were contacted before undertaking work on the sites, and public awareness of the scheme was raised through social media.

5.2 The original trials in Dwyfor were promoted on the Council's stand at the Llyn and Eifionydd Eisteddfod ground. This ran concurrently with the Environment Department's campaign to promote their Gwynedd Wildflower Meadows scheme for all primary schools in the Eisteddfod catchment area.

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

6.1 This legislation places a duty on local authorities to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

6.2 Relevant local communities were notified of the intention to hold the trials in their areas and Welsh Government designed 'It's for Them' signs were erected at each site to inform residents and visitors of the trials and the reasons for holding them. This helped reduce any complaints or negative comments about the appearance of the sites over the spring and summer.

6.3 The Department has worked closely with the Biodiversity Service on all of the trials to date and is currently working together to extend the trials to other parts of the county highway network.

6.4 Aware of the Grounds Maintenance Service's developing expertise in this area, a number of town and community councils have contacted the officers to seek advice and carry out similar work in their areas on their behalf.

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

7.1 The Department has already recognised the need for impact assessments. As a result, assessments will be developed in due course.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 The Department is keen to expand the trials into the next financial year and research into identifying suitable locations within the Arfon area has already begun. Once again, the Department is working with the Biodiversity Service to develop the sites and its strategy going forward.
- 8.2 As well as working on road verges, Grounds Maintenance Service officers have started conducting cut and collect trials themselves on some of the lands they are responsible for maintaining. One example is the work being carried out at the Cerrig yr Orsedd site in Caernarfon where the flowers and grass have been harvested so that the seeds can be collected and sown at other sites low in native plant species. This technique is considered superior to sowing commercial wildflower seeds or planting plug-plants. The Department is keen to encourage and further the Service's aspirations to continue to develop its expertise in this area.
- 8.3 Details of these trials can be found in **Appendix 6**.
- 8.4 As noted in last year's report, it will take time to move away from the traditional way of maintaining the County's road verges so that they benefit nature in the future. However, now that the work has started, the sooner the Department's efforts can make a difference. It is hoped that the trials currently taking place, and will take place in the future, will ultimately make a difference by helping to create biodiversity corridors to support the recovery of threatened species and the recovery of abundant populations of insects that are essential for crop and wildflower pollination.

9. Background Information

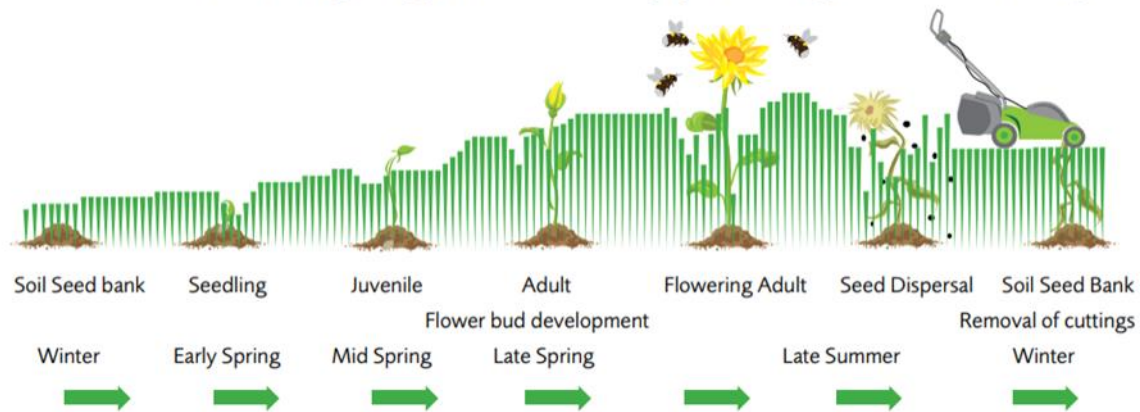
- 9.1 Further information on the benefits of roadside management to promote biodiversity can be found in the following document from Plantlife, a charity which aims to protect and restore as well as connect people to nature:
<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/learning-resource/road-verge-green-space-management-best-practice/>

10. Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Ideal grass cutting regime for supporting biodiversity
- **Appendix 2:** Locations of trial sites at Dwyfor
- **Appendix 3:** Details of 'It's for Them' signs from the Welsh Government
- **Appendix 4:** Locations of trial sites in Meirionnydd
- **Appendix 5:** Photographs of the work on Meirionnydd sites
- **Appendix 6:** Details of the Grounds Maintenance Service's trials

Appendix 1: Ideal grass cutting regime for supporting biodiversity

Ideal cutting regime for supporting biodiversity



Annual growth and cutting cycle for native wildflowers

Nature isn't Neat Training Manual, Monmouthshire

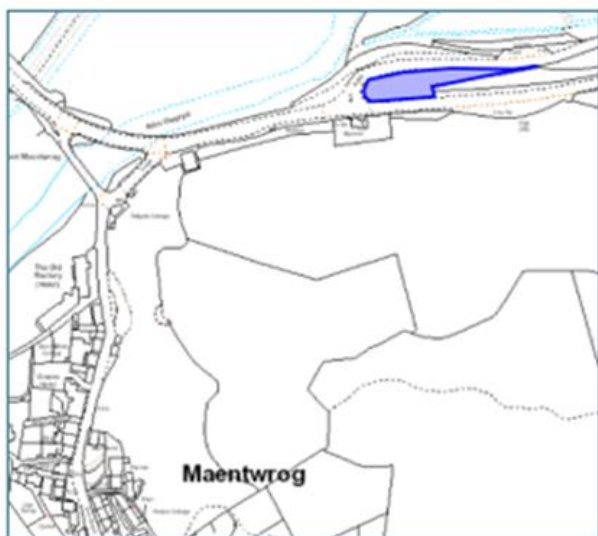
Appendix 2: Locations of the trial sites in Dwyfor



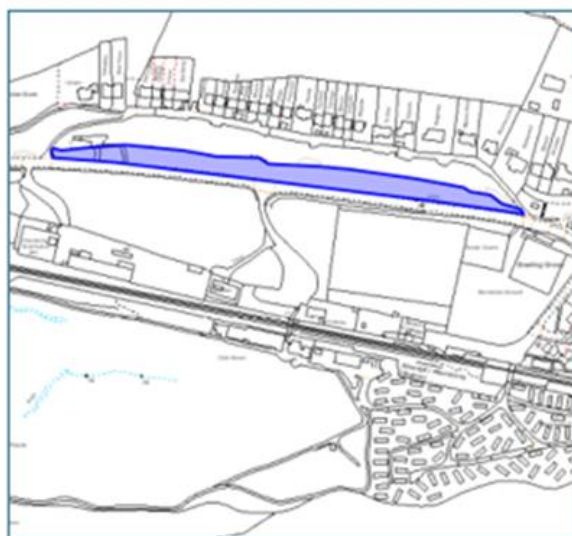
Appendix 3: Details of Welsh Government's 'It's for Them' signs



Appendix 4: Location of the trial sites in Meirionnydd



A496 Maentwrog



A493 Aberdyfi

Appendix 5: Photos of the work on the sites in Meirionnydd

The Grounds Maintenance Service preparing the sites by scarifying the surfaces and seeding them with a native wildflower mix.



A496 by Maentwrog



A493 Aberdyfi

Appendix 6: Trials at the Cerrig yr Orsedd, Lon Priestley, Caernarfon site



The site in full bloom in August 2024



Cutting and collecting the grass/wildflowers with the specialist equipment bought through the Gwynedd Nature Partnership



Sieving the grass/flowers mix after drying them on the floor of the Cibyn depot to extract the seeds. The seeds have been extracted and divided into two sizes, namely:

- native flower seeds 2mm in size to be sown on other sites that are low in native plant species. These will generally produce native white and yellow flowers which are more suitable for encouraging pollinating insects.
- seeds 4mm in size, e.g. poppy flowers, in order to mix them with native seeds so as to produce a more picturesque appearance. These are more suitable for sites within towns and villages.