Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Meeting

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2026

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
And virtually via Zoom

Contact Point

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (12)

Councillors

Annwen Hughes
Arwyn Herald Roberts (Sedd Wag)
Dafydd Davies
Elwyn Edwards
Linda Morgan
Beca Roberts
Berwyn Parry Jones
Delyth Lloyd Griffiths
Edgar Wyn Owen
Jina Gwyrfai
Elfed Williams

Independent (5)

Councillors

Wendy Cleaver
Peter Thomas (Sedd Wag)
Elfed Powell Roberts
Gruffydd Williams

Gwynedd First (1)

Councillor Stephen Churchman

Ex-officio Members

Chair and 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 - 11

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 1 October 2026 be signed as a true record.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, ENGINEERING AND YGC PERFORMANCE REPORT 12 - 57

An opportunity for Members to discuss and scrutinise the Department's improvement measures and priorities.

6. NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - KEY ISSUES, VISION, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, GROWTH OPTIONS AND STRATEGIC DISTRIBUTION 58 - 130

To scrutinise the Local Development Plan / Council Plan 2023-28 - A Green Gwynedd.

7. ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER PERFORMANCE REPORT 131 - 199

To report to the Scrutiny Committee on the performance of the Environment Department.

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1/10/26

Present:

COUNCILLORS:

Elwyn Edwards, Beca Roberts, Berwyn Parry Jones, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Edgar Wyn Owen, Jina Gwyrfai, Elfed Williams, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Wendy Cleaver, Elfed Powell Roberts, Gruffydd Williams, Peter Thomas, Annwen Hughes and Stephen Churchman.

Officers present:

Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor) and Annes Sion (Democracy Team Leader).

Present for Item 5:
Councillor Craig ab Iago (Cabinet Member for Environment), Bethan Richardson (Climate Change Programme Manager).

Present for Item 6:
Councillor June Jones (Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC), Steffan Jones (Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC Department) and Gareth Roberts (Dwyfor Area Engineer).

Present for Item 7:
Councillor Craig ab Iago (Cabinet Member for Environment), Gerwyn Jones (Assistant Head of Environment Department) and Ceri Hughes Thomas (Parking and Street Works Manager).

1. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Dafydd Davies.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 11 June 2026, as a true record.

5. CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

The report was presented by the Climate Change Programme Manager stating that it

reported on work undertaken in 2025/26 and under the original Climate and Nature Emergency plan, which had now been updated and adopted by the Cabinet in summer 2026.

It was expressed that the Council had been reporting on Carbon emissions to the Welsh Government for four years now. It was explained that this provided a firm foundation to see whether progress was going in the right direction. It was also noted that figures were presented 'including procurement' and 'excluding procurement' measures, as the methodology was not entirely accurate with procurement as it was expenditure-based. It was explained that both pictures showed that they were on the right track. It was detailed that carbon emissions were falling and carbon absorption levels had remained unchanged because they had used 2024/25 statistics, but the gap was closing. It was added that there were explanations for this in the report, but they included a work investment on reducing emissions from buildings' energy use, the installation of fleet charging points and that the waste strategy was now operational. It was emphasised that the picture was broad and complex but that they were on the right track.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

Members thanked the officer for the report and attention was drawn to calculating carbon emissions from the procurement system, noting that if it was solely expenditure-based then how could net zero be reached. With rising costs, it would not be achievable as it was a constantly moving target. It was added that with increased fuel costs, emissions would rise through this measure. It was noted that it was absurd to count carbon footprint through procurement as no one could reach net zero. He stressed that he was aware that this was a Welsh Government measure but it did not reflect the situation and that it really needed to be questioned. The response was that they fully agreed with the observations but that the Council had taken one positive step by looking at procurement processes. It was explained that a lot of time had been spent supporting suppliers and helping them to develop their own carbon management plans. In doing so, it was explained that it had led to a reduction in carbon levels within the companies and enabled them to provide accurate carbon data which was fed back to the Welsh Government. They elaborated by noting that a higher percentage of the data was accurate as a result of the support provided, but if we wanted to see this type of project across Wales then much more resources would be needed. It was added that the Cabinet Member had asked the new Government for a further discussion on this measure.

Attention was drawn to the Carbon Absorption chart by the Council's land assets, and it was asked why there had been a large reduction in the first two years of the plan followed by a gradual increase, with 2025/26 numbers higher than they were in 2021/22. The response given was that the methodology used in the first two years differed to that used in the subsequent three years. It was noted that, to obtain the full picture, the context to accompany the chart was needed. It was added that there had been little change in land use and therefore that 2024/25 data had been used for this year and that discussions were underway between the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to find the right approach to measuring carbon absorption levels.

It was expressed that the gap to net zero was still high after it had initially fallen in 2020/21. They responded by noting that the gap had narrowed since the baseline year in 2019, but that it came back to the fact that carbon absorption levels by land assets was much lower in 2020/21 compared to the subsequent year. It was expressed that there would be an improvement this year, but this could be confirmed when there were new measurement arrangements for measuring the absorption level.

The staff who worked so hard in this area were thanked, and it was noted that miraculous work was being done with so little budget. It was emphasised that these schemes were savings hundreds of thousands of pounds for the Council which helped with the savings that the Council needed to make every year. It was highlighted that the ECO4 initiative was coming to an end this year, which involved working with the Government to help Gwynedd residents to reduce energy costs. It was asked what would happen next, and if there was room for the Scrutiny Committee to support the Cabinet Member to query the Government about the next steps in relation to the ECO4 initiative. The response given was that there would be a discussion about procurement with the Government and that the ECO4 initiative could be brought up as part of that discussion.

It was asked what projects completed in 2025/26 had had a measurable impact on reducing the gap to net zero, and which projects had not reduced emissions and how much of the progress was as a result of grants rather than sustainable changes to reduce expenditure from the core budget. The response was that several building and energy schemes had received many grants and that some would result in financial savings due to the reduction in energy costs. In terms of saving money, it was expressed that some schemes had reached neutrality where there was no increase or decrease.

It was pointed out that the gap to net zero excluding procurement remained at 16,937,946 kgCO2e at the rate, and it was asked how many years it would take to reach net zero and why there was a need to keep to the 2030 target which continued to look unrealistic. It was added that the carbon absorption level had remained stagnant, and it was asked whether it therefore indicated that the ecological strategy had failed so far or whether there was a wider explanation. It was expressed how Cyngor Gwynedd's carbon emissions contributed at all to global climate change when they were so small, when several countries were now abandoning the Paris Agreement as a result of scientific evidence highlighting a negative impact on the economy. The response given was that the latest Climate and Nature Emergency Plan adopted by the Cabinet in July provided more information in relation to the 2030 target, emphasising that it was challenging. It was noted that this had been reinforced by the Welsh Government who had mentioned that it was a target to be met in 2040. It was emphasised that this was currently an active discussion between a number of organisations.

It was asked what the real estimated cost was to close the gap by 2030 and where would the money come from if grants stopped – would the Council be prepared to change the target or what services would suffer due to the focus and expenditure on this plan. It was elaborated that grant funding came from the taxpayer's pocket and therefore needed to be spent carefully. The response was that there was nothing free in the society we lived in, but the Council needed to make the most of the grants that were being offered. It was noted that the Council had a Carbon plan back in 2005 and it was therefore part of the Council's culture to continue with the work as it saved money for the Council and the taxpayer and ensured that services were delivered as effectively as possible.

RESOLVED

1. **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
2. **To welcome the intention to discuss with Welsh Government Ministers the methodology of calculating carbon emissions in the area of Procurement, along with a successor to the EC04 scheme which is ending.**

6. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - INSTALLATION OF ROAD MARKINGS

The report was presented, stating that the department was currently looking at steps to

improve the service. The current working arrangements were noted which involved an external contractor carrying out road marking works, except for a single manual road marking machine in the south of the county. It was emphasised that there were only two contractors working across North Wales, so the waiting time to get the works done could be long. Attention was drawn to the steps to improve the service, as set out in the report. It was noted that step two was to invest in an additional manual road marking machine, along with training staff to use it, for use in the north of the county.

It was explained that step 3 involved developing a business plan to invest in a bespoke road marking vehicle, submitting an invest-to-save bid. It was added that this would ensure that works were done faster and that there would be an opportunity to offer work to neighbouring counties and generate income. It was added that operating it internally would make it much easier to manage the situation.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

It was noted that the fact that there were only two contractors available to carry out the work, highlighted the need to support this case. However, it was expressed that it would be useful to see the financial case for that as well, perhaps when presenting to the Cabinet to see the picture over 5-10 years in terms of staffing and maintenance costs along with the additional income. The response given was that these figures were essential to submit the bid, but this stage had not been reached yet. It was noted that the cost would be around £200k investment-wise to purchase the machine. It was explained that initial talks had begun with the Trunk Roads Agency, which had noted support and work if going down the investment avenue. It was elaborated that there had been an initial discussion with nearby counties. It was expressed that it was not only the financial element that was crucial but also the Council's reputation, of providing a timely and rapid response. It was noted that an investment had been made for step 2, which was a step in the right direction.

It was asked how the success of the service could be defined, as road markings were important for traffic and safety whilst also being necessary for pedestrians and cyclists. It was asked how the system considered different users when prioritising road markings, and how performance measures allowed us to see the scale and location of works, and what needs were being met. The response given was that prioritisation came down to risk assessment and that road safety was part of the road inspector's job, taking into account the entire road including the road markings. It was explained that measures came into the performance challenge system and that examples would be considered when reporting.

Attention was drawn to road markings following re-surfacing works. It was explained that a period of 6 or more weeks sometimes lapsed before they were replaced which was concerning as accidents could happen and that safety problems could arise in front of schools. It was asked whether there was a period of time where it was not possible to install road markings after re-surfacing works. The response given was that they were aware of the risks when there were delays and specifically for those unfamiliar with the area. It was explained that remarking lines was part of contractors' agreement when carrying out resurfacing works which tended to happen quite close to the end of the period. However, it was emphasised that only two contractors had the machinery to paint road markings for large spaces – for example centre line road marking works. As a result, the Council was at the mercy of the contractor and often had to get a large package of work for them to come to the county. In terms of marking in front of schools, it was explained that it scored high in terms of prioritisation and that the department was able to use the manual machine to do the work in-house.

Gratitude was noted for the work done, highlighting that they had been very proactive in

his ward. The steps to improve the service were supported and it was asked what was now being used to install the road markings, as there had been a change to use more environmentally friendly material. It was asked whether it was hard-wearing. The response was that the department had been using material that was not as high-spec compared to what was available on the open market. It was added that locations had been identified where a lot of wear and tear occurred in order to trial very durable material to compare the lifespan of the markings.

Support was declared for the investment, and it was highlighted that there was pioneering machinery coming from China, and it was asked if there was any intention to invest in smaller machinery. The response was that they were investing in a second manual kit to be based in the north of the county, and that step 3 was for a larger vehicle.

It was expressed that the current arrangements were not working and that more work needed to be done in-house. A question was asked about the external contractors, whether the Council paid them to stay overnight, and in terms of the business plan regarding whether it would be necessary to invest in more staff. The response given was that the Business Plan would highlight the need for an additional workforce as it would be unavoidable. It was explained that the Council did not pay contractors to stay overnight which could be challenging as travel time needed to be scheduled in as well.

When discussing the road markings, more than one member asked if the lines were applied with paint or by burning and if different machines were needed for the different colours. It was explained that hot application of markings was used and that the same procedure was used for the manual equipment in the south of the county. It was explained that both colours were on the same vehicle and worked independently of each other.

It was asked if another authority was thinking of going down the same path and investing. The response was that discussions had taken place and there was no intention of doing this but obviously the situation could change over time.

It was expressed that the department was fortunate to have taken steps to try to resolve the problem. But it was asked what they would do if the business bid was unsuccessful. The response was that they had already invested in step two which would make some improvement, but that step 3 was specifically for the large schemes where the Council was required to use external contractors. As a result, without any investment, the situation would continue as it was.

RESOLVED

1. **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
2. **To declare support for developing a business plan for investment to enable the service to undertake a high percentage of road-marking work internally.**
3. **To recommend to the Highways, Engineering and YGC Department that a performance measure should be developed with regard to prioritising road marking and the safety of all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.**

7. EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURES

The report was presented, stating that emergency road closures were one part of the work of the Street Works unit on county roads. It was expressed that in accordance with

the legislation, they were responsible for enabling statutory undertakers to carry out works on the roads. It was added that there were different processes to follow when emergency works arose compared to scheduled works. It was noted that, in an emergency, engagement was not possible as they could not predict where and when they would happen across such a wide county network. It was explained that the unit coordinated work in the area, but aimed to minimise disruption to communities while bearing in mind the need for urgent or emergency works to be carried out by statutory contractors. It was expressed that, in an age of communication, it was easy to get information out in an emergency which could be helpful but also work against them when a high amount of information was shared or if the time period was short which could create confusion that was difficult to retract.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

Specific issues with road closures in one area were highlighted, citing a lack of communication between the Council and those carrying out the work. It was explained that the Councillor had contacted the Council on many occasions to note that the road was closed as the Council was not aware of the work, particularly by Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water. It was asked if better cooperation with the road closure companies was possible. It was explained that Dŵr Cymru had commissioned a company from Cheshire to close roads, but the works had not taken place and the residents had consequently reopened the road themselves. It was added that the road had been closed following this unbeknownst to anyone, therefore this had led to public transport problems.

The response given was that they fully sympathised with and understood the frustration and that they aimed to have a healthy relationship with the statutory contractors and that it was expected of them to share information. While he did not have specific details about the case in question, it was expressed that cases could change following an inspection and seeing the extent of the work. It was noted that the system was not perfect but that they were keen to work together to improve it. It was stressed that it was essential to receive examples, and that they had regular meetings with the undertakers to see improvement. It was noted that Dŵr Cymru had experienced difficulties following appointing a new traffic management company but they had now seen an improvement. It was added that they fined if a road was closed without warning.

When asked about traffic arrangements, it was asked who sent the maps for traffic diversions. It was noted that these were very useful to share with residents. An example of a diversion following a road closure by Dŵr Cymru was highlighted which went much further than what residents regarded as being necessary as there were several junctions. The response was that if a road had to be closed then the diversion had to be on a similar class road or higher to ensure that they could accommodate heavy vehicles such as buses. It was explained that when work needed to be done, it was essential in order to maintain services and that there were protocols to follow – as a result, some diversions could be extended depending on where the road closure was. It was added that the alternative plans were presented by the statutory undertakers, but the Council had a role to challenge and to use local knowledge to adapt them where necessary in accordance with the act.

Another example was highlighted where Dŵr Cymru had closed the road due to a burst pipe on a hill. A notice had been received that the works would be carried out in 3 weeks which meant surface water for 5 weeks. The Councillor had contacted the Council, and the works were carried out within 24 hours. Using this example, officers were asked if they could assess the need for works before sharing the notice as it might be escalated to an emergency. The response was that the status of the works could change over time. It was explained that the service had three officers across the county to inspect work and to see if works had been completed to a high standard. It was stressed that the number

of road closure requests was high and in addition to the duties of these officers, so the work was very wide-ranging.

Members expressed their understanding that the law had to be followed but a road closure on a single access corridor was pointed out, and it was noted that there was a need to assess the risk of the impact on communities and balance whether the work really needed to be done. A specific instance was highlighted which was not an emergency but urgent works, and the diversion had been over 40 miles with a major impact on several communities. It was noted that the report set out next steps that were vague and there were no measurable targets to ensure that this did not happen again. The response was that no one wanted this to happen, but the service was trying its best and it could prove challenging when emergency works arose out of hours without the extent of the works being known. The need to keep in touch with the Council to obtain accurate information from the official channels was emphasised, but it was noted that the line of communication could be long. It was noted that officers would arrange to visit the Councillor to discuss the problems in her area and to highlight the work being done to alleviate problems.

It was noted that some roads required different protocols, which had a major impact on communities such as a single access corridor road, to fully understand the impact. It was enquired if there could be one contact person for emergencies. It was noted that the number of officers was low but the office could be contacted, and they would share a dedicated direct number and officer.

It was highlighted that one statutory undertaker had been highlighted during this meeting, namely Dŵr Cymru, and it was noted that this may need to be relayed to them.

It was asked whether more data could be obtained in terms of how many road closures happened, how many were emergency or urgent works, how many took more time than scheduled, and where the works were in terms of their distribution. It was also asked if there was a discussion about works arising in the same place with the same provider repeatedly. The response given was that this data could be provided following the committee as some elements were part of the Performance Challenge system.

It was noted that the report had several references to continuous improvement and a request was made for examples and how the service had changed. The response was that many of the improvements were in team dynamics in terms of experiences and were not documented. But a clear element was communication, the need and desire to inform everyone in a timely manner, and to keep in touch with Councillors.

It was asked who was responsible for informing the emergency services of road closures. It was responded that the Council took the role of informing the emergency services, Councillors and Community Council of road closures.

RESOLVED

1. **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
2. **To ask the Environment Department to share data including the number of road closures in urgent or emergency circumstances, the distribution across areas, and works that take longer than expected.**

8. COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2026/27

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Advisor.

She explained that the Committee's annual workshop had been held on 19 May, where possible items for scrutiny during 2026/27 had been considered. In the workshop, items had been prioritised bearing in mind the purpose of scrutiny in Gwynedd, namely "To contribute to driving improvement in services for the people of Gwynedd".

It was explained that, following the workshop, some matters had been raised and it was decided that they would be given consideration. It was decided to move some items on the draft work programme and to note "Bereavement Service" as a reserve item. It was emphasised that the forward programme was a working programme which was constantly under review to ensure that the right matters were being addressed.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

It was suggested that a report should be received on the pilot of using hessian bags for recycling in some areas. It was explained that this update would be seen and raised when discussing the Environment Department's Performance Challenge report.

It was expressed that roadside vegetation was a constant problem on rural roads. It was noted that it was an issue to be discussed in performance scrutiny and to possibly keep in mind for future scrutiny.

RESOLVED

To adopt the work programme for 2026/27.

9. PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE MEETINGS

The report was presented by the Scrutiny Advisor.

It was expressed following a discussion in the Scrutiny Forum and a call by members of the scrutiny committee, that there was an intention to pilot inviting two representatives from each scrutiny committee to attend the internal performance challenge meetings of one department. It was explained that the Scrutiny Forum had recommended for a representative from this committee to attend the Environment Department's performance challenge meeting. Those nominated to attend were asked to keep in mind that there was a form to complete after the meeting to be able to report back to the committee.

Councillors Stephen Churchman and Arwyn Herald Roberts were nominated and seconded to represent the Committee, with Councillor Beca Roberts in reserve should the need arise.

RESOLVED
To nominate the following members to represent the committee in the Environment Department's performance challenge meetings:

- **Councillors Stephen Churchman and Arwyn Herald Roberts (with Councillor Beca Roberts in reserve)**

The meeting commenced at 10:30am and concluded at 12:55pm

CHAIRMAN

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	19 November, 2026
TITLE	Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC Performance Report
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	An opportunity for Members to discuss and scrutinise the Department's improvement measures and priorities
AUTHOR	Steffan Jones, Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC Department
CABINET MEMBER	The Councillor. June Jones

1. Why does it need to be scrutinized?

To provide an update to Scrutiny Committee Members on performance issues for the first half of 2026/27 within the Department.

2. Background

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update you on what has been achieved in the area I am responsible for as Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC. This includes an update on our projects attached to the Council's Plan; measures challenging the Department's performance; as well as an update on savings and cuts plan.

We are operating on the Council's Plan 2023-28, and here I report on the progress made so far in the year 2026/27. All the issues have been the subject of discussion and have been challenged by me at a recent performance challenge meeting, and I am happy with the performance of the Department.

2.2 Performance of Council Plan Projects (Green Gwynedd)

The progress against the milestones for the project 'Action on flood risks' within the Council's Plan' can be found in Appendix 1. It can be seen that the Department has made good progress and has completed the main milestones of the project.

Work continues to implement the objectives of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy by developing a programme of plans and projects to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk across Gwynedd.

A number of schemes are currently in the detailed design and business case stage, including Barmouth North Prom, Bontnewydd Flood Scheme, Mynydd Llandegai, Groeslon and Waunfawr.

Construction of the coastal defence scheme at Hirael, Bangor has now been completed, while surface water studies are being carried out in the Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog area and development work is underway for flood schemes at Clynnog Fawr and Criccieth.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been submitted to the Welsh Government and comments have been received on the contents. The Strategy is expected to receive formal approval, providing the strategic framework for prioritising and developing flood and coastal erosion plans in the near future.

The Department plays a key role in supporting the delivery of a number of priorities within the Council Plan.

2.3 The Department's day to day work (Performance Measures)

The Department's performance measures are set out in Appendix 2. There are 30 measures in total, reflecting the key objectives and responsibilities of the Department's services.

Performance is monitored and discussed regularly through the Challenge and Performance Support meetings. Following the September review, 76.6% of the measures were reported as being on target (green), demonstrating the strong performance delivered across the Department's services during the current year.

An overview of some of the Department's key performance measures is provided below:

Corporate/Departmental Measures

These look at the Department's performance in terms of Freedom of Information Requests, Mandatory Titles, Language Self-Assessment and the Department's sickness rate. It should be noted that our Freedom of Information request response percentage at the end of September was 97.7% with only one request answered late. We are also pleased to report that our performance in terms of the percentage of staff and workforce who have completed mandatory titles has improved significantly. This increase stems from the work of the Corporate Protection Trainer who developed a video to enable frontline workers to complete the safeguarding module. A number of new modules have been introduced, with more in the pipeline, and we will continue to work to improve completion rates.

Highway Maintenance

The Highways Maintenance Service continues to respond quickly to issues affecting road user safety, making 80.3% of critical defects and 76.6% of safety deficiencies safe within the relevant time targets. 395 complaints about potholes in roads were received between April and September, with the service successfully closing applications in an average of 9 days.

The overall condition of the county's road network is currently in a satisfactory condition, with 69.3% of Class A roads, 65.1% of class B roads and 46.8% of class C roads overall in good condition. The recent investment through Welsh Government grant funding into maintenance and improvements to the network ensures a stable manner over time in the current state of the county network.

Street Lighting

The Street Lighting Service continues to respond to faults well within its five-day target, with faults being resolved on average within 2.6 days. Where faults relate to assets owned by the National Grid, response times are outside the Council's control, as the utility company has up to 20 working days to undertake the necessary repairs. This can occasionally impact the level of service experienced by customers.
To provide greater insight into the work of the Service, a new performance measure has been introduced this year to report on the inspection of the County's street lighting assets in accordance with the established inspection programme.

Fleet Service

The Service continues to perform strongly, and the implementation of the new fleet management system has been a success. The transition of the Council's fleet to low-emission vehicles is progressing well, with 94 cars and vans now either electric or hybrid. According to a report by the Welsh Government Energy Service, Gwynedd Council ranked second among Wales' rural local authorities for the number of low-emission vehicles within its fleet.

Street Scene Service and CCTV

The street cleaning service has benefited from investment in new technology and equipment, including more efficient sweepers and a digital system to record bin emptying and monitor street bin filling levels. The information collected helps to better plan resources and provide a more effective service in line with demand. In addition, the system helps to monitor and manage the tasks of the road sweepers while specialist machines ensure that hard-to-reach areas and narrow streets receive appropriate attention. Work is also underway to strengthen local partnerships and improve communication with community councils, local members and community groups in order to achieve more thorough cleaning, use resources more efficiently and improve the cleanliness and appearance of communities across the County.

Public Toilets

The Municipal Asset Service continues to provide and maintain 60 public toilets across the County, as well as supporting 37 community toilets. During the first half of 2026/27 129 enquiries were received, with the main issues relating to cleanliness (23%), opening hours (17%) and blocked toilets (16%). While the number of enquiries has increased during the summer months, the service has maintained an average response time of four days between April and September, reflecting an ongoing commitment to providing clean, safe and suitable toilets for residents and visitors. We are also pleased to report that we have opened a new block of toilets to replace the old building on the North Prom in Barmouth. In addition, we have also been successful in securing funding through the 'Balchder Bro Gwynedd' Fund to upgrade the public toilets at Cambrian Court, Barmouth, expecting to see the work completed early in the new year.

Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC)

YGC are currently performing particularly well, with 7 of their 8 performance measures being green. This reflects the hard work and high standard of the teams in delivering complex and specialist projects across the County and across the whole of Wales. The programme of work remains healthy and ambitious, with a significant number of flood, civil engineering and environmental projects underway. Our principal client is the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent, for whom the Department delivers a wide range of services and projects. These range from routine maintenance, and minor improvement works to the delivery of major infrastructure and highway improvement schemes.

As well as providing core services such as flood risk management, infrastructure design, land surveys and construction, YGC now offers a wide range of specialist consultancy services that attract clients not only in Gwynedd but across the whole of Wales. The team works closely with public bodies, local communities and regional partners to provide sustainable solutions that improve safety, resilience and our response to the climate change crisis.

I am pleased to note that YGC continues to grow its reputation as a team of Consultants with engineering excellence in Wales, providing a professional, reliable and innovative service that makes a significant contribution to the County and beyond. Through this we are securing opportunities for local jobs here in Gwynedd in the field of consultancy.

2.4 External Auditors' Reports

The Department of Highways, Engineering and YGC holds, and maintains three key accreditations namely BSI – ISO 45001 (Health and Safety), ISO 14001 (Environmental) and ISO 9001 (Quality) – which underpin our work across the Department. These standards ensure that we operate with the highest level of safety, environmental management and quality, and give our clients and partners confidence in the service provided. One of the requirements of our work through a service level agreement with a Trunk Road Agency is that we hold and retain these accreditations.

Following external audits undertaken during the year, the Department received a number of positive and supportive findings from the auditors. Most notably, no issues were identified in relation to compliance with, or the maintenance of, required standards. This provides assurance that the team's work is being delivered in a professional, effective and well-managed manner, with appropriate systems and processes in place to maintain high standards of performance and governance.

The outcome is evidence of the Department's continued commitment to improvement, transparency and leadership in best practice in the areas of Health and Safety, Environment and Quality, and supports our ability to deliver a high quality service across all areas of our work.

2.5 Savings and Cuts Plans

The total Savings Plans for 2026-27 were £91,000. The Department is on track to achieve this full amount. £120,000 worth of Historic Savings have been realised and have slipped into this year. See 117k worth of Historic Savings remaining on the Budget.'

3. Additional Questions Raised by the Committee

3.1 What are the risks to delivering the priority projects?

- Dependence on external funding: Applications for grant support have been submitted to the Welsh Government. If funding is not approved, or if there are delays in securing funding, this could affect the service's ability to deliver the work programme.
- Dependence on external partners: The success of the work is partly reliant on collaboration with Natural Resources Wales and progress on projects in Fairbourne, Porthmadog and Pwllheli. Any delays or changes in priorities by partner organisations could impact the Council's delivery timescales.
- Planning risks: A planning application has been submitted for the North Prom project in Barmouth. There is a risk that the planning process, planning conditions or objections could delay the project and increase the significant risk faced by the local community.

3.2 What are the performance risks?

A number of risks may affect service performance throughout the year. These include external factors that are beyond the direct control of the department, such as periods of severe weather, flooding incidents and the wider impacts of climate change, all of which can increase demand on services and lead to unforeseen expenditure.

In addition, financial pressures, reliance on external funding sources, staffing capacity and delays by partners or contractors may affect the department's ability to deliver work programmes and achieve performance targets.

3.3 What is being done to mitigate these risks?

The department maintains robust monitoring arrangements to identify and manage risks as early as possible. Service performance and financial positions are monitored regularly by service management teams, with performance, project progress and expenditure challenged through formal reporting processes.

In addition, the Corporate Risk Register is reviewed quarterly to ensure that key risks are assessed and that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented.

3.4 Has consideration been given to developing a performance measure to assess performance against the road work programme?

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, a new performance measure will be introduced to report on the performance of the Highways Maintenance Service against the road works programme.

4. Consultation

The report has been created on the basis of information submitted to the most recent meeting to challenge and support the performance of the Department of Highways, Engineering and YGC, with the Corporate Director, Head of Department, Service Managers and myself attending this meeting.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Council Plan project milestone progress reports 2023-28

Appendix 2: Departmental Performance Measures

Gwynedd Council Plan 2023-28 – Year 4 Priorities

Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Department	Project	Overview	What do you want to achieve in the FIFTH year to complete this project	What we want to achieve during the FOURTH year 2026-27 (milestones):	An update on progress with the milestones to date, and the impact of this on the people of Gwynedd	Is the milestone completed/likely to be completed by the end of the financial year
Highways, Engineering and YGC	**Acting on flood risks**	Risks of flooding and coastal erosion are increasing with the impact of climate change meaning that sea levels are rising and more intense storms are occurring more frequently. Gwynedd has the largest coastline in Wales and due to the nature of our landscape a high percentage of our communities, and	Ensure that there are concrete arrangements, where possible, to measure the impact of all interventions regardless of their nature. A comprehensive review of the Local Flood Strategy on progress over the four years. Conduct a review of flood risks on our	Prepare a delivery program for the years to come. Review the effectiveness	1. A work programme has been developed and is being implemented, and applications for grant support and assistance from the Welsh Government have been submitted. 2. Very early work has	1. Yes 2. Yes

		the infrastructure that serves them, are on the coast. We will work with other agencies, to prioritise our coastline on a risk basis, and draw up an action plan to address the risks where possible. There is also a risk of inland flooding when water accumulates and rivers overflow. We will draw up catchment plans to help avoid/respond to current and growing threats into the future.	infrastructure, mainly roads. Continue to work closely with Natural Resources Wales and liaise with the 3 main projects (Fairbourne, Porthmadog and Pwllheli). Implementation of the North Quay project, Barmouth.	of an alert system. Working together and supporting Natural Resources Wales. Submission of a planning application for the North Quay project, Barmouth.	commenced on coastal warnings, with further work planned in the coming period, including the development of rainfall warnings. 3. Regular meetings are in place. Dedicated meetings and points of contact have been established for the following projects- Porthmadog, Pwllheli a Fairbourne 4. A planning application has been submitted, and regular meetings are being held	3. Yes 4. Yes

					with the Local Member and Town Council.	
				Completing programme-ready projects	5. Work is continuing on the projects.	5. Yes

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND SUPPORT
HIGHWAYS, ENGINEERING AND YGC
April - September 2026/27



PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND SUPPORT, HIGHWAYS, ENGINEERING AND YGC

Year

2026/27

Month

September

Go to dashboard

Number of measures : 30

Reporting Period

30 September 2026

1 (3.4%)

6 (20.0%)

23 (76.6%)

Summary of Main Points

- Council Plan - the Department only has one project as part of this year's priorities
- The Department contributes to a number of other projects in the Council's Plan which are led by other Departments
- Customer satisfaction questionnaire for Playgrounds/Parks live since September

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND SUPPORT, HIGHWAYS, ENGINEERING AND YGC

Year 2026/27 | **Month** September | **Last Month** August

Departmental

Last month 67.4%

69.0%

PP-01 : Percentage of staff that have completed the 9 mandatory titles (cumulative)

Steffan Jones

Departmental

Last year 97.8%

97.7%

PP-02 : Percentage of Freedom of Information Requests that have been answered within 20 days (cumulative)

Steffan Jones

Departmental

Last month 4.46

5.23

PP-03 : Number of sick days per FTE (cumulative)

Steffan Jones

Departmental

Last month 95.7%

97.5%

PP-04 : Percentage of staff that have completed the Language Self Assesment (cumulative)

Steffan Jones

Highway Maintenance

Last year 80.6%

80.3%

PP-05 : Percentage of critical defects made safe within 2 hours (cumulative)

Gareth Roberts

Highway Maintenance

Last year 75.6%

76.6%

PP-06 : Percentage of safety defects made safe within target time (cumulative)

Gareth Roberts

Highway Maintenance

Last month 4.8

1.5

PP-07 : Average number of days to respond to a pothole complaint

Adrian Wyn Williams

Highway Maintenance

Last year 10.1%

9.7%

PP-08 : Percentage of class A,B and C roads that are in poor condition (yearly)

Ian Morgan

Street Lighting

Last month 2.7

2.2

PP-09 : Average number of days to repair street lamps

Colin Worth

Street Lighting

Last month On track

On track

PP-10 : Street Lamps Energy Consumption

Colin Worth

Performance keeping within expected range and no concern for our performance

An element of concern that performance is starting to fall below the acceptable range and steps are underway to restore the situation/improve performance

Performance has deteriorated far from the normal range and decisive action is been taken to restore the situation/performance

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND SUPPORT, HIGHWAYS, ENGINEERING AND YGC

Year 2026/27 | **Month** September | **Last Month** August

Street Lighting

Last year 100.0%

– –

PP-11 : Percentage of column inspections completed (cumulative)

Colin Worth

Fleet

Last month 98.2%

99.0%

PP-12 : Percentage of planned safety inspections completed

Kev Sheret

Fleet

Last month 40.8%

46.0%

PP-13 : Percentage of Council cars and vans that are "green" vehicles

Kev Sheret

Fleet

Last month 88.6%

87.8%

PP-14 : Percentage of productive hours in the workshop

Kev Sheret

Fleet

Last month 87.5%

100.0%

PP-15 : Percentage of requests for work completed within 1 hour

Kev Sheret

Fleet

Last month 100.0%

100.0%

PP-16 : Percentage of heavy vehicles that pass their MOT

Kev Sheret

Street Scene

Last month 0.8

0.8

PP-17 : Number of fly-tipping cases per 1,000 population in Gwynedd

Steven Edwards

Street Scene

Last month 4.5

2.6

PP-18 : Average number of days to respond to a "Dog Fouling" enquiry

Steven Edwards

Street Scene

Last year 69.7%

82.4%

PP-19 : Percentage of Fixed Penalty Notices that have been paid (cumulative)

Steven Edwards

Street Scene

Last year 99.3%

86.4%

PP-20 : Percentage of requests for work completed by Tim Tacluso (cumulative)

Steven Edwards

Performance keeping within expected range and no concern for our performance

An element of concern that performance is starting to fall below the acceptable range and steps are underway to restore the situation/improve performance

Performance has deteriorated far from the normal range and decisive action is been taken to restore the situation/performance

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND SUPPORT, HIGHWAYS, ENGINEERING AND YGC

Year 2026/27 | **Month** September | **Last Month** August

Public Toilets

Last month 1.9

1.5

PP-21 : Average number of days to complete a Public Toilet enquiry

Amanda Murray

Playgrounds

Last month

3.00

PP-22 : Score out of 5 for Customer Satisfaction

Amanda Murray

Building and Infrastructure

Last month On track

On track

YGC-23 : Meet Building Unit's financial target

Gareth Lloyd Wright

Business and Project Completion

Last month On track

On track

YGC-24 : Meet the YGC financial target

Rhys Wynn Williams

Business and Project Completion

Last month 9.6

8.9

YGC-25 : Score out of 10 for Customer Satisfaction

Sion Arwel Jones

Water and Environment

Last year 82.5%

90.2%

YGC-26 : Percentage of assets in a satisfactory or better condition

Rob Williams

Water and Environment

Last month 88.2%

89.5%

YGC-27 : Percentage of SuDS applications that have received a decision within the target (cumulative)

Rob Williams

Water and Environment

Last month Monitro

Monitoring

YGC-28 : Number of flood schemes completed

Rob Williams

Technical Service

Ongoing measure

90.7%

YGC-29 : Percentage of structures in a satisfactory or better condition (BCI Good state of repair)

Owen Rhys Jones

Technical Service

Last year 100.0%

38.7%

YGC-30 : Percentage of inspections completed (cumulative)

Owen Rhys Jones

Performance keeping within expected range and no concern for our performance

An element of concern that performance is starting to fall below the acceptable range and steps are underway to restore the situation/improve performance

Performance has deteriorated far from the normal range and decisive action is been taken to restore the situation/performance

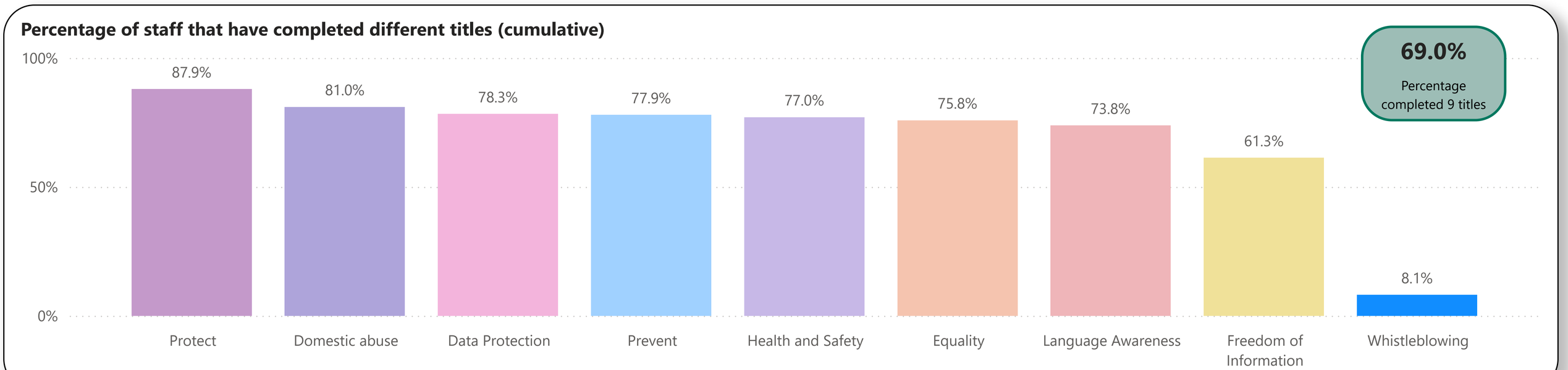
MANAGEMENT TEAM - STEFFAN JONES

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-01 : Percentage of staff that have completed all 9 titles



Behind the performance

Work has taken place to encourage staff to complete the titles as soon as possible.

The video version of the Safeguarding module has helped us to reach the frontline staff more easily, and sessions for the few remaining frontline staff will be arranged soon.

The Whistleblowing module is fairly new and the Department will need to concentrate to raising this percentage.

MANAGEMENT TEAM - STEFFAN JONES

Year

2026/27

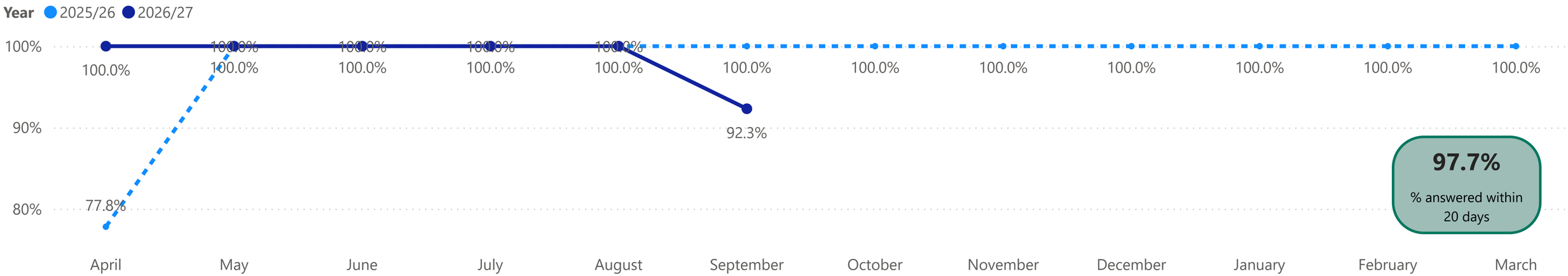
Month

September

Go to dashboard

PP-02 : Percentage of Freedom of Information Requests that have been answered within 20 days

Percentage of FOI requests answered within 20 days



Behind the performance

The Department has received **43** Freedom of Information requests between April and September 2026. The Department has successfully responded to 42 of these within 20 days. The one whose answer was late was forwarded within the time to the Corporate Services Department, but unfortunately the enquirer did not receive the answer until a day after the target date.

The response percentage within 20 days is **97.7%** for the year to date. For 2024/25 only 87.9% of applications were answered within the 20 days, and in 2025/26 the percentage was 97.8%.

The requests have generally included requests enquiring about the number of potholes in a road, information about roads that had been closed, information about roundabout works, number of flag complaints, information about Fixed Penalty Notices.

Data on the number of potholes in the road and the cost of repairing them has now been placed on the Council's Open Data page which will reduce the burden on officers to re-create data for each application. We will be looking for more datasets to be placed on the Council's website.

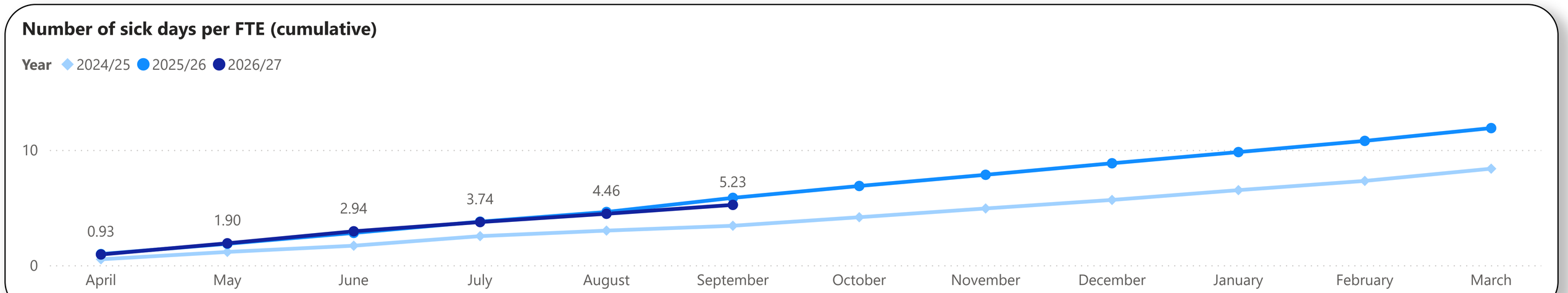
MANAGEMENT TEAM - STEFFAN JONES

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-03 : Number of sick days per FTE



Behind the performance

We see that the 2026/27 sickness pattern for the first six months follows the 2025/26 pattern very close with this year's rate slightly lower on 5.23 days per person.

Sickness levels to date follow a remarkably similar pattern to that for the whole Council.

The figure for the whole Council by the end of September was **5.89 days**, so the Department's performance was slightly better at **5.23 days.**

The Department has been placing various information pamphlets about support available with health issues around the offices and Depots. Discussions are taking place with Byw'n Iach in order to work together to offer practice sessions to our employees.

MANAGEMENT TEAM - STEFFAN JONES

Year

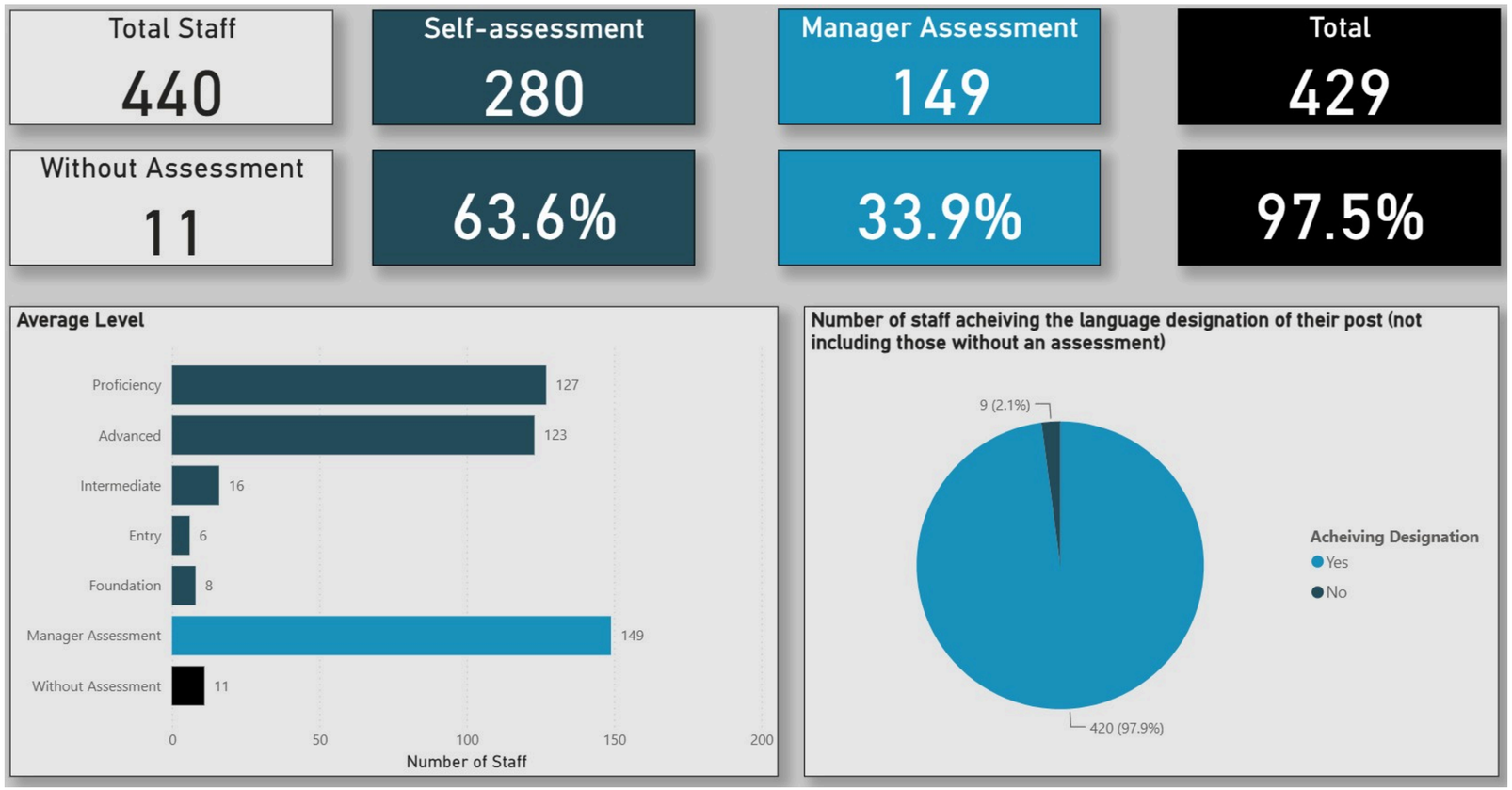
2026/27

Month

September

Go to dashboard

PP-04 : Percentage of staff that have completed the Language Self Assessment



Behind the performance

- The Department employs 440 members of staff.
- 280 of the staff have completed the Language Self-Assessment which is 63.6%
- For a further 149 of the workforce (frontline), their line manager has completed an assessment on their behalf
- This leaves 11 who have no language assessment at all.
- **97.9%** of staff meet the language designation of their job.
- There are 9 members of staff who do not meet the language designation of their post.

We also support our staff to attend relevant training. The Busines sUnit advertises staff when courses are available and supports any individual who would wish to attend. A reminder goes out for the 11 who don't have an assessment at all.

It must also be ensured that individuals recomplete their assessment if there has been a change in their ability following training.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICE - GARETH ROBERTS

Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to travel on Gwynedd's roads safely and unhindered

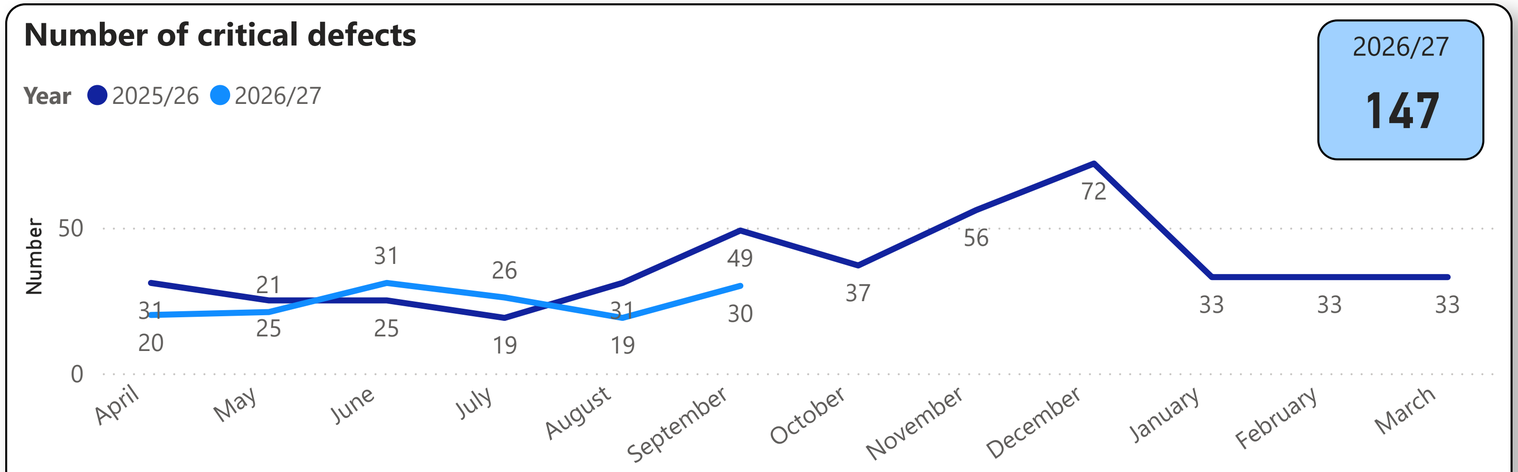
Year 2026/27

Month September

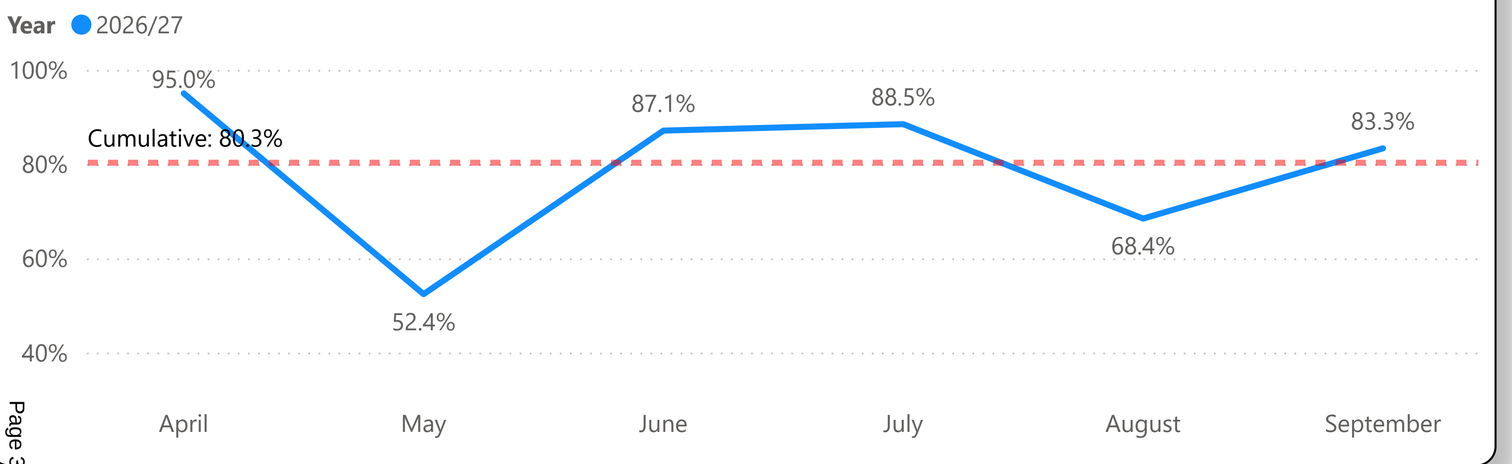
Go to dashboard

PP-05 : Percentage of critical defects made safe within 2 hours

Number of critical defects



Percentage of critical defects made safe within 2 hours



Behind the performance

Critical Defect: The target response for this type of defect is within 2 hours.

A critical defect is a situation where the inspector considers the risk to safety to be high enough to require immediate attention such as a fallen tree, a missing lid. Here are examples of critical defects the service has dealt with this year.





There were 147 critical defects between April and September. The defect numbers follow seasonal patterns with more defects seen during the winter season.

Out of the 147 defects:

- **118 (80.3%)** were made safe within two hours
- **28 (19.7%)** were made safe after the target of two hours

There is variation in the performance of the three areas with Arfon at 68%, Dwyfor 80% and Meirionnydd at 92%.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICE - GARETH ROBERTS

Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to travel on Gwynedd's roads safely and unhindered

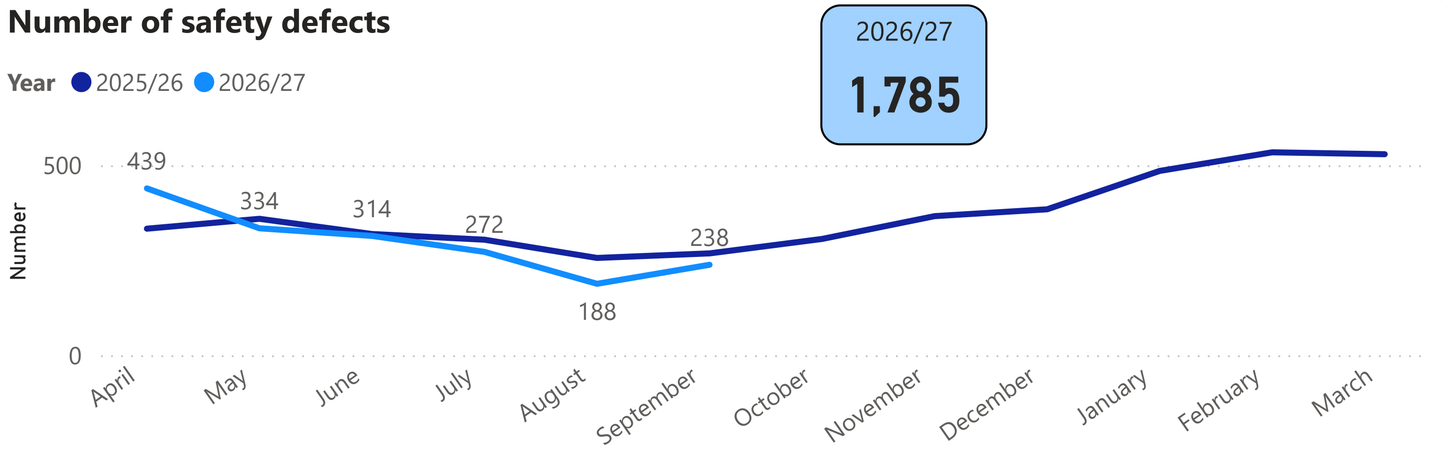
Year 2026/27

Month September

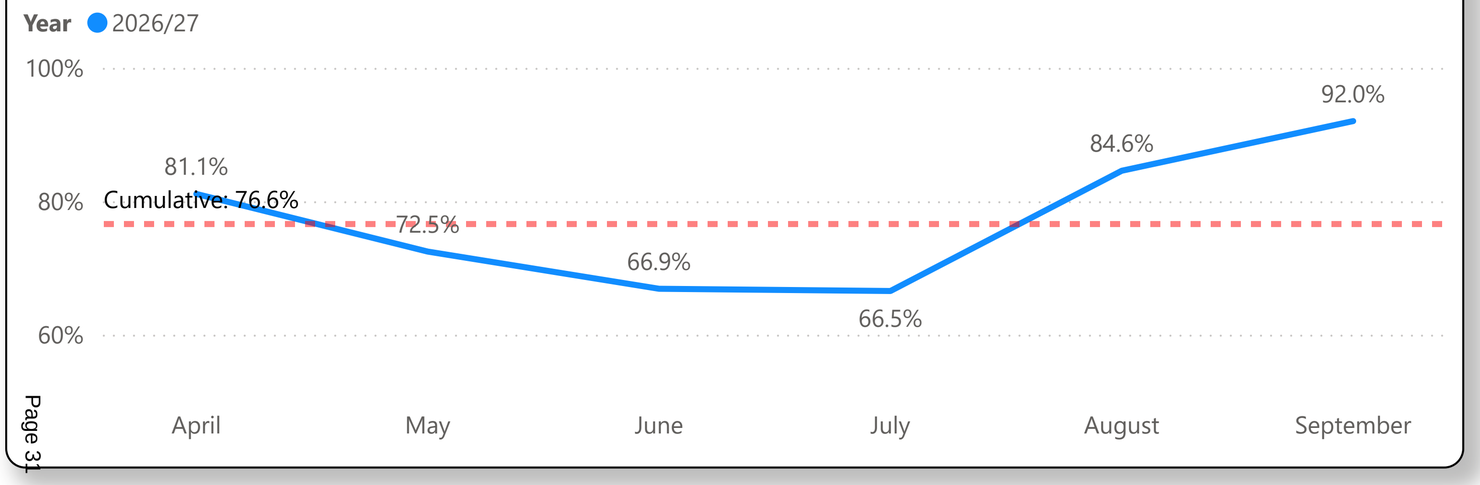
Go to dashboard

PP-06 : Percentage of safety defects made safe within target time

Number of safety defects



Percentage of safety defects made safe within target time



Behind the performance

Safety Defect: Respond before the end of the next working day.

A safety defect is one that requires a response as soon as possible in order to eliminate a potential risk of injury to service users. Here are examples of safety defects the service has dealt with this year.







There were 1,785 critical defects between April and September. The defect numbers follow seasonal patterns with more defects seen during the winter season.

Out of the 1,785 defects:

- **1,367 (76.6%)** were made safe within target
- **414 (23.2%**) were made safe after the target
- **4 (0.2%)** remain open

There is variation in the performance of the three areas with Arfon at 56%, Dwyfor 95% and Meirionnydd 95%.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICE - ADRIAN WYN WILLIAMS

Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to travel on Gwynedd's roads safely and unhindered

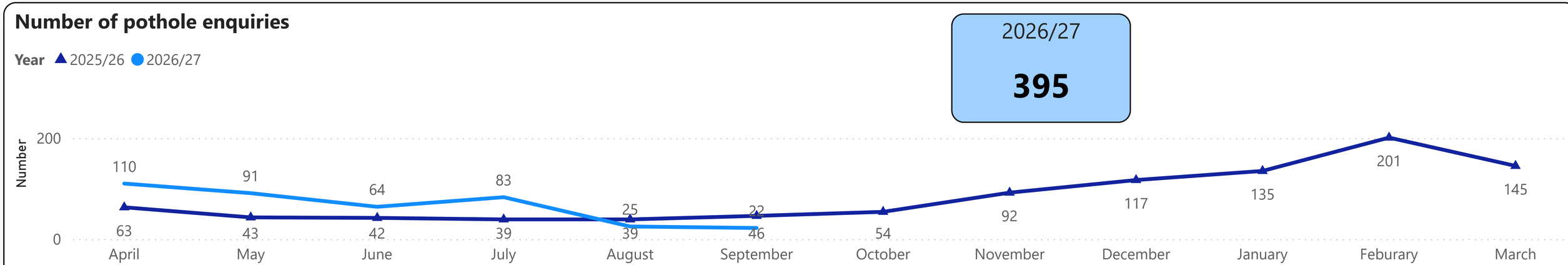
Year: 2026/27

Month: September

Go to dashboard

PP-07 : Average number of days to respond to a pothole enquiry

Number of pothole enquiries



Behind the performance

The line graph compares the numbers of "pothole" complaints that have been received through the FFOS system.

The number of complaints received between April and September this year is 395.

For the year to date, the average number of days to complete a query is **9 days**, which is a slight increase from reporting on the first three months of the year.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICE - IAN MORGAN

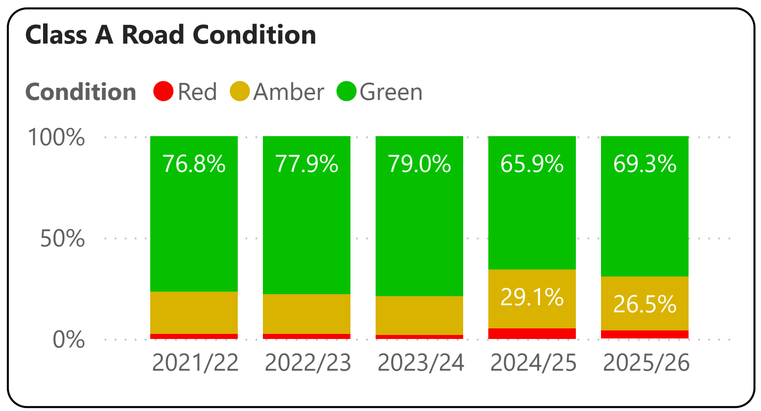
Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to travel on Gwynedd's roads safely and unhindered

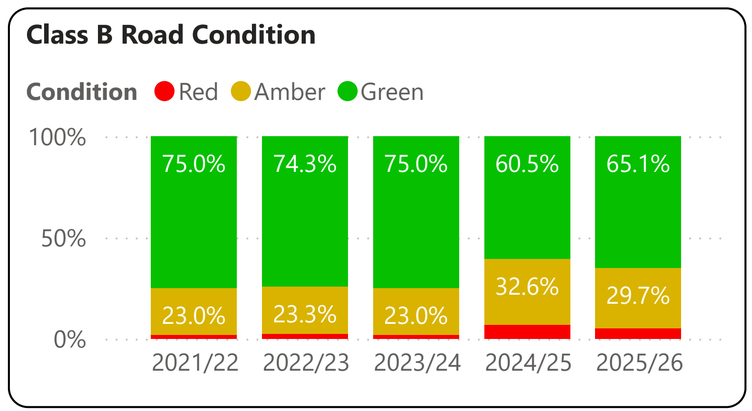
Year 2026/27

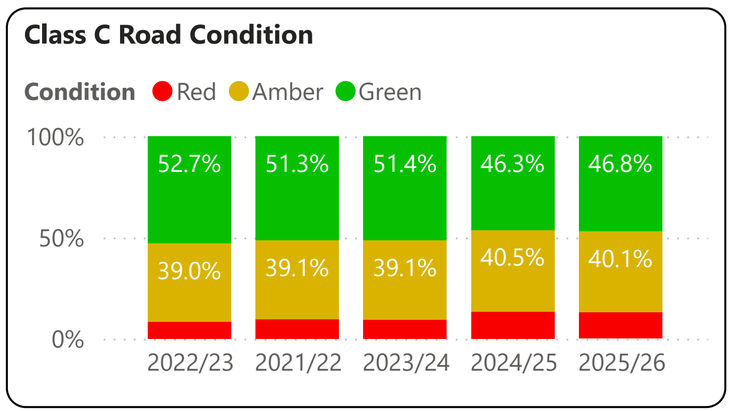
Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-08 : Percentage of class A, B and C roads that are in poor condition







Behind the performance

Total percentage of class A,B and C roads that are in poor condition

9.7%

A = 4.2% (27km)
B = 5.2% (21km)
C = 13.2% (228km)

The graphs show the results of technical tests on our Class A, B and C roads, which are undertaken by WDM on behalf of the Council.
Green = Road, generally, in good condition, no defects need further inspections.
Amber = Road exhibiting defects requiring inspection soon to identify suitable repair work.
Red = Condition is generally poor and will likely require planned maintenance soon.

Keeping the percentage of our roads in red condition below 8% is considered acceptable.

You will see that the percentages of our roads within the green have fallen between 2021/22 and 2024/25 despite the capital investment by the Council. Our Class A roads decreased by nearly 11%, Class B roads 15% and Class C roads by 4.5% over the period. But as you can see, the 2025/26 figures show that that gradual decline within the Class A and B roads has now been reversed, and the Class C roads remain constant. We are confident that the improvement in the condition of our roads will continue as a result of the Local Government Borrowing Initiative investment over 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Historically the Service only had information as a result of the safety checks as a record of the condition of our Unclassified roads. The Service has decided to proceed with an "AI" technology system to analyse information that is being collected by taking video of the roads as the inspector conducts an inspection. This will assist in keeping a record of the improvement in unclassified road condition as a result of the Local Government Borrowing Initiative investment.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICE - IAN MORGAN

Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to travel on Gwynedd's roads safely and unhindered

Year 2026/27

Month September

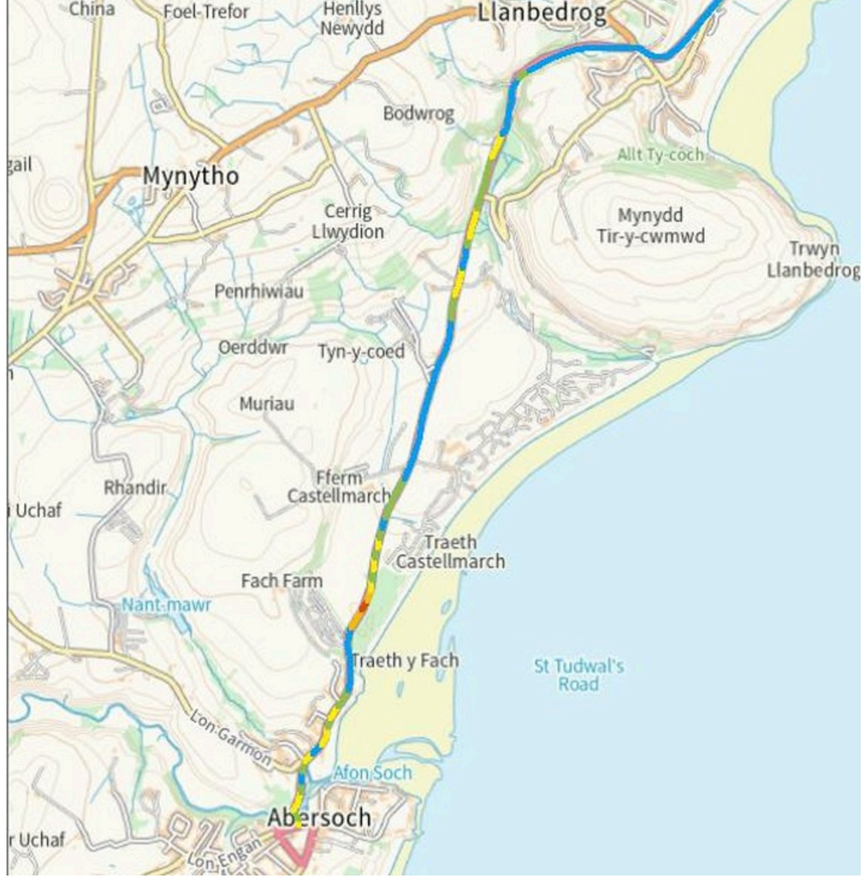
Go to dashboard

PP-08a : Preventative Maintenance Work

The Council, in order to undertake preventive maintenance, carries out regular condition surveys of the Strategic and Primary Distributor road network. One of the condition surveys we carry out is the Griptester survey, which measures the surface's ability to resist skidding.

33% of the Strategic and Main Distributor roads will receive a survey with the Griptester Mk2 machine and therefore the entire Strategic and Lead Distributor network receives a survey every three years. The Griptester Mk2 machine is carried out in-house by the Council, and the survey is carried out by Gwynedd Consultancy.

The results confirm whether the anti-slip levels are appropriate to the road and traffic at the site in question and the general principles of the "DMRB CS228 Skidding Resistance (formerly HD28/15)". They also highlight sites that require further inspection and possibly short-term or long-term remediation work. The results are presented in the form of a map with the colours on the table highlighting the locations that are under inspection levels. The results assist the engineers in formulating programmes and prioritising major works such as equipping, installation or resurfacing of roads.



GripTester
UK Roads User Group

GripNumber Investigatory Levels for GripTesterMK2 (Based on 2009 TRL Correlation)

Site Category and definition		Investigatory Levels at 50km/h							
Table 4.2 CS 228	SFC	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65
Category	GripNumber	0.34 - 0.38	0.39 - 0.44	0.45 - 0.50	0.51 - 0.55	0.56 - 0.61	0.62	0.67	0.73
A	Motorway								
B	Dual Carriageway non-event								
C	Single Carriageway non-event								
Q	Approaches to and across minor and majorjunctions, approaches to roundabouts								
K	Approaches to pedestrian crossings and other high risk situations								
R	Roundabout								
G1	Gradient 5-10% longer than 50m								
G2	Gradient >10% longer than 50m								
S1	Bend radius <500m - dual carriageway								
S2	Bend radius <500m - single carriageway								

SCRIM = 0.89 x Grip Number

STREET LIGHTING SERVICE - COLIN WORTH

Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to feel safe on Gwynedd's roads, footpaths and public spaces through the maintenance of lighting units, light signs and traffic lights.

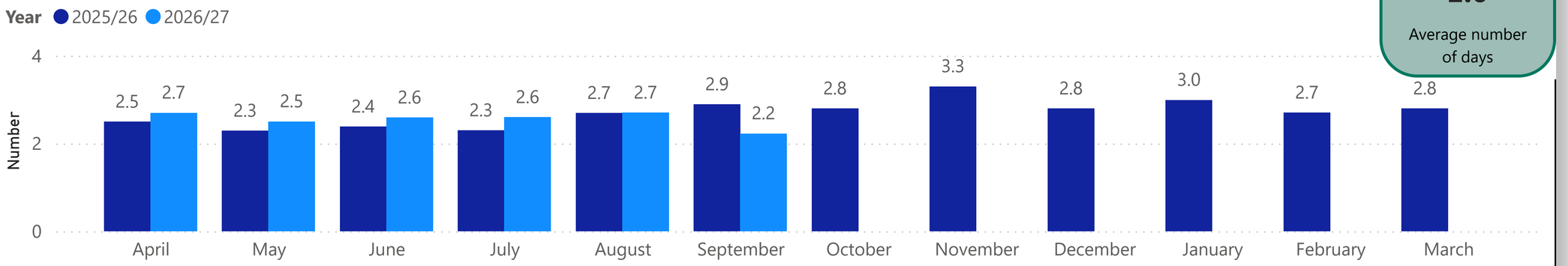
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-09 : Average number of days to repair street lamps

Average number of days to repair street lamps



Month	Number defects
April	329
May	210
June	264
July	244
August	340
September	267
Total	**1,654**

Behind the performance

The target for street lamp repair by the service is 5 days.

1,654 street lamps were repaired between April and September, and this was achieved in an average of 2.6 days.

Scottish Power was responsible for repairing a further 22 faults between July and September. Of these they have completed 7 of them in an average of 22 days. The other 15 defects remain unrepaired.

To tackle the situation with Scottish Power, Gwynedd as part of the North Wales Lighting Group has been discussing how to put pressure on Scottish Power. Flintshire is now working with us to put pressure on the company to visit the site sooner so that we can avoid putting exceptions on the work that cause them to fail to complete work within target.

STREET LIGHTING SERVICE - COLIN WORTH

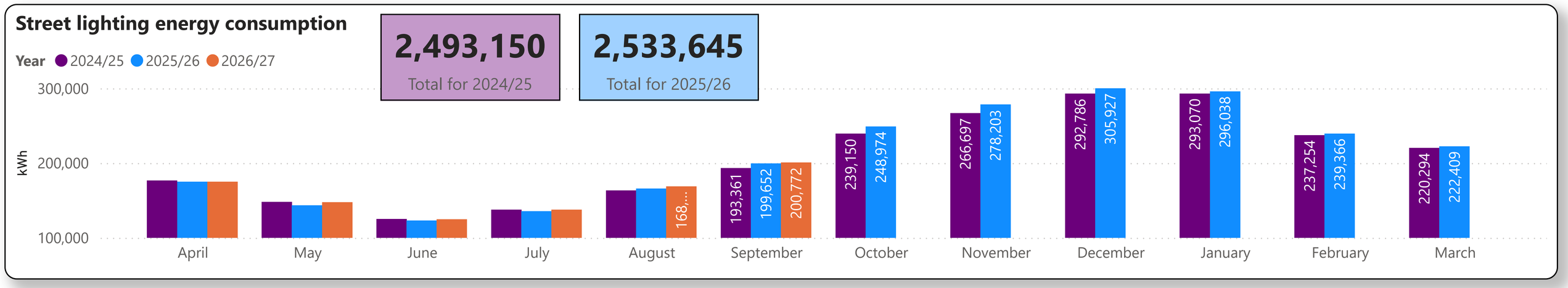
Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to feel safe on Gwynedd's roads, footpaths and public spaces through the maintenance of lighting units, light signs and traffic lights.

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-10 : Street lighting energy consumption (kWh)



Behind the performance

The energy consumption of street lights and road signs in the first six months of 2026/27 has been fairly stable as expected and following a seasonal pattern.

A number of assets in our care will vary from year to year e.g. new housing developments will mean assets will transfer to the responsibility of maintaining our services.

STREET LIGHTING SERVICE - COLIN WORTH

Purpose of Service :
To enable the public to feel safe on Gwynedd's roads, footpaths and public spaces through the maintenance of lighting units, light signs and traffic lights.

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-11 : Percentage of Inspection Schedule completed

Area	Number of columns due for inspection	Number completed	% completed

Behind the performance

There are a total of 2,313 scheduled audits for 2026/27.

We have recently gone out to tender and are in the process of being able to meet with the new provider in October. The work will take place during the third and fourth quarters of the year.

Even though the inspections haven't started yet, we do not anticipate any problems in completing the inspections by the end of the year.

FLEET SERVICE - KEV SHERET

Purpose of Service :
The Council's fleet assists Council departments in providing a wide range of services to the residents of Gwynedd from waste collection to highway maintenance and pupil transport.

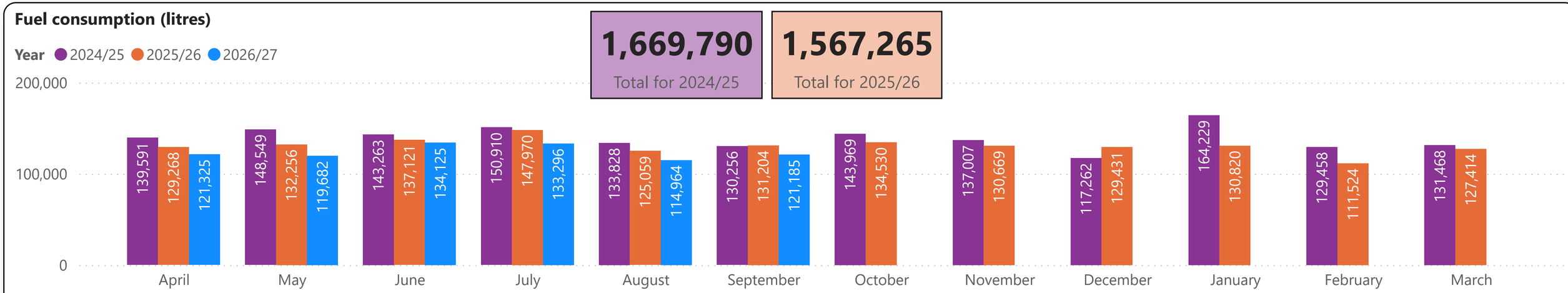
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

Fuel consumption by Gwynedd Fleet

Fuel consumption (litres)



Behind the performance

Comparing 2025/26 with 2026/27 we are looking at a 5.0% reduction in our fuel consumption. This equates to 77,113 litres less fuel which equates to around £125,027 at September 2026 prices.

The first six months of the financial year saw a decrease of 7.3% compared to last year. Also fuel consumption is also down 8.6% when comparing the same period this year (July to September) and last year.

This decline is seen as a result of two main reasons. Firstly, the transition of many vehicles from traditional fuel to electric ones and secondly, disposal of additional vehicles by departements.

Please note, the figures above do not include any grey fleet journeys made by the Council. The Fleet Service is not responsible for these journeys. Further, it does not include the purchase of fuel to vehicles via fuel cards.

FLEET SERVICE - KEV SHERET

Purpose of Service :
The Council's fleet assists Council departments in providing a wide range of services to the residents of Gwynedd from waste collection to highway maintenance and pupil transport.

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-12 : Percentage of planned safety inspections completed

Month	Number of planned safety inspections	Number completed	As percentage
April	180	178	98.9%
May	192	187	97.4%
June	167	158	94.6%
July	191	187	97.9%
August	164	161	98.2%
September	197	195	99.0%
Total	**1,091**	**1,066**	**97.7%**

Reason	Number of instances
Appointment not arranged	4
Appointment not attended	18
Vehicle off road	3
Total number of missed appointments	**25**

Behind the performance

As part of the Council's vehicle maintenance arrangements, the workshops are responsible for carrying out regular safety checks on the vehicles. Over the past year the Fleet Service has introduced a new procedure for notifying and arranging appointments. The Fleet Service is statutorily required to complete inspections of the vehicles within one working week. This measure goes further than our statutory requirements and looks at the performance of the workshop to be completed within a day.

These figures show the number of inspections that the workshops were expected to complete as well as the percentage that have been completed on time.

It was not possible to complete all inspections due to reasons set out in the table on the right above.

When vehicles miss appointments the Fleet Service will have to reschedule appointments with the relevant service which creates difficulties for the workshops.

If a service does not deliver the vehicle to the workshops, the Fleet Service may suspend the service from using the vehicle.

GWASANAETH FFLYD - KEV SHERET

Purpose of Service :
The Council's fleet assists Council departments in providing a wide range of services to the residents of Gwynedd from waste collection to highway maintenance and pupil transport.

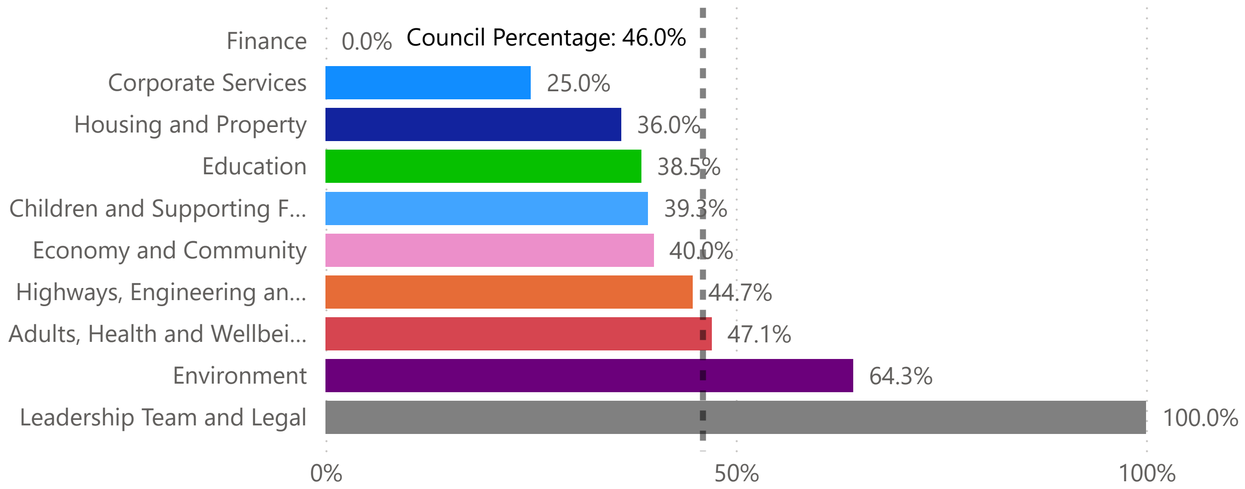
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-13 : Percentage of Council Cars and Vans that are "green" vehicles

Percentage of Council Cars and Vans that are "green" vehicles, by Departement



Service within PPYGC Departement	Electric	Petrol Hybrid	"ICE"	% Green
Street Lighting	1	2	1	75.0%
YGC	4	1	12	29.4%
Ash Dieback	0	0	1	0.0%
Fleet Service	5	0	3	62.5%
Highways	6	0	11	35.3%
Municipal Assets	4	0	8	33.3%
Streetscene Service	11	0	6	64.7%
Total	**31**	**3**	**42**	**44.7%**

Behind the performance

This is a measure to illustrate the Council's position on transitioning to green vehicles. The Welsh Government has a target of 100% by the year 2030. The Energy Service (Welsh Government) reported that Gwynedd Council has the **second highest number of green vehicles** in its fleet compared to rural authorities in Wales. The Fleet Service will continue on the program of renewing vehicles for green ones when the infrastructure allows.

The Whole Council

- 99 (46%) of the 213 cars or vans are now green (electric or hybrid).
- Of the remaining 114 diesel/petrol vehicles, 59 are either renewed and maintained, hired or have no funding plans for them.

Highways, Engineering and YGC Department

- 34 (45%) of the 76 cars or vans are green (electric or hybrid).
- Of the remaining 42 diesel/petrol vehicles, 17 are either renewed and maintained, hired or have no funding plans for them.

Council Charging Points

The Council currently has 76 charging points for the use of Council vehicles. They are located across the county. 74 are 7kw and 2 are 22kw.

FLEET SERVICE - KEV SHERET

Purpose of Service :
The Council's fleet assists Council departments in providing a wide range of services to the residents of Gwynedd from waste collection to highway maintenance and pupil transport.

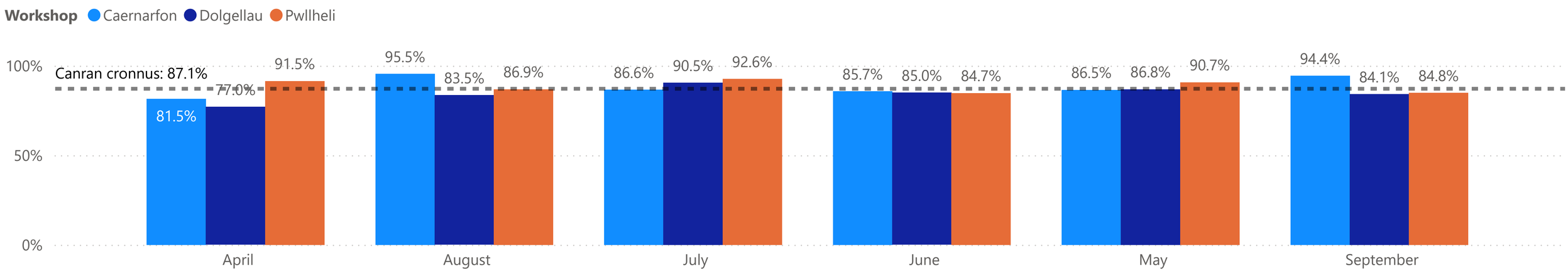
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-14 : Percentage of productive hours

Percentage productive hours per workshop



Behind the performance

The productivity of the workshops compares the time recorded working on vehicles against the number of hours the individuals were available. This measure offers an assessment that focuses on how the workforce uses its time.

To ensure that the workshops are cost effective, we aim for an 86.5% rate in the number of productive hours. We have reached this target this year with 87.1%.

This information is reported monthly to the Workshop Management Team where we then identify opportunities to improve our performance. This could be moving work from one workshop to another, or identifying opportunities from outside the Council to bring in income.

As we transition the fleet to green vehicles, we're starting to see demand on the workshops decrease. This will have a negative impact on the workload of the workshops and their ability to reach the expected level. The Service is monitoring this situation and looking at options to reduce the risk.

FLEET SERVICE - KEV SHERET

Purpose of Service :
The Council's fleet assists Council departments in providing a wide range of services to the residents of Gwynedd from waste collection to highway maintenance and pupil transport.

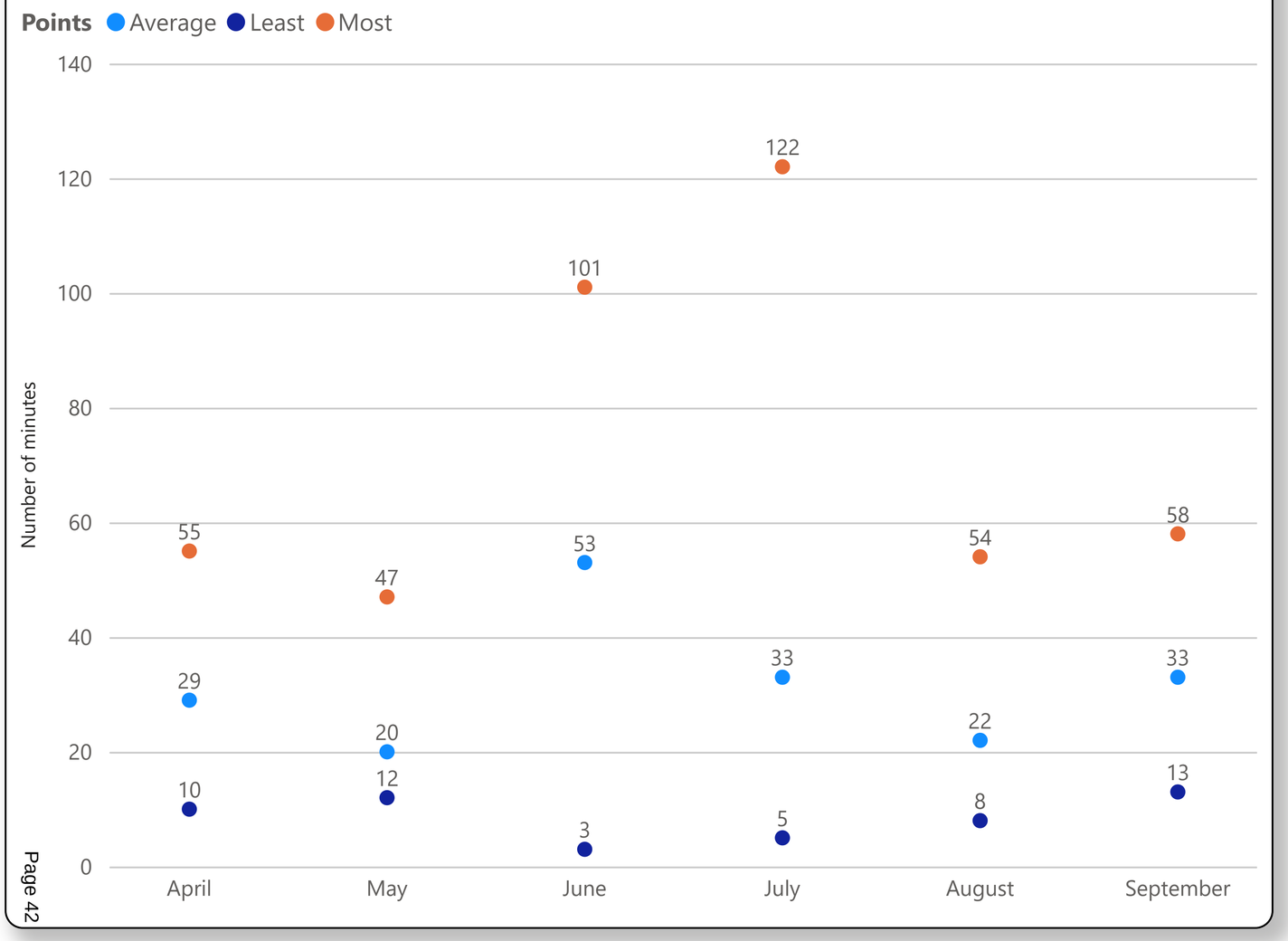
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-15 : Percentage of requests completed within target

Number of minutes to complete a service request



141
Number of requests

96.5%
Percentage completed within target

Behind the performance

This measure shows the number of minutes it takes for the service to complete a service request.

These include applications for:
- Vehicle hire
- Access to fuel
- Adding drivers to the register
- Training requests
- Access to Fleet system

We have a target to complete these **within 1 hour** of receipt of the request. During the first six we have successfully completed **96.5%** of requests within the hour.

The majority of requests that are not completed within the hour are requests to hire vehicles. These usually take more time, especially when a specialist vehicle needs to be found.

FLEET SERVICE - KEV SHERET

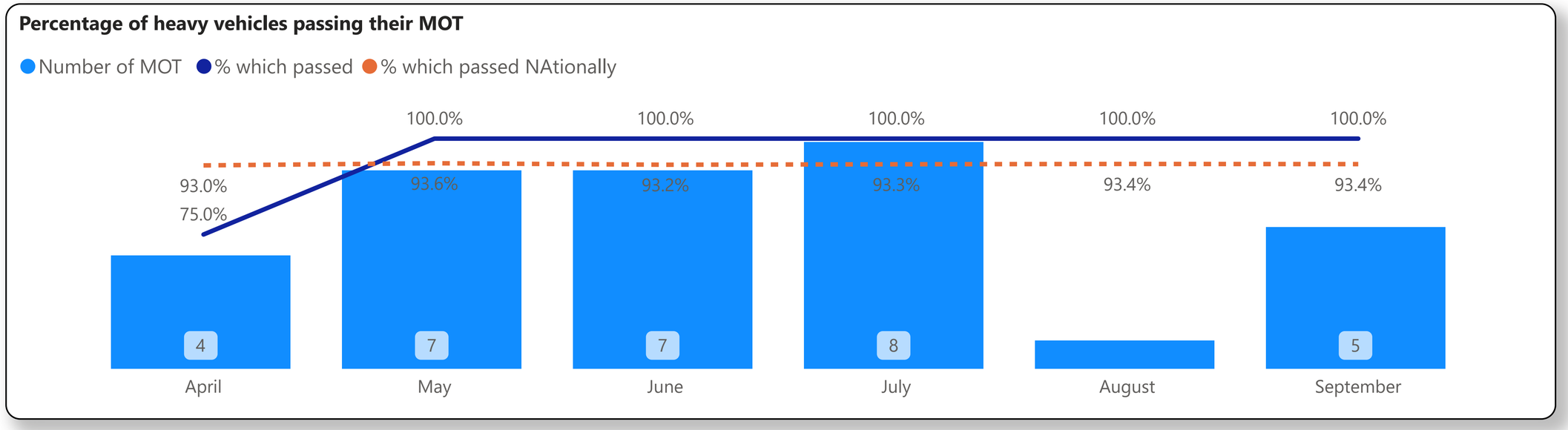
Purpose of Service :
The Council's fleet assists Council departments in providing a wide range of services to the residents of Gwynedd from waste collection to highway maintenance and pupil transport.

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-16 : Percentage of heavy vehicles that pass their MOT



96.9%
Percentage of heavy vehicles that pass their MOT since 1st ...

Behind the performance

This measure shows the number of MOT tests that have been carried out on the Council's heavy vehicles and the percentage that have passed the first time.

MOT tests on heavy vehicles are carried out by the DVSA and this measure shows the success of the workshops to prepare them to the expected levels. The first time pass level nationally (across the UK) is also shown as a comparison on the graph.

When a failure occurs, an internal investigation will be carried out to try and find the reason for the failure. These failures are used as opportunities to identify weaknesses in our arrangements and identify ways to improve.

STREETSCENE AND CCTV SERVICE - STEVEN EDWARDS

Purpose of Service :
Provision of clean and tidy streets and public areas

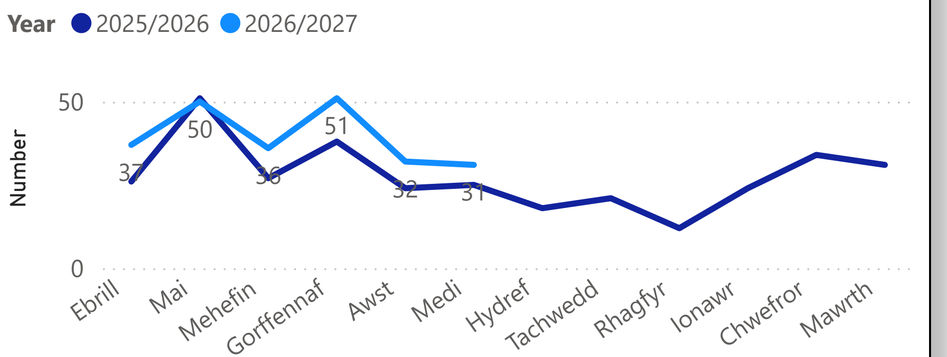
Year 2026/27

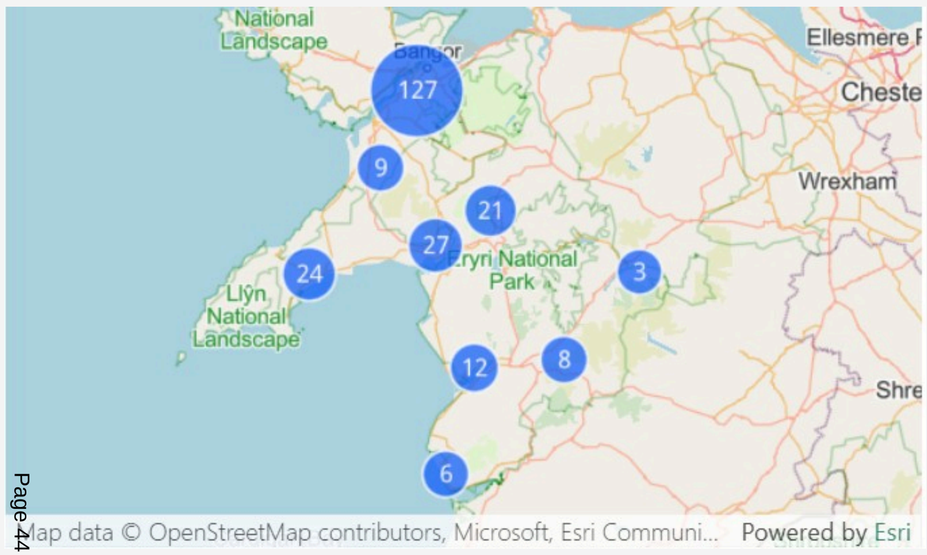
Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-17 : Number of fly-tipping cases per 1,000 population

Number of illegal fly-tipping cases





Behind the performance

The number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded in the first six months of the year is higher than the same period last year. This is partly due to a change in the method of reporting, with incidents on private land now included, which produces a more complete picture of the problem.

The service has continued to develop its prevention and enforcement approach, delivering targeted awareness campaigns in problem areas using pamphlets, letters and signage. A significant number of incidents occur on trunk roads and narrow lanes where it's difficult to identify offenders or obtain evidence, and as a result there are targeted intrusions in specific locations.

During the year, funding was secured through the Welsh Government's Fly-tipping Action Wales programme to procure six additional hidden cameras. These will increase the service's ability to identify offenders and gather evidence in problematic locations. Enforcement officers also now have direct access to the Council's CCTV system, which helps to strengthen the service's ability to investigate cases and support prosecutions where necessary.

All Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) are backed up by robust evidence to enable the service to proceed to prosecution if the penalty is not paid. As a result, the number of FPNs being cancelled has decreased. A fair and transparent appeals process is in place, with all appeals being dealt with on the basis of available evidence.

The Welsh Government is also developing proposals through a White Paper on Environmental Crime to strengthen enforcement powers and increase levels of fines, giving local authorities greater capacity to tackle fly-tipping and environmental crime. Examples include:

- The ability to fine registered owners of vehicles from which litter has been found to be discarded.
- Raise the maximum possible fine for fly-tipping from £400 to £5,000

STREETSCENE AND CCTV SERVICE - STEVEN EDWARDS

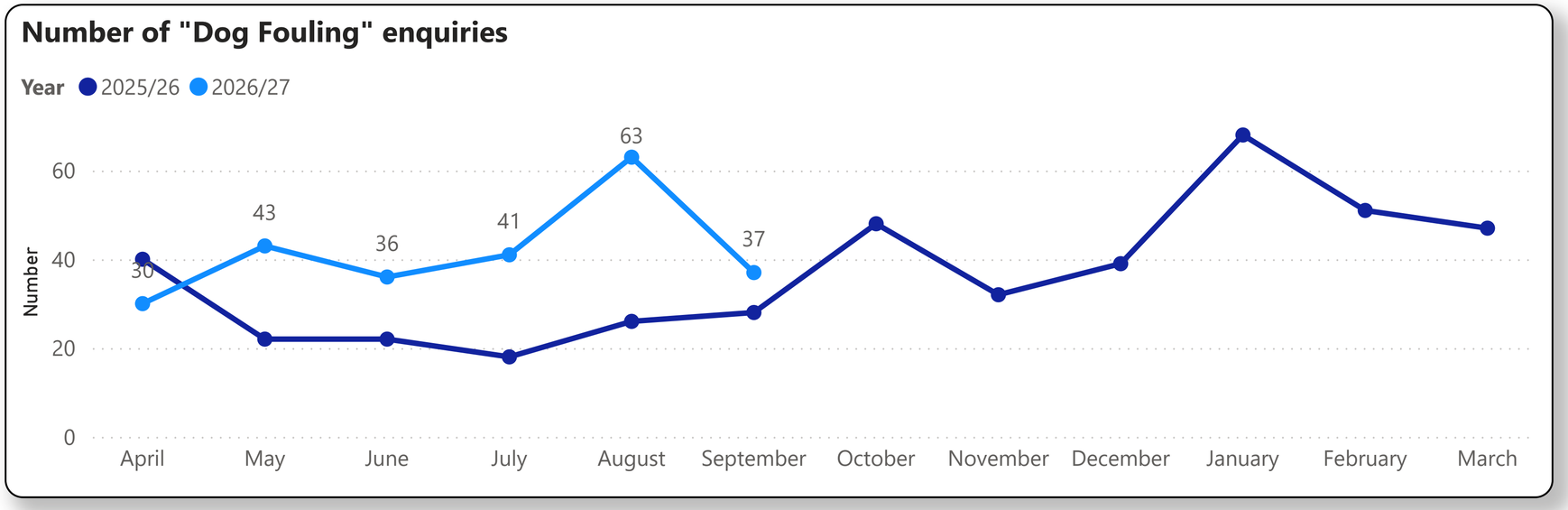
Purpose of Service :
Provision of clean and tidy streets and public areas

Year: 2026/27

Month: September

Go to dashboard

PP-18 : Average number of days to respond to a "Dog Fouling" enquiry





Behind the performance

There was an increase in the number of reports of dog fouling in the first six months of the year, with the largest increase during August related to a significant problem in certain areas (Garndolbenmaen and Hendre) where a high number of residents were reporting an ongoing problem. In response, regular patrols were carried out, local residents were engaged and new signage was installed in the areas. The combination of patrols, awareness campaigns and new signage has contributed to improving the situation, with the number of complaints now falling back to similar levels to the same period last year.

New pamphlets have been developed for problem areas. In addition, signs that shine in the dark have been placed in problem locations to raise awareness and encourage responsible ownership. This approach has proven effective in a number of locations recently.

The service is exploring the use of temporary marking paint to highlight outbreaks of dog fouling in public places, with the intention of raising awareness and influencing behaviour. This will be discussed with Town/Community Councils. Campaign slogan..... Pw-Pink / Pink-Poo.

STREETSCENE AND CCTV SERVICE - STEVEN EDWARDS

Purpose of Service :
Provision of clean and tidy streets and public areas

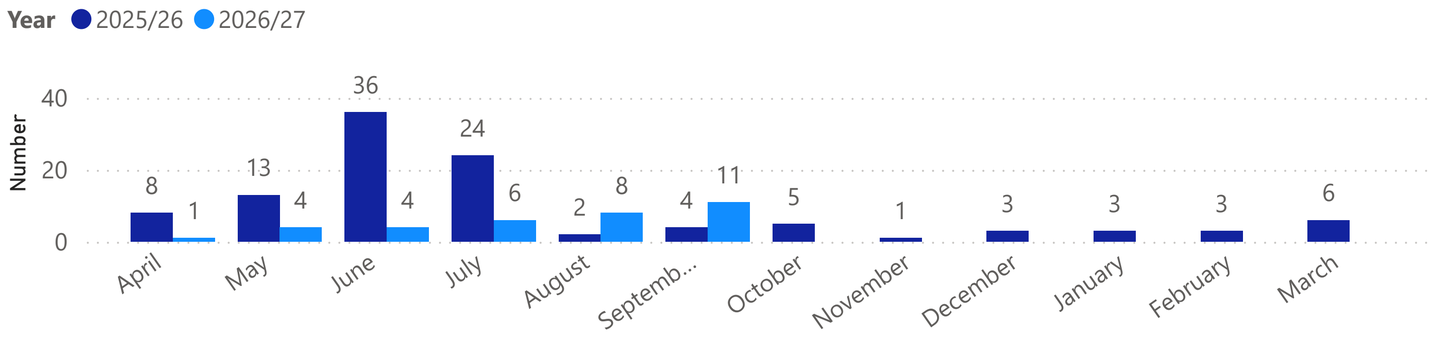
Year 2026/27

Month September

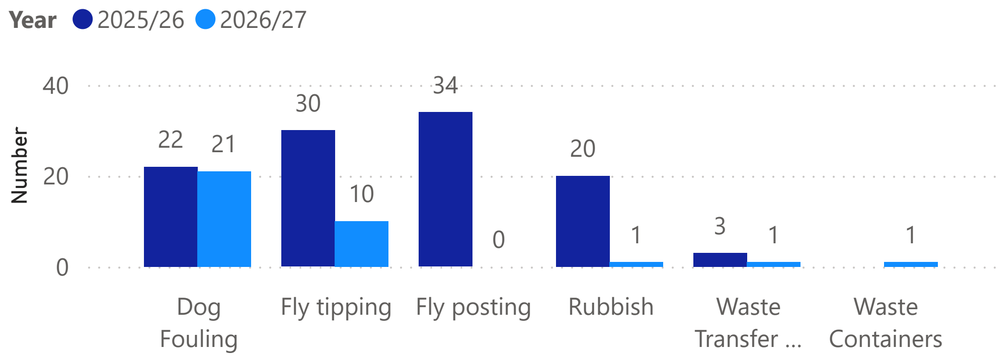
Go to dashboard

PP-19 : Percentage of Fixed Penalty Notices paid

Number of Fixed Penalty Notices



Type of crime



Behind the performance

The "Education First" approach has received increased emphasis during this year, prioritising community engagement, warning letters (steps 1,2,3), awareness raising and teaching before resorting to formal enforcement action. Officers conduct regular patrols in problem areas and engage directly with the public to encourage behaviour change and compliance, educational interventions, pamphlets, warnings and signs are used as a first step.

In this context, 34 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued in the first six months, which is less than this period a year ago. This figure reflects the teaching approach, and shows a greater emphasis these days on issuing robust Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) – that is, those based on conclusive evidence should the matter need to be taken to court. Securing sufficient evidence for enforcement remains a significant challenge.

The introduction of the new GLÂN programme contributes to this work by enabling resources to be targeted more effectively to problem areas, supporting efforts to reduce litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping problems across the county. In addition, the increasing use of prevention and enforcement actions such as hidden cameras, CCTV, awareness campaigns and the publication of successful prosecutions are helping to strengthen the preventative message and support long-term compliance.

Year	Number	% paid	% waiting to be paid	% cancelled	% court case	% not paid
2023/24	72	72.2%	0.0%	25.0%	2.8%	0.0%
2024/25	124	71.0%	0.0%	26.6%	1.6%	0.8%
2025/26	109	69.7%	0.0%	27.5%	2.8%	0.0%
2026/27	34	64.7%	17.6%	8.8%	8.8%	0.0%

STREETSCENE AND CCTV SERVICE - STEVEN EDWARDS

Purpose of Service :
To promote local ownership and develop a sense of community pride by working at a community level while building relationships with local groups/organisations, volunteers and the third sector

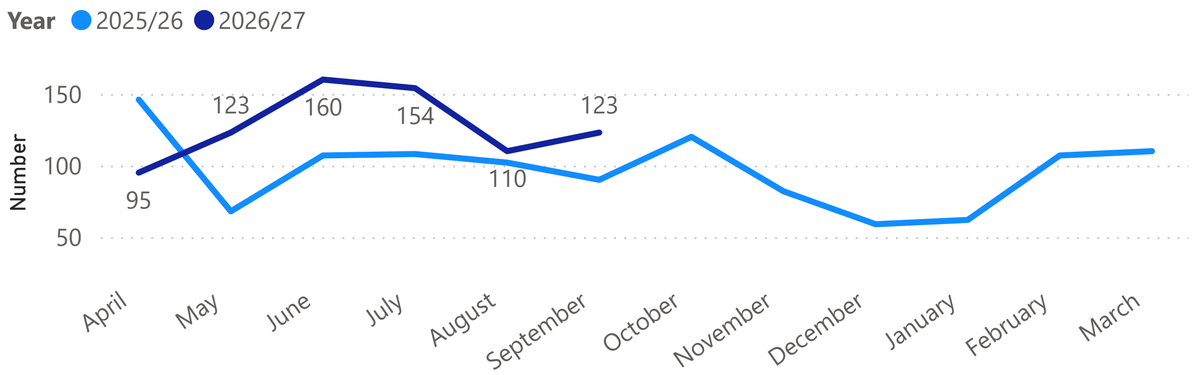
Year 2026/27

Month September

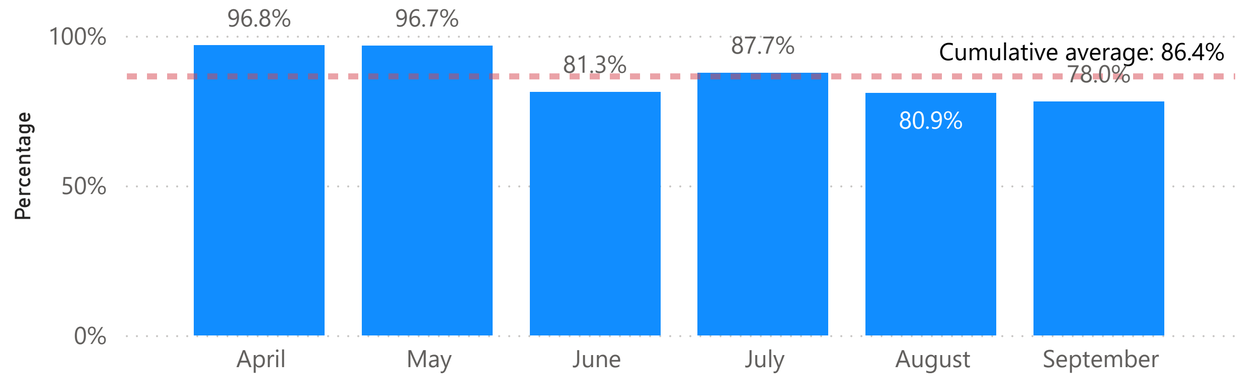
Go to dashboard

PP-20 : Percentage of requests for work completed by Tim Tacluso (cumulative)

Number of requests for work



Percentage of work requests completed



Behind the performance

During the first half of 2026/27 Tim Tacluso has received 765 applications for work. To date the team has dealt with and completed **86.4%** of these applications. It must be noted that September figures are expected to be lower due to the date of receipt of applications. All applications are assessed prior to implementation and priority is given for graffiti removal, which takes place within a few hours. On average it takes about 13 days for an application to be completed.

The increase in the number of applications from one month to the next is mainly due to an increase in the number of requests for urban weed cutting. Over June and July this type of application was at its highest before falling back in August and September.

In addition to this work the team is currently:

- conducting a deep cleaning trial in the Bangor area with the street cleaning service every Wednesday
- implementing a plan to improve communication between internal and external departments – by making use of other available resources, such as community groups/volunteers.

MUNICIPAL ASSETS SERVICE - AMANDA MURRAY

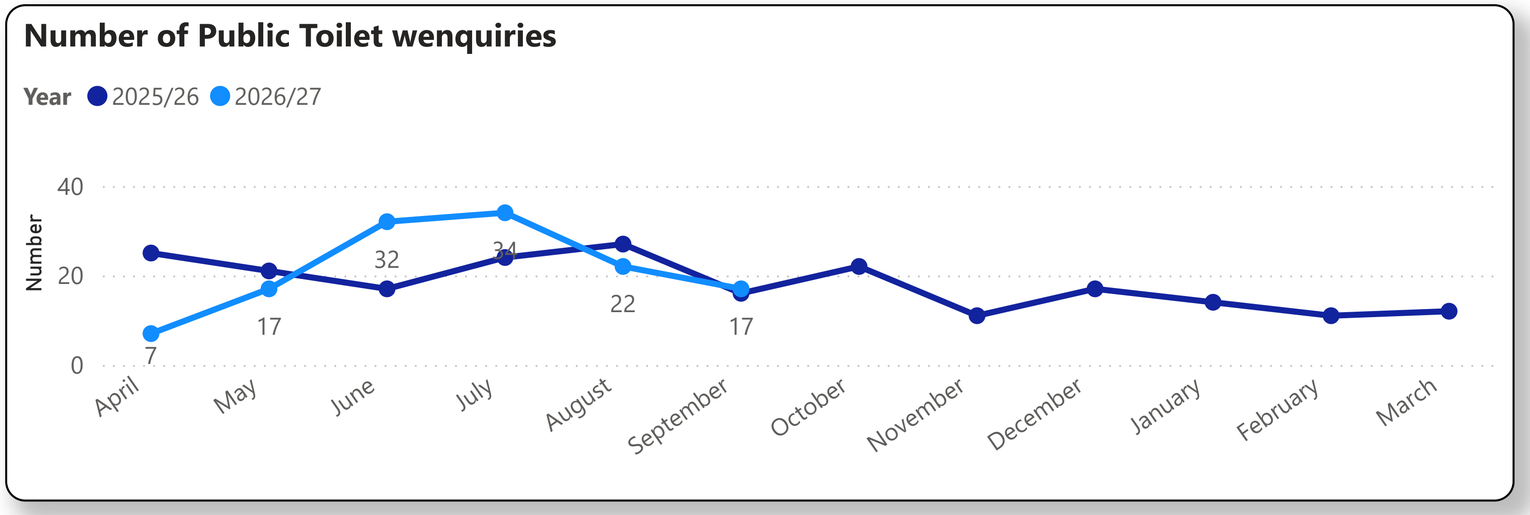
Purpose of Service :
To provide clean and safe facilities for Gwynedd residents and visitors

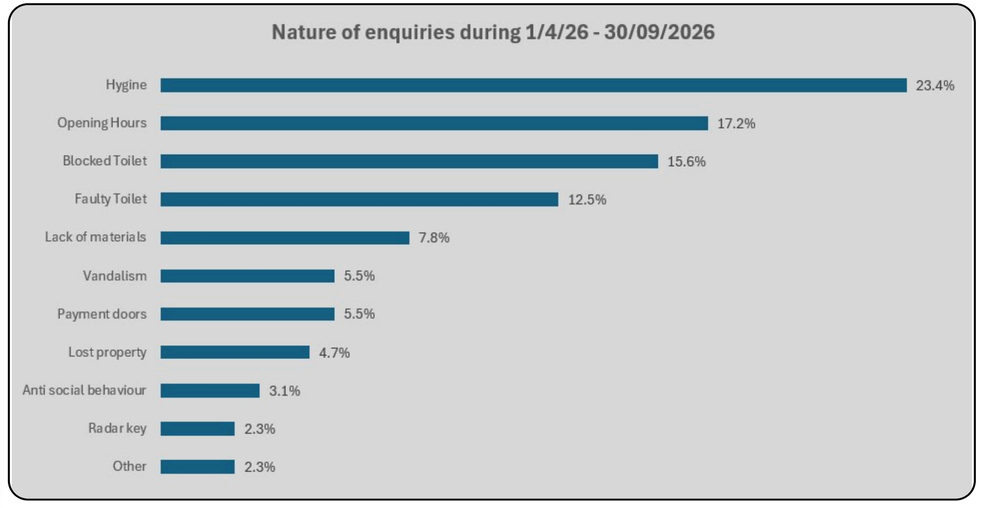
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

PP-21 : Average number of days to respond to a Public Toilet enquiry





Behind the performance

The Municipal Service is responsible for providing and maintaining 60 public toilets across the county. In addition, the service is responsible for administering and inspecting 37 toilets which are part of the community toilet scheme.

The service received a total of 129 enquiries during the first half of 2026/27.

The nature of the enquiries varies greatly from enquiring about opening hours to complaints about damaged equipment. The response time can therefore vary greatly. Approximately 23% relate to toilet hygine and cleanliness, 17% relate to opening hours, and a further 16% relate to a blocked toilet

The average number of days to respond to an enquiry was **4 days** between April and September.

MUNICIPAL ASSETS SERVICE - AMANDA MURRAY

Purpose of the Service: To inspect and maintain 124 playgrounds in the county to provide a safe environment for children to play.

Year: 2026/27

Month: September

Go to dashboard

PP-22 : Score out of 5 for customer satisfaction - Playgrounds

As a service have put up signs in our playgrounds so that we can hear the views of our users. The signs were started to be put up during September in the Bangor and Bethesda area. The rest of the signs will be installed in due course across the county.

While acknowledging that it is early in the process, 6 responses had been received by the end of September, and on average we have received a **score of 3.0 out of 5.**

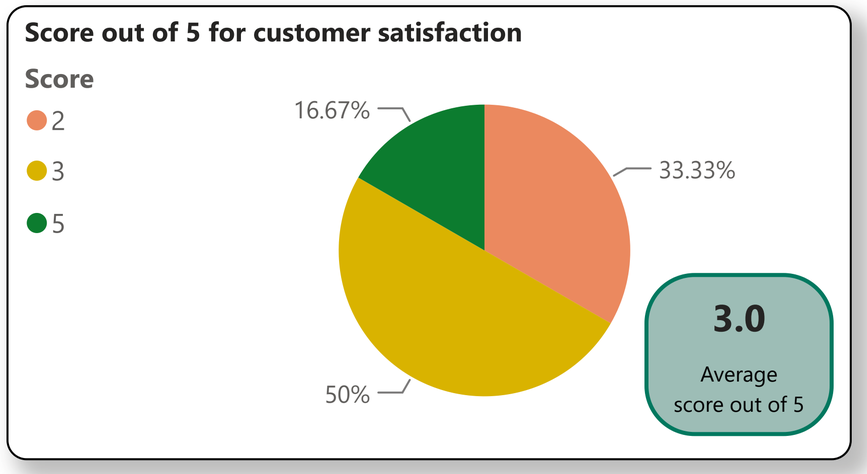
Examples of positive comments

1. Great to see benches for parents to sit while the children play
2. Lovely and quiet location
3. The new floor is good

Examples of less positive comments

1. Equipment is old/broken
2. Not much variety
3. Grass not being cut
4. More equipment needed for babies
5. Bins always full and not emptied

The service will make use of these comments to improve the service where possible with the resources available, and through collaboration with other services.





BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE - GARETH LLOYD WRIGHT

Purpose of Service :
Maintain a high standard service to YGC Building Unit customers that is competitive and meets customer requirements to enable the service to meet the annual income target

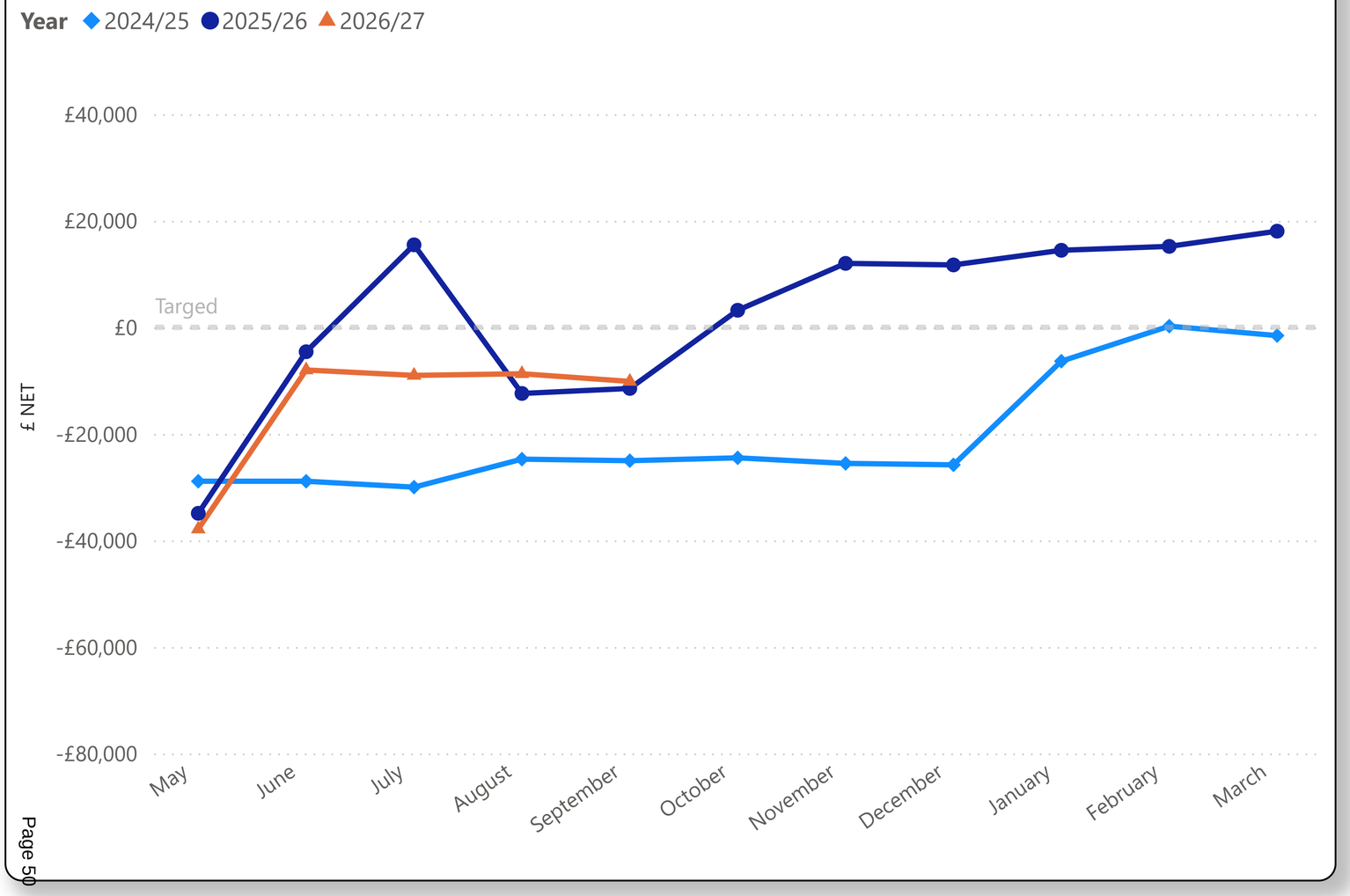
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-23 : Meet the Building Unit's financial target

Monthly comparison - Building Unit



Behind the performance

The teams' performance has been good on their projects, carrying out a lot of construction work within Gwynedd's schools over the summer.

The Unit continues to carry out a variety of work for several internal and external clients including maintenance and decarbonisation.

A number of the staff members of the Building Surveyors and Building Services Engineers teams are either working towards academic or professional qualifications and are developing well.

BUSINESS AND PROJECT COMPLETION SERVICE - RHYS WYNN WILLIAMS

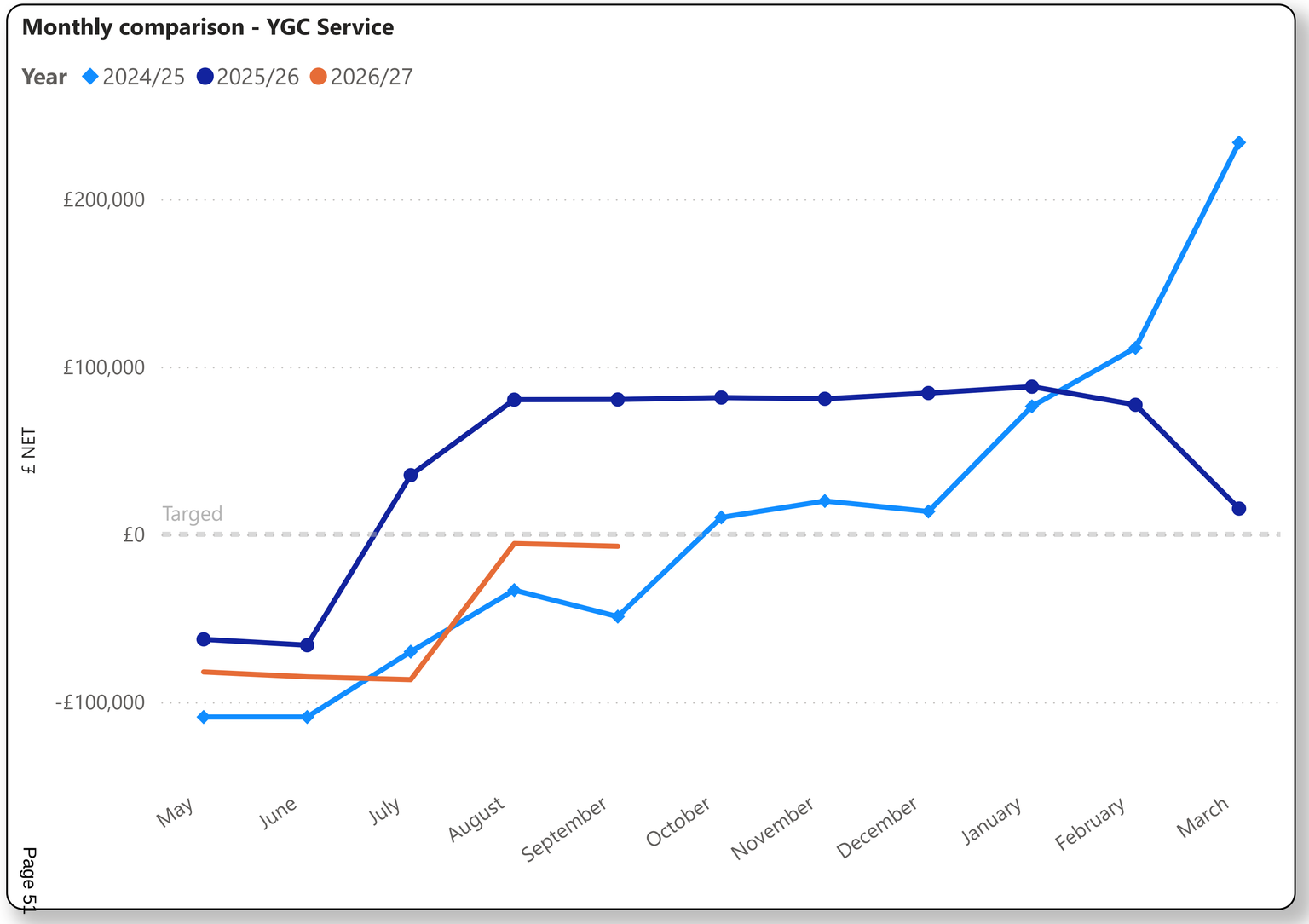
Purpose of Service :
Maintain a high quality service for YGC customers that is competitive and meets the customers requirements to enable YGC to reach the annual income target

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-24 : Meet YGC financial target



Behind the performance

The workflow at the start of the 2026-27 financial year is very strong.

Discussions with our main clients have shown that there is sufficient work available for the remainder of the year, and therefore the profile of the work that has been programmed is consistent with those of previous years.

BUSINESS AND PROJECT COMPLETION SERVICE - SION ARWEL JONES

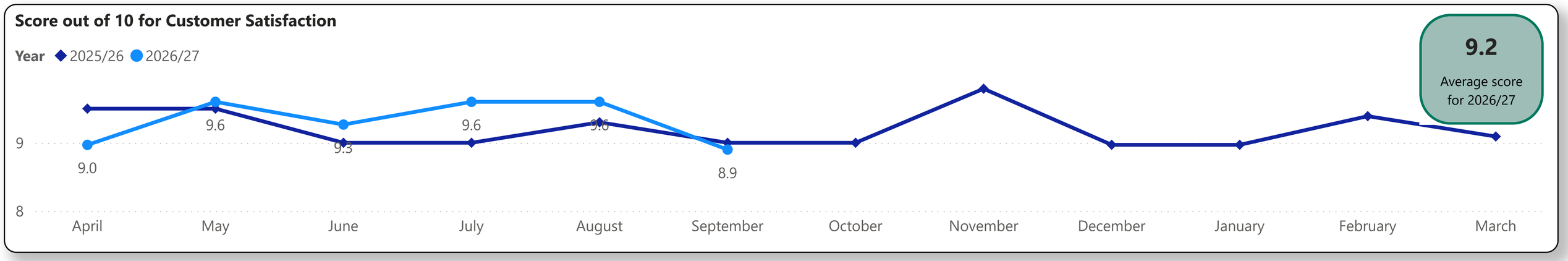
Purpose of Service :
Maintain a high quality service for YGC's customers and clients that is competitive and meets its requirements

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-25 : Score out of 10 for Customer Satisfaction



Behind the performance

NMWTRA
The score has dropped slightly due to a problem with the Agent's PMS recording system, from 9.6 to 8.9. They are looking into this as there is a problem with their recording arrangements which is the reason for the drop in the score not a reflection on the YGC service.

Civil
YGC has reviewed the billing arrangements and therefore it is not possible to continue to send customer satisfaction questionnaires to the client when an invoice has been due. Continuing with the procedure would result in a Client receiving a questionnaire monthly and prematurely. Changes are in place to the K2 PP/YGC system which will record the 'Project Deadline' as the trigger to send the questionnaire to the Client. This procedure is not yet complete so unfortunately it is not possible to send Customer Satisfaction questionnaires in the short term.

Housing and Property
No project for the Department of Housing and Property has been completed at this time, so it is not possible to report on a Customer Satisfaction score. Please see a 'Civil' comment above which also applies.

SDC
Questionnaires continue to be sent out with each SuDS application decision. Unfortunately, no response was received during the period.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICE - ROB WILLIAMS

Purpose of Service :
Maintain the County's coastal and inland asset maintenance program in a safe and timely manner to reduce flood risk to Gwynedd's residents

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-26 : Percentage of assets in satisfactory or better condition

Year	2024/25		2025/26		2026/27	
Grade	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Very Good	3	1.5%	13	5.4%	9	4.6%
2. Good	68	33.7%	90	37.5%	74	38.1%
3. Satisfactory	83	41.1%	95	39.6%	92	47.4%
4. Bad	21	10.4%	17	7.1%	9	4.6%
5. Very bad	27	13.4%	25	10.4%	10	5.2%
Total	**202**	**100.0%**	**240**	**100.0%**	**194**	**100.0%**

Percentage of assets in satisfactory or better condition

2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
76.2%	**82.5%**	**90.2%**

Behind the performance

To date, the unit has inspected 194 flood risk management assets, with 72 remaining to be inspected. The work is expected to be completed over the next few weeks.

Some assets/units have been deemed unsustainable for repair, either because of their condition or because they are part of a wider study or scheme, and as a result will not be inspected (e.g. Barmouth and Cricieth groves, which make up the majority of assets scoring 5).

The information in the table summarizes the results of the year to date.

The results of the above inspections feed into our maintenance programme over the coming months. As a result work is underway at several locations including Talybont, Llanberis, Brynrefail, Ceunant, Tremadog, Tywyn, Barmouth, Borth y Gest and Cricieth.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICE - ROB WILLIAMS

Purpose of Service :
Review SuDS applications in a timely manner and ensure proposed developments meet Welsh Government regulations.

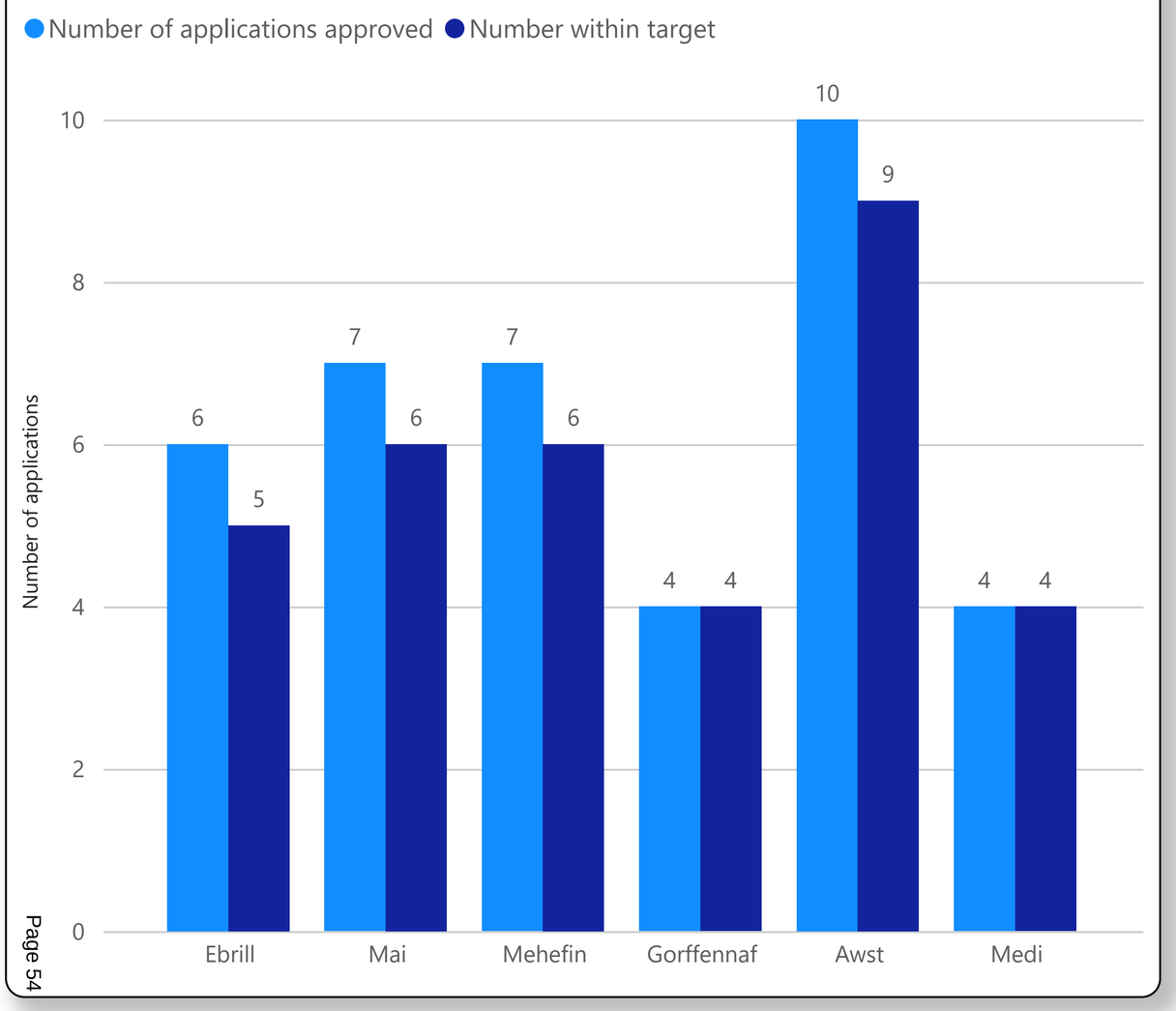
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-27 : Percentage of SuDS applications that have received a decision within the target

Number of days to approve SuDS applications



38
Number of applications approved

89.5%
Percentage of applications approved within target

Behind the performance

Since the 7th of January 2019 all new developments of more than 1 house, or where the building area is 100m^2 or more, are required by statutory law in Wales to provide sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) for surface water management.

SUDS plans must be approved by Gwynedd Council through the SUDS Approval Body, before construction can begin. All applications will be considered against the Welsh Government's national standards.

The statutory time to approve an application is 7 weeks or 49 days.

In some cases officers will extend the time to allow more time for applicants to submit additional information, rather than having to reject the applications.

The service believes this is a better way in terms of customer care even though it means an application is approved late.

Between April and September 38 applications were approved with 34 of them within our set target.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICE - ROB WILLIAMS

Purpose of Service :
Reduce flood risk in Gwynedd in addition to upgrading existing assets

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-28 : Number of flood schemes completed

Scheme	Description	Status
Bangor	Surface Water Flooding - Investigations	Still on program
Blaenau Ffestiniog	Surface Water Flooding - Investigations	Still on program
Bontnewydd	Detailed design and full business case for Bontnewydd flood mitigation measures	Back on program
Cae Glas Abermaw	Coastal protection for the Barmouth Viaduct Gardens area, including a new barrage, surface water system and property level protection	Program slipped / Cost increases
Clynnog Fawr	Outline Busines Case	Still on program
Cricieth Arfordirol	Outline Busines Case	Still on program
Cricieth Dŵr Wyneb	Outline Busines Case	Still on program
Groeslon	Detailed design including watercourse and culvert improvements to reduce the risk of obstructions in the river	Still on program
Hirael	Construction of coastal defences has started since May 2023	Back on program
Mynydd Llandegai	Detailed design and full business case for a range of measures to reduce the risk of surface water flooding and flooding of common watercourses	Back on program
Prom Y Gogledd Abermaw	Detailed design and full business case for coastal protection for the north Prom area in Barmouth	Still on program
Waunfawr	Detailed design to mitigate flooding problems in the culverts of Cae'r Waun and Pant y Waun	Still on program

Tu ôl i'r perfformiad

- Hirael's artwork is now in place, and the active travel scheme has begun
- The planning application for the North Prom, at Barmouth has been submitted and the full business case will be submitted to the Welsh Government by the end of the year.
- In relation to the Cae Glas Viaduct Gardens Scheme in Barmouth the contractor is off site over the summer period, but will return in October due to necessary works by SPEN.
- It is anticipated that a contractor will have been appointed to commence the Bontnewydd and Mynydd Llandegai projects by the end of the financial year.
- New schemes are also underway in Blaenau Ffestiniog and Bangor to look at surface water risks.
- Next steps of business cases in Cricieth have begun.
- In addition to these schemes, we are working in Beddgelert and Blaenau Ffestiniog on water risk management schemes using natural methods.

TECHNICAL SERVICE - OWEN RHYS JONES

Purpose of Service :
Maintain bridges and retaining walls on the Gwynedd network

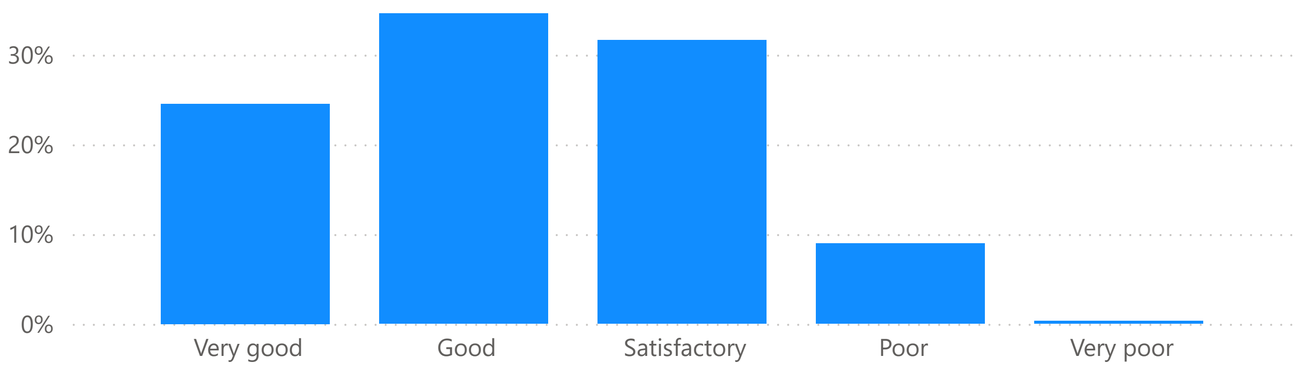
Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-29 : Percentage of structures in satisfactory condition or better based on the BCI score state of "good repair"

Percentage of structures in each condition



BCI Score	Score boundaries	Number of structures	% BCI "State of good repair"
Very good	90 and above	180	24.5%
Good	80 to 89	35	34.6%
Satisfactory	65 to 79	226	31.6%
Poor	40 to 64	122	9.0%
Very poor	39 and under	51	0.3%
Total			**100.0%**

Behind the performance

This data summarises the state of our road bridge stock in Gwynedd. We are responsible for a total of 631 road bridges.

The BCI (Bridge Condition Index) score indicator is used to find out the condition of our road bridges.

This score is derived from the data following the latest inspection of our bridges and takes into account all the elements of the structure.
A structure is considered to be in a satisfactory condition if the BCI score is greater than 65.

Gwynedd's road bridge stock is generally good with 91% with a score of 65 or above. A review of all structures that have scored less will be carried out by an engineer, and any concerns that arise will receive a special assessment, and appropriate restoration work.

For structures where larger issues are discovered, they will be managed under the standard for managing sub-standard structures until a solution is possible.

TECHNICAL SERVICE - OWEN RHYS JONES

Purpose of Service :
Maintain bridges and retaining walls on the Gwynedd network

Year 2026/27

Month September

Go to dashboard

YGC-30 : Percentage of inspections completed

Inspections	Number to inspect	Number inspected	% inspected
Arfon Class 3 and non-classified	88	0	0.0%
Dwyfor Class 3 and non-classified	108	25	23.1%
Meirionnydd Class 1 and 2	83	83	100.0%
Total	**279**	**108**	**38.7%**

Behind the performance

We as a service are responsible for Gwynedd's road bridge inspection and maintenance programme.

We examine o total of 631 bridges over a two-year program.

This year's inspection programme of 279 bridges has commenced as can be seen in the table. No problems are foreseen in completing the inspections before the end of the year.

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	19 November 2026
TITLE	New Local Development Plan – Key Issues, Vision, Strategic Objectives, Growth Options and Strategic Distribution
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	Role to scrutinise the Local Development Plan / Council Plan 2023-28 - A Green Gwynedd
AUTHOR	Gareth Jones – Assistant Head of Department - Environment
AELOD CABINET	Councillor Craig ab Iago

1. Why does it need to be scrutinised?

1.1 The preparation of a new Local Development Plan for Gwynedd which will meet the housing, employment, social and environmental needs of the county's residents over the next 15 years, has been identified as a priority project in the Council's Plan 2023-28.

1.2 The Full Council approved the Delivery Agreement and submitted it to the Welsh Government for their approval at its meeting on 7 March 2024.

1.3 In the 'Strategic options, vision and objectives' stage, the aim is to identify and test strategic options, agree on a clear vision that's relevant to the area, decide what kind of place the Plan area should aim to be, and agree on the main objectives of the Plan.

1.4 It is an opportunity for the Committee to submit comments/recommendations for consideration.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

- Is the vision clear and ambitious enough?

  The vision (which can be found in part 4 of appendix 1) is based on an understanding of the relevant economic, social, environmental and cultural issues highlighted within the Issues identified in the document.

- What strategic objectives have been identified?

  The strategic objectives are set out in Part 5 of the document in appendix 1.

- Do the draft objectives need to be modified?

  A consultation is scheduled to take place in January 2027 on the Key Issues, Vision, Strategic Objectives, Growth and Spatial Distribution Options document. This will be an opportunity for those who want to have their say on the document including the strategic objectives (see para 6.2)

- What are the next steps?

The next steps are outline in part 9 of the report.

3. Summary and Key Issues

3.1 The document in appendix 1 forms a key part of the preparation of the new LDP and, through public consultation, is an opportunity to gather views and evidence. It includes the key issues in the area and a draft vision for addressing those issues through the new LDP, strategic objectives, and strategic growth and distribution options. No decisions have been made at this point.

4. Background

4.1 This report introduces the Gwynedd Key Issues, Vision, Strategic Objectives and the Growth and Spatial Distribution Options (2024-2039) (Appendix 1)

4.2 LDP preparation is an evidence based process and must be consistent with Welsh Government legislation and guidance. Including the Development Plan Manual (Edition 3) and Planning Policy Wales (edition 12). Appendix 2 outlines the steps of preparing an LDP.

Document Purpose

4.3 The document at Appendix forms a key part of the preparation of the new LDP and, through public consultation, is an opportunity to gather views and evidence on:

- Key Issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Gwynedd LPA (Part 3.0)
- the Draft Vision (Part 4.0)
- draft Strategic Objectives (Part 5.0)
- Growth Options (Part 6.0)
- Spatial Distribution Options (Part 7.0)

4.4 Welsh Government guidance emphasises that plans should be developed by gathering evidence, testing options and engaging with stakeholders prior to the preparation of a Preferred Strategy.

4.5 The paper is divided into 7 sections. Below is a brief overview of the contents of the paper:-

<u>Part 1 – Background and Purpose</u>

4.6 This section sets out the purpose and context of the new Local Development Plan and presents an overview of the consultation document, that is seeking to gather the views of stakeholders and the public on the key issues, vision, strategic objectives, and growth and spatial distribution options in order to inform the development of the Plan's Preferred Strategy. It clearly states that no decisions have been made at this point.

<u>Part 2 – Policy Context</u>

4.7 The main national, regional and local policies, strategies and other evidence that must be considered in the preparation of the new Local Development Plan are set out in this section. This provides the policy context that will need to be considered. The LDP will need to be based on sound evidence whilst also demonstrating compliance with the documents highlighted. It sets out the strategies that are important to consider as part of the preparation of the new LDP. The policy framework set out in this section helps to ensure that the Local

Development Plan is based on sound evidence and aligns with relevant priorities and strategies at all levels.

Part 3 – Key Issues

4.8 This section sets out the main issues, challenges and opportunities that the new Local Development Plan needs to respond to in order to support sustainable communities and facilitate appropriate growth in Gwynedd. It explains the evidence and sources of information used to identify these issues, including national and local policies and strategies, the performance of previous plans, stakeholder input, and the views of local residents and people who working the area. These key issues form the basis for shaping the vision, objectives and strategy of the new Plan.

Part 4 – Vision

4.9 This section sets out the rationale and framework used for the development of the vision of the Local Development Plan, to ensure that the draft vision reflects local circumstances, responds to the key issues and provides a clear strategic direction for development and land use in the area over the period of the Plan.

Part 5 Strategic Objectives

4.10 The relationship between the vision, key issues and strategic objectives is explained in this section, highlighting how the objectives will provide a basis for the development of the Plan's policies. The section also explains the policy and legislative framework that informs the objectives, ensuring that they contribute to the principles of sustainable place-making and align with wider well-being goals and priorities. The strategic objectives are grouped by theme, and the themes are based on priorities in the Council's Plan. A table sets out the link between the Strategic Objectives and how they respond to the Key Issues outlined which provides a clear structure for achieving the vision.

Part 6 – Growth Options

4.11 This section outlines the evidence base and strategic considerations that inform the growth options for the Local Development Plan. It explains the relationship between population growth, housing and employment, emphasising the need to ensure that the level of growth supports the economic, social, environmental and cultural objectives of the area. This section outlines the approach used to develop different growth options including consideration of historical performance, demographic and employment forecasts which is consistent with standard modelling recognised by the Welsh Government. Five growth options are outlined to provide an adequate range of growth options for consultation.

Part 7 – Spatial Distribution Options

4.12 The options for distributing housing growth within the Plan area are outlined in this section, showing four different options for distributing the growth in the LDP area.

Growth Options

4.13 *Edge Analytics* who are a specialist company were commissioned to formulate a variety of statistical scenarios for demographic growth. These scenarios are **based on the demographic profile of the area, past trends and housing construction information, together with the Welsh Government's population and household projections and**

employment prospects (based on 2022 data). The growth options set out in the document are derived from this work.

4.14 This work is not intended to set a final housing or employment figure for the Plan, but to provide a solid evidence base for considering a wide range of growth options, consistent with expectations set out in Welsh Government guidance, in order to facilitate discussion.

4.15 **It must be stressed, no decisions have been taken so far, and no growth option is favoured as this is the first step in the public consultation process.** When the consultation process has been completed, the Council will prepare a consultation report which will highlight the comments received. Responses received during the consultation will be taken into account in the preparation of the Preferred Strategy, which is the next statutory step in the preparation of a Local Development Plan.

4.16 While this document is an important step in the preparation of the new Plan, it is only one step in the wider process of gathering evidence, engagement and assessing options prior to the preparation of a Preferred Strategy which will be the subject of a separate public consultation in the next stage of the process. **The Development Plan Manual emphasises the need to consider a range of reasonable options before developing the preferred strategy.**

4.17 The Preferred Strategy, which is the next step, needs to identify the

- key issues and challenges for the Plan area including the requirements of national, regional and local strategies.
- A vision for the Plan that is unique to local circumstances
- Embedding the placemaking approach
- Define housing and employment growth for the plan period, which is based on solid evidence, and how this growth will be distributed.
- Identify key growth sites/areas (if appropriate)
- Key strategic policies to achieve the vision, objectives and strategy
- Appendix setting out which policies from the existing plan may be retained, amended or removed
- Viability assessments to support the key/strategic sites (if required)
- List of Supplementary Planning Guidance to be prepared/updated

5. Additional Questions

- What information and evidence underpin the strategic choices, vision and objectives?

  The document is in appendix 1 which includes the strategic options, vision and objectives which have been developed by considering a wide range of evidence, including national, regional and local policies and strategies, Welsh Government guidance, the performance of the current Local Development Plan. Contributions have been received from the Planning Policy Working Group and Council departments. In addition, a non-statutory consultation was conducted to understand the views of residents and people who work in the plan area regarding the aspects of their area that they value most. The key issues, challenges and opportunities identified in the evidence have contributed to the development of the strategic vision and objectives.

The growth options are based on demographic and economic modelling carried out by Edge Analytics, using Welsh Government population, household and employment forecasts, along with historical data on housing developments and local trends.

- What were the comments of members of the Planning Policy Working Group on the document?

  Draft minutes of the Planning Policy Working Group meeting on 23 October 2026 and officers' response is at appendix 3. Members of the Working Group raised several questions and comments regarding:

  - The clarity of the data and the methodology underpinning the growth options.
  - If the employment and population projections were realistic.
  - The relationship between housing, population and employment.
  - Implications of potential economic developments, including developments such as Gwyndod (Wylfa Newydd).
  - The role of Bangor and different other areas of the Plan.
  - The relationship between the Council and Eryri National Park Authority.
  - The impact of the growth options on the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking communities.
  - The process used to narrow down the list of options and develop the five growth options and the four distribution options.

- What has changed as a result of their comments ?

  Following the Working Group's discussions, amendments were made to the document, including:

  - Corrected typographical and minor factual errors in some of the tables in Part 7.
  - Added explanatory text to provide more information about the rationale for selecting the five growth options and the four spatial distribution options to be included in the document.

- How much attention has been paid to the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking communities in the preparation of the document?

  The Welsh language and the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities was an important consideration in the preparation of the document. In identifying the key issues, evidence regarding the demographic, social and cultural characteristics of the area were considered, including factors that can influence the viability and sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities.

  The strategic objectives have been developed giving consideration to the Council's priorities and national policy requirements which recognise the importance of the Welsh language as part of the cultural well-being of communities. In addition, the impact of the Plan on the Welsh language will be a key consideration, alongside all other planning

issues, with that taking place at the next stage which will assess the growth and distribution options in the preparation of the Preferred Strategy.

During the Working Group's discussions, the need for further evidence regarding the implications of the growth options on the Welsh language was highlighted, and questions were raised as to which options would support the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities. It was emphasised that it was not at this stage that an assessment of the growth options alongside an assessment of the Welsh language and all other plan considerations would be undertaken. These issues will be considered further at the next stage and as part of the assessment work and in gathering additional evidence before deciding on the Plan's Preferred Strategy.

6. Consultations

6.1 Members of the Planning Policy Working Group have had input into the formulation of the key issues, vision and strategic objectives. At the request of the Working Group, a non-statutory consultation was held in January, the main purpose of the consultation was to gather information and views to help ensure that the Local Development Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the people who live and work in the Plan area. Responses to the consultation were reported to the Working Group in July where it was confirmed that all the issues raised, which related to planning policy, had been outlined in the key issues.

6.2 A meeting of the Working Group was held to discuss the growth and distribution options on 23/10/26. The draft minutes of the Working Group meeting are included in Appendix 3[1]. A summary of the main issues raised as part of the discussion is set out above.

6.3 There has also been consultation with all Council Departments and the responses received will be considered and fed into the process and there will be ongoing discussion throughout the process.

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

Have you **involved** residents/service users? If not, when and how do you intend to consult with them?

7.1 As previously noted, a non-statutory consultation was held in early 2026 with the aim to gathering information and views to help ensure that the Local Development Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the people who live and work in the Plan area. Consultations have also begun with other Council Departments.

7.2 A consultation is scheduled to take place in January 2027 on the Key Issues, Vision, Strategic Objectives and the Growth and Spatial Distribution Options document. The statutory requirement for this stage is '*involve the specific and general advisory bodies before the LPA consults on the preferred strategy*' (Development Plans Manual). The specific and general consultation bodies are listed in the Delivery Agreement. To ensure that the process is inclusive, it is planned to go beyond the statutory requirement and hold a public consultation. The public consultation will give everyone the opportunity to express

[1] The minutes have not been agreed by the Working Group as a next meeting of the working group has not yet been held.

their views on various potential growth options for the Plan and how this growth will be distributed within the Gwynedd LPA.

7.3 It is intended to include specific consultation questions in the consultation draft of the document in order to encourage comments relevant to the document:

Key Issues

1. Do you agree with the key issues? Are there other key issues that should be included, or do any of the key issues need to be changed or deleted?

Vision

2. Do you agree with the vision for the Plan area?

Strategic Objectives

3. What are your views on the suggested Strategic Objectives? Do any further objectives need to be added?

Strategic Growth Options

4. Which growth option do you think is best suited to the Plan's Vision and Strategic Objectives?
5. Which growth option do you have best? Please clarify your answer.
6. Is there another growth option? If so, please provide details.

Spatial Distribution Options

7. Which spatial distribution option do you think is best suited to the Plan's Vision and Strategic Objectives?
8. Which spatial distribution option do you prefer? Please explain your answer.
9. Is there another spatial distribution option? If so, please provide details.

Have you considered **working together**?

7.4 The document has been compiled by considering evidence, national, regional and local policies and strategies. There has been consultation with relevant services within the Council, and discussions have taken place with the Planning Policy Working Group. In addition, the document recognises the need for continued collaboration with the Eryri National Park Authority, neighbouring authorities, Welsh Government and other key stakeholders in the development of the Preferred Strategy. The public consultation on the document will provide a further opportunity to gather views and evidence from a wide range of stakeholders.

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

7.5 The document has identified key evidence-based issues about demography, housing, employment, the economy, the environment, climate change, infrastructure and the Welsh language. By identifying the challenges and opportunities facing the local planning area of Gwynedd it is possible to ensure that the LDP is able to respond to them. By giving

stakeholders the opportunity to comment on a number of growth and spatial distribution options before proceeding to the Preferred Strategy there will be an opportunity to consider these comments and choose a strategy that is more likely to address future challenges and reduce long-term risks

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

7.6 The document is part of the preparation of a Local Development Plan for the period 2024-2039 which therefore focuses on the long-term needs of Gwynedd's communities. In developing the growth options population, household and employment forecasts were used, along with an analysis of historical trends and local issues. The document seeks to understand how the Plan can respond to the key issues that have been developed and included in the document. The consultation will help to ensure that the vision and objectives of the Plan reflect the needs of present and future generations.

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

7.7 The key issues, vision, strategic objectives and growth options have been developed in the context of relevant national and regional policies, and consider implications for areas such as transport, education, health, infrastructure, natural resource management and community services. The document sets out the appropriate policies, strategies and priorities of other public bodies and as already noted that it will be important to work closely with the neighbouring LPAs in the development of the LDP. This consultation will be an opportunity for other public bodies to have their views on spatial distribution options and further engagement will take place as the plan develops.

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

This is not relevant at this stage of the process. An impact assessment will be prepared at the appropriate stages of preparing the New Local Development Plan.

9. Next Steps

9.1 Prior to being published for public consultation, the document will be submitted to Cabinet on 8 December 2026 requesting comments on the consultation document and the permission to hold a public consultation in January 2027. The comments of the Planning Policy Working Group and the Communities Scrutiny Committee will be included in the report to Cabinet.

9.2 Following the consultation all comments will be considered by the Planning Policy Service. Evidence gathering and background paper preparation will continue, including commissioning, where necessary, studies and additional technical work. All information will be taken into account in the preparation of the Preferred Strategy.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Key Issues, Vision, Strategic Objectives and the Growth and Spatial Distribution Options (2024-2039)

Appendix 2: Steps in the preparation of a Local Development Plan

Appendix 3: Draft Record of meeting of the planning policy working group

Gwynedd Local Development Plan (2024-2039)

Key Issues, Vision, Strategic Objectives and the Growth and Spatial Distribution Options

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Contents

1.0 Background and Purpose 4
1.1 The Local Development Plan 4
1.2 The purpose of this document 4
2.0 The Policy Context 6
2.1 National 6
2.2 Regional 7
2.3 Local 9
3.0 Key Issues 11
3.1 Basis of the key issues 11
3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 12
3.3 Placemaking 13
3.4 The key Planning Principles and the National Sustainable Placemaking Principles 14
3.5 The Key Issues 15
THEME – POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY AND HOUSING 16
THEME – WELL-BEING 20
THEME – THE ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS 23
THEME – THE ENVIRONMENT 28
THEME – TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY 31
THEME - LOCATION 34
4.0 Vision 35
5.0 Strategic Objectives 36
5.1 Assessment Matrix 38
6.0 Growth Options 41
Historic housing delivery 41
Employment 41
Proposed Scenarios 42
The Growth Options 43
6.1 Growth Option 1 – Based on the Welsh Government's 2022 Principal Projection 45
6.2 Growth Option 2 - Based on the Welsh Government's 2022 High Population Projection 45
6.3 Growth Option 3 - Based on the Welsh Government's 2022 Low Population Projection 46
6.4 Growth Option 4 – Dwelling-led 5 yr 46
6.5 Growth Option 5 – Employment-led 46
7.0 Spatial Distribution Options 48
7.1 Distribution Option 1 - Continue with the Joint Local Development Plan strategy 48
Distribution Option 1 - Continue with the 48
Joint Local Development Plan strategy 48

DRAFT

7.2 Distribution Option 2 - Distribution based on units completed since 2011 48
7.3 Distribution Option 3 - Focus on Regional Growth Area 49
7.4 Opsiwn DOS 4 - Distribution on the basis of the Number of Houses in the LPA per LHMA 49
Appendix 1: List of the Joint Local Development Plan Settlements 51
Appendix 2: Local Market Area Map 52

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1.0 Background and Purpose

1.1 The Local Development Plan

1.1.1 All local planning authorities in Wales must prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2015 and the Development Plan Manual (Edition 3, March 2020). Cyngor Gwynedd is preparing a new LDP for the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority (LPA) area (which is the area of Gwynedd located outside the Eryri National Park). An LDP is a statutory document that sets out how a local authority area should develop over a 15-year period. The Plan will address the housing, employment, social and environmental needs of the Gwynedd LPA residents for the period up to 2039.

1.1.2 The new LDP will be prepared in accordance with the Council's Delivery Agreement, which has been agreed with the Welsh Government. The Delivery Agreement sets out the timetable for the preparation of the LDP, as well as the approach to stakeholder engagement and community engagement.

1.1.3 The LDP has now reached the 'Pre-deposit Participation' phase, where emphasis is placed on seeking people's views and ensuring consensus by involving the community and other stakeholders when discussing strategic considerations.

1.1.4 During these initial phases of preparing the LDP, it is required that a clear path is followed from the **Key Issues** to the **Vision** to the **Objectives** to the **Strategic Options** to the **Preferred Strategy**, by considering the following:

- The main spatial considerations and issues relating to sustainability facing the LDP area.
- The community's vision for the spatial future of the LDP area.
- Land use planning objectives that will assist to realise this vision.
- Strategic options to achieve these objectives – level and spatial distribution of new development.

1.1.5 After considering and discussing a number of options introduced in this paper the LDP Preferred Strategy will need to be selected. These options will relate to general growth levels that the Area could wish to provide for and the spatial distribution of new developments, i.e. how much development and where developments are located.

1.1.6 The Preferred Strategy document will not include land allocations, except for potential strategic sites and / or other key sites, which are imperative, because of their comparative size, to realise the Preferred Strategy. It will include an appendix which will outline which policies from the current plan will be kept, amended or deleted. However, it will not include detailed planning policies to manage development – it will only include general policies that are required in order to put the preferred strategy into practice. Allocations for smaller sites and detailed policies will be considered and included in the **Deposit Plan**, namely the draft version of the Plan in its entirety.

1.2 The purpose of this document

1.2.1 The main purpose of this consultation document is to:

- ensure that we have identified all the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Gwynedd LPA (Part 4.0)
- receive feedback on the draft vision (Part 5.0)
- receive feedback on the draft strategic objectives (Part 6.0)
- receive feedback on the growth options (Part 7.0)
- receive feedback on the spatial distribution (Part 8.0)

1.2.2 **No decisions have been made to date as this is the first phase of the public consultation process.** When this consultation process has been completed, the Council will prepare a consultation report highlighting the comments received.

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2.0 The Policy Context

2.1 National

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

2.1.1 Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 is the national development framework for Wales, setting the direction for development to 2040. It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities. As the national development framework, Future Wales is the highest tier within the development plan framework and is focused on solutions to issues and challenges at a national scale. The National Plan complements Planning Policy Wales and the supplementary Technical Advice Notes. The National Plan will therefore affect the shape and direction of future planning policy in Wales, including Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs).

2.1.2 The National Plan identifies four regions for future policy development in Wales – North Wales, Mid Wales, South West Wales and South East Wales. Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) will be prepared for these regions, which will influence the content of future Local Development Plans. The Gwynedd Local Planning Authority (LPA) area is located within the North Wales region, which includes Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham LPA's and the Eryri National Park.

2.1.3 As part of its spatial strategy, the National Plan sets out a number of general and regional specific policies. For the North Wales region, Future Wales identifies Wrexham and Deeside as a National Growth Area, which is complemented by three Regional Growth Areas. These are areas that will grow, develop and offer a variety of public and commercial services at regional scale. Both Bangor and Caernarfon are identified as Regional Growth areas. Development and growth in towns and villages in rural areas is not excluded but should be of appropriate scale and support local aspirations and need.

Welsh Government has launched a public consultation on a major revision of the National Development Framework, which will shape development across the country up to 2050. Consequently, consideration may need to be given to emerging themes while preparing the new Plan.

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12)

2.1.4 Current Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12 states at paragraph 4.2.6 that "the latest Welsh Government local authority level Household Projections for Wales, alongside the latest Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) and the Wellbeing plan for a plan area, will form a fundamental part of the evidence base for development plans. These should be considered together with other key evidence in relation to issues such as what the plan is seeking to achieve, links between homes and jobs, the need for affordable housing, Welsh language considerations and the deliverability of the plan, in order to identify an appropriate strategy for the delivery of housing in the plan area. Appropriate consideration must also be given to the wider social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors in a plan area in order to ensure the creation of sustainable places and cohesive communities."

2.1.5 Paragraph 4.2.7 adds that "household projections provide estimates of the future numbers of households and are based on population projections and assumptions about household composition and characteristics. Certain elements of the projections, such as births and deaths, will remain relatively constant throughout the plan period. However, other elements, such as migration and household formation rates, can influence outcomes significantly. Planning authorities need to assess whether the various elements of the projections are appropriate for their area, and if not, undertake modelling, based on robust evidence, to identify alternative options."

Development Plans Manual (Edition 3)

2.1.6 The Welsh Government's Development Plans Manual (DPM) Edition 3 (2020) provides detailed guidance on how to develop an evidence base to justify the level and distribution of economic growth and housing. The DPM recognises that there is not always a direct correlation between jobs and homes, but it is something that needs to be "considered collectively when assessing growth levels and developing a sustainable strategy; the aim being to achieve a balance between homes and jobs thereby reducing the need for commuting" (5.25). Links to the regional and sub-regional context should also be considered, taking account of functional linkages and geographical synergies between places to achieve better planning outcomes (5.25).

2.1.7 The DPM states that evidence will be required to demonstrate the current/baseline position of the plan and that "trend-based forecasts quantify a variety of outcomes, based on a series of assumptions, extrapolating the level of need forward to cover the whole plan period. The forecasts used should relate directly to the range of issues and land uses the plan is seeking to address, for example changes in population and the need for additional homes to accommodate this change. All sources of evidence, including the latest Welsh Government Household Projections, should be used when preparing a plan" (5.28).

2.1.8 The latest WG Population and Household Projections are identified as a fundamental part of the LDP evidence base, and the DPM states that these projections, and the resultant housing numbers, should be considered as part of the evidence which should include a summary analysis of each variant projection, and the implications this has for population, households, and jobs growth in an area.

2.1.9 With regards to the spatial strategy, the DPM states that LDPs "must clearly communicate where future development will be located, why and how it will deliver the vision, key issues and objectives". This will need to be informed by a robust understanding of the area and the role and function of places as well as an understanding of supply and demand factors within and beyond the local authority boundary

2.2 Regional

Strategic Development Plans (SDP)

2.2.1 SDPs will be produced for the four regions (North Wales, Mid Wales, Southwest Wales and Southeast Wales) that have been identified in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. They will sit in between the National Plan and Local Development Plans (LDPs) and will provide a strategic context for the preparation of subsequent LDPs.

2.2.2 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 states that:

"Clear decisions should be made on the scale and location of growth through the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan, to ensure that all parts of the region are working together to achieve the region's goals. A Strategic Development Plan should focus on the movement of people across the region and support an integrated approach to strategic land-use and transport planning. Key locational decisions including for employment centres, strategic housing growth and services should focus on the most sustainable and accessible locations, address congestion, reduce car based commuting and improve air quality".

2.2.3 For the North Wales region, the responsibility for the preparation of the SDP lies with 'Ambition North Wales'. The preparation of the SDP has begun, with the 'Delivery Agreement' stage of the SDP being completed and work is now progressing on preparing the 'Evidence Base'.

Regional Transport Plan (RTP) (2025 – 2030)

2.2.4 The RTP is a strategic document outlining the long-term vision for the region's transport system, including the aims, objectives and policies and priorities for improving the transport network and services.

2.2.5 This RTP will help address current and future local and regional transport issues now and over the next 5 years (2025-2030) by providing a framework for future investment decisions.

2.2.6 It sets out how transport can support the delivery of 'Llwybr Newydd', the Welsh Government's transport strategy, and contribute to the success, regeneration and development of our region. This Plan is essential for ensuring that North Wales can contribute to the delivery of national strategies and priorities.

Regional Technical Statement (RTS)

2.2.7 The preparation of Regional Technical Statement (RTS) is a requirement of the Minerals Aggregates Technical Advice Note (MTAN1) (2004). The RTS set out how aggregates demand would be met in the region for a 15 year period ending in 2021. The First Review of the RTS was published in 2014 and was followed by the Second Review in September 2020. The Second Review RTS covers the 25 year period up to 2041, but further reviews will still be initiated every 5 years, in accordance with MTAN1, to ensure that the RTS can react to any significant change in circumstances. This will ensure that any major changes to supply and demand can be addressed and the RTS changed or modified as appropriate.

North Wales Economic Framework

2.2.8 This was published by Welsh Government in 2021, and is one of four Regional Economic Frameworks covering the whole of Wales.

2.2.9 Its mission is:

"to start creating innovative opportunities to ensure we protect and enhance our natural environment whilst also allowing communities to thrive. Building on our strengths and taking advantage of opportunities where they add value, beyond monetary value alone, to the region."

2.2.10 It is based on the principles of a Wellbeing economy and sets out 3 Priorities; these are
1. The Social and Community Wellbeing Economy
2. The Experience Economy
3. The Low Carbon and Low Emissions Economy

Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035

2.2.11 This Strategic Plan has been prepared by Cyngor Gwynedd and the National Park Authority in collaboration with communities, businesses and stakeholders. This Plan has been developed to promote a Sustainable Visitor Economy for the area for the future. It's vision for the future is:

"A visitor economy for the benefit and well-being of the people, environment, language and culture of Gwynedd and Eryri"

2.2.12 The Plan sets out the core principles for the visitor economy which will in turn lead to a series of actions to be agreed upon by the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership. It recognizes the importance of the visitor

economy to this special area but aims to ensure that the area and its special qualities are protected and safeguarded - so that what is so unique about the area remains protected today and for future generations.

2.3 Local

Gwynedd Council Housing Action Plan for 2020/21 - 2026/27

2.3.1 The Action Plan was approved in December 2020. The purpose of the Action Plan is to outline how the Council will try and address the objectives of the Cyngor Gwynedd Housing Strategy (2019 up to 2026/27.

- Over 30 schemes are outlined across the county that will enable the Council to
- facilitate over 500 new affordable houses to be sold or let to the residents of Gwynedd including building 100 new houses;
- offer loans for 250 local first-time buyers;
- secure over 600 new social housing units for Gwynedd including buying 72 former social houses in order to rent them to local people in accordance with the Council's new local allocation policy;
- extend the grants system to bring 250 empty homes back into use across the county;
- invest in eco-friendly homes;
- develop 150 living units for homeless persons in the county and create 130 new units for vulnerable residents.

Ardal Ni: Local Regeneration Plans

2.3.2 These are a series of action plans for specific areas of Gwynedd. The intention is to ensure that proactive steps are in place to ensure collaboration and improve the areas economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally.

2.3.3 The vision is to develop and support sustainable communities that are healthy, prosperous, and dynamic, with the confidence to venture, the ambition and ability to contribute their own solutions to local needs, and the ability to take advantage of new opportunities.

2.3.4 As part of the framework the county has been divided into 13 Local Regeneration Areas and an action plan has been created for each of the areas. The action plans identify projects that respond to local priorities.

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

2.3.5 On 8 March, 2022 Gwynedd Council's Cabinet adopted an ambitious Climate and Nature Emergency Plan which sets a goal to become a net zero carbon authority by 2030. This Plan follows the Full Council's decision to declare a climate emergency and the Council's commitment to invest £3 million to deliver various climate-related projects.

Nutrient Sensitive Special Areas of Conservation

2.3.6 In March 2025, Natural Resources Wales updated their assessment of Welsh River SACs to evaluate compliance with Phosphorus targets. The assessment emphasised the negative impacts of excessive phosphate concentrations on aquatic species and ecosystems. There are three SAC rivers in Gwynedd (Glaslyn, Gwyrfai, and Dyfrdwy). NRW are currently monitoring phosphate concentrations in these rivers, and results have found that phosphate concentrations in the Gwyrfai are currently exceeding targets. When phosphate targets are exceeded within SAC rivers, proposed developments within the river catchments may need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality. Gwynedd Council will continue to monitor current NRW guidelines regarding planning proposals within SAC River Catchment areas.

2.3.7 When preparing the LDP and determining where new developments will be located consideration will need to be given the latest evidence available on nutrient levels in the river catchments, nutrient neutrality requirements and the latest NRW guidance.

Local Flood Management Strategy, Cyngor Gwynedd

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

2.3.9 The strategy includes objectives to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion, develop an understanding of these hazards, and collaborate with relevant bodies. It also emphasizes the need to raise awareness and encourage collaboration on mitigation plans. The strategy runs alongside the Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, aiming to create safer and more sustainable communities in Gwynedd.

Gwynedd Economic Strategy - An Economy that works for all Gwynedd 2035

2.3.10 The strategy was adopted by Gwynedd Council's Cabinet on 11 June 2024. The Strategy was approved by Gwynedd Council in May 2026 and sets out a long-term vision and priorities for Gwynedd's economy, namely:

"An innovative, productive and low-carbon economy which strengthens the Welsh language, creates new opportunities and contributes towards everyone's well-being."

The overarching themes and priorities of the strategy are:

Enterprise – thriving local businesses that excel
1. Maximise the value of the current economy
2. Make the most of new opportunities

People – a skilled and inclusive workforce
3. Ensuring a skilled workforce
4. Supporting our people

Place – the best conditions to thrive
5. Optimal Connectivity and Infrastructure
6. A great place to live, work and venture

2.3.11 Consideration will need to be given to the priorities outlined in the strategy while developing the new Local Development Plan.

Local Housing Market Assessment

2.3.12 A Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) looks at current and future housing needs, the demand for housing, and housing affordability in an area, and it provides important evidence when preparing the Local Development Plan. The LHMA is prepared according to Welsh Government guidelines.

2.3.13 The LHMA is currently being prepared, and once it's finished, its findings will be carefully considered alongside other relevant evidence when developing the Preferred Strategy.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 Basis of the key issues

3.1.1 At the core of the work of preparing the Gwynedd Local Development Plan (LDP) (2024–2039), consideration needs to be given to how the Plan can facilitate the creation of sustainable communities and growth by responding positively to the main issues relevant to the area.

3.1.2 The key issues facing Gwynedd during the LDP period and beyond have been based on a range of evidence, objectives derived from relevant plans, reports, programmes and strategies together with verbal input that has resulted from specific engagement exercises.

3.1.3 These sources include:

- The objectives and content of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan 2023-28. The three main well-being objectives are:
  - Working together to mitigate the impact of poverty on the well-being of our communities.
  - Working together to improve the well-being and success of our children and young people to realise their full potential.
  - Working together to support our services and communities to move towards Net Zero Carbon.
- The objectives and content of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28. The Plan includes a series of projects under seven priority areas:
  - Tomorrow's Gwynedd - Give our children and young people the best possible start in life.
  - A Prosperous Gwynedd - Strengthen the economy and support Gwynedd residents to earn a worthy wage.
  - A Homely Gwynedd - Support the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities.
  - A Caring Gwynedd - Support the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities.
  - A Welsh Gwynedd - Ensure that we give every possible opportunity for our residents to use the Welsh language in the community.
  - A Green Gwynedd - Protect the county's natural beauty and respond positively to the climate change crisis.
  - An Efficient Gwynedd - Put the residents of Gwynedd first and treat them fairly and ensure that the Council performs effectively and efficiently.
- The current policy, legal and technical framework. This includes the objectives of Planning Policy Wales (a national policy that outlines the guidelines for making planning decisions) together with the priorities of Future Wales – the National Plan 2040, a national development framework that sets the direction for development work in Wales up to 2040.
- The key issues that underpinned the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan taking into account their current suitability to the Gwynedd Planning Authority area.
- Consideration of how the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Adopted LDP (2011-2026) has performed relative to its monitoring indicators as analysed in the LDP's Joint Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR 1-6) and the Joint Local Development Plan Review Report for Gwynedd and Anglesey (March 2022).
- Input from a workshop with Members of the Planning Policy Working Group.
- A public consultation was carried out, which asked what issues that were important to those who lived and worked in the Plan area. The responses were given full consideration to ensure that the key issues drafted were addressed.

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

3.2.1 Central to including the identified Key Issues, and thereby the Vision and Main Objectives that establish it, are the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that place a duty on public bodies to develop in a sustainable way. This is the basis of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan 2023-28. The Well-being of Future Generations Act presented seven well-being goals to provide a structure for the work of all public bodies in Wales to meet its objectives. These are as follows:

Well-being Goal	Description of the Goal
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive, low-carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with active healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background and circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales with a vibrant culture and a thriving Welsh language:	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

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Figure 1: The Well-being of Future Generations Act's seven well-being goals



3.3 Placemaking

3.3.1 Another aspect that is central to establishing clear and sound objectives is the principle of 'Placemaking'. It is an important principle that is promoted in Planning Policy Wales (edition 12). Placemaking is described (Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, page 14) as "a holistic way to approach planning and designing developments and places, which focuses on positive outcomes. It draws on the potential of an area to create high-quality developments and public spaces that promote people's prosperity, health, happiness and well-being in their broadest sense. "Place-making" considers the context, function and relationship between the site of the development and its vicinity, that in the case of large developments that create new spaces as well as small developments that are created in a wider space".

3.3.2 In considering the Key Issues to the LDP period, one must therefore keep the following principles in mind:

Figure 2: Placemaking principles



3.4 The key Planning Principles and the National Sustainable Placemaking Principles

3.4.1 Following on from Placemaking considerations, the key issues should also take into account Key Planning principles and Sustainable Placemaking Principles, as set out in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12).

Key Planning Principles

3.4.2 These are the Key Planning Principles as set out in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12):

- Helping to grow our economy in a sustainable manner
- Making best use of resources
- Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
- Creating and sustaining communities
- Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact

The Key Planning Principles, as set out in Planning Policy Wales, represent the Welsh Government's vision for all Development Plans. These support the cultural and mindset change needed to fully consider the principles of 'Placemaking'.

Principles of Sustainable Placemaking

3.4.3 The Sustainable Placemaking Principles as set out in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) are as follows:

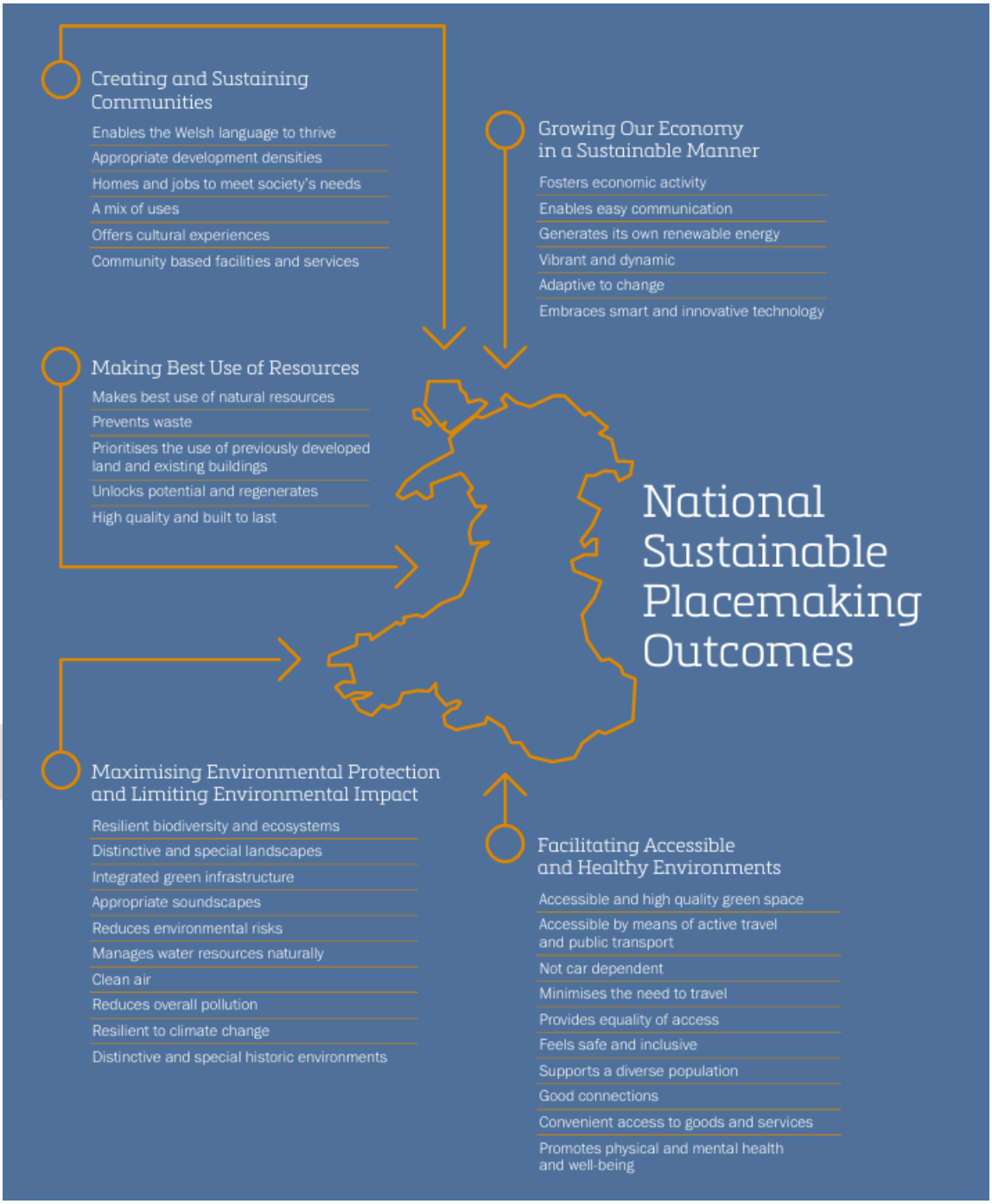
- Creating and Sustaining Communities
- Developing our Economy in a Sustainable Way
- Making Best Use of Resources
- Maximising Environmental Protection and Limiting Environmental Impact
- Facilitating Accessible and Healthy Environments

3.4.4 Planning Policy Wales (para. 2.15) states that the national sustainable placemaking outcomes should be used to inform the preparation of development plans and the assessment of development proposals.

The outcomes provide a framework which contains those factors which are considered to be the optimal outcome of development plans and individual developments. These outcomes, whilst highlighting the sustainable features of the place development plans and decisions help create, should be the starting point for plan makers and decision takers and be considered at the earliest possible opportunity.

3.4.5 The details of what is incorporated within the specific principles are highlighted in the figure below:

Figure 3: Principles of Sustainable Placemaking



3.5 The Key Issues

3.5.1 Based on the above background information, 39 Key Issues have been compiled. These, along with the relevant context for them, are set out below. These Key Issues are divided into 7 distinct subcategories.

THEME – POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHY AND HOUSING

MA 1	A population which is ageing as a consequence of the fact that some parts of the area are popular retirement destinations

Context

The 2021 Census shows that the 65+ population in Gwynedd has increased from **25,140** (**20.6%** of the total population in 2011) to **27,273** (**23.2%** of the total population in 2021). In 2021, 21.3% of the population of Wales was in the 65+ age category.

In the 2011 Census the number recorded as 'retired' in Gwynedd was **14.561.** By the 2021 Census this figure had increased to **25,358.** It is noted however that the 2011 Census only considered the population aged between 16-74, whilst the 2021 Census considered the entire population aged over 16 years old.

15.3% of Gwynedd's population (2021 Census) are under the age of 15, compared to 16.5% throughout Wales.

- As young people leave their communities, the result is the displacement of population within Gwynedd together with migration to locations outside of the County.
- Rural depopulation entails a loss of skills in these areas and has an impact on local services.
- Impact on families in terms of looking after the older generation.
- Loss of a population that can speak Welsh.

An ageing population leads to greater considerations in terms of maintaining services and ensuring support for the older generation. For example, Cyngor Gwynedd's Llechen Las report (October 2024 and the 2026 update), considers the current demographic challenges and projections over the next two decades, and the potential impacts of this on the demand for care, and the ability to satisfy that need.

MA 2	The impact of self-catering holiday accommodation/second homes on the Welsh language and Welsh culture and the housing market

Context

- Properties being lost from the housing market, leading to increased competition in the housing market and pricing the local population out of the market.
- Low-income and temporary jobs related to the tourism industry.
- Reduced resident population to maintain and support local services.
- Impact in terms of language ability.

Legislative change by the Welsh Government, which has introduced new use classes C3, C5 and C6 together with the right to introduce Article 4, highlights the fact that this still affects certain parts of Wales.

In the period July 2018 to October 2026 the number of second homes in Gwynedd has fallen -9% and the number of self-catering holiday accommodation has increased +178%. (Council Tax information).

A number of control mechanisms are being put in place to try to meet the challenges that come as a result of having a high number of second homes and holiday accommodation.

MA 3	Need to provide for the needs of students if a lack of accommodation is identified

Context

- There are approximately 10,000 students in Bangor who have a significant impact on the economy and

social aspects in the city and more widely.
- The number of students at the University has increased from **9,312** in 2010/11 to **9,875** in 2024/25.
- Need to ensure suitable accommodation, particularly should a shortage of student accommodation be highlighted.
- Houses in multiple occupation and considerations involving them are an important issue, particularly in Bangor.
- The University has accommodation for 2,145 students.
- Permission has been granted for purpose-built accommodation for 864 students since 2011.

Number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) on the Council register reduced from **910** in 2019 to **738** in 2026. Of the total in 2026, 651 of these (88.2%) were based in the City of Bangor which reflects the impact of the University in Bangor.

MA 4	**The loss of young economically active residents to areas outside Gwynedd.**

Context
- Consider the implications of losing young residents to outside Gwynedd.
- Skills nurtured in Gwynedd are lost. The resulting economic benefit is missed, with the benefit experienced in other areas.
- Lack of population to sustain communities and the Welsh language. A combination of young residents moving out in conjunction with an increase in the ageing population (see MA 1) have a knock-on effect on the feasibility of local services such as primary schools. A lower rate of children and young people can also have an impact on the area's vitality.

The following table compares population by age group in Gwynedd between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census. It is clearly stated that the marked decrease in population and percentage of population in some of the particular age groups who are children or who can be considered to be economically active young residents.

Age Group	2011	2021	+/- %
3 – 15 years	16,866 (13.8% of population)	16,339 (13.9% of population)	-7.3%
16 – 24 years	16,723 (13.7% of population)	14,260 (12.1% of population)	-14.7%
25 – 34 years	12,532 (10.3% of population)	13,127 (11.2% of population)	+4.7%
35 – 49 years	22,808 (18.7% of population)	18,659 (15.9% of population)	-18.2%

For example, note the number of Welsh speakers per age group (economically active children and young residents) between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census. While the percentages based on population numbers have increased in many of the examples, a significant reduction can be seen in the actual number of Welsh speakers per age group.

Age Group	2011	2021	+/-
3 – 15 years	15,035 (89.1% of age group)	14,078 (86.2% of age group)	-957
16 – 24 years	9,805 (58.6% of age group)	8,588 (60.2% of age group)	-1217
25 – 34 years	8,632 (68.9% of age group)	9,076 (69.1% of age group)	+444
35 – 49 years	15,208 (66.7% of age group)	12,481 (66.9% of age group)	-2727

Higher wages in other locations probably form some of the reasons for the loss of young residents to places outside Gwynedd. A Survey by the Office for National Statistics for 2025 has rated the median gross weekly pay of full-time workers in Gwynedd at £669.20. This is significantly lower than the figure for the whole of Wales (£719.30) or for Great Britain (£766.60).

MA 5	**The loss of young economically active residents from rural areas to other locations within the County**

Context

- Consider the implications of the loss of young residents between areas within the County (e.g. from rural to urban areas)
- Transport is a problem when it comes to keeping people in the countryside.
- See below that all catchment areas experienced population loss in the period between 2011 and 2021 apart from the Bala/Penllyn and Caernarfon Catchment area. Please note that there is a noticeable reduction in some of the most rural areas e.g. Pen Llŷn (2011 and 2021 Census).

Area	2011 Population	2021 Population	+/- %
Pen Llŷn Area	8,524	7,796	-8.5%
Porthmadog / Penrhyndeudraeth Area	10,323	9,759	-5.5%
Bro Ardudwy	7,157	6,331	-11.5%
Bro Dysynni	7,514	6,946	-7.6%
Bro Ffestiniog	6,479	6,077	-6.2%
Bro Lleu / Nantlle	9,665	9,659	-0.1%
Bro Ogwen	8,351	8,313	-1.7%
Bro Peris	11,685	11,374	-2.7%
Bala / Penllyn Area	4,362	4,422	1.4%
Bangor Catchment Area	21,092	20.486	-2.9%
Caernarfon Catchment Area	10,777	11,082	2.8%
Dolgellau Catchment Area	5,477	5,234	-4.4%
Pwllheli Catchment Area	10,468	9,994	-4.5%
Gwynedd	**121,874**	**117,393**	**-3.7%**

- In 2023 it is noted that 58.5% of Gwynedd households were priced out of the market i.e. household income multiplied by 3.5 was insufficient to reach a lower quartile selling price. Note that this is as high as 95.6% in the Pendraw Llŷn ward and 91.8% in the Abersoch with Llanengan ward.
- House prices in the rural areas are therefore out of reach for young people. Consistent with MA4, a side effect on rural communities, with communities less viable to operate effectively.
- This has the effect of losing the economic value derived from the nucleus of economically active young residents. A vicious circle as the lack of suitable job opportunities, lower wages, combined with high house prices mean young people are looking to move away from rural areas.

MA 6	**Insufficient supply of some types of housing and response to the need for a better range of housing in terms of location, type, size, sustainability and affordability for local people**

Context

- The table below highlights the difference between the percentage of different type of houses in Gwynedd compared to Wales. There is a larger percentage of Detached and Terraced housing in Gwynedd compared to Wales (Census Information 2021).

Type of housing	Gwynedd	Wales

Detached	34.7%	28.5%
Semi-detached	25.4%	32.1%
Terraced	29.9%	26.6%

- The following table sets out 'the percentage of units with different number of bedrooms in Gwynedd and Wales. As can be seen there is a smaller percentage of 1 and 3 bedroom units in Gwynedd compared to the whole of Wales.

Number of bedrooms	Gwynedd	Wales
1 bedroom	6.2%	7.6%
2 bedrooms	25%	23.8%
3 bedrooms	46.6%	48%
4 or more bedrooms	22.2%	20.6%

- The median price of a property in Gwynedd in 2025 was £190,000 and on the basis of 2025 income levels in Gwynedd it is estimated that 51.7% of households are priced out of the market (Land Registry)
- In October 2026 there were 2,233 households on the Council Register for Social Rent units.
- 43.2% of Gwynedd households have 2 or more bedrooms than they need. This compares to 41.7% throughout Wales (2021 Census).
- Relating to this, information from the last three Census' have shown that the average household size in Gwynedd has decreased consistently since 2001. This is shown in the table below.

Census date	Gwynedd average household size
2001	**2.31**
2011	**2.25**
2021	**2.22**

MA 7	Respond to the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers

Context

The Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment 2022 (Draft has been prepared) has identified a need for 7 residential plots by 2025 and an additional 4 by 2036, plus a Transit site for 4 caravans.

MA 8	Many current houses are considered to be too old and of poor design in terms of their performance and sustainability to satisfy modern needs

Context

- On the whole, it is noted that much of Gwynedd's housing stock is considered to be old. The March 2024 Housing Stock Profile by Datadaptive states that 44.08% of Gwynedd's housing stock was built before 1900 compared to an average of 22.57% throughout Wales.

- This means that these houses are not as efficient in terms of how sustainable they are which can lead to fuel poverty issues.

- Infrastructure sometimes needs improvement too e.g. regarding sewerage.

- In terms of the Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) lodgements in the period 2014-2024, it is noted that 34.1% of Gwynedd houses belong to Rate D, which is the Average Rate. 25.5% of houses are within categories A to C (most energy efficient) with 40.4% of properties belonging to EPC E to G ratings, which are the lowest categories in terms of housing energy efficiency (Office for National Statistics). This has a

knock-on effect in terms of energy costs and fuel poverty considerations (see MA 13).

- The Welsh Government's Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (WIMD), the official index for measuring deprivation in sub-areas of Wales, states that 38% of Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Gwynedd rank in the 10% of most deprived LSOAs in Wales in terms of housing deprivation with 26.7% of Gwynedd LSOAs in the most deprived 20% in Wales in terms of this consideration. The relevant considerations here refer to inadequate housing, their physical condition, living conditions (suitability of housing for the person living in them) along with their availability.

MA 9	Capacity of settlements to deal with additional housing

Context

"To be able to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability, the provision of adequate and efficient infrastructure, including services such as education and health along with transport, water supply, sewer, sustainable waste management, electricity and gas (the uses) and telecommunications, is essential" (para 3.61 of Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024).

While it is important to ensure suitable housing growth to meet recognised needs in Gwynedd's communities, the suitability of dwellings to provide this growth must be considered in the most relevant way. This includes in the first instance the capacity of the particular settlement to be able to meet sustainably and additional growth in terms of the type of number of facilities and services there, including access to efficient public transport. Alongside this are relevant considerations regarding the physical capacity of settlements to be able to accommodate housing at the expected rate and to contribute towards suitable growth. In this respect there are obvious physical limitations in some of Gwynedd's main Centres where there is the highest density of relevant services and facilities in terms of topography, land vulnerable to flooding and environmental designations. Consideration of Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 'Development flooding and coastal erosion' by the Welsh Government, which is underway, and will be a means of assessing the suitability of dwellings for the provision of additional housing.

MA 10	Rationalising and centralising education and health facilities

Context

Need to consider the impact of the change in demographics i.e. a reduction in the numbers of children and young people in Gwynedd (see information in MA 4) and the likely decline in the number of births (925 births in Gwynedd in 2025, which is down from 1229 births in 2013 – Office for National Statistics).

Over the life of the current Plan there has been a reduction in the number of GP surgeries in Gwynedd. Also note that there has been a reduction in the number of schools in Gwynedd since 2011, although it is note that an element of this relates to education restructuring efforts in the County e.g. the opening of area schools. Between 2011-26, 32 schools have closed throughout Gwynedd with four new schools being opened during this period.

Consider potential growth areas and co-design the facilities/services from perspective, work, language, economy and education (in the context of capacity and suitability) to ensure the prosperity of areas.

THEME – WELL-BEING

MA 11	Promote opportunities for people to live healthy lives and have reasonable access to health care, especially for disabled people and the ageing population

Context

"Planning authorities should develop and maintain places that support healthy and active lifestyles across all age groups and socio-economic groups, recognising that investment in walking and cycling infrastructure can be an effective measure that reduces financial pressure on public services in the long term... ... Reduce the impacts of air and noise pollution." (para 3.22 Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024)

As noted in the context to Key Issue of MA 1, Gwynedd's population is ageing. One side effect of this is additional pressure on the County's health services. To address this, it is necessary to ensure that new developments are not only well connected with healthcare services (see MA 10) but also provide opportunities for healthy living e.g. accessibility to open spaces, leisure centres, opportunities to walk and use public transport rather than a private car. This applies to all age groups and not only to older people. This is important for mental health along with physical health.

The 2021 Census reported that 51.5% of Gwynedd's population consider their health to be very good; 31.2% as good; 12.4% as fair; 3.7% as poor and 1% as very poor.

It is also important to ensure that the lifelong needs of disabled people, of all ages, are met. Information from the 2021 Census states that 18% of Gwynedd's population are defined as being disabled in accordance with the 2010 Equalities Act. 7.7% of the population have stated that their day-to-day activities are limited a lot, whilst 10.3% have stated that they are limited a little.

The table below from the 2021 Census highlights the fact that it is important that the Plan facilitates and promotes relevant services and facilities for disabled people of all ages.

Age	Percentage that are defined as disabled according to the 2010 Equality Act – Gwynedd	Percentage that are defined as disabled according to the 2010 Equality Act – Wales
Aged 9 years and under	4.0%	4.9%
Aged 10-14 years	6.8%	9.2%
Aged 15-24 years	12.9%	14.0%
Aged 25-34 years	12.2%	15.1%
Aged 35-39 years	13.5%	16.0%
Aged 40-44 years	13.8%	17.4%
Aged 45-49 years	17.1%	20.0%
Aged 50-54 years	18.5%	22.3%
Aged 55-64 years	21.8%	27.1%
Aged 65-74 years	28.2%	32.5%
Aged 75-84 years	37.8%	42.3%
Aged 85 years old and over	53.8%	57.1%

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (The WIMD states that 29.6% of Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Gwynedd rank in the 10% of most deprived LSOAs in Wales in terms of access to services, with 46.5% of Gwynedd LSOAs in the most deprived 20% in Wales in terms of this consideration. It is noted that this field refers to deprivation associated with people being unable to access a range of services that are considered essential for day-to-day, physical and on-line living and includes average public and private journey times to get to surgeries, pharmacies and sports facilities.

Consideration will need to be given to providing housing and suitable support locally for disabled people and ensuring that there are educational, training and skill development opportunities to support them into paid employment.

MA 12	Areas with high levels of various types of deprivation

Context

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (WIMD) considers deprivation in terms of wider problems caused by scarcity of resources and opportunities. WIMD consists of eight different types on deprivation, as follows:

- income
- housing
- employment
- access to services
- education
- health
- community safety
- the physical environment

Of the 10% of the most deprived areas of Overall Multiple Deprivation in Wales, three of them were in Gwynedd in 2025. The three areas are Gogledd and De Marchog, Bangor ward and part of Peblig ward, Caernarfon. This is up from two areas in 2019.

Deprivation levels vary between the different categories. Overall the most pronounced deprivation in Gwynedd relates to 'access to services' and 'housing'.

MA 13	Households in fuel poverty where it is not possible to keep homes warm at a reasonable cost.

Context

Information from the 2021 Census states that Gwynedd has the highest proportion of homes without central heating in Wales (3.23%). This figure is as high as 11% in parts of the County (Aberdaron).

In 2024 it was noted that 49% of housing stock in Gwynedd did not have access to the gas network (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, UK Government). Such a lack of options for heating houses means that more expensive methods must be used to do this.

There is also a close link to the age of housing stock in Gwynedd (see MA 8) and the fact that this means that these houses are not as efficient in terms of heat maintenance, making it therefore more expensive to heat the houses.

Gwynedd is the seventh worst local authority in the United Kingdom in terms of the percentage of properties with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rate of C+ (which is the most energy efficient property) across all UK local authorities, with only 39% of the County's properties in this category (Second quarter information 2024 - Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, U.K. Government.)

MA 14	Need to maintain or improve residents' sense of safety within and outside their homes

Context

Para 3.11 Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024:

"Local authorities are under a legal obligation to consider the need to prevent and reduce crime and disorder in all decisions that they take. Crime prevention and fear of crime are social considerations to which regard should be given in the preparation of development plans and taking planning decisions. The aim should be to produce safe environments that do not compromise on design quality in accordance with the cohesive communities well-being goal."

North Wales Police recorded 8,520 offences in Gwynedd in 2025. This is a reduction of the figures in 2023.

Important to ensure the safety of users and residents within developments along with a feeling of safety. This and significant social benefits leading to a boost in other aspects, such as economically.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (WIMD) reports that 7% of Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Gwynedd are within the 10% of most deprived LSOAs in Wales in terms of the consideration of community safety, with 14.1% of Gwynedd LSOAs in the most deprived 20% in Wales in terms of this. This considers deprivation related to living in a safe community. It covers actual experiences of crime and fire, as well as people's perceptions of safety when out in the local area. It is therefore suggested that there are specific areas in Gwynedd where this is a critical issue.

MA 15	**Access to community facilities and services, leisure facilities and formal and informal entertainment along with access to the countryside**

Context

The rural nature of the area means that some areas continue to face challenges with access to facilities. As highlighted by MA 11, the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (WIMD) reports that 29.6% of Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Gwynedd rank in the 10% of most deprived LSOAs in Wales in terms of access to services and nearly half of Gwynedd LSOAs in the most deprived 20% in Wales in terms of this consideration.

Central to this are issues of ensuring easy accessibility, particularly through means other than private vehicles, to the centres where the majority of facilities and services are located. In addition, even in a rural County like Gwynedd access to the countryside and the benefits that come from that are very difficult if one does not have the use of a private vehicle. There is therefore a clear link here with considerations in terms of increasing accessibility and the use of public transport and also in terms of increasing the social and health interests of the population.

THEME – THE ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

MA 16	**Create resilient, prosperous and sustainable communities by promoting development that benefits local communities.**

Context

Creating resilient and prosperous communities is absolutely essential from a social and economic perspective. To ensure the prosperity of communities it is considered necessary to create strong social networks, ensure access to education and training and ensure that there are opportunities for all to access services.

At the heart of development the overall benefit to the residents of Gwynedd should be evident. This principle is in line with the Council's Plan 2023 – 2028 which focuses on putting the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything the Council does.

It is also important to consider the outcomes of the Ardal Ni 2035 project (see further information in relation to MA 36) which provides discussion with local communities in order to identify what is important to residents and how they would like to see their area develop over the next 10 -15 years. The project has identified 13 unique regeneration plans that reflect the aspirations of specific local communities within Gwynedd.

MA 17	Low productivity (Gross Domestic Product, per capita) of the local economy

Context

In line with figures published by ONS in 2021, gross domestic product (GDP) in Gwynedd was estimated to be worth £2.9 billion. Gwynedd's GDP growth between 2020 and 2021 was 10.9% per annum.

ONS figures for 2021 suggest there are 61,000 jobs in Gwynedd, which has a working age population (aged 16-65) of 70,686. As such, the job density in Gwynedd in 2021 is 0.86, meaning there are 0.86 jobs per Gwynedd resident who is of working age.

Gwynedd had an average salary for full-time workers of £31,008 in 2023. Gwynedd's unemployment rate is 2.1% in 2023.

- Gwynedd's GDP value is 3.6% of the Welsh economy. Gwynedd is the 12th local authority in Wales (22 in total) according to the GDP, and the 9th local authority in Wales by GDP per capita.
- The 61,000 jobs in Gwynedd represent 4.2% of the 1,458,000 jobs recorded in Wales.
- Gwynedd's unemployment rate is 2.1% which is 1.8% lower than the overall unemployment rate in Wales (3.6%).

MA 18	Satisfy the demand for land and buildings for employment in sustainable locations to satisfy the need that has been identified across the area (urban and rural)

Context

- Ensuring they are sustainable in terms of their location in regard to travel and also in terms of the type of materials that are located there.
- Within the Joint LDP, 270.3ha of employment land is protected with an additional 1.7ha designated for employment use. The employment land that has been taken up during the Plan's lifetime is low and does not match the anticipated need/demand.
- The lack of employment developments can be affected by a number of factors including lack of capacity, high costs, changes in requirements (locations and types and the impact of the pandemic.
- It will be vital to carry out a detailed assessment of the anticipated employment growth to ensure that it is suitable and meets market requirements.

MA 19	Respond to business development needs and employment needs of existing / new employers

Context

Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 emphasises the need to ensure that Local Development Plans are positively designed to meet the employment needs of rural areas, including employment arising from the foundational economy; the agricultural and forestry sector, including proposals to diversify; start-ups and micro businesses. It is also noted that the development of innovative emerging technology sectors and businesses should be encouraged, to help rural areas realise their full potential, broadening the economic base and creating higher quality jobs.

The provision of employment land within the prospective Local Development Plan will require an innovative approach to ensuring that it addresses the needs of current and future generations with the wider aim of creating viable, prosperous and sustainable communities.

MA 20	Access to education and appropriate skills training in the right locations

Context

Consideration needs to be given to the capacity of educational institutions to accommodate future growth. Ensuring a suitable and robust education and training system is important in providing the basis for Gwynedd's sustainable growth in the future and is also important in relation to addressing a number of other Key Issues that are highlighted.

There are numerous education and training institutions in Gwynedd which include 76 primary schools, 14 secondary/all-through schools, 2 special schools, 9 further education campuses/locations, plus Bangor University.

It is therefore necessary to ensure that any new developments take advantage of the benefit of these educational/training institutions. There is a link here to the other identified issues e.g. rural depopulation, in terms of ensuring a workforce with a good level of education and relevant skills.

The table below sets out the qualifications of the population of Gwynedd[1] in the period January-December 2023 (for 16 - 64 year old population). Note that the population of Gwynedd performs very well compared to the comparative information. It is important to ensure the suitable circumstances to maintain and improve on this.

	Gwynedd (%)	Wales (%)	Great Britain (%)
Level 4 Qualifications and higher	42.7	44.8	48.6
Level 3 Qualifications and higher	69.4	67.1	69.0
Level 2 Qualifications and higher	87.1	87.1	87.0
Level 1 qualifications and higher	90.4	89.4	89.3
Other qualifications	4.3	2.9	4.4
No qualifications	5.3	7.7	6.3

Source: Office for National Statistics annual population survey

MA 21	Infrastructure requirements (e.g. telecommunications / ICT, water, transport connections, foul water and surface water disposal) associated with existing and new developments, including any major infrastructural developments.

Context

"To ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability, providing sufficient and efficient infrastructure, which includes services such as education and health, along with transport, water supply, sewerage, sustainable management of waste, electricity and gas (the utilities) and telecommunication, is essential" (para 3.61, Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024).

[1] Level 4 Qualifications and higher: For example, HND, Degree and Advanced Degree or similar.
Level 3 Qualifications and higher: For example, 2 or more A Levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3 or similar
Level 2 Qualifications and higher: For example, 5 or more GCSE grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2 or similar.
Level 1 qualifications and higher: For example, fewer than 5 GCSE grade A-C, basic GNVQ, NVQ 1 or similar
Other qualifications: For example, including qualifications from overseas
No qualifications: Not with any formal qualifications

It is important to ensure that existing and proposed developments are supported by suitable infrastructure. Alongside alignment with public health requirements and expectations, this also has implications in relation to mitigating developments based on the impacts of climate change along with ensuring good economic relations through effective telecommunications/ICT systems.

It is important to hold discussions with infrastructure providers. For example, there needs to be a discussion with Welsh Water about the capacity of waste water and sewage disposal systems and any decision to invest in the future through Asset Management Plans.

This Key Issue is important for all types of provision within Gwynedd.

MA 22	**Decline in the prosperity and vitality of town centres as places offering shopping, leisure, employment and housing opportunities.**

Context

Emphasis on ensuring a mix of suitable uses in town centres

The prosperity of town centres continues to decline. The overall economic situation of the country with a number of national chain store closures has contributed towards the gradual decline. The Covid pandemic has dealt a blow and significantly affected the high street.

Welsh Government published 'Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures' in July 2020. This document recognises the need to be innovative in the planning policy approach in relation to town centres. Important to consider the principle of 'Place Making' and secure a sustainable spatial strategy.

MA 23	**Respond to the needs of the farming industry and other rural industries, including diversification in farming and the use of redundant farm buildings**

Context

A vision set out in Future Wales identifies the need to support job opportunities in rural areas, including the need to support diversification opportunities.

Create a thriving and well-connected rural community both digitally and physically.

MA 24	**The need to improve sustainable 'all year' tourist provision, which promotes and protects heritage, culture and the Welsh language**

Context

The tourism economy provides jobs, services and facilities that support and provide opportunities for communities across Gwynedd. It is possible to maintain a sustainable tourism economy in Gwynedd that contributes in an economically positive way and which also offers social, cultural and environmental benefits.

'Future Wales: The National Plan 2040' recognises the importance of the tourism sector to the rural economy. A sustainable tourism sector is promoted citing the need to promote opportunities for active, green and cultural tourism.

The Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Strategic Plan includes a set of principles and objectives to shape the sustainable visiting economy of the area. The aim of the Plan is to establish a sustainable visitor economy in Gwynedd and Eryri. Meaning that factors such as the well-being of the people and communities, the state of the natural environment and the strength of the Welsh language and culture are considered

alongside the financial factors of the visitor industry. Simply put, a sustainable visitor economy should benefit the people, environment and culture of Gwynedd and Eryri.

MA 25	**Need to safeguard the mineral resources of the area and take full advantage of secondary aggregates whilst assessing the supply levels.**

Context

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) states in paragraph 5.14.1 *"Society needs a wide variety of minerals, and that need will continue for the foreseeable future. Minerals are the main compounds of most building materials, and many pharmaceutical, chemical, agricultural, motor vehicles, metallurgy, electronics, aerospace, plastics, ceramic and paper products. Minerals associated with the construction industry and mineral products are extremely important in Wales, and vital for housing and infrastructure, such as schools, roads, railways, airports and flood defences, and a constant and adequate supply of materials is necessary".*

In Planning Policy Wales 12, the following paragraphs apply to mineral matters;
5.10.1 - 5.10.17, 5.14.1 - 5.14.57. Some of the main issues we need to consider when developing the new plan include;

- Safeguarding mineral resources and infrastructure.
- Assessing the supply and demand and Aggregates- in line with the findings of the Regional Technical Report (below).
- Inactive sites - suitable prohibition, restoration and after-use orders.
- Areas of future working - specific sites, preferred areas, areas of search.
- Non-Aggregates Minerals - dimension stone (specific suitable construction stone such as slate), limestone for industrial purposes, peat, other minerals, borrow pits.
- Protecting special characteristics and qualities of place – National Parks, AONBs, SSSIs, SPAs etc.
- Reducing the impacts of mineral extraction and related work – relevant planning conditions.
- Buffer zones around mineral sites – 100m for sand and grain mineral sites and 200m for hard rock mineral sites.
- Extensions to established mineral sites.
- Restoration and aftercare.

Further, PPW emphasises the need to extract and use minerals in an efficient manner and to protect mineral resources. To ensure a supply of minerals, PPW and the Minerals Technical Advice Note 1: Aggregates (MTAN) state that a Regional Technical Statement needs to be created under the care of Regional Aggregate Working Groups. The second review of the Regional Technical Report (RTR 2) for North Wales was published in September, 2020 and the third review is expected to be ready by 2025. The Gwynedd Local Planning Authority forms part of the North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Group and is part of the 'North West Wales sub region' (along with Conwy, Ynys Môn and Eryri National Park LPAs).

The purpose of the Regional Technical Report is to project future demand for aggregates so that mineral development can be planned for in a controlled and proportionate manner to identify what level of aggregate provision is needed in each local authority area.

RTR 2 introduces a requirement for all authorities in each subregion, to prepare a Statement of Subregional Collaboration (SSRC). The SSRC not only ensures that the overall subregional distributions are met but is also used as essential evidence to show that the adopted Local Development Plan would provide the objectively assessed need for minerals over the plan period. Any Statement of Sub-regional Collaboration is a relevant planning consideration in determining planning applications.

There has been no significant change to the national policy context since the last Local Development Plan was adopted.

THEME – THE ENVIRONMENT

MA 26	**Need to mitigate the impact of climate change e.g. reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable and low carbon energy generation**

Context

In March 2019, Cyngor Gwynedd announced that we were facing a climate change emergency and committed to taking decisive action to reduce carbon emissions and strive for a zero-carbon future. The Council has a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23-2029/30 that outlines what steps will be taken between 2022 and 2030 to achieve the goal of becoming a net zero carbon Council.

We are seeing severe impacts such as melting ice sheets, rising sea levels, changing seasons, and extreme weather events leading to droughts or floods becoming more regular occurrences.

Climate change is one of our biggest challenges, and it requires collective action. It is a vital issue not only in Gwynedd but globally and poses a hugely significant challenge for society.

This key issue is therefore a priority that will need to be permeate throughout the entire Plan.

MA 27	**Adapt to the effects of climate change that are forecasted to the years to come e.g. more floods, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, storms, heatwaves, drier periods**

Context

While it is vital to try to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the impacts of what is envisaged must be understood and the Plan must secure a future that fully takes this into account.

In accepting the climate crisis as a priority at the core of a majority if not all key issues, this is in line with the requirements of Planning Policy Wales and Future Wales.

It is therefore important to ensure that the new Plan complies with the requirements of the revised Technical Advice Note 15 'Development, flooding and coastal erosion'(when adopted). Ensuring consistent contact with relevant agencies and stakeholders, such as Natural Resources Wales, throughout the plan preparation process will be critical.

MA 28	**Reduce the need in the first place for energy and other resources for developments**

Context

In October 2021, the Welsh Government published the Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 Plan. The Plan addresses the second carbon budget (2021-2025). It looks beyond this period and starts to lay the groundwork for Carbon Budget 3 and the target for 2030 as well as the net zero target for 2050.

Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) set out the preferred combination of technological and system changes needed to the local energy system, to decarbonise local heat and transport and realise opportunities for local renewable energy generation. It helps local areas develop plans to meet their climate change targets by examining a range of local energy scenarios.

There is a need to seize renewable and low carbon energy opportunities as part of the overall commitment to tackling the climate crisis. As is common in the rest of Wales, grid capacity across the Transmission and

Distribution networks in Gwynedd remains very limited which could limit future new generation connection.ar gyfleoedd ynni adnewyddadwy a charbon isel fel rhan o'r ymrwymiad cyffredinol i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hinsawdd. Yn gyffredin i weddill Cymru, mae capasiti grid ar draws y rhwydweithiau Trosglwyddo a Dosbarthu yng Ngwynedd yn dal i fod yn gyfyngedig iawn a allai gyfyngu ar gysylltiad cenhedlaeth newydd yn y dyfodol.

MA 29	**Need to produce less waste in the first place and facilitate re-using and recycling waste along with disposal of residual waste**

Context

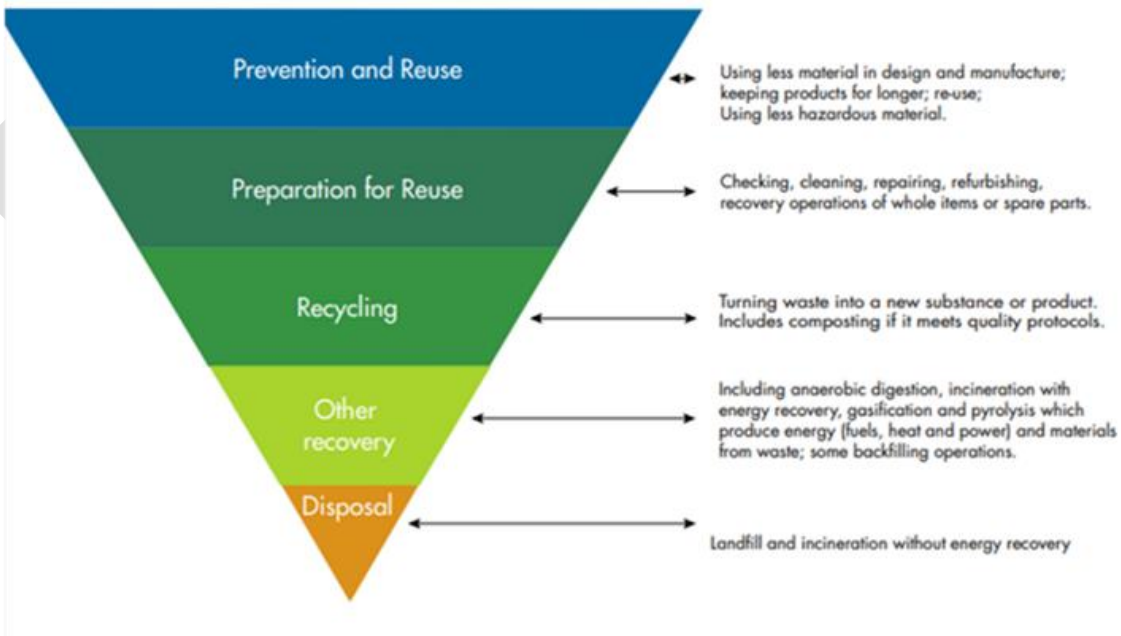
Planning Policy Wales sets out the role the land use system must play in facilitating sustainable waste management and recognises the transformation the waste industry is going through. It aims to make the best use of material resources and promotes the circular economy through design choices that prevent waste. Planning Policy Wales states that the planning system has an important role to play in facilitating waste management by providing a framework for decision making.

In Planning Policy Wales 12, the following paragraphs apply to waste matters;
5.11.1 – 5.13.14.

TAN 21: Waste sets out the main principles that should be applied in waste planning and advises that Planning Policy Wales, TAN 21, LDP, Towards Zero Waste and the Sector Plans is the overall waste management plan for Wales, as required by European Law (or UK law that has resulted from the original law following the exit from the European Union). TAN 21 identifies the need to ensure there is sufficient space to dispose of and recover municipal waste while avoiding over-provision. TAN 21 also sets out regional monitoring requirements, for all waste related applications to include a Waste Planning Assessment.

Central to all planning decisions for waste management developments is the waste hierarchy.

Figure 4: Waste Hierarchy, TAN 21 Waste (Welsh Government, 2014)



The Welsh Government is committed to a "zero-waste economy" where material resources are reused, recycled or recovered wherever possible, and only disposed of as a last resort.

In terms of general policy and objectives 'Towards Zero Waste, One Wales: One Planet (TZW) - Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales' was published in 2010 and it provides the national strategy for managing

waste, setting recycling targets, caps on Energy form Waste and Landfill. The document includes medium-term targets up to 2024/25 (towards zero waste) and longer-term aspirations up to 2050 (achieving zero waste). The main aim of the document is to ensure that waste is managed sustainably.

There are more documents that are relevant to waste matters

- Towards Zero Waste – One Wales: One Planet Nation (Welsh Government, 2011)
- 'Collections, Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan' (CIM) (Please note that Section 2.3.4 of the CIM has been replaced by the 'Strategic Assessment of the future need for energy from waste capacity in the three economic regions of Wales' published in 2021 (discussed further below) which introduced a moratorium on Energy from Waste plants of 10MW or more.
- 'Municipal Sector Plan' (MSP)
- 'Construction and Demolition Sector Plan'
- 'Food Manufacture, Service and Retail Sector Plan'
- 'The Waste Prevention Programme for Wales' in line with the Waste Framework Directive (European Requirement for Member States). Although not actually a 'planning policy' document, it is part of the national waste management plan and includes programmes for the prevention of household, industrial and commercial waste and construction and demolition waste.
- 'More Than Recycling' is a strategic document for ensuring a circular economy in Wales.

A further issue for consideration are the changes in taxes following the Landfill Disposals Tax (Wales) Act 2017. This act has resulted in a significant change in the rate of tax per tonne to £102.10 and £3.25 (for inert waste). This has left landfill sites unable to compete with different types of waste management.

It is believed that changes are underway for the use and thresholds of waste licensing exemptions nationally and it is unclear what impact this will have on waste management provision.

MA 30	**The need to protect and improve the natural environment and habitats and species of the area**

Context

The Gwynedd Planning area has high quality environmental features. It is vital to conserve and improve these aspects along with the habitats and species that exist within the area. These features and protections include (not an exhaustive list) the Pen Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves and the Eryri National Park adjoins the Plan area.

Not only is it important to protect the environmental features, habitats and species for their obvious natural value but they are also important in terms of their wider value to the area and its population as explained in paragraph 6.0.2 of Planning Policy Wales (Issue 12, February 2024): "The special and unique characteristics and intrinsic qualities of the natural and built environment must be protected in their own right, for historic, scenic, aesthetic and nature conservation reasons. These give places their unique identity and distinctiveness and provide for cultural experiences and healthy lifestyles."

MA 31	**Make the best use of the comparatively low levels of brownfield sites in the area along with vacant buildings or those which are underused.**

Context

Important to promote any suitable opportunities on previously developed land or buildings as long as they are in suitable locations in terms of planning principles and in terms of sustainability. These sites are often in sustainable places with infrastructure and services already provided there.

This is in line with the objectives of Planning Policy Wales (para.3.55, Edition 12, February 2024) which states previously developed land should, wherever possible, be used in preference to greenfield sites where it is suitable for development. In settlements, such land should generally be considered suitable for appropriate development where its re-use will promote sustainability principles and any constraints can be overcome.

THEME – TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

MA 32	The impression that parts of the Plan area are inaccessible

Context

Gwynedd is essentially a rural County, with an LPA population density of 46.3 people to every square kilometre (2021 Census), and there are differences in the standards of public transport links between different areas. A question if there is an over-reliance on private vehicles in some areas within the County? This could lead to problems for households that do not own a car. It is noted that 17.7% of households in Gwynedd do not have a car or a private vehicle (2021 Census). This figure is significant in rural communities e.g. 6.5% of households in the Aberdaron Community Council area and 6.4% in the Botwnnog and Tudweiliog Community Council areas. This can have an economic and social impact within specific communities, particularly disadvantaged ones and where few services or facilities are located.

There is a link here to a number of the other key issues highlighted here. For example, it is noted that a significant percentage of Gwynedd LSOAs are in the 10% of most deprived LSOAs in Wales in terms of access to services. Note also the importance of suitable infrastructure including telecommunications to deliver economic and social benefits in rural settings. There is a need to consider the links within the area as a whole and also regionally along with the role of the main centres in serving the day to day needs of local residents (see the key matters of MA 34, MA 38 and MA 39).

MA 33	Areas with poor telecommunications and ITC connections

Context

In the modern world it is extremely important that communities have good telecommunication and digital connections. This is important in maintaining social connections but also in terms of ways of working, where working from home has become increasingly evident. Poor IT connections can therefore have a negative impact on communities in terms of keeping economically active households that would contribute positively not only to the local economy but also socially.

This is also important in terms of ensuring that employers can continue to operate effectively in the area and can also be a means of attracting new employment to specific areas of Gwynedd.

The table below sets out information for properties in the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency compared to information for the whole of Wales and the U.K. (Ofcom information, 2023). It can be seen that each category implies telecommunications/ICT connectivity which is worse than what is seen on average throughout Wales plus the U.K.

Area	Average download speed (Mbps)	Availability of superfast broadband	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive suitable broadband	Receiving less than 10 Mbps	Receiving more than 30 Mbps
Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency	84.4	91.3%	46.9%	1.3%	7.6%	76.1%
Wales	122.9	95.7%	66.9%	0.5%	4.3%	85.3%

United Kingdom	151.3	96.8%	78.5%	0.2%	3.6%	85.8%

MA 34	**Problemau o ran hygyrchedd gwasanaethau a chyfleusterau, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig, oherwydd y diffyg dewis o ddulliau trafnidiaeth.**

Context

Index of multiple deprivation maps suggest that rural areas with a lack of transport links continue to face accessibility issues. There is a need to tackle the challenge of ensuring access to services and thereby encouraging viable and sustainable communities through a cohesive approach. Access to services and facilities particularly in rural communities ensures equitable opportunities for all, improves quality of life and social inclusion by allowing people to engage in social activities and is a means of boosting the local economy ensuring there are accessible connections for the workforce.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is an official method of measuring and comparing deprivation in areas in Wales. It finds areas with the highest concentrations of different types of deprivation. Deprivation is the lack of access to opportunities and resources that we would expect in our society. This can be in terms of material goods or the individual's ability to participate in the normal social life of the community.

An index is a group of different measurements combined into one number. The WIMD covers eight different areas (or types) of deprivation (see right). The data of each field is collected from all kinds of different indicators, namely:-

- Income
- Housing
- Employment
- Health
- Education
- Access to services
- Community safety
- Physical Environment

The WIMD ranks all areas in Wales between 1 (most deprived) and 1,909 (least deprived). The Index provides a way of identifying the areas in order, from least to most deprived. Instead of measuring the levels of deprivation in an area, it measures whether the area is more or less deprived than all the other areas of Wales.

In Gwynedd the area listed as the most deprived area (number 81 out of 1,909) is Gogledd Marchog followed by Peblig (number 173). The least deprived areas are Penrhosgarnedd (1742) followed by Bangor Uchaf (1641). In relation to the individual indicators the rural communities of Gwynedd appear to be facing a lack of access to services, and the most disadvantaged in terms of access to services are noted as follows:-

- Corris/Mawddwy – 7
- Arthog, Llangelynnin a Llanegryn - 9
- Aberdaron/Botwnnog and Tudweiliog -12
- Brithdir & Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd – 36
- Dolbenmaen – 50

MA 35	**The Welsh language needs to be protected and promoted while promoting community use of the language. Need to ensure growth in areas and communities within Gwynedd where the Welsh language thrives in terms of the percentage of the population who can speak the Welsh language**

Context

The Welsh language is a central part of Gwynedd's social fabric and the safeguarding and promotion of the language is a vital objective. Note that Gwynedd is the Local Authority with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in Wales with the 2021 Census reporting that 64.4% of the County's population can speak Welsh.

However, it is noted that there has been a 1% reduction in Welsh speakers within the County since the 2011 Census. This means a reduction of 3441 Welsh speakers in Gwynedd in this period (population over 3 years old). This continues with a downward trend in the percentage of Welsh speakers in Gwynedd in every Census since 1981.

As noted in relation to the MA 4 Key Issue there has been a reduction in the percentage and true number of children (3-15 years old) who can speak Welsh in Gwynedd between 2011 and 2021. However, it is noted that this age group has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in Gwynedd (86.2%).

What is important is to ensure that the language is alive and is promoted at a community level so that it is an integral part of the day-to-day life of the County's communities. In the 2011 Census, 39 of the 71 neighbourhoods in Gwynedd (namely Lower-layer Super Output Areas or LSOAs) had a proportion greater than 70% of the population who were Welsh-speaking. This dropped to 34 neighbourhoods by 2021.

Note that the percentage of Welsh speakers varies significantly within the Gwynedd planning area, from 86.3% in the Seiont area of Caernarfon to 19.6% in the Deiniol area of Bangor.

MA 36	**Maintain and strengthen the positive features that contribute towards creating a unique character in various parts of the area.**

Context

Consideration should be given to the work of Ardal Ni, along with any other relevant work that highlights the unique character of different areas.

In summer 2022, Cyngor Gwynedd called on residents to fill in a 'Ardal Ni 2035' questionnaire to try to establish answers to the following questions:

- What's good about your local area?
- What is not so good?
- What needs to change in order to make your area an excellent place to live by 2035?

The Area Ni 2035 project aims to discuss with local communities to identify what is important to residents and how they would like to see their area develop over the next 10 -15 years.

The project has identified 13 unique regeneration schemes that reflect the aspirations of specific local communities within Gwynedd.

MA 37	**Protect, conserve, promote and improve the historic environment and characteristics of archaeological importance and their settings**

Context

Para 6.1.5 Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024:

"The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life."

Gwynedd is scattered with important historical and cultural features, with many these subject to specific protections. These features form an important part of the identity of the area and sense of place. Protecting, safeguarding and promoting them is therefore important in terms of their social and economic benefit, while considering their attraction within the tourism industry and more widely.

Along with the two world heritage sites located within the County (Caernarfon Castle and Town Walls and the North West Wales Slate Landscape), it is important to conserve and promote conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, among other similar features.

THEME - LOCATION

MA 38	**The close relationship and interactions between communities in the Plan area and those in neighbouring Planning authorities**

Context

It is important to consider the economic and social benefit that comes with ensuring good links between Gwynedd's urban centres. These are the employment centres, services and facilities that are the catalysts for creating economic and social benefit for the population. It is therefore important that they are well connected to maximise this benefit.

In addition to this it must be borne in mind that an important relationship exists with communities located in neighbouring Planning areas. In this regard the Welsh Government's document, Future Wales: National Plan 2040 highlights the regional links in the North and in particular the national connectivity across the north Wales coast and Ynys Môn and between the south of the County with Powys and Ceredigion. It also notes that Bangor and Caernarfon are part of the 'North Wales Coastal Settlements' Regional Growth Area. Policy 21 in this document states that "Strategic and Local Development Plans should recognise the roles these places play as a focus for housing, employment, tourism, public transport and key services in their wider areas and support their continued function as hubs for subregional growth".

MA 39	**The jobs and key services provided in towns in adjoining areas**

Context

Need to adopt the concept of 'Place-Making' and encourage sustainable settlements where people can live, work and enjoy. It is important to consider that the most sustainable and convenient methods of, for example, working, shopping and undertaking social activities, can involve travelling to a nearby planning authority area. What is important is ensuring good and accessible connections by means of, for example, public transport to ensure the best interest of Gwynedd residents.

The document Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 from the Welsh Government (page 38) notes that commuting patterns are a notable element of our regional economies, with a number of people travelling to their workplace daily. These patterns reflect long-standing, well-developed regional hierarchies and employment centres.

4.0 Vision

4.0.1 Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015) states that a vision for the LDP should be unique to local circumstances, with overarching objectives that respond to the key issues. It is a concise and specific statement that provides a focus for the new Plan.

4.0.2 The vision needs to communicate the overall aim of the Plan and how a place will change over the period of the Plan. It is based on an understanding of the relevant economic, social, environmental and cultural issues highlighted within the Key Issues.

4.0.3 Paragraph 5.1 of the Welsh Government's Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020) which refers towards Sustainable Place Making states that "Development plans should present a vision and strategy for an area in the context of a thorough understanding of local needs and well-being, demand and supply factors, economic and market conditions." It includes spatial focus on land use and conveys how places are intended to develop, change or be protected.

4.0.4 Based on the above and the Key Issues, the following vision is set out for the Local Development Plan:

By 2039 the Local Development Plan will have contributed towards maintaining and protecting Gwynedd's unique cultural, linguistic and heritage features and to creating thriving, equal and sustainable communities that increase opportunities for local people to live their whole lives in the Plan area by:

- **Ensuring that jobs and housing are of a suitable type and scale to meet the needs of our local communities;**
- **Ensuring that residents live safer, healthier and greener lives;**
- **Promote appropriate infrastructure to meet needs and strengthen links within the Plan area;**
- **Ensuring that developments protect and maintain the Welsh language and promote the local culture;**
- **Protect natural and historic assets within the Plan area and ensure the sustainable management of resources for the benefit of current and future populations;**
- **Addressing the challenges of climate change and supporting renewable energy developments as well as reducing fuel poverty.**

5.0 Strategic Objectives

5.0.1 To deliver the Vision of the Plan and to respond effectively to the Key Issues that have been highlighted, 17 Strategic Objectives are being proposed for the new LDP. These are focused statements that aim to address the main social, environmental, economic and cultural issues identified in the area. These objectives must be linked to the vision, LDP policies and the Monitoring Framework.

5.0.2 Paragraph 5.12 of the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020) by the Welsh Government sets out the following in relation to the objectives:

"The objectives of the plan should be developed from the key economic, social, environmental and cultural issues identified in the area and should be achievable and add details to the vision. When read alongside each other, the vision and objectives should set a clear context for the LDP's strategy. The objectives should flow through the plan and be linked to the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, LDP policies and the monitoring framework. With the introduction of the Well-being Act 2015, the objectives of the LPA must align with the well-being aims and objectives. Therefore, the LPA must demonstrate how each of the LDP's objectives aligns with the well-being aims and objectives."

5.0.3 To try and ensure that there is link and consistency between the Local Development Plan and the Council's priorities as set out in the Council's Plan, the themes of the new Plan follow the same form contained in the Council's Plan. On this basis, the Strategic Objectives are grouped by these proposed themes.

5.0.4 It is noted there are 7 priorities in the Council Plan as highlighted in section 2.2. of this report. Due to the nature of these priorities and in seeking to convey appropriate areas of land use planning, it is proposed that the themes of Tomorrow's Gwynedd, a Caring Gwynedd together with a Green Gwynedd and Efficient Gwynedd are combined resulting in the following themes:

- **THEME 1:** A Caring Gwynedd and Tomorrow's Gwynedd
- **THEME 2:** A Prosperous Gwynedd
- **THEME 3:** A Homely Gwynedd
- **THEME 4:** A Welsh Gwynedd
- **THEME 5:** A Green and Efficient Gwynedd

5.0.5 The link as to how the Strategic Objectives seek to respond to the Key Issues is highlighted in the table below.

THEME 1: A CARING GWYNEDD AND TOMORROW'S GWYNEDD		
Strategic Objective No.	**Strategic Objective**	**Relevant Key Issues**
AS 1	Improve and maintain safe, efficient, high quality, modern and integrated transport networks and promote the most sustainable modes of transport	**MA 18, MA 32, MA 34, MA 38**
AS 2	Ensuring that development in the Plan area supports the principles of sustainable development and creates sustainable communities whilst respecting the varied role and character of the centres, villages and countryside.	**MA 6, MA 9, MA 10, MA 12, MA 15, MA 18, MA 20, MA 22, MA 31**
AS 3	Ensure that all new developments meet high standards in terms of quality of design, energy efficiency, safety (people and property) and accessibility,	**MA 8, MA 13, MA 14, MA 16, MA**

	relate well with any existing developments, enhance the public realm and develop locally distinctive quality places.	**28, MA 32, MA 34, MA 36**
AS 4	Ensure settlements are sustainable, accessible and meet all the needs of their communities in accordance with their role in the settlement hierarchy.	**MA 9, MA 10, MA 12, MA 15, MA 16, MA 18, MA 20, MA 22, MA 34, MA 38**

THEME 2: A PROSPEROUS GWYNEDD		
Strategic Objective No.	**Amcan Strategol**	**Materion Allweddol perthnasol**
AS 5	Ensure that a network of employment sites and premises of size and quality are safeguarded and allocated in sustainable locations that best meet the needs of existing businesses and are able to support the growing sectors of the local economy, attracting investment, and retaining and increasing the number of local jobs.	**MA 4, MA 5, MA 17, MA 18, MA 19, MA 39**
AS 6	Ensure opportunities to improve workplace skills and education.	**MA 10, MA 19, MA 20**
AS 7	Diversify the Plan area's rural economy, building on opportunities, offering local employment opportunities with good quality jobs that are suitable for the local community and respect environmental interests.	**MA 4, MA 5, MA 18, MA 19, MA 23**
AS 8	Promote the multipurpose role of town centres and support urban regeneration.	**MA 22**
AS 9	Manage the area as a sustainable destination for tourists by providing facilities of a high standard that meet modern day needs and offer benefits throughout the year.	**MA 24**

THEME 3: A HOMELY GWYNEDD		
Strategic Objective No.	**Strategic Objective**	**Relevant Key Issues**
AS 10	Ensure that a sufficient and appropriate range of housing sites are available in sustainable locations in line with the Plan's growth strategy and contribute towards local need and support sustainable communities.	**MA 2, MA 3, MA 7, MA 9**
AS 11	To provide a mix of good quality housing which addresses local needs.	**MA 2, MA 3, MA 6, MA 8**

THEME 4: A WELSH GWYNEDD		
Strategic Objective No.	**Strategic Objective**	**Relevant Key Issues**
AS 12	Safeguard and strengthen the use of the Welsh language by ensuring that developments do notharm the well-being and growth of Welsh as daily spoken language within the communities of Gwynedd.	**MA 1, MA 2, MA 4, MA 5, MA 6, MA 24, MA 35**
AS 13	Ensure that the appropriate physical and community infrastructure is in place e.g. water supply, health facilities, schools, community facilities, or that it can be provided (e.g. by means of developer contributions) with every kind of development.	**MA 10, MA 11, MA 15, MA 16, MA 20, MA 21,**

		MA 33, MA 34, MA 39

THEME 5: A GREEN AND EFFICIENT GWYNEDD		
Strategic Objective No.	**Strategic Objective**	**Relevant Key Issues**
AS 14	Minimise, adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This will be achieved by: • ensuring that highly vulnerable development is directed away from areas of flood risk wherever possible; • reduce the need for energy and other resources in developments; • promote renewable and low carbon energy production within the area; • make use of suitable previously developed land and vacant buildings or ones that are not used to their full capacity, where available; • manage, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of the water environment and reduce water consumption.	**MA 26, MA 27, MA 28, MA 29, MA 31**
AS15	Manage, protect and enhance the natural and heritage assets of the Plan area, including its natural resources, wildlife habitats, landscape character and historic environment.	**MA 30, MA 36, MA 37**
AS16	Manage waste based on the hierarchy of reducing, reusing, recovering and safe disposal of waste.	**MA 29**
AS17	Meet the need for minerals locally and regionally in a sustainable manner.	**MA 25**

5.1 Assessment Matrix

5.1.1 The Welsh Government's Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020) (para. 5.12) requires Local Planning Authorities to link all Strategic Objectives with the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes together with the well-being goals.

5.1.2 This section provides an assessment of how all Strategic Objectives of the new LDP fit into the following requirements:

- The national well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- National Sustainable Place-making Outcomes in Planning Policy Wales

5.1.3 This is done by means of two matrices which compare the objectives derived from the above requirements against the Strategic Objectives that have been identified.

Table 1 – Matrix of the Strategic Objectives of Gwynedd's new Local Development Plan against the objectives of the national well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Strategic Objective	A prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A Healthier Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	A globally responsible Wales
THEME 1: A CARING GWYNEDD AND TOMORROW'S GWYNEDD							
AS 1	■			■	■		■
AS 2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
AS 3	■		■		■		■
AS 4	■		■	■	■		■
THEME 2: A PROSPEROUS GWYNEDD							
AS 5	■			■	■	■	
AS 6	■		■	■			
AS 7	■	■	■	■		■	■
AS 8	■		■	■	■		
AS 9	■				■	■	
THEME 3: A HOMELY GWYNEDD							
AS 10	■	■	■	■	■	■	
AS 11	■		■	■	■	■	
THEME 4: A WELSH GWYNEDD							
AS 12				■		■	
AS 13			■	■	■	■	
THEME 5: A GREEN AND EFFICIENT GWYNEDD							
AS 14	■	■					■
AS 15		■	■			■	■
AS 16	■						■
AS 17	■						

Table 2 - Matrix of the Strategic Objectives of Gwynedd's new Local Development Plan against the National Sustainable Place-making Outcomes

Strategic Objective	Creating and Sustaining Communities	Growing our economy in a sustainable manner	Make best use of resources	Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact	Facilitating accessible and Healthy Environments
THEME 1: A CARING GWYNEDD AND TOMORROW'S GWYNEDD					
AS 1	■			■	■
AS 2	■	■	■	■	■
AS 3			■	■	■
AS 4	■	■	■	■	■

Strategic Objective	Creating and Sustaining Communities	Growing our economy in a sustainable manner	Make best use of resources	Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact	Facilitating accessible and Healthy Environments
THEME 2: A PROSPEROUS GWYNEDD					
AS 5	■	■	■		■
AS 6	■	■			
AS 7	■	■	■	■	■
AS 8	■	■	■		■
AS 9	■	■			■
THEME 3: A HOMELY GWYNEDD					
AS 10	■	■	■	■	■
AS 11	■		■		■
THEME 4: A WELSH GWYNEDD					
AS 12	■				
AS 13	■			■	■
THEME 5: A GREEN AND EFFICIENT GWYNEDD					
AS 14			■	■	
AS 15	■		■	■	■
AS 16			■	■	
AS 17		■	■	■	

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6.0 Growth Options

6.0.1 A fundamental role of the Local Development Plan is to consider the need for growth and development, and to make appropriate provision for this growth, in the most sustainable locations. This section presents six options for growth over the LDP period (2024 – 2039). For each option a figure is given for both the anticipated number of new homes and new jobs over the LDP period of 15 years (please refer to the table below).

6.0.2 In aiming to achieve the proposed Vision and Strategic Objectives of the Plan, ensuring suitable and sustainable housing growth is key. This should reflect the need to support suitable economic opportunities for the residents of Gwynedd, whilst respecting, protecting and promoting the area's important social and environmental characteristics.

6.0.3 There are significant opportunities to strengthen the environmental, social and economic well-being of the Plan area. However, to do this, the area must be well placed to meet current and future demands for housing and employment, whilst safeguarding and enhancing its rich environmental and social assets. The need for homes and employment should be considered collectively to ensure a sustainable pattern of development.

6.0.4 To this extent the housing figure for the Plan should reflect the need to support Gwynedd's resident labour force and to encourage them to continue to live and work in the LPA through improved housing delivery and to support continued employment opportunities. It should be considered how this growth could deliver an effective affordable housing provision whilst supporting the Welsh Language in the area.

6.0.5 Edge Analytics were commissioned to produce a range of demographic growth scenarios for the Gwynedd LPA area. These scenarios are based upon the **demographic profile of the area**, **past trends** and **housebuilding information**, together with the 2022 based **Welsh Government population and household projections and employment forecasts**.

6.0.6 **No single growth option is considered preferable at this stage.** The figures presented provide an indication of the scale of growth the LDP will potentially need to address in 5 different options. It should be noted however that statistics are continually being updated and the emerging plan strategy will need to be flexible enough to allow the LPA to respond to changing demographic circumstances should new household projections and/or economic information become available over the course of the plan preparation period.

Historic housing delivery

6.0.7 The Anglesey and Gwynedd JLDP sought to deliver **7,184 new housing units**. This equated to a target of **3,712** new units in Gwynedd LPA, representing a rate of **247** dwellings per annum. The actual delivery of housing in the Gwynedd LPA for the Plan period was **2805** units (an average of **187** new units per year). This is 907 units lower than the stated target i.e. actual delivery was 24.4% lower than the Plan target. The annual average indicative requirement of **247** has been met only twice.

6.0.8 When comparing with the JLDP's housing trajectory (applied for the Gwynedd LPA area only), there has been a shortfall in housing provision on sites allocated in the JLDP. 584 fewer units have been completed on sites that were allocated in the Plan (-45.0%). In terms of windfall sites, it is noted that 339 fewer units (-29.0%) have been completed on small windfall sites (fewer than 5 units) compared to what was noted in the trajectory with 16 more units (+1.3%) completed on large windfall sites (5 units or more).

Employment

6.0.9 Edge Analytics acquired an employment forecast from Oxford Economics (OE). This forecast models the level of workplace-based employment in Gwynedd from 2001-2050. OE has provided forecasts for both workplace-based jobs and workplace-based people

6.0.10 In addition to the Baseline OE forecast, two additional scenarios have been produced using the OE model, taking account of the likely employment growth arising from the Anglesey freeport and AI growth zone (Scenario A) and the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMR) at Wylfa (Scenario B).

6.0.11 Between 2015 and 2025, people-based employment in the Gwynedd LPA fluctuated between 52,000 and 59,000, growing by 8.1% over the ten years.

Proposed Scenarios

6.0.12 In planning for future housing and employment needs, a range of demographic growth scenarios have been prepared by Edge Analytics. These are based on a range of possible population, household, dwelling, labour force and employment growth outcomes and are listed below.

6.0.13 The suite of demographic scenarios presented by Edge Analytics provides a range of potential population (natural change, migration), household, dwelling, labour force and employment growth outcomes for Gwynedd LPA over the 2024–2039 plan period, driven by differing assumptions on migration, housing delivery and labour force characteristics. The scenarios are all based on recognised methodology and inputs.

Scenario	Description
WG 2022 Principal Projection	Replicates the Welsh Government's 2022 based Principal Projection
WG 2022 High Population Projection	Replicates the Welsh Government's 2022 based High Population Projection
WG 2022 Low Population Projection	Replicates the Welsh Government's 2022 based Low Population Projection
WG 2022 10 yr Mig	Replicates the WG 2022-based 10-year migration variant
WG 2022 15 yr Mig	Replicates the WG 2022-based 15-year migration variant
WG 2022 Zero Mig	Replicates the WG 2022-based zero migration variant
Trend 5 yr	Migration assumptions calibrated from a 5-year historical period (2020/21 2024/25), including the UPC adjustment in the international migration component of the Mid Year Estimate (MYE) (up to 2020/21). Scenario has a base year of 2025. Fertility and mortality assumptions derived from the last 5 years of MYE evidence, with long-term changes drawn from the 2022-based WG Principal projection for Gwynedd.
Trend 15 yr	Migration assumptions calibrated from a 15-year historical period (2010/11 2024/25), including the UPC adjustment in the international migration component of the MYE (up to 2020/21). Scenario has a base year of 2025. Fertility and mortality assumptions derived from the last 5 years of MYE evidence, with long-term changes drawn from the 2022-based WG Principal projection for Gwynedd.

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Scenario	Description
Dwelling-led 5 yr	Models the population growth impact of an average annual dwelling growth target of +149 per year, based on a five-year history of dwelling completions (2021/22 2025/26). Migration assumptions are aligned with the Trend-15yr scenario. Scenario has a base year of 2025.
Dwelling-led 15 yr	Models the population growth impact of an average annual dwelling growth target of +170 per year, based on a 15-year history of dwelling completions (2011/12 - 2025/26). Migration assumptions are aligned with the Trend-15yr scenario
Employment-led OE (B)	Models the population growth impact of average annual employment change of +311, derived from Oxford Economics' Scenario B forecast of people-based employment. Migration assumptions are aligned with the Trend-15yr scenario. Scenario has a base year of 2025 (i.e. employment growth targets applied from 2025 onwards). Commuting profile derived from the OE forecast, modelling a reduction in the net in-commute to Gwynedd.

The Growth Options

6.0.14 The tables below provide a summary of the growth options. For each option a figure is given for both the number of new homes and the anticipated number of new jobs over the Gwynedd LDP period. More detail is provided for each option below.

Population growth

6.0.15 The table below provides a summary of the population growth and annualised natural change and net migration outcomes for the 2024–2039 plan period for all the scenarios.

Scenario	Change 2024-2039		Average per year 2024 - 2039	
	Population Change	Population % Change	Net Migration	Natural Change
WG 2022 Principal Projection	6,104	6.1%	668	-262
WG 2022 High Population Projection	8,898	8.8%	741	-147
WG 2022 Low Population Projection	2,670	2.7%	527	-341
WG 2022 10 yr Mig	4,819	4.9%	620	-299
WG 2022 15 yr Mig	3,990	4.1%	576	-310
WG 2022 Zero Mig	-2,611	-2.7%	0	-232
Trend 5yr	4,356	4.3%	617	-327
Trend 15yr	-3,148	-3.1%	159	-369
Dwelling-led 5 year	2,792	2.8	584	-406
Dwelling-led 15 year	3,936	3.9%	597	-335
Employment-led OE (B)	7929	7.9	825	-296

Household Growth

6.0.16 The change in the number of households over the 2024-2039 plan period, along with the average annual dwelling growth based on the different scenarios are presented in the table below.

6.0.17 When considering the annual figure for housing it is necessary to consider the houses that have already been completed in the period since the base date of the Plan (2024) together with the deliverable units that are in

the most recently assessed land bank (April 2026). The land bank refers to the number of residential units that have valid planning permission but have not yet been completed.

6.0.18 Please note that 330 residential units were developed in the first two years of the Plan period and in April 2026 there were 703 deliverable units in the land bank. This meant that there is already provision for 1033 homes and these can be taken out of the indicative growth figures. As there are now 13 years left in the Plan period, the remaining growth figure would have to be divided by 13 (rather than 15) to reflect the remaining annual housing growth.

6.0.19 The table below gives the annual new dwelling figure with and without the housing landbank figure/units already built.

Scenario	Change 2024 - 2039		Annual Average Dwelling Growth 2024-2039 *	Total New Dwellings over Plan period 2024-2039	Total New Dwellings over Plan period minus Completed Units since 2024 and 2026 landbank**	Annual average new dwellings requirement
	Households Change	Households % Change				
WG 2022 Principal Projection	3,254	7.5%	253	3,795	2,762	212
WG 2022 High Pop Projection	4,185	9.7%	325	4,875	3,842	242
WG 2022 Low Pop Projection	2,098	4.8%	163	2,445	1,412	109
WG 2022 10 yr Mig	2,545	6.0%	198	2,970	1,937	149
WG 2022 15 yr Mig	2,176	5.1%	169	2,535	1,502	116
WG 2022 Zero Mig	-922	-2.2%	0	0	0	0
Trend 5yr	2,622	6.1%	204	3,060	2,027	156
Trend 15yr	-684	-1.6%	0	0	0	0
Dwelling-led 5yr	1,724	4.0%	134	2,101	1,068	82
Dwelling-led 15yr	2,185	5.1%	170	2,550	1,517	117
Employment-led	3,775	8.7%	293	4395	3,362	259

*Household to dwelling conversion has been modelled using 'conversion factors' derived from WG household and dwelling stock estimates. A figure of 14.2% has been applied or Gwynedd LPA, fixed throughout the forecast period.
**2026 Landbank = 703 units: Completed units 2024-26 = 330 units

Employment Growth

6.0.20 The change in the number of new jobs over the 2024-2039 plan period, along with the average annual number of jobs based on the different scenarios are presented in table ? below.

Scenario	Change 2024 - 2039		Annual Average Employment Growth 2024-2039
	Labour Force Change	Labour Force % Change	
WG 2022 Principal Projection	4,140	8.6%	116
WG 2022 High Pop Projection	4,945	10.3%	171

WG 2022 Low Pop Projection	3,173	6.6%	50
WG 2022 10 yr Mig	3,603	7.7%	85
WG 2022 15 yr Mig	3,273	7.0%	62
WG 2022 Zero Mig	-633	-1.4%	-204
Trend 5yr	4,175	8.7%	119
Trend 15yr	-286	-0.6%	-187
Dwelling-led 5yr	3,126	6.5%	47
Dwelling-led 15yr	3,783	7.9%	92
Employment-led	6,045	12.6%	253

6.0.20 In considering the above scenarios, five specific growth options have been chosen. In accordance with the requirement of the Development Plan Manual (Edition 3), these demonstrate a range of possible future growth in the Gwynedd LPA for the LDP period based upon the differing inputs and assumptions specified.

6.0.21 They demonstrate higher growth levels (Welsh Government 2022 High Projections and the Employment-led option), lower growth levels (Welsh Government 2022 Low Projections and the 5-year dwelling-led option), in addition to an option in the middle that is based on the Welsh Government 2022 Principal Projections. These options provide for a range of situations and gives an opportunity for feedback in considering the growth option to meet the Vision and Strategic Options.

6.0.22 It is believed essential to consider the manner in which the Welsh Government projections (in terms of its three variables) is conveyed specifically for the Gwyned Local Planning Authority area. It is also sensible to consider how growth could be guided by the anticipated increase in jobs over the Plan period. In terms of growth led by housing, it is believed that giving consideration to what has happened in a more recent period i.e. 5 year period compared to a 15 year period, provides for a fair reflection of the housing market and house building trends in the Plan area.

6.1 Growth Option 1 – Based on the Welsh Government's 2022 Principal Projection

Increase in Population over the Plan Period	New Dwellings per Annum	New Dwellings per Annum minus the land bank	Number of New Jobs per Year
6,104	253	212	116

6.1.1 This option leads to a population increase of **6,104** people (+6.1%), **253** new dwelling per annum (**212** per annum when units already completed and the landbank is taken into account) and **116** new jobs per annum.

6.1.2 This option is based on the 'principal' projection derived from the 2022-based Welsh Government official national population and household projections. The principal 'central' projection based on fertility, mortality, migration and household composition assumptions, using 5-year migration trends (internal and international) and 5-year fertility and mortality trends.

6.2 Growth Option 2 - Based on the Welsh Government's 2022 High Population Projection

Increase in Population over the Plan Period	New Dwellings per Annum	New Dwellings per Annum minus the land bank	Number of New Jobs per Year
8,898	325	242	171

6.2.1 This option leads to a population increase of **8,898** people (+8.8%), **325** new dwellings per annum (**242** per annum when units already completed and the landbank is taken into account) and **171** new jobs per annum.

6.2.2 This growth option is based upon the higher assumptions of fertility and life expectancy of the official 2022-based Welsh Government official national population and household projections. The migration assumptions are aligned with that of the principal projection.

6.3 Growth Option 3 - Based on the Welsh Government's 2022 Low Population Projection

Increase in Population over the Plan Period	New Dwellings per Annum	New Dwellings per Annum minus the land bank	Number of New Jobs per Year
2,670	163	109	50

6.3.1 This option leads to a population increase of **2,670** people (+2.7%), **163** new dwellings per annum (**109** per annum when units already completed and the landbank is taken into account) and **50** new jobs per annum.

6.3.2 This growth option is based upon the lower assumptions of fertility and life expectancy of the official 2022-based Welsh Government official national population and household projections. The migration assumptions are aligned with that of the principal projection.

6.4 Growth Option 4 – Dwelling-led 5 yr

Increase in Population over the Plan Period	New Dwellings per Annum	New Dwellings per Annum minus the land bank	Number of New Jobs per Year
2,792	134	82	47

6.4.1 This option leads to a population increase of **2,792** people (+2.8%), **134** new dwellings per annum (**82** per annum when units already completed and the landbank is taken into account) and **47** new jobs per annum.

6.4.2 The Dwelling-led option is based on a continuation of 5-year historical housing completion rates in Gwynedd Population growth is linked directly to housing (dwelling) growth. Net internal migration is used to balance between the two; if the resident population is insufficient in size and structure to 'fill' the dwellings, a higher level of net migration will occur.

6.5 Growth Option 5 – Employment-led

Increase in Population over the Plan Period	New Dwellings per Annum	New Dwellings per Annum minus the land bank	Number of New Jobs per Year
7,929	293	259	253

6.5.1 This option leads to a population increase of **7,929** people (+7.9%), **293** new dwellings per annum (**259** per annum when units already completed and the landbank is taken into account) and **253** new jobs per annum.

6.5.2 In order to inform this option, Edge Analytics acquired an employment forecast from Oxford Economics (OE). This forecast models the level of workplace-based employment in Gwynedd from 2001-2050.

6.5.3 In addition to the Baseline OE forecast, two additional scenarios were produced using the OE model, taking account of the likely employment growth arising from the Anglesey freeport and AI growth zone (Scenario A). And the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMR) at Wylfa (Scenario B).

6.5.4 Between 2015 and 2025, people-based employment in the Gwynedd LPA fluctuated between 52,000 and 59,000, growing by 8.1% over the ten years. The baseline scenario forecasts that the number of people employed in the Gwynedd LPA will grow by 4.9% between 2025 and 2050 (2,911 people). In Scenario A, factoring in the additional impact of the Freeport and AI Growth Zone in Anglesey, growth over the 25 years is 5.5% (341 more people than the Baseline scenario) and in Scenario B the addition of the development of the SMR at Wylfa results in growth of 5.7% (468 more people than the Baseline scenario).

6.5.5 This option uses scenario B (which takes into account the potential labour force impact of the SMR development at Wylfa) because it best reflects the aspirational Growth Deal programmes strategy promoted by Ambition North Wales.

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7.0 Spatial Distribution Options

7.0.1 This section discusses how growth should be distributed around the plan area. Four spatial distribution options for housing are proposed. Each spatial distribution option will include a table which includes how the different levels of growth would look.

7.1 Distribution Option 1 - Continue with the Joint Local Development Plan strategy

7.1.1 The Joint Local Development Plan strategy aimed to distribute development proportionately around the Plan area while focusing on those areas that provide the best opportunities to achieve sustainable development, namely the Sub-Regional Centre, Urban and Local Service Centres. This would be met by new commitments and designations where environmental, social and infrastructure constraints allow.

7.1.2 A higher proportion of new development, accounting for 53% of the Plan's growth, was guided to the Main Centres (Sub-Regional Centre and Urban Service Centres) with 22% of the growth in the Local Service Centres. For Villages an appropriate amount of development was facilitated with a focus on Service Villages with better access to services and public transport. Some development was expected in the Clusters that were identified due to their functional links with Villages or Centres and in the countryside. 25% of the growth of the Plan was guided to the Villages, Clusters and the Countryside.

7.1.3 A list of the settlements listed in the JLDP can be found in appendix 1. Please note further work will be undertaken on the settlement hierarchy which which lead to a change in the settlement list.

Distribution Option 1 - Continue with the Joint Local Development Plan strategy					
Option	**Dwellings per Year**	**Dwellings Per Year (Minus Landbank)**	**Main Centres (53%)**	**Local Service Centres (22%)**	**Villages, Clusters and Countryside (25%)**
Growth Option 1	253	(212)	134 (112)	56 (47)	63 (53)
Growth Option 2	325	(242)	172 (128)	72 (53)	81 (61)
Growth Option 3	163	(109)	86 (58)	36 (24)	41 (27)
Growth Option 4	134	(82)	72 (43)	29 (18)	33 (21)
Growth Option 5	293	(259)	155 (137)	64 (57)	73 (65)

7.2 Distribution Option 2 - Distribution based on units completed since 2011

7.2.1 This option distributes the growth on the basis of units completed since the JLDP's base date according to the categories of settement. In the period 2011 to 2024 a total of 2,475 residential units were completed in the Gwynedd Planning Area with the following classification:

- Primary Centres (Sub-regional and Urban Service Centres) 49%
- Local Service Centres 22%
- Villages, Clusters and the Open Countryside 29%

Distribution Option 2 - Distribution based on units completed since 2011					
Option	**Dwellings per Year**	**Dwellings Per Year (Minus Landbank)**	Main Centres	Dwellings per Year	Dwellings Per Year (Minus Landbank)

Growth Option 1	253	(212)	124 (104)	56 (47)	73 (61)
Growth Option 2	325	(242)	159 (119)	72 (53)	94 (70)
Growth Option 3	163	(109)	80 (53)	36 (24)	47 (32)
Growth Option 4	134	(82)	66 (40)	29 (18)	39 (24)
Growth Option 5	293	(259)	144 (127)	64 (57)	85 (75)

7.3 Distribution Option 3 - Focus on Regional Growth Area

7.3.1 This option is based on distributing the majority of the growth to the Regional Growth Area which has been identified within Future Wales. This means distributing 70% of the growth to the northern area of the County around Bangor and Caernarfon with the remainder of the growth, 30%, being distributed to the remainder of the Gwynedd Planning Area.

Distribution Option 3 - Focus on Regional Growth Area				
Option	**Dwellings per Year**	**Dwellings Per Year (Minus Landbank)**	**Regional growth Area (70%)**	**Remaining LDP Area (30%)**
Growth Option 1	253	(212)	177 (148)	76 (64)
Growth Option 2	325	(242)	228 (169)	97 (73)
Growth Option 3	163	(109)	114 (76)	49 (33)
Growth Option 4	134	(82)	94 (57)	40 (25)
Growth Option 5	293	(259)	205 (181)	88 (78)

7.4 Opsiwn DOS 4 - Distribution on the basis of the Number of Houses in the LPA per LHMA

7.4.1 In 2021 Cyngor Gwynedd's Regeneration Board agreed to develop a new Regeneration Framework. The Framework aims to ensure that proactive action is in place to ensure collaboration to improve the areas economically, environmentally, socially and culturally. Within the 13 Regeneration Areas an initial discussion was held with town and community councils along with local organisations, groups and councillors on ideas about what should be local priorities for the area in the period up to 2035. These responses were used as a basis for the second phase of wider public engagement. A public engagement campaign was organised to give residents the opportunity to voice their views on the challenges facing their area, what is important to them and what developments they want to see in their area over the next 10 to 15 years. A total of 3,585 responses were received through an online and paper questionnaire. Following public sessions, workshops were held with organisations to discuss action plans focusing on the issues and priorities identified locally.

7.4.2 Due to the local engagement that has taken place and the boundaries of these regeneration areas appear to be similar to the secondary school catchment areas **it was agreed to use these regeneration areas as the basis for housing market areas in the Local Housing Market Assessment.** The only change was by ensuring that all

Lower Tier Wider Product Areas fall within one of the Housing Market Areas. This means that there are 13 Housing Market Areas within Gwynedd. See Appendix 2 for a map LHMA areas.

7.4.3 For this option the level of growth is distributed based on the number of houses within the different Housing Market Areas this means that the growth is distributed more evenly across the Plan Area as highlighted in the table below.

Local Housing Market Area	**Number of Homes (% of the total in the LPA)**	**Growth Option 1** **253 dwellings per year (212 minus landbank/developments)**	**Growth Option 2** **325 dwellings per year (242 minus landbank/developments)**	**Growth Option 3** **163 dwellings per year (109 minus landbank/developments)**	**Growth Option 4** **134 dwellings per year (82 minus landbank/developments)**	**Growth Option 5** **293 dwellings per year (259 minus landbank/developments)**
Pen Llyn Area	5646 (11%)	28 (23)	36 (27)	18 (12)	15 (9)	32 (29)
Porthmadog Area	4957 (9.7%)	25 (21)	31 (23)	16 (11)	13 (8)	28 (25)
Bro Ardudwy	1418 (2.8%)	7 (6)	9 (7)	5 (3)	4 (2)	8 (7)
Bro Dysynni	2376 (4.7%)	12 (10)	15 (11)	8 (5)	6 (4)	14 (12)
Bro Ffestiniog	2239 (4.4%)	11 (9)	14 (11)	7 (5)	6 (3)	12 (11)
Bro Lleu/Nantlle	4739 (9.3%)	23 (20)	30 (23)	15 (10)	12 (8)	27 (24)
Bro Ogwen	3856 (7.5%)	19 (16)	24 (18)	12 (8)	10 (6)	22 (19)
Bro Peris	5364 (10.5%)	27 (22)	34 (25)	17 (11)	14 (9)	31 (27)
Bala Area	506 (1%)	3 (2)	3 (2)	2 (1)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Bangor Area	8792 (17.2%)	43 (37)	60 (42)	28 (19)	23 (14)	50 (45)
Caernarfon Area	5343 (10.4%)	26 (22)	34 (25)	17 (11)	14 (8)	30 (27)
Dolgellau Area	349 (0.7%)	2 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Pwllheli Area	5508 (10.8%)	27 (23)	35 (26)	18 (12)	14 (9)	32 (28)

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Appendix 1: List of the Joint Local Development Plan Settlements

Sub-regional Centre	Bangor
Urban Service Centres	Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon, Porthmadog, Pwllheli
Local Service Centres	Abermaw, Bethesda, Criccieth, Llanberis, Llanrug, Nefyn, Penrhyndeudraeth, Penygroes, Tywyn
Service Villages	Bethel, Bontnewydd, Botwnnog, Chwilog, Deiniolen, Rachub, Tremadog, Y Ffôr
Local, Rural and Coastal Villages	Abererch, Brynrefail, Caeathro, Carmel, Cwm y Glo, Dinas (Llanwnda), Dinas Dinlle, Dolydd a Maen Coch, Efailnewydd, Garndolbenmaen, Garreg-Llanfrothen, Groeslon, Llandwrog, Llandygai, Llangybi, Llanllyfni, Llanystumdwy, Nantlle, Penisarwaun, Pentref Uchaf, Rhiwlas, Rhosgadfan, Rhostryfan, Sarn Mellteyrn, Talysarn, Tregarth, Trefor, Waunfawr, Y Fron
Clusters	Aberdesach, Aberllefenni, Aberpwll, Bethesda Bach, Bryncir, Bryncroes, Caerhun/Waen Wen, Capel y Graig, Corris Uchaf, Crawia, Dinorwig, Gallt y Foel, Glasinfryn, Groeslon Waunfawr, Llanaber, Llandderfel, Llanengan, Llanfor, Llanllechid, Llannor, Llanwnda, Llwyn Hudol, Minffordd, Minffordd (Bangor), Mynydd Llandygai, Nebo, Pantglas, Penmorfa, Penrhos, Penrhos (Caeathro), Pentir, Pentrefelin, Pistyll, Pontllyfni, Rhoslan, Saron (Llanwnda), Swan, Tai'n Lôn, Talwaenydd, Talybont, Tan y Coed, Treborth, Ty'n-lôn, Ty'n y Lôn, Waun (Penisarwaun).

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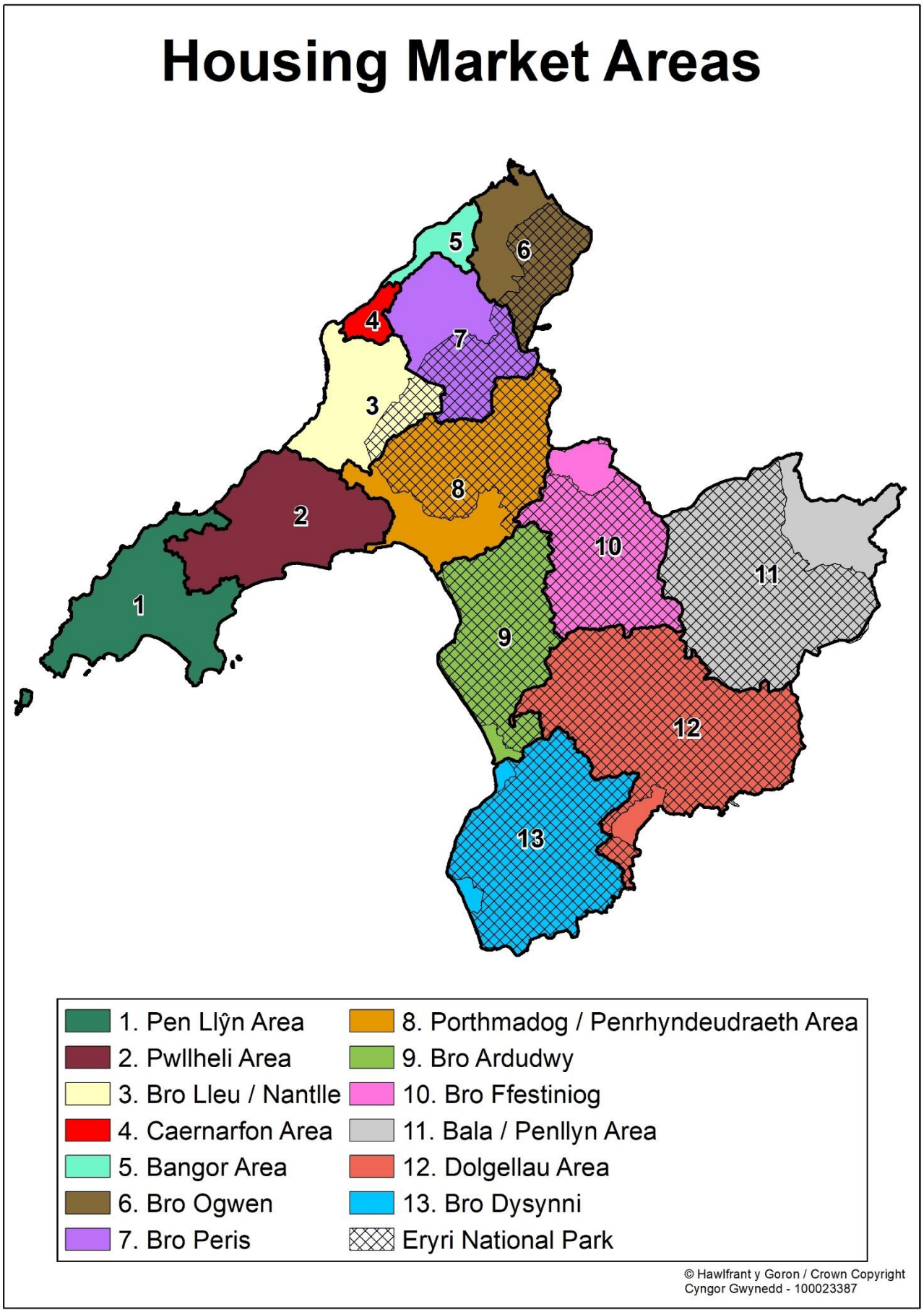
Appendix 2: Local Market Area Map



Appendix 2

Key Stage	
Definitive	
Stage 1	**Delivery Agreement** Preparation and submission
Stage 2	**Pre-Deposit** Preparation and involvement
Stage 3	**Preferred Strategy** Public consultation
Stage 4	**Deposit plan** Public consultation
Indicative	
Stage 5	**Submission**
Stage 6	**Examination**
Stage 7	**Inspector's Report**
Stage 8	**Adoption**

Appendix 3 -Draft Minutes Planning Policy Working Group (23/10/26)

Item 5

KEY ISSUES, VISION, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND THE SPATIAL GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION OPTIONS

Planning Policy Service officers presented Item 5 to the Working Group. At the start of the discussion, the Chair reminded Members that the meeting focused on the issues presented to the Working Group on that day, rather than previous discussions.

In introducing the item, the officer outlined the status of the document and an update on the current stage in the preparation of the new Local Development Plan. It was explained that the work presented focused on the main issues, strategic objectives and potential growth options. It was noted that the purpose of the presentation was to provide an opportunity for Members to discuss and comment on the options that had been developed to date in order to inform the further work.

The officers emphasised that no decisions had been made regarding the direction of the Local Development Plan at this time. It was explained that the options presented had been identified as the most appropriate and realistic based on the evidence currently available, and that the purpose of the process was to gather views before proceeding to the next stages of preparing the LDP.

Issues raised

1. A Member asked for clarification as to the meaning of the column which refers to jobs and how the information presented in it should be interpreted.

2. A Member asked for an explanation of the difference between the figures presented as headline figures and those given in brackets. It was also asked why the difference between these figures is not consistent across the various options.

3. A Member noted that it was not entirely clear how the employment figures had been compiled or how they related to factors such as developments at Wylfa, working from home and other changes in the labour market. It was questioned whether consideration had been given to the rapid change in working patterns, including the impact of artificial intelligence on future employment opportunities.

4. A Member asked whether the figures in brackets referred to developments that have already been completed or have already taken place, and for an explanation as to why the figures do not appear consistent between the various options.

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5. A Member asked for clarification as to which option is considered most realistic in relation to employment and economic growth prospects. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have more information explaining why some options are considered less acceptable than others. It was also noted that while national forecasts are a valuable source of information, there is a need to reflect the local circumstances and requirements of Gwynedd and rural communities more specifically.

6. A Member asked for clarification as to why some developments in Anglesey were referred to as speculative developments.

7. Referring to previous comments in relation to nuclear developments, a Member noted that the discussion was about the Small Modular Reactor rather than the Wylfa B development. He asked whether this had been reflected in the assessments, as the number of jobs created could be significantly different, and it was also asked whether consideration had been given to infrastructure implications, including transport and links over the Menai Strait.

8. A Member raised a point about the previous Local Development Plan, noting that some growth forecasts envisaged at that time had not been realised. It was questioned why current forecasts include projects that have not yet received consent and emphasised the need to be careful when basing the plan on uncertain developments.

9. A Member expressed the view that the possibility of development at Wylfa should not be ruled out as circumstances can change over time. It was suggested that, that option should be kept under consideration, and it was noted that a number of other Members were supportive of this view.

10. A Member asked for clarification regarding Option 4, noting that it refers to the whole of Gwynedd, whereas the Local Development Plan only covers a specific part of the county.

11. A Member asked for clarification regarding the geographical divide between the areas of Bangor and Caernarfon.

12. A member noted that none of the options appeared to give specific attention to Bangor's role as a city. Asked whether an option that focuses specifically on Bangor city centre should be considered. The Member also referred to the lack of match between some previous forecasts and the results seen in practice, noting that housing has been provided on the basis of employment expectations that have not been realised.

13. A Member questioned about the relationship between the growth prospects of the Local Development Plan and the growth plans of the Eryri National Park Authority. It was asked whether formal discussions and joint working were taking place to ensure that the visions of the two authorities were aligned.

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14. A Member asked for clarification as to the core purpose of the Local Development Plan, namely whether it primarily responds to current trends or seeks to influence future growth patterns. It was noted that the population of Gwynedd faces challenges such as lower birth rates, emigration of young people and an ageing population. Questions were asked where future population growth is projected to come from, and whether it is appropriate to provide housing in some areas based on assumptions about employment opportunities that are not certain. The Member expressed a preference towards Option 4 and suggested that the needs of each area should be considered individually.

15. Referring to previous comments regarding population and growth, a Member asked through what lens the options should be assessed. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to receive further evidence as to which options would be most supportive of the Welsh language. It was asked what combination of growth options would offer the best outcome for the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities, and it was proposed that further work should be undertaken to assess the impact of the options in relation to the Welsh language.

16. Following on from previous comments made by other Members, a Member noted support for the development of economic opportunities but expressed concern that less emphasis was being placed on developments and opportunities that already exist within the Eryri National Park compared to more uncertain developments. It was questioned whether more consideration needed to be given to the potential for growth in Meirionnydd and the implications of this for the area.

17. A Member asked whether the housing prospects, particularly in the Arfon area, included full consideration of immigration and population emigration. He emphasised the importance of understanding the migration patterns of young people and also asked when maps would be available to show the locations of the developments under consideration.

18. A Member questioned the extent of the collaboration between the Council and the Eryri National Park Authority in the development of the growth options. It was noted that there were significant differences between some of the forecasts, and asked why the work did not appear more co-ordinated. It was also suggested that an additional local growth option should be considered based on lower demographic projections.

19. Member agreed with the need to receive reports and evidence on linguistic issues where appropriate. Clarification was sought regarding the process used to filter the original list from eleven options down to five options. It was also asked to what extent public comments will influence the final decision process and how much weight is placed on the evidence presented.

20. Referring to paragraph 6.0.5 of the report, a Member asked for clarification regarding the terms of reference given to the consultants commissioned to carry out

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the work. They were asked what factors and objectives they had set in carrying out the relevant research and assessments.

21. A Member asked for clarification regarding the use of five-year trends rather than trends over a longer fifteen-year period. It was noted that events such as Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on demographics and population patterns, and the extent to which modelling had taken this into account was questioned. It was also asked whether local initiatives and skills developments in progress had been included in the assessment.

22. A Member asked for clarification regarding the timing and significance of the Impact Assessment on the Welsh Language. The view was expressed that this work should be commissioned before strategic decisions were made regarding the growth options. The Member noted that it was not clear why the existing five options were chosen out of all the original options, and emphasised the need for a more transparent justification for that choice. This position was supported by another Member.

23. A Member seconded the previous point stating concern that the wording and definitions of some of the questions proposed for public consultation did not provide sufficient clarity or provide a solid basis for gathering public opinion.

Responses

1. The Officer explained that the column relates to the number of jobs that would be needed to support the number of housing units envisaged. It was noted that each option is based on the same housing need, but uses different assumptions in terms of growth and employment.

2. The Officer explained that the difference between the figures stems from the way they are calculated over the period of the Plan. The higher the overall figure, the more likely it is that there will be a gap between the main figure and the figure in brackets. On re-checking the data, the Officer confirmed that a minor error had been found in the figures presented, and it was noted that the information would be corrected.

3. The Officer explained that Option 5 places greater emphasis on employment forecasts and includes consideration of potential developments at Wylfa newydd. That is the reason for the difference in figures between the options. It was emphasised that this does not mean that development at Wylfa is assumed to be developed, but that it is one of the factors considered in the preparation of that option. It was also noted that not all options contain the same assumptions regarding Wylfa.

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4. The Officer explained that the figures in brackets are lower as they don't include the houses which have been completed and those which are in the land bank.

5. The Officer noted that all options need to be considered in a realistic and open manner. It was emphasised that all options will be subject to consultation and allow an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to submit comments. It was explained that the options are based on a range of low, medium and high growth assumptions, whilst also taking into account factors such as employment, potential developments in Wylfa and the need for housing.

6. The Officer noted that potential developments in Anglesey could not be ignored. It was accepted that the term "speculative" may not be entirely appropriate as no consent has been granted to date, however the evidence shows that it is likely that some form of development will take place. As a result, it was considered appropriate to include the relevant option as part of the consultation. It was reiterated that no preference had been given to any option at this time.

7. The Officer stated that the point raised was acknowledged.

8. The Officer emphasised that no decision had been made regarding the adoption of any of the options. It was explained that this was an initial discussion in order to consider a range of possible options, and that the options themselves did not represent the final strategy of the Local Development Plan.

9. The Officer noted that the comment was acknowledged.

10. The Officer explained that local areas continue to be considered while preparing the plan, including those extending into the Eryri National Park. However, only those areas that fall within the Gwynedd LPA can be included within the Gwynedd LDP.

11. The Officer noted that it was not easy to define the differences in detail between the areas referred to. It was stressed, however, that it was necessary to ensure that any developments were sustainable.

12. The Officer stated that the point raised was acknowledged.

13. The Officer confirmed that the role and work of the Eryri National Park Authority was not being overlooked. It was explained that regular discussions were being held at a sub-regional level in order to discuss issues of common ground and cross boundary issues and ensure as much collaboration as possible.

14. The Officer noted that the Local Development Plan provided the most appropriate approach to respond to the issues raised. It was recognised that the points made were fair and relevant to the process.

15. The Officer confirmed that all of the options will be assessed in relation to the Welsh language, and that the additional work suggested will be carried out as part of the process, but not at this stage. It was emphasised that consideration of the Welsh language and all other considerations and evidence will be undertaken in the next stage as part of the process of developing the preferred strategy. It was also noted

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that the purpose of the stage was not to reach a conclusion as to which option was preferred. It was explained that the purpose of the current phase was to gather information and evidence to inform the next steps.

16. The Officer shared his views on the importance of working closely with Eryri National Park Authority to ensure a clear understanding of the plans of the two organisations and how they can support each other to achieve the strategic objectives.

17. The Officer noted that there would be further opportunities for the working group to contribute as work progresses towards identifying a preferred strategy.

18. The Officer explained that a further report will be submitted to the working group after the consultation period, together with relevant background papers. This would provide an opportunity for Members to consider the evidence and comment on the report presented by the Planning Policy Service . The comment on the adoption of a growth option that would use Welsh Government forecasts along with local development adjustments, similar to the approach used in some other authorities, was also acknowledged.

19. The Officer noted that further information and clarification could be considered in future work. It was emphasised that there was a need to plan for some level of growth, and that the five options presented were the ones considered most realistic based on the available evidence and forecasts. It was explained that this was the reason for the inclusion of low, medium and high growth options in order to ensure a wide range of choice and discussion.

20. The Officer confirmed that the necessary research and technical work had been commissioned to support the preparation of the Local Development Plan. It was suggested, however, that the specific issues raised would be more relevant to the later stages of the process.

21. The Officer explained that the forecasts take into account the number of people in employment or looking for work, as well as those travelling in and out of the county for employment purposes. It was also noted that local initiatives and developments that can influence the labour market are considered as part of the modelling work. In relation to the time period used, it was emphasised that circumstances had changed significantly in recent years, and therefore the use of a shorter period was considered to provide a more realistic picture of the current situation.

22. The Officer stated that the point raised was acknowledged.

23. The Officer explained that it would not be practical to include questions that could be interpreted as leading questions. It was emphasised that there was no intention to influence the responses of the public, and that the purpose of the consultation was to gather objective and impartial opinions.

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MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	19 November 2026
TITLE AND REPORTING PERIOD	Environment Cabinet Member Performance Report: April – August 2026
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Craig ab Iago

GENERAL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION
What is your overall assessment of the Department's performance?
I am pleased with the performance of the Environment Department during the period from April to August 2026. While some services have faced significant challenges relating to staffing capacity, workforce changes and increasing operational pressures, arrangements have been put in place to manage these risks and maintain service delivery. There has been continued progress against the milestones that have been set for Cyngor Gwynedd's priorities which are part of the Council's Plan 2023-28. The discussions at the Challenging and Supporting Performance meeting have provided assurance that the main risks are being identified and managed appropriately.
Are you satisfied with the overall performance of the Department?
I am satisfied with the Department's performance, which remains stable, with evidence of progress against the Council's priorities and clear work being done to respond to the areas where challenges remain. I would like to thank the Department's staff for their commitment and ongoing work in providing essential services to the residents of Gwynedd. All matters have been the subject of discussion at the Environment Department's Challenge and Performance Support Meeting on 5 October which included a Corporate Director, Head of Department, Assistant Heads and Service Managers, along with representatives from the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

MAIN PERFORMANCE MATTERS
What are the main performance matters that should be highlighted?

PRIORITY PROJECTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S PLAN

The Department for the Environment is leading on or contributing towards four priorities in the Council's Plan 2023-28, namely:

- Management of second homes and short-term holiday accommodation;
- New Local Development Plan;
- Waste and Recycling;
- Active Travel.

I welcome the work achieved so far this year, and the progress against the milestones set for the four priorities is outlined in Appendix 2.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Appendix 3 contains the performance measures for Services across the Department. The comprehensive report contains data for the most recent period, together with further context and explanation which provides more detail on the bone for the performance of all areas.

During the recent Challenge and Support Performance meeting, there was discussion of a period of change in the **Planning Service** workforce over the last 18 months, with several experienced officers retiring, leaving for other opportunities or being absent from work for an extended period.

In response, the Service has continued to invest in workforce planning and new talent development, appointing and developing several new trainees and officers, as well as filling senior positions internally. Although the level of staffing of the Service is now in a more stable position, the loss of a significant number of experienced members of staff in a short period of time has led to a reduction in experience, expertise and organisational knowledge.

To respond to these challenges, the Planning Service's Action Plan and Priorities for capacity management, workforce development and performance maintenance is being prepared, and a note will be shared with Members shortly.

It was also noted that enforcement issues on specific cases had resulted in the diversion of **Building Control Service** staff time in the period under consideration. This has included work on dangerous structure cases (Corbett Arms, Tywyn and others) which required immediate complex interventions, which in turn had some impact on performance in deciding on applications within a given period.

It was also noted that further clarity is expected from the Welsh Government in the coming months on the future of Building Control. It was noted that national changes to the operating and regulatory arrangements could have an impact on the service in the future, and therefore these developments will need to be considered when planning the Council's next steps.

In the area of **Environmental Health**, it was noted that there has been an adjustment to some metrics in terms of food standards and hygiene inspections. While the current performance reflects the prioritisation of high-risk inspections in line with the requirements of the Food Standards Agency, it was noted that including information on progress against the annual inspection programme and identifying the performance in the context of an ongoing backlog, would be

useful. Work is underway to ensure that this information is available into the future in order to provide useful additional context to aid the interpretation of the indicator.

Attention was drawn to work by the Department's **Business Service (Administration)** which was among the first in Wales to migrate to the HMLR system for processing land charge applications. Officers were thanked for their work on the scheme. It was noted that the number of land charge applications had decreased significantly but that the measure now includes Building Control searches. In the future, the Service will highlight this change in reporting and highlight the split in land charge applications and Building Control searches.

KEY RISKS
Any issues of concern in terms of the Department's risks?
The main areas where there are current challenges and the mitigation measures and development steps that have been introduced where necessary are noted above.

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Members' Comments

Appendix 2 – Progress on Council Plan project milestones

Appendix 3 – Departmental Performance Measures

APPENDIX 1

MATTERS ARISING REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE BY SCRUTINY MEMBERS

Environment Department Performance Challenge
Monday 5th October 2026.

COUNCIL PLAN - Priority Projects
Has significant progress been made with a priority project?
Progress has been made regarding systems, particularly with the BARTEC system for waste and recycling which is hoped will bear fruits with better recycling rates. Early days.
Is there a priority project that is causing concern due to a lack of progress?
No

PERFORMANCE – Performance Measures
What was good?
Street Works (1 measure) and Parking (3 measures) 1. Street Works: Issues relating to poor quality of road markings and delays in repainting worn out and installing new markings following street works. The issue is the lack of sufficient contractors in the area to cater for everyone's needs. The Department are training in-house staff to carry out minor works of this nature and are planning to invest in purchasing plant to enable all types of this work (including major) to be undertaken in-house. There is also interest expressed by NMWTRA and some neighbouring councils in Gwynedd developing this function. 2. Parking (On street and car parks): Complaints of on street parking issues and campervans Evidence presented shows consistency in recent years for number for complaints regarding parking with seasonal variations also being consistent. Fewer FPN since May attributed to two enforcement officers off sick. 43% of FPNs issued relate to car parks for no ticket, ticket exceeded or car not parked in a bay. It was noted Gwynedd does not use the QR code for payments in council car parks. There have been incidents where third-parties have illegally posted QR codes to catch the unwary.

Regarding campervans, the department accepts there could be improved advertising of the council facilities for campervans.

3. Footpaths: Grass Cutting: The Cabinet member challenged the reduction in grass cutting over the summer. The reason was the long hot dry spell = less growth.

4. Public Transport: Includes number of buses on time, late with data provided by Welsh Gov. The number of passenger journeys is rising 65% paid, 35% travel passes. Cabinet member asked "Do we want payers or just users".

5. Waste and Recycling: Despite having the infrastructure to reach the 70% WG target, the service has plateaued at 63-64%. There are still recyclates in green waste bins. A new waste strategy was agreed in July 2026.

   Cabinet member announced he has spoken with the WG Minister who says Gwynedd needs to switch to 4-weekly green bin collections. Cabinet member believes this could be unpopular and this decision should follow instruction from the WG minister making the political decision. Both recycling and green bin waste is being taught in primary schools now.

   99.82% of bins are collected without missed collection calls being received, with these enquiries being lower than last year. BARTEC system was presented to the meeting showcasing the system that physically records where the collection vehicles has been and employs cameras that demonstrate if bins have really been missed or were put out late. Noted Re-use Vs Recycle: The more we re-sue, the less we recycle. The Cabinet member was tasked with challenging the WG minister to allow Re-use to be counted in the recycling figures as everything we re-use instead of recycle will skew our figures.

6. Planning: Loss of experienced Planning staff and the time to acclimatise new staff is causing delays for the service with five officers retiring/leaving within the last 18 months.

   Since September 2025 there has been a very considerable gap between the permitted statutory determination period (Red line on chart) of 56 days and the actual period taken (yellow line). The cabinet member was not happy that this discrepancy is shown, the Planning manager believes they should be shown. The cabinet member would prefer to see figures for the number of complaints received and how they are dealt with. An agreement is now in place for early leavers to repay a pro-rata of any training and education payments that they have received to discourage early departure. This matter appears on the Risk Register.

7. Building Control: Staff shortages competition with other Local Authorities and the private sector. Like Planning, a small team so any staffing changes/losses skew performance figures.

8. Public Protection: The service is now dealing with the scale of problems that did not exist only three years ago relating to vapes and illicit tobacco sales. These two items take up more time than everything else. 98.74% of food businesses 3 to 5 on their food hygiene scale are inspected within time as the department targets those with lower scores and new businesses

What was causing concern?

Road markings: No concerns at this point other than the time needed to purchase equipment and train staff.

Parking enforcement: Staff sickness had reduced the number of FPNs issued.

Public Transport: There appears to be no annual comparison of the number of passengers presented in the report. Making it difficult for challenges to numbers in particular over a long-term period.

Waste and recycling: Re-use could penalise local authorities because every ton reused currently does not count towards recycling, the more we re-use, the worse the figures will appear.

Planning: The number of decisions being given beyond the statutory determination period (The gap between the Red and Yellow lines on the chart presented to the meeting).

Public Protection: Increased pressure from vapes and illicit tobacco

Is there a field that needs further scrutiny? What needs to be scrutinised and why?

Re-use Vs recycle.

Further scrutiny of this matter could provide further evidence to assist the cabinet member in challenging the Welsh Government to allow re-use to be counted as recycling.

The existing methodology does not permit re-use to count towards recycling, thus penalising the department and Cyngor Gwynedd.

A successful challenge to the WG minister could make a significant to the amount of waste being declared as “Recycled”. This could well result in Gwynedd reaching its’ recycling target thus eliminating the risk of receiving penalties. This may therefore also serve to drive re-use further.

APPENDIX 2
Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 Priorities
Progress on 2026-27 milestones

A Homely Gwynedd:

- Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

A Green Gwynedd:

- New Local Development Plan
- Waste and Recycling
- Active Travel

A Homely Gwynedd: Supporting the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities

Project: Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation



The substantial number of houses in Gwynedd that are being used as second homes and short-term holiday accommodation is having a detrimental impact on the ability of the people of Gwynedd to have access to homes in their communities.

The Council has presented detailed research to the Government which highlights the need to act in the areas of planning, taxation and licensing in order to gain better control of the situation. Following announcements from the Government, including the establishment of the Dwyfor Pilot, which commits to introducing steps to tackle problems in the field, the Council is implementing legislative changes and sets a Council tax premium for second homes and empty homes every year at an appropriate rate to respond to the situation at the time.

Project: Managing second homes and short-term holiday accommodation

2026/7 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track	What to be achieved in fifth year?
1. Article 4 Direction: Following the Judge's decision (6 February 2026) to refuse to allow the Council to appeal, the Article 4 Direction was quashed, we have: - Presented a report on the process and legal challenge to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 11/6/26. - If it is intended to proceed with the reintroduction of A4D, consideration will need to be given to an appropriate timetable for this process and the bulk of the associated work and any potential challenges.	**1.** Report submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 11/6/26. Consideration of any further action and timeline for this is subject to contextual changes.	✓	The next steps will depend on decisions about whether or not to proceed with the introduction of a new Article 4 Direction and an appropriate timetable for delivering the work.
2. Council Tax Premium (Finance Department Update) Consideration if public consultation to be held on increasing the level of Premium for 2027/28, with Full Council to consider the level of Premium for 2027/28 in December 2026 (whether or not a change is recommended).	**2.** Full Council to consider the level of the Premium for 2027/28 in December 2026.	✓	Continue to review on an annual basis.
3. Holiday accommodation registration and licensing scheme: Following new legislation in the Senedd to introduce a licensing scheme for visitor accommodation (which will apply to self-catering accommodation providers), it will be necessary to demonstrate that properties meet safety and quality standards. Whilst the Registration element which will open from October 2026 is centrally administered by the Welsh Government, further details on the Licensing element are awaited. The Council has already highlighted in consultations on the issue that there would be significant implications and resources likely for Local Authorities if the intention is to implement the Licensing element locally, and we will consider any updates from the Welsh Government on this and will consider and respond to any requirements and implications for the Council's services.	**3.** The Senedd has passed new legislation to introduce a licensing scheme for visitor accommodation in Wales. The scheme will apply to providers of self-catering accommodation, and will need to demonstrate that their properties meet safety and quality standards. There are 2 elements to the change: • Registration - with the window to register starting in October 2026 which will be centrally administered by the Welsh Government. • Licensing - the Council has already highlighted in consultations on the issue that there would likely be significant implications and resources for Local Authorities if this is intended to be implemented locally. The risks in terms of resources have been highlighted in the Environment Department's risk register. The Department has agreed that a representation from Public Protection Services will attend workshops for the development of the plans for a Lead Authority (and to that end have submitted an expression of interest). This will enable it to contribute to the development work, as well as ensuring that the Department has a greater understanding of the lead role in due course.	✓	Respond to any public consultations that may be held on the arrangements for licensing. To consider any implications for the Council's resources as a result of the Welsh Government's decision to establish a Statutory Registration and Licensing Scheme in Wales for holiday accommodation.

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project:

New Local Development Plan

We will draw-up a new Local Development Plan for Gwynedd that will address housing needs, employment and the social and environmental needs of the county's residents over the next 15 years.



Project: New Local Development Plan

2026/7 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track	What to be achieved in fifth year?
Continue on the pre-deposit stage for the new Plan, which will include: **i.** Develop and consult on the main issues, vision, strategic objectives and the growth and spacial options. **ii.** Preparation of specific background/text papers, impact assessments. **iii.** Assess information received during an informal opinion finding survey (which ended 24/3/26).	**i.** Continue the work with a view to reporting to the Planning Policy Working Group in October, the Communities Scrutiny Committee in November and the Cabinet in December to seek their approval to undertake a public consultation on the main issues, vision, strategic objectives and the growth and spacial options during January/February 2027. **ii.** Work continues with the specific background/text papers, and impact assessments. **iii.** Report to the Planning Policy Working Group on 3 July 2026 on the response following the informal opinion-finding exercise.	✔	Prepare and consult on the Preferred strategy. It should be noted that there are other steps in the process (which will not be achievable in the Fifth year) namely: - Prepare and consult on the Deposit Plan. - Submit the Plan (Draft) to the Government for public scrutiny. The final step will be to recommend to the Full Council the adoption of the new Local Development Plan. The new Plan will then replace the Joint Local Development Plan as the main basis for deciding planning applications in the area.

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project: Waste and Recycling

We will prepare a new Waste and Recycling Strategy to try and increase the county's recycling level to meet the national target of 70%.

We will assess how effective the current waste collection arrangements are in terms of promoting recycling (from door-to door and in our centres) and introduce new arrangements where required.







Project: Waste and Recycling

2026/7 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track	What to be achieved in fifth year?
1. Formally adopt the **Waste and Recycling Strategy** – report to Council Cabinet for approval. Following the adoption of the Strategy, we will implement the following actions:	**1.** On 7 July 2026, the Cabinet formally approved Cyngor Gwynedd's Waste and Recycling Strategy, confirming support for the strategic direction and work programme set out.	✓	A new Waste and Recycling Strategy has been adopted, providing a clear direction for modernising and developing the service over the coming years. The Strategy includes a comprehensive action plan with clear and transparent milestones to ensure that the Waste and Recycling Service delivers the six strategic objectives identified. Early initiatives that will emerge from the Strategy include the introduction of flexible plastics collections and the development of an education and awareness programme in primary schools to foster recycling practices and reduce waste from an early age. Progress has also been made in delivering on the Council's Climate and Nature Plan commitments, including the opening of a reuse shop in Llandygai and the formal adoption of the Strategy. Consultants will be appointed to develop plans for the upgrade and modernisation of the processing centres in Harlech and Caernarfon. This will ensure that the Council is in a sound position to submit applications for match funding from the Welsh Government to support the construction and development of new sites.
2. Prepare options for upgrading waste treatment assets to develop modern, efficient and fit for purpose sites, which will enable more of our waste to be processed locally and improve the quality of the final product.	**2.** As well as adopting the Waste and Recycling Strategy on 7 July 2026, the Cabinet decided to support its operation by investing the additional EPR funding received for the collection and treatment of packaging materials. The funding, valued at up to £4 million per year, provides the necessary resources to accelerate the modernisation programme and implement a number of the initiatives set out in the Strategy, including the development of plans for upgrading the service's facilities and infrastructure.	✓	
3. Refine the pathway towards achieving the 70% recycling target by evaluating the range of options and action plans. This will include assessing the frequency of collections, considering bin capacity and size, exploring the potential to collect new materials such as flexible plastics, and identifying opportunities to increase the recycling of additional materials such as wood.	**3.** The Waste and Recycling Strategy includes an action plan and a draft work programme setting out the steps to increase recycling performance and move towards the 70% target. These plans will be the subject of further discussion with the Welsh Government in September. While preparatory work has already begun on a number of schemes, including flexible plastics collections from 2027/28, progress in some areas is dependent on solutions and changes at a national level, particularly in terms of developing markets and infrastructure for recycling more wood and other materials that are not currently widely recycled.	Partial	

Continued overleaf

Project: Waste and Recycling (continued)

2026/7 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
4. At our recycling centres, we will continue the current arrangements for opening black bags in order to reduce the amount of residual waste and expand opportunities for **reuse** and repair by working closely with our partners.	**4.** The programme of opening black bags will continue to be rolled out in phases across the recycling centres. In addition, a reuse shop and dedicated community repair space is due to open at Bangor Recycling Centre in the autumn. Options for the development of similar hybrid facilities at Dolgellau and Pwllheli Recycling Centres will also be considered as part of the service's commitment to supporting the circular economy and reducing waste.	✓
5. Continue to deliver data-driven behaviour change work in support of the Waste and Recycling Strategy. This may mean using enforcement powers where there is a lack of commitment but also putting more emphasis on improving understanding and awareness within schools and the wider community.	**5.** The restructuring process is ongoing, and the awareness raising team will be based in a way that ensures the best support for the team. A digital marketing apprentice has been appointed to strengthen the use of digital channels in promoting recycling. In addition, we have collaborated with a local teacher to develop an education programme for primary schools, and we will be partnering with Antur Waunfawr to roll out this pack in schools across the county. In the coming months, we will also be working with behaviour change experts to develop further interventions to increase recycling rates and reduce residual waste. To complement this, EPR funding has enabled the service to fund two additional enforcement posts to support compliance.	✓
6. As part of the review of commercial waste arrangements, we will be developing an online customer portal to enable businesses to connect with us and engage through e-commerce. In addition, we will encourage businesses to increase their recycling rates by at least 10% compared to current levels. A recent case study shows that up to 60% of commercial residual bin content contains recyclable materials.	**6.** Work on the development of the customer portal element continues. The restructuring will allow us to shift the operational work of commercial waste to the officers at the depot. The role of the awareness raising team will also expand to include our business community.	Partial

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project: Active Travel

Active travel aims to ensure that walking and cycling becomes the normal choice for daily journeys, to improve our personal health, air quality and to make places more pleasant to live and work.

We will improve the county's existing walking and cycle paths, and introduce new active travel routes to facilitate more walking and cycling in our communities.







Project: Active Travel

2026/7 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track	What to be achieved in fifth year?
1. Following securing financial support from the Regional Transport Fund for 2026/7, we will: • Complete phase 4 of the Penrhos Road Active Travel scheme, Bangor • Complete phase 2 of scheme between Chwilog and Afonwen • Further developmental work on the Tywyn-Aberdyfi scheme • Use active travel core funding for: - preparatory work and studies. - feasibility on various active travel plans. - update the Active Travel Map. - work to promote infrastructure improvements. - provide bike storage in schools. - other minor improvements in communities.	**1.** • Detailed design for phase 4 of the Penrhos Road scheme has been completed (extension of an existing route from the Coed Mawr junction to the Penrhos Road/Belmont Road roundabout), with work having gone out to tender during the summer. Work has now commenced on the site (commencement September). • Work has commenced on the ground in September to avoid disruption during the peak summer period, and so that the work can be completed in one phase. • Developmental work commenced – discussions ongoing with relevant stakeholders for preparatory work to start on the ground during winter 2026 (with the scheme itself to be delivered in 2027/8). • Work continues on developing designs for the implementation of elements during 2026/7: - update of the Active Travel Map – consultation has commenced (see point 5 for further details). - provision of cycle storage in schools – work to commence on Ysgol Edern store during next half term. - other minor improvements in communities -solar lighting to Lon bach Odro, Bethesda to facilitate use.	✓	Planning, preparing and implementing active travel schemes which will receive Welsh Government financial support. To undertake engagement/consultation exercises with the public and key stakeholders in order to realise Active Travel schemes.
2. Safe routes in communities - Ysgol Maenofferen, Blaenau Ffestiniog.	**2.** Work has commenced with the development of the outline plan. Consulted with the local community, constructive comments that will inform improvements moving forward. Work is expected to start early in new year. .	✓	

Continued overleaf

Project: Active Travel (continued)

2026/7 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
3. Improvements to Lôn Las Ogwen completing quality bespoke walking and cycling route infrastructure between Llyn Ogwen and Bangor, including the upgrade of Pont Sarnau.	**3.** Work on the improvements has been completed – the official opening of Pont Sarnau was held which was an opportunity to celebrate this work and improvements in the area that strengthen the walking and cycling network in the area. Find out more about the official opening **here**. Preparatory work for phase 2 of the scheme which will include the completion of a link with Lon Ogwen on the west side.	✓
4. Continue to promote routes for residents and visitors to the county about the walking and cycling opportunities on Gwynedd's active travel network.	**4.** Work continues – hosted the launch of the School Transport Package with positive media coverage. More **here**. Work continues to encourage the use of the pack among schools. As part of Walk to School Week, Road Safety officers held an Active Travel competition, which was an opportunity to celebrate the successes of schools in their efforts to encourage more walking, scootering and cycling to school. Continue to collaborate with Communications Service to develop videos to promote pathway improvements and benefits.	✓ Ongoing
5. Carry out a survey asking residents' views on current active travel routes as well as plans for the future. This will be included as part of a report to be submitted to Welsh Government by December 2026.	**5.** Active Travel Survey has opened, and work is underway to promote and encourage members of the public to have their say. More about the survey **here**	Partial – survey carried out, with final report to be submirtted to Welsh Government early in new year.

APPENDIX 3
Environment Department's Performance Report (April - August 2026).

Performance indicators for the Environment Department

The day-to-day work of the Department

Performance measurement references

Parking and Streetworks	Manager – Ceri Hughes Thomas
P&GS1	Time taken to respond to complaints of illegal parking
P&GS2	Percentage of successful appeals
P&GS3	Number of notices on/off street
P&GS4	Number of works on the highway that have gone over the original timescale
PC1	Percentage of responses to consultation on planning applications and pre applications advice provided on time

Traffic, Projects and Paths	Manager – Iwan Ap Trefor
T&P1	Number of improvements on highway
T&P2	Number of improvements presented to structures on county's paths network
T&P3	Number of users on county's paths network

Public Transport	Manager – Rhian Wyn Williams
TC1	Percentage of local bus services that arrive on times
TC2	Percentage of travellers that use concessionary ticket/pay

Waste & Recycling	Manager - Chris Rees
G&A1	Gwynedd's Recycling Performance
G&A2	Kg of waste and recycling from Gwynedd homes
G&A3	Missed Collection Enquiries
G&A4	Gwynedd Recycling Centres Performance

Planning	Manager – Gwawr Teleri Hughes
C1	Average time taken to decide a planning application
C2	Average time taken to close service requests
C3	Time taken to close alleged breaches of planning rules

Planning Policy	Manager – Rebeca Angharad Jones
PC1	Percentage of responses to consultation on planning applications and pre applications advice provided on time

Building Control	Manager – Martin Barrow Evans
RH1	Percentage of applications decided within a given time [5 or 8 weeks]
RH2	Number of enforcement cases [not including dangerous structures] that have been closed within a certain time
RH3	Number of dangerous structures cases that have been made safe but where there is still a need to complete work

Public Protection -Trading Standards and Licencing	Manager – Andrew Lloyd Parry
SM1	Percentage of high-risk businesses that have had an inspection in accordance with the programme
SM2	Percentage of criminal law violations that have been identified by the service that have been resolved
SM3	Average time taken to process a taxi licence application

Public Protection –Environmental Health	Manager – Lewis Alun Evans
IA1	Percentage of Food Businesses that meet Food Hygiene Standards [score 3 or higher]
IA2(a) IA2(b)	Percentage of Food Businesses that have had a Food Standards Inspection in accordance with the programme Percentage of Food Businesses that have had a Food Hygiene Inspection in accordance with the programme
IA3	Number of private water Properties that have received a water sample inspection and risk assessments in accordance with the programme for the year

Business – Back Office	Manager - Alison Wyn Owen
B1	Average time taken to process land charges applications
B2	Percentage of calls that were answered

Parking

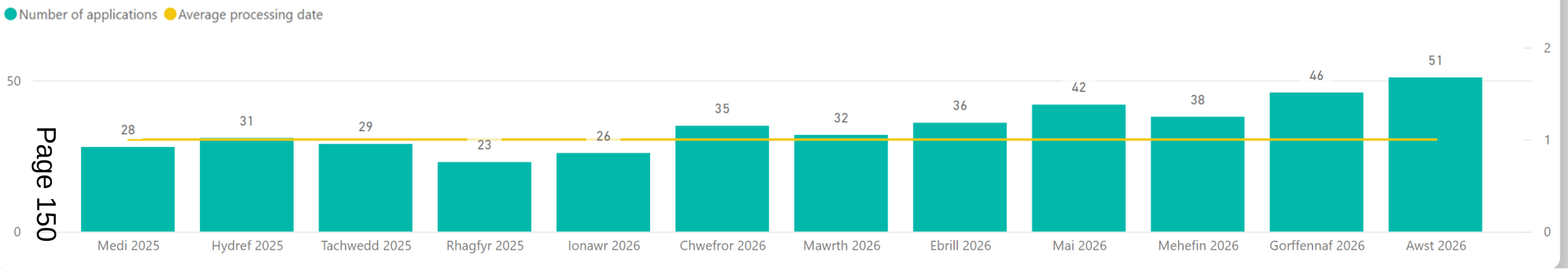
P&GS1 - Average time taken to respond to complaints about illegal parking

Manager: Ceri Hughes Thomas
Purpose of the Service: Ensure safe management of the highway

Comments

The performance shows a positive approach, with a small team of officers responding very promptly to requests and concerns from the public. We have a total of 8 full-time and 1 part-time Parking Enforcement Officers operating across the county, with a service operating over 7 days a week. The service receives complaints every day about all aspects relating to parking. Very often, it is not possible for the service to act due to a lack of powers or parking restrictions.
For the purpose of this exercise, the following graph includes complaints from Local Members and/or members of the public about illegally parked vehicles on parking restrictions only - therefore, the officers were able to act. 70% of settings received a visit within 1 day, with all settings receiving a visit within 3 days. Every effort is being made to respond to complaints promptly, nevertheless, periods of sickness or other absences within the team may cause delay.
It was not possible for the Officers to enforce in 13% of the locations because the form of restrictions did not meet the standard that allows for lawful enforcement. Applications have been transferred to the Council's Highways Department to repaint the road.
The service has received a high number of complaints and enquiries during this period in relation to motor homes parking on sections of the highway throughout the County. It is important to note that only complaints and queries relating to locations where parking restrictions are in force are included in this data. The figures do not include cases where there are no parking restrictions in place. In a significant number of the locations where concerns have been raised, parking restrictions are not in place. As a result, our Parking Enforcement Officers do not have the powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) to motor homes just because they have parked in those locations. Enforcement action can only be taken when a vehicle violates a relevant parking restriction or traffic regulation that is in force. The Department has been working to raise awareness among visitors through issuing press releases and other communications aimed at encouraging visitors to respect our communities and environment, behave responsibly when visiting the area, and park meaningfully and in a manner that shows consideration for residents and other users of the highway

Average time taken to respond to complaints about illegal parking



Promotion work – encouraging people to respect the area when visiting and highlight parking provision available

Press releases and series of social media messages published

Cyngor Gwynedd
Awst 21 ·

🚐Yn ymweld â Gwynedd mewn fan wersylla neu gartref modur?

Rydyn ni'n falch eich bod yn dewis mwynhau ein mynyddoedd, ein traethau a'n cymunedau unigryw. 🌊

‼️ Ond cofiwch:

- Gwaredu sbwriel a gwastraff yn gyfrifol
- Parchu cymunedau lleol, yn enwedig gyda'r nos
- Defnyddio safleoedd ac Arosfannau swyddogol
- Parcio'n ystyriol fel bod lle i bawb

Gadewch ôl troed yn y cof, nid ar yr amgylchedd.🌱

📍 Darganfyddwch fwy am Arosfan: https://orlo.uk/jThby
#CadwGwyneddYnArbennig #CroesoIGwynedd #FaniauGwersylla



Cyngor Gwynedd
Awst 11 ·

Annog perchnogion faniau gwersylla a chartrefi modur i ymweld yn gyfrifol

Mae Gwynedd yn gyrchfan boblogaidd sy'n denu miloedd o ymwelwyr bob blwyddyn oherwydd ei thirweddau unigryw, ei harfordir godidog a'i chymunedau bywiog. Er mwyn sicrhau profiad cadarnhaol i ymwelwyr a thrigolion fel ei gilydd, mae'r Cyngor yn gofyn i berchnogion faniau gwersylla a chartrefi modur gymryd cyfrifoldeb am eu hymddygiad a'u heffaith ar yr amgylchedd lleol.

Stori lawn yma: https://orlo.uk/IkWU3



Cyngor Gwynedd
Awst 17 ·

🚐 Caru Gwynedd? Dangoswch hynny.

Os ydych chi'n ymweld mewn fan wersylla neu gartref modur:

❌ Peidiwch â gadael sbwriel
❌ Peidiwch â gwaredu gwastraff yn anghyfreithlon
❌ Peidiwch â meddiannu mannau parcio am gyfnodau hir
✅ Defnyddiwch safleoedd swyddogol
✅ Parchwch gymunedau lleol
✅ Helpwch i gadw Gwynedd yn lân ac yn groesawgar

🌱Mae pawb eisiau mwynhau'r un Gwynedd hyfryd. Gadewch i ni gyd chwarae ein rhan.

📍 Darganfyddwch fwy am Arosfan: https://orlo.uk/zD9HL
#CadwGwyneddYnLân #VanLifeCymru #CroesoiGwynedd 💚



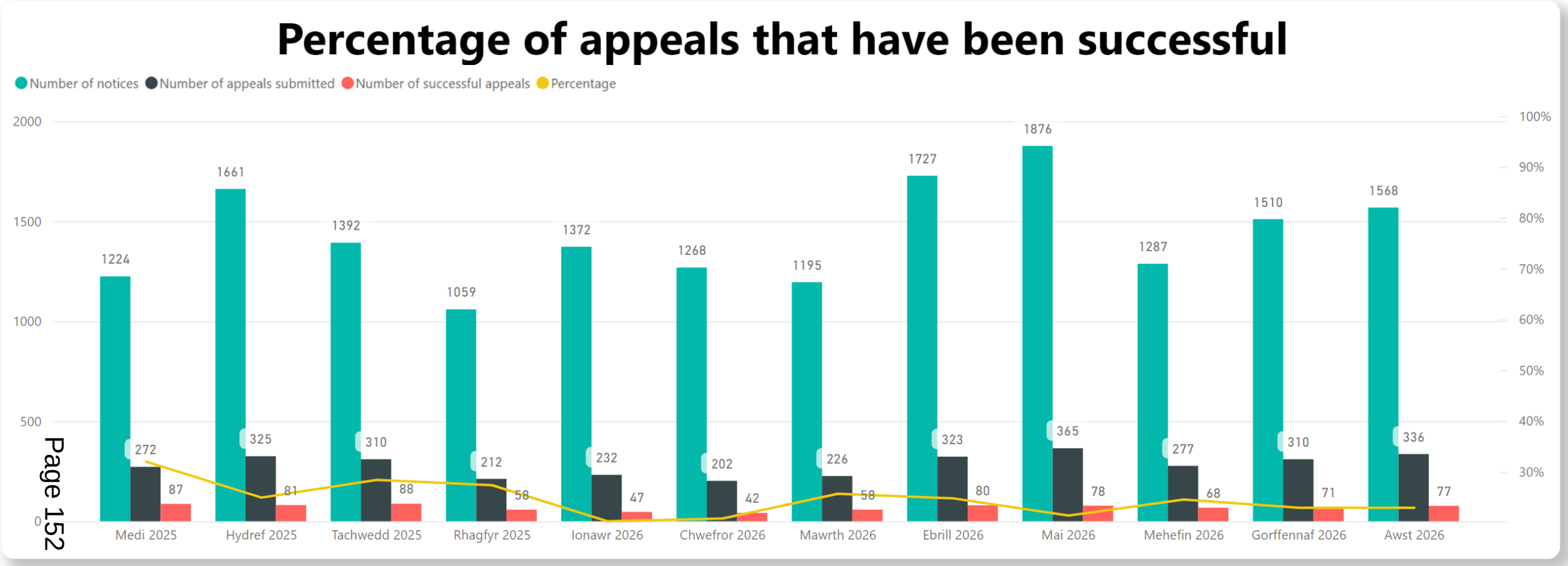
Parking

P&GS2 - Percentage of appeals that have been successful

Manager: Ceri Hughes Thomas

Purpose of the Service:- Ensure safe management of the highway

Comments included on the next page



Parking

P&GS2 - Percentage of appeals that have been successful

Manager: Ceri Hughes Thomas

Purpose of the Service:- Ensure safe management of the highway

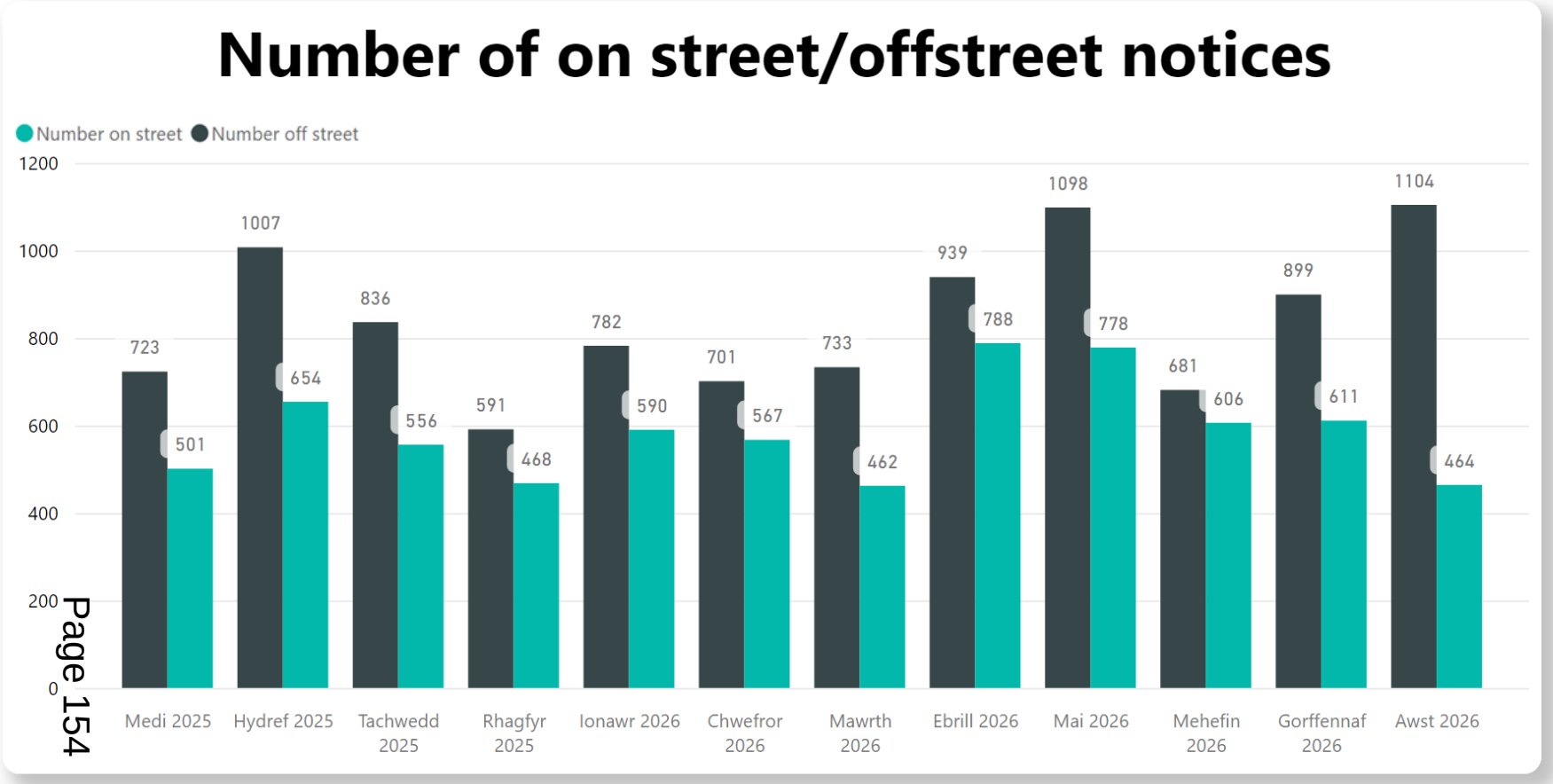
Comments

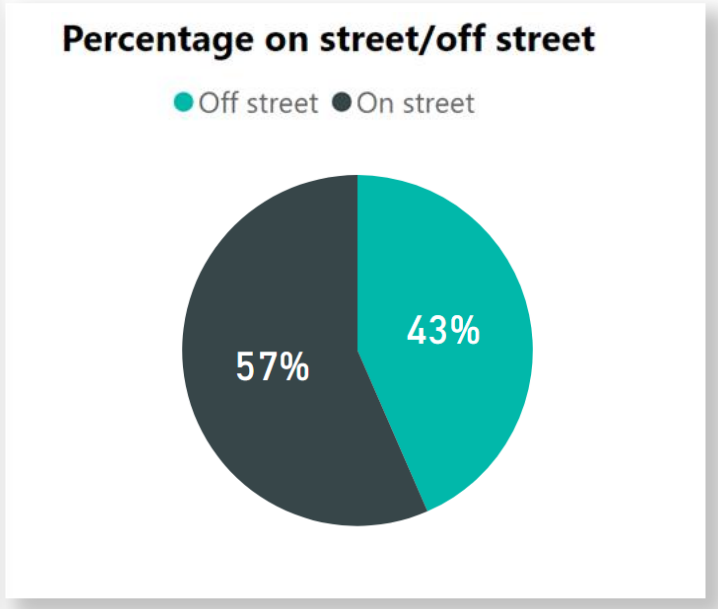
Fines will be issued to vehicles that park in contravention of the restrictions on and off the street (car parks). The service takes pride in the ability to deal with everyone in a consistent, fair and transparent manner. Every motorist who receives a fine is entitled to submit an appeal, should they feel that any unfairness or error has occurred. During the most recent period (April to August), 7,968 tickets were issued – of which 1,611 appeals were lodged, with 374 resulting in the cancellation of the ticket. That equates to 4.6% of all tickets
issued in this period. Except in extreme circumstances, the majority of successful appeals are from individuals who have bought a ticket in the car park but have not paid and displayed for various reasons, e.g. the ticket has fallen from sight, or a customer has inputted one wrong digit by using the Pay by Phone app, or blue badge holders have misunderstood the conditions. Every appeal is considered in full and if robust evidence reinforces the claim that a genuine mistake has occurred, the fine is cancelled. In relation to the number of appeals transferred to the independent adjudicators for consideration, it is noted that only one case was submitted during the specific period in question, and that the outcome of this case was favourable to the Council. We have adapted the measure to include the total number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued to provide a broader context instead of only those who have appealed successfully/unsuccessfully as previously. We have also added the total FPN and have demonstrated whether they are 'on street' and
'off street' - see the next measure.

Parking
P&GS3 - Number of on street/offstreet notices

Manager: Ceri Hughes Thomas
Purpose of the Service:- Ensure safe management of the highway

Comments on next page.





Parking
P&GS3 - Number of on street/offstreet notices

Manager: Ceri Hughes Thomas
Purpose of the Service:- Ensure safe management of the highway

Comments

A special effort is made by the Council's Parking Enforcement Officers to ensure that there is an appropriate level of monitoring of the roads network to ensure that traffic flow moves unimpeded. They take appropriate enforcement steps against motorists who choose to park illegally on sections of the highway, including parking spaces where parking is permitted on the street for specific periods. The officers also make a valuable contribution to monitoring our pay and display car parks, which are an important source of income for the Council.
The chart highlights that most of the Fixed Penalty Notices issued to motorists between April and August 2026 were for parking offences on the highway, e.g. parking where there are parking restrictions such as single and double yellow lines, a clearway, a white line protecting entrances, restricted stay parking bays or misuse of disabled bays (with the remainder in car parks).

Highlight parking on-offer – parking offers and pay and display options

Messages posted on social media, including promotion video





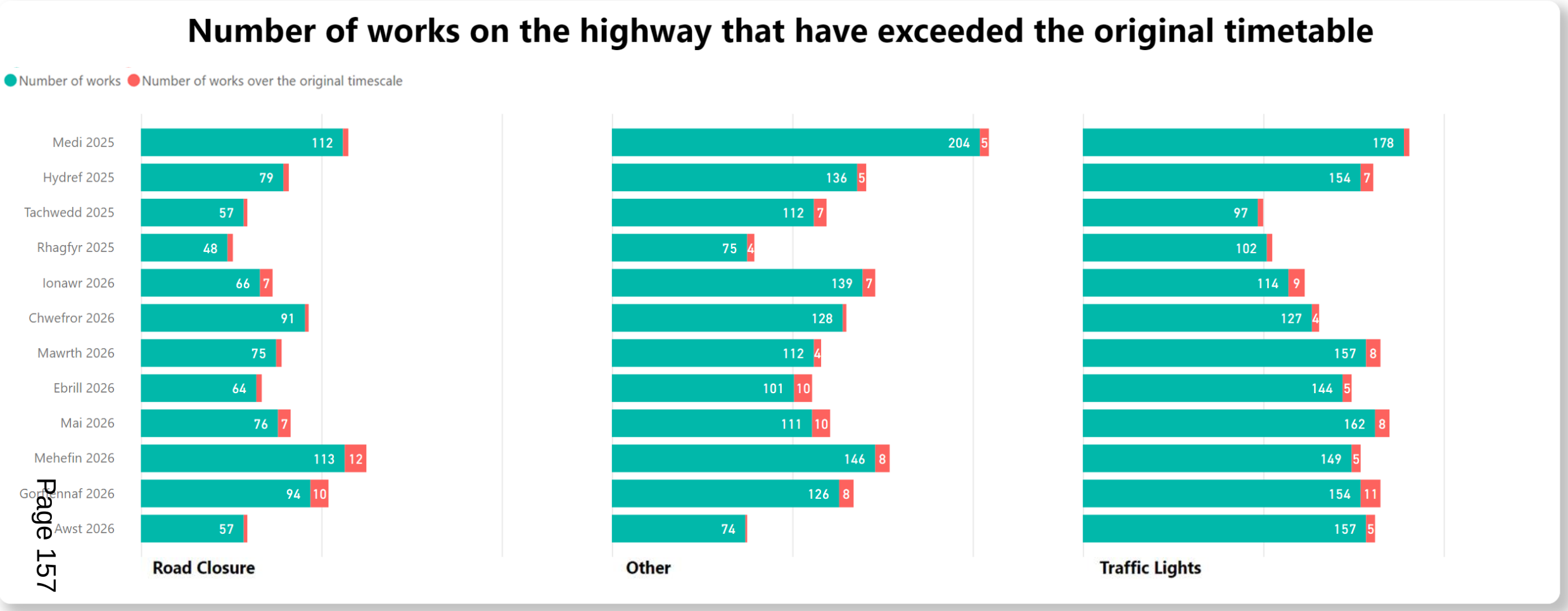
[Video on Council social media accounts - (1) Facebook]

Street Works

P&GS4 - Number of works on the highway that have exceeded the original timetable

Manager: Ceri Hughes Thomas **Purpose of the Service:-** Ensure safe management of the highway

Comments included on the next page



Street Works

P&GS4 - Number of works on the highway that have exceeded the original timetable

Manager: Ceri Hughes Thomas **Purpose of the Service:-** Ensure safe management of the highway

Comments

The work carried out on our streets or roads is part of daily life, and although it causes disruption to members of the public from time to time, such work is key to provide and maintain utility and transport services. The service's street inspectors are responsible for coordinating and monitoring all activities carried out on the public highway network by statutory undertakers or contractors and strive to avoid situations where areas are disturbed for long periods because of works. A set of specific conditions are imposed to manage this, and in some circumstances no option is given for a contractor to extend the period. Although most of the activities are achieved within the original timetable, it is not uncommon to run over time on occasions, for various reasons, e.g. encountering something unexpected after starting to dig-up the road, delays due to staffing problems, relying on other companies, unable to obtain the appropriate tools or equipment. The graph includes the data captured about the percentages of works that ran behind the original schedule during the fixed period.
*There may be rare occurrences where companies have decided to undertake works without informing
the Streetworks Service - the data does not include such situations."

Traffic, Projects and Footpaths

T&P1 - A number of improvements have been presented on the highway

Manager: Iwan Ap Trefor

Purpose of the Service:- Manage and coordinate a bespoke and safe highways network, as well as develop and realise transport projects.

Comments

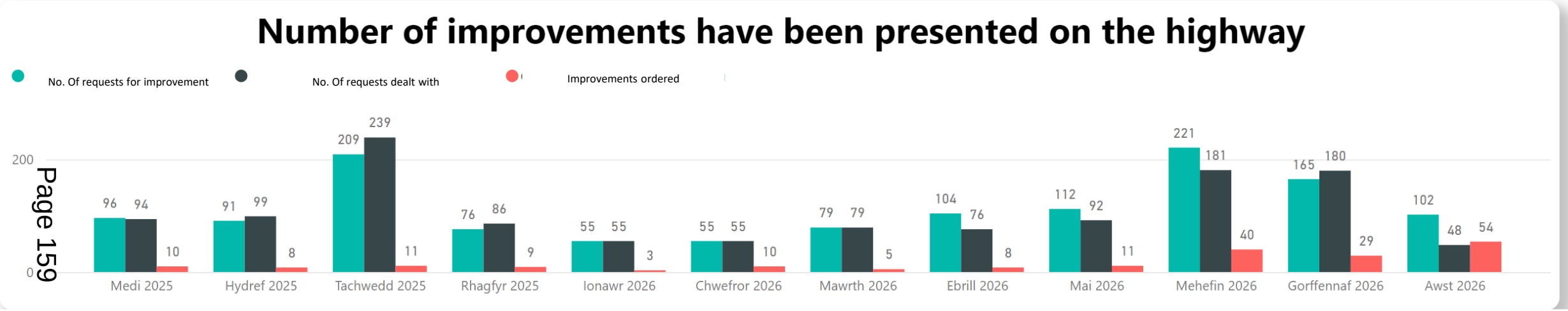
Pages that address several frequently asked questions about traffic issues are in the
process of being published on the Council's website. These pages will provide consistent and useful information addressing many of the key issues asked by enquiries sent to the team.
Main Traffic Issues Identified and Action Taken in Response:

• Complaints about Speeding:
A significant number of complaints have been received regarding speeding, particularly in 20mph areas. This remains an obvious concern among residents. Joint work takes place with Police and Community and Town Councils to take proactive action where possible.

• Requests for Speed Reduction Measures:
Several requests to introduce speed limits outside the 20mph and 30mph zones remain constant,
reflecting wider concerns about traffic safety. As above, collaborate with partners to tackle this wherever possible.

• Parking Prohibitions:
The number of requests for parking prohibitions has increased compared to 2025.

• Enquirer does not receive a response
Enquirer refuses to accept responses that have been given and therefore comes back with further enquiries.



Highlighting improvements and potential opportunities for the future

Press releases issued and posts on social media accounts



[Celebrating launch of schools transport pack - (1) Facebook]



[Promoting consultation - (1) Facebook]

Traffic, Projects and Routes

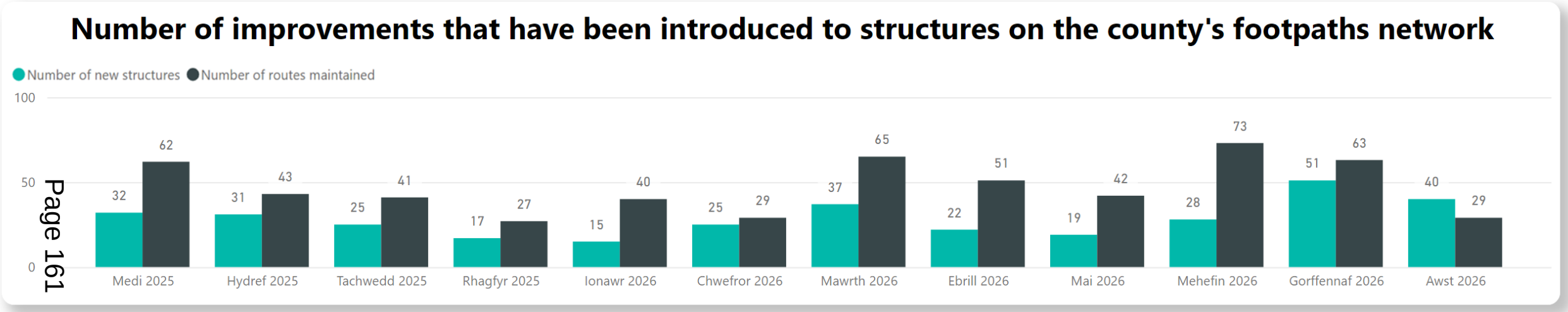
T&P2 - The number of improvements that have been introduced to structures on the county's footpaths network

Manager: Iwan Ap Trefor

Purpose of the Service:- Maintain and manage access networks

Comments

This measure showcases the constant varied work being carried out to maintain and improve the public rights of way network for the benefit of members of the public. From the aspect of new structures that have been installed, there was a significant increase in July (51) and August (40), reflecting an increase in installation work due to favourable weather and conditions. In addition, there was an increase in the number of operations to maintain the paths in June and July which is likely to be due to the demand for works to cut vegetation during that period. The new structures being installed on paths include improvements such as new gates (to replace stiles),and signage to facilitate use. In addition, the number of operations to maintain paths is reported, these are separate actions, as well as maintenance work such as cutting surface vegetation, improving the condition of a surface, etc. As well, the addition of two apprentices to the team has increased the ability to respond to complaints and the additional capacity to carry out monitoring work. As noted in these comments, a distinct pattern exists in terms of the bulk aspect of seasonal work carried out by the footpaths team.



Celebrating successes and work completed

Press releases and social media posts including videos highlighting achievements









Celebrating opening of Pont Sarnau in Dyffryn Ogwen and Maintenance work with volunteers in Dolgellau area

[Video showcasing work completed to allow re-opening of Lôn Eifion - (1) Facebook]

Traffic, Projects and Footpaths

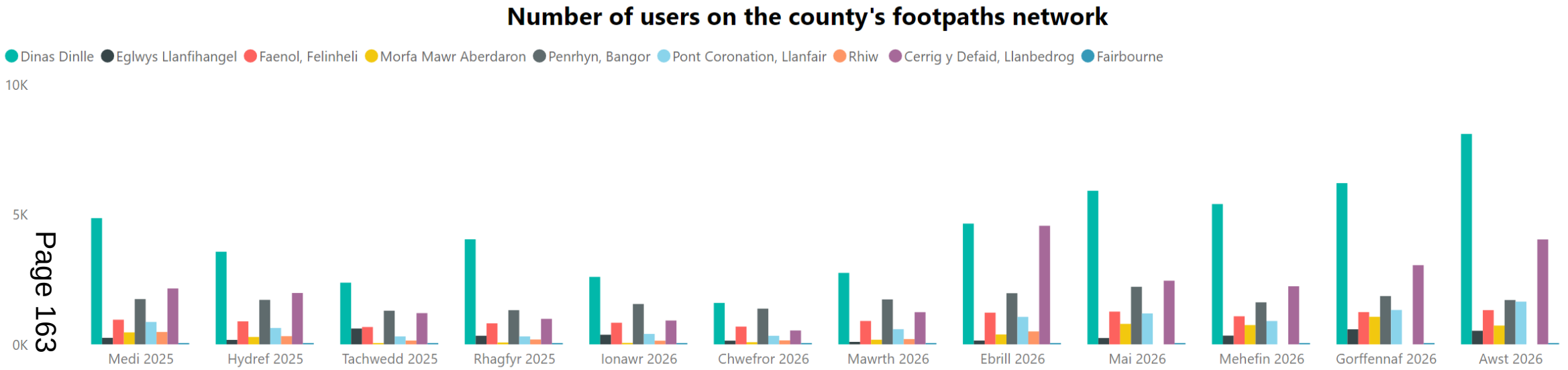
T&P3 - Number of users on the county's footpaths network

Manager : - Iwan ap Trefor

Purpose of the Service:- Maintain and manage access networks

Comments

This measure monitors user numbers on some of the main paths on the county's network, using monitoring tools installed at specific locations. The paths network is a great resource for outdoor activities that benefit residents' well-being from a mental and physical health perspective. In addition, they also offer sustainable day-to-day travel opportunities that support several strategic ambitions and objectives to reduce the impact on the climate and on practical issues such as traffic congestion and parking issues. The current locations report on the number of path users at Morfa Mawr near Aberdaron; Rhiw in Pen Llŷn; Cerrig y Defaid in Llanbedrog; Dinas Dinlle; Faenol between Y Felinheli and Bangor; Penrhyn on the outskirts of Bangor in the direction of Abergwyngregyn; Llanfihangel Church in the Ardudwy area; Coronation Bridge at Llanfair near Harlech and Fairbourne in south Meirionnydd. The data up to August this year shows a similar pattern to last year – with paths that are close to popular destinations (e.g. Dinas Dinlle) seeing the highest number of users. Data for Rhiw, is up to the end of April, as the counting device needs restoration. The measure currently focuses on user data at specific locations on the Wales Coastal Path with the intention of including locations across the rest of the paths network in the future.



Highlighting benefits of paths network

Video celebrating Wales Coast Path in Gwynedd and important maintenance on the network





Video promoting Wales Coast Path in Gwynewdd and essential maintenance - (1) Facebook

Public Transport

TC1 - Percentage of local bus journeys arriving on time during the period (up to 1 minute early or 5 minutes late)

Manager: Rhian Wyn Williams

Purpose of the Service:- Provide quality public transport to the residents of Gwynedd in a cost-effective and sustainable way

Comments

While a contractual change at the company that holds bus time data means there is currently no access to the punctuality times, officers are continuing to handle any public queries about the area. Although there is currently no access to bus timing data through the Welsh Government, we continue to deal with individual complaints, and our officers follow up any queries or complaints about bus timing and deal with the issues in a timely manner for the public. There is a good relationship with bus companies that provide the services, which allows us to deal with any issues that arise or advance notice in any case where there are issues that may affect the timing of services (e.g. roadworks, etc). As there is no agreement between the operators and the Government about sharing bus time data, the Council does not currently have access to punctuality data. We continue to press for access to the dataas this is important evidence for us to measure the performance of local bus services.

NO DATA AT THIS TIME

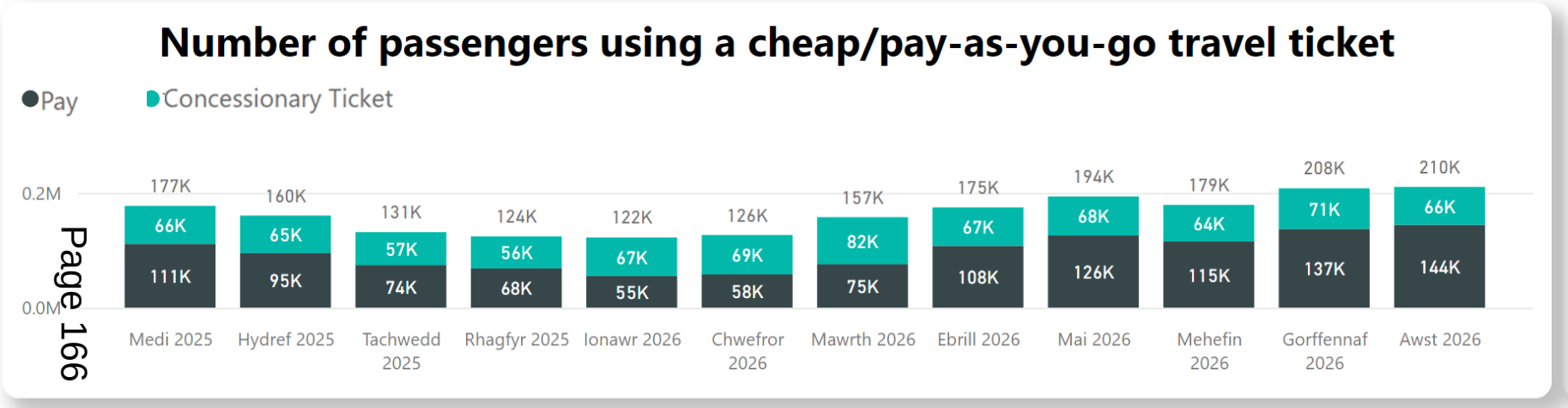
Public Transport

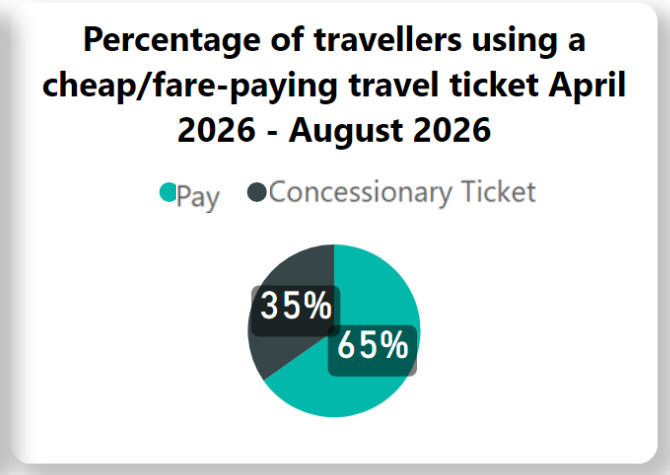
TC2- Percentage of passengers using a Cheap/Paid Travel Pass

Manager: Rhian Wyn Williams **Purpose of the Service**:- Provide quality public transport to the residents of Gwynedd in a cost-effective and sustainable way

Comments

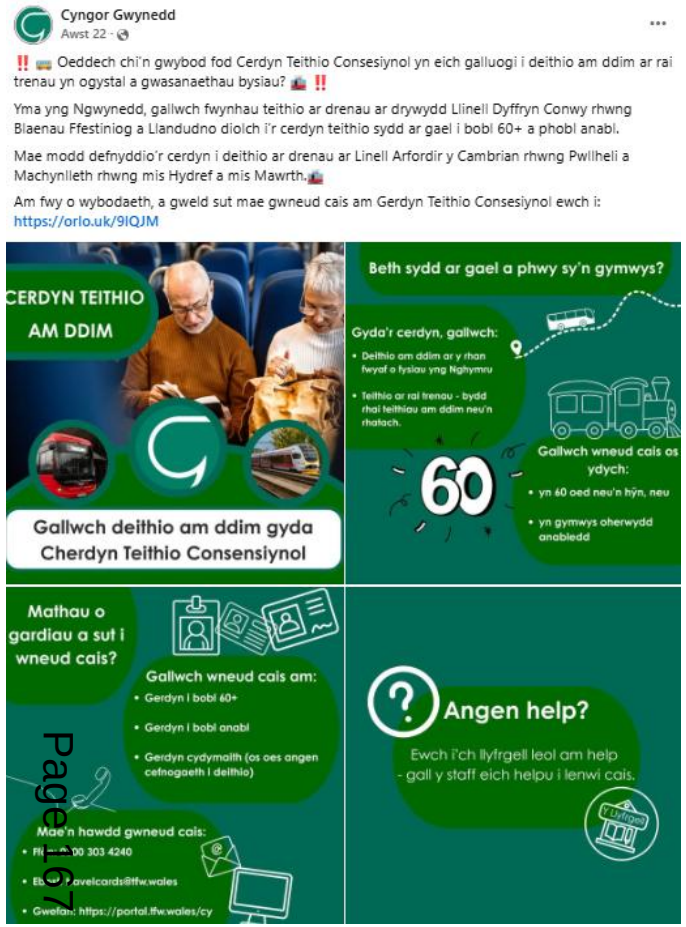
It is encouraging to report that the figures for the April-August period this year show a continuation of the increase in total journeys compared to the same period over recent years. Total journeys were 965,095
up to the end of August – an increase of 4.7% compared to the same period last year, and 42.5% compared to 2024. Looking at the percentages using or paying a travel pass, 35% were using a travel pass (April - August)
with 65% paying, similar to the split in previous years, and reflecting an increase in the number of visitors to the area during the peak period of the tourism period. Proactive work is currently underway to promote
these tickets for 60+ travellers through posters, material on library screens and a series of social media messages – and this campaign will continue over the coming months.
As previously reported, significant changes have been introduced to the bus network here in Gwynedd in recent years. The clear increase in passenger numbers on services operated on behalf of Cyngor
Gwynedd with a share of grant funding, continued again in the first five months of 2026/7 and reflects the success of this work by Council officers who worked with partners in designing the work.
Of course, the use of bus services in general can be influenced by several factors – e.g. how many weekends there are in any month plus the weather – especially during weekends, bank holidays and other peak periods. The number of learners who pay to travel on public buses can also change and have an influence.



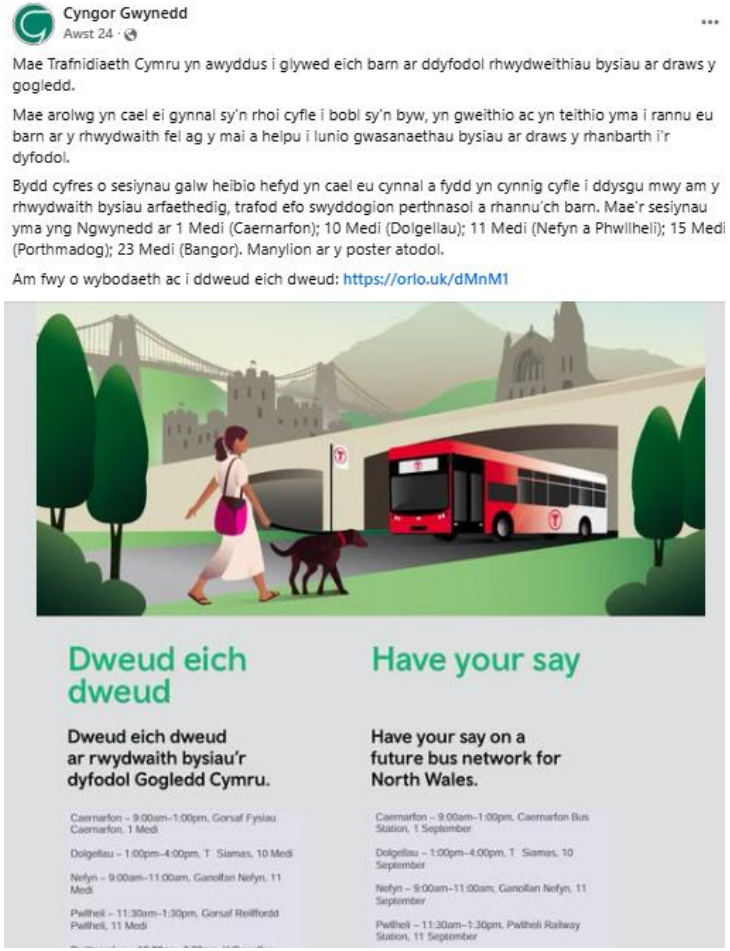


Highlighting benefits of Gwynedd bus network

Use of social media to highlight travel options available on buses in Gwynedd







Gwynedd Recycling Performance (GA1)

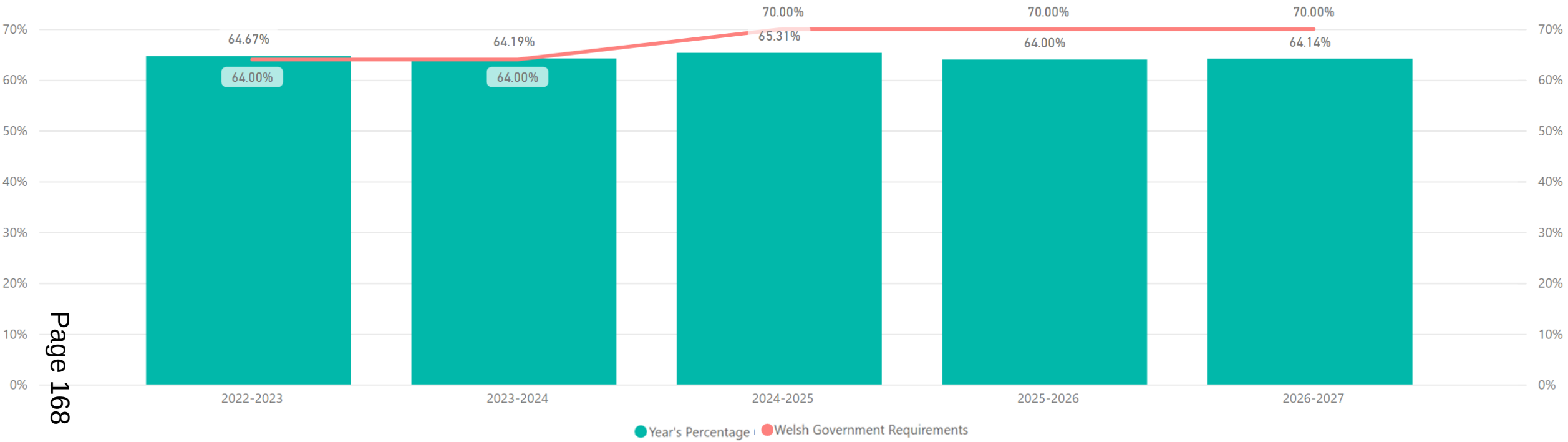
Manager : - Roland Thomas

Purpose of the Service: To provide a reliable, sustainable and efficient Waste and Recycling Service that assists the residents and businesses of Gwynedd to reduce waste and increase

Comments

Although Gwynedd's recycling performance has increased significantly over the last decade, from around 55% to over 65%, progress has slowed down in recent years. In 2025/26 the recycling rate was 64%, compared to 65.3% in 2024/25. While changes to the way wood is reported have contributed to the decline, it is important to recognise that further action is needed to improve performance overall.

Gwynedd already provides a service that aligns with the Welsh Government's blueprint, including weekly food and recycling collections, residual waste collections every three weeks, an affordable garden waste service and eight Recycling Centres, which is the highest number in Wales. The infrastructure and services are therefore in place, but there is a need to increase resident participation and reduce the recyclable waste that continues to go into the residual stream. The new Waste and Recycling Strategy sets out a series of measures to drive the next phase of improvement, including reviewing residual bin capacity, expanding the range of recyclable materials, strengthening education and awareness activities, introducing a formal education programme in primary schools, and adopting a more assertive approach to enforcement where necessary. These measures aim to increase recycling rates and support the Council to meet the Welsh Government's recycling target of 70%.



Promoting recycling services

Messages on social media to highlight benefits



[Video highlighting benefits of recycling food waste - (1) Facebook]



[Video on recent visit to GwyriAD food waste treatment site and transformation of nearby Llwyn Isaf for benefit of nature and biodiversity(1) Facebook]



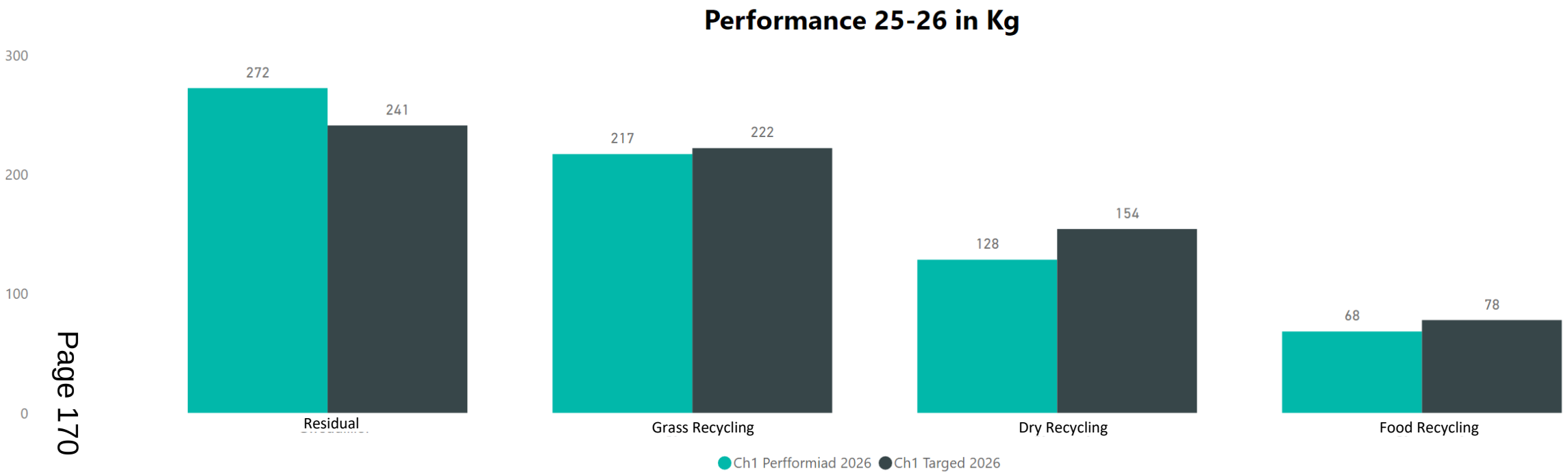
Waste and Recycling Kg of waste and recycling from Gwynedd homes (GA2)

Manager : - Roland Thomas

Purpose of the Service :- To provide a reliable, sustainable and efficient waste and recycling service that helps Gwynedd residents and businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling

Comments

This indicator measures the average amount of waste and recycling generated by Gwynedd households (kg). An analysis of the contents of the residual bin shows that around 57% of the material placed in it can be recycled using the services already available. Performance modelling suggests that an increase in the recycling rate of around 3% would require an improvement of around 12% in dry recycling, 25% in food recycling, a 12% reduction in residual waste, and a small increase in garden waste. The potential to increase participation in the garden waste service is more limited due to the cost to residents. This complements the challenges identified under measure G&A1. As a result, the potential for further improvement is likely to depend primarily on measures that encourage behaviour change, with reducing the capacity of the residual bin or reviewing the frequency of its collection, this is likely to have the greatest and fastest impact on recycling performance.

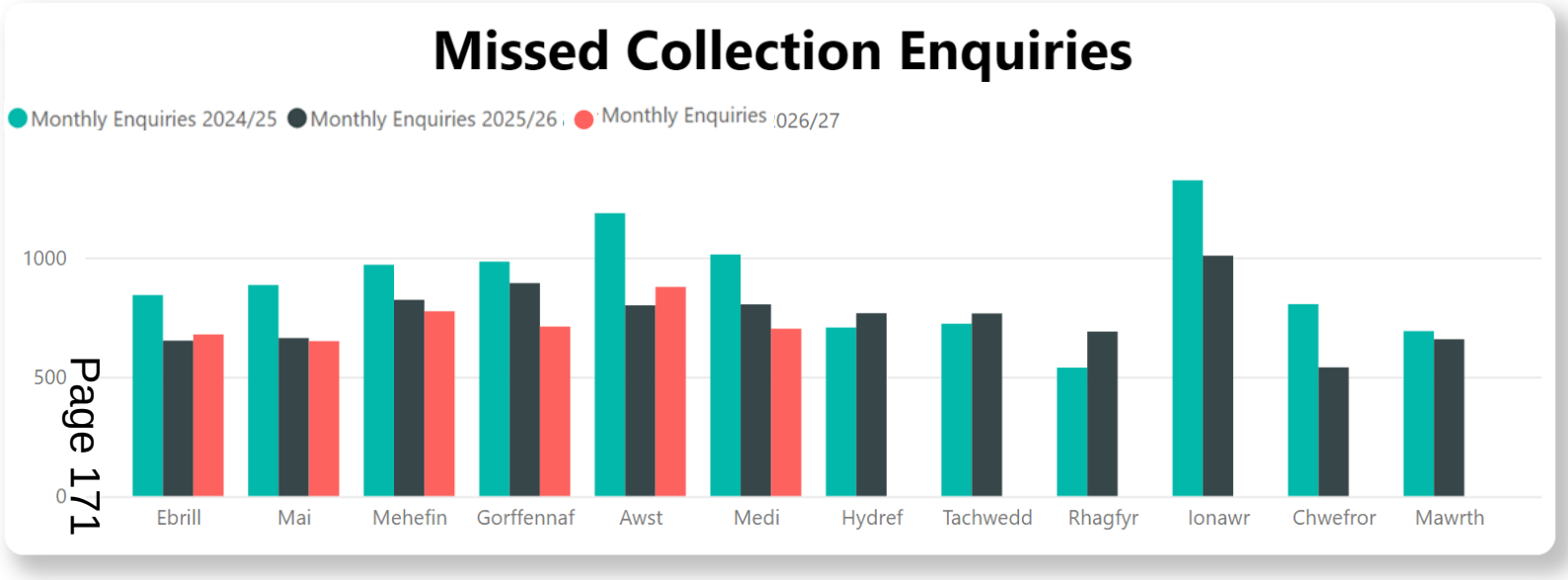


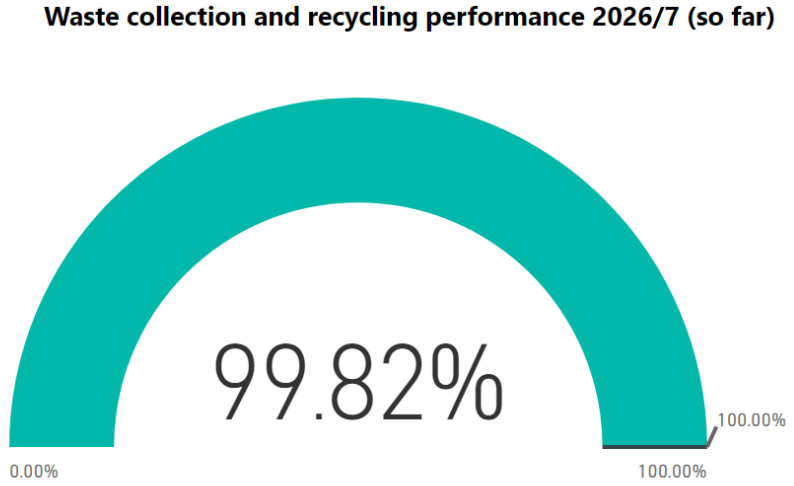
Waste and Recycling
G&A3 - Percentage of Successful Collections

Manager: Chris Rees
Purpose of the Service:- Collect waste and recycling from 64,000 homes in the county, in line with the agreed timetable

Comments

This measure shows the number of service enquiries received monthly in relation to waste and recycling collections. It is important to note that the data cannot distinguish between valid and invalid queries. For example, an enquiry may be recorded as a complaint about a missed bin when the bin was not delivered correctly or on time, or more than one enquiry may be submitted about the same incident. For this reason, it is important to consider the figures in the context of the total work carried out by the service.
The second graph shows the number of queries as a percentage of the total containers collected. This shows that the service collects approximately 99.8% of containers/bins without any enquiry from the customer, which equates to approximately 413,200 successful collections per month. Whilst all enquiries are investigated and treated seriously, the data shows a very high level of operational performance given the size of the service provided across Gwynedd.





Waste and Recycling (GA4)

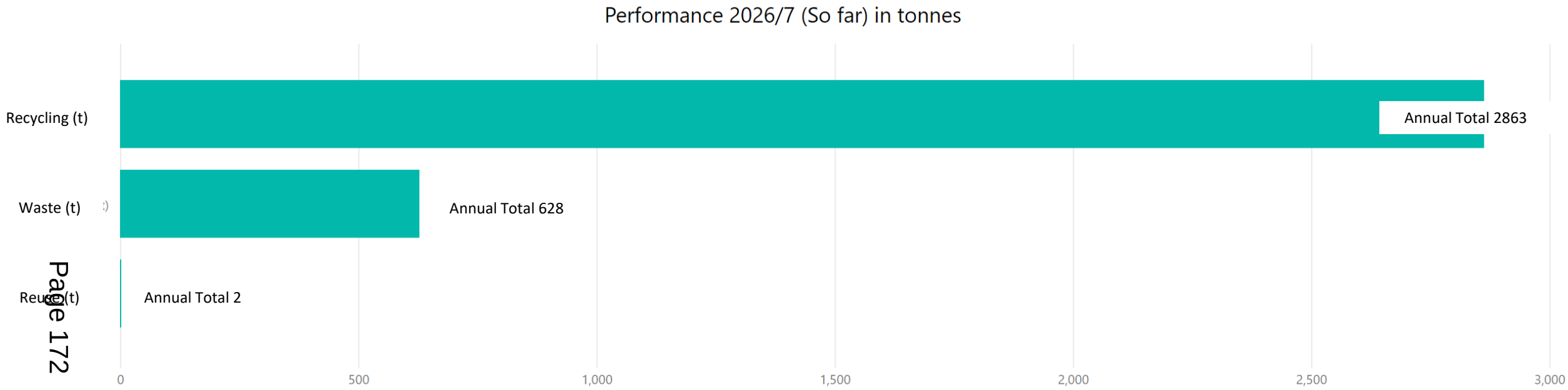
Recycling Centre Performance

Manager : - Endaf Williams

Purpose of the Service:- Enabling Gwynedd residents to recycle, reuse and dispose of waste responsibly

Comments

This measure shows the recycling performance of Gwynedd Recycling Centres, measuring the proportion of materials that are recycled, reused or sent to the residual waste stream. The performance of our residents when separating materials in the centres is high, with a recovery rate of around 82%, and this contributes around 15% towards the Council's overall recycling rate. However, there are limitations in the way some materials are calculated within the national performance framework. For example, although residents correctly separate wood for reprocessing, some of the wood cannot be recycled to a standard that meets the requirements of Natural Resources Wales. As a result, wood is burnt to produce energy and therefore cannot be counted as part of the statutory recycling rate. This reduces the official performance of the centres from around 82% to around 66%, having a significant impact on the Council's overall recycling performance. Another challenge over the next few years will be to increase levels of materials reused. While reused materials offer more environmental benefits than recycling, this requires more resources and investment for it to be achieved. Nevertheless, the Council is keen to develop reuse initiatives as a key part of its commitment to reducing waste and supporting the circular economy.



Thanks, and education – recycling services

Messages on social media to highlight benefits

Cyngor Gwynedd
Mehefin 8 ·

Canolfannau Ailgylchu Gwynedd – Diolch am eich cefnogaeth!

Rydym wedi bod yn gwella trefniadau yn y canolfannau ailgylchu, ac yn gofyn i drigolion sy'n dod â sachau du i ddidoli'r cynnwys cyn eu rhoi yn y sgipiau.

Diolch i bawb am chwarae eu rhan – mae'n gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn ac yn helpu i gynyddu faint sy'n cael ei ailgylchu.

Beth allwch chi ei wneud?
• Didoli gartref cyn dod i'r canolfan. Rydym hefyd wedi trefnu mannau penodol i ddidoli cynnwys y sachau duon yn y canolfannau os na fyddwch wedi gwneud cyn ymweld.
• Defnyddio'r sgipiau ailgylchu wedi'u labelu'n glir.
• Gofyn i'n staff os oes angen cymorth – maen nhw yno i helpu.

Dim ond yr eitemau nad oes modd eu hailgylchu ddylai fynd i'r sgip gwastraff domestig.

Diolch am eich cydweithrediad!

I drefnu apwyntiad: https://orlo.uk/ChgrF



Cyngor Gwynedd
Mai 12 ·

♻️Roedd hi'n bleser croesawu criw o ddysgwyr o Coleg Glynllifon draw i ganolfan Ailgylchu'r Cyngor ym Mangor yn ddiweddar, fel rhan o'u hastudiaethau Sgiliau Byw a Gwaith a Cam i Waith.
Roedd yr ymweliad yn rhan o wythnos amgylchedd y Coleg – ar ôl casglu ac ailgylchu sbwriel o amgylch y Coleg, daeth y grŵp draw i weld i ble mae'r deunyddiau'n mynd a beth sy'n digwydd iddyn nhw wedyn. Cafwyd hefyd gyfle i ddysgu am y gwahanol swyddi yn y maes.
Roedd hi'n wych gweld gymaint o frwdfrydedd – ac atgoffa pawb ohonom pa mor bwysig yw ailgylchu i ddiogelu ein hamgylchedd 🌍
Diolch yn fawr i chi gyd am ymweld – roedd yn braf cael eich croesawu!
Am ragor o wybodaeth am ganolfannau ailgylchu Cyngor Gwynedd ewch draw i 👉
https://orlo.uk/4gGGL



Cyngor Gwynedd
Mai 26 ·

Wrth i'r tywydd gynhesu, mae mwy ohonom yn treulio amser yn mwynhau'r ardd.
Cofiwch y gallwch drefnu eich casgliad gwastraff gardd am 2026 yn sydyn ac yn syml ar ein gwefan:
https://orlo.uk/7R53v



Cyngor Gwynedd
Awst 6 ·

⚠️ Cofiwch beidio â rhoi poteli nwy (megis bwtan, propan ac ati) yn eich bin ailgylchu cartref.
Maent yn gallu achosi risg diogelwch difrifol i staff ac i gyfarpar prosesu gwastraff.
Yn hytrach, ewch â nhw i un o Ganolfannau Ailgylchu'r Cyngor er mwyn eu gwaredu'n ddiogel.
📍 Mwy o wybodaeth am eich canolfan leol ac am sut i archebu slot yma ➡️ https://orlo.uk/Q8c3Y
Diolch am eich cydweithrediad. ♻️





Cyngor Gwynedd
Gorffennaf 16 ·

Gwasanaeth Gwastraff ac Ailgylchu

Cofiwch: Er lles a diogelwch ein staff ac eich cymuned, ni ddylai gwastraff clinigol, gan gynnwys nodwyddau, fynd yn y bin ailgylchu nac yn y gwastraff cyffredinol.

Gallwch wneud cais drwy eich meddyg neu nyrs gymunedol i drefnu casgliad gwastraff clinigol gan y Cyngor. I waredu offer meddygol arall yn ddiogel, cysylltwch â'ch fferyllfa leol.

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth.

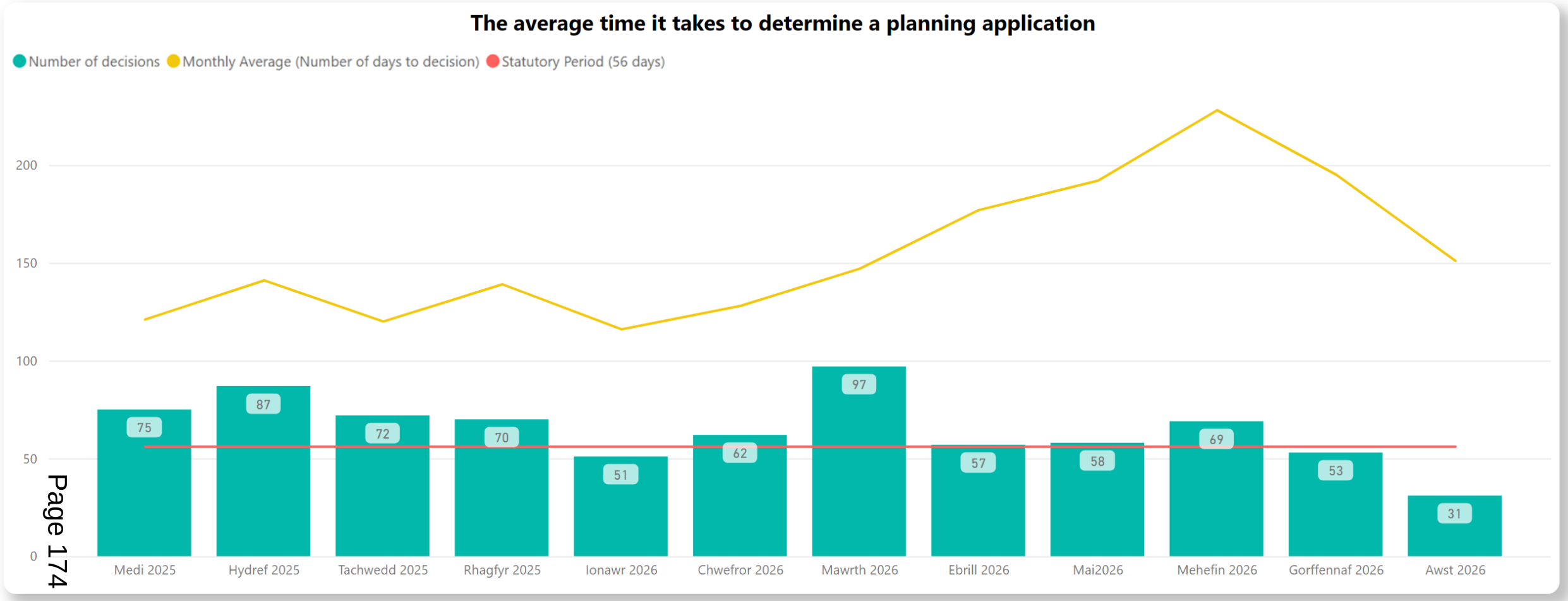
www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ailgylchu



Planning
The average time it takes to determine a planning application

Manager: Gwawr Teleri Hughes
Purpose of the Service:- Facilitate appropriate/suitable developments for the benefit of communities, the economy and the environment

Comments on next page.



Planning
The average time it takes to determine a planning application

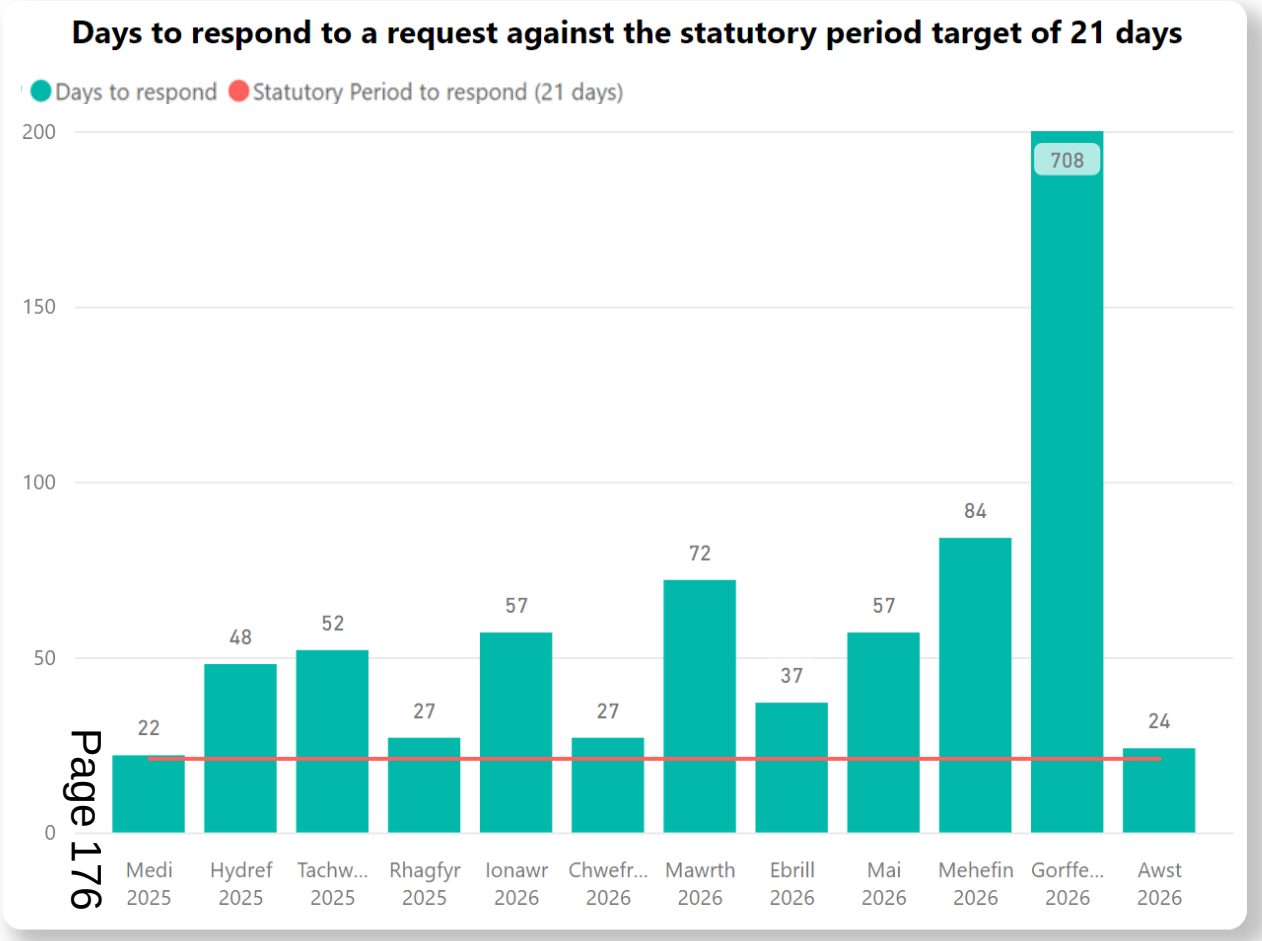
Comments

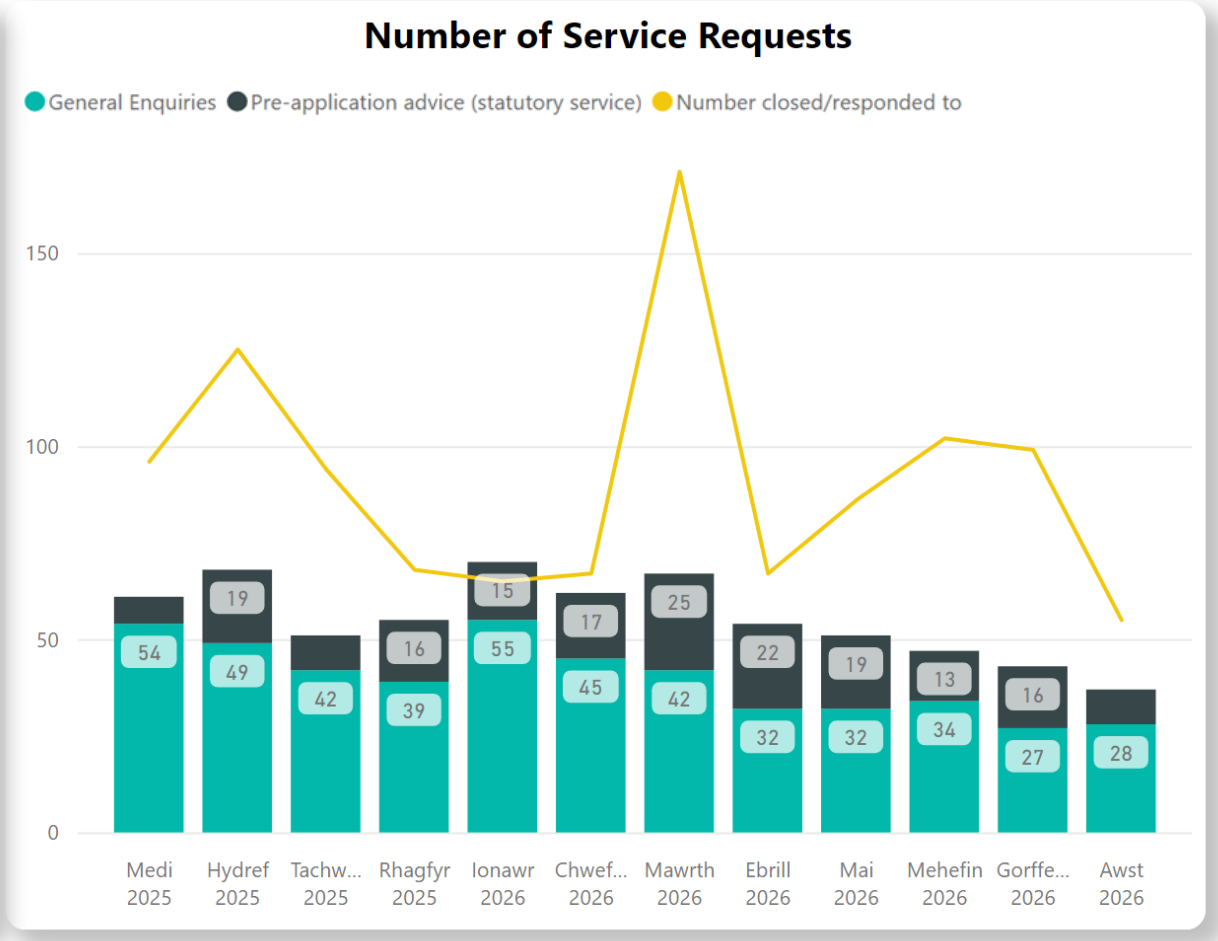
In the most recent period (June to August 2026), 197 new applications were received and 153 applications were determined. Both figures are again slightly lower than what was reported on average in the previous period but are on average consistent with the number at this time in 2025, and so the situation is generally considered to be consistent. The number of applications in the system without a decision has risen again from 579 to 592 because of
the lower number of applications determined in August. The average application decision time over this period has increased to 202 days. Having looked at thisissue in greater detail, it appears that 4 applications have received a decision within a period of over 1000 days, and by omitting these the average falls to 160 days. A high number of applications (47%) receive a decision within 100 days. 85% receive a decision within 300 days. The average application decision time for these specific applications is 111 days. A total of 21 applications have received a decision over 300 days (including the 4 over 1000 days), and these applications tend to be the subject of discussion with the agent or applicant or have been for a long period without sufficient information. 85% of applications were granted in this period (June to August) and a high number of the remainder have been rejected following a long period of waiting for further information but not received. In this period, around 55% of decisions are within the statutory time (either under 56 days or with an agreed time extension), which is significantly lower than previous periods. This reflects the period following the retirement of 3 Senior Officers since December 2025 and the effort to dispose of a high number of old applications. However, this highlights that a high number of decisions continue to be made in a timely manner, or with a time extension agreement with the applicant/agent, despite the current staffing situation and the effort to clear workload that is standing.
As has already been highlighted, the Service has gone through a period of workforce planning, and the Service has backfilled 2 Senior Planning Officer roles with internal appointments following retirements. One Planning Officer has joined the Service and at least one new Trainee is expected to join the Service in the autumn. As new, generally less experienced staff become accustomed to their roles, internal systems and planning regime, this can lead to some challenges and delays in dealing with the workload. An item included in the members' bulletin highlights the high number of appointments and workforce planning,
etc, with a brief note included on emails sent out to applicants/agents to inform them of the situation. The staffing situation is fairly fragile at the moment due to a lack of experience and a high level of applications that need to be determined, despite the Service highlighting the situation.

Planning
The average time taken to close service requests

Managerr: Gwawr Teleri Hughes
Purpose of the Service:- Facilitate appropriate/suitable developments for the benefit of communities, the economy and the environment

Comments on next page.





Planning
The average time taken to close service requests

Comments

In this period, 127 pre-application enquiries and requests for advice were received and 256 cases were closed (either because a response had been provided or because they were not valid). The workload remains constant, and work to clear the backlog and keep on top of current enquiries continues. This is reflected in the number of days to respond, especially in July. The number of open enquiries has fallen to 68, but it is noted that there is a backlog of enquiries awaiting validation over the summer period due to holidays and the work pressures of planning applications.

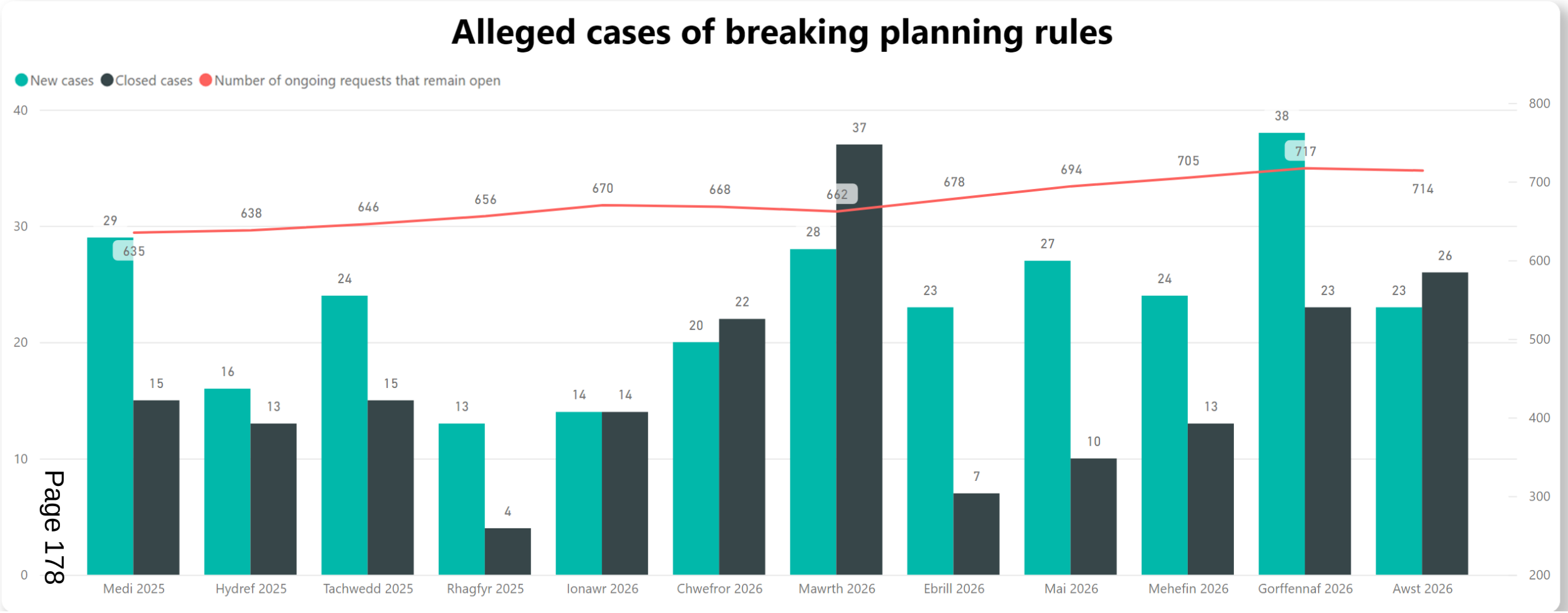
Planning

The number of cases of alleged breaches of planning rules that have been closed

Manager: Gwawr Teleri Hughes

Purpose of the Service:- Facilitate appropriate/suitable developments for the benefit of communities, the economy and the environment

Comments on next page.



Planning

The number of cases of alleged breaches of planning rules that have been closed

Comments
This work involves dealing with complaints about alleged breaches of planning rules. Due to their nature,they can be complex issues, and despite genuine efforts, closing a case can take time due to the need to visit a site, consider different evidence, respond to the complainant and come to a professional decision. With 85 new complaints opened and 62 cases closed, the number of new complaints remains constant,but the number of cases that have been closed has increased due to the transfer of an additional member of staff to the Enforcement Team. This has an impact on the Development Control Team, and it is noted that all officers are now dealing with enforcement cases and it is not just those cases that require specific attention that are passed on to the Enforcement Team for attention. Administrative support has by now been formalised. The Team has also been completing background work to ensure anup-to-date register of Enforcement Notices and this work is being completed by a casual member of staff over the summer period. It is intended to continue to deal with the steadily increasing backlog following the transfer of a Planning Officer to the Team. Four Enforcement Notices and five Planning Breach Notices have been issued, and the team are continuing to deal with several planning appeals against enforcement notices. The management and monitoring of illuminated signs/signs without permission at our main centres is ongoing, with several cases resolved by now. A case of an untidy property has been resolved as a result of compliance with an enforcement notice, and the property has now been tidied-up.

Planning Policy

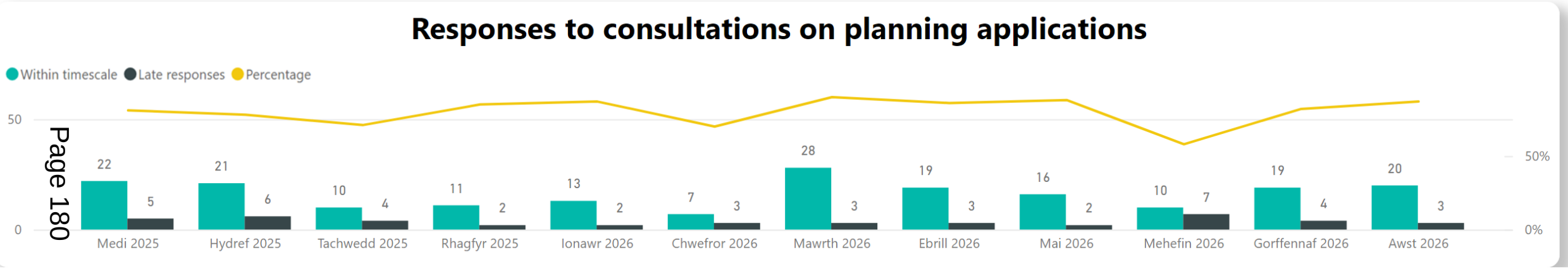
Percentage of responses to consultations on planning applications and pre-application advice given within time

Manager:: Rebeca Angharad Jones

Purpose of the Service: Facilitate appropriate/suitable developments for the benefit of communities, the economy and the environment

Comments

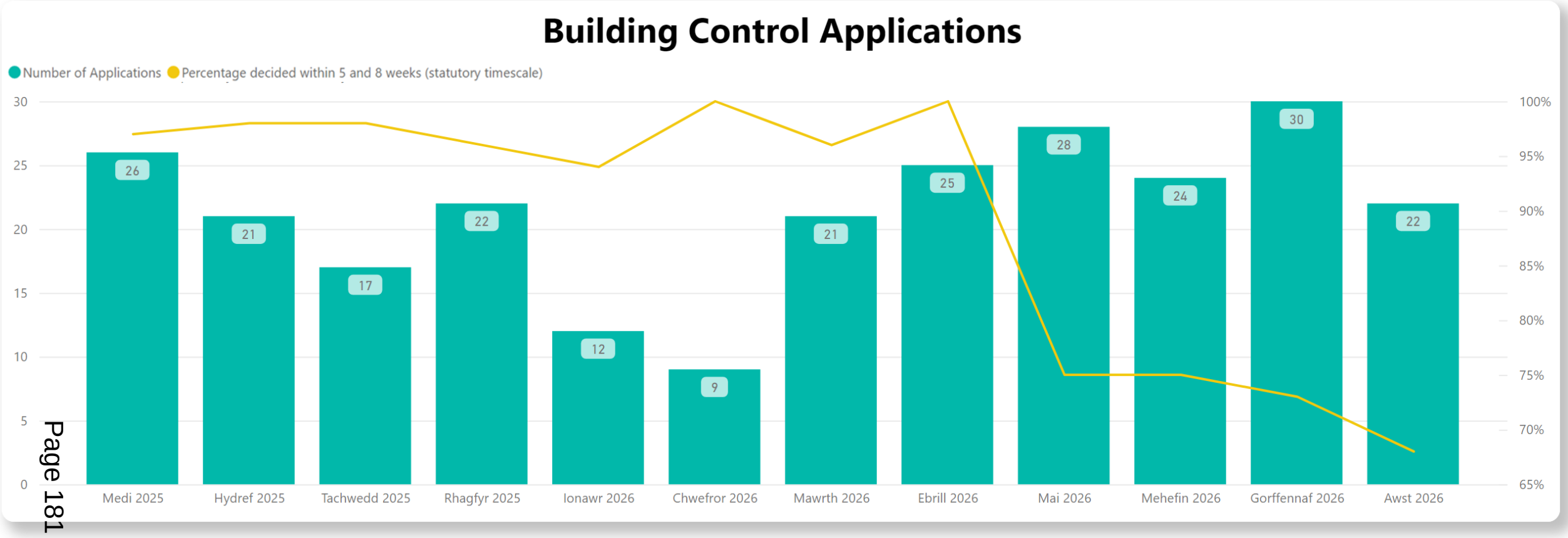
The data for a period since April this year indicates that on average over the first five months 80% of responses to planning applications were delivered within the expected timeframe. Compared with the same period last year (91%), this is below the level the Service would like to see but reflects the challenging period of change within the team following significant staffing changes. During this time, two highly experienced Team Leaders left the Service. Although one of the positions has been successfully filled via an internal appointment, the second position remains vacant. This meansthat the planning policy team has two experienced officers down, and this has had an impact on the capacity and ability of the service to maintain previous levels of performance. Talks took place with the Planning Manager to make them aware of the situation and to explain if urgent assistance was needed to contact the team. There has been a period of adjustment as the team has responded to these changes, and officers have been working hard to put new arrangements and processes in place to ensure continuity of service. Team members also must prepare comments and responses on areas of work in which they are not necessarily experts, which means that some tasks take more time than they normally would. However, in the longterm, this gives the service greater resilience. Nevertheless, the hard work that has been ongoing over the last few months is starting to bear fruit, and there are positive signs that the new arrangements are contributing to a gradual improvement in the response rate. Performance is expected to continue to improve as the new arrangements are established. However, short to medium-term risk remains, and there may be some temporary impact on the team's ability to move major workstreams forward until the staffing situation is more stable. Mitigation arrangements continue to be considered and implemented where possible.



Building Control
Percentage of applications determined within a given time [5 and 8 weeks]

Manager: Martin Barrow Evans **Purpose of the Service**: Ensure construction work meets reasonable health and safety standards for people in or around buildings, access to facilities and energy conservation

Comments on next page.



Building Control
Percentage of applications determined within a given time [5 and 8 weeks]

Manager: Martin Barrow Evans **Purpose of the Service**: Ensure construction work meets reasonable health and safety standards for people in or around buildings, access to facilities and energy conservation

Comments

Overview of Statutory Performance and Compliance: During the last quarter, the Service experienced a decrease in the percentage of applications determined within statutory timescales. This was due to staff resource constraints and the diversion of technical personnel to high priority enforcement actions.
In particular, a significant number of officer hours and operational resources were diverted to managing cases of dangerous structures that required immediate complex interventions at the following sites:
• The Corbett Arms Hotel
• Blenheim House, Bangor
• Nos. 9 and 13 High Street, Bangor

Legislative and Regulatory Pressures (Building Safety Act 2022): The service continues to navigate the rigorous statutory requirements introduced by the Building Safety Act 2022 and the revised Building Regulations. This legislation requires all officers to pass professional examinations and register with the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) as Registered Building Inspectors (RBIs). Implementing the requirements has presented several essential operational challenges:
• Reduce Capacity: The service recently lost a Class 2F Registered Building Inspector, who accepted a position within a Registered Building Control Approver (RBCA) in the private sector. This vacancy has a direct impact on our ability to manage complex commercial workloads in north Gwynedd.
• Supervision of Overheads: To maintain compliance, remaining unregistered inspectors require increased supervision by certified staff which in turn further reduces the capacity of senior officers during a period of exceptionally high workload.
• Whole Sector Recruitment Risks: Due to market forces and significant pay differences, the retention and recruitment of qualified RBIs remain a systemic threat to Local Authorities across Wales.

Mitigation, workforce planning, and resilience: To resist these workforce pressures, the service has implemented a structured workforce plan alongside targeted support and training arrangements designed to maximise a team's competence levels. This has resulted in positive initial results, including the successful admission of a LABC trainee Building Inspector. This post has been secured on a two-year secondment and is fully funded by the Welsh Government, building long-term technical capacity without a direct budgetary impact on the Authority.

Market Share and Commercial Competitiveness: Despite severe resource constraints and competition in the private sector, the service has shown strong commercial resilience. The market share for building regulation applications was increased from 72% to 78% over the period. This growth in a competitive landscape with RBCAs is primarily attributed to the service's refined, proactive quote and the service's competitive pricing structure, which continues to successfully attract and retain local development clients.

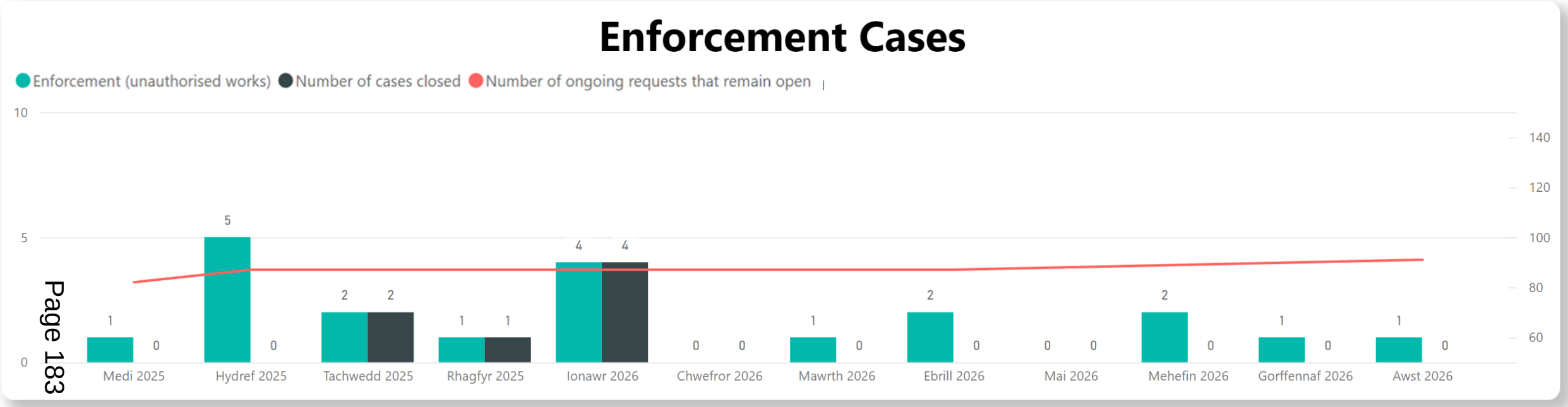
Building Control

Percentage of service requests on enforcement matters [including dangerous buildings] that have been closed.

Manager: Martin Barrow Evans **Pwrpas y Gwasanaeth**: Making sure that construction work meets reasonable health and safety standards for people in or around buildings, access to facilities, and energy conservation.

Comments

During the period April - August 2026/27, the Service has registered 6 cases/applications for unauthorised work, which remain unclosed. The number of open cases now stands at 91, highlighting the challenges of dealing with the current workload whilst balancing the time available for elements of the Service involving the attraction of fees and elements where fees cannot be attracted. During the last quarter, we have provided new workflow arrangements, staff training and monthly reports for Building Inspectors where many open cases have been closed. Moving forward due to the changes made, we anticipate the continuation of the file closure reform where applicable. The Service has been working on a new policy document and enforcement procedures in line with the new legislation changes to the Building Safety Act 2022, which came into force in July 2026.



Building Control

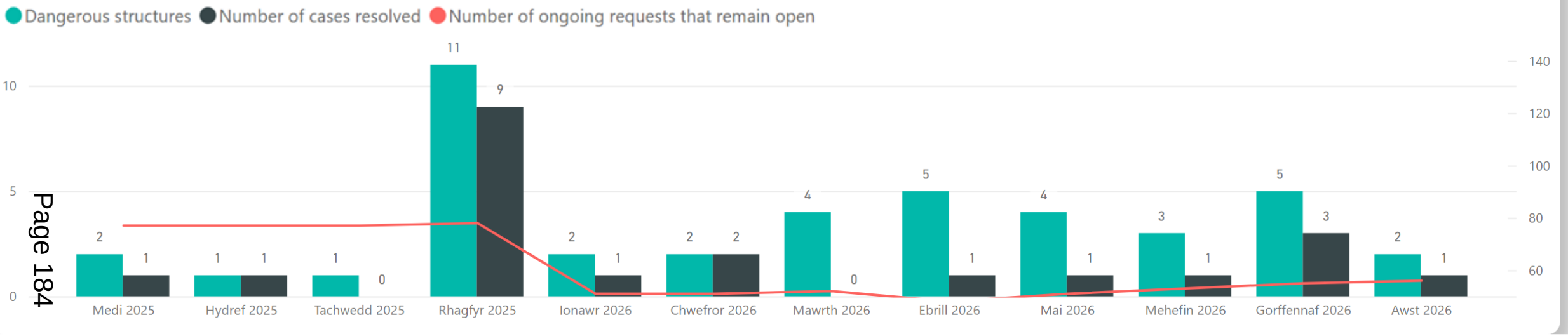
Percentage of service requests on enforcement matters [including dangerous buildings] that have been closed.

Manager: Martin Barrow Evans **Purpose of the Service**:- : Making sure that construction work meets reasonable health and safety standards for people in or around buildings, access to facilities, and energy conservation.

Comments

It is important to emphasise that the Service ensures that dangerous buildings are made safe within 24 hours to protect the public. During the period April to August 2025/26, the Service has dealt with 19 cases of dangerous buildings that have been made safe within 24 hours, with 7 cases closed. The casesof dangerous buildings are not closed until the work that needs to be done on the site has been completed. Therefore, with the 56 cases still open at the end of the period, there have been steps by the Service to make the building safe from a public safety perspective, but that the work on site needs to be completed or costs recovered. It must be noted that cases can remain open when the building has been made safeand work on the site has been completed, in cases where the Service has had to take steps to undertake and pay for work, because of the legal steps required to reclaim costs. During the last quarter, we have provided new workflow arrangements, staff training and monthly reportsfor Building Inspectors where many open cases have been closed. In moving forward and due to the changes made, we anticipate a continuation of the file closure reform where applicable. The cases of dangerous structures at the Corbett Arms Hotel in Tywyn, Blenheim House in Bangor and 9 & 13 High street in Bethesda continue and significant input is required from the Service in conjunction with other Council Services. These are examples of the significant costs associated with the Council in ensuring public safety. We are currently awaiting legal advice on the necessary cost recovery procedures following enforcement action.

Causes of dangerous structures



Public Protection - Trading Standards and Licensing
SM1 - Percentage of high risk businesses inspected in line with the programme

Manager: Andrew Lloyd Parry

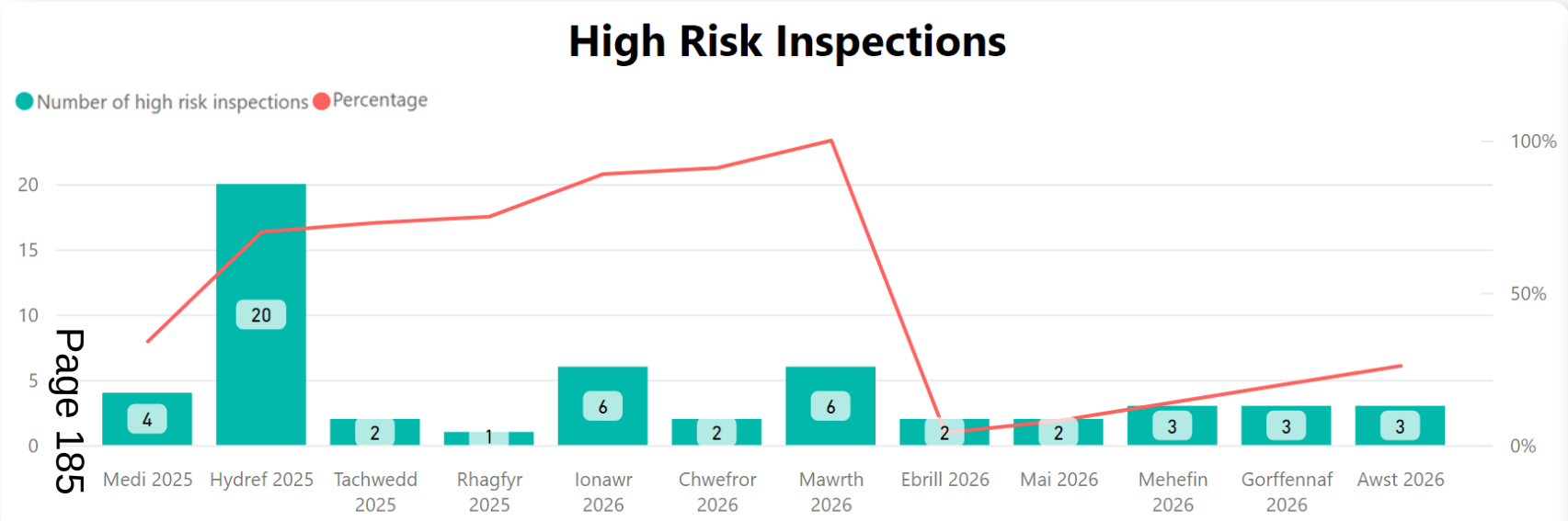
Purpose of the Service:-

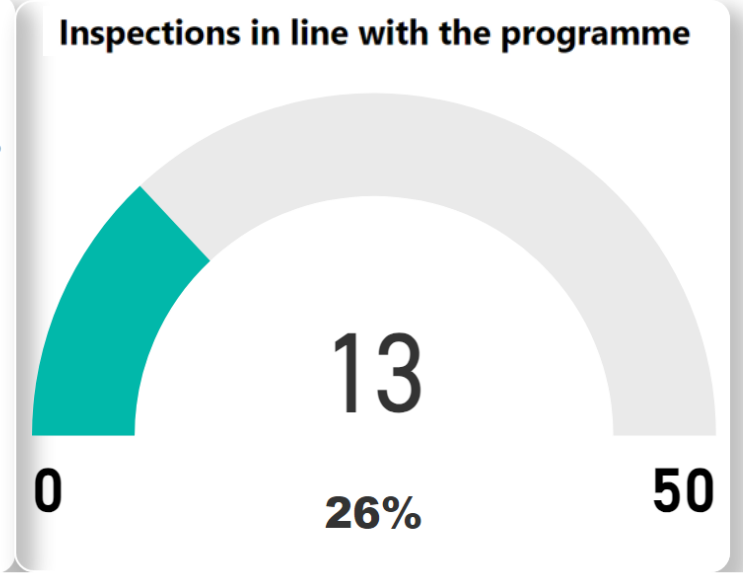
1) To protect public health and welfare from business practices that have the potential to be harmful, by ensuring that businesses adopt and maintain procedures and comply with the legal requirements that apply to their business.

2) Monitor, influence and ensure animal health and welfare standards, prevent dangerous infections and ensure the tracing of farm animals.

Comments

100% of the high-risk inspections set for the year 2025-26 were completed helping to protect the health and welfare of the public and farm animals. For 2026-27, 50 'high risk' category premises have been identified across the Service that require inspection. These are premises/businesses that are identified
as high risk due to the complexity/risk of business activity, or that have a history and concern of non-compliance with Trading Standards Regulations over a period. Several farm inspections, as usual, will be held back until the animals are collected in off the land – to allow us to have an in-depth look at the stock and ensure there are suitable facilities for the animals. Similarly, many of the inspections are for premises that store explosives/fireworks, and therefore these inspections will be carried out from October when the premises stores and sells them – using the opportunity close to the time of sale to remind them of age restrictions to purchase such goods. Up to the end of the reporting period, 26% of audits have been carried out, which is as encouraging as previous years.





Public Protection - Trading Standards and Licensing

Percentage of criminal breach cases identified by the Service that have been resolved

Manager: Andrew Lloyd Parry

Purpose of the Service:-

1) To protect public health and welfare from business practices that have the potential to be harmful, by ensuring that businesses adopt and maintain procedures and comply with the legal requirements that apply to their business.

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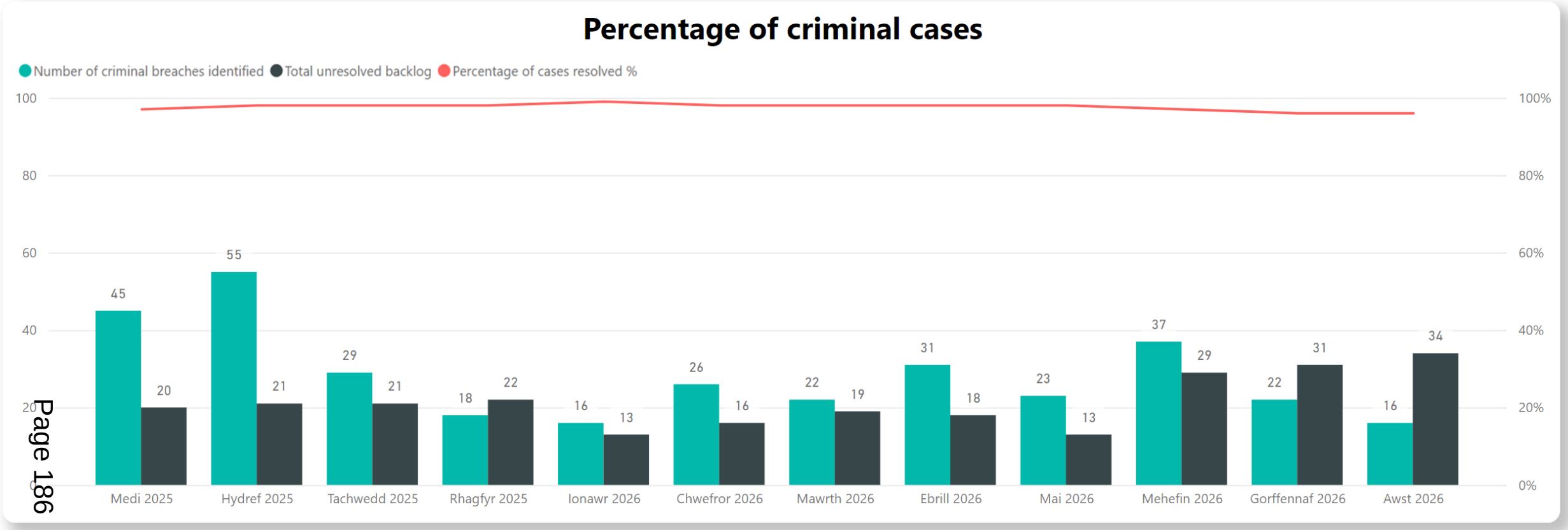
Comments on next page



Public Protection - Trading Standards and Licensing

Percentage of criminal breach cases identified by the Service that have been resolved

Manager: Andrew Lloyd Parry

Purpose of the Service:-

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2) Monitor, influence and ensure animal health and welfare standards, prevent dangerous infections and ensure the tracing of farm animals.

Comments

This measure highlights the proactive steps the Service is taking to protect the health and well-being of members of the public.
Criminal breach cases are identified through a combination of reports/concerns/complaints brought to the attention of the Service by members of the public and businesses, as well as proactive work that we have identified as part of business inspections. Criminal breaches are considered as a 'breach of any criminal legislation that Gwynedd Trading Standards Officers have been authorised to enforce'. This does not include civil law breach issues. The measure also considers the total backlog of non-compliance which continue to be open since the measure became operational (01/04/2024), and the Service is working on them to resolve them. The Consumer Protection team has continued to prioritise intelligence-responsive work relating to the sale of illegal goods across the county – mainly tobacco and vapes. On 5 May 2026, the team successfully secured a 6-week closure notice on premises in Caernarfon under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014. This followed an ongoing investigation over a period into the store's trading practices – including selling vapes to underage children. As a result of a proactive press release, the case received a lot of positive press coverage, including highlighting the effective collaboration and information sharing taking place between North Wales Police and Trading Standards. The Animal Health and Welfare team has been focusing on being able to close several historical breaches of law that have remained in place on the system, as well as continuing to respond to requests for a service relating to animal health and welfare issues and carrying out programmed inspections of collection centres, livestock markets and programmed inspections relating to agri-food hygiene and safety. Please note that Trading Standards has been operating at a reduced capacity than usual for a significant amount of time – we have now successfully recruited one new member of staff to the Animal Health and Welfare team, but unfortunately one member of the Consumer Protection team is away on long-term leave.

Highlighting campaigns and proactive work of Trading Standards



Highlighting substantial work of Trading Standards officers to tackle businesses that sell illegal products etc – Press Release and social media posts on Council accounts

Public Protection - Trading Standards and Licensing

Average time taken to process a taxi licence application

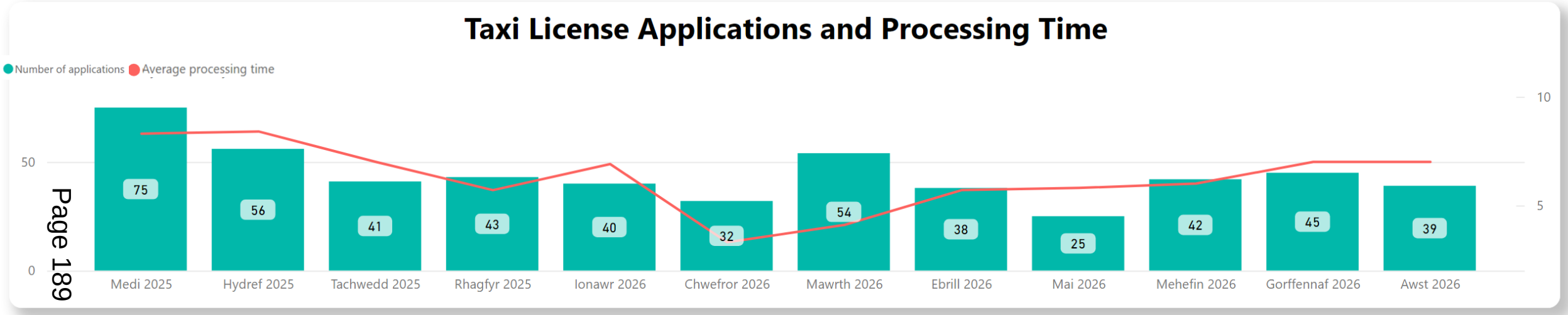
Manager: Andrew Lloyd Parry **Purpose of the Service**:- Ensure that licensed activities involving taxis, alcohol, gambling, and entertainment are provided in a way that protects the public and supports businesses.

Comments

The taxi licence application processing time remains very timely and provides a positive service to applicants. The work of processing taxi licence applications is a task that has been prioritised within the Service for several years. The average number of processing days is calculated using the number of processing days from the time that the application is considered complete - i.e., every required document has been received.

The number of applications the service receives, and the average processing date is consistent, and is completed within a specified time. As a result of prioritising this task, and to avoid queries from drivers enquiring about an update on their licences, this creates additional time for the team to be able to undertake more proactive work including, e.g. carrying out safety checks on licensed vehicles transporting children to schools (in conjunction with officers from the Transport Unit).

The team is of course responsible for processing many different types of licences including property licensing, animal establishment licensing, as well as regularly dealing with enquiries and complaints from the public about general Licensing issues (e.g. non-compliance with property licence conditions).



Public Protection Service – Environmental Health

Percentage of Food Businesses meeting Food Hygiene Standards [score of 3 or higher]

Manager: Lewis Alun Evans

Purpose of the Service:- Ensure that food and drink sold for human consumption, that is produced, stored, distributed, handled or consumed in the County is free from any risk to the health and safety of the consumer and complies with constitutional and labelling requirements.
Ensure the county's workplaces are safe for employees, consumers and customers and that employers meet health and safety requirements.
Prevent cases of transferable disease from arising and where this is not possible, prevent the spread of transferable disease among the population.

Comments

As of 31/08/26, 2,090 food businesses were registered with Cyngor Gwynedd. Of these, 2,061 (98.61%) met a satisfactory or higher food hygiene standard and 29 did not meet the standard (1.39%).
Every premises that does not meet satisfactory food hygiene standards receives a second visit within 3 months of the original inspection to ensure that standards have improved.
To draw attention to this field and to encourage the public to check the scores of businesses, the Service is collaborating with the Communication Service to support national campaigns, led by the Food
Standards Agency, as well as publishing proactive messages themselves on the Council's social media accounts. The food hygiene rating of food businesses in Gwynedd can be viewed by following the link: https://ratings.food.gov.uk/en

Percentage of food businesses with score of 3 or higher
98.74%

Highlighting importance of food standards and hygiene





Messages highlighting work of officers who carry out inspections and supporting national campaigns

Public Protection – Environmental Health

Percentage of Food Businesses that have received a Food Standards inspection in accordance with the scheduled time

Manager: Lewis Alun Evans

Purpose of the Service:- Ensure that food and drink sold for human consumption, that is produced, stored, distributed, handled or consumed in the County is free from any risk to the health and safety of the consumer and complies with constitutional and labelling requirements.
Ensure the county's workplaces are safe for employees, consumers and customers and that employers meet health and safety requirements.
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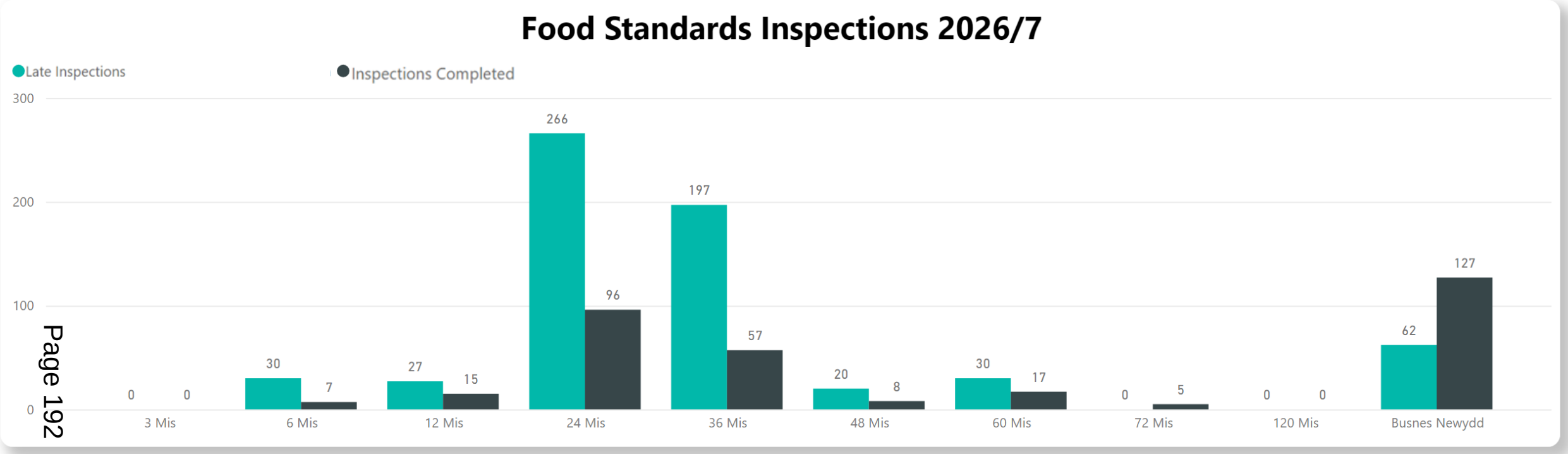
Comments on next page.



Public Protection – Environmental Health

Percentage of Food Businesses that have received a Food Standards inspection in accordance with the scheduled time

Comments

In 2026/27, a new risk assessment arrangement will be adopted by Welsh Councils for food standards. The arrangement is already operational in England and Northern Ireland and has been trialled in 2 Councils in Wales. The Food Standards Agency is responsible for introducing the change and they have stated that it is the biggest change to the food standards operating model for official controls in relationto food law for 30 years. One aim of revising the operational model was to reduce the food law enforcement requirement by Local Governments. Our initial assessment proposes that more resources will be needed to implement the revised model than was needed to implement the previous one. We adopted the new system during April this year. As a result, the number of food standards
inspections (due to changes in assessment arrangements) expected of us this year has almost doubled compared to the number expected last year.
The new risk assessment system specifies a minimum intervention time for food businesses rather than a risk category as it was (A, B, C). The minimum intervention time range is one month to 120 months. Broadly speaking, premises requiring intervention within a month, 3 months, 6 months or 12 months can be considered 'high risk', properties requiring intervention in 24 months, 26 months or 48 months as'medium risk' and every 60 months, 72 months or 120 months as 'low risk'.
The graph indicates the number of premises scheduled for intervention under the new system by the endof 2026-2027 which includes a backlog from the previous year. As usual, we will endeavour to complete joint food standards and food hygiene inspections. We will also endeavour to carry out food standards inspections (1 month to 12-month intervention category) where no hygiene audit is scheduled this year. Due to a lack of resources, we do not anticipate that we will be able to deliver all the scheduled interventions.

Public Protection – Environmental Health

Percentage of Food Businesses that have received a Food Standards inspection in accordance with the scheduled time

Manager: Lewis Alun Evans

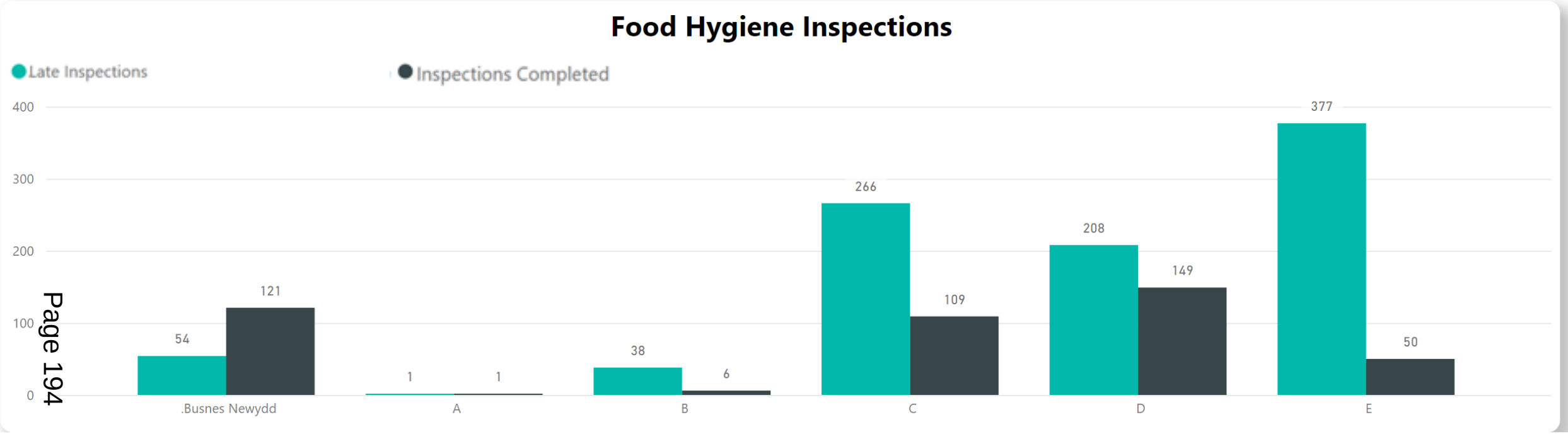
Purpose of the Service:- Ensure that food and drink sold for human consumption, that is produced, stored, distributed, handled or consumed in the County is free from any risk to the health and safety of the consumer and complies with constitutional and labelling requirements.

Ensure the county's workplaces are safe for employees, consumers and customers and that employers meet health and safety requirements.

Prevent cases of transferable disease from arising and where this is not possible, prevent the spread of transferable disease among the population.

Comments

To make more effective use of officers' time, we strive to conduct food hygiene inspections and food standards at the same time. Officers will follow the food hygiene programme and complete a food standards inspection if one has been scheduled within the next 12 months or has not previously been completed. Due to the lack of availability of qualified staff, we decided that the focus of our inspection effort for 2025-26 would be food premises with a high hygiene risk (A-C), new businesses. The late inspection/inspection due figures include a backlog from last year and reflect the focus on carrying out inspections of high-risk properties during 2025-26 – i.e. the data shows that a significant number of low-risk premises require a visit this year. Due to a lack of resources, it is unlikely that we will be able to meet our audit targets by the end of March 2027 and we will again focus on high-riskpremises/new businesses.



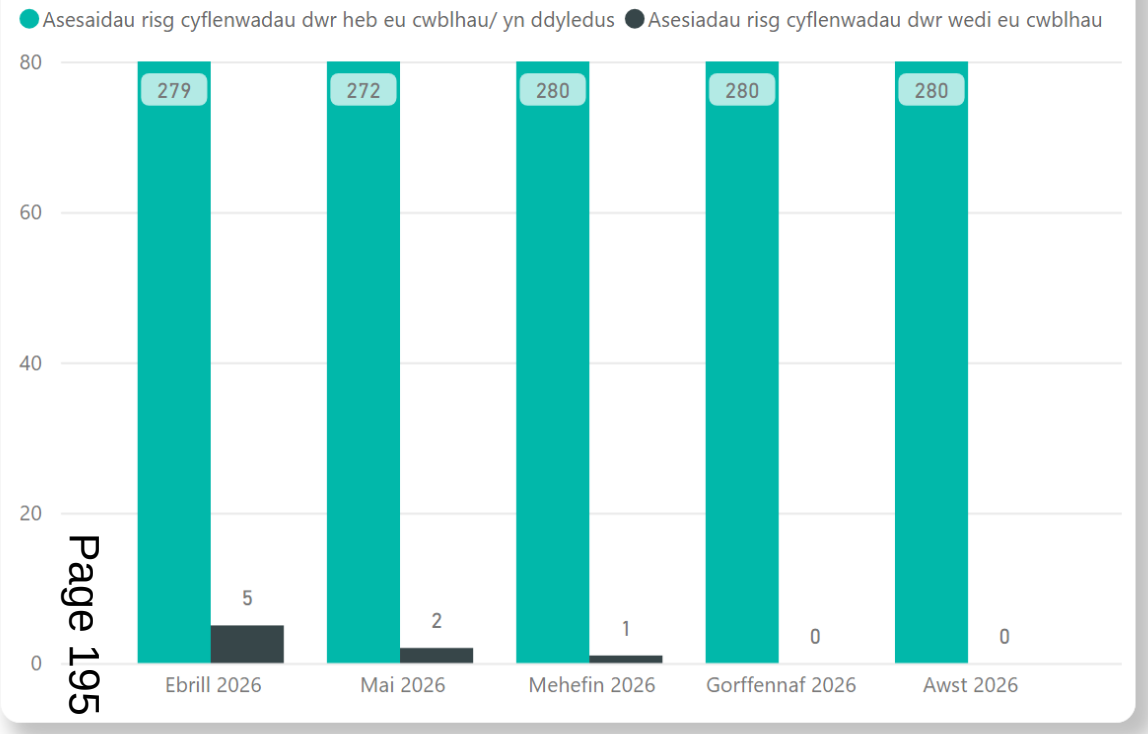
Public Protection - Environmental Health

IA3 - Percentage of properties on a private water supply that have received a water sample inspection and risk assessments in line with the programmed schedule

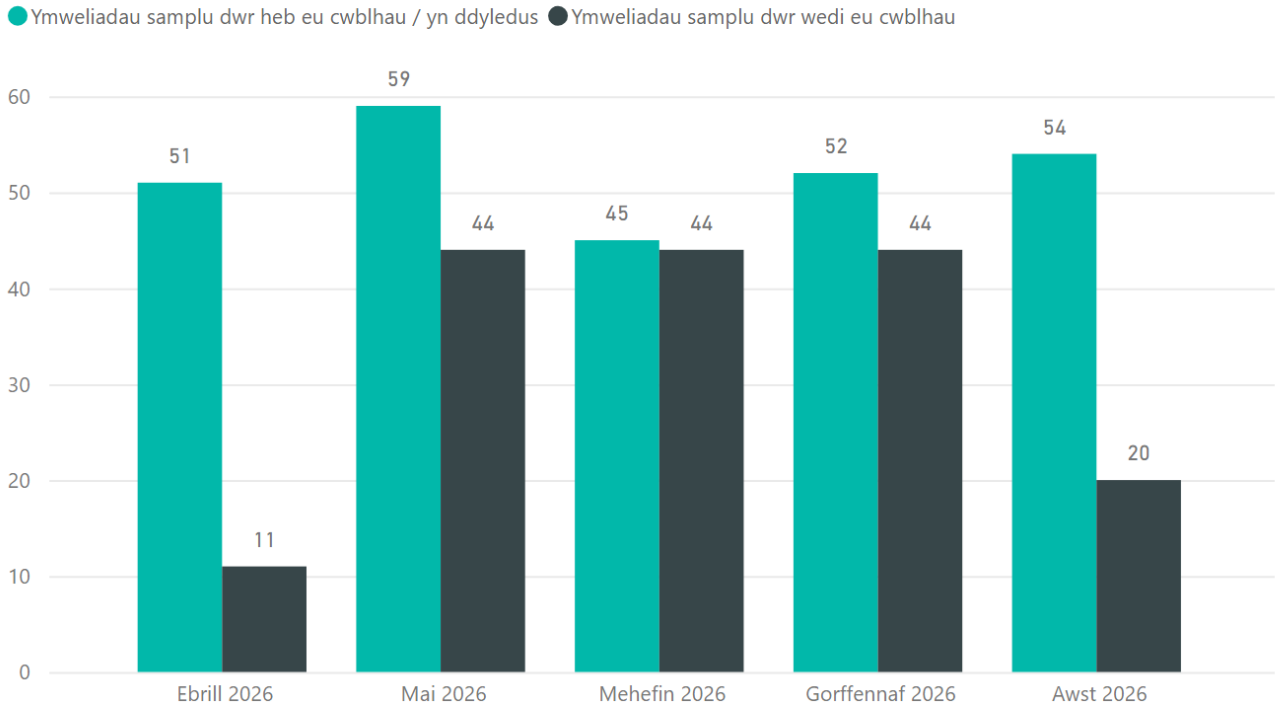
Purpose of the Service: Safeguard public health and well-being from unsafe practices by ensuring that businesses or individuals do not pollute the environment with unpleasant substances or noise.

Comments on next page.

Water Supply Risk Assessments



Water Sampling Visits



Public Protection – Environmental Health

Percentage of premises on private water supply that have received a water sample inspection and risk assessments as per the scheduled timetable

Manager: Lewis Alun Evans Purpose of the Service:- Safeguard public health and well-being from unsafe practices by ensuring that businesses or individuals do not pollute the environment with unpleasant substances or noise.

Comments

The work is statutory to ensure the safety of drinking water in rural supplies from private sources. We report every 12 calendar months to the Drinking Water Inspectorate which regulates and verifies the work of Local Authorities to ensure that businesses' private supplies such as holiday accommodation and hotels provide safe, clean water to their customers and staff. Regular requests are also received to sample individual domestic water supplies, and this is on top of the workload reported upon; it is estimated that there are around 2,000 individual domestic private supplies.
The sampling and risk assessment programme is statutory, and whilst we manage to undertake most of the samples in the 12-month schedule, we are under-performing substantially on conducting Risk Assessments, which need to be held every 5 years. Officers from the Food and Health and Safety Team have been contributing to the sampling programme work. We have adjusted the performance measure to reflect how many risk assessments have been completed over a period and the number that have not been undertaken at the end of that period. The performance of water sampling is reported in the same way.

Business - Back Office

B1 - Average time taken to process Land Charge applications

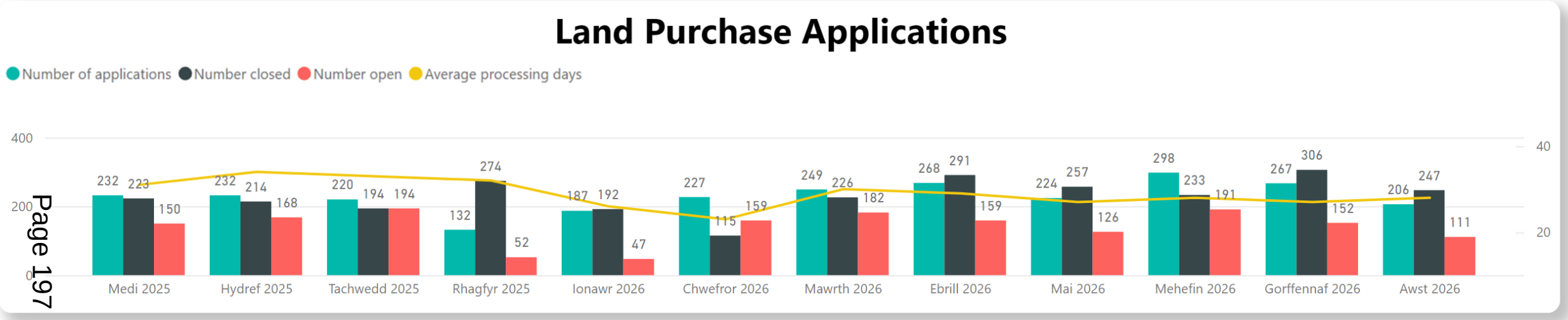
Manager: Alison Wyn Owen

Purpose of the Service:- Provide searches information for anyone wishing to purchase property or land within the Local Authority area.

Comments

Local land searches have been available digitally on the HMLR website for customers since 12/05/2026, with the transfer having been successful. Gwynedd was among the first councils in north Wales to make the transition, and the first to integrate with the IDOX system. CON29 searches continue to be the Council's responsibility. To complete them, there is a need for cooperation and a response from many other Council departments and services, depending on the location of the search, including the Eryri National Park Authority. Each of these services have their specific challenges, and this can impact the Land Charges response times. We continue to work closely with the relevant services to note better ways of responding to searches, with the aim of continuously improving our response times.

The number of requests we receive does not appear to have decreased. This is because we have transferred Building Control searches to the responsibility of the Land Charges Unit since April 2026, following complaints about processing time, we have been able to improve the process time with all applications receiving a response within the month. We are also in the process of introducing a digital register to provide a response to the building control searches soon, this is currently in the testing phase.



Business - Back Office

B2 - Percentage of calls receiving a response

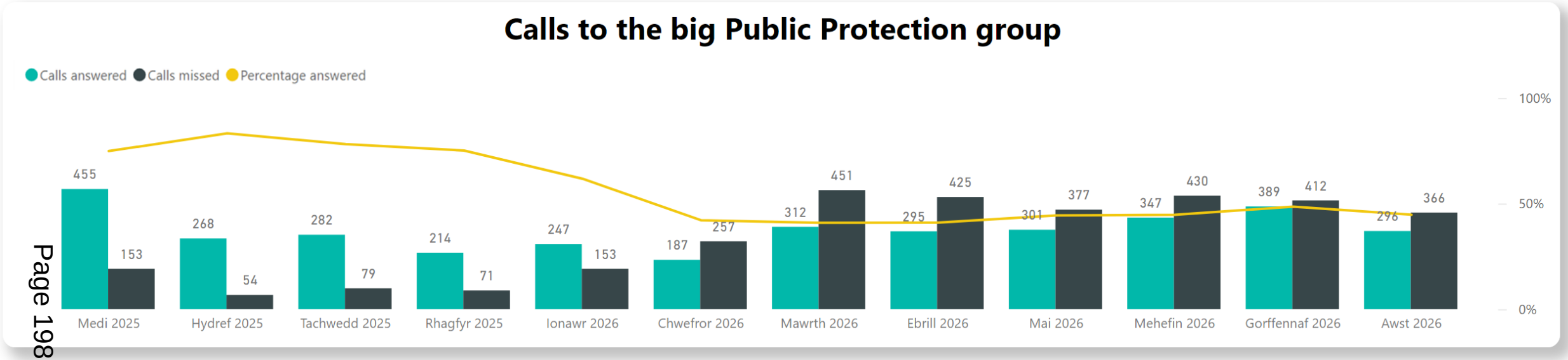
Manager: Alison Wyn Owen

Purpose of the Service:- Support Public Protection officers by providing a front-line service to customer enquiries

Comments

Since transitioning to the new Cisco phone system, the voicemail option now offers customers a better experience, allowing them to leave a message if the line is busy.

We anticipate that we will be able to maintain, and possibly improve, our performance in the next phase as a new member of the team builds confidence and as another member returns from maternity leave.



Mandatory Training Performance: Safeguarding and Violence Against Women

As a Department, there are regular messages shared with officers to highlight the importance of completing the mandatory training which is a corporate priority. The following outlines the latest situation in the performance of the Environment Department office staff in terms of '**Safeguarding'** and **'Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence' (VAWDASV)** training.

99.5% of the Department's office staff have completed the Violence and Abuse Against Women (VAWDASV) training, with one office staff not yet completed currently absent from work.

99% of the Department's office staff have completed the Safeguarding training, with the staff yet completed it, currently absent from work at present.

The nature of the work of some of the Department's Services means that members of frontline staff do not have access to a computer (and training portal) as part of their job. It was felt that providing the training in a group format would be an opportunity for individuals to ask questions to ensure they fully understand the content. As a result, the training was adapted with the Corporate Safeguarding Promoter to ensure that it could be displayed in video form, and that it was also more relevant to frontline staff.

Bespoke screens have been installed in the Waste Collection and Treatment depots in recent months, with the training introduced in video format to over half of the staff. A high number of those yet to complete the training are casual staff or members of the workforce who are absent due to long-term illness.

Of the **215 staff in the Waste Collection and Treatment workforce, 118 have already completed the Safeguarding training (end of September figures)*** through the revised training, with a view to ensuring that the vast majority of the remaining staff attend the training over the coming months, with casual staff to be covered in due course. **(*on 9/11/26 – figures show that 170 Waste and Recycling workforce have completed.)**