

GWYNEDD CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	16 September 2025
Date decision will come into force and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Cyngor Gwynedd Constitution.	1 October 2025

SUBJECT

Item 6 : LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

DECISION

1. To endorse the Main Report and Technical Report of the Gwynedd Local Area Energy Plan, understanding that the Actions and Recommendations assigned to Cyngor Gwynedd are subject to securing and maintaining the necessary funding.
 2. It was agreed that a governance and monitoring mechanism for the Actions and Recommendations will need to be developed in conjunction with Ambition North Wales and other north Wales local authorities and brought back to Cabinet for approval. The mechanism should lead to:
 - Agreeing a governance structure
 - Aligning the North Wales Regional Energy Strategy (and action plan) with the Local Area Energy Plan
 - Aligning the Local Area Energy Plan with national energy plans that can be developed by NESO (National Energy System Operator) on behalf of the Welsh Government
 - Identifying key performance indicators
 - Formation of a Regional Steering Group
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Cyngor Gwynedd, through our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan have set the ambition that “Cyngor Gwynedd will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030.”
 2. In March 2021 the Senedd approved an all-Wales net-zero target for 2050, with interim targets of a reduction in carbon emissions of 63% by 2030 and 89% by 2040. The Welsh Government commissioned a programme for all Local Authorities in Wales to develop a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) to contribute to these national targets.
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DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Declarations of personal interest were received from Cllr Paul Rowlinson as he was on the Board of Ynni Ogwen, and from Cllr Menna Trenholme as she was a director of Gwyrfaï Gwyrdd. It was noted that these roles were voluntary, therefore they were not prejudicial interests, and they did not withdraw from the meeting.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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

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Item 7 : HOLDING A BANGOR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS BALLOT

DECISION

1. To note that the Business Improvement District (BID) Proposal and supplementary documents from the Bangor Business Improvement District Area Company had been received from the Council and that they complied with the Regulations;
2. That the Cabinet instructs the Returning Officer to hold the Bangor BID vote;
3. To approve the financial arrangements and implications noted in Part 3 of the report;
4. To delegate the right to the Cabinet Member for the Economy to vote on behalf of the Authority in the BID ballot;
5. If the ballot is successful in Bangor, and in accordance with the Business Improvement District (Wales) Regulations 2005, to delegate the right to the Head of Economy and Community, in consultation with the heads of the following departments to approve the final version of the Operational Agreement and the Baseline Agreement and complete the Agreements in accordance with the Council's arrangements:
 - Environment
 - Highways, Engineering and YGC
 - Legal
 - Finance.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. It is noted in the Business Improvement District (Wales) Regulations 2005 that there is a need for local authorities to authorise the process of holding the Business Improvement District ballot. In accordance with the Council's constitution, the Cabinet is responsible for authorising this.
 2. Local authorities have the veto right if it considers that BID proposals would likely conflict significantly with existing policy, would place a financial burden on taxpayers or that the levy was too high. However, the intention to hold a ballot is supported because:
 - The Bangor BID proposal responds to challenges which have been identified by the
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business community.

- In holding a ballot, the business community receives the opportunity to support the establishment of the BID in order to give them the ability to realise the objectives which have been noted within the business plans.
- The proposed BID could attract additional investment and maximise the profile of Bangor.
- The BID would be a medium to collaborate with the Council and provide additional services.

Therefore, there was no reason to implement the statutory veto.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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SUBJECT

Item 8: 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT, STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2024-28

DECISION

The contents were noted and the 2024-25 Annual Report, Equality Plan 2024-28, was approved.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Reporting progress annually on the Strategic Equality Plan is a duty in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 as it is implemented in Wales. It is also good practice within the Council for the Cabinet to be aware of the progress.

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

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ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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SUBJECT

Item 9 : MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

DECISION

1. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was approved for the period of 2026/27 - 2028/29.
 2. The Chief Executive was commissioned to establish and lead on a range of options, as outlined in part 4 and 5 of the report, to pre-prepare for dealing with the significant gap in our budget over the next three years.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) sets out the financial forecasts for the period of 3 years beginning on 1 April 2026.
 2. These estimates are based on the recent forecasts available on the change in the income that the Council will receive during the period (from the Government Grant and Council Tax), and the additional spending requirements during the same period.
 3. Adopting the Medium Term Financial Plan will allow the Council to consider the work that needs to be done to create detailed plans to address the financial gap that is anticipated for 2026/27 - 2028/29, and to steer the work that is needed.
 4. It is not expected for the Council to find out what the Government Grant for 2026/27 will be until at least November 2025, but with the forecasts that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Welsh Language intends to give an increase of 2% on all Government budget headings for 2026/37, we can expect an annual increase in our financial settlement of around 1.5%, particularly considering the potential instability deriving from the Senedd elections in May 2026.
 5. Therefore, there is a substantial risk of serious financial instability from not taking early and definitive steps to consider the situation and take remedial actions.
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SUBJECT

Item 10: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

DECISION

To approve the Forward Work Programme included with the meeting papers.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In accordance with Section 14.13 of the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet will release its Forward Work Programme for the subsequent period of six months with the public. The Forward Work Programme will be published on the Council's website.

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

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION
