

Complete Agenda



Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

CABINET

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

DATE	Tuesday, 7th July, 2026
TIME	1.00 pm
LOCATION	Cyfarfod Hybrid / Hybrid Meeting – Siambr Hywel Dda and Zoom
CONTACT POINT	Gwen Alaw Roberts cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET MEMBERS

Members	
Nia Wyn Jeffreys	Council Leader
Craig ab Iago	Cabinet Member for Environment
Dilwyn Morgan	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Paul John Rowlinson	Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
Menna Trenholme	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Supporting Families
June Jones	Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy
R Medwyn Hughes	Cabinet Member for Economy and Community
Dewi Jones	Cabinet Member for Education
Huw Wyn Jones	Cabinet Member for Finance
Llio Elenid Owen	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Legal and the Welsh Language

AGENDA

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6	SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26	Cllr Nia Jeffreys	Catrin Thomas, Corporate Director	11 - 28
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11	SAFEGUARDING POLICY REVIEW (2026)	Cllr Dewi Jones	Dylan Owen, Statutory Director of Social Services	200 - 220
12	ALLOCATION OF INCOME SURPLUS FROM THE SECOND HOMES AND EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM FOR 2025-26	Cllr Huw Wyn Jones	Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance	221 - 238
13	<p>LOCAL GROWTH FUND: GWYNEDD 2026/27 PROJECTS</p> <p>Appendix 2 is separate for Cabinet Members only. The Appendix is exempt under Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 – Information relating to the Financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that Information). The annex to the report includes confidential and commercially sensitive information on a number of projects. This is relevant to the situation of a number of organisations.</p>	Cllr Medwyn Hughes	Sioned Williams, Head of Economy and Community Department	239 - 256
14	THE NATIONAL FOSTERING SERVICE AND FOSTER WALES NATIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE - REDUCING THE QUORUM FOR THE MEETING	Cllr Menna Trenholme	Sharron Williams Carter, Head of Children and Supporting Families Department	257 - 270

CABINET, TUESDAY, 09 JUNE 2026

Present -

Councillors: Nia Jeffreys, Menna Trenholme, R. Medwyn Hughes, Craig ab Iago, Huw Wyn Jones, June Jones, Dilwyn Morgan, Llio Elenid Owen, Dewi Jones and Paul Rowlinson.

Also present -

Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Nia Grisdale (Legal Services Manager), Catrin Thomas (Corporate Director), Ffion Madog Evans (Assistant Head of Finance - Accounting and Pensions), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education), Debbie Jones (Assistant Head of Education Services) and Siwan Llwyd Roberts (Head of Gwynedd Immersion Education System).

1. APOLOGIES

This week was recognised as being National Carers' Week. It was explained that this week was an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, to highlight the challenges faced by unpaid carers and to recognise their vital contribution. On behalf of the Cabinet, a sincere thank you was given to the thousands of unpaid carers in Gwynedd who looked after family members, friends and neighbours day in day out. It was emphasised that their work made an enormous difference to people's lives and to our communities, and that this work very often happened behind the scenes. Staff and partners working alongside carers to support them were thanked.

It was noted that the Council was hosting events across the county throughout the week to discuss the support available to unpaid carers, and that these events were open to everyone.

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Cllr June Jones in relation to item 6 as she was a Governor at the School.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent matters.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2026 were accepted as a true record.

6. YSGOL Y GARREG - OBJECTION REPORT

The report was presented by Cllr Dewi Jones.

DECISION

Final confirmation was given of the proposal given by means of a statutory notice, namely - "To close Ysgol Y Garreg on 31 August 2026, and denote Ysgol Cefn Coch as the alternative school from 1 September 2026", in accordance with Section 53 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the requirements of the School Organisation Code 11/2018.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to report on the outcome of the 28-day statutory objection period on the proposal to close Ysgol y Garreg.

It was noted that the decision regarding Ysgol y Garreg was one of the most difficult decisions that he had considered as a Cabinet Member for Education. He noted that nobody went into education with the intention of closing schools, noting his desire to see schools thriving, children succeeding and communities being resilient. The strong emotions that had surfaced during this process and the sadness felt by many were acknowledged.

It was noted that Ysgol y Garreg had served its community faithfully for many years. Tribute was paid to the staff, governors, parents and the community for their hard work for the school for over a century. However, it was noted that there was a responsibility to be looking at the current situation rather than a desired situation.

It was noted that the demographic challenges facing some of our rural communities were real and profound. Although painful, the need to acknowledge the facts in hand was noted, especially the grave situation of Ysgol y Garreg. It was noted that the well-being of and opportunities for children were central when making educational decisions, which had been the guiding principle throughout this process. The need to ensure that children could access sustainable education, a wide range of experiences and a learning environment that could meet the needs of the present and the future was underlined.

It was noted that the decision regarding Ysgol y Garreg was not one that the Cabinet wanted to make, but one that had been brought about by circumstances. It was noted that, should the situation, numbers and projections be different, the decision would not have been considered. It was emphasised that Gwynedd had seen a significant fall in the number of children over the last decade, and that there was a duty to make responsible decisions for the long term, even when that decision proved difficult and unpopular.

The decision to close Ysgol y Garreg was therefore recommended, recognising the contribution of many people to the school over the years, and the need to take action to ensure the best and most sustainable school provision for the future children of Gwynedd.

The sadness of the situation was echoed by the Glaslyn Ward Local Member, who noted that the school had been serving the community for approximately 143 years. This change in demographics and the fall in the number of children in our society was highlighted, with only two year-6 pupils at Ysgol y Garreg who would be moving to secondary school in September 2026. The staff of Ysgol y Garreg were thanked for their dedication to both pupils in difficult circumstances, offering them wonderful and engaging educational experiences. The governing body's views were highlighted in the report, urging the Council to consider restructuring the school building as a specialist centre for pupils who struggled to settle into mainstream schools, but who were not eligible to attend an additional learning needs school.

Observations arising from the discussion:

- With regard to the Welsh language, it was noted that the Welsh language would be more natural in the lives of the two pupils upon moving to a larger school, with more activities being available through the medium of Welsh. It was emphasised that this was a positive. In response, it was noted that the impact assessment regarding the Welsh language looked at the positive aspects of moving both individuals to much larger classes, where they would have more opportunity to communicate through the medium of Welsh.
- Concerns were raised about the future capacity of Ysgol Cefn Coch, which was the new alternative school from 1 September 2026, should there be an increase in the demography of the catchment area. In response, it was confirmed that Ysgol Cefn Coch had sufficient capacity to serve the catchment area and that there were no concerns about this.
- Tributes were paid to the staff, young people and the community who had been involved in the process so far, noting that the process had been difficult but dignified.
- Questions were asked about the future of the Ysgol y Garreg building, noting that there was a precedent for similar buildings to be converted into community centres. In response, it was noted that an after-use policy existed for such situations. It was confirmed that the Education Department would have the first choice as to whether it intended to make use of the building, and if not, the building would be offered for community use. In this case, attention was drawn to the awareness of the existence of a community provision being in very close proximity to the building, which was not necessarily being fully utilised. Therefore, any application regarding the building would have to be reviewed very carefully moving forward.
- A recent trend had emerged regarding schools re-advertising for headteacher positions. It was asked whether recruiting headteachers was more of a challenge in small schools. In response, it was confirmed that recruiting headteachers was currently proving challenging across the education sector, both in primary and secondary schools. It was highlighted that this was no exception to Gwynedd compared to other authorities, noting that there was a

shortage of individuals who were willing to lead schools for various reasons. It was recognised that leading a small school such as Ysgol y Garreg was a challenge, noting that the planning and preparation involved with a small school was just as demanding as in a larger-sized school. It was confirmed that this concern about recruiting headteachers was on the Department's risk list. It was noted that the headteacher of Ysgol y Garreg had managed to secure a job in another school as a permanent headteacher.

- It was asked how many headteacher positions were vacant across the county. In response, it was noted that at least three posts were vacant, with an increasing number of acting headteachers, and the percentage tending to rise from one term to the other.
- It was asked whether the two pupils at Ysgol y Garreg had been consulted. In response, it was noted that the views of both learners had been obtained and summarised in the report.
- Sadness was expressed about the situation, noting that moving school was a difficult experience, especially when it involved moving to a school with many more pupils. It was questioned what support would be available to the two pupils of Ysgol y Garreg. In response, it was noted that the pupils, in this case, had already been having experiences with children from other schools over the past few months, to facilitate the transition process and build relationships. It was confirmed that the Department would rely on school staff, who already knew the pupils well, on how best to support them through the process.
- They asked about the transport arrangements for the two pupils to the new alternative school. In response, it was noted that relevant arrangements would be made for both pupils to reach their new school.
- It was asked whether the Education Department had any suggestion as to how Gwynedd's demographic trend was likely to change in the future, and whether there was any indication that the situation would improve or continue to deteriorate, with more small schools having to consider closure. In response, it was noted that future demographics were difficult to predict. It was confirmed that the 2025 figures were now public, with births falling to 925 in Gwynedd. It was expressed that there was still a steady downward trend and that a change of direction in numbers was not anticipated. It was highlighted that as Gwynedd's schools were already relatively small compared to other authorities, they were likely to face a situation where decisions about school closures would need to be made sooner here than in other counties.

7. GWYNEDD EDUCATION LANGUAGE POLICY

The report was presented by Cllr Dewi Jones.

DECISION

The Gwynedd Education Language Policy was accepted and adopted to be introduced as a Model Education Language Policy for schools to consider its adoption and implementation.

DISCUSSION

Pride was expressed at the opportunity to present the new Model Education Language Policy for schools to Cabinet. It was noted that the policy had been before the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on more than one occasion, and previously before Cabinet for permission to engage. It was further noted that the policy before Cabinet followed that public stakeholder engagement process. It was noted that discussions had been held with individual members of the Council, language organisations, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and several other organisations in order to obtain different perspectives, listen to concerns and consider ideas before moving forward.

It was noted that this was a policy for Gwynedd, which reflected Gwynedd, its values, ambition, needs and the needs of the children and young people of the county. He thanked his predecessor on the Cabinet, Meirion Prys Jones, and the officers for their work on producing the policy. The importance of openness during the process, being open to ideas, challenge and collaboration with stakeholders to formulate the best possible policy was noted.

The importance of persuading and convincing, rather than insisting or enforcing was emphasised. The need to convince people of the value of the Welsh language, to win their hearts and show the value of Welsh education and the way in which the Welsh language opened rather than closed doors was noted.

It was underlined that incredible work had been done over the last few decades in this respect. It was noted that generations had worked tirelessly to strengthen the language, to build the Welsh education system we had today, and to ensure that more children and young people had the opportunity to live and work through the medium of Welsh. It was emphasised that these achievements were something to celebrate. It was noted that this new policy would hopefully build on that work, on the success, on what was already working, on opportunities, on confidence, and on building a stronger future for the Welsh language.

It was emphasised that the Welsh language belonged to all of us, those who were fluent speakers, those who were learning the language, and those who had not yet had the opportunity. It was noted that there was a place for everyone in the story of the Welsh language. Everyone was asked to unite behind the Welsh language and give every child in Gwynedd the opportunity to experience the benefits of having the language, ensuring that it continued to be a living, thriving and confident language. Everyone was urged to open doors to a world of opportunities, experiences and benefits that would stay with our young people for the rest of their lives.

Observations arising from the discussion:

- The need for the Cabinet and the Council to support the journey was noted to ensure that adequate resources were in place to deliver the policy. The importance of committing to providing this support was emphasised to ensure that the policy was fully implemented.
- Support for the policy was expressed, noting that a lot of input had been received along the way through the Scrutiny Committees.

- A question was asked about the support available to schools in catchment areas where English was more prevalent. In response, it was noted that the support of the immersion system was an important part of the policy, and that it now ensured access from Bangor down to Tywyn, with the number of referrals being consistently high. It was emphasised that additional support was available for the schools identified as being transitional schools in the policy, noting examples such as Ysgol Tywyn and schools in the Bangor catchment area, where workforce tutors had been appointed to provide support. It was noted that staff who needed further support were encouraged to take advantage of sabbatical schemes. It was noted that the Government was extremely supportive of what was being done in Gwynedd, and eager to develop the work of the Athrofa Dysgu Cymraeg (National Institute for Learning Welsh), with the aim of providing resources and training to train staff and schools in Wales.
- It was questioned how progress would be monitored moving forward. In response, the expectation was noted for schools to submit delivery plans within the Welsh Language and Education Act, with a pilot being formed with the Government to take that forward by 2029. It was noted that within the delivery plans, there was an intention for schools, in conjunction with the authority, to set criteria, a vision and goals, which would be the subject of statutory monitoring every three years after 2029. It was emphasised that the Department would work closely with schools between now and 2029 to ensure that it met the needs of Gwynedd's schools. It was underlined that the plans would not be universal, as each school belonged to its own community, and therefore would be considered from a community and catchment area perspective. It was confirmed that every school started from a different baseline and that targets could vary from school to school, with the aim of ensuring that every school was making progress.
- A question was asked around how the Department would encourage schools to adopt and implement this model policy. In response, it was noted that the input of headteachers and schools had been considered when producing the policy, and therefore no significant objection was expected from those who had been involved in putting the policy together. It was expressed that the general message in education was that there was a desire for a clear, explicit and cross-county policy that gave priority to the Welsh language. It was confirmed that the policy would be presented to every governing body with an opportunity to discuss the policy given the unique differences between each school. It was noted that the Department would monitor the adaptations made to the model policy from school to school.
- It was asked when the policy was expected to have a real impact. In response, it was noted that the policy was an important step and a foundation for ensuring the Welsh language within schools, and that further work needed to be done to build on this foundation, not only within schools but more broadly through several language initiatives and within the community, to ensure that more people were able to speak and use Welsh in their daily lives.

The meeting began at 1:00p.m. and ended at 1:47p.m.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of item:	<i>Supporting People Programme Annual Report 2025/26</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Councillor Nia Wyn Jeffreys, Council Leader</i>
Relevant officer:	<i>Catrin Thomas, Corporate Director</i>
Date of meeting:	<i>7 July 2026</i>

1. Decision Sought:

1.1 The Cabinet is asked to accept the report presented, which provides an overview of the work of the Supporting People Programme for the year 2025/26.

2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision:

2.1 Presenting the report enables the Cabinet to scrutinise progress against the objectives of the Supporting People Programme, understand the impact of the work undertaken across the Council and with partners.

3. Background / Introduction

3.1 The Council's Supporting People Programme forms part of the Council Plan 2023–2028 under Caring Gwynedd, with strong links to the equality agenda and wider well-being objectives. New governance arrangements were introduced in 2025 under the leadership of the new Cabinet.

3.2 The programme focuses on three main areas of work:

- **Cost of Living Support:** To ensure that Gwynedd residents receive and claim everything they are entitled to in order to help with the cost of living.
- **Community Hubs:** To ensure that Gwynedd residents can access support, information and certain Council services closer to home, within their communities.
- **Our Way of Working:** To ensure that the Council works with Gwynedd residents in a way that places their needs at the centre and supports them to access assistance from our services.

- 3.3 The programme is led by the Council Leader, Councillor Nia Jeffreys, with support from Catrin Thomas, Corporate Director, and is overseen by a Working Group that meets quarterly.
- 3.4 The Working Group includes representation from every Department to reflect the breadth of services provided by the Council and to ensure that the programme is prioritised across the authority.
- 3.5 This is the first year that the work of the Supporting People Programme has been presented as a cross-departmental corporate annual report. The aim of the report is to provide a clear picture of the breadth and scope of the work taking place across the Council and with partners to support Gwynedd residents.
- 3.6 The report includes a combination of data, information on activities and initiatives, together with case studies and real-life stories that demonstrate the impact this work is having on residents' lives.

4. Views of the Statutory Officers

4.1 Chief Finance Officer

The report summarises the activities of 2025/26 and does not create new spending commitments. I support the contents of the report as a fair and accurate reflection of the work done in this important area.

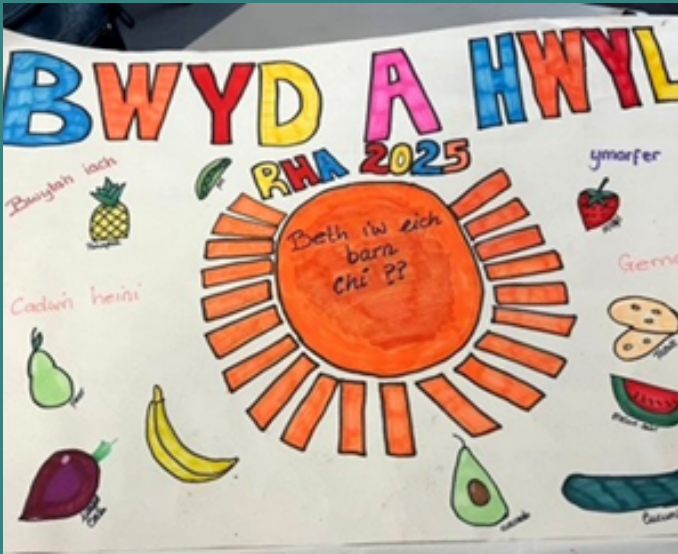
4.2 Monitoring Officer

I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought and welcome the report

List of Appendices:

- **Supporting People Programme Annual Report 2025/26**

SUPPORTING PEOPLE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



A SNAPSHOT OF 2025/2026

£278,000

The value of the School Essentials Grant distributed



500

children received the Flying Start (Free Childcare) offer

£11.7 million

The value of council tax discounts distributed



706

children enjoyed a free Play Trailer session

£10,600

Value of energy vouchers distributed



498

residents received help from the Well-being Champions

£16.8 million

Value of housing benefit distributed



175

residents returned to work after support from Gwynedd's Work

£5,000

The value of emergency vouchers distributed



162

residents received help from the Gafael Llaw Team

£101,000

The value of free menstrual products distributed



26,300

food packages distributed to residents through the Food Grant

FOREWORD

I know that many people and families across Gwynedd still face substantial challenges in their everyday lives. The cost-of-living crisis, financial pressures and the impact on well-being has increased the need for practical, kind and fair support.

This is why the Supporting People Programme is important. This is not just service provision; it is working with people to get the best for them, going the extra mile.

This report shows the different ways that Cyngor Gwynedd supports residents - from help with food and energy costs, increasing income by claiming the benefits they are owed, support with bills and financial advice, childcare support and providing free activities and opportunities for children and young people over the summer.

Although I am proud of this work, it is important to acknowledge that poverty continues to be a fundamental challenge in our society. This means that the Council, essentially, will respond to the symptoms and seek to mitigate their impact on people and families.

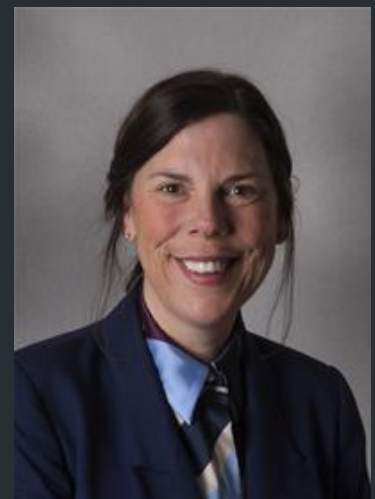
Often, it is not a single type of support that makes a difference, but a combination of support tailored to the needs of the individual or family. Although data and figures are important to show the magnitude and impact of the work, the stories and case studies by real people across Gwynedd clearly show the impact on people's lives. It is particularly encouraging to see services coming closer to people - in our libraries, through our well-being promoters, hubs and other local spaces.

It helps residents who are central to the Council's work. Whilst this report focuses on the specific work of the Supporting People Programme, further information on the broader work which helps residents and communities across Gwynedd will be available in the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services and the Council's Annual Report, when published.

I wish to thank Council staff, our partners, local organisations and our communities for their hard work over the past year to support people across Gwynedd. This report clearly shows the difference that can be done through collaboration.

Councillor Nia Wyn Jeffreys

Leader of Cyngor Gwynedd



WHAT IS THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME?

This programme is part of the “Council's Plan 2023-28” and comes under the 'A Caring Gwynedd' priority area.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME?

- (1) Helping the people of Gwynedd to cope with cost-of-living challenges.
- (2) Helping the people of Gwynedd to get support, information and access to the services they require.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN WORKSTREAMS FOR 2025/26?

HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING

Ensuring that the residents of Gwynedd receive and claim everything they are owed to help them with the cost-of-living.

COMMUNITY HUBS

Ensuring that the residents of Gwynedd have support, information and access to some of the Council's services in their communities.

OUR WAY OF WORKING

Ensuring that the Council works in a way that focuses on people and their needs.

What has been achieved during 2025/26?

HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING : CLAIM WHAT'S YOURS

CAMPAIGNS

The main message is "Claim what's yours"!

Many of Gwynedd's residents are entitled to but do not claim benefits - this may be because they are not aware of their rights or do not know how or where to claim them.

So, we have been supporting the Welsh Government's national campaign, to raise awareness among the residents of Gwynedd to claim their money.

Wyt ti'n colli allan?

Gallet ti gael mwy o arian i helpu gyda chostau byw.

Darganfydda os eili di dderbyn:

- ✓ Credyd Pensiwn: £1,800 (ar gyfartaledd)
- ✓ Gostyngiad Treth y Cyngor: £800 o arbedion (ar gyfartaledd)
- ✓ Arian ychwanegol os wyt ti'n gofalu am rywun neu'n astudio

Hawlia dy arian.
Ffonia linell gymorth Advicelink Cymru am ddim neu sganïa'r cod QR i ddechrau arni.

0800 702 2020 Llyn-Gwe 8am-7pm
Sad 9am-1pm

PENSION CREDIT

Pension Credit is financial support for people over pension age who are on a low income. It can provide access to support or additional benefits too.

We contacted 167 residents by letter who were eligible for but not claiming Pension Credit, offering them help to apply.

Why is this important?

It can mean up to an additional £23,000 a year for Gwynedd residents, or around £210,000 over an average claim period.

CHILD TRUST FUNDS

Child Trust Funds are savings accounts set up by the Government for children born between 2002 and 2011, with an initial financial contribution to help young people save for their futures.

Officers raised awareness among 14–22-year-olds of the existence of the funds, as many eligible young people had not claimed their savings or were unaware that an account existed in their name.

Why is this important?

Young people in Gwynedd may be missing out on between £250 and £500 of savings owed to them.

What has been achieved during 2025/26?

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT

The Council's Tax Discount Scheme helps people on low incomes by reducing/eliminating their Tax bill.

Why is this important?

8,350 residents get a Council Tax Discount, totalling £11.7million

HOUSING BENEFIT

Housing Benefit is financial assistance designed to help low-income people pay their rent.

Why is this important?

2,557 residents receive housing benefit, totalling £11.8million

HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING: FUEL POVERTY

ENERGY ADVICE

The Energy Team supports residents with energy costs, home energy efficiency and information about tariffs.

Over **100 drop-in sessions** were held to give advice and information to residents.

We administered **Fuel Bank Foundation vouchers** to help households on pre-paid meters to access emergency heating.

Why is this important?

341 residents were supported through Fuel Bank Foundation vouchers, worth a total of £10,670.



ECO4 SCHEME

ECO4 is a national initiative aimed at helping low-income households improve their home energy efficiency and reduce bills and carbon.

Why is this important?

1,140 homes have received an ECO4 grant, increasing their EPC score and reducing bills.

Between October 2022 and December 2025, the Council administered applications from residents for an ECO4 grant on behalf of the government.

What has been achieved during 2025/26?

HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING: EMERGENCY FINANCIAL HELP

EMERGENCY VOUCHERS

Emergency vouchers are urgent financial help given to people in an emergency.

The Council provided urgent financial help to pay for food, energy or essential household items to residents in an emergency.

Why is this important?

101 vouchers were distributed, totalling £5,000.

HELP FOR FOOD BANKS AND FOOD SCHEMES

The Emergency Food Aid Fund is a grant aimed at supporting projects that provide food aid to people.

This year, 41 community groups were supported through the fund, with £150,300 being allocated to support food banks, food pantries, dinner clubs, and the provision of food packages.

Why is this important?

Around **26,400 food packages** were distributed ensuring urgent and vital support for households experiencing financial hardship.



Various food schemes across the county, provided by partners.

What has been achieved during 2025/26?

HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING: CHILDCARE

Flying Start is a Welsh Government programme supporting children aged 0–4 and their families with free childcare and early support.

This year, Deiniolen and Penygroes were added to the Scheme, rolling out access to childcare to more families across the county.

Why is this important?

Around 500 children receive the Flying Start offer

Official opening of the Dechrau'n Deg office and a new cabin for Cylch Deiniolen



HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING: ACTIVITIES

Around **31% of children in Wales live in poverty**, which limits their ability to participate in play and leisure activities, especially during school holidays. To address this, the Council provided activities, such as:

- **Trelar Chwarae (Play Trailer):** The trailer travelled across the county holding free play sessions for children up to the age of 11.
- **Summer of Fun:** Providing free or low-cost activities, in conjunction with Byw'n Iach, in leisure centres during the school holidays.
- **Youth Service:** Offering free activities such as Zorbs, darts, art and sports for teenagers.
- **Food and Fun Initiative:** 8 schools in Gwynedd took part in this national initiative during the summer holidays of 2025.
- **Upgrading Playgrounds:** £196,000 worth of the Common Prosperity Fund and Welsh Government Children's Fund grant has been used to improve 29 playgrounds.



What has been achieved during 2025/26?

HELP WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING: SCHOOLS

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

All children in Wales attending primary school are eligible to receive free school meals.

Not all children take advantage of free school meals, meaning that they miss out on a hot hearty meal, or that families are still buying and providing lunch boxes.



The Catering and Cleaning Service therefore held food taster sessions in primary schools to encourage interest

Why is this important?

83% of children now receive free school meals, which is up from 67%.

SCHOOL ESSENTIALS GRANT

The School Essentials Grant scheme helps low-income families with school costs, such as school uniform, books and learning equipment.

The Council promoted the grant during the year and administered payments to 2,128 children for this year.

Why is this important?

£278,000 was given to families towards school essentials.

REDUCING THE COST OF GOING TO SCHOOL PROJECT

A third of parents of secondary school pupils believe that school costs are too high, with the main costs including school meals, school uniform and residential trips. Parents also tell us that participation in extracurricular activities and sports is costly.

In response to these concerns, the Council's Education Department and Gwynedd's schools are working together on a 'Cost Friendly Schools' Charter. The Charter will help schools review policies and make practical changes to reduce the financial pressure on families.



The Council has been working with Byw'n Iach to collect and redistribute free sports shoes.

What has been achieved during 2025/26?

CYMORTH COSTAU BYW: CYNLLUNIAU ERAILL

CROESO CYNNES (WARM WELCOME).

Croeso Cynnes locations provide warm and welcoming spaces where people can socialise, take part in activities, have a cup of tea or some food, and reduce loneliness.

Why is this important?

67 new locations were added and £49,000 in grants were allocated to support the provision.

PERIOD DIGNITY

The Council supports the campaign to tackle period poverty by ensuring access to period products in schools, libraries, Byw'n Iach centres and community settings across the county.

Why is this important?

£101,000 worth of eco-friendly menstrual products were distributed to Gwynedd residents.

TRAVEL PASSES

The Council works closely with Transport for Wales to support travel schemes such as the 55+ travel pass, helping to make public transport more affordable and accessible for residents.

Why is this important?

On average, around 67,000 passengers per month have used the free bus travel pass.

JOB SEEKERS

Gwaith Gwynedd supports individuals who have been out of work, or who face barriers in the workplace, to develop skills, increase working hours and secure stable or better paid employment.

Why is this important?

175 residents were supported to return to work, with a further 103 developing skills to secure better pay.



A Case Study: Sion's Story *

Often, it is not one single intervention that makes a difference, but a package of support tailored to the needs of the individual or family.

While measuring quantitative data is important, there's nothing better than a story to bring the work to life, and to show the real change in people's lives.



Sion, a young father, came to the food bank and was visibly nervous and ashamed when he arrived. During a long conversation, he explained that he had only come through the door for the sake of his children.

By taking the time to listen, it was possible to discuss his situation and signpost him to further support.

He learned about free activities for children at the local library, as well as the opportunity to join other services at no cost.

A discussion was also held about the foodbank, and the Warm Welcome offer, where Sion could drop in on Tuesdays and Fridays for a snack, cuppa and a sympathetic chat.

His financial situation was discussed, including bills, and he was signposted to Dŵr Cymru's social tariff scheme to help him. He wanted to go home and apply, knowing that he could return for further assistance if needed.

He and his partner were given extra support in the form of SIM cards, which would save them around £30 a month over a six-month period. He clearly felt much more comfortable after the conversation, and appreciated the welcoming environment, noting that he planned to return with his children.

In Sion's words:

“I didn't know that there was help like this available!! Thank you so much, everyone is so friendly here, I was worried before coming but I'll come here again - thank you thank you!!”

During a follow-up visit, it was noted that he was still feeling under pressure, underlining the importance of providing sensitive and ongoing support.

**To protect individuals' privacy, we have changed the names in the stories that appear in this report.*

What has been achieved during 2025/26?

COMMUNITY HUBS

COMMUNITY HUBS

The community hubs provide local access to information and support, bringing Council services and partners closer to residents

There is a network of 11 Community Hubs where the Council works with community and voluntary partners to support them

Each Hub has been developed based on the community's needs and the provision available in them includes digital support, financial assistance, access to food and fuel vouchers, a warm setting, health and well-being activities and advice and signposting to other services.

WELL-BEING CHAMPIONS

Well-being Champions provide direct financial support to residents, including verification of entitlement to benefits, help with bills, maximising income and signposting to specialist services.

Local drop-in sessions have been crucial in reaching people and raising awareness of the support available, with the service receiving positive feedback about its impact on helping residents cope with the pressures of the cost-of-living.



Why is this important?

498 received advice and support from the well-being champions in 2025/26.

A Case Study: Bethan's Story *

Often, it is not one single intervention that makes a difference, but a package of support tailored to the needs of the individual or family.

While measuring quantitative data is important, there's nothing better than a story to bring the work to life, and to show the real change in people's lives.



Bethan was put in touch with the Wellbeing Officer by her daughter, who was concerned about her welfare. Bethan's home was often cold, and her daughter had noticed clear changes in her mother's living habits, particularly in relation to eating and energy use.

Over time, and through sensitive conversations with Bethan, it became apparent that rising living costs had forced her to cut spending on essentials, with heating and food being reduced in order to manage costs. Bethan had also been forced to sell her car due to the financial burden of maintaining it.

Following an initial assessment of her financial situation, it became clear that she was only claiming her State Pension and was not receiving any of the additional support to which she was entitled. Support was provided to help her apply for Pension Credit.

In addition, it was identified that Bethan's husband was experiencing declining health and facing daily challenges with everyday living activities. Information was provided about Attendance Allowance, a benefit that Bethan had not been aware of, and it was explained that it could make a significant difference to their situation. Bethan was referred to Citizens Advice for further assistance with completing the application form.

As a result of the intervention and support provided, Bethan successfully claimed both Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance. In a follow-up conversation, Bethan's daughter expressed her gratitude for the support that had been provided, noting that it had made a significant difference to her parents' quality of life. The household was now more financially stable, with a gradual improvement in their living conditions. Some of their usual routines had begun to return, and the home was warmer and more comfortable as a result.

**To protect individuals' privacy, we have changed the names in the stories that appear in this report.*

What has been achieved during 2025/26?

OUR WAY OF WORKING

GAFael LLAW

The “Gafael Llaw” pilot project was launched to respond to pressure on the Galw Gwynedd (Cyngor Gwynedd's Contact Center) service by offering a more personal and proactive approach to supporting residents with complex issues. The project focuses on well-being conversations, particularly with older people and those making applications for a blue badge, to try to prevent their situation from worsening and maintain their independence.

Some callers to Cyngor Gwynedd's contact centre therefore receive “Gafael Llaw” support when needed.

Why is this important?

Support was provided to 162 residents through the Gafael Llaw Team during 2025/26.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Council has delivered Money Guiders training to front-line staff in libraries, Siopau Gwynedd receptions and Galw Gwynedd, to strengthen financial support for residents. The three-level training gives staff the skills and confidence to provide sensitive and effective support, moving towards a more comprehensive approach that understands the wider needs of residents and facilitates referral to the appropriate support.

EQUALITY AND EQUITY PROJECTS

Equality is a priority for the Council, guided by the [Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28](#). The Supporting People Working Group used data to address inequalities in services in two specific projects during 2025/26:

- Schools, governing bodies and Byw'n Iach have been engaged to address a decline in swimming lessons in schools, with some barriers such as transport being identified.
- A review of disability parking spaces, bringing departments together to consider user needs, the fairness of the system and laying the foundations for further options.

Astudiaeth Achos: Stori Dewi *

Often, it is not one single intervention that makes a difference, but a package of support tailored to the needs of the individual or family.

While measuring quantitative data is important, there's nothing better than a story to bring the work to life, and to show the real change in people's lives.



Dewi was contacted by a member of the Gafael Llaw team after he applied for a disabled parking badge.

Dewi explained that he was managing to cope with most day-to-day things, but that he felt as though he was "on the verge of" needing more help. He said that he had a cleaner in the past but hadn't been coming lately.

He was asked if he had applied for an Attendance Allowance to help with additional costs.

He said that Age Cymru had been extremely helpful and had recently applied on his behalf, and that he was awaiting a decision. He also confirmed that he had discussed Pension Credit with them.

Safety at home was discussed. Dewi explained that he had handrails on the stairs, and although he was mobile around his small home, he sometimes struggled. He also had an episode of light-headedness that morning. It was suggested that he made an appointment with his practice nurse to get a health "MOT."

Telecare was discussed, as he could find it helpful should he happen to fall and be unable to call for help. Dewi was really interested and asked for a referral for more information. Due to his mobility difficulties, a request was made for him to have a bin collection service from the back door, as he had noted that he found it difficult to carry the bins over a platform at the front of the house.

Socially, Dewi said he sometimes went out. He didn't drive, but friends picked him up from time to time, and he enjoyed having dinner with his daughter once a week. He was also given information about a community hub in his area.

Dewi was very grateful for the call and appreciated the help and information.

**To protect individuals' privacy, we have changed the names in the stories that appear in this report.*

What will we do in 2026/27?

MAIN AREAS

COST-OF-LIVING SUPPORT

We will continue to promote the financial support and benefits available and ensure that everyone claims their money. In particular, we will:

- Promote automatic enrolment for social tariffs and the Priority Services Register
- Run campaigns at specific times, such as school holidays and seasonal events
- Look for ways to reduce digital exclusion and improve access to on-line services

SUPPORTING PEOPLE HUBS

- Re-examine the hub model and implement a transformation programme to ensure a more coherent provision across the county.

OUR WAY OF WORKING

- Evaluate the “Gafael Llaw” pilot and plan for the future.
- Embed an informed trauma training and children's rights awareness work programme within the work of the Working Group.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

- Number and % of Housing Benefit claimants
- Number and % of Discretionary Housing Payment claimants
- Number and % of free school meals claimants
- Number and % of Breakfast Club attendees
- Number and % of free childcare claimants
- Number and % of free travel pass claimants
- Number of emergency vouchers provided (Charis)
- Number of emergency fuel vouchers awarded
- Number of individuals supported back to work
- Number and value £ Council Tax discounts
- £ more money in the pockets of Gwynedd residents
- Number of cost-of-living advice sessions held (Well-being Champions)
- Number and % of residents reporting that they had received the support they required, at the first point (Hubs)
- Number of Gafael Llaw enquiries
- % of Gafael Llaw cases resolved and supported
- Number of staff receiving customer/person-centred care training
- Number of staff completing financial guide training
- Case studies and residents' stories

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Date of Meeting : 7 July 2026
Cabinet Member : Cllr Craig ab Iago
Relevant Officer : Dylan Owen, Statutory Director of Social Services
Title of Item : Update to Cyngor Gwynedd Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30

Report to a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

1. Decision Sought

- i. That Cabinet approve the modifications to the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan and adopt Gwynedd Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30 (V.2).
-

2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision

- i. The Council adopted the Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf following a meeting of the Cabinet on 8 March 2022. "Responding to the climate change crisis" is also one of the Council's 8 Improvement Priorities within The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28.
- ii. During 2025/26 the Council has been reviewing our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (CNEP/the Plan) to ensure it remains current and fit for purpose.
- iii. Modifications were made to the Plan following a public consultation; receiving comments from the Climate and Nature Board; and receiving comments from the Communities Scrutiny Committee.
- iv. The reviewed plan (Appendix 1) is submitted to Cabinet in order to consider the adaptations made and to accept, or not, those modifications.

3. Background

- i. The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (the Plan/CNEP) outlines how we as a Council will adapt our way of working and delivering services in order to reduce our carbon emissions and increase carbon absorption capacity. It offers examples of projects we will be pursuing, their outline costs and the timeline for their completion.
- ii. The Plan became operational in April 2022 and the 3 annual reports evaluating the Plan's performance can be seen [here](#).

- iii. It was recognised from the outset that the current Plan focuses on the Council's internal operations, in order to contribute to the Welsh Government's target for the collective public sector to reach net zero. But when Gwynedd Council's Cabinet adopted the current Plan on 8 March 2022, it was stated that 'Phase 1' would be planning how to decarbonise the Council's own operations, and that 'Phase 2' would be planning how to support Gwynedd communities to reduce carbon emissions across the county as well as providing more information on how to respond to flood risk.
- iv. Phase 1, namely the implementation of the current Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, has been in place since April 2022, and will be ongoing work as far as we can see. In order to reach Phase 2 the Council's Climate and Nature Board decided that the Plan needed to be reviewed, and the residents of Gwynedd consulted on its content, in order to draw up a new work programme for the coming years up to 2030.

4. Public Consultation

- i. As a first step the original Plan was reviewed by the Council's Climate and Nature Board (a board of elected members and Council officers), and some updates were suggested.
- ii. The Board looked specifically at the list of projects in chapters 8-14 to see if some of those projects needed to be modified or removed, or new ones added. Based on the Board's new proposals a public consultation was carried out between 12 June and 31 July 2025 to seek views on:
 - Do residents think climate change is important, and should it be a priority for the Council?
 - Content of the current Plan
 - Proposals on changes to existing projects and the addition of new projects
 - What can Gwynedd Council do to support Gwynedd residents to reduce carbon emissions?

- iii. Response to the public consultation

The results of the consultation can be found in Appendix 2, but briefly the results show:

- 84% of respondents believe climate change is important to them
- 83% of respondents believe that Gwynedd Council should be taking action on climate change
- The majority of respondents agreed that the current Plan was understandable, with a clear vision and timetable, and that the aim was ambitious enough (between 56-75% agreed with the various statements)
- A majority (52%) disagreed that the Council is doing enough to support residents to adopt sustainable living and working habits
- The majority of respondents agreed that 10 new projects should be added to the Scheme (support for individual projects ranging between 59% and 79%)
- The projects with the highest percentages supported were 'continuing to implement Gwynedd Council's Flood Strategy' (79.5%), and 'working with community organisations to produce and distribute renewable energy' (78.8%)

- The projects with the highest percentages of disagreement were 'developing and implementing Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy to develop the Council's public charging network and for the Council's fleet (21.2% disagree but 71.2% agree) and 'researching and measuring blue carbon absorption on our coastline (20.5% disagree but 59.6% agree)
 - The topic of climate change placed as a top priority was 'reducing household fuel poverty' (63.3%)
 - The additional benefit that follows from the highest scoring climate change action was 'access to public transport'.
- iv. Given the results of the consultation, some key points stand out –
- there is support for Gwynedd Council to be active in the area of climate change;
 - there is support for the proposed changes to the CNEP;
 - the Council needs to be doing more to help residents adopt sustainable living and working practices

5. Modifications to the Plan

- i. On 18 September 2025 the Council's Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan Annual Report 2024/25, and then on 22 January 2026 the Communities Scrutiny Committee also considered the new draft of the Plan post consultation. In both these meetings they discussed the ambition of the original Plan, namely "Gwynedd Council will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030", and their recommendation was "that the Council's ambition to be net zero carbon by 2030 needs to be revisited and a realistic target for reducing carbon emissions should be considered".
- ii. This is an extremely challenging ambition, especially because there are so many factors affecting it which are beyond the control of the Council.
- iii. One key factor is how the electricity generated and distributed through the National Grid is generated. The British government has announced their plan to ensure that 95% of Britain's electricity needs are generated through renewable means by 2030 - [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan - GOV.UK](#) . If this plan is realised then it will directly lead to a significant reduction in Gwynedd Council's carbon emissions, particularly as we move towards a fleet of electric vehicles and electrify heat. Indeed, we depend on the British and Welsh governments to realise such national plans if we are to realise the ambition of net zero.
- iv. In the meantime, through the current projects of our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, we as a Council are preparing to be ready to make the most of net zero energy provision. We are investing significantly in reducing Scope 1 emissions, which are the areas over which we have control, and have been doing so for over 15 years. Continuing to implement the projects described in the 'Buildings and Energy' and 'Mobility and Transport' chapters will primarily put us in the strongest possible position to take advantage of renewable energy electricity when it comes.
- v. Over the last 3 years by far the highest proportion (almost three-quarters) of the Council's carbon emissions comes from our expenditure on third party contracts. That is, the carbon is measured on the basis of the monetary value of the services and goods we purchase through our procurement arrangements. We work together and support our suppliers to move towards less polluting approaches, and in some cases we have data that is more accurate than spend data, but generally the more we spend the greater our carbon emissions. If we continue to have to calculate the carbon

emissions of the purchase of services and goods, and without being able to accurately measure or influence these emissions, it will be almost impossible for us to act as a net zero council.

- vi. In order to realise the projects in the Scheme we have estimated the cost to be between £400-700m. This level of funding is not currently available to the Council, and we do not anticipate that it will be available to us in time to be able to realise the ambition of net zero by 2030.
- vii. The Council's ambition remains firm, which is to continue to reduce carbon emissions urgently. However, recognising that the Welsh Government is in the process of reviewing its national net zero target and associated carbon budgets, the Council will need to consider its implementation in order to align with the revised national framework once it is confirmed. We intend to act consistently with the Welsh Government's intentions, while at the same time enabling the Council to continue to deliver meaningful emission reductions without delay.

6. Project Review

- i. As noted above, the first step taken in reviewing the Plan was to review the lists of projects in chapters 8 to 14. It is reasonable that some projects need to be adapted in order to respond to a changing world, or that some other projects have reached the end of their life and are therefore 'archived'.
- ii. **Archived Projects:**
 - 1. Increasing our carbon 'credit' by installing solar farms to produce energy that the Council can use or sell
 - 2. Electrification of building heating systems to reduce carbon emissions
 - 3. Installing EC ventilation fans in buildings to reduce the energy required to run them compared to normal fans
 - 4. Installing individual room heating regulations to reduce the energy required to heat a building
 - 5. Upgrading street lights and traffic signs to reduce energy use
 - 6. Maximising the benefits of implementing our energy and heating policies
 - 7. Identify the steps we need to take to protect nature's habitats and biodiversity for the future
 - 8. Protecting Nature's Valuable Habitats
- iii. Further details on the reason for archiving these projects can be found in section 15 of the Plan, but in a nutshell the most common reason is because a number of projects have been combined as they work towards the same goal. This means that the work is ongoing but that there is no need to describe the work as two separate projects.
- iv. **New Projects**
 - 1. Review the potential for use of heat networks across Gwynedd, dependent on feasibility studies
 - 2. Working with community organisations to produce and distribute renewable energy for the benefit of Gwynedd communities

3. Developing and encouraging active travel in Gwynedd's school catchment area
 4. Implementing Gwynedd Council's Waste Strategy
 5. Developing a Climate and Nature Adaptation Strategy
 6. Gwynedd Council staff to implement the Sustainable Procurement Guidance to reduce carbon emissions through the supply chain
 7. Provide market support, particularly to local providers, to take action that will reduce their emissions or increase carbon absorption levels
 8. Recognising the carbon capture value of our landfill sites
 9. Recognising the value of 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast
 10. Implementing Gwynedd Council's Flood Strategy
- v. Further details on each of the above projects can be found in chapters 8-14 of the Plan, with information on the reason for their inclusion, costs, timetable and potential carbon savings.

6. Communities Scrutiny Committee's Comments

- i. Changes were made to the Plan following the public consultation and further comments from the Climate and Nature Board. A new draft of the Plan was submitted to a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2026, and the committee's decisions are set out below:

It was resolved:

To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.

- That the Committee welcomed the intention to revisit the Council's ambition to be Net Zero Carbon by 2030.
- To recommend to the Cabinet Member for Environment that:
 - the successes and work carried out to deliver the Plan should be communicated to the public.
 - the use of open questions in public consultations needed to be increased in order to receive responses that would enrich the information available to inform future direction.
 - consideration should be given to modifying the following wording: "... we will continue to reduce our emissions over the next few decades until we reach the net zero target ' (Page 6, Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, Version 2), in order to be more ambitious in meeting the target.

The comments of the Communities Scrutiny Committee have been considered, and attention has been given to share more information about the Plan's successes, and to make changes to future consultations. See section 5 above for more information on reaching the target of net zero.

7. Measuring Success

- i. We will continue to collect data on Cyngor Gwynedd's annual carbon emissions and submit them to the Welsh Government in accordance with the arrangements in place since 2021.

- ii. Those results are published in annual reports, which can be found [here](#).

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

- i. [An Impact Assessment on the Characteristics of Equality, the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Duty](#) was produced on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan when it was adopted at the Cabinet meeting on 8 March 2022. An update to the assessment can be found at Appendix 3.

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

- i. [Have you included residents / service users? If not, when and how do you intend to consult with them?](#)

See 5 above.

- ii. [Have you considered collaboration?](#)

Chapters 11 and 12 of the Annual Report cover the work carried out in part by the Gwynedd Nature Partnership, namely a consortium of local organisations led by the Council. A number of other projects in CNEP are carried out in partnership with others, such as active travel projects in collaboration with Public Service Board partners.

The new review of the CNEP lists new projects where it will be absolutely essential to collaborate with community organisations and residents in order to achieve them – eg. 'collaborating with community organisations in order to produce and distribute renewable energy'.

- iii. [What has been done or will be done to prevent problems arising or worsening in the future?](#)

One of the basic principles of CNEP is to try to prevent further increases in the average temperature of the planet and to limit global warming to "well below 2oC" in accordance with the United Nations Paris Agreement. Each of the plan's projects seek to stabilise or even reverse the probability that the current situation will lead to further problems in the future.

- iv. [How have you considered the long-term and what will people's needs be in coming years?](#)

As noted above, the basis of the CNEP is to seek to prevent global warming problems from getting worse in the future, and while the Council has its own target of net zero carbon by 2030 the Welsh Government has set a target for the whole of Wales to be net zero by 2050. The CNEP therefore also takes into account that changing the habits of Gwynedd's residents and businesses will be long-term work beyond 2030.

- v. [To ensure integration have you considered the possible impact on other public bodies?](#)

A large number of CNEP projects are planned or implemented in collaboration with other public bodies or with the voluntary sector and communities. There is ongoing collaboration with other local authorities across north Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Welsh

Government's Energy Service, and Transport for Wales which has resulted in joint planning and commissioning.

A number of local public bodies including Cyngor Gwynedd are members of the Public Services Board and one of the three Well-being Objectives in the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan 2023-2028 is 'We want to work together to support our services and communities to move towards Net Zero Carbon'.

10. Next Steps and Timetable

- i. Publication of Gwynedd Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30: Version 2.
- ii. Continue to develop projects and business cases and seek funding to support the Plan.

Views of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

The Climate And Nature Emergency Plan is clearly a key policy document. The Council-wide and community nature of the individual projects and schemes reflects the wide range of this challenge. I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought and confirm that the Legal Services will be available to support the governance and legal aspects of these plans.

Chief Finance Officer:

The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan is a vital document that will inform the Council's activities for years to come. Part 5vi of the covering report acknowledges that the level of funding required to complete all projects is not currently available to the Council and is not likely to be during the life of the scheme either. Adopting a prioritization order will be inevitable.

While the Council faces significant financial costs in addressing the significant challenge ahead, there would be significant environmental, social and economic costs of not taking definite action. Work is already underway within the Finance Department, in conjunction with officers from a range of other departments, to review the financial position and identify appropriate sources of funding.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cyngor Gwynedd Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30: Version 2

Appendix 2 – Results of the public consultation on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

Appendix 3 - Impact Assessment on the Characteristics of Equality, the Welsh language and the Socio-Economic Duty



Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

2022/23 – 2029/30

Cyngor Gwynedd

Version 2

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1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our times, and calls for co-ordinated action from each one of us. As a result of the dramatic change in temperature seen world-wide since the 1950s we are experiencing serious effects such as receding glaciers, rising sea levels and changes in the seasons. Extreme weather resulting in drought or flooding are also becoming regular occurrences. One of the main contributors to this rise in temperature is the high levels of carbon released into the atmosphere by human activity.

In March 2019 Gwynedd Council declared a climate emergency, and vowed to take definitive steps to reduce carbon emissions and to work towards a carbon-free future. We now believe that we also need to give equal weight to the nature emergency since both co-

exist in parallel. Changes to temperature and rainfall as a result of climate change can lead to loss of habitat for nature and wildlife, and the loss of such habitat in turn increases the carbon levels in the atmosphere. It is vicious circle that must be broken.

We acknowledge that the long-term ambition of Gwynedd Council is to reach the ideal scenario of being a carbon-free council. In order for us to achieve this we need to plan how to respond and overcome the challenges facing us.

The aim of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan is to outline the steps that we will take to try and achieve our ambition of being a net zero council.



2. Reviewing the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

By February 2026 4 years will have passed since Cyngor Gwynedd adopted the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, and in each year since then we have published an Annual Report evaluating our success in delivering the plan.

Today's circumstances are very different from March 2022, and international politics, technological advances and costs have changed significantly in a short time.

It is therefore timely for us as a Council to review our plan to ensure that we continue to operate effectively, and to evaluate if we need to change what is being achieved.

During 2025/26 we took a closer look at all aspects of the work to see if we are progressing on the right track, and during the summer of 2025 we also carried out a public consultation to understand what the priorities of Gwynedd residents are in the area of climate and nature, and to seek views on some new schemes to consider.

We have assessed each of the projects in chapters 8 – 14 to see if they are still relevant and effective. Most of them remain active; 8 of them have been moved to the 'Archive' section because they have already been realised, or they are duplicating work taking place under other projects; and 10 new projects have been added.

Work has also been done to estimate as accurately as possible what the financial costs would be to deliver the projects and how much carbon emissions they would save. The information is set out in chapters 8 to 14 but further work is to be done in the future in order to continue to have as accurate figures as possible.

By revisiting the costs of these projects over the next year, we will also be in a much stronger position to gauge when we will approach net zero.

3. Foreword - Cabinet Member for the Environment

The climate and nature crisis is no longer a threat far into the future; it's happening now and it's affecting us in Gwynedd like every other part of the world. Gwynedd's environment and nature are just as unique and special as its people and language, and therefore treasures to be protected.

But how do we, in the face of the overwhelming uncertainty of climate change, ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the same privileges as we do today? How do we ensure that our way of life continues? This plan outlines how we will reduce carbon emissions, restore nature and strengthen resilience – working together for a better future.

Traditionally, wisdom reminds us to plant trees that we never expect to sit in their shade. The principle of thinking seven generations ahead is deeply rooted in our values as a nation, and is clearly reflected in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In that spirit, we have a responsibility not only to respond to the climate crisis, but to do so in a way that builds a fair, sustainable and resilient future for those who come after us. I'm delighted that, here in Gwynedd, we are at the forefront of tackling our emissions in Wales and the United Kingdom, with an average reduction of 55% in our carbon emissions since 2005/06. This is no

small achievement; it is a testament to what is possible when there is a clear commitment and decisive action.

This progress gives us a solid foundation to continue the journey, but it also reminds us that the work is not finished. Our challenge now is to build on that success by making bold and forward-thinking decisions, which will ensure that we not only reduce our impact, but that we protect and improve the environment for future generations.



Councillor Craig ab Iago
Environment Cabinet Member

4. Reaching Net Zero

We have drawn up the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in order to share how we will try and realise our ambition of being a net zero council.

This ambition is in keeping with the Welsh Government’s target for the public sector as a whole in Wales to be net zero, and more can be found about this target in their document published in 2019 [Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales](#) and in 2021 [Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2 \(2021-2025\)](#).

The Government has extended its target beyond the public sector since the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(Environment Act\)](#) makes it a legal obligation for the Welsh Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Wales by at least 80% by 2050. The Environment Act also places new obligations in relation to the decrease in biodiversity in Wales, and our hope is that this plan will also contribute to the ambition of maintaining healthy ecological systems and biodiversity for the future.

Similar to other public bodies in Wales, the council has committed to implementing the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#), and ensuring a healthy net zero carbon future will contribute to all the well-being goals in the Act.



One of the 7 well-being objectives in [Gwynedd-Council-Well-being-Statement](#) is to ‘take advantage of the beauty of the county's natural environment’; and ‘responding to the climate change emergency’ is one of 8 Improvement Priorities in the [The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28](#)

We need to be reminded that Gwynedd Council's commitment to reducing our carbon emissions is not a new statement. The council published its first Carbon Management Plan in 2010, and its Carbon Management Plan 2 in 2015. The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan is therefore an evolution of both its predecessors.

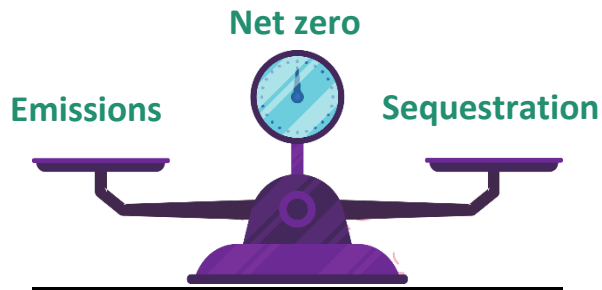
2005/06 was chosen as the baseline year for both Carbon Management Plans, and at that time the total carbon emissions from our buildings, street lighting, waste, fleet and business transport was 31,155 tCO₂e (further information on the meaning of tCO₂e in 'What is net zero carbon and why is it important?').

The council committed to reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2021 compared with its baseline year, but indeed exceeded this target by going further and faster. By 2020 the council's carbon emissions were 13,003 tCO₂e, a reduction of 58%. The Welsh Government methodology that we must now follow means that this total has changed – more about this in 'Planning to achieve net zero carbon'.

The Council's ambition remains firm, which is to continue to reduce carbon emissions urgently. However, recognising that the Welsh Government is in the process of reviewing its national net zero target and associated carbon budgets, the Council will need to consider its implementation in order to align with the revised national framework once it is confirmed. We intend to act consistently with the Welsh Government's intentions, while at the same time enabling the Council to continue to deliver meaningful emission reductions without delay.



5. What is net zero carbon and why is it important?



It's inevitable that there will be some carbon emissions from activities that cannot be avoided, and therefore if we want to see a world without any damaging carbon in our atmosphere then that carbon needs to be destroyed or absorbed and stored safely. This is the meaning of carbon sequestration (or 'carbon removal'). Research and new technologies are being developed in order to understand how best to store carbon, but the most effective means of doing so at the moment are the natural methods where the carbon is stored in trees, plants, land and plankton.

If the total amount of carbon released into the atmosphere is equal to the carbon absorbed back into the earth then we have reached a position of being 'net zero carbon' (also known as 'carbon neutral').

Why do we need to reach net zero carbon?

The increase in levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere is the main reason why the average temperature of the planet has increased, especially over the last half century. Both graphs below show the average yearly temperatures for the world, and for Wales:

World average temperature 1850 - 2020



Wales average temperature 1884 - 2020



(Range of : blues = cold / reds = heat)

In turn, an increase in temperature leads to far-ranging implications that are very damaging for the environment, nature and for us as humans. The average temperature in Britain is now 1°C higher than it was a century ago, and sea levels are rising 3mm each year (UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: HM Government). This may not appear to be significant, but we must remember that the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that insects, which are vital for pollination of crops and plants, will lose half their habitats following an increase of 1.5°C, but the probability will double with an increase of 2°C. An increase of 1.5°C will lead to rising sea levels that will affect 6 million people living in coastal areas around the world, but an increase of 2°C will affect 10 million people.

The target to limit global warming to “well below 2°C” compared to pre-industrial levels was set as part of the United Nations Paris Agreement 2015, and further strengthened at the COP26 conference in November 2021. The COP26: The Glasgow Climate Pact declares:

“The aim of the UK COP26 Presidency was to keep alive the hope of limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5C, and the Glasgow Climate Pact does just that. Combined with increased ambition and action from countries, 1.5C remains in sight, but it will only be achieved if every country delivers on what they have pledged”.

Even considering the minor differences in both timeline stripe graphs above, they clearly show the tendency towards a hotter climate is as true here in Wales as it is for the rest of the world. The need to keep the increase in temperature to 1.5°C or lower, and to reduce to effect of climate change already underway, is just as important here in Wales as it is in the Amazon rainforest or the deserts of Australia.

If an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is the main reason for the increase in temperature, then it follows that we need to decrease the level of those gases in order to halt further temperature increases. The 3 greenhouse gases which have the biggest effect on climate change are:

Most damaging greenhouse gases -

- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
 - Methane (CH₄)
 - Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)
- } ...measured together as one unit, and called CO₂e

Method of measuring carbon emissions –

- Per kg – kgCO₂e
- Per tonne – tCO₂e

‘Releasing greenhouse gases’ or ‘greenhouse gas emissions’ are usually called ‘carbon emissions’, and by using terminology such as ‘carbon reduction’ what is meant is the reduction in the levels of all greenhouse gases, and not only carbon dioxide.

In order to be consistent with the measuring and reporting methods of the Welsh Government, UK Government and the IPCC, this plan will refer to ‘carbon emissions’, ‘CO₂e’ and ‘net zero carbon’.

6. Responding to the Effects of Climate Change

Thus far we have considered the importance of slowing down or stopping the process of global warming, and the need to reduce carbon emissions in the future. But what about the effects that global warming is already having on us here in Gwynedd?

Adapting to the effects of climate change that are already in place is absolutely necessary, often in order to protect people. This new edition of the plan puts more emphasis on doing work on **climate adaptation**.

The scientific consensus, largely informed by the UK Climate Change Projections 2018 (UKCP18), points to a future of hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, along with an increased frequency of extreme weather events and rising sea levels. This can lead to devastating consequences for people, homes, nature and agricultural land.

One of the actions for 2026/27 is to produce a regional Climate Change Risk Assessment for north Wales. This work is being led by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board, and the final assessment will give us a description of the main risks facing the people and lands of Gwynedd due to the impacts of climate change.

The first step is to understand the risk, and the following step is to take action to reduce its effect.

Flooding

The Coast

Gwynedd's coastline is one of its most endearing attractions, but there are far reaching implications to protecting all of its 180 miles. The responsibility to protect the coastline and to respond to coastal flooding lies with Natural Resources Wales and Gwynedd Council. During the autumn of 2020 the Welsh Government published its [National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales \(FCERM\)](#), and its aim is to reduce the risks for people and communities from flooding coastal erosion.

This is a ten-year strategy and we as a council are committed to its implementation, and it steers our work for the future.

Inland

As a Local Lead Flood Authority, we as a council have a responsibility to control the risk of flooding from surface water, ground water and from smaller streams know as common watercourses. In accordance with this responsibility we have worked together with Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and other local authorities to develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Its main objective is to try and stop flooding incidents, and to respond effectively if they occur, but its other aim is to positively contribute to biodiversity and create access for residents to green spaces.



7. This Plan

This plan sets a target of net zero carbon for the activities and services that we as Cyngor Gwynedd are responsible for.

We intend to improve the way we provide services and run our organisation, and we'll be able to measure this since most of the work is under our control. The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan will therefore include the actions we intend to take in order to directly change the services we provide, and to collaborate or support others to work towards the same goal.

The activities and projects that we will undertake, if we receive sufficient funding, to try and become a net zero council have been listed under the themes: Building and Energy, Mobility and Transport, Waste, Governance, Procurement, Land Use, Ecology, and all can be explored in chapters 8 - 14.

Reaching our ambition of net zero carbon will be a significant challenge and we are honest in our prediction that we don't have all the answers at the moment. More work needs to be undertaken by ourselves and others in order to find the most effective and successful ways of working in some areas. It is essential, therefore, to have an open mind and to learn about new developments, and to adapt this plan and our ways of working if evidence comes to light that warrants such changes.

The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan is a document that will be developed and adapted regularly. This is the second iteration of the plan following conducting a consultation on the original version.

On the other hand, there are several activities that we believe should be completed but that we have very little control over, or that we don't have the finances to fund at the moment. Additional resources will be needed to address our ambition, and we hope that further funding opportunities arise from Welsh Government and other sources.

We will co-operate and contribute towards realising ambitious plans, but we cannot fulfil them on our own.

Partners

It will be impossible for us as a council to achieve our ambition without working in partnership with a wide range of individuals and organisations. We provide services for, and alongside, so many other people and it is vital that we work together for everyone's benefit. We will try to best of our ability to influence individuals and organisations to come with us on our journey. We will consult with our partners and with the communities of Gwynedd to measure the success of this plan and to see how best we can

support them so that they may operate in as low carbon a way as possible.

A list of our partners can be seen in chapter 16. It isn't comprehensive, nor in order of priority, and we are open to discuss with any partner who also shares our ambition.

How will we measure success?

This plan will be monitored regularly as part of the council's internal performance monitoring process, and information about the plan's development will be shared publicly by the Cabinet Members Performance Reports and the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan Annual Report to Scrutiny meetings.

We also have a Climate and Nature Board which provides strategic guidance, and includes the Cabinet Members, Corporate Director, Chief Officers, Biodiversity Champion and a representative of the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

One element of regular monitoring is data collection of carbon emissions and sequestration, and we do this by following Welsh Government's methodology ([Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide](#)). The results of annual data collation will be published in Gwynedd Council's Annual Performance Report, and following publication we will also review this plan to ensure that we are on the right track or to make any necessary changes.

Data on carbon emissions is collected to measure activities in 3 areas, or 'scopes':

Scope 1 – Direct Emissions

e.g. producing electricity or heat with assets owned by the council such as boilers; travelling in council owned fleet.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from Energy

e.g. electricity, heat or cooling systems produced by third parties but used by the council.

Scope 3 - Indirect Emissions

e.g. goods produced by third parties and purchased by the council; staff commute or staff using their own vehicles for business travel.

The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan runs concurrent with many other council strategies and policies, and indeed it is essential that the principles of this plan are entrenched across all the council's activities. Many of the action points for the future are likely to sit within other strategies or action plans. A current list of active strategies is listed in chapter 17, but it is open to constant adaptation.

Measuring carbon emissions and sequestration

As already mentioned, we won't know if we have reduced our carbon emissions and increased our capacity to absorb carbon unless we regularly measure both and compare the data with our baseline.

This is not a new activity for the council. As mentioned previously, the council have had two Carbon Management Plans since 2010 which were successful since we reduced our carbon emissions by 58% between 2005/06 and 2019/20, bringing the total down to 13,003 tCO₂e. Successes include changing 90% of street lighting to LED lamps so far, insulating buildings and installing PV solar panels.

Under both Carbon Management Plans we measured our carbon emissions from buildings, street lighting, waste generated by the council, council fleet and staff business travel. By today all local authorities must follow data collection methodology as set by Welsh Government, which leads us to measure many more activities in addition to those we measured up until 2019 – e.g. water use, biomass, emissions further up the supply chain (well to tank), staff commute, working from home; emissions from the process of producing goods or services we purchase (procurement), and we also cannot claim credit for PV energy exported to the National Grid.

Even though the council doesn't control many of these additional activities, we must now report on all the emissions generated by them. The emissions generated by procurement are calculated based on the monetary value of the goods or services we purchase. Put simply, the more we spend the higher our carbon emissions, regardless of what the goods are or how they are produced.

It is therefore inevitable that the new data sets we collect will be much higher than those under both Carbon Management Plans.

The following table shows the data collected for the baseline year of 2019/20 and for 2025/26 following Welsh Government reporting guidance:

Total Operational Carbon Emissions:

	2019/20	2050/26
	Total tCO ₂ e	Total tCO ₂ e
Buildings and PV (photovoltaic)	11,549	9,964
Street lighting	1,101	704
Fleet	5,145	5,225
Waste	7,331	
Business travel	1,944	1,283
Staff commute	5,623	3,723
Total	32,693	21,225
Procurement	40,639	54,726
Total including procurement	73,332	75,980

There are several reasons why the total has already fallen by 2020/21: stopping waste going to landfill and changes in working practices as a result of Covid-19 are examples.

The following charts show the total and percentages of emissions across several fields:

Measuring total carbon sequestration

We also follow Welsh Government methodology to measure the total carbon that land owned by the council is able to absorb. The table below shows the different types of land to be measured, and the total carbon absorbed (sequestration).

Lands	2019/20	2025/26
	Total tCO ₂ e	Total tCO ₂ e
▪ Forest land		
▪ Grassland	5,893*	3,123
▪ Wetlands		
▪ Settlements		

*based on 2020/21 figures

Gap that needs to be closed to achieve net zero carbon:

2019/20	32,693 – 5,893 =	26,800 tCO₂e	(67,439 tCO ₂ e with procurement)
2025/26	21,255 – 3,123 =	18,132 tCO₂e	(72,857 tCO ₂ e with procurement)

Planning to achieve net zero carbon

We need to close the gap of around 18,132 tCO₂e by a combination of reducing our emissions and increasing our capacity to absorb carbon. Regardless of the potential to increase carbon sequestration (more on this in [13. Land Use](#)) it is true that we need to concentrate on substantially decreasing our emissions, and our activities and projects intended for achieving this are outlined in the following chapters (mainly scopes 1 & 2):

8. Buildings and Energy

9. Mobility and Transport

10. Waste

We can support all the work in these areas by strengthening our internal procedures, and more on this can be found in the [11. Governance](#) chapter.

The [12. Procurement](#) chapter outlines our plans to begin the substantial challenge of reducing the carbon emissions within the supply chain, or the goods and services that the council purchases (scope 3).

Lastly, the [13. Land Use](#) ac [14. Biodiversity](#) chapters outlines our responsibilities to use our land to its maximum potential for carbon sequestration from the atmosphere, and to support nature and to increase biodiversity so that we build a green Gwynedd for the future.



Finance

Chapter 7. **This Plan** has already explained that we don't have, at this moment in time, the total funds needed to fulfil all the projects in this plan. Some projects have already begun and therefore we already have the costs and funding details. Others can be partially developed whilst we seek additional funding, and others are dependent on continued grant funding.

There are also other projects that, for various reasons, we do not know what the full costs will be. We will need to undertake further work, or to co-operate with others, to calculate those costs.

Nevertheless, our current financial position does not stop us from starting or continuing to implement the projects outlined in this plan. Information about the estimated costs can be seen in chapters 8 – 14.

Timetable

Chapters 8 - 14 lists the projects we aim to realise and sets a timetable for their implementation. Here's a summary:

Short term	2026/27	Year 1
Medium term	2026/27 – 2028/29	Years 1 - 3
Long term	2026/27 – 2028/29	Years 1 - 4

8. Buildings and Energy

As the Carbon Management Plan 2 came to its conclusion in 2020 the Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) were appointed to assess the opportunities to reduce carbon emissions across the council's estate. A desk-top revision of current energy management practices was undertaken, along with a quantitative evaluation of the efficiency of council owned buildings, and further potential to save energy, reduce carbon emissions and costs.

Our carbon emissions from buildings and PV in 2019/20 was 11,549 tCO₂e. The following projects will contribute towards reducing this figure, but substantial financial investment is needed in some areas, such as solar farms, in order to bring this figure down to zero and beyond.

Key to Projects

New	
Cost:	
£	£0 - £100,000
££	£100,000 - £500,000
£££	£500,000 - £2,000,000
££££	£2,000,000 - £450,000,000
£££££	£450,000,000 - £750,000,000

Planned projects -

	Ambition	Activity	Timetable	Projected costs £	Projected tCO ₂ e savings – whole life cycle
7.1	Aim for long term benefits when planning building work or renovating buildings	Drawing up a policy which will give guidance on the minimum technical standards for energy efficiency in new buildings or when	Short term, then continuous	No additional costs	No direct savings

		extending an existing building. We will price work based on a 'whole life cycle' principle.			
7.2	Save 5% of carbon emissions from buildings by bringing them up to CIBSE 'good practice' standards	Plan and implement a work programme to upgrade buildings.	Short term, then continuous	Savings -225,000	488
7.3	Decarbonise the council's electricity supply	Continue to receive electricity supply from a provider offering energy generated through renewable processes	Short term	Cost neutral	Carbon savings not counted as part of the Council's carbon footprint
7.5	Reduce our carbon emissions by expanding our use of PV to generate renewable energy	Expand our current programme for installing PV systems (or solar panels) to more of the council's assets. We will draw up business plans per asset but they may include offices, schools, care homes, leisure centres and car parks.	Medium term	£££	7,234
7.6	Use <i>Passivhaus</i> low carbon building practices for developing our innovative housing pilot	We will continue to operate, and then evaluate, our pilot project to provide temporary accommodation in low carbon 'pods' – further information in our Housing Action Plan.	Short term	£££	Further work needed to measure carbon savings
7.7	Provide information and advice to Gwynedd residents about the advantages and opportunities to use low carbon building practices	Via the housing 'one stop shop' on the council's website we will promote the opportunities available to save energy and costs by using low carbon methods of building	Short term, then continuous	£	No direct savings

	when building homes, and about low carbon heating/energy systems	and heating homes to try and avoid fuel poverty. We will also continue to work in partnership with community organisations who offer similar support in order to spread the message as widely as possible.			
7.8	Improve the fabric of council owned buildings to make them as energy efficient as possible	Much has already been accomplished (eg. insulation, triple glazing) but such work needs to continue, especially on sites where heat pumps will be installed.	Continuous	££	4,120
7.12	Upgrade specialised lighting in leisure centres in order to use less energy	New technology allows us to use LED lighting in swimming pools and open-air playing areas. We will run work programme to upgrade the current lamps.	Medium term	££££	254
7.14	Stop the over-development of fossil fuel energy plans	Act according to the Replacement Joint Local Development Plan and the Supplementary Planning Guidance on renewable energy or low carbon technologies, water preservation, and protecting biodiversity.	Continuous	No additional costs	Dependent on plans which would have been submitted
7.16	Equipment used within council buildings to be as energy efficient as possible	Implement the Energy and Heating Policies and ensuring that bought 'white goods' have a A+++ rating. When hiring electrical equipment, priority will be given to those that can be switched off when not in use.	Continuous	££	Dependent on total sum of equipment purchased/leased

7.17	Support the Local Area Energy Plan in order to decarbonise the energy systems in Gwynedd	We will contribute towards implementing a Local Energy Plan under the leadership of Ambition North Wales	Long term	£££££	Dependent on how many projects will be implemented
7.18	Review of potential for use of heat networks across Gwynedd dependent on feasibility studies	This project is part of the Gwynedd Local Area Energy Plan and is dependent upon receipt of additional funding	Long term	£ - £££££	Dependent on how many projects will be implemented
7.19	Working with community organisations to produce and distribute renewable energy for the benefit of Gwynedd communities	This project is part of the Gwynedd Local Area Energy Plan and is dependent upon receipt of additional funding	Long term	£ - £££££	Dependent on how many projects will be implemented

9. Mobility and Transport

There is great potential for the council to reduce the carbon emissions of our own fleet of vehicles, and we have commissioned studies to offer guidance on which new vehicles to buy in a time of ever-changing technological advances. We intend to move towards having a fleet of ULEV (Ultra-low Emission Vehicle).

Carbon emissions from our fleet (which includes refuse and recycling vehicles) was 5,145 tCO₂e in 2019/20, and emissions from business travel was 1,944 tCO₂e. Both of these are within scope 2, but the total emissions from staff commuting (scope 3) was 5,623 tCO₂e.

The following project will contribute greatly to reducing these emissions, and many are running in conjunction with energy projects which will increase our capacity to produce our own

renewable energy (e.g. solar farm) or are dependent on expanding regional or national energy networks.

Key to Projects

New	
Cost:	
£	£0 - £100,000
££	£100,000 - £500,000
£££	£500,000 - £2,000,000
££££	£2,000,000 - £450,000,000
£££££	£450,000,000 - £750,000,000

Planned projects -

	Ambition	Activity	Timetable	Projected costs £	Projected tCO ₂ e savings – whole life cycle

8.1	Move away from using fossil fuel vehicles to a ULEV fleet (cars and vans)	We will implement our Green Fleet Strategy, buying new vehicles when they become available.	Short term	£££	877
8.2	Installing vehicle electrical charging points for council fleet	Continue the current programme to install charging points to sustain the Council's green fleet Develop and implement Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy.	Short term	£££	Savings made from the fleet
8.3	To have a low carbon, or carbon free fuel option for the council's heavy vehicle fleet	We are dependent on new technology developments and the provision from vehicle manufacturers. In the meantime we will be piloting electric sweeping vehicles and heavy gritting vehicles in order to move away from the use of fossil fuel vehicles. We will also be collaborating with Ambition North Wales which is researching the development of hydrogen as an energy for transport.	Long term	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings
8.4	Installing vehicle electrical charging points for Gwynedd residents	We will install vehicle electrical charging points across Gwynedd for residents and visitors, dependent on receiving additional finance. Develop and implement Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy.	Short term	££	No direct savings to the Council unless used by fleet vehicles
8.5	Reduce business travel	We will continue to encourage staff and elected members to prioritise holding	Long term	Could be up to -550,000	Could be up to 445, but further

		<p>meetings virtually, and to minimise the number of occasions where travel by car is required.</p> <p>We will also be working towards a situation where business trips are carried out through active modes of travel or using the Council's electric vehicle fleet, rather than the use of personal vehicles.</p>		<p>financial savings, but further research needs to be undertaken following changes in working practices during the Covid-19 pandemic</p>	<p>research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings</p>
8.6	Reduce the carbon emissions of staff commuting	<p>Action the Council's Active Travel Charter.</p> <p>The council has formed a partnership with the Tusker company to offer a 'green car' plan, with the majority of staff members eligible. The plan offer staff the opportunity to drive a brand-new car, including maintenance and insurance costs, for three years for a set monthly sum</p> <p>We will promote this option to become an electric car owner, especially when vehicle electrical charging points are installed on the council's estate.</p> <p>We will also encourage staff to use public transport or walk or cycle to work where possible.</p>	Continuous	<p>Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings</p>	<p>Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings</p>

8.7	Encourage active travel amongst staff – for health and well-being benefits and to reduce carbon emissions	<p>Action the Council’s Active Travel Charter.</p> <p>The council has formed a partnership with 11 companies in Gwynedd to offer most staff the opportunity to hire a bike, which can include electrical bikes, on condition that they are used 50% of the time for work commute. The bike can also be used for leisure which will bring additional health and well-being benefits for staff.</p>	Continuous	£	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings
8.8	Encourage active travel for Gwynedd residents and tourists - for health and well-being benefits and to reduce carbon emissions from short car journeys	<p>The council has invested in many cycle routes over the past few years, and we will promote these to encourage residents and tourists to use them for walking or cycling to work, to shop or for leisure.</p> <p>We will also promote and encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling as we develop our sustainable tourism strategy.</p>	Continuous	££	No direct savings for the Council
8.9	Reduce carbon emissions and parking problems in areas popular with tourists	<p>Work in partnership with Snowdonia National Park on a travel plan for popular hot-spots - e.g. foot of Snowdon, Dyffryn Ogwen – in order to reduce car journeys and encourage the use of public transport.</p>	Short term	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	No direct savings for the Council

8.10	Increase the opportunities for community organisations to have access to EV or ULEV vehicles	<p>Supporting and collaborating with community organisations to deliver low emission community transport.</p> <p>Our programme, Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig, will support individual community organisations or umbrella organisations to experiment with new low carbon technologies or use low carbon vehicles.</p>	Continuous	£	No direct savings for the Council
8.11	Developing and encouraging active travel in Gwynedd's school catchment area	Developing a Safe Travel Network	Medium term	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings

10. Waste

It has already been explained that we calculate our carbon emissions by following Welsh Government methodology. The figure of 7,331 tCO₂e of carbon emissions from council waste in 2019/20 stems from the practice at the time to send waste to landfill. By 2020/21 no waste was sent to landfill, with all the council’s waste being sent for safe burning, hence the emissions figure for ‘waste’ in 2020/21 was down to zero. The carbon emissions from waste sent for recycling or burning is accounted for under the figures for ‘fleet’.

We will always seek opportunities to go beyond the target of net zero carbon, and therefore the following projects have been planned so as to maintain our target and also to promote the principles of a circular economy. Here we hope to reduce waste as much as possible whilst simultaneously encouraging economic activities and community regeneration.

Key to Projects

New	
Cost:	
£	£0 - £100,000
££	£100,000 - £500,000
£££	£500,000 - £2,000,000
££££	£2,000,000 - £450,000,000
£££££	£450,000,000 - £750,000,000

Planned projects -

	Ambition	Activity	Timetable	Projected costs £	Projected tCO ₂ e savings – whole life cycle

9.1	Repair, adapt and sell goods which would otherwise be disposed of as waste	This project is part of Cyngor Gwynedd's Waste Strategy.	Continuous	A potential fine of £200 per tonne if we don't meet the 70% recycling target. This equates to £750,000 based on 2022/23 tonnes.	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings
9.2	Reduce the amount of goods deposited as waste by encouraging residents to repair and re-use	This project is part of Cyngor Gwynedd's Waste Strategy.	Short and medium term	A potential fine of £200 per tonne if we don't meet the 70% recycling target. This equates to £750,000 based on 2022/23 tonnes.	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings
9.3	Promote a circular economy in order to reduce the	This project is part of Cyngor Gwynedd's Waste Strategy.	Short term	A potential fine of £200	Further research needs to be

	amount of goods sent to waste sites, and the carbon emissions in the supply chain from buying new goods			per tonne if we don't meet the 70% recycling target. This equates to £750,000 based on 2022/23 tonnes.	undertaken to measure carbon savings
9.4	Reducing food waste by supporting community projects that share surplus supermarket food	Continue to support the existing 11 community food hubs by providing information and advice	Continuous	A potential fine of £200 per tonne if we don't meet the 70% recycling target. This equates to £750,000 based on 2022/23 tonnes.	No direct savings
9.5	Reduce the street waste sent for disposal and increase street waste sent to be recycled.	As part of our Clean and Tidy Communities plan, and our street cleaning programme, we will start a new pilot programme to install recycling bins in our communities.	Short term	£	Will be measured at the end of the pilot project

9.6	Reduce paper use	A new contract to provide printers is in place and will reduce the amount of paper used in our offices.	Continuous	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings
9.7	Implement Cyngor Gwynedd's Waste Strategy		Continuous		

11. Governance

This chapter outlines the changes we believe need to be made in order to support the rest of the activities in this plan. By making changes to internal practices we as a council can create the best possible circumstances for our elected members and staff to take decisions and to act for the sake of our planet.

Much of the planning work behind this plan, and its revision in the future, is done in partnership with other organisations and communities. This underlying principle supports the projects listed below, and for many others outlined in this plan.

Key to Projects

New	
Cost:	
£	£0 - £100,000
££	£100,000 - £500,000
£££	£500,000 - £2,000,000
££££	£2,000,000 - £450,000,000
£££££	£450,000,000 - £750,000,000

Planned projects -

	Ambition	Activity	Timetable	Projected costs £	Projected tCO ₂ e savings – whole life cycle
10.1	Elected members and staff who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the consequences of climate change 	The council needs a workforce informed about climate change and ecology in order to take responsible decisions, and to act to reduce carbon emissions. We will introduce a continuous training programme for elected members and staff on	Short and medium term	No additional costs – funded by central training costs or provided by	No direct savings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take decisions based on information about the consequences • Operate in the most positive manner possible in order to alleviate the effects of climate change and to be ecologically positive 	<p>the fundamental principles of this plan, and will investigate the need for further information or training in specific areas.</p> <p>The training will reinforce the clause already in staff job descriptions that states they will act according to the Carbon Management Plan.</p>		Welsh Government	
10.2	Encourage staff to develop their careers in fields which will lead to reducing the effects of climate change or are ecologically positive.	We will use the council's successful apprenticeship and graduate programme to encourage more new apprentices to follow careers in fields such as biodiversity and energy.	Continuous	No additional costs – funded by the Apprenticeship Scheme	No direct savings
10.3	Review current policies and strategies so that reducing carbon emissions or alleviating the effects of climate change are factors when making decisions	Implement a continuous programme of reviewing decision making and policy guidance, giving advice on which conditions can be set.	Short term, then continuous	No additional costs	No direct savings
10.4	Sharing information publicly about the council's work to reduce carbon emissions in order to influence others to do the same	<p>Maintain the 'one stop shop' on our website which will include all the information about the council's activities on this topic, and links to useful information on outside websites. This will be reviewed and updated regularly.</p> <p>We will share information and examples of good practice via our social media platforms</p>	<p>Set up – short term</p> <p>Maintain - continuous</p>	No additional costs	No direct savings

		in order to try and influence residents to change their practices.			
10.5	Develop a Climate and Nature Adaptation Plan	A climate change risk assessment will be carried out in 2026/27 under the auspices of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board, and following its publication we will then develop the Gwynedd Climate and Nature Adaptation Strategy based upon it.	Medium term	No additional costs	No direct savings



12. Procurement

Welsh Government data collection guidance leads us to collect data about council expenditure on goods and services provided by outside suppliers. These vary widely from auditing services or advertising costs to purchased goods such as food or personal protection equipment for schools and care homes.

Our carbon emissions under the ‘procurement’ heading is measured solely on expenditure, and not on any efforts to reduce costs or carbon emissions by ourselves or our suppliers as part of the process of setting contracts.

The total carbon emissions from all our procurement activity, by following the methodology explained above, was 40,639 tCO₂e in 2019/20, which comes under scope 3.

Gwynedd Council has operated its Sustainable Procurement Policy since 2011, where we consider the possible social, economic and environmental effect of our procurement decisions, and which steps we can take to make best use of council spend for the

We will continue to implement the Sustainable Procurement Policy, and will develop the following projects -

	Ambition	Activity	Timetable	Projected costs £	Projected tCO₂e savings – whole life cycle
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county’s benefit. ‘Reducing the negative environmental effects by better choice and use of goods, services and work’ is an aim within the policy.

Key to Projects

New	
Cost:	
£	£0 - £100,000
££	£100,000 - £500,000
£££	£500,000 - £2,000,000
££££	£2,000,000 - £450,000,000
£££££	£450,000,000 - £750,000,000

11.1	Provide support for the market, especially local companies, to be able to measure the effect of their actions on their carbon footprint	We will continue to work with Busnes Cymru and others to introduce a programme of information to support businesses. This will help them reduce their carbon emissions without impairing their ability to submit tenders for work.	Continuous	No additional costs	No direct savings
11.2	Understand and measure carbon emissions when delivering contract in the supply chain	We will continue to review our own processes to set criteria for assessing tenders so that we can be sure that we are measuring the environmental impact of contracts.	Continuous	No additional costs	No direct savings
11.3	Cyngor Gwynedd staff to implement the Sustainable Procurement Guidance to reduce carbon emissions through the supply chain	Ensure that Council staff receive support and training to implement the new Sustainable Procurement Guidelines	Continuous	No additional costs	No direct savings
11.4	Provide market support, particularly to local providers, to take action that will reduce their emissions or increase carbon absorption levels	As a follow-up to 11.1, we will offer practical support to reduce emissions which in turn will reduce the Council's emissions. An assessment would have to be made on a case-by-case basis if a financial contribution towards the work would be required	Continuous	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	No direct savings



13. Land Use

Responsible management of council owned land will reap many benefits. Not only can it offer life to many species by protecting or even saving them, but our land is also a natural carbon absorbing machine and we should maximise its potential.

Our assessment to measure the carbon sequestration capacity of all the council’s land in 2020/21 showed that it could absorb 5,893 tCO₂e. This assessment is based on the following types of land:

Forest land	A combination of different trees: native, evergreen etc. Some will be dense, and other will be populated by less trees.
Grassland	Combination of land where grass grows – some are not cut whilst others are cut regularly, e.g. playing fields, school grounds or road verges.
Wetlands	Land containing peat; land regularly covered in water; lakes and rivers.
Settlements	Any developed land that doesn’t already appear under another category, e.g. buildings. They may include: multipurpose playing fields, transport infrastructure, ‘grey’ pre-industrial land.

We acknowledge that further work needs to be done in order to fully and correctly measure the carbon sequestration potential of our lands – e.g. types of trees, constitution of soil etc. This is a very common problem for many local authorities and organisations and we will therefore work with others to form a programme to collect data and manage our land for the future.

Flooding

Another element of the work needed to treat and protect our lands are the steps needed to alleviate the effects of flooding. The council has already partaken in many projects in coastal areas, e.g. Fairbourne, and has responded to many occurrences of flooding in inland areas. Climate change has of course contributed to most of the increase in flooding and therefore unfortunately those instances are likely to increase.

We have been working with Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and other local authorities to draw up a Local Flooding Strategy. Its main aim will be to try and stop instances of flooding and to respond effectively if flooding occurs, but it also has a purpose to positively encourage biodiversity and provide access for residents to green spaces.

The work to respond to flooding will tie closely with our work to maintain our land and biodiversity, since changes in one could

adversely affect the other. For example, maintaining wetlands or planting trees high up in a valley could reduce the amount of water flowing down into rivers and causing floods lower down the valley. Many of the projects in this chapter, and the following 'Biodiversity' chapter will contribute to alleviating the effects of flooding.

Key to Projects

New	
Cost:	
£	£0 - £100,000
££	£100,000 - £500,000
£££	£500,000 - £2,000,000
££££	£2,000,000 - £450,000,000
£££££	£450,000,000 - £750,000,000

Planned projects -

	Ambition	Activity	Timetable	Projected costs £	Projected tCO ₂ e savings – whole life cycle
12.1	Identifying the contribution that council owned trees can make to carbon sequestration and reducing the possibility of flooding	Accelerate our programme to correctly measure data from council owned trees for their success, or not, in carbon sequestration	Short and medium term	£	Each hectare of forest absorbs 5.4 tCO ₂ e
12.2	Develop a Land Management Policy that will measure the carbon value of different lands and make the best use of them	Accelerate our programme to correctly measure data from council owned lands for their success, or not, in carbon sequestration.	Short and medium term	Further work needed to measure financial	3,612+

	to protect their carbon value			costs or savings	
12.3	Create tree nurseries to grow trees ready for planting	Work in partnership with other organisations and educational institutions to create tree nurseries	Medium term	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	Each hectare of forest absorbs 5.4 tCO ₂ e
12.4	Identify opportunities to plant trees as part of the National Forest for Wales initiative	Work in partnership with Welsh Government on their National Forest for Wales initiative and increase the numbers of trees to be planted	Medium term	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	Each hectare of forest absorbs 5.4 tCO ₂ e
12.5	Manage Ash Dieback in trees and to make good for any carbon emissions as a result of cutting down trees	Continue with our programme to identify and treat ash dieback. Ensure, if a tree needs to be felled, that another tree is planted in its place, in conjunction with other tree management projects in this plan	Continuous	No additional costs	Carbon neutral

12.6	Forest land owned by the council are protected so that we maximise their potential to absorb carbon and be habitats for nature	Improve our management of the current 4 forest lands, and any other new forests the council may plant, so that they are healthy and robust for the future	Continuous	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	Each hectare of forest absorbs 5.4 tCO ₂ e
12.7	Protect agricultural land in Gwynedd to be used for suitable purposes, and to contain forestation projects	At its meeting on 2 December 2021 Gwynedd Council adopted the following: The Council calls on the Welsh Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgently amend the eligibility of their Glastir (GWC) grant so that only active farmers in Wales are able to apply. • Introduce planning development legislation to enable local planning authorities such as Gwynedd to control afforestation projects. • It is vital the Welsh Government moves to protect Wales' rural environment and resources for the benefit of a new Green circular economy and to strengthen Welsh industries, communities and services. 	Medium term	No additional costs	No direct savings
12.8	Recognising the carbon capture value of our former landfill sites	2 of the Council's former landfill sites, Ffridd Rasus and Llwyn Isaf, have been converted into flower meadows and nature sites. By measuring the carbon absorption value of the sites we will	Medium term	£	

		then plan to develop them further or to evaluate if we can extend the provision to other sites			
12.9	Recognising the value of 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast	Carbon absorbed by plants on our site (e.g. seagrass) is not counted towards the Council's carbon absorption levels, although the Council manages the growing sites. We will be looking to work with other organisations and the Welsh Government to increase and measure the carbon absorbed	Medium term	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	
12.10	Implement Cyngor Gwynedd's Local Flooding Strategy	Implementing the strategy in line with our responsibility as a flood authority	Continuous	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	

14. Biodiversity

Cyngor Gwynedd declared a climate emergency in 2019, but we now believe that we also need to give equal weight to the nature emergency since both co-exist in parallel. Losing natural habitats for wildlife can increase the carbon levels in the atmosphere and changes in temperature and rainfall can affect the distribution of wildlife habitat.

It is evident that the result of global warming is having a detrimental effect on the natural world, even here in Wales, and that we need deliberate action if we are to protect our fragile eco-systems for the future.

Our ambition is to not only protect the natural world and biodiversity in our county from the harmful effects of climate change, but also to strengthen it so that nature can positively contribute to the battle for carbon sequestration, as explained in the chapter **13. Land Use**.

We want to be an ‘ecologically positive’ council, not only in a climate change context but because we believe that nature has an immeasurable worth of its own. One of seven of the council’s well-being aims is to ‘take advantage of the beauty of the county’s natural environment’, and the ‘importance of protection of the natural environment’ and ‘promoting the use of natural resources to improve health and well-being in the long term’ are two out of

nine key messages in the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan (Public Service Board).

In June 2021 Welsh Government declared a Biodiversity Emergency and noted: “There is an inherent value in biodiversity and the benefits it offers people through eco-systems such as flood alleviation and food production. We therefore believe that biodiversity loss leads to a risk to public safety and well-being”.

Key to Projects

New	
Cost:	
£	£0 - £100,000
££	£100,000 - £500,000
£££	£500,000 - £2,000,000
££££	£2,000,000 - £450,000,000
£££££	£450,000,000 - £750,000,000

Planned projects -

	Ambition	Activity	Timetable	Projected costs £	Projected tCO₂e savings – whole life cycle
13.2	Identify valuable species and habitats and which measures need to be taken to protect and restore them	Adopt and implement the Gwynedd Nature Restoration Plan based on the Wales Nature Restoration Plan published by the Welsh Government.	Short term	No additional costs	Dependent on the content of the Nature Restoration Plan for Gwynedd
13.3	Increase the number of pollinators by protecting habitats or creating new habitats	Use the Local Places for Nature programme to maximise the potential of schools' land by planting flowers and plants suitable for pollinators (insects/bees). We will continue with our programme to maintain grass verges on our roads and to control the frequency and locations of grass cutting in order to support biodiversity, where it's safe for drivers and pedestrians.	Medium term	£££	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings
13.4	Support voluntary and community organisations, and town and community councils who wish to protect or promote wildlife	Use the Local Places for Nature programme to kick-start new projects and to continue with others – e.g. getting rid of alien species in the Ffestiniog area; manage the Lôn Cob Bach nature reserve in Pwllheli	Medium term	No additional costs Grant funding will be needed	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings

				to support projects	
13.5	To nurture and maintain the interest of Gwynedd residents in ecological issues so that they want to help protect nature	<p>Improve our engagement programmes about ecological issues and the work the council does in the field.</p> <p>Working with schools to build interest among pupils.</p>	Continuous	Further work needed to measure financial costs or savings	Further research needs to be undertaken to measure carbon savings

15. Archived Projects

Original Code	Aim	Action	Reason for archive
	Buildings and Energy		
7.4	Increase our carbon 'credit' by creating solar farms to create energy that the council can use or sell	Further investigate the sites already identified for potential solar farms, and draw up business plans based on the best carbon and financial benefits.	There are currently no opportunities to build a solar farm that can directly feed one of the council's sites and therefore the scheme is not financially viable and would not reduce the council's carbon emissions
7.9	Electrification of heating systems in buildings to reduce carbon emissions	We will investigate the feasibility of installing electrification systems – or heat pumps – in buildings. Since substantial financial investment is needed for installation, further work needs to be done before choosing if they will be installed and which sites will benefit most.	Projects 7.9 and 7.10 are combined with project 7.8 as they are part of the same process
7.10	Installing EC air fans in buildings in order to reduce the energy needed to run them in comparison to other air fans	Electrical current (EC) air fans run on DC current rather than AC, and are managed digitally which leads to more efficient and quieter performance. We will investigate which of the council's assets they will be	Projects 7.9 and 7.10 are combined with project 7.8 as they are part of the same process

		suitable for and build a work programme accordingly.	
7.11	Install individual room heating systems in order to reduce the energy needed to heat a building	<p>Wireless technology enables us to manage individual radiators without the need for expensive wiring. This will ensure that rooms can be heated at different temperatures and also to turn off the heat when the room is empty.</p> <p>We will build a work programme, and prioritise installation in care homes.</p>	This project has been combined with project 7.2 as the Monitoring and Targeting system already in place fulfils the same purpose as individual room heating wireless technology
7.13	Upgrade street lighting and traffic signs in order to use less energy	<p>We have been running a programme to exchange the lamps from old SOX lanterns to new LED lanterns since 2015/16, leading to nearly halving the carbon emissions.</p> <p>We will continue with the remaining work programme and also investigate the need and advantages of dimming lights and its effect on biodiversity.</p> <p>Lastly, we will evaluate the project to learn lessons for the future and to plan a maintenance programme.</p>	This project has been completed. If new street lamps come to the Council's ownership they will be replaced with LED
7.15	Maximise the benefits gained from implementing our energy and heating policies	By monitoring the application of policies by our staff, and monitoring the technologies which operate the systems,	This work takes place as part of projects 7.2, 7.5, 7.6, 7.8, 7.12, so is archived due to duplication

		<p>we can target where improvements need to be made.</p> <p>We will use Energy Management Software to monitor electricity data, and make improvements where needed.</p> <p>We will offer training to staff to implement these policies.</p>	
	Biodiversity		
13.1	Identify the steps we need to take to protect nature habitats and biodiversity for the future	Review the Biodiversity Action Plan by the end of 2022	This is happening as part of the work on project 13.2
13.6	Protect valuable habitats for nature	Work in partnership with Natural Resources Wales, town and community councils and the RSPB to maintain 8 nature reserves across Gwynedd.	This is happening as part of the work on projects 13.3 and 13.4

16. Partners

As has been noted several times, Gwynedd Council cannot fulfil all the work that needs to be done to achieve our ambition of being a net zero carbon council on our own. Many of the projects mentioned in this plan should be planned and implemented in conjunction with other organisations. We as a council are also prepared to contribute to developing ideas or undertaking projects which are led by other organisations.

Below is a list of partners with whom we will be working to realise this plan. The list isn't in priority order and we will be adding to it and changing it often –

- Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board
- Ambition North Wales
- Energy Service (Welsh Government)
- Gwynedd Community and Town Councils
- Anglesey County Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Natural Resources Wales
- Welsh Local Government Organisation
- Snowdonia National Park
- Natur Gwynedd
- RSPB
- Gwynedd Community Energy Organisations

17. Strategies and Policies

Further information about some of the action points mentioned in this plan already exists in other published documents. Rather than repeating this information here you can turn to the following documents for further reading (not all are published on our website) -

[The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28](#)

[Gwynedd Council Annual Performance Report](#)

[Gwynedd Housing Strategy 2019-24](#)

[Gwynedd Council Housing Action Plan 2020/21 – 2026/27](#)

[Green Fleet Plan 2023-29](#)

[Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan \(link to Public Services Board website\)](#)

[Gwynedd Local Development Plan \(the new Plan\)](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Policy and Guide](#)

[Tree Preservation Order](#)

Energy Policy

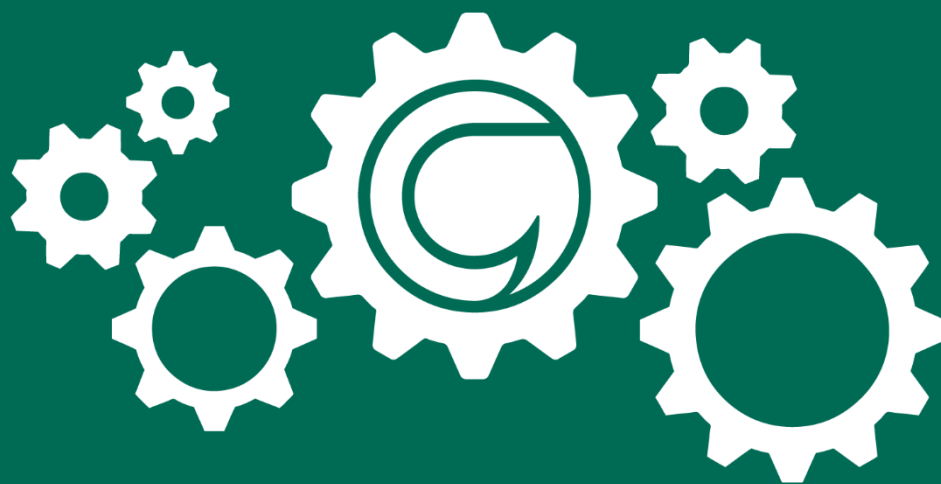
Heating Policy

Lighting Policy

Green Fleet Strategy

Corporate Assets Strategy





**GWASANAETHAU
CORFFORAETHOL**
CYNGOR GWYNEDD

Results of the Consultation on the Climate and Nature Plan

2025
Page 85

1. Introduction

This report will analyse responses to the survey on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2025. The public consultation was launched on 12 June and was open until 31 July. The questionnaire was placed on the Council's website, with paper copies available at the County libraries. It was promoted through a 'pop up' on the Council's website and through social media accounts.

2. Responses to the consultation

There were 305 responses to the consultation. Most of them (98.4%, N=300) were from individuals, 1.3% from an organisation (N=4) and 0.3% from business (N=1).

2.1 Have you read the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan or visited the website?

Almost half of respondents (47.9%, N=146) had read the Plan or visited the website, while just over half (52.1%, N=159) had not read the Plan or visited the website.

Those who had indicated that they had read the Plan or visited the website were asked to answer this question:

2.2 Do you agree or disagree with the below?

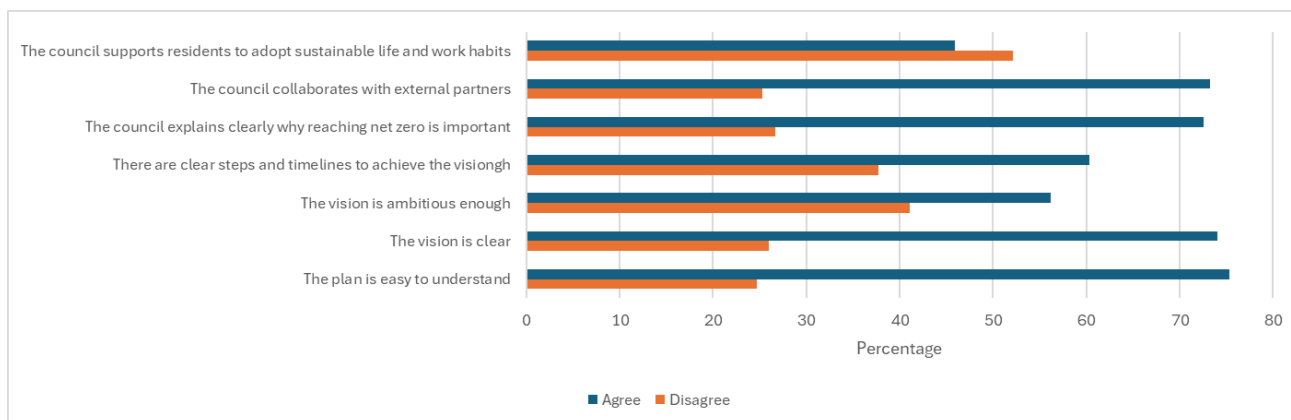
It can be seen from the graph below that a higher percentage of respondents agree with the statements:

- The plan is easy to read;
- The council clearly explains why it is necessary to reach net zero;
- The Council works with external partners; and
- The vision is ambitious enough.

A higher percentage of respondents disagree with the statements:



1. The Council supports residents to adopt sustainable living and working practices;
2. There is a clear vision; and
3. There are clear steps and timetable to achieve the vision



See detailed figures in the table below.	Agree		Disagree		No reply	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The Plan is easy to read	110	75.3	36	24.7	0	0.0
The Council clearly explains why we need to reach net zero	108	74.0	38	26.0	0	0.0
A clear vision	82	56.2	60	41.1	4	2.7
There are clear steps and timetable to achieve the vision	88	60.3	55	37.7	3	2.1
The vision is ambitious enough	106	72.6	39	26.7	1	0.7
The Council works with external partners	107	73.3	37	25.3	2	1.4
The Council supports residents to adopt sustainable living and working practices	67	45.9	76	52.1	3	2.1

Respondents who had disagreed with any statement were asked to explain why they had disagreed. This was a loose text question. There was a response from 85 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses:

- The plan is too vague and full of words
- Lack of measurable targets and clear time limits
- Poor communication with residents
- Limited support for residents to adopt sustainable practices
- Public transport and cycling infrastructure are inadequate
- Too much packaging and poor recycling systems
- Biodiversity efforts too focused on tree planting

- Some respondents reject concept on climate crisis
- The scheme focuses too much on the council's operations
- Respondents want clearer and simpler guidance

2.3 Technology advancements and many changes have taken place since the start of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022. Some projects have been completed, and some have been modified. New needs have arisen so the Council proposes to add the following projects. Give your opinion.

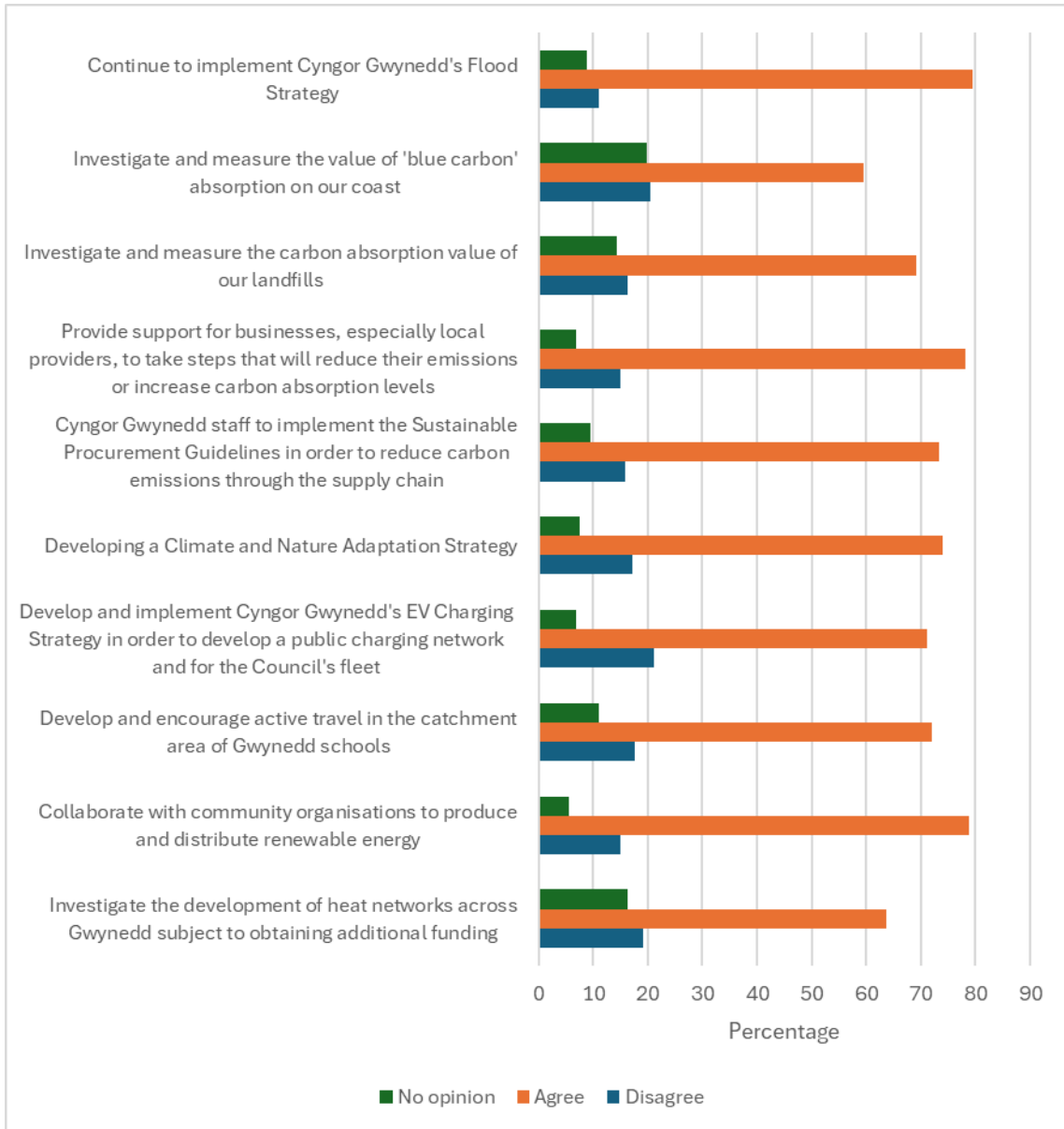
It can be seen from the graph below that a large proportion of respondents agree with the plans. The schemes with which the lowest number of respondents agreed were:

- Researching and measuring 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast (59.6%, N=87 agree); and
- To investigate the development of heat networks across Gwynedd subject to additional funding (63.7%, N=93 agree).

The schemes with which the highest number of respondents disagreed were:

- Develop and implement Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy to develop a public charging network and for the Council's fleet (21.2%, N=31 disagreed); and
- Researching and measuring 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast (20.5%, N=30 disagree)





See the detailed figures in the table below.



	Disagree		Agree		No opinion		No reply	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
To investigate the development of heating networks across Gwynedd subject to the availability of additional funding	28	19.2	93	63.7	24	16.4	1	0.7
Working with community organisations to produce and distribute renewable energy	22	15.1	115	78.8	8	5.5	1	0.7
Developing and encouraging active travel in Gwynedd's school catchment area	25	17.7	105	71.9	16	11.0	0	0.0
Develop and implement Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy to develop a public charging network and for the Council's fleet	31	21.2	104	71.2	10	6.8	1	0.7
Developing a Climate and Nature Adaptation Strategy	25	17.1	108	74.0	11	7.5	2	1.4
Gwynedd Council staff to implement the Sustainable Procurement Guidance to reduce carbon emissions through the supply chain	23	15.8	107	73.3	14	9.6	2	1.4
Providing support to businesses, particularly local providers, to take action that will reduce their emissions or increase carbon absorption levels	22	15.1	114	78.1	10	6.8	0	0.0
Researching and measuring the carbon absorption value of our landfill sites	24	16.4	101	69.2	21	14.4	0	0.0
Researching and measuring the value of 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast	30	20.5	87	59.6	29	19.9	0	0.0
Gwynedd Council's Flood Strategy continues to be implemented	16	11.0	116	79.5	13	8.9	1	0.7



Respondents who disagreed with any of the plans were asked to explain why they disagreed. This was a loose text question. There was a response from 61 of the respondents. The most common themes are cost concerns, skepticism about climate change, and criticism of electric vehicle infrastructure. There are many in favour of practical, local and better public transport solutions over large-scale projects.

Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses:

- Climate change scepticism
- Concerns about cost/value for money
- Flood management issues
- Criticism of active travel
- Concerns about electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Scepticism about the heat network
- Practical local solutions needed
- Improvements to public transport
- Consultation on community engagement
- Implementation / planning

2.4 Is there another project or task that the council should add to the plan?

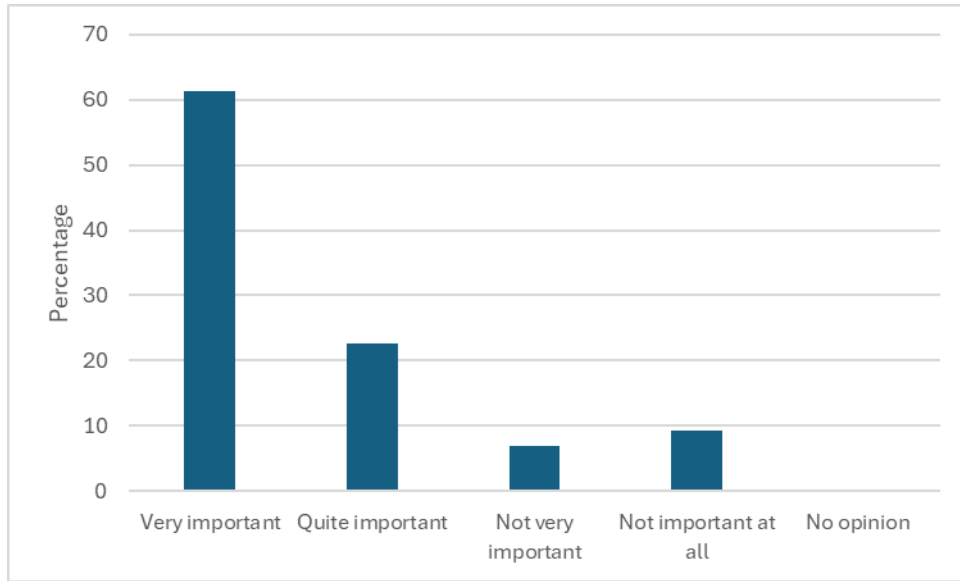
This was a loose text question. There was a response from 77 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.

- Biodiversity and nature conservation – calls to protect wildlife and tree planting
- Electric vehicle infrastructure and transport – the need for reliable electric vehicle charging and better public transport
- Waste and recycling – concerns about plastic waste and better recycling systems
- Climate change skepticism / policy criticism – questions about net zero policies
- Housing and social issues – Affordable housing and homelessness solutions
- Community engagement – more public meetings and collaboration
- Renewable energy and technology – tips for solar, wind, hydrogen projects
- Flood and pollution management – action on river/sea pollution and flood resilience.
- Education and awareness – environmental education and cultural engagement.
- Implementation / planning – frustration with delays; choose to act.

2.5 Ydi newid hinsawdd yn bwysig i chi?

As can be seen from the graph below, the majority (83.9%, N=256) of respondents indicated that climate change was important to them (very important and quite important). 16.1% (N=49) of respondents stated that climate change was not important to them (not very important and not at all important).



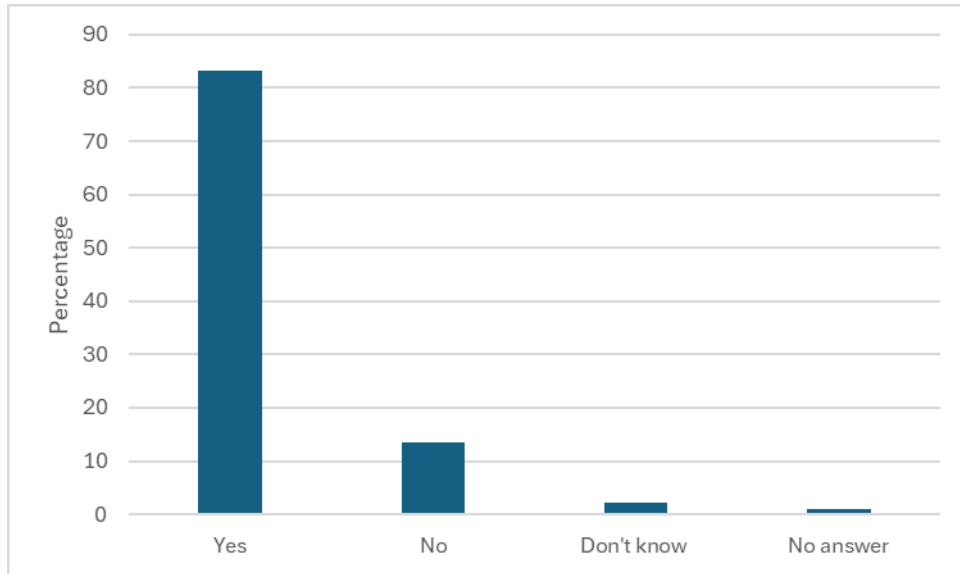


Mae'r tabl isod yn manylu ar y canrannau a'r niferoedd.

	Number	%
Very important	187	61.3
Quite important	69	22.6
Not really important	21	6.9
Not important at all	28	9.2
No opinion	0	0.0
Total	305	100.0

2.6 Should Gwynedd Council be taking action on climate change?

As can be seen from the graph below, the majority (83.3%, N=254) of respondents thought that Gwynedd Council should be taking action on climate change, while 13.4% (N=41) of respondents thought it should not be taking action on climate change.



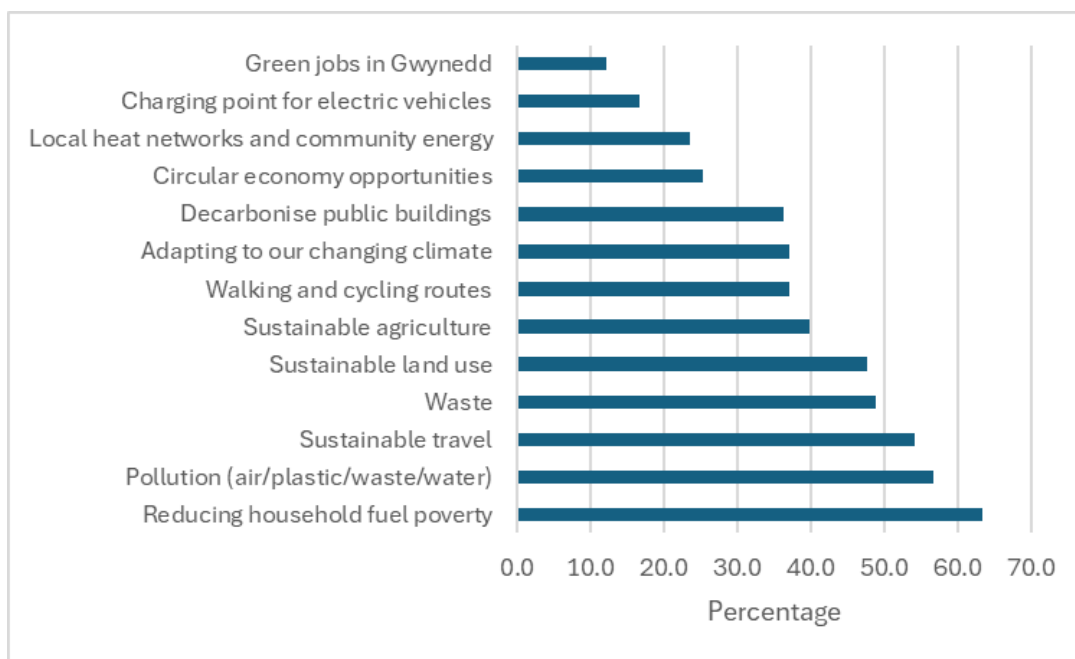
The table below details the percentages and numbers.

	Number	%
Yes	254	83.3
No	41	13.4
Don't know	7	2.3
No answer	3	1.0
Total	305	100.0

2.7 Put the climate change topics below in order from most important to least important to you as an individual.

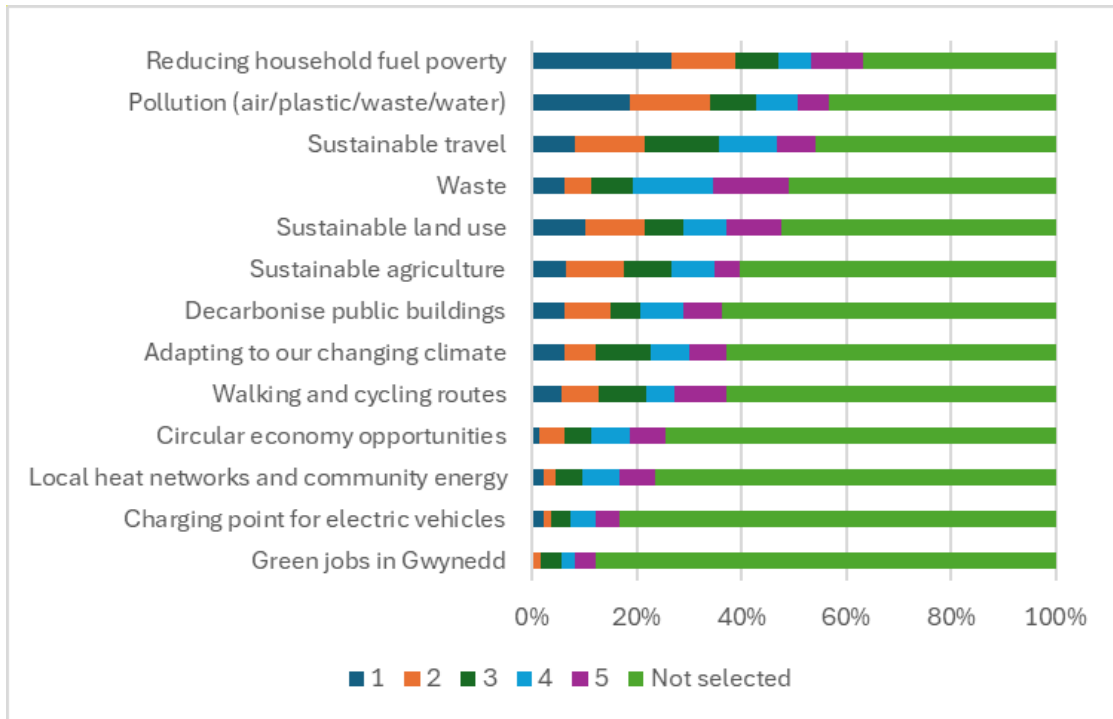
229 of the respondents had answered the question in a way that was in line with the rules of the question (e.g. they only chose 5 options and gave them a score of 1 to 5), so the next section analyses these answers.

First, let's look at how much has put climate change topics within their 'top 5' at all. See of the 229 respondents, 63.3% (N=145) placed 'Reducing household fuel poverty' within their top 5, 56.8% (N=130) indicated 'Pollution', and 54.1% (N=124) indicated 'Sustainable travel'.



Subject	Number	%
Reducing household fuel poverty – e.g. improved insulation, smart heating systems, smart appliances, ensuring the most affordable energy supply and home energy efficiency schemes	145	63.3
Pollution (air/plastic/waste/water)	130	56.8
Sustainable travel - public transport (bus, train)	124	54.1
Waste – recycling and overall waste reduction	112	48.9
Sustainable land use – maintaining habitats, enhancing biodiversity, planting trees	109	47.6
Sustainable agriculture (the production of crops and animals by means that will not harm the land or the climate into the future)	91	39.7
Walking and cycling routes	85	37.1
Adapting to our changing climate e.g. Flood and wildfire management	85	37.1
Decarbonisation of public buildings – switching the energy source of construction from a fossil fuel source to a renewable source e.g. solar, wind, hydropower, and heat pumps	83	36.2
Circular economy opportunities – cafes repaired, food redistribution	58	25.3
Local heat networks and community energy	54	23.6
Charging points for electric vehicles	38	16.6
Green jobs in Gwynedd	28	12.2
<i>Denominator=229</i>		

Next, let's look at the order in which the respondents placed the topics within their top 5, where 1 meant most important and 5 meant least important. The graph below shows that all categories follow the main trend, except for 'Waste', where fewer people have indicated that it matters to them compared to the others who have been selected as one of the top 5.



76 of the respondents answered this question in a way that did not fit the rules of the question (e.g. chose more than 5 answers or gave more than one of the same score), so they cannot be analysed with the cohort above. We still wanted to include their opinions, so the next part states which of the climate change topics were chosen by the 76 respondents, but doesn't take into account their score.

You can see that the order of the subjects comes out quite similar to the previous cohort who had answered the question within the rules, with the exception of 'electric vehicle charging points' and 'green jobs in Gwynedd' higher up in the list this time.



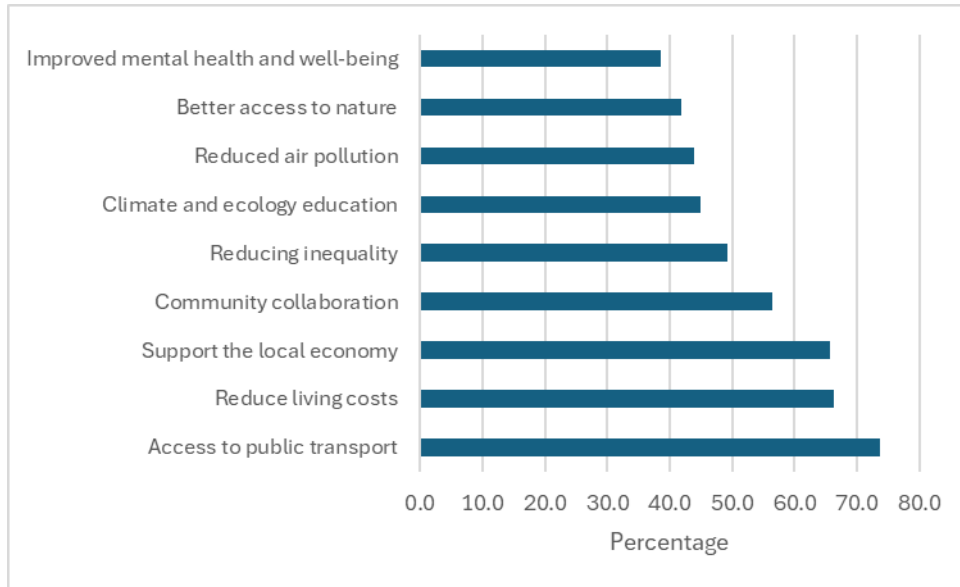
Subject	Number	%
Reducing household fuel poverty - e.g. improved insulation, smart heating systems, smart appliances, ensuring the most affordable energy supply and home energy efficiency schemes	53	69.7
Pollution (air/plastic/waste/water)	56	73.7
Sustainable travel - public transport (bus, train)	56	73.7
Waste – recycling and overall waste reduction	41	53.9
Sustainable land use – maintaining habitats, enhancing biodiversity, planting trees	41	53.9
Sustainable agriculture (the production of crops and animals by means that will not harm the land or the climate into the future)	38	50.0
Walking and cycling routes	44	57.9
Adapting to our changing climate e.g. Flood and wildfire management	44	57.9
Decarbonisation of public buildings – switching the energy source of construction from a fossil fuel source to a renewable source e.g. solar, wind, hydropower, and heat pumps	41	53.9
Circular economy opportunities – cafes repaired, food redistribution	20	26.3
Local heat networks and community energy	21	27.6
Charging points for electric vehicles	31	40.8
Green jobs in Gwynedd	24	31.6
<i>Denominator=76</i>		

2.8 What additional benefits would you like to see from taking action on climate change? Put the topics below in order from most important to least important to you as an individual.

225 of the respondents had answered the question in a way that was in line with the rules of the question (e.g. only chose 5 options and gave them a score of 1 to 5), so the next section analyses these answers.

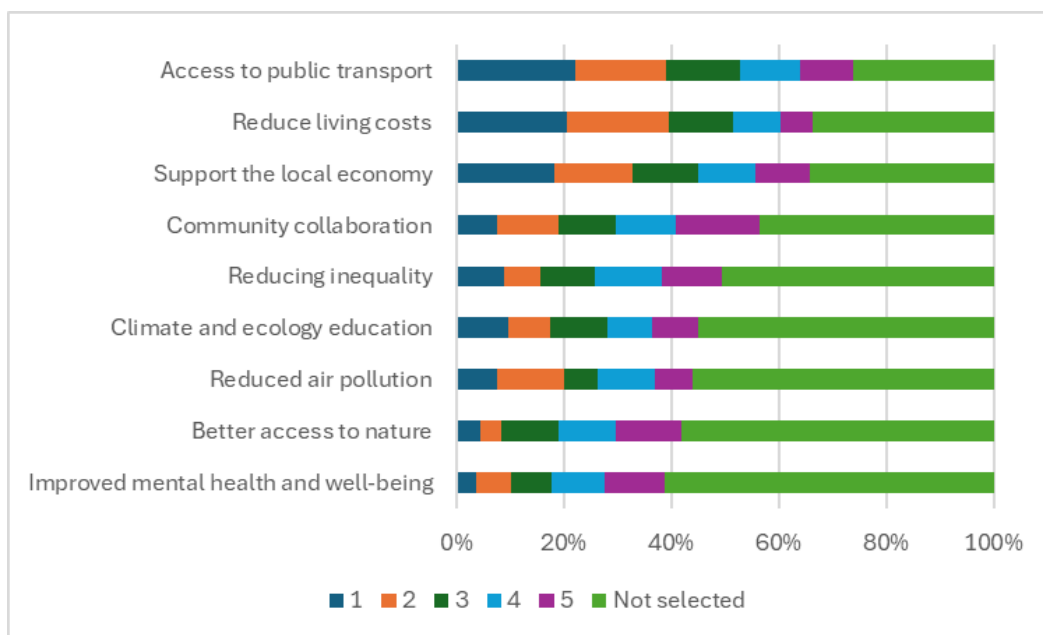
First, let's look at how much the subjects have put additional benefits within their 'top 5' at all. See of the 225 respondents, 73.8% (N=166) placed 'Access to public transport' within their top 5, 66.2% (N=149) indicated 'Reduce the cost of living', and 65.8% (N=148) indicated 'Support the local economy'.





Subject	Number	%
Access to public transport	166	73.8
Reducing the cost of living	149	66.2
Supporting the local economy	148	65.8
Community collaboration – the community's ability to respond and adapt to climate change	127	56.4
Reducing inequality ('just transition' - that low emission options are equally available to all)	111	49.3
Climate and ecology education	101	44.9
Air pollution	99	44.0
Better access to nature	94	41.8
Improving mental health and wellbeing	87	38.7
		<i>Denominator=225</i>

Next, let's look at the order in which the respondents placed the topics within their top 5, where 1 meant most important and 5 meant least important. The graph below shows that most of the categories follow the same trend, but not 'air pollution'. While fewer people have been selected in their top 5, more of them have been selected in the most important categories (1 and 2) compared to the number selected.



80 of the respondents answered this question in a way that did not fit the rules of the question (e.g. chose more than 5 answers or gave more than one of the same score), so they cannot be analysed with the above cohort. We still wanted to include their opinions, so the next part states which of the climate change topics were chosen by the 80 respondents, but doesn't take into account their score.

Subject	Number	%
Access to public transport	64	80.0
Reducing the cost of living	68	85.0
Supporting the local economy	70	87.5
Community collaboration – the community's ability to respond and adapt to climate change	58	72.5
Reducing inequality ('just transition' - that low emission options are equally available to all)	52	65.0
Climate and ecology education	54	67.5
Air pollution	55	68.8
Better access to nature	52	65.0
Improving mental health and wellbeing	52	65.0
<i>Enwadur=80</i>		



2.9 Any further comments

This was a loose text question. There was a response from 97 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.

- Overall support / multiple priorities
- Living costs / concern about affordability
- Skepticism about climate change/anti-net-zero
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Active travel (walking / cycling)
- Nature conservation and biodiversity
- Concern about costs

2.10 What do you think will be the impact of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan on the Welsh language, the opportunities to use it and its status within the community?

The majority of respondents (55.1%, N=168) thought the Scheme would have a neutral impact on the community, with 29.2% (N=89) thinking it would have a positive impact, and 7.9% (N=24) thinking it would have a negative impact.

	Number	%
Positive impact	49	16.1
Little positive impact	40	13.1
Neutral	168	55.1
Little negative impact	5	1.6
Negative impact	19	6.2
No reply	24	7.9
Total Amount	305	100.0

Do you have any comments about your preference above, for example, are there opportunities to adapt the scheme in order to have a more positive impact on the Welsh language and its use, or to remove any negative effects?

This was a loose text question. There was a response from 101 of the respondents. Most of the responses questioned the relevance of the Welsh language to action on climate change, or highlighted opportunities to strengthen the language through education, community and economic initiatives. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.



- Irrelevance of Welsh to climate / nature
- Economic resilience and jobs – maintaining the Welsh language
- Opportunities to learn/use Welsh – e.g. free classes or linking learning Welsh to climate projects
- Housing and tourism pressures - concerns about second homes and tourism affecting Welsh speaking communities
- Education policy – issues around school closures, Welsh-medium education and STEM subjects
- Bilingual provision – calls for resources in Welsh and English
- Community initiatives
- Opposition to climate policy.

2.11 What do you think will be the impact of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan on people facing socio-economic disadvantage?

The majority of respondents (39.7%, N=121) thought the scheme would have a positive impact, 30.8% (N=94) thought it would have a neutral impact, and 21.0% (N=64) thought it would have a negative impact.

	Nifer	%
Positive impact	53	17.4
Little positive impact	68	22.3
Neutral	94	30.8
Little negative impact	36	11.8
Negative impact	36	11.8
No reply	26	8.5
Total Amount	305	100.0

Do you have any comments about your selection above?

This was a loose text question. There was a response from 85 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.

- Energy costs and fuel poverty
- Optimistic/pros
- Public transport and active travel
- Zero suspicion / criticism
- Equality and fairness



- Nature and health
- Homes and insulation



3.0 About you

This section will look at the respondents' 'About You' results, which indicate their equality characteristics.

3.1 Sex

	Number	%
Woman / Female	157	51.5
Man / Male	103	33.8
No reply	26	8.5
I prefer not to say	18	5.9
I identify in a different way	1	0.3
Total	305	100.0

3.2 Enter your age group

54.4% (N=166) of respondents were aged 55 or over.	Number	%
Aged 15 oed or younger	0	0.0
16 – 24	11	3.6
25 – 34	17	5.6
35 – 44	26	8.5
45 – 54	42	13.8
55 – 64	70	23.0
65 – 74	72	23.6
75 – 84	23	7.5
85+	1	0.3
I prefer not to say	18	5.9
No reply	25	8.2
Total	305	100.0

3.3 How would you describe your skills in Welsh?

	Number	%
Speak, read and write fluently	111	36.4
Speaking, reading and writing – learning	45	14.8



Speaking, reading and writing, but not very confident	35	11.5
Unable to speak or understand Welsh	29	9.5
I prefer not to say	27	8.9
No reply	25	8.2
Other	19	6.2
Speaking, but not reading or writing	14	4.6
Total	305	100.0

3.4 Nationality or national identity?

	Number	%
Welsh	138	45.2
British	79	25.9
English	33	10.8
No reply	25	8.2
I prefer not to say	18	5.9
Other	9	3.0
Scottish	3	1.0
Total	305	100.0

3.5 What is your race?

	Number	%
White	245	80.3
I prefer not to say	28	9.2
No reply	25	8.2
Mixed/multi-ethnic groups	5	1.6
Other	2	0.7
Total	305	100.0

3.6 What is your religion?

	Number	%
No religion	128	42.0
Cristian	109	35.7
I prefer not to say	31	10.2
No reply	27	8.9
Other	8	2.6
Buddhist	1	0.3
Jewish	1	0.3
Total	305	100.0

3.7 Which of these best describes you? (You don't need to answer this question if you're under 16).

	Number	%
Heterosexual / Straight	210	68.9
I prefer not to say	44	14.4
No reply	28	9.2
Bisexual	12	3.9
Gay woman / lesbian	5	1.6
Other	4	1.3
Gay man	2	0.7
Cyfanswm	305	100.0

3.8 Has your gender identity changed from what was determined at birth (for example are you transgender or trans etc). (You don't need to answer this question if you're under 16).

	Number	%
No	237	77.7
No reply	31	10.2
I prefer not to say	30	9.8
Yes	7	2.3
Total	305	100.0

3.9 Section 6 (1) of the Equality Act 2010 states that an individual is disabled if:

- a. That person is physically or mentally impaired, and
- b. The impairment has a significant and long-term impact on the individual's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Using this definition, do you consider yourself a disabled person?

	Number	%
Yes	48	15.7
No	198	64.9
I prefer not to say	30	9.8
No reply	29	9.5
Total	305	100.0

Results of the Consultation on the Climate and Nature Plan 2025

Research Team
October 2025



**GWASANAETHAU
CORFFORAETHOL**

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

Assessing the Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh language and Socio-Economic Disadvantage

Please see the sheet *How to Make an Equality Impact Assessment* for assistance to complete this form. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708, or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further assistance.

The Council is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the impact that any change in any policy or procedures (or the creation of a new policy or procedure) will have on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and to foster good relationships. Therefore, a timely assessment should be made before any decision is taken on any relevant change (i.e. that affects people with protected equality characteristics).

The Council is also required, under the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), to consider the impact that any change in policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), will have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English. This document therefore ensures that these decisions safeguard and promote the use made of the Welsh language.

From 1 April 2021, the Council has a duty to give due attention to addressing socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decisions.

1) Details

1.1 What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 – 2029/30: Version 2 (CNEP)

1.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or amended? What changes are being considered?

Cyngor Gwynedd has been implementing its Climate and Nature Emergency Plan since March 2022, but during 2025/26 the plan was reviewed by council staff and elected members; a public consultation was held; and comments were received from the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Changes have been made to the scheme following these consultations, and a revised version of the CAHN will go before Gwynedd Council's Cabinet on 7 July 2026.

The CNEP explains why there is a need to respond to the impacts of climate change that have already occurred as well as why global temperature increases need to be reduced into the

future. Following on from that, it explains what steps the council will take to change its working arrangements to reduce its carbon emissions and to increase the carbon absorption capacity of the lands it owns.

The changes made between Version 1 and Version 2 of the CNEP are:

- Archiving 8 projects because a project needs to be merged, or the work has become a habit and everyday work
- Add 10 new projects

Further details can be found in the draft of the CNEP in papers to the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet meeting on 7 July 2026.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Bethan Richardson - Climate Change Programme Manager

1.4 When did you commence the assessment? Which version is this?

Version 1 - February 2022

Version 2 – June 2026

2) Action

2.1 Who are the stakeholders or partners whom we will have to work with to carry out this assessment?

All residents of Gwynedd will be affected by global warming, but there are some climate change impacts that are going to have a greater impact on some residents than others, e.g.: residents living in areas that are more likely to be flooded or residents living in fuel poverty.

The CNEP needs to be implemented in conjunction with a number of other organisations and with communities across Gwynedd. Version 2 of the CNEP places greater emphasis on working with partners and communities across Gwynedd in order to plan and implement projects.

2.2 What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either due to location or due to need), who are living with a socio-economic disadvantage?

A public consultation was carried out between 12 June and 31 July 2025 to seek views on:

- Do residents think climate change is important, and should it be a priority for the

Council?

- Content of the current Plan
- Proposals on changes to existing projects and the addition of new projects
- What can Gwynedd Council do to support Gwynedd residents to reduce carbon emissions?

2.3 What was the outcome of the engagement?

The results of the consultation can be found [here](#) but briefly the results show:

- 84% of respondents believe climate change is important to them
- 83% of respondents believe that Gwynedd Council should be taking action on climate change
- The majority of respondents agreed that the current Plan was understandable, with a clear vision and timetable, and that the aim was ambitious enough (between 56-75% agreed with the various statements)
- A majority (52%) disagreed that the Council is doing enough to support residents to adopt sustainable living and working habits
- The majority of respondents agreed that 10 new projects should be added to the Scheme (support for individual projects ranging between 59% and 79%)
- The projects with the highest percentages supported were 'continuing to implement Gwynedd Council's Flood Strategy' (79.5%), and 'working with community organisations to produce and distribute renewable energy' (78.8%)
- The projects with the highest percentages of disagreement were 'developing and implementing Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy to develop the Council's public charging network and for the Council's fleet (21.2% disagree but 71.2% agree) and 'researching and measuring blue carbon absorption on our coastline (20.5% disagree but 59.6% agree)
- The topic of climate change placed as a top priority was 'reducing household fuel poverty' (63.3%)
- The additional benefit that follows from the highest scoring climate change action was 'access to public transport'.

2.4 On the basis of what other evidence are you acting?

We collect data on the Council's emissions and carbon absorption levels annually, at the request of the Welsh Government, and receive information on carbon emission reduction plans that are in the care of regional and national partners and use them to shape our work programme.

We have data on how much of Gwynedd's population, and what the infrastructure is, at risk of flooding. We know that the population demographics of some areas likely to be flooded mean that a high number of older people will be affected.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be collected?

The Census provides us with data on the demographics of geographical communities but will

not provide us with full information on each of the 5 protected characteristics. We would need to keep track of further information about characteristics such as sexual orientation or belief/religion as we hold consultations with communities, and act on any evidence that these are not being given due attention.

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must duly address the impact that any changes will have on people with the following equality characteristics. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes in the policy or service have on people with these characteristics? There is also a need to consider the impact on the socio-economic disadvantage and on the Welsh language.

Characteristics	What type of impact? *	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	None identified	<p>There are no current individual plans that involve this feature.</p> <p>If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a person's race (including nationality) will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.</p>
Disability	Positive	<p>While the consequences of climate change affect all people, not responding to the consequences would affect disabled people worse than the rest of the population.</p> <p>The CNEP seeks to respond to problems caused by flooding, hoping to reduce the likelihood of flooding in the first place, and plans how to respond when flooding events arise. These response plans take account of the need to offer suitable or additional support to disabled people.</p> <p>The Local Flood Strategy will contribute to the CNEP, and will take account of creating easy access for disabled people when planning flood defences.</p> <p>Our plans to install electric car charging points across the county will increase the accessibility of residents living in rural communities to low or zero carbon transport. They will be able to use electric vehicles adapted to their needs without having to rely on a fossil fuel motor. It will be necessary to be aware, at the same time, that the charging points are being installed in places that are accessible and safe for disabled people.</p> <p>The council also encourages staff and elected members to prioritise virtual methods of holding meetings and to carry</p>

		<p>out their work. This can increase the opportunities for disabled people to carry out their work from home, or from a location convenient to them, without having to travel to a location such as an office. On the other hand, we will also need to ensure that disabled people are suitably equipped to carry out their work from home safely and efficiently.</p> <p>Our active travel plans and biodiversity projects contribute positively to the mental well-being and health of residents and visitors to Gwynedd. Access to nature and green spaces has been proven to be a positive factor in maintaining healthy mental health.</p>
Gender	None identified	<p>There are no current individual plans that involve this feature. If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a person's gender will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.</p>
Age	Positive	<p>If we do not respond to the effects of climate change and reduce the likelihood of global warming, then young and older age groups will be affected worse than others. These two age groups would need additional support to protect themselves – e.g. in cases of flooding; to find food if there is a threat to our ability to grow crops; to travel if there is no public transport.</p> <p>Our active travel schemes, plans to grow and plant trees and create nature habitats are going to help the education and well-being of both age groups.</p> <p>If Equality Impact Assessments are required on individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a person's age will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.</p>
Sexual orientation	None identified	<p>There are no current individual plans that involve this feature.</p> <p>If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a person's sexual orientation will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.</p>
Religion or belief (or non-belief)	None identified	<p>There are no current individual plans that involve this feature.</p> <p>If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a person's religion or</p>

		belief (or non-belief) will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.
Gender reassignment	None identified	There are no current individual plans that involve this feature. If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a person's gender reassignment will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.
Pregnancy and maternity	None identified	There are no current individual plans that involve this feature. If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a woman's pregnancy will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.
Marriage and civil partnership	None identified	There are no current individual plans that involve this feature. If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider, and we will ensure that a person's marriage and civil partnership status will not be a barrier to them having access to any future consultations so that we can gather their views.
The Welsh language	Positive	All schemes named in the CNEP will be maintained and promoted in Welsh or bilingually in accordance with the Council's language policy. The CNEP will contribute to regional plans to improve 'green' energy and transport infrastructure and therefore all communities – rural and urban – should benefit equally. Our plans to install electric car charging points across the county will increase the accessibility of residents living in rural communities to low or zero carbon transport. All of this will mean that Welsh-speaking residents can continue to live in their local communities.
Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Positive	In line with the Welsh Government's intention in Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) our approach to reducing carbon emissions should not have a greater impact on some sections of society than others – i.e. we should 'ensure that no one is left behind'. The CNEP encourages the use of electric private cars, but also recognises that, at present at least, their cost is beyond the reach of a large number of people. We will therefore also work with others to develop a network of low carbon public transport. Many of the individual schemes, as well as trying to reduce waste, also seek to reduce financial poverty. Our support

		for partners supporting residents with fuel poverty will all help residents who are under socio-economic disadvantage.
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* To be deleted as required

3.2 The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to contribute positively to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in its activities in the fields of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must duly address the way any change impacts on these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes	The plan as a whole and the individual schemes should have a positive impact on the duty. The Equality Impact Assessments on the individual schemes will need to identify any matters to consider.
Promote equal opportunities	Yes	In line with the Welsh Government's intention in Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) we should 'ensure that no one is left behind'. In engaging on and through the implementation of the CNEP we will ensure that everyone has equal access to information on the impacts of climate change and can contribute to the debate in the field.
Foster good relationships	Yes	In engaging on and through the implementation of the CNEP we will ensure that everyone has equal access to information on the impacts of climate change and can contribute to the debate in the field. By negotiating solutions to the problems of climate change we can bring communities closer together.

* To be deleted as required

3.3 How does your proposal ensure that you work in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English, and that every opportunity to promote the Welsh language is taken (beyond providing bilingual services) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

In addition to the information under the headings of 'the Welsh language' in 3.1, the CNEP will promote the Welsh language through the following actions – All information and advertising signs and materials will be published bilingually with Welsh first, in line with the Council's language policy.

Projects in the field of 'land use' and 'ecology' targeted at children and young people will increase their knowledge and confidence in the Welsh language outside the classroom. We will work with community organisations to carry out activities that will teach about climate change and on practical projects to respond to the effects of climate change – all through the medium of Welsh and English, with the Welsh language being given priority.

3.4 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice so as to have a positive impact on people's opportunities to use the Welsh language, and to reduce or prevent any detrimental impacts that the policy/practice could have on the Welsh language?

In monitoring the plan we will look for any problems that might have suggested that the council's language policy is not being followed, and correct that.

3.5 How does the proposal show that you have given due regard to the need to address inequality due to socio-economic disadvantage? (Please note that this relates to closing the inequality gap, rather than improving outcomes for everyone only).

In line with the Welsh Government's intention in [Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2 \(2021-25\)](#) our approach to reducing carbon emissions should not have a greater impact on some sections of society than others – i.e. we should 'ensure that no one is left behind'. The CNEP encourages the use of electric private cars, but also recognises that, at present at least, their cost is beyond the reach of a large number of people. We will therefore also work with others to develop a network of low carbon public transport. Many of the individual schemes, as well as trying to reduce waste, also seek to reduce financial poverty. Our support for partners supporting residents with fuel poverty will all help residents who are under socio-economic disadvantage.

3.6 What measures or other changes can you include to strengthen or change the policy / custom to show that you have given due regard to the need to reduce disproportionate outcomes as a result of socio-economic disadvantage, in accordance with the Socio-Economic Act?

We review the progress made on our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan annually, and make any necessary changes to our work programme. This is in addition to the schemes referred to in 3.2 and 3.5. If Equality Impact Assessments are required on future individual plans then they will need to identify any matters to consider.

4) Analysing the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the above? What is the reason for this?

The CNEP has had a positive impact on all equality characteristics, or no impact has been identified. Equality impact assessments will be completed for individual projects. The impact of climate change hits all members of society, and so as we plan our response to those impacts we deliver on the basis of different needs – e.g. flood defences and response plans.

4.2 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the above? What is the reason for this?

No significant negative impacts have been identified for the CNEP as a whole, but equality impact assessments will be completed for individual projects.

4.3 What should be done?

Select one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	X
Revise the policy to remove any barriers	
Suspend and abolish the policy as the harmful impacts are too great	
Continue with the policy as any harmful impact can be justified	
No further steps at present, it is premature to decide, or there is insufficient evidence	

4.4 If you continue with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

This is not relevant to the Plan in its entirety.

4.5 If you are not taking any further action to remove or reduce the negative impacts, please explain why here.

This is not relevant to the Plan in its entirety.

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

This plan will be monitored regularly through the Council's internal performance monitoring arrangements, and information on the development of the plan will be shared publicly through Cabinet Members' Performance Reports to Cabinet meetings; through reports to the Communities and through Gwynedd Council's Annual Performance Report. We have a Climate Change Board that provides strategic leadership to the work. One element of the regular monitoring is the collection of data on emission levels and carbon absorption, and we will do so by following the Welsh Government's methodology ([Welsh Public Sector Guide for Zero Net Carbon Reporting](#)) while also adapting our methodology if guidance is issued to do so. Annual data results will form part of Gwynedd Council's Annual Performance Report, and following their publication we will also review this plan to ensure that we are on track to achieve our ambition by 2030.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD - Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of item:	Waste and Recycling Strategy and use of EPR funding
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Craig ab Iago, Cabinet Member for the Environment Department
Relevant officer:	Dafydd Williams, Head of Department Roland Thomas, Assistant Head of Department
Date of meeting:	7 July 2026

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 The Cabinet is asked to:

1.2 **Adopt the Cyngor Gwynedd Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025-2030** as the strategic document that sets out the Council's direction, vision and priorities for waste and recycling over the next five years.

1.3 **Approve the principle of using Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Funding** as the main funding source to support and enable the implementation of the Strategy's priorities, including plans to increase recycling, improve service, maintain existing infrastructure and invest in future infrastructure.

1.4 **Approve the strategic direction for the use of EPR funding** to:

- managing the service's direct financial risks by creating a financial "contingency" provision, such as dealing with overspend in service delivery where there is no alternative means of addressing it, reducing the risk of fines for failing to meet recycling targets and preparing for the costs associated with the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).
- providing a stable financial foundation for delivering the plans set out in the Strategy, including the actions required to reach the 70% recycling target and the short-term investments needed for upgrades.
- establishing a Co-Investment Fund to support significant future development at the Caernarfon and Harlech sites.

1.5 **State that further decisions will be required** on some individual operational elements of the Strategy, but that adopting the Strategy and approving the EPR use direction provided a policy framework and the financial foundation to move forward with the work programme.

1.6 Note that the Council will need to consider all possible sources of funding when setting the 2027/28 revenue budget and subsequent years, and that the possibility of having to revisit the above decisions cannot be ruled out if it becomes necessary to divert an element of the EPR funding in order to set a balanced budget.

2. THE REASON WHY THE CABINET NEEDS TO MAKE A DECISION

Why is this Strategy needed?

- 2.1 The Strategy sets out the Council's vision to move toward a circular economy, continue to improve in the field of waste and recycling, responding directly to a combination of statutory requirements, significant financial risks, increasing operational pressures and the corporate commitment to reducing carbon emissions. Specifically:
- **Statutory requirements:** a 70% recycling target, recycling in the workplace regulations.
 - **Financial risks:** potential fines of up to £600k per year for failing to meet the target, and the costs of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) up to £1.5m.
 - **Operational pressure:** increase in tourism, change in user behaviour, unsuitable infrastructure for new requirements, and increasing complexity when collecting new materials.
 - **Corporate commitment:** significantly contribute to the Council's aim of reducing carbon emissions.
- 2.2 Although the recycling performance in Gwynedd has significantly improved over the last decade (to 65.3%), the gap to the statutory target continues to create a risk financially and to the Council's reputation. Therefore, this document proposes not only to adopt the Strategy, but also the funding method that will enable the Council to fulfil the change that is required to close that gap.
- 2.3 The Strategy also supports the wider vision with the Council Plan under 'A Green Gwynedd', ensuring that waste and recycling services contribute to the Council's corporate objectives in terms of carbon, sustainability and providing effective services to residents.
- 2.4 The Strategy has been prepared whilst giving consideration to relevant national and local factors. Locally, it reflects the Local Nature and Climate Plan, the Council Plan 2023-28, the Council's financial situation, the condition and suitability of the service's existing infrastructure, as well as the input of key local partners and residents as part of a survey to seek views. Nationally, it considers the Welsh Government's latest strategy, 'Beyond Recycling', the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme, the Deposit Return Scheme and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 duties.
- 2.5 This Strategy sets out a clear direction to transform waste and recycling services in Gwynedd, but its success depends on the Council's ability to invest in change.
- 2.6 By aligning the Strategy with a strategic use of EPR funding, the Council will be in a position to move from a reactive approach to a proactive approach - investing in waste prevention, increasing recycling and developing a sustainable infrastructure that will provide long-term value to Gwynedd.
- 2.7 A copy of the Strategy is in **Appendix 1**.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Funding

- 2.8 The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding is a new significant funding stream that comes from packaging producers, not a Welsh Government grant. Its purpose is to pay the actual costs of managing packaging waste from homes. Although the funding is not ring-fenced, there is a clear expectation that it will be used by local authorities

to improve services, reach recycling targets and ensure long-term value for money. The basic principle of the EPR is that the "polluter pays" the cost of managing the packaging waste that they create.

- 2.9 Cyngor Gwynedd received £3.7m in the first year of the scheme in 2025/26, and it is likely that it will receive £4.8m for 2026/27. The increase between both years reflects the movement from a national benchmark model to a model that is based on the Council's actual costs. £2m of the 2025/26 EPR funding was already earmarked towards capital expenditure at the Council's waste and recycling treatment centres in Caernarfon and Harlech, and further use of the funding has been considered to deal with any deficiencies in the service's budget.
- 2.10 It is therefore considered that the EPR is a unique strategic opportunity to enable the implementation of the Strategy: not only as a short-term answer for financial overweighs, but as a funding source that could support service change, investment in infrastructure, reducing costs and future risks, and offering long-term value to the Council and Gwynedd residents.
- 2.11 In practice, this will mean that the Council now has a real opportunity to fund the transformational change that is required to reach statutory targets and reduce financial risks and doing so without putting pressure on the existing funds and budgets.

The Vision of the Strategy

- 2.12 The Vision of the Strategy is to create a sustainable, circular and low carbon Waste and Recycling Service that reduces residual waste to a minimum, meets the statutory targets and provides social and economic benefit to Gwynedd.
- 2.13 The Strategy also clearly acknowledges that the service's long-term success depends on the quality of the service, the suitability of the infrastructure and the Council's ability to decarbonise the system over time. As a result, the principle of using EPR funding to support these steps is key to achieving the required change.
- 2.14 The Strategy not only involves a change in behaviour and increasing the performance of recycling; it also clearly acknowledges that the condition and limitations of the service's existing infrastructure are a further barrier to change. The service sites have developed over many years through a series of gradual adaptations, and there is a need to invest in the existing sites to allow them to operate as effectively as possible and satisfy the new operational requirements.
- 2.15 The Strategy deliberately moves:
- from disposal,
 - towards preventing, reusing, recycling and repairing,
 - and towards a local circular economy that creates value from waste as a resource.

Key Strategic Priorities

- 2.16 The Strategy is structured around **six key objectives**:

Communication and Engagement

- Change in behaviour by providing clear, relevant and accessible communication to residents, businesses and communities.

- EPR funding would enable the Council to extend its attainment and strengthen the impact of its messages by using wider and more strategic communication methods, including direct engagement with schools, strengthening presence on social media and providing information and promotion that is targeted to support service changes, such as introducing new material collections.
- To reinforce this work of raising awareness, the EPR funding could be used to strengthen the service's capacity by employing enforcement officers, ensuring that messages are continuously reiterated and behaviours are adopted in a broader manner.

Reducing, Reusing and Repairing

- Reducing waste in the source, with a specific focus on food waste and developing local reusing initiatives, gradually moving up the waste hierarchy towards prevention, reusing and repairing.
- EPR funding would enable the Council to support this change by developing new markets for recyclable materials, improving provision and facilities in recycling centres and strengthen activities that promote reusing and repairing within communities.
- In addition, EPR funding could be used to support measures that directly encourage behaviour change, including using levers such as researching options to home collection improvements to reduce residual waste.
- In a broader sense, this method enables the Council to reduce the total waste produced in the first place, elaborating on the engagement and education work, and contributes towards reducing long-term costs. Specifically, there is a potential here to use EPR funding to mitigate the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and an opportunity to avoid putting additional pressures on the Council's core budgets.

Increase Recycling

- Redirect recyclable materials out of the residual bin, targeting the 57% that is still being disposed of incorrectly.
- Although increasing the recycling rate is an obvious objective, fulfilling this change depends on a combination of behaviour change and providing services that enable residents to recycle effectively. This includes ensuring that residents have the opportunity to recycle a wider range of materials, such as soft plastics, and strengthen the understanding of the positive impact of recycling on the environment and the Council's costs.
- In this context, EPR funding will enable the Council to extend and adapt the provision to ensure that the recycling service is as comprehensive and effective as possible, reducing the proportion of recyclable materials that are disposed incorrectly.
- In addition, the Strategy acknowledges that there may be a need to provide an element of financial protection in the short term. Should the Council not reach the statutory 70% recycling target, EPR funding could be used as financial provision within the accounts to address any potential fines, avoiding putting additional pressure on the Council's core budgets.

Providing a High-quality Service

- An effective, reliable service that instils the public's confidence as a basis for high recycling performance.
- EPR funding would enable the Council to continue to invest in systems and technology that improves the waste and recycling service's efficiency. This includes building on the benefits seen as a result of introducing systems such as Bartec, monitoring performance and ensuring a better service for residents.
- By combining operational improvements with continuous investment in systems, it will be possible to ensure a more consistent, responsive and effective system, that supports increase in recycling and strengthens the public's confidence in the system.

Achieving Net Zero

- Decarbonising the collection fleet, making the best of collection routes, and investing in renewable energy as part of transforming the service towards a low carbon system.
- EPR funding would enable the Council to support this change by investing in renewable energy answers, such as installing solar panels on new infrastructure, as well as establishing a fund to start the process of decarbonising the waste collection fleet over time. This work will be developed alongside continuous collaboration with the Welsh Government, ensuring that our approach complies with the national direction and takes advantage of any further guidance or financial opportunities.

Infrastructure that is Fit for the Future

- Invest in transfer stations, recycling centres and processing facilities to meet increasing requirements and ensure that the service's infrastructure is fit for the future.
- In the short term, investment is required to improve the efficiency and suitability of existing sites. This includes upgrading processing machines, increasing maintenance levels on waste treatment and transfer sites, and providing match funding to grant schemes on key recycling centres.
- However, the Strategy clearly acknowledges that the main medium-term and long-term priority is to re-develop strategic sites, especially Caernarfon and Harlech. Work is underway with WRAP Cymru to develop options, with the initial assessments stating that this involves a significant capital investment. In this context, it is recommended to use EPR funding strategically to establish a Joint Fund, which will put the Council in a stronger position to attract match funding to fulfil this. This will be key to ensure that it is possible to move beyond gradual improvements to fulfilling a more basic transformation of the infrastructure.

Risks and Key Opportunities

- 2.17 Should the Strategy not be implemented, the Council faces many clear risks: the continuation of the risk of statutory fines for failing to meet the 70% recycling target; significant cost pressure as a result of the Emissions Trading Scheme in the future; the erosion of public confidence and a risk to the Council's reputation; and failure to

sufficiently contribute to the Council's commitments in terms of reducing carbon emissions.

- 2.18 In addition to these risks, there is uncertainty regarding the EPR itself that needs to be managed carefully. It is a new scheme, not a Welsh Government grant, and there is no certainty currently regarding its long-term continuity or how the Welsh Government could respond to the impact of this additional income on wider local authority funding.
- 2.19 On the other hand, the opportunities should the Strategy be implemented and whether the EPR was used strategically are significant. These include avoiding fines and reducing disposal costs, increasing income through EPR and recycling markets, supporting local circular economy and green jobs, and strengthening the service's operational and financial resilience. In short, the Council is in a position to use the EPR system to transition from a model that is under pressure to a more proactive and sustainable model.

How will success be measured?

- 2.20 The Strategy includes a robust performance measure framework that will monitor statutory performance, including reaching or excelling the 70% recycling target, reducing residual waste, reducing carbon emissions, financial sustainability and service performance and customer satisfaction. This method is important to ensure that the Strategy is measurable, accountable and continues to focus on achieving practical outcomes.
- 2.21 Using EPR funding strategically will also require clear and continuous governance. In the work that has been developed on the direction of the EPR fund, specific delegation arrangements are proposed, as well as the principle of reporting to the Cabinet or the Leadership Team at specific times to check the direction of the fund and to confirm the commitments. This ensures that funding is not used in an ad-hoc manner, but rather aligns clearly with the direction of the Strategy.
- 2.22 In relation to EPR, the funding will need to be allocated to three categories in accordance with what is set out in paragraph 1.3.
- **Category 1: Matters that require financial provision as a “contingency”.**
 - **Category 2: Delivering the Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025–2030.**
 - **Category 3: Establishing a Co-Investment Fund to support future site development in Caernarfon and Harlech.**
- 2.23 Details of the funding are shown in **Appendix 2**. It should be noted that these are currently estimates, and further work will be required to refine them and agree the final costs and provisions.

3. CYNGOR GWYNEDD CONSULTATION ON A NEW WASTE STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Cabinet's approval was received to go out to a public consultation on the Strategy on 10/06/2025. The consultation was held between October and November 2025, with 1,266 responses.
- 3.2 The survey could be filled on paper or online, with easy-to-read versions also provided. The survey was promoted through press releases, prominent messages on the Council website on relevant pages and a series of messages on corporate social media accounts. Cards were published to share with users of the recycling centres promoting

the survey, information was cascaded to key stakeholders, and many drop-in sessions were held in centres (libraries and leisure centres) to encourage participation.

- 3.3 The responses were analysed by CRS/WRAP, using a systematic method to identify key themes, levels of support, and areas of concern or improvement. The sample represented the population well in terms of location and demography, although there was some difference in age and gender.

General Findings

- 3.4 The consultation shows **strong overall support** for Cyngor Gwynedd's strategic objectives for waste and recycling. The majority placed a large emphasis on providing a high-quality collection service, reducing waste, and reaching the 70% recycling target, with creating a carbon neutral service receiving a lower yet positive score.

Key Themes from the Responses

Many consistent themes became prominent through the consultation:

- **Waste prevention and reusing:** There was strong support to placing more emphasis on waste prevention, repairing and reusing before recycling, with the Council called to support local initiatives such as repair cafés and reuse schemes.
- **Improving recycling and the public's understanding:** Respondents noted the need for better communication, education and consistency to help residents to understand what can be recycled and how to use the services correctly.
- **Residual waste services:** Concerns were expressed regarding the levels of residual waste, with support to steps that would encourage more recycling and less reliance on disposal.
- **Accessibility and fairness:** Some respondents emphasised the need to ensure that changes to services were fair and accessible to every home, including vulnerable groups and rural communities.

Matters and Concerns Raised

Although there was wide support, attention was drawn to several matters that the Strategy needed to further consider, including:

- **The need for clarity** regarding any changes to the frequency of collection or service arrangements, and **concerns regarding the practicality** of some proposed steps and the potential impact on some households.
- **The need to ensure that ambitious recycling targets** were being supported by resources, infrastructure and realistic action plans.

Analysis of the Responses - A Taste of the Comments

The qualitative and quantitative responses highlight many tendencies:

- **Quality of the Service:** 78% are satisfied or very satisfied with the residual waste and recycling collection services, but satisfaction is low for the clinical collection services and bin delivery services.
- **Reducing residual waste:** 83.6% of respondents have enough capacity for residual waste. 63% of residents noted that they had space in their bins on collection day, suggesting that there is a need to improve the use of food waste and recycling services. 98% agree that reducing waste is important, but 69% state that they do not know how to do more or they need more information to be able to do that.
- **Attitudes towards collection changes:** There is a strong objection towards using black bags (instead of the existing wheelie bins) for residual waste and less

frequent collection, but there are mixed attitudes towards changing the size of the bin.

- **Increase Recycling:** 84% agree that the Council needs to encourage people to reach the 70% recycling target to avoid a financial penalty. Almost 90% believe that they recycle everything that they can, but analysis of waste show that many recyclable materials were disposed incorrectly. 70% of the people who recycle food believe that it is not possible to recycle more, even though data suggests that a lot of food waste was in the residual bins.
- **Recycling and additional materials:** There is a clear desire to extend the materials gathered weekly, including soft plastics.
- **Enforcement Powers:** There is strong support for using enforcement powers for throwing rubbish and leaving bins out on the street.
- **Perspectives on recycling centres:** There is a positive view about the centres, with 83% able to recycle everything planned, but some face access barriers such as distance or lack of transport.
- **Keeping the benefit local and waste treatment standards:** 76% believe that treating and processing waste within the county is important, with support for local independence and local economic advantages. Concerns regarding costs and the transparency of what is happening to the recycling have also been expressed.
- **Communication and gathering feedback:** 80% have used the Cyngor Gwynedd website or app for information about waste, with a mixed opinion on the efficiency of different communication media. There is demand for prominent, clearer communication and various methods, including print and digital materials to reach everyone.

Implications of the Final Strategy

3.5 The consultation shows broad support for the Council's strategic direction, but it also highlights the need for careful implementation, strong communication and continuous monitoring. The analysis report draws attention to areas where there is clear support from the public, as well as areas where there is a need for further clarity, mitigation steps or stronger communication to ensure successful implementation. This feedback has been incorporated into the strategic narrative and has steered the work of refining the objectives, the success measures and the operational outcomes.

4. CONSIDERATION OF IMPACT

4.1 The Council is required under the Equality Act 2010 to consider the impact that any change to a policy or procedure (or the creation of a new one) may have on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and to foster good relations. An Equality Impact Assessment must therefore be undertaken before deciding on any relevant change (i.e., one that affects people with a protected characteristic). At present, the assessment does not highlight any specific impacts. However, as part of the consultation process, we will update and reassess the document. A copy of the impact assessment can be found in **Appendix 3**.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is also a key consideration, because it sets out the well-being duty on public bodies to improve the social, economic and cultural well-being of Wales through the medium of the seven well-being aims and the five ways of working. There are further details about the implications of the act within the Strategy itself.

5. SUMMARY

- 5.1 The Gwynedd Recycling and Waste Strategy 2025-2030 responds realistically and ambitiously to the statutory, financial and environmental challenges that face the Council. It sets out a clear path towards reaching and maintaining a recycling rate of over 70%, reducing residual waste, decarbonising the service and investing in infrastructure that is more sustainable and fit for the future.
- 5.2 However, adopting a Strategy on its own is insufficient. Realising the vision and its priorities requires a clear and strategic funding source. EPR funding provides that opportunity, but we will continue to rely on support from the Welsh Government to realise the major projects. By using funding deliberately to manage risks, invest in service change and infrastructure, and support the plans that are required to improve recycling performance, the Council could move from strategic planning to practical delivery.
- 5.3 Therefore, adopting this Strategy and approving the strategic use of EPR funding together provides the **policy framework and the financial method** to realise a modern, sustainable and resilient waste service for Gwynedd over the next few years. The Cabinet's support is key to ensuring clear leadership, appropriate prioritisation and successful delivery.

Views of the statutory officers

Chief Finance Officer:

I welcome the development of a strategy for making the best use of the Extended Producer Responsibility Funding for packaging (EPR) and the report puts a focus on providing high quality services to Gwynedd residents, whilst improving recycling performance. The proposed use of EPR is prudent, seeking to balance investments in service improvements and managing future financial risks. However, Cabinet will be aware that we have had to make use of a proportion of the EPR funding last year to cope with financial pressures in the waste area and there is no assurance that this need will not continue so the use of the money will remain under ongoing review. It should also be noted that one of the aspects of the EPR is that funding levels are not guaranteed going forward so the strategy will have to be reviewed when we receive further information from one year to the next.

Monitoring Officer:

The importance of the Waste Strategy is highlighted in the garden and the appendices. Whether that be from the perspective of the Council's statutory duties, achieving sustainable development in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and meeting targets for recycling. The report reports on the results of the consultation process. It is important that, in taking into account all the considerations relating to the adoption of the Strategy the Cabinet takes account of the results of the consultations in reaching the decision. I am satisfied that the report provides an appropriate basis for adopting the Strategy.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025-2030.
- Appendix 2: Table showing EPR commitments by year
- Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment



Cyngor
Gwynedd

Waste and Recycling Strategy

2025 - 2030



Amgylchedd

Contents

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1. Foreword

As a county, we have seen a reduction in the waste we produce, and at the same time an increase in the percentage we recycle. Over the last decade, the proportion of our waste that is recycled has risen from 55% to 65%, and that is mainly thanks to the efforts of our residents, businesses and our wider communities.

However, we have now reached a point where we will all have to go a step further to manage our waste more responsibly. We know that over half the contents of our green bins can already be recycled through services available from Cyngor Gwynedd.

At the same time, we are facing a global climate crisis. The Council recognised this in March 2019 by declaring a climate emergency, and since then we have been working to align all our services - including waste - with our wider environmental responsibilities.

The challenges ahead are significant, and tackling them will require innovation, ambition and an open attitude to change. That means not only continuing to reduce and recycle waste, but completely rethinking how we consider it - as a valuable resource rather than as a problem to be disposed of. Repair, reuse and adjustment must become the norm before considering recycling or disposal. We have already shown that this can be done locally, by turning food waste into electricity here in Gwynedd. Currently, 47% of our recycling materials go across the border to England, 1% to other countries in Europe, and 52% stay in Wales. However, apart from food and garden waste, only a very small proportion of the recycling materials are processed here in

Gwynedd. If we are serious about creating a local circular economy, this must change.

A truly circular economy would not only reduce our environmental impact but also bring direct economic and social benefits to our communities. Environmental justice goes hand in hand with social and economic justice - you cannot have one without the others. By keeping more of our waste local and treating it as a resource, we can support jobs, strengthen resilience and build community wellbeing. As they have been saying in England for a long time: “where there’s muck, there’s brass”. This will require long-term thinking and cultural change, but it is essential if we are serious about the future of our communities.

This Strategy is just the beginning of the journey. By working together - as residents, communities and organisations - we can move towards a Gwynedd that is greener, fairer and truly circular.



Councillor Craig ab Iago
Environment Cabinet
Member

2. Vision and strategic objectives

Our vision is to create an environment where circular practices are common, residual (non-recyclable) waste is minimal, and Gwynedd plays a significant role in a greener Wales. As we look to the future, we recognise various specific issues and challenges that we, as a council, must address. Our aim is for Gwynedd to become a visionary council in preventing waste, maximising resources and managing our waste service efficiently. Working with our residents, businesses, and partners, we want our Waste and Recycling Strategy to enable a sustainable and green local economy, reducing the impacts of climate change, and safeguarding our future generations.

Gwynedd's current recycling performance stands at 65.3%, creating a significant financial risk of approximately £600,000 if the statutory target of 70% is not achieved. To close this gap and strengthen the long-term resilience of the service, seven strategic priorities have been identified to drive improvement across the service.

Strategic Priorities

1. Reducing general (residual) waste.
2. Increase reuse and repair.
3. Meeting Welsh Government targets to recycle, reuse and compost 70% of our waste by 2025 and beyond.
4. Delivering a high-quality service where the health, safety, wellbeing and values of our staff—alongside customer care and satisfaction—are central to our core principles.

5. Becoming a Low Carbon service.
6. Investing in our waste infrastructure to meet future service needs and development.

Financial Risks and Opportunities

- Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS): This may create additional cost pressures due to carbon pricing on waste disposal.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): A potential opportunity to secure significant income to offset collection costs, subject to final scheme details.
- Avoiding fines: Achieving the 70% target will avoid substantial financial penalties and protect the Council's budget.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

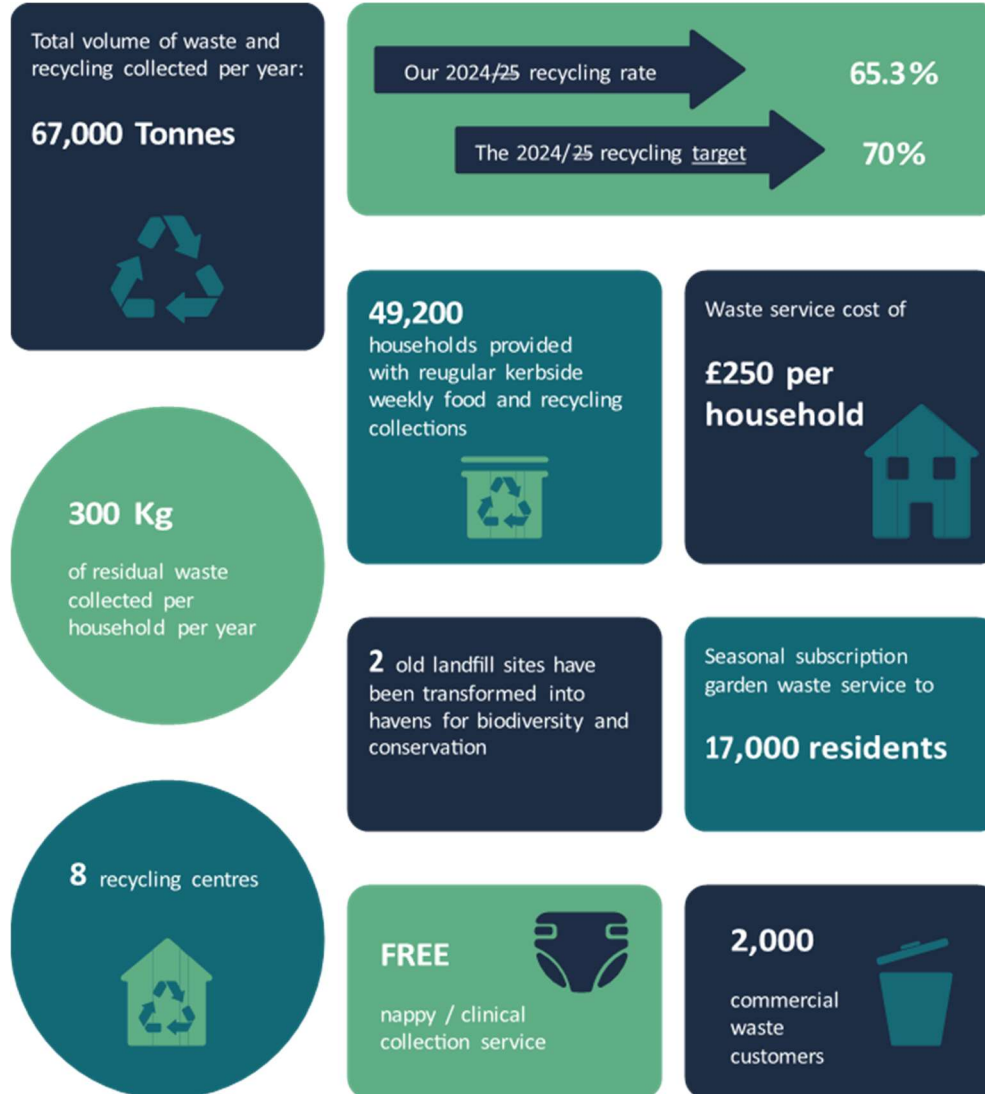
- Clearer guidance and more consistent services across the county.
- Greater emphasis on correct separation of materials.
- Possible changes to collection frequency or container types.
- Stronger enforcement where there is persistent non-compliance.
- Businesses may face new requirements under national recycling regulations.

What Success Will Look Like by 2030

- Recycling consistently above 70%, with year-on-year improvement.
- A measurable reduction in residual waste per household.
- A modern, efficient collection service supported by digital systems and a low-carbon fleet.
- High levels of public participation and confidence.
- Gwynedd recognised as a leader in sustainable waste management in Wales.

This Waste Strategy has been shaped by public consultation and independent analysis of the responses. The feedback confirmed strong support for the overall strategic direction, particularly the focus on waste prevention, reuse and improved recycling. The consultation also highlighted the importance of clear communication, careful implementation and ongoing engagement with residents and businesses. These insights have informed the development of the Strategy and will continue to guide its delivery.

Current Performance



3. Context and drivers for change

In Gwynedd we have made considerable progress in reducing the amount of waste we produce whilst increasing the amount we recycle. Between 2014/15 and 2024/25 our recycling rate has increased from 55% to over 65% whilst our 'black bag' waste has dropped by 10.9%.

We would like to thank residents, business and the community for their support and contribution to the success so far. As a council we no longer send any of our waste to landfill for disposal.

We have ambitions to build on this success, not only to increase Gwynedd's recycling rate but also manage our waste more sustainably. Our goal is to enhance reuse, repair and moving to a circular economy. In this system, materials are valued as resources, kept in circulation for as long as possible, and disposal is minimised. This supports our efforts to protect and conserve the natural world and its limited resources. The circular economy has been shown to have significant benefits through saving money and creating new jobs in the areas of reuse, remanufacturing, and materials innovation. It is an opportunity to reduce emissions, so protecting human health and increasing biodiversity. Circular economy and waste minimisation is also an opportunity for the council, to manage the waste and recycling services more economically, especially in a climate where all councils are facing uncertain financial outlooks with ever-increasing demand for core services.

We want to ensure that the building blocks are in place to enable change. We want to drive more circular activity and help residents and businesses to produce less waste. This will also reduce our carbon emissions and improve other environmental indicators.

Most of all, we want the people and businesses of Gwynedd to take pride in their waste services and actively participate in achieving our goals. Below is a summary of the context and drivers of change that will shape the direction of this strategy and the actions we need to take to mitigate them.

Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy is a globally recognised principle, legally defined in the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008) which underpins legislation for waste management. It establishes an order of preference for managing and disposing of waste, prioritising actions that prevent waste generation and minimize environmental impact and moving down to disposal as the last resort. Currently, our service manages waste through recycling, recovery, and disposal. We need to shift away from disposal and towards reuse, aiming for prevention and minimisation. Our strategy outlines how we intend to do this.

- Prevention – the prevention of waste centres on minimising the amount of waste we create as a society, purchasing less and using fewer materials during design and manufacturing processes.

- Reuse – reusing materials and products extends their lifecycle and prevents them from being disposed of unnecessarily or potentially turned into a less sustainable product.
- Recycling – recycling focuses on the conversion of waste materials into new materials and products.
- Other recovery – the process of recovering some value from waste materials, for example food waste being turned into compost.
- Disposal – the last resort, where waste is landfilled, incinerated or turned into energy from waste.



Linear economy vs circular economy

As part of this strategy, we want to support Gwynedd in a shift towards a circular economy approach.

Shifting towards a circular economy and away from the linear ‘take-make-use-dispose’ model will deliver benefits through reduced waste and improved resource. A circular economy approach embeds the values of the materials we use as a resource by focusing on the need to keep the products or material in use for as long as possible. Reducing our consumption of raw materials supports efforts to tackle climate change, pollution and enhancing biodiversity. A circular economy approach also has the potential to deliver wider benefits to our communities, such as green jobs, better health and well-being and cleaner neighbourhoods.

Global context

Globally we are facing a climate emergency with sea levels rising at unprecedented levels, severe weather events are on the increase, all having an increasing negative impact on communities across the world, creating economic and environmental devastation.

Collectively we must take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit the increase in global temperatures to below 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels to reduce our impact on the environment. This strategy will support efforts to value resources by keeping them in circulation for longer and avoiding unnecessary consumption where possible, reduce the emissions from our operations so that the environment is protected for future generations.

National context

Beyond recycling

The Welsh Government is committed to creating a circular economy and ensuring a zero-waste Wales by 2050. To reach this ambitious goal, they are implementing a series of strategic measures, including developing specialist infrastructure for materials that are difficult to recycle, supporting businesses to strengthen their recycling efforts, and working with local councils and key partners to set clear recycling targets aligned with Wales's zero-waste pathway.

This effort reflects a sustainable vision for Wales's future, placing emphasis on responsibility, innovation, and community commitment.

Our strategy aims to help residents and businesses manage their waste in the most sustainable way possible. By reducing waste, avoiding over-consumption, and ensuring that materials are valued and kept in use for as long as possible, we promote a more effective approach to resource management. This approach will underpin our efforts to move Gwynedd towards a circular economy, aligning with the Welsh Government's vision through the 'Beyond Recycling' Strategy, in order to build a more sustainable future for our communities.

Towards zero waste

The Welsh Government's Toward Zero Waste strategy outlines a set of objectives aimed at boosting recycling rates, minimising avoidable food waste, and reducing waste sent to landfills. It also establishes mandatory recycling targets for local authorities in Wales. By the 2024/25 period, Welsh councils are required to achieve a 70% recycling rate, with financial penalties imposed for each tonne below this target.

As a council with our current recycling rate of 65.3% we face a potential fine of £200 per tonne if we do not achieve the 70% target. This is equivalent to £750,000 based on 2022/23 tonnages. This strategy will therefore take steps towards increasing our recycling rate to 70% and beyond to avoid this cost, but most importantly to ensure that we are doing what is right.

Workplace recycling regulations

The Workplace Recycling Regulations came into effect on 6 April 2024 and is a legal requirement for all workplaces including businesses, the public sector, and charities to separate recyclable materials including food, paper, card, glass, metals, plastic, cartons, unsold textiles, and unsold small electrical equipment. The Regulations also impose a ban on food waste to sewer.

In April 2026, the Workplace Recycling Regulations will be expanded to collect small waste electronic equipment and textiles by April 2027.

As a council we will provide a compliant workplace recycling service to all business sector across Gwynedd. The service wants to create opportunities to improve our commercial waste collection service and support more businesses to recycle their waste.

We have over 2,000 commercial customers in Gwynedd, and we collect all waste streams typically generated by businesses, including paper and card, plastics and cans, food waste, glass, and residual waste. Our customers range from small corner shops and cafes to larger businesses and caravan parks. We currently collect 8,600 tonnes of commercial waste of which 53% can be recycled; we will work with businesses to increase this proportion and increase recycling levels to encourage a greener economy within Gwynedd.

We want to increase our base level of customers as well as retaining our loyal customers by providing efficient, reliable, and a locally focused service.

As part of this strategy, we aim to continue to provide a compliant service, increase the number of business customers that we collect from and ensure that we are prepared for the expansion of the regulations to include small electricals and textiles.

Emissions trading scheme

Currently, our non-recyclable waste is sent to the Parc Adfer energy-from-waste facility in Deeside, Flintshire. At this facility, the waste is incinerated to generate electricity, which is then fed into the national grid. This process recovers energy from our waste, but also creates greenhouse gas emissions, which are a major contributor to climate change. From 2028 the UK Emissions Trading Scheme will be expanded to include the burning of fossil-based materials by energy from waste incinerators, including Parc Adfer. The intention of the emissions trading scheme are to reduce emissions and carbon footprints and should encourage the transition away from fossil-based fuels and promote cleaner and renewable technologies.

As a council this scheme will impact us if we do not take action to reduce the quantity of fossil-based materials such as plastic film, dense plastic, and textiles sent to the Parc Adfer facility.

The current cost to dispose of our residual waste is almost £5m per year. With the new proposed charges from ETS, it could cost an extra £1.5m each year if we do not take action to reduce fossil-based content from the non-recyclable waste.

Therefore, in this strategy we will seek to reduce the fossil-based materials from our non-recyclable waste stream to reduce the environmental and financial impacts of this scheme.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) places the responsibility for managing the full lifecycle of packaging back onto producers. EPR aims to incentivise producers to design and produce packaging with recyclability and waste prevention in mind. This should increase the amount of household waste that can be recycled over time. The EPR framework means that producers of certain types of packaging pay into a fund to support councils with the cost of treatment or disposal of packaging that is not easily recyclable. The amount Cyngor Gwynedd receives depends on how efficiently and effectively we manage waste, and we could receive a penalty if we do not meet the required standards for this.

Extended producer responsibility for packaging (pEPR) was implemented on the 1 April 2025, and we need to consider the impacts of this reform. Gwynedd may see an increase in the amount and type of packaging we can recycle increasing the volumes of recycling that we collect. We therefore need to ensure that our waste transfer stations at Caernarfon and

Harlech, where our collection vehicles unload the materials collected from the kerbside, can accommodate an increase in recycling volumes. Therefore, this strategy will set out how we intend to prepare for an increase in material volumes and types.

Deposit Return Scheme

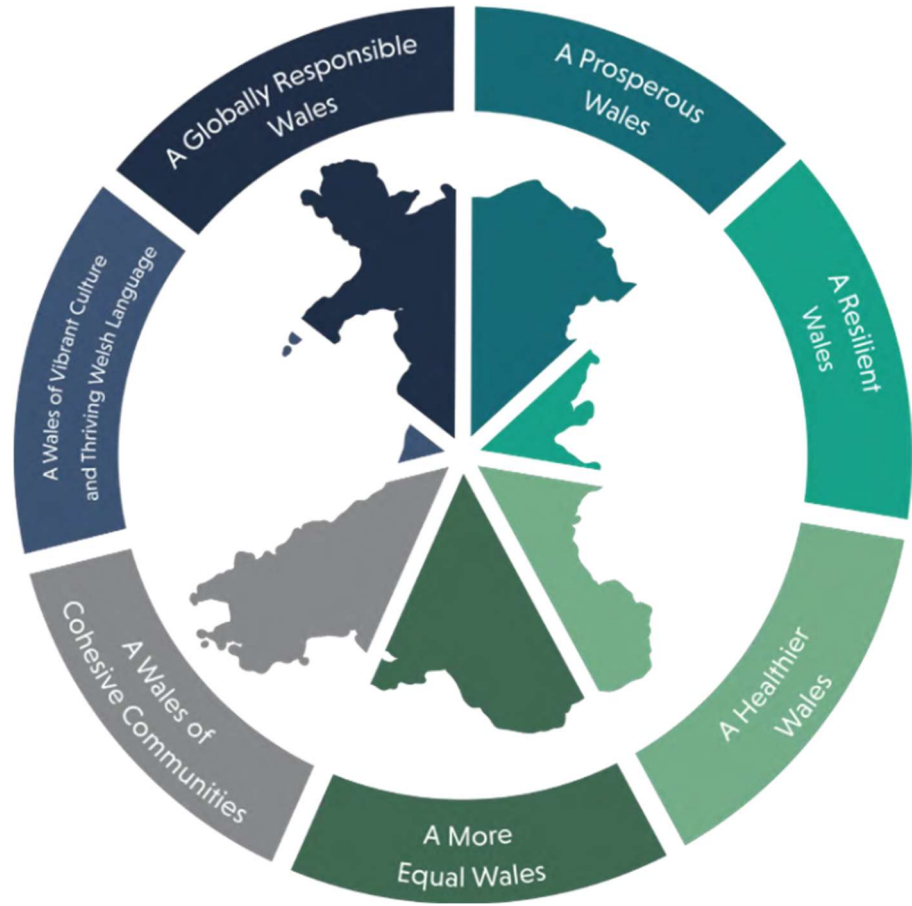
The Welsh Government will introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) targeting both single use and reusable drinks containers with a small deposit, which is refunded upon the return of the container.

The DRS will help reduce litter in Gwynedd by placing a financial value on drinks containers, making them less likely to be carelessly discarded. By including reusable drinks containers in Wales's DRS, our community will be supported to move towards a circular economy where containers are used repeatedly before being recycled into new containers at the end of their life. The DRS can divert containers away from street-waste streams and conventional recycling, directing them instead to return points in local shops. As a result, it is essential that we understand the impact on the Council's services to ensure this process is effectively coordinated.

Wellbeing and Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act aims to ensure that future generations in Wales have at least the same quality of life as we do now.

This strategy aims to focus on managing waste in line with the highest principles of the waste hierarchy which include waste prevention, reuse and recycling and moving materials towards a circular approach rather than linear. This is being done to preserve natural resources, reduce or eliminate the harmful release of greenhouse gases and protect the environment and nature for future generations. In 2019 the council declared a climate emergency and published the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022, and one headline from the plan is for us to reduce the carbon emissions from waste collections and processing



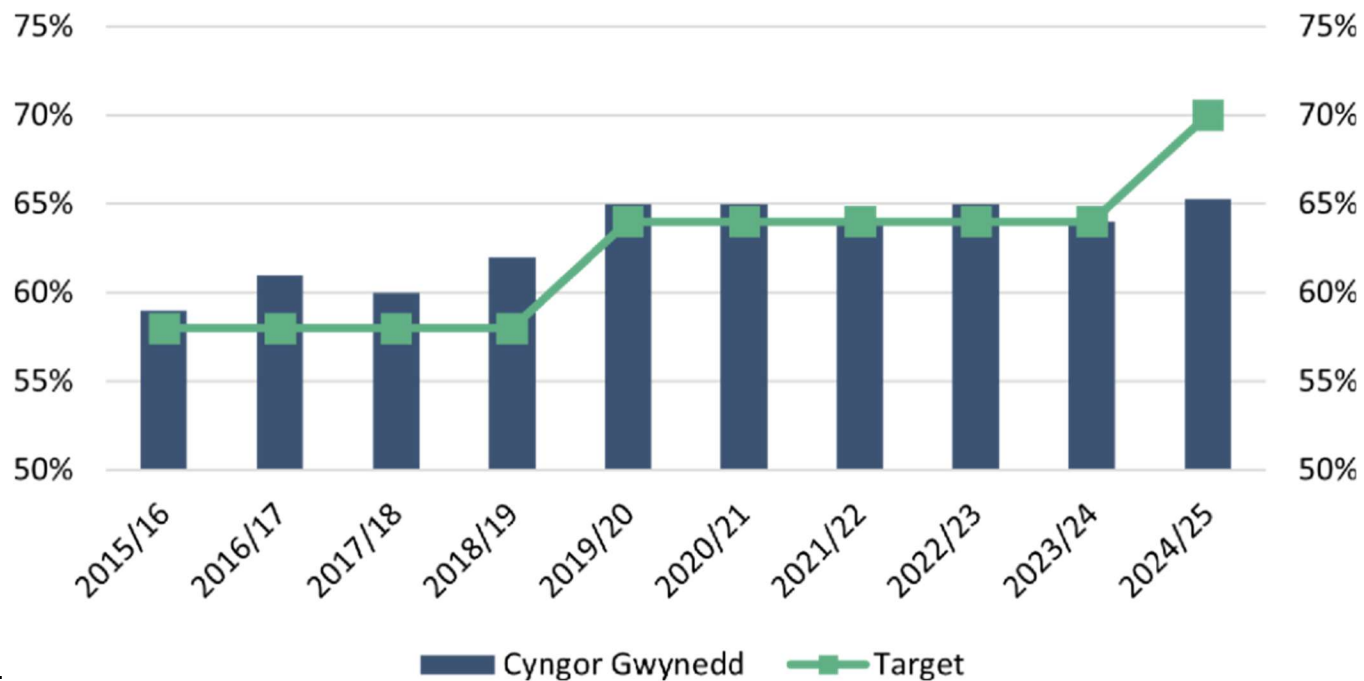
Local context

Recycling performance

The table below shows the recycling performance rate for Gwynedd between 2015 to 2024. The Welsh Government statutory recycling targets are now set at 70% with potential fines for councils that fail to meet this target. Our current rate of 65.3% means that should we fail to increase our recycling rate to 70%, Gwynedd could have to pay significant fines for every tonne that is under the target rate

We therefore need to take action to increase our recycling rate and ensure that Gwynedd reaches the 70% target and avoid these fines

Cyngor Gwynedd Recycling Performance

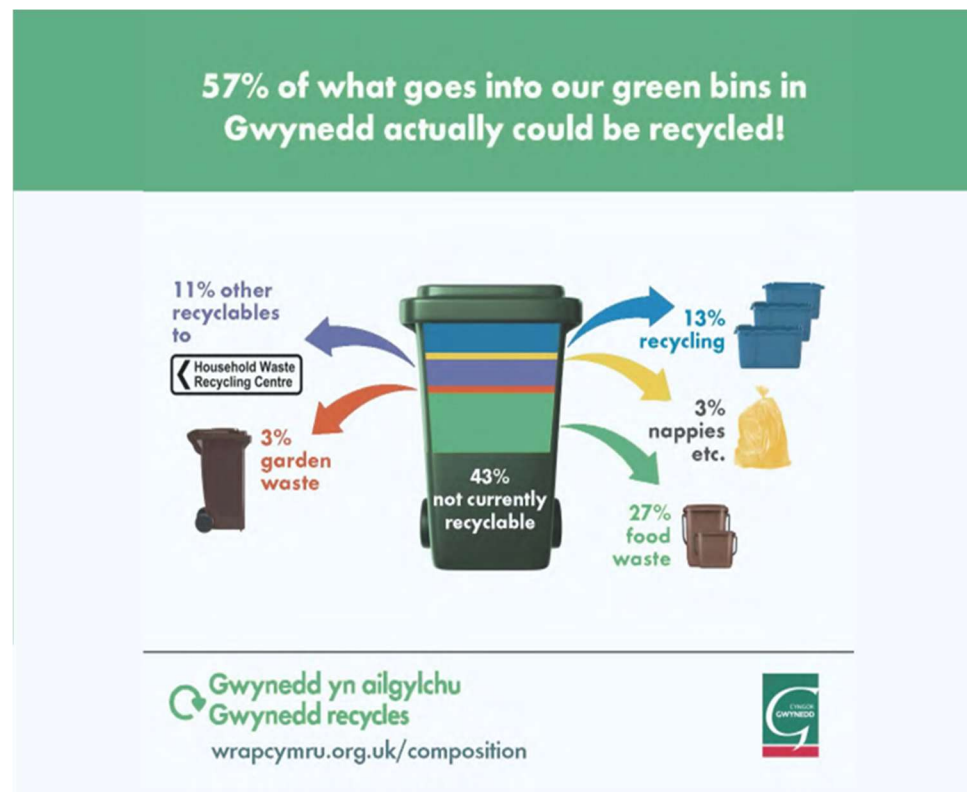


Composition of non-recyclable waste in Gwynedd

A national study by WRAP Cymru in 2023 found that 57% of the materials that Gwynedd households disposed of in their green bin or black sacks could be recycled using existing services provided by Cyngor Gwynedd. The breakdown of the materials in the non-recyclable green bin/black sacks can be seen in the diagram below. The largest proportion of this waste stream was food waste which represented 27% of non-recyclable waste bin.

Disposing of recyclable material in the non-recyclable waste bin not only means that valuable resources are lost but also contributes to the release of greenhouse gas emissions, an unnecessary cost to dispose of this material and a potential loss in sales income from recyclable materials.

Each tonne of waste sent for disposal typically releases between 0.7 and 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), with this including the emissions from burning plastics, wood, paper, and food. Too much valuable material is being disposed of and as part of this strategy we want to work with households to focus on diverting and collecting more recyclable materials from the non-recyclable bin to support our aims to increase our recycling rate to above 70% and beyond ensuring that only items that cannot be recycled are discarded into the green bin.



Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28

The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 outlines the vision and priorities for the council, with the delivery of several priorities linked to the waste and recycling service, which includes:

- A Green Gwynedd - supporting a reduction in carbon emissions, ensuring the service is prepared and resilient for the effects of climate change, as well as committing to the introduction of a new waste and recycling strategy to increase the county's recycling level to meet the national target of 70% by 2025.
- A Prosperous Gwynedd – supporting sustainable tourism for the benefit of communities, collaborating with partners to help promote and develop a more sustainable visitor economy.
- An Efficient Gwynedd – supporting the council in making the best use of all financial resources, including the impact of budget cuts.

Climate and Nature Emergency Plan

Our Waste and Recycling Strategy will look to support this ambition in the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan throughout, whether it be addressing operational carbon emissions through starting to electrify our fleet, or to the wider impacts resource consumption has on society, such as minimising the food we waste.

Our ambition for mainstreaming more repair and reuse within the county by supporting borrowing and repair café's is a key step in lessening Gwynedd's contribution to the climate and nature emergencies.

Financial

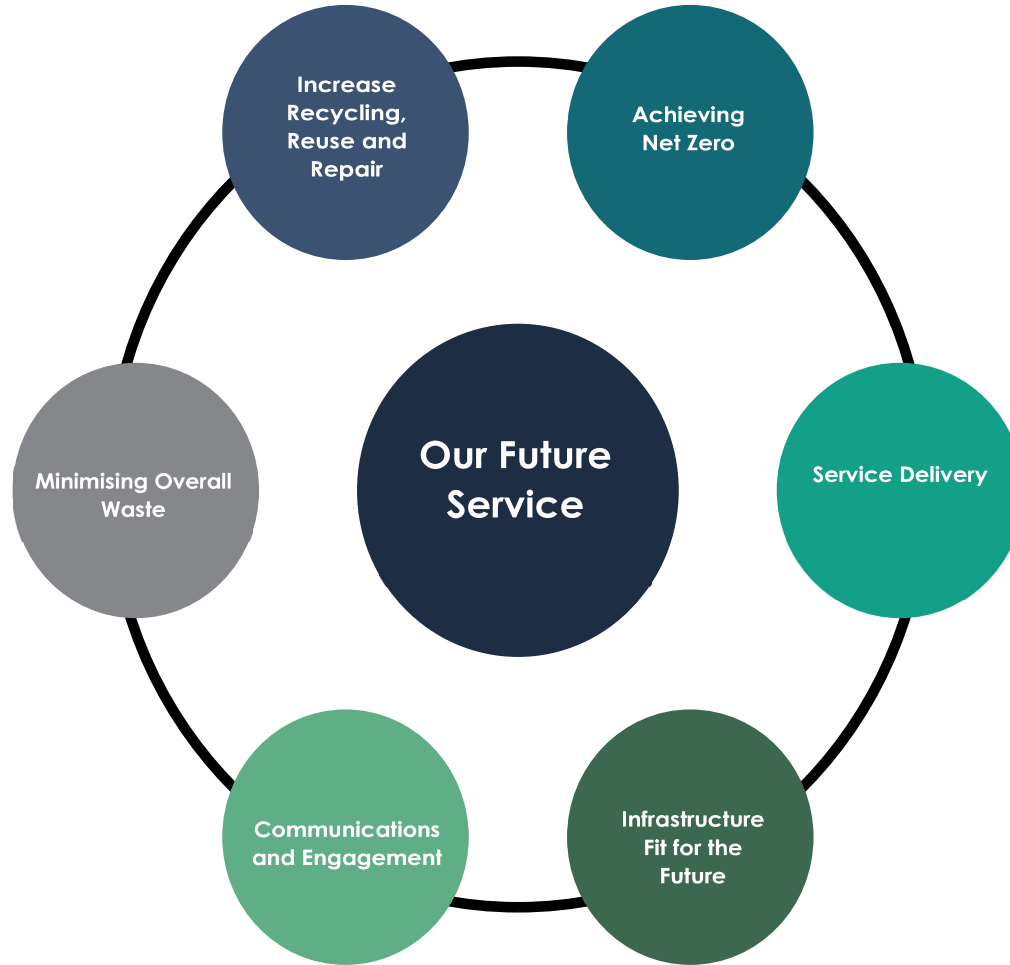
The cost of running all our council Services are increasing annually, leading to tough choices to balance the budget. Local authority budgets are getting tighter each year, so we need to find more savings. In waste and recycling, we must find ways to be more efficient and increase revenue while managing financial risks from not meeting recycling targets or emissions trading costs. This strategy aims to reduce these financial risks and find ways to boost our income whilst also delivering a comprehensive service such as maximising the potential of payments from the packaging EPR fund by ensuring our waste and recycling service is efficient and effective and meets the required standard to avoid penalties.

Waste infrastructure and fleet

The waste transfer stations in Harlech and Caernarfon play a vital role in our work to collect and process waste and recycling. As the demand for efficient and environmentally friendly treatment increases, it is essential that these sites are upgraded to meet modern standards. These improvements will enable the handling of more recyclable materials, strengthening our ability to operate a net-zero-carbon service that supports a local and sustainable circular economy.

We have nearly 60 heavy-goods vehicles and another 40 vehicles in our fleet. We need to find ways to reduce or eliminate emissions from these vehicles while still providing effective services.

Our future service needs to be delivered against the agreed objectives. The following key drivers align with each of these objectives and provide the additional detail for a delivery plan to be formulated alongside the strategy.



4. Key objective 1: Communications and engagement

Effective engagement with the residents, businesses and communities of Gwynedd is essential to achieving our strategic objectives. To reduce waste, increase recycling rates and lessen our environmental impact, cooperation and commitment from everyone is required. Only through collective effort can we create a sustainable service that contributes to a net-zero future for the county.

Key Objective 1 focuses on developing an effective communication and engagement plan to support residents, workplaces and communities as they transition to a more resource-efficient and sustainable economy that contributes to a net-zero carbon future for Gwynedd.

Proactive engagement and communication with residents

We will develop an annual communication and engagement plan that will:

- Set out key activities and events.
- Identify the main messages and promotional themes.
- Explain how we will reach residents and businesses across the county.

The consultation showed that 80% of Gwynedd residents rely on the Cyngor Gwynedd website or app for information about collections and recyclable materials. While the website received relatively positive feedback, the app and our social media channels received more mixed responses. It was also noted that communication preferences vary significantly between age groups, confirming that there is no single communication method that suits everyone — whether printed or digital.

However, one clear message emerged: there is a need for clear, simple and accessible communication, with guidance specifically targeted at those who are not currently recycling, households that produce excessive waste, and residents who do not use social media. This highlights the need for a varied and inclusive communication approach that reaches every part of the community.

Engagement methods with residents

- Face-to-face visits through door-knocking.
- Roadshows and community events.
- The Council website and social media channels. Ongoing communication campaigns on food waste, including education programmes in schools.
- Using surveys, feedback and focus groups to measure impact and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Promoting national campaigns such as Love Food, Hate Waste.

- Using technology to support key messages and resolve issues on site.
- Working with community groups to improve waste management and increase recycling.
- Ensuring that our messages are clear, accessible and simple, and appropriately targeted wherever practical.

Kerbside Collection Service

We are committed to ensuring that residents and businesses clearly understand which materials can be recycled.

We will:

- Use data to identify low-performing areas and carry out targeted engagement campaigns.
- Empower collection crews to identify households or workplaces that need additional support.
- Work with Bangor University to improve engagement with students and raise awareness of the service.

Recycling Centres

Our recycling centres are a key part of the service, especially for items that cannot be collected at the kerbside.

Feedback from the consultation about our recycling centres was generally positive. However, several constructive suggestions were raised, including the need to review the booking system, improve access for residents without transport, and give further consideration to opening hours.

We will:

- Train staff to provide clear advice on sorting, reuse and recycling.
- Communicate clearly about any new measures, such as opening bags to improve sorting.
- Improve signage and visual communication to reduce any ambiguity.
- Review the accessibility of the centres, including options such as a 'quiet hour'.
- Look for opportunities to improve health and safety and increase the range of materials that can be recycled.

Tourism

A thriving local economy is essential to making Gwynedd an attractive place to live, work and visit. As one of the most popular tourism destinations in the UK, Gwynedd received around 7.8 million visitors in 2022, compared with a permanent population of 117,400. While tourism contributes significantly to the county's economy, the high number of seasonal visitors places substantial pressure on our waste-management systems.

During the peak season, from March to October, when visitor numbers more than double, the total waste collected through the Council's commercial collection service increases by almost 70%. As a result, it is vital that we provide a commercial service capable of responding to this increased demand in an efficient, sustainable way that complies with the Workplace Recycling Regulations.

We are committed to supporting tourism businesses to increase their recycling rates and manage their waste more effectively. Our aim is to ensure full compliance with current legislative requirements and upcoming policy changes, while providing clear and practical support to businesses at every stage of the journey.

To achieve this, we will:

- Empower our collection crews to proactively engage with businesses, highlighting the services available and the opportunities to improve recycling and reuse.
- Ensure that the commercial service is accessible, simple and efficient, reflecting the high standards of public service in Gwynedd.
- Promote responsible waste-management practices that support our wider ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and improve environmental sustainability.

By working closely with local businesses, particularly within the tourism sector, we can ensure that the increase in seasonal waste is managed effectively, contributing to a waste and recycling service that reflects the very best of Gwynedd.

Enforcement

Every individual and every workplace has a responsibility to manage their waste in a sustainable way. We will work proactively to engage with households and businesses, providing appropriate support when they face challenges with this process.

Where residents, despite support and guidance, fail or refuse to manage their waste effectively, we will implement a three-stage enforcement process that is fair, proportionate and compliant with statutory requirements. This process will include:

- Sending an information leaflet to explain the requirements and expectations.
- Issuing a formal warning letter if no improvement is seen.
- Using the statutory powers available under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 46, including issuing Fixed Penalty Notices where appropriate.

Our aim is to achieve compliance through education and support first, using enforcement only when necessary to protect the fairness and sustainability of the service.

5. Key objective 2: Reduce, reuse and repair

In line with delivering Strategic Objective 2, our ambition is to reduce general waste and increase reuse and repair in order to support a local circular economy that is green, efficient and sustainable. This requires managing resources in accordance with the waste hierarchy, shifting away from disposal and encouraging residents and businesses to reduce, reuse or repair products wherever possible. By extending the lifespan of items and preventing unnecessary waste, we can reduce our carbon footprint and strengthen the environmental resilience of the county. Below is an outline of our key aims to support this transition.

Reducing General Waste

The consultation showed that 98% of respondents recognise that reducing waste is important, but 69% stated that they do not know how to do more or that they need more information.

In addition, 20% said that the presence of non-recyclable materials is a barrier to reducing waste, while 18% expressed concerns about the high levels of packaging being produced. Although behaviour change plays a key role in reducing waste and encouraging recycling, behaviour change alone is not sufficient to deliver the transformation required. It is essential to implement structural measures and national interventions to address the systemic factors that influence waste generation, such as product design, packaging, and the infrastructure available to support reuse and repair.

By combining behaviour change with structural changes, we can create a waste system that is more efficient, sustainable, and enables residents and businesses to make the right choices more easily.

To respond to these challenges, we will:

- Reduce the amount of general waste produced per person — currently around 300kg per household — through collaboration, encouragement and sharing messages such as “let us help you prepare”.
- Target food waste, which accounts for around 27% of residual household waste. We will work closely with residents to raise awareness of the environmental and financial benefits of reducing food waste, promoting positive behaviour change. We will also address the barriers that prevent people from recycling food — such as concerns about odours — and encourage small, practical changes that can make a significant difference over time.

Reducing food waste in the residual stream would be one of the most effective opportunities to reduce the total amount of material placed in the green bin and to lower our carbon emissions. This is because:

- Recyclable food waste is processed at the GwyrAD anaerobic digestion facility in Gwynedd, generating renewable energy.
- Non-recyclable waste is transported to the Parc Adfer energy-from-waste facility in Flintshire, creating additional emissions from transport and treatment.
- By reducing this waste, we can lower disposal costs, reduce carbon emissions and build a waste system that is more efficient and more sustainable.

Increasing Reuse and Repair

Our ambition is to develop and support reuse and repair hubs that use materials coming directly from our Recycling Centres. To do this successfully, it is essential that these facilities are strategically located, operate on a sustainable commercial basis, and offer good-quality items at fair prices, while being accessible to everyone in our communities.

A number of ideas have already been identified in our Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, and we are building on these by considering additional initiatives to promote reuse and repair across the county.

This work will include:

- Exploring the possibility of opening a reuse shop at a Recycling Centre or in a town-centre location. We will continue to seek partnership arrangements, internally or externally, with organisations that have the skills, experience and social value to operate this initiative effectively.
- Promoting water refill locations across Gwynedd to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles.
- Continuing to promote the use of reusable nappies, including providing starter packs to new families.
- Engaging with and supporting households and businesses to reduce their waste and increase reuse opportunities.
- Increasing the amount of bulky waste that is reused rather than sent for disposal or recycling only.
- Developing 'drop-off' points or reuse shops for items coming through the Recycling Centres. While recycling is important, reducing, repairing and reusing are higher-priority steps in the waste hierarchy.
- Developing a specific communication approach for students, particularly during move-in and move-out periods between academic terms, to ensure sustainable waste management in student areas.
- Working with other departments on initiatives such as lending libraries, food hubs and repair cafés, strengthening the local infrastructure for a circular economy.

Key objective 3: Increase recycling

In line with delivering Strategic Objective 3, our aim is to ensure full compliance with the Welsh Government target to recycle, reuse and compost 70% of waste by 2025.

To achieve this, we will focus on diverting the 57% of materials currently placed in the non-recyclable waste bin which are, in fact, suitable for recycling through our comprehensive weekly kerbside collection service.

Disposing of recyclable materials through the general waste stream not only leads to unnecessary costs, but also means losing opportunities to recover valuable resources that can be recycled, contributing to a local circular economy and generating income for the service.

To ensure that recyclable materials are not disposed of incorrectly, we have set the following objectives to collect and recycle more materials from households and businesses.

Maximising household recycling

The consultation showed that 84% of respondents recognised the importance of meeting the target of recycling 70% of waste, and 91% agreed that it is important to recycle as much as possible. However, 40% of residents stated that their residual waste bin is full by collection day.

Although many respondents claimed they recycle everything possible, this is contradicted by analysis of the residual waste bin's contents. It is essential for this Strategy to acknowledge the gap between perception and reality, and to address the issue of "hidden waste" — food and recyclable materials that continue to be placed in the green bin.

To increase recycling by households, we will:

- Make recycling from home easier by providing reusable bags for paper, cardboard, plastic and cans, improving organisation and presentation at the kerbside.
- Explore the possibility of collecting additional materials, including flexible plastics, textiles, small electrical items (e.g. kettles, toasters, hairdryers) and household batteries.
- Improve recycling facilities in blocks of flats and shared houses, with the aim of collecting a wider range of materials such as textiles and small waste electrical and electronic equipment (sWEEE), reducing contamination and improving the quality of collected materials.
- Identify flats where improvements are needed by gathering data and conducting research, then developing targeted engagement plans to improve recycling quality in partnership with landlords and housing management agencies.

- We will also work with partners in the higher education sector to improve engagement and understanding among students, collaborating with Bangor University to promote the importance of the recycling service and increase direct engagement and targeted marketing to this demographic.

Since 57% of the materials currently placed in the residual bin are recyclable — including 27% food waste — it is essential that we review how residual waste is managed. We will consider reducing the capacity or frequency of residual waste collections as part of our efforts to encourage more recycling across Gwynedd. This will be done alongside supporting households with a genuine need for additional capacity, ensuring fairness and proportionality.

Although a significant proportion of households reported having space left in their green bin by collection day, the consultation showed opposition to reducing collection frequency. As a result, if we tighten residual waste arrangements, we will do so gradually, based on evidence, and with appropriate support for households.

Additionally, we will ensure we facilitate recycling more effectively by:

- reviewing and providing more suitable containers for households, and
- expanding the range of materials collected at the kerbside, including new materials where practical.

By combining a gradual, evidence-based approach with improvements to the recycling service, our aim is to reduce reliance on the residual waste bin and increase.

Recycling centres

Our ambition is to improve the experience for residents when using our Recycling Centres, increasing the amount of material that is recycled and reducing the amount of recyclable material that is disposed of incorrectly. By improving accessibility, organisation and consistency across the sites, we can strengthen recycling rates and ensure that valuable resources are recovered.

To achieve these aims, we will:

- Reintroduce the practice of opening bags at Recycling Centres in order to separate more recyclable materials, increase recycling rates and prevent items from being unnecessarily thrown away.
- Improve the layout, markings and signage of the sites to ensure they are easy to use and make the process of sorting and recycling simpler for residents.
- Review the provision of reuse shops and drop-off sheds at Recycling Centres, ensuring that residents can donate reusable items easily and confidently.
- Ensure that every site, as a minimum, accepts and can separately store the full range of the following materials: glass, metal, paper, cardboard, wood, green waste, aggregates, soil, plastic packaging, hard plastics, textiles, mattresses, carpets, mineral oil, vegetable oil and reusable items. We will ensure that we can recycle a high proportion of these materials in future, especially wood.
- Provide facilities at at least one site to accept hazardous waste, including Waste and Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), paint and solvents, cement-bonded asbestos and other hazardous household waste.

- Consider accepting specific commercial recycling materials at certain sites where this is practical and sustainable.

By implementing these actions, our aim is to ensure that Gwynedd's Recycling Centres are accessible, easy to use and play a central role in our ambition to create a more efficient and sustainable local circular economy.

Maximising business recycling

We recognise the importance of our local businesses and services to our communities, and we are committed to supporting them to comply with the Workplace Recycling Regulations. The business sector has a key opportunity to contribute to Gwynedd's ambition to be a Net Zero council, improve recycling rates, and increase the amount of valuable materials that are recovered.

A recent survey (March 2026) showed that 58% of recyclable materials are still being placed in residual waste bins by commercial businesses. This represents a loss of resources, unnecessary disposal costs, and a significant opportunity for improvement.

Our aim is to make the transition to a more sustainable and resource-efficient model as simple as possible for businesses across the county. To enable this, we will improve and develop our commercial waste collection service in line with the Workplace Recycling Regulations and commit to recycling much more commercial waste. We will focus on reducing barriers, increasing participation and encouraging the separation of recyclable materials from general waste.

We will achieve this by:

- Proactively engaging with every commercial waste customer to encourage recycling separation, identify barriers and provide tailored support to overcome them.
- Carrying out regular audits and providing guidance, Support and practical Solutions to enable businesses to recycle more.
- Monitor recycling rates by sector and location and targeting poorly performing areas with specific interventions.
- Working with business associations and the chamber of commerce to improve recycling services at commercial sites.
- Launching targeted awareness campaigns on the benefits of recycling and how to do it effectively.
- Supporting commercial sites facing challenges to identify practical solutions that make participation easier and more effective.
- Collecting regular feedback from commercial customers through day-to-day communication and surveys to inform service improvements.
- Ensuring timely and efficient collections, with containers and clear information that meet business needs and enable them to recycle as much as possible.
- Preparing businesses for the expansion of regulations to include the collection of a wider range of materials such as small Electrical items and textiles.
- Exploring the possibility of expanding business access to our Recycling Centres where practical and sustainable.
- Helping businesses reduce their waste, and repair and reuse more items as part of a circular economy approach.

6. Key objective 4: Service delivery

We are committed to providing a high-quality service that offers value for money and meets the needs of our residents and our business customers. Upholding the core values of the service is essential, as we serve our communities and play a key role in their wellbeing. At the same time, we will not hesitate to take advantage of opportunities to drive improvement and innovation in order to strengthen the service further.

Our aim is to ensure high satisfaction rates, a reliable service and a positive experience for everyone who uses our services.

Below we set out our priorities to ensure that we deliver a high-quality service for our customers.

Providing a high-quality waste and recycling service was a top priority among consultation respondents. This Strategy will focus first on ensuring a reliable, high-quality service that residents trust and understand, recognising that this is the key enabler for higher recycling performance and waste reduction.

Ensuring a High-Quality Collection and Recycling Service

To maintain high service standards, we will place greater emphasis on monitoring quality and gathering feedback from our collection crews. Our aim is to ensure that every collection is carried out neatly and efficiently, including picking up any materials that may be dropped during the collection process and leaving areas clean after each visit.

We will:

- Collect bins only with closed lids and accept no side waste. This policy ensures that materials remain in the correct containers, prevents litter on the streets and encourages residents to recycle as much as possible.
- Empower collection staff to identify households or businesses that are struggling to manage their waste, so that proactive and tailored support can be provided.
- Use technology to improve the monitoring of collections, enhance transparency and strengthen operational performance.

Managing and Improving Recycling Centres

To ensure that our Recycling Centres can deliver the objectives set out in this Strategy, it is essential that they are managed effectively and used appropriately by Gwynedd residents. This includes preventing use by individuals who do not live in the county, unless formal arrangements are in place with neighbouring authorities.

We will:

- Improve the use of the booking system, ensuring that only Gwynedd residents use the service. This will help reduce waiting times and enable staff to provide better support to site users.
- Undertake a comprehensive review of the eight existing sites and their opening hours to ensure they are suitable for current and future needs.
- Explore the possibility of introducing a mobile recycling centre, considering affordability within the current financial situation, to improve accessibility and provision in areas where the need is greatest.

7. Key objective 5: Achieving Net Zero

This Strategy sets out Gwynedd’s commitment to supporting the Council’s carbon-emission reduction strategies. Cyngor Gwynedd adopted its Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022, with the ambition that “the Council will be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive”.

We intend for the waste and recycling service to play a central role in this work by introducing the changes that, in our view, reduce carbon emissions and improve the service for the communities we serve. At present, direct waste services contribute almost 10% of the Council’s total carbon emissions (2019/20), making this an important priority area for action.

By transforming the way we prevent, collect and treat waste, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and contribute directly to the Council’s wider goals for nature recovery and tackling the climate emergency.

Transitioning to Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)

To operate the waste collection and processing service in the most efficient and environmentally sustainable way, we are committed to modernising our vehicle fleet. This goal is a key part of our effort to achieve Net Zero Carbon status.

Currently, almost 100 diesel vehicles support the delivery of waste and recycling services across Gwynedd. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve environmental performance, this fleet needs to be gradually replaced with

modern, ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs). As part of this transition, two electric telehandlers have already been introduced to the fleet, marking a positive step towards adopting cleaner technology. This provides a foundation for expanding the use of electric and hybrid vehicles in a strategic and sustainable way.

We will carry out a trial period using ULEV collection vehicles in the north of the county to assess their operational capability in a rural context. The results of the trial will inform decisions about expanding this provision, including working with the Welsh Government to secure appropriate financial support.

To enable a ULEV fleet, suitable charging infrastructure will be required, including overnight charging points. This will form part of our wider infrastructure review, with locations planned strategically to ensure the best possible range and efficient connectivity with collection routes and disposal sites.

Improving the Efficiency of Collection Routes

We will use asset-management software to monitor and optimise service efficiency, including tracking missed collections. This will help us reduce unnecessary carbon emissions from our current fleet and identify opportunities to improve routes and operational performance.

Investing in Renewable Energy

To deliver a service that moves towards carbon neutrality, we recognise the need to explore every opportunity to reduce carbon emissions. Our buildings and land holdings offer significant potential to support this transition by generating renewable energy to power service infrastructure and potentially contribute energy to the local grid.

As part of our infrastructure review, we will carry out feasibility studies on existing and potential future sites to explore the use of renewable energy sources, such as photovoltaic solar panels. We will work closely with the Welsh Government Energy Service to realise this ambition where practical and sustainable.

By investing in renewable energy, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, lower long-term operating costs, and contribute directly to the Council's wider goal of being net-zero carbon and ecologically positive.

Restoring and Transforming Landfill Sites in Gwynedd

We will continue to support the transformation work already underway at two former landfill sites in Gwynedd: Llwyn Isaf and Ffridd Rasmus.

These sites are examples of how land previously used for landfill can be restored to create rich natural habitats that contribute to biodiversity and to our commitment to be Net Zero.

Llwyn Isaf

Llwyn Isaf consists of two areas that were filled with waste during the early 1980s, with a total of around 600,000 tonnes

of household and commercial waste. The site also includes 32 acres of improved grassland.

Significant restoration work has transformed the area:

- The wet meadow on the surface of the landfill has been expanded, enhanced and enriched, creating a habitat that supports a wide range of wildlife.
- 15,000 trees and shrubs have been planted, along with extended hedgerows, creating a connected mosaic habitat across the site.
- Four new ponds and wetland areas have been created, leading to a substantial increase in aquatic species.
- The wildflower meadow provides a productive habitat for pollinating insects and small mammals.
- A significant number of bat and bird boxes have been installed across the site, strengthening the natural habitat.

Ffridd Rasmus

Ffridd Rasmus consists of two closed landfill sites that began receiving waste in 1981, with a total of around 1.26 million tonnes of household and commercial waste. The site borders an area of 79 acres of rare acid grassland, a habitat of high ecological importance.

Restoration work has included:

- Planting over 5,000 trees, creating a variety of habitats across the landfill surface.
- Developing around 40 acres of wildflower meadow and mixed scrub habitat.

- Creating a series of large, connected ponds in the drainage lagoon, lined with dry slate waste. As there was previously no standing water on the site, this has led to a dramatic increase in aquatic life and measurable biodiversity gains.

- Installing bat and bird boxes across the site, including a nesting platform for ospreys on the western boundary. We will continue to support the work that has already been done to transform two former landfill sites in Gwynedd at Llwyn Isaf and Ffridd Rasmus.

8. Key objective 6: Infrastructure for the future

Investing in Our Waste Infrastructure to Meet Future Needs

Our current infrastructure plays a central role in supporting our operations to store, treat and dispose of waste and to bulk-recycle materials. This network includes:

- Four vehicle depots, where waste and recycling collection vehicles are kept overnight.
- Two waste transfer stations in Caernarfon and Harlech, along with the use of a private transfer site for waste and recycling from households, workplaces and Recycling Centres before being sent on for processing.
- Caerylchu, a materials recycling facility established in 2005 in partnership with Antur Waunfawr and Cwmni Gwastraff Môn-Arfon Cyf. The facility processes around 15,000 tonnes of paper, plastic, cans and cardboard every year, but we recognise that it is now operating at capacity.
- GwyrAD Biogen, an 11,500-tonne anaerobic digestion facility at Llwyn Isaf, which processes food waste from homes and businesses to produce valuable fertiliser (digestate) and enough renewable electricity to power over 700 homes each year.
- Eight Recycling Centres across the county for household waste.
- Three closed landfill sites at Cilgwyn, Ffridd Rasmus and Llwyn Isaf, where we have worked with Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government to create new ecological habitats.

Challenges and Ambitions for the Future

In the consultation survey, 76% of respondents said that treating and processing waste locally is important, with clear support for the local economic benefits that result from this.

This Strategy aims to collect and recycle a wider range of materials, as well as increasing the volume of those materials. In addition, we must meet our target of becoming Net Zero carbon.

To achieve this, it is essential that we modernise our existing infrastructure to ensure it is:

- able to cope with increased capacity,
- compliant with licensing and regulatory requirements,
- supportive of the transition to a net-zero-carbon service, and
- capable of enabling a more efficient, reliable and integrated service.

Our Commitment to Investment

To support the strategic aims of this Strategy, we will seek to invest in our waste infrastructure to ensure it is fit for the future.

This will enable us to:

- provide an effective service,
- comply with legislative and regulatory requirements,
- improve environmental performance, and
- achieve the objectives set out in this Strategy.

Waste Transfer Stations

- Investing in redeveloping the Harlech and Caernarfon waste transfer stations to ensure they are suitable for receiving the expected increase in the volume and types of materials in the future, comply with modern licensing requirements, and maintain material quality to secure the best possible income prices.
- Redeveloping our infrastructure to enable us to decarbonise our operations, ensuring it supports ultra-low-emission vehicles and exploring opportunities to use solar farms to power our operations directly where practical.
- Embedding energy-saving measures when redeveloping sites, ensuring our facilities are more efficient and contribute to our net-zero targets.
- Adapting existing and future sites so they are resilient to the impacts of climate change, including reducing risks associated with extreme heat or excess water.

- Exploring innovation and the use of technology to make our processing sites as efficient and effective as possible, improving operational performance and increasing the capacity to treat materials sustainably.

Recycling Centres

- Making it easier for residents to donate items for reuse at our Recycling Centres and expanding our partnerships with local organisations to recover and redirect reusable items.
- Reviewing the provision of our Recycling Centres to ensure an effective and efficient service that increases recycling rates. This will include improving accessibility, layout and consistent signage to enhance the customer experience. The review may also consider alternative ways of delivering the service, such as introducing mobile recycling centres where appropriate and practical infrastructure fit for the future

9. Monitoring and evaluation

We want to ensure that our strategy provides for the people of Gwynedd and sets a pathway for future services. We recognise that there is a great deal of work to do if we are to operate more effectively. Our delivery plan will seek to build on our existing strengths but also address the areas we need to develop. We will commit to an annual programme of evaluation and monitoring that will assess the performance of the strategy against the agreed measures.

The main aim of this strategy is to clearly set out the principles and key ambitions that the Gwynedd recycling and waste team will deliver.

It is a blueprint that conveys how ambitious we intend to be in providing a service that meets the challenges of achieving a 70% recycling target and becoming a net-zero service. The only way we can achieve that ambition and make a strong contribution to tackling the climate and nature emergencies for future generations is by encouraging creative and innovative solutions to the challenges we currently face.

Statutory and Strategic Performance Framework of the Waste Strategy

This performance framework defines the key measures that will guide, monitor and govern the delivery of the Waste Strategy. It provides a clear link between statutory compliance, financial sustainability, service performance and carbon reduction, ensuring that the Strategy is robust, measurable and accountable.

1. Core Measures and Outcomes (Statutory and Strategic)

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Definition / Measure	Main Risks	Opportunities if Achieved	Cost Impact	Contribution to target
Household Recycling Rate (%)	Percentage of household waste that is recycled, reused or composted	Statutory fines (£600k–£750k per year), loss of public confidence, reputational risk	Avoiding fines; strengthening funding case; increasing public confidence	↓ disposal costs; ↑ EPR income	Maintain $\geq 70\%$ by 2026 and throughout the Strategy period to 2030
Residual Waste per Household (kg/household/year)	Kg of residual (black bin) waste per household per year	Increased exposure to ETS; higher treatment and disposal costs; higher carbon emissions	Supports corporate decarbonisation targets; reduces reliance on EfW; long-term savings	↓ EfW and ETS costs	Reduce from around 300kg to ≤ 250 kg per household by 2030.

2. Measures that drive the 70% target – The plans below are expected to contribute a minimum of 6.5pt towards the 70% recycling target

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Definition / Measure	Main Risks	Opportunities if Achieved	Cost Impact	Contribution to target
Reducing Recyclable Materials in Residual Waste	Reduce the proportion of recyclable materials in residual waste from 57% to ≤35%.	Structural failure to reach 70%.	Clear evidence base for service change; increased recycling income; reduced costs.	↓ ETS and EfW costs; ↑ income	Increase recyclable materials by 12%.
Food Waste Capture Rate of 25%	Percentage of food waste captured compared with WRAP composition.	Loss of AD value; high-carbon disposal.	Improve efficiency and local value of GwyrAD.	↓ EFW and ETS costs; ↑ AD efficiency	Capture >80% of available food waste.
Reduce Waste Generated by 12%	Reduce residual bin capacity to 60L per week.	Structural failure to reach 70%; resistance to change.	Waste prevention and capacity limits drive behaviour change and sustain high performance.	↓ ETS and EfW costs	12% reduction in waste sent to the Recovery Park by 2030..
Commercial Recycling & Business Compliance	Percentage of businesses complying with separation requirements and the commercial recycling rate.	Business non-compliance leading to enforcement pressure and income loss.	Clear evidence base for service change.	↑ income; ↓ disposal	Increase commercial recycling from ~47% to ≥60%.
Street Waste Recycling	Percentage of street waste that is recycled.	Structural failure to reach 70%	Clear evidence base for service change.	↓ ETS and EfW costs	Recycle 50% of street bin waste, contributing up to 1%.

Soft Plastics Collection	Percentage of soft plastics captured through separate collection.	Structural failure to reach 70%; public pressure.	Helps divert waste from residual bin.	↓ ETS and EfW costs.	Capture >80% of soft plastics by 2028; ≥1% contribution.
Opening Black Bags at Recycling Centres	Percentage of residual waste at HWRCs identified as recyclable and diverted.	Structural failure to reach 70%.	Clear evidence base for service change.	↓ ETS and EfW costs.	Recycle ≥85% of waste; ≥1% contribution.
Developing New Recycling Markets (Wood & Mattresses)	Percentage of wood and mattresses recycled or reused.	Structural failure to reach 70%; recycling market behaviour.	Clear evidence base for service change.	↑ contribution to statutory target; ↓ disposal costs.	Recycle ≥50% of wood by 2028; ≥1.5% contribution.

** not part of this Strategy

3. Service and Customer Performance Measures

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Definition / Measure	Main Risks	Opportunities if Achieved	Cost Impact	Contribution to target
Missed Collections	Missed bins per 100,000 collections	Complaints; erosion of trust	Increase participation and compliance	↓ complaints ↓ re-collection costs	≤60 missed collections per 100,000 by 2027
Financial Sustainability	Delivering the service within budget and enabling investment and change	Overspend	Shift from “cost control” to managing long-term financial risks	Savings opportunities	Achieve a budget-neutral financial position by 2028 through efficiency, income and cost reduction
Commercial Customer Growth	Number of active commercial customers and retention rate	Losing market share to the private sector	Economies of scale	↑ net income	Increase the number of businesses with commercial contracts

4. Circular Economy and Reuse Measures

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Definition / Measure	Main Risks	Opportunities if Achieved	Cost Impact	Contribution to target
Reuse Tonnage	Tonnes of waste diverted to reuse per 1,000 households through HWRCs, community partnerships and third-sector initiatives	Loss of social value	Job creation; community benefit	↓ disposal costs; ↑ social value	High carbon benefit
Number of Reuse / Repair Initiatives	Number of active reuse and repair initiatives, with impact measures (tonnes, jobs, volunteers)	Fragmented provision	Increased visibility of the circular economy	Low cost / High impact	Cultural change

5. Carbon and Cost Management Measures

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Definition / Measure	Main Risks	Opportunities if Achieved	Cost Impact	Contribution to target
Carbon Emissions from Waste	tCO ₂ e emissions per tonne of waste collected and processed	Failure to meet Net Zero target	Funding leverage; leadership	↓ fuel	Low Carbon Service
Low/Zero-Emission Vehicle Fleet (ULEV) (%)	Percentage of the fleet that is low- or zero-emission, with interim milestones	Fuel price instability	Long-term savings	↓ fuel and maintenance costs	Low Carbon Service

6. Infrastructure Improvement Measures

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Definition / Measure	Main Risks	Opportunities if Achieved	Cost Impact	Contribution to target
Improving Waste Processing Infrastructure	Percentage of waste-processing capacity that fully complies with legislative, operational and future requirements	Failure to comply with legislation; loss of income; dependence on external funding	Innovation with AI	↑ high investment	Ensure Ffridd Rasmus and Caerylchu are fit for purpose



Cyngor
Gwynedd

Appendix 2 – Table showing EPR commitments by year.

****It should be noted that these are currently estimates, and further work will be required to refine them and agree the final costs and provisions.**

Summary of EPR Costs and Funding (2026–2030)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
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Category 1: Items requiring provision “just in case”

Core Grants and Funding:

EPR Grant	3,713,054	4,807,530	4,807,530	4,807,530	4,807,530
Loss of SWMG Grant (no provision required at present)	-	-	-	-	-
Carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)	-			-800,000	-800,000
EPR available (if ETS funding gap is covered)	3,713,054	4,807,530	4,807,530	4,007,530	4,007,530

Fine Provision:

Fine provision budget (do nothing scenario)	-610,000	-610,000	-610,000	-610,000	-610,000
Savings from delivering improvement schemes:					
Waste reduction scheme			138,400	276,800	276,800
Increase food tonnage by 25%				41,500	41,500
Increase recycling from businesses			27,800	55,600	55,600
Improved recycling of wood and mattresses		195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000
Recycling 50% of street waste			58,500	117,000	117,000
Opening black bags at HWRCs		83,200	83,200	83,200	83,200
Collection of soft plastics			18,300	73,200	73,200
Other		18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
		296,200	539,200	860,300*	860,300*
EPR available (if fines funding gap is covered)	3,103,054	4,493,730	4,736,730	4,007,530	4,007,530

*No fine

Category 2: Delivering the Waste and Recycling Strategy 2025–2030

Costs to reach the 70% recycling target:

Costau gweithredu (yn flynyddol)					
Waste reduction scheme		200,000	200,000		
Promotion, engagement and enforcement		200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Increase food tonnage by 25%		75,000	75,000		
Increase recycling from businesses		75,000	75,000		
Improved recycling of wood and mattresses		150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Recycling 50% of street waste			75,000	150,000	150,000
Opening black bags at HWRCs		-	-	-	-
Collection of soft plastics			650,000	650,000	650,000
Nappy recycling		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Total costs		775,000	1,500,000	1,225,000	1,225,000

Investment to maintain existing sites:

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Match funding – Dolgellau HWRC		21,750			
Match funding – Pwllheli HWRC		31,750			
Site maintenance costs	386,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Improvements to processing (machinery)	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	-
Changes to site permits		50,000	50,000	50,000	
Fleet decarbonisation				500,000	500,000
Improvements to waste depots		250,000			
Upgrade works at Ffridd Rasmus and Caeryglchu (if new site developments do not proceed)			960,000**		
Total cost of other commitments	1,386,000	1,603,500	300,000	800,000	750,000

Category 3: Co-Investment Fund for Future Sites (Caernarfon and Harlech)

Future Sites Co-Investment Fund	1,247,574*	2,115,230	2,936,730**	1,982,530	2,032,530
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*Includes £469,480 to address 2025–26 overspend.

** It is recommended this amount is placed in a fund.

Any unused funding would be retained in the fund.

Equality Impact Assessment

Please refer to the *How to Make an Equality Impact Assessment* sheet for support to complete this form. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708, or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further assistance.

The Council is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the impact that changes in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), will have on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and to foster good relationships. Therefore, a timely Equality Impact Assessment must be completed before a decision is taken on any relevant change (i.e. that affects people with protected characteristics).

I Details

I.1 What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Waste and Recycling Strategy

I.2 What is the purpose of the policy/service that is being created or amended? What changes are being considered?

Six main objectives have been identified in the Strategy.

- How we communicate and engage – one of our main strategic objectives is to ensure that residents, businesses and the wider community understand and engage with our objectives. It is impossible for us to achieve our objectives in isolation as Cyngor Gwynedd, and we will need the help and dedication of every resident and business in Gwynedd to support us in achieving the vision. We will lead the way by putting in place a communication and engagement plan, and assess the effectiveness of our campaigns and adapt following feedback and data analysis. We will also empower crews to identify properties that are struggling to recycle, improve accessibility and train site workers at our Recycling Centres, reinforce our Commercial Waste business, and consider enforcement under the powers of the Environmental Protection Act.
- Reduce waste, reuse and repair – we need to manage our waste in line with the waste hierarchy, reducing the waste we generate and moving towards a circular economy mindset. We will use our Recycling Centres as a hub to promote the reuse and repair of materials.
- Increasing Recycling – we must meet the national target of recycling 70% of our waste. There is a threat that we could face fines for missing the target, but a recent analysis has

shown that 57% of the waste in the green bin can be recycled. The recyclable materials in the green bin are costly to incinerate but they also contain fossil-based materials that release unnecessary carbon emissions. We will be looking at reducing the weekly capacity of the green bin [collection frequency] in order to encourage more recycling and we will consider offering facilities to be able to recycle more materials. We will work with businesses through the Commercial Waste side to maximise recycling from the workplace and businesses in general.

- Providing a high-quality service – we are passionate that we want to provide the best possible service for our residents and businesses here in Gwynedd and subsequently achieve a high level of satisfaction. We will protect the core services, but we will not be afraid to venture and take opportunities to stimulate progress in this area, such as using the latest technology.
- Achieving net zero – in line with the Council's strategic objectives we will actively reduce our carbon emissions and work towards creating a net zero service. This will mean switching our fleet to zero/low carbon (ULEV), improving the efficiency of our routes, looking for opportunities to install renewable energy at our sites and continuing to invest in the ecology of the old landfill sites.
- Ensuring an infrastructure that is fit for the future – another of our primary objectives for the short term is to improve the quality of our recyclables for the market, and this involves significant investment in our materials handling and processing sites in Harlech and Caernarfon. We will be looking for opportunities to process more of the materials ourselves rather than being too dependent on the private sector and we will improve the accessibility of our Recycling Centres.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Roland Thomas, Assistant Head of Department – Environment Department

1.4 When did you commence the assessment? Which version is this?

Equality considerations have been taken into account during the development of the proposals. These have been incorporated into this assessment, which was first prepared in May 2025 and subsequently updated following the public consultation.

2) Implementation

2.1 Who are the partners it will be necessary to work with to undertake this assessment?

Waste and Recycling Service

2.2 What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either due to location or due to need), who are living with a socio-economic disadvantage?

Public consultation during October and November 2025

2.3 What was the outcome of the engagement?

Approval was granted by the Cabinet on 10/06/2025 to proceed to public consultation on the Strategy. The consultation was held between October and November 2025 and received 1,266 responses.

The survey could be completed on paper or online, with easy-read versions also provided. The consultation was promoted through press releases, prominent messages on the Council's website on relevant pages, and a series of posts on the corporate social media accounts. Cards were distributed to users of the recycling centres to promote the survey, information was cascaded to key stakeholders, and several drop-in sessions were held in community venues (libraries and leisure centres) to encourage participation.

The responses were analysed by CRS/WRAP using a systematic approach to identify key themes, levels of support, and areas of concern or improvement. The sample provided good representation of the population in terms of location and demographics, although some age and gender differences were noted.

2.4 On the basis of what other evidence are you acting?

A report on the progress made on the work at the Waste and Recycling Service was submitted to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 12/09/2024. The summary of the presentation was that "the Department has acted on a number of matters and has seen progress on various projects in the past two years. The Department has produced a detailed programme of work to enable us to further review some areas and propose solutions to ensure that the Waste and Recycling field offers efficient, high-quality and safe services, and that we continue to meet the Welsh Government's ambitious recycling targets over the coming years. We are quietly confident that we are heading in the right direction and that we can demonstrate improvement in the services.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be gathered?

No

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 The Council must give due regard to the impact that any changes will have on people with the following equality characteristics. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes have on people with these characteristics? You are welcome to add other characteristics if you wish.

Characteristics	What type of impact? *	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	None	<p>We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended. However, we will make sure that our correspondence and messages are clear enough (and include enough images) to ensure that our messages are understood by our residents for whom Welsh or English is not their first language.</p> <p>Some people of different nationalities naturally live within properties that house extended families. There are 3,143 (6.1%) residents living in households with 5 or more people. We will assess these homes to ensure that the number and volume of the equipment is adequate. This applies to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).</p>
The Welsh language	None	<p>We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended. We will continue to ensure that signage, messages and any new software are bilingual.</p>
Disability	None	<p>We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended.</p> <p>We will continue to provide an Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) collection service and continue to offer back-door collections. In addition, the bulky waste collection service exists.</p> <p>We will take account of the fact that our population is ageing and may develop conditions that define them as disabled (e.g. dementia). We will try to ensure that our messages are as easy as possible to follow, and that our recycling system also remains straightforward.</p> <p>We will listen if a larger bin or additional equipment is needed for paper and cardboard for medical waste that may be produced.</p> <p>While it is our wish that our residents use hessian sacks for recycling, we will continue to offer the trolley system to those who are unable to carry or use the sacks.</p>

		<p>Different collection days may cause complexity for people who have memory problems or who are suffering with their mental health, and we will do our best to try to alleviate this through consistent and clear communication.</p> <p>People who are blind, partially sighted, or colour-blind may have problems distinguishing between hessian sacks, and we will consult with this group before choosing colours and ensure that there are clear images on the sack to distinguish between types of waste.</p> <p>We will consider enforcement if bins are left on the pavement for a long time after the collection has taken place. We do not want our equipment to be an obstruction for people in wheelchairs or blind people using pavements.</p> <p>We will consider a "quiet hour" at our recycling centres where older people or people with disabilities will be able to come to our sites without having to book a slot.</p> <p>There is a risk that disabled people may struggle to separate their waste for recycling and may therefore generate excessive waste. If a resident is identified as unable to separate their waste, additional support will be provided.</p>
Sex	None	<p>We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended.</p> <p>Our communication and engagement activities will use inclusive language, avoiding discrimination on the basis of gender identity</p>
Age	None	<p>We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended.</p> <p>We will continue to provide an Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) collection service and continue to offer back-door collections. In addition, the bulky waste collection service exists.</p> <p>We know that 11% of the population of Gwynedd is over the age of 75 today and so we will try to ensure that our messages are as easy as possible to follow, and that our recycling system also remains straightforward</p> <p>We will listen if a larger bin or additional equipment is needed for paper and cardboard for medical waste that may be produced.</p> <p>While it is our wish that our residents use hessian sacks for recycling, we will continue to offer the trolley system to those who are unable to carry or use the sacks.</p>

		<p>Different collection days may cause complexity for older people who have memory problems, and we will do our best to try to alleviate this through consistent and clear communication.</p> <p>We will consider a "quiet hour" at our recycling centres where older people will be able to come to our sites without having to book a slot.</p> <p>There is a risk that some elderly people may struggle to separate their waste for recycling and therefore may produce excessive waste. If a resident is identified as unable to separate their waste, additional support will be provided.</p> <p>We will ensure that our communication strategy is aimed at residents of all ages in our society, including targeting schools – 20% of Gwynedd residents today are under the age of 18.</p> <p>There is a risk of "<i>wishcycling</i>" by our young people unless we put out clear messages about what can be recycled by Cyngor Gwynedd.</p>
Sexual orientation	None	We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended.
Religion or belief (or non-belief)	None	We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended.
Gender reassignment	None	We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended.
Pregnancy and maternity	None	We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended. There are no plans to end the nappy collection service. More waste can be produced by children and we may need to consider if there are requests for additional equipment on this basis. We will continue to promote cloth nappies.
Marriage and civil partnership	None	We do not anticipate any specific impact from any of the changes recommended.
People without a car	None	We do not anticipate a specific impact from any of the recommended changes, but obviously due to the locations of many of our recycling centres, it is impractical for them to reach the site. We will continue to offer the bulky collections service.

3.2 The Council, under the Equality Act 2010, has a duty to contribute positively to a fairer society through promoting equality and good relationships in its activities in the areas of age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, race, gender reassignment, disability and pregnancy and

maternity. The Council must duly address the way any change impacts on these duties.

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Maybe	If there is a decision to consider reducing the capacity of the residual bin some families will find it difficult to reduce their waste to a capacity of 60 litres per week. This was raised by some respondents during the consultation. But we will work with these families to educate them about recycling and we will be able to offer a larger bin to 'big' families.
Promote equal opportunities	Not relevant	
Building good relationships	Yes	One of the main objectives of the Strategy is to provide a high-quality service . We are passionate that we want to provide the best possible service for our residents and businesses here in Gwynedd and subsequently achieve a high level of satisfaction. We will protect the core services but we will not be afraid to venture and take opportunities to stimulate progress in this area, such as using the latest technology.

4) Analysing the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significantly positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty? What is the reason for this?

Realising the Strategy will have a positive impact on the residents and visitors of Gwynedd by:

- Providing a high-quality service to all Gwynedd residents and businesses
- Achieving the objectives of Green Gwynedd and improving the quality of and protecting the local environment
- Playing a leading role in creating a circular economy locally, where goods will be reused and repaired. Evidence shows that this can offer skills and experience to employees who may be at a disadvantage in a conventional workplace, and it can certainly add social value.
- Improving ecology within the area of our former rubbish tips
- Reducing costs so that more can be invested in other Council services

4.2 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significantly negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty? What is the reason for this?

No.

4.3 What should be done?

Please select one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	✓
Revise the policy to remove any barriers	
Suspend and abolish the policy as the harmful impacts are too great	
Continue with the policy as any harmful impact can be justified	

4.4 If you continue with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?

Not applicable.

4.5 If you are not taking any further action to remove or reduce the negative impacts, please explain why here.

Not applicable.

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

The team responsible for raising awareness and engaging will be out in the field assessing any impact of changing the collection arrangements. We will use data from a complaints and enquiry system to monitor impact.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd’s Cabinet

Item Title:	Quarterly Report – Chair of the Response Plan Programme Board (July 2026)
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Nia Jeffreys, Leader of the Council
Relevant Officer:	Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive
Date of meeting:	7 July 2026

1. The Decision Sought:

1.1 The Cabinet is asked to accept the report which is the fourth quarterly report from the Chair of the Response Plan Programme Board.

2. The reason for the need for a decision:

2.1 A Response Plan was adopted by the Cabinet of Gwynedd Council in January 2025 to coordinate all support, reviews, inspections and other workstreams relating to the response to offences committed by the former Headteacher, Neil Foden.

2.2 Following the publication of the Child Practice Review report (*Our Courage Brought Justice*) in autumn 2025, a revised version of the Response Plan was adopted in March 2026, in line with the recommendations set out.

2.3 There was a commitment to continue to report quarterly to Cabinet Members on the progress of the Response Board's work programme and operation.

2.4 The report is shared by the Chair of the Response Plan Programme Board, with the intention of raising awareness of the developments and what has and needs to be achieved by the Response Plan Programme Board.

3. Introduction and rationale

3.1 The Chief Executive was commissioned to put arrangements in place for the implementation of the content of the Response Plan including establishing a dedicated Programme Board and regular reporting on progress to Cabinet.

3.2 Professor Sally Holland was appointed to the role of Independent Chair of the Board in February 2025. Sally is Professor of Social Work at the Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE) at Cardiff University and a former Children's Commissioner for Wales (2015-2022).

3.3 As promised, Sally will report quarterly to Cabinet Members on the progress of the Response Board's work programme and operation. This is the third of these reports (see previous reports - July 2025, November 2025, March 2026).

4. Next Steps

4.1 The Board's work continues with the intention of reporting back to Cabinet on progress in 3 months' time.

5. Comments of Statutory Officers.

5.1 Chief Finance Officer

The decision sought will not create a new spending commitment and I have no further comments to add.

5.2 Monitoring Officer

The Programme Board has been established by the Cabinet to co-ordinate and ensure progress on the Response Plan which it adopted. It is key to this governance arrangement that the Cabinet receives regular updates on progress in this all-important work. A report by the Independent Chair, Professor Sally Holland is a transparent and robust method of providing that assurance. I welcome this latest report.

QUARTERLY REPORT TO CABINET: RESPONSE PLAN PROGRAMME BOARD

PROFESSOR SALLY HOLLAND: CHAIR OF THE RESPONSE BOARD

DATE: 7th July 2026

Introduction

Since my last report to Cabinet in March 2026, the Response Plan Programme Board has continued to oversee the Council's response to the recommendations arising from the Child Practice Review, *Our Bravery Brought Justice*, and the wider Response Plan.

This report summarises the key developments and progress made during the last quarter.

Current Position

Work continues across all areas of the Response Plan against the seven key themes:

1. Voice of the Child and Supporting Victims
2. Managing Allegations and Concerns About Adults Working with Children
3. Training and Policies
4. School Governance
5. Restrictive Practices
6. Crisis Planning and Crisis Response
7. Supporting Ysgol Friars

Detailed progress reports are presented to the Board by the theme leads, highlighting achievements, priorities, risks and challenges, dependencies and resource implications. Board members have welcomed the improved reporting arrangements, noting that they provide greater clarity regarding progress, measures and outcomes.

This quarter's developments have included:

Estyn Inspection of Ysgol Friars

The recent Estyn inspection outcome for Ysgol Friars, has been shared with the Board. It was encouraging to note the recognition of the progress made since the appointment of Headteacher Margaret Davies in April 2025. Whilst the report identified areas requiring further attention, improvements were noted in safeguarding arrangements, leadership and school governance. This report provides an important external view to supplement the internal reports about the school's progress that the Board has previously received.

Voice of the Child

The Voice of the Child Strategy has been developed and updated following feedback from Board members. Supporting appendices are currently being finalised, with engagement planned with the Children and Young People's Forum, Education Strategic Groups and the Gwynedd Governors Forum following the GCSE examination period.

I have sought assurance that the voices of children and young people are being captured from a sufficiently broad range of groups and experiences. In particular, I was keen to understand how the Council engages with young carers, disabled children, care-experienced children, homeless young people and other groups whose voices may not always be routinely heard. I was encouraged to learn that Cyngor Gwynedd is recruiting a dedicated Engagement and Participation Officer to help strengthen this work.

This work marks an important step in Gwynedd's ambition to become a Child-friendly County, following a framework set out by UNICEF. This proactive and longer-term approach marks a transition from responding to immediate gaps, following the Our Bravery Brought Justice process, towards a long-term, preventative approach.

Safeguarding Awareness and Training

Further work has been undertaken to strengthen safeguarding awareness across the workforce. A new safeguarding awareness video has been developed to improve accessibility, particularly for staff who do not routinely access Council systems. Whilst the Board welcome these developments, the focus must now be on impact. It is important that these initiatives lead not only to improved completion rates but also to a greater understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and how concerns should be recognised and reported in practice. Additionally, staff must feel confident that their concerns will be taken seriously.

Crisis Planning

Progress continues on the development of crisis planning arrangements for schools. I have been encouraged by the engagement with headteachers throughout this process, who have provided appropriate challenge and constructive suggestions for improvements. This has helped to ensure that arrangements are informed by operational experience and are practical for schools to implement. As this work progresses, it will be important to ensure that plans are well understood, tested and embedded.

Public Accountability and Transparency

I welcome the development of a public-facing website, a child and family-friendly summary document, and supporting infographics outlining both the progress made to date and the

areas where further work remains ongoing. These resources should help improve transparency and understanding amongst residents, stakeholders and survivors.

I am also pleased that the Board's Terms of Reference have been revised and that Board papers are now published following each meeting. This is an important step in strengthening openness and public accountability.

Prioritisation of Activity

The Board has reviewed a revised prioritisation framework for the Response Plan. Given the scale of activity underway, the introduction of a clearer approach to prioritisation is welcomed. Whilst all actions remain important, the framework should help ensure that attention, capacity and resources remain focused on those areas presenting the greatest risk and requiring the most urgent action.

In March, a budget of approximately £600k was approved to support the workstreams under the Programme Board. I welcome this allocation, which provides a clear resource commitment to support delivery and help progress the programme at pace. The focus now will be on ensuring that the funding is used effectively to support the priorities across all work areas.

Scrutiny and Assurance

Outcome Measures

Work continues to develop and refine impact measures. The Board has reiterated the importance of focusing on meaningful indicators of progress, including qualitative feedback from children and young people. While a significant amount of work has been undertaken to develop policies, frameworks and procedures, the Board continues to emphasise the need to move beyond a compliance approach. The adoption of policy should be seen as the starting point rather than the end point. The key priority now is to understand the real impact of these changes on workforce practice, organisational culture and, most importantly, the safety and wellbeing of children. Some outcome measures are beginning to be presented to the Board, and the Board members are keen to see more of these in the coming months.

Quality Assurance Framework

The Quality Assurance Framework for children's services has been completed and presented to the Board. I am encouraged to see this important piece of work now in place. It sets out the vision, values and expectations for quality assurance activity across the service, including responsibilities, learning arrangements, supervision requirements and mechanisms for continuous improvement.

The focus now needs to shift to ensuring it is effectively communicated across the workforce and embedded in day-to-day practice, so that the intended improvements are realised in practice rather than remaining at a procedural level.

Welsh Government Assurance Group

As previously noted, the Welsh Government has established a separate Ministerial Assurance Board following the publication of *Our Bravery Brought Justice*. Following the Senedd election, there is currently some uncertainty regarding timelines and future engagement, as new Ministers establish their priorities and working arrangements. At this stage, the longer-term position of this group remains unclear, although further clarity is expected to emerge as the new administration becomes established.

Welsh Government representatives in the Board have provided updates on the ongoing national reviews of safeguarding governance and of school governing bodies. The findings of these are expected to have implications for all local authorities and regional safeguarding boards.

Next Steps

As the Board moves into the next quarter, it will:

- Continue to review and advise on the implementation of the Response Plan and relevant priorities arising from the CPR.
- Continue work on impact measurement, ensuring this is developed in a proportionate and sustainable way.
- Keep under review the Board's ongoing role and lifespan as a separate entity, including how this aligns with wider Council governance and scrutiny arrangements. This was discussed with the Welsh Government Ministerial Assurance Board prior to the election. Future arrangements will now need to be considered with the new Government.

Closing Remarks

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the commitment shown by Board members during what has been a period of continued development and growing maturity in the Board's arrangements. There has been significant work to strengthen reporting, and I would also commend the contribution of theme leads for their ongoing work in developing and delivering the programme areas. External members and elected members have continued to provide constructive scrutiny, challenge and supportive advice throughout.

As the Board moves into its next phase, there will need to be a stronger focus on measuring impact and ensuring that changes are properly embedded in practice. As part of this, it will also be important to continue to consider the Board's longer-term role, ensuring arrangements remain proportionate and aligned with wider governance structures. In addition, the implications of the recent Senedd election will need to be kept under review as future governance and oversight arrangements develop under the new administration.

As a final remark, I wish to acknowledge the recent reporting of child abuse at Canolfan Brynffynnon up to its closure in 2014, together with the prolonged employment issues which followed. The Response Board does not have a role to investigate past events, but instead to focus on current and future safeguarding. Nonetheless, I acknowledge the continued impact of serious past safeguarding failings on the confidence of Gwynedd's children, parents, staff and wider population regarding the Cyngor's ability to safeguard children in education. This makes it even more necessary for the Cyngor to take clear and transparent steps to regain that confidence and to demonstrate not only policy changes but also changes in everyday practice and culture.

Professor Sally Holland

Chair of the Response Plan Programme Board

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	7 July 2026
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dewi Jones
Contact Officer:	Dylan Owen, Social Services Director
Title of Item:	Strategic Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2025/26

1. The Decision Sought

- 1.1 The Cabinet is asked to receive the Annual Report of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel for 2025/26.

2. The Reason For The Need For A Decision

- 2.1. It is essential that Cabinet members are aware of the Panel's work on safeguarding and are satisfied that the Panel has undertaken the required work thoroughly and conscientiously.
- 2.2. The Statutory Director is required to report consistently and regularly to Elected Members on safeguarding matters.

3. Background

- 3.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on what has been achieved by the Strategic Safeguarding Panel during the year.
- 3.2. It is considered that the report provides an accurate and balanced summary of the Panel's work, reflecting the key challenges, the progress made, and the areas where further action is required.
- 3.3. The report was presented to the Care Scrutiny Committee (4th of June) and was the subject of a constructive discussion. Members acknowledged the significance of the issues under consideration and agreed that this remains an important area for ongoing scrutiny.

4. Views of the Statutory Officers:

- i) **The Monitoring Officer:**

As a member of this Panel, I welcome this report that appropriately summarises its work. It provides the Cabinet with assurance about this key responsibility.

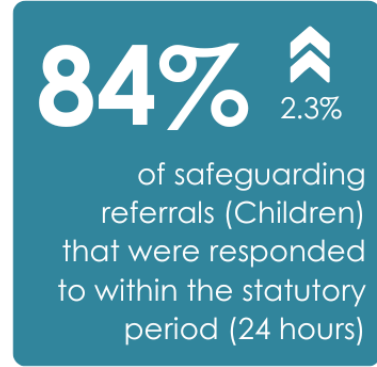
ii) Head of Finance:

Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety.

STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING PANEL REPORT

2025/26

A SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR 2025/26



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. It has been an incredibly disturbing and challenging period for Cyngor Gwynedd in the safeguarding field, with the need to improve and strengthen safeguarding systems being central to the work this year and it will remain so for the year to come.
- 1.2. This report presents an overview of the work of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel over the period from April 2025 to March 2026. The report highlights the work achieved by the Council, as well as the work done in partnership with others, seeking to provide a fair, balanced and transparent picture of the progress and challenges.
- 1.3. The aim of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel is to ensure that appropriate arrangements and procedures are in place at a corporate level across the Council to ensure the safety of children, young people and adults. Since 2017/18 the Panel is also responsible for maintaining an overview of wider safeguarding issues across Gwynedd, such as Community Safety.
- 1.4. The Panel in turn is accountable to the Statutory Director of Social Services, who has the final accountability for safeguarding issues.
- 1.5. The term of the Chair of the Panel is two years. Up to June 2025, Councillor Menna Trenholme, Cabinet Member for Children and Family Support, was the Chair. At the meeting held on 25 June 2025, Councillor Dewi Jones was elected as Chair for the 2025-2027 period.
- 1.6. A Safeguarding Operational Group supports the Strategic Panel to implement its priorities and to deal with practical issues in its remit. This is an internal group of officers, with the Designated Safeguarding Person of each department serving on it, to ensure whole-Council ownership of safeguarding issues.
- 1.7. During the year, the terms of reference of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel and Safeguarding Operational Group were reviewed, making minor changes to ensure that they were current and fit for purpose.

2. REVIEWING THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- 2.1. A review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy is carried out on a two-year cycle. This policy notes how the Council intends to achieve its statutory responsibilities to safeguard children and adults who are at risk, in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

- 2.2. Between January and March 2026, a comprehensive review of the Policy was carried out. A sub-group was established to lead the review, including the Director of Social Services, Safeguarding Children and Adults Managers, Learning and Development Manager, Head of Adults Department, Community Safety Officer, and Senior Executive Officer.
- 2.3. Several changes were made to the Safeguarding Policy following the review, including strengthening the clarity and usefulness of the document. More emphasis was placed on explaining the pathway for raising concerns, highlighting it clearly at the beginning of the document. More practical procedures were developed for reporting and recording concerns, including a detailed, new section, noting the information that should be recorded when seeing or hearing about a safeguarding matter.
- 2.4. The accountability and lead role of senior officers was strengthened, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals and different groups of staff were also made clearer.
- 2.5. The training requirements were explained more explicitly, emphasising the mandatory and regular (every three years) training expectations for staff and elected members, as well as strengthening the compliance monitoring arrangements.
- 2.6. Further steps were taken to strengthen accountability across the Council in the safeguarding field. The Policy now includes the following requirements:
- Including data (%) on the number who have completed safeguarding training and domestic violence training as a part of the Performance Challenge process in each department.
 - Establishing safeguarding as a permanent item on the agenda of the Corporate Management Team.
 - Asking every department to include safeguarding as a standing item on the agendas of our departmental management team.
 - Continuing with the procedure of submitting the Annual Report to the Care Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet and the full Council.
- 2.7. Input was received from the members of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel and the broader Safeguarding Operational Group, which contributed to improving the document further. The amended policy will be submitted before the Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet before it was adopted formally. It will also be submitted for information to the Full Council.

3. OUR BRAVERY BROUGHT JUSTICE REPORT

- 3.1. Following the publication of the North Wales Regional Safeguarding Board's report, *Our Bravery Brought Justice*, in October 2025, Cyngor Gwynedd drew up a comprehensive response to address the recommendations, as well as broader matters noted in

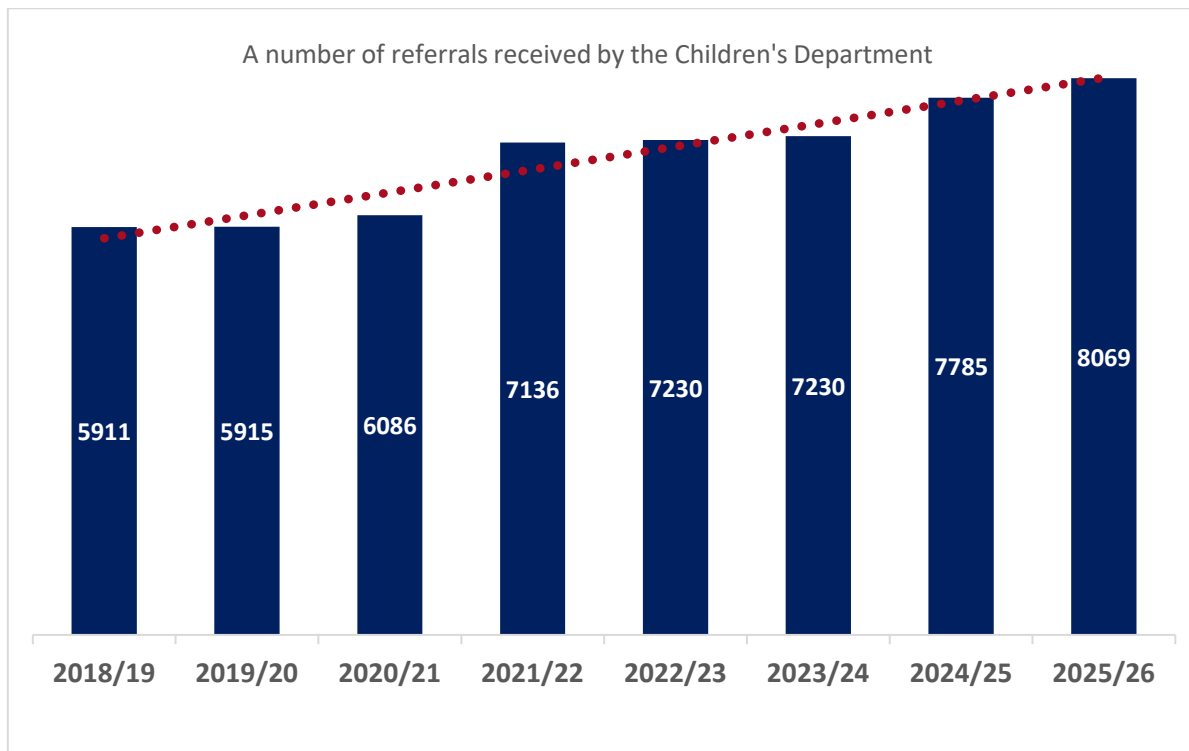
inspections and associated investigations. This was a challenging and damning report, and the Council acknowledged that there were important lessons to learn.

- 3.2. A Response Board was established to supervise the work, chaired by Professor Sally Holland, the previous Children's Commissioner for Wales. The aim of the Board is to ensure firm progress and give assurances to the Council, elected members and stakeholders that definitive steps are being taken to strengthen safeguarding arrangements and to improve the experiences of children and vulnerable adults in Gwynedd.
- 3.3. Since then, the board has met regularly and have benefited from the input and guidance from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Estyn and Welsh Government. Also considered was the learning from the CIW and Estyn joint-inspection in November 2025. Sally Holland reports every quarter to the Council Cabinet, whilst the Welsh Government's Ministerial Assurance Group also monitors progress against the recommendation.
- 3.4. By March 2026, positive progress was achieved on several of the steps noted. However, work is still to be done, and the Council remains committed to act on the learning and ensure continuous improvements.
- 3.5. The Safeguarding Strategic Panel plays a key role in terms of scrutinising progress, including monitoring the levels of safeguarding training across the Council. He will have a stronger role in the future in terms of providing a strategic overview of the progress against the recommendations.

4. PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS IN THE SAFEGUARDING FIELD

4.1. Safeguarding Children

- 4.1.1. **8,069** referrals to children's services were received in 2025/26. This is an increase of **3.7%** in the number of referrals compared with 7785 last year.



4.1.2. Once again, the pressure on the service has been substantial, with the workforce incredibly busy supporting children and families across the county. It is noted that the nature of the cases seen now is much more intensive and complex than in the past. During 2025-2026, referrals for families with several children, high levels of neglect, substance misuse, domestic abuse and new families, were brought to our attention, adding to the operational challenges.

4.1.3. An increase is also seen in the number on the Child Protection Register this year. On 31 March 2025, the number of children on the register was **106**, and this year, the number is **126**. Emotional abuse continued to be the main reason for including children on the register and it can be seen that children tend to stay on the register for longer periods by now. Similar patterns were seen in several Local Authorities, and it is intended to consider alternative methods of supporting children over the year to come.

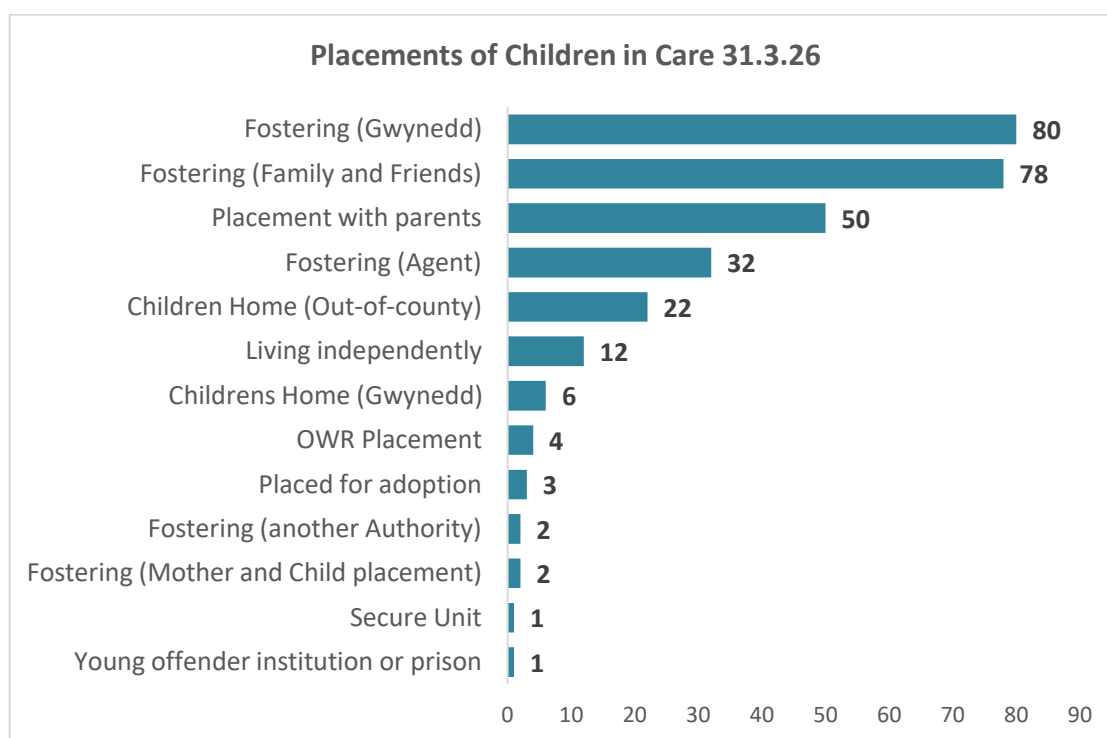
4.1.4. **84% (↑2%)** child protection reviews were held within the statutory timetable during the year. The percentage of risk assessments submitted to Case Conferences which were considered as exhibiting quality in decision making remained high at **100%**.

4.1.5. The Part 5 work of the Wales safeguarding procedures has increased again this year. Part 5 relates to safeguarding concerns about practitioners and those in posts of trust, and these procedures identify arrangements for responding to safeguarding concerns about those whose work, whether employed or voluntary, brings them

into contact with children or adults at risk. The intention is to increase capacity by creating additional posts within the Safeguarding Unit early in 2026/27.

4.1.6. Gwynedd Children’s Services now take a proactive approach to ensuring that the voice of the child is heard when responding to concerns relating to individuals working with children and young people. Some challenges remain as a result of parental refusal, meaning that individual assessments are required to determine the appropriate course of action.

4.1.7. At the end of March, there were **293 (↑12)** looked after children. Of the total number of looked after children, **66%** are in foster placements, **28 (10%)** are in residential placements and **50 (17%)** are placed with their parents. There were **3** children in adoptive placements at the end of the year, with **12** young persons living independently with support.



4.1.8. During 2025/26, unregistered placements arrangements (OWR) were used for **4** young people in care. However, the situation nationally is much more serious by now, with the majority, if not all authorities having to ensure that such an arrangement is available due to the lack of registered placements across the United Kingdom.

4.1.9. When a looked after child needs to be placed, the wish is to keep them close to their family and home area. We therefore focus on finding ways of accommodating and providing care to children and young people closer to home, so that they can continue to be part of the community and maintain their support networks.

Developing the residential provision through the Small Group Homes Scheme was a priority in the Council Plan 2023-28.

- 4.1.10. Two homes are already operational in Morfa Bychan and Deiniolen, with the children settling well into the placements. Renovation work on the home in Edern is now nearing completion. A third property was purchased in Cricieth last year, with the registration process with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) ongoing. Work also commenced during the year on the property, with the hope that it will be completed early in 2026/27.
- 4.1.11. The high cost of out-of-county specialist placements places substantial pressure on the budget, with some costs arising unexpectedly and difficult to anticipate in advance. Although some placements of this type were unavoidable, this pressure has led the Council to speed-up the work of developing small group homes to strengthen the local provision and reduce the dependency on a costly out-of-county provision. This also coincides with the children's non-profit agenda of the Welsh Government, which is seeking to ensure that children's care and accommodation is provided based on the needs of children, instead of profits. A specific role was created to support and speed-up the programme in 2026/27.

4.2. Safeguarding Adults

- 4.2.1. **792** Adults reports were received in 2025/26, and this was an increase from the **750** reports received in 2024/25. On average, **94.4% (↑2.3%)** of the initial s.126 enquiries safeguarding referrals were completed within the statutory 7-day period.
- 4.2.2. From the reports of Adults at Risk received, the risk was managed in **100%** of the cases.
- 4.2.3. Although the department appointed an additional part-time Safeguarding Officer, the capacity remains challenging due to long-term sickness within the team. As a result, the additional workload has fallen on the leaders of the Community Resources Teams and the Social Work Teams to complete the safeguarding work. In order to manage the risk, a temporary post has now been advertised; however, recruitment has been challenging, meaning that the post has had to be readvertised.
- 4.2.4. The officers carry out regular monitoring and respond promptly to any concerns, ensuring that safe and high-quality care is commissioned. The data shows that regular visits are held in residential homes. A pre-monitoring form was submitted, which assisted officers to prepare more effectively for visits and to focus on potential risk areas.

- 4.2.5. The team also meets every fortnight with the Medications Team and in-house managers to discuss medication errors and preparing appropriate support. This work makes a direct contribution to the safety of residents within the provision.
- 4.2.6. One provider continues under the Escalating Concerns system, and an embargo on new admissions has been in place since October 2025. This embargo affects the ability of services to place individuals in that area, and ongoing efforts are being made to collaborate with the provider in order to ensure that necessary improvements are implemented in full.
- 4.2.7. Concerns around the DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Arrangements) continue. At the end of March 2026, **319** individuals were awaiting a DoLS assessment, compared with **356** at the end of March 2025. It is necessary to prioritise cases according to the level of risk, paying particular attention to individuals living in supported accommodation, where an application needs to be submitted to the Court of Protection for authorisation to the deprivation of liberty.
- 4.2.8. A successful bid was made during 2024/25 to employ two Best Interest Assessors on a permanent basis. Whilst two individuals were appointed to the roles, they did not have the qualifications or experience to start straight away. By now, they have both completed their training, have qualified and have started on their workload.

4.3. Education

- 4.3.1. During 2025-2026, the Schools Safeguarding and Well-being Team has conducted visits to 89 schools to review and ensure the quality of safeguarding arrangements, policies and procedures. Since January 2025, every school receives an annual visit to assess the quality of their safeguarding arrangements, ensuring consistency and compliance across the county.
- 4.3.2. Almost every school visited in 2025/26 complied with the appropriate safeguarding arrangements. From these visits, **4 schools** which have received a second visit to check aspects such as arrangements for recording attendance / absences and the content of Safeguarding posters.
- 4.3.3. An Annual Safeguarding Review is completed by every school annually. The latest findings demonstrate:
- **95% (↑1%)** of the "Main Safeguarding Persons" in schools had received specific safeguarding training during the past two years;
 - **85% (→remains the same)** of Designated Governors in Gwynedd's schools had also received the relevant training for their role in the last two years;

- **100% (↑ 3%)** of Gwynedd Schools had introduced Basic Safeguarding Training to all staff before the end of the Winter term;
- **100% (remains the same)** of Gwynedd Schools noted that they were confident that all school staff and volunteers know what to do if a child should disclose information on abuse.

4.3.4. Since April 2025, the Safeguarding and Well-being Service has conducted:

- **3** Safeguarding training sessions for designated Safeguarding Governors and Chairs
- **14** Designated Safeguarding Person training sessions with a total of **161 individual** in attendance.

In addition, the Designated Lead officer has held training sessions for supply teachers, early years staff, the education modernisation team and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) staff.

4.3.5. In February 2026, an additional member was appointed to increase the capacity of the Education Safeguarding and Well-being Team. The team has already developed new resources to strengthen the response of schools to safeguarding matters, including simple flow charts for the safeguarding concerns and allegations against staff, as well as quality posters to display in the schools and their websites. The materials include the details of the designated safeguarding persons and chairs, details of the Education Safeguarding and Well-being Team and supporting clarity and accessibility of information for staff, governors and parents.

4.3.6. Every school has adopted the 'Promoting measures and practices leading to the use and reduction of restrictive intervention' exemplar policy. This is checked during the annual safeguarding quality visits. An external evaluation has been commissioned to ensure compliance with the national guidance as well as further developing training arrangements and provisions. The recommendations of the evaluation leads to developing and strengthening training and support for schools, empowering them to respond safely in cases of restrictive intervention, listening to the voice of the pupil and being reflective of any such intervention.

4.3.7. At the end of March 2026, there was a total of **282 (↑7.63%)** children receiving their education at home, through parents' choice. This figure includes **158** children who are historically on the register and **124** new children since September 2025. Not all children on the register have registered at a school previously, with some moving into the County but not wishing to register at a school and others making the decision very soon to home educate from statutory school age.

4.3.8. The main reasons for a parent's choice to home educate is lifestyle/ideology, but anxiety and mental health problems are also increasing. We managed to maintain contact with most of these families, with a small number refusing any contact (in line with their rights).

4.4. **Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)**

4.4.1. The Council is working in partnership to prevent violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, raising awareness, providing support to victims and improving the response of services.

4.4.2. Following an application prepared by officers from the Corporate Support Department, the Council received a 'White Ribbon' accreditation in May 2022. The White Ribbon is an organisation that works to raise awareness and encourage people, particularly men, to act against violence against women and domestic abuse.

4.4.3. We also worked with the Police to develop an initiative called 'Safe Zones' in Bangor and Caernarfon. The method is simple, but effective, focusing on improving natural surveillance, lights and using existing CCTV systems in key locations. A successful application was made to the Home Office for finance to support the project, and further work is progressing.

4.4.4. **11.1 in every 1000 of the population** in Gwynedd experience domestic violence annually (1.1%). This compares with 10.4 in Anglesey, 17.5 in Denbighshire and 16.5 in Conwy. During 2025/2026, the Council has commissioned Gorwel (through Grŵp Cynefin) and DASU (Domestic Abuse Support Unit) to provide support services for victims, including practical and emotional support, housing and refuge for individuals in crisis, safety advice, advocacy and guidance to steer the justice system.

4.4.5. The Council has also made a successful application through the Welsh Government's VAWDASV Capital Grant to purchase 100 security cameras to support the survivors of domestic abuse in the area. The cameras will be distributed through key partners, including the Police, DASU and Gorwel, in order to provide practical support for at-risk individuals.

4.4.6. In addition, following discussions with Women's Aid Wales about supporting deaf domestic abuse survivors, the Partnership arranged British Sign Language (BSL) training through Coleg Llandrillo for Siop Gwynedd staff and local domestic abuse organisations. Feedback will be collected from participants to assess the impact of the session and note any further needs, with the possibility of arranging additional sessions in line with the demand.

- 4.4.7. The Housing Department, through Housing Support Grant funding, has commissioned a comprehensive assessment of the Domestic Violence services in order to strengthen collaboration and facilitate joint commissioning for the future. It was agreed that the current services and arrangements had been too fragmented, and that it would be beneficial to establish a specific working group on domestic violence within the Council.
- 4.4.8. Currently, the Welsh Government is holding a national consultation to review the Domestic Violence services. It is noted that there is substantial differences in the funding models and provisions across regions. For example, in the north, funding is channelled through the Police and Crime Commissioner, whilst in other areas, it goes directly to Local Authorities. The consultation therefore is an opportunity for the Welsh Government to reconcile operational methods across the country.
- 4.4.9. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership is responsible for commissioning Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) in Gwynedd. One DHR review has been approved by the Home Office and is about to be published, and a first draft of another DHR review has been submitted before Christmas.
- 4.4.10. By now, this statutory duty is achieved through a Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR), which incorporates Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) within the same reviewing process now used for every safeguarding review in Wales. The first review to follow this procedure has begun, with the first meeting of the Panel held in March 2026.
- 4.4.11. By now, the Domestic Abuse (VAWDASV) e-module is statutory for all members of staff. It is vital that the workforce receives the training to ensure that the Council is doing everything within its ability to support individuals and to raise awareness. 'Ask and Act' training is also promoted to give staff confidence to help individuals experiencing violence, domestic abuse or sexual violence. On 31 March 2026, **74.7%** of Council staff (including Permanent, Casual and Fixed-term staff) have completed the training.
- 4.4.12. More 'Bystander Intervention' training sessions were held for Council staff. This was provided by Welsh Government, with the aim of helping individuals to deal with potentially harmful situations such as sexual harassment, giving them confidence to have discussions with friends and colleagues about these matters.
- 4.4.13. This year, a series of training sessions for staff were commissioned by Men at Work, an organisation established by Michael Conroy, in order to give professionals more confidence and practical resources to conduct constructive conversations with boys and young men on a range of sensitive and important topics. This included healthy

relationships, on-line influences, gender stereotyping, self-image, dangerous behaviours, impacts of pornography, and well-being. The training offers a practical, open and considerate method of supporting staff to engage effectively with young people on these matters, and very positive feedback was received from those attending.

4.5. Crime

- 4.5.1. The Council is collaborating with the Police through the Community Partnership Board, and a regular overview of crime levels across Gwynedd is received. In 2025/26, **a small increase of 3.6%** was seen in the number of offences in Gwynedd, compared with the previous year.
- 4.5.2. The level of Sex Offences recorded to date in 2025/26 in Gwynedd saw **a reduction of 1.5%** compared with 2024/25. There can be significant variations in crimes reported from week to week, partly because of reporting on historical offences.
- 4.5.3. Acquisitive crimes include the categories of Residential Burglary, Business and Community Burglary, Theft, Vehicle Crime and Thefts and Handling. Residential Burglary and Business and Community Burglary have reduced this year, but an increase was seen in the number of Vehicle Crimes and Thefts and Handling.
- 4.5.4. Anti-social behaviour in Gwynedd has seen a reduction to date of **0.7%** in 2025/26, compared with the same period in 2024/25. Collaborative work is being done with Town and Community Councils, the Highways Department and the Police, for example by installing CCTV cameras where the biggest need arises.
- 4.5.5. The Serious Violence Duty came into force nationally in January 2023. The duty makes it a requirement for specified authorities to work together to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. The North Wales final Strategy was published in January 2024. The Council has been part of this work since the beginning and continues to be part of the Regional Steering Group to implement the Duty.
- 4.5.6. As part of the duty, the Partnership received £65k of funding for preventative and early intervention projects to reduce serious violence by children and young people. Several projects were completed by April 2026, including:
 - 'Don't Steal My Future' sessions held by RASASC Wales (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre) to raise awareness of sexual violence with pupils and to influence attitudes and behaviours.
 - An awareness campaign around selling illegal vapes and child exploitation, with a focus on increased reporting and sharing of intelligence.

- Increase the youth provision over the summer holidays and half-term, with activities targeted for young people aged 11-25 years in areas at high risk of crime and violence.
- A schools project led by the Education Department to prevent serious violence, including training, mentoring and group work to reduce exclusions and keeping pupils safe and in education.

4.6. **Modern Slavery**

4.6.1. Modern slavery spans several types of exploitation, namely labour, criminal, sexual exploitation and domestic slavery. In North Wales, Modern Slavery cases in the area mainly relate to drugs exploitation, where the victims are often young males who are forced to sell drugs, usually through county lines. Regionally, promoting contextual safeguarding to work with children and young people at risk of exploitation and/or modern slavery is a priority within the North Wales Serious Violence Strategy.

4.6.2. The Police is raising awareness of Modern Slavery amongst authorities and businesses across the region, and conducting regular visits to hotels and holiday sites, as well as providing literature in sexual health surgeries and clinics.

4.6.3. Between January and December 2024, North Wales Police received 112 referrals relating to modern slavery, human trafficking or exploitation through the National Referral Mechanism, with 13 of these relating to Gwynedd. A further 6 reports were received through the Duty to Notify process, with 1 relating to Gwynedd.

4.6.4. In 2025, the number of referrals fell to 95, with 9 relating to Gwynedd. Two reports were received through the Duty to Notify process during the year, none of which related to Gwynedd.

4.7. **Counter Terrorism**

4.7.1. Cyngor Gwynedd holds a Public Places Group: Preparedness to Protect and Safeguard and is also a member of the equivalent regional groups, e.g., Contest Board. The aim of the group is to strengthen safety in public spaces, improving preparedness to respond to events, and raising awareness amongst stakeholders to keep communities safe.

4.7.2. In 2025/26, preparations were continued to ensure compliance with Martyn's Law, which is expected to come into force in 2027; the Group also considered the venue Hire Policy during the year, as well as specific safety issues raised by the North Wales Society for the Blind in relation to cycle lanes.

4.7.3. In 2024/25, the Council undertook a quality assurance process with the Home Office in order to meet the statutory requirements under the Prevent duty. Strengths were identified such as the efforts for regional collaboration and the work of managing risks in relation to radicalisation.

4.7.4. As a result of this process, two further recommendations were received, namely: developing a venue Hire Policy and develop a prevent training strategy. As above, the Hire Policy has received attention during the year, and once the Welsh training will be available, the new "prevent" training plan can be implemented.

4.8. **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

4.8.1. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is responsible for processing criminal checks. The purpose of DBS checks is to help employers make safer recruiting and licensing decisions, although the check is only one part of the recruitment process. When the check has been processed and completed by the DBS, the applicant will receive a DBS certificate.

4.8.2. The Operational Group has undertaken some significant work to check, challenge and revisit the corporate procedure in respect of the DBS. As a result, Departments now have greater ownership of the DBS procedures, and this has transformed how the Operational Group reports on its conformity on departmental disclosures.

4.8.3. The DBS situation has stabilised during the year, with most departments achieving 100% compliance, i.e., that every member of staff requiring a DBS for their role has a current certificate. Where individuals have no current DBS, a clear explanation is provided for the Group, mainly associated with long-term absences or maternity periods. The departments continue to monitor the situation on an ongoing basis in order to ensure continuous compliance and manage any gaps in a timely way.

4.9. **Corporate Safeguarding Training**

4.9.1. During the year, a substantial effort was made to increase awareness and safeguarding training completion rates across the organisation. This work has led to the increase in the number of staff completing the mandatory training.

4.9.2. On 31 March 2025, **36.4%** of Council staff had completed the safeguarding e-module. By 31 March 2026, this percentage had more than doubled, with **75.9%** of Council staff had now completed the e-module. It should be noted that this increase is partly due to a change in the way the data is reported, with the 2025 figures including school teachers while the 2026 figures exclude them.

- 4.9.3. Every Councillor is encouraged to attend safeguarding training (specific training - Group F). **87% of Councillors** have completed the training and a further session will be held early in 2026/27.
- 4.9.4. Although completing the training is important, ensuring an appropriate level of understanding and awareness amongst staff and members, is more important. Following a request by the Safeguarding Operational Group, an internal inspection was carried out to assess the Council's field workers' awareness level of the Safeguarding Policy. The inspection highlighted that more work needed to be done to ensure consistent understanding of the Policy and associated procedures.
- 4.9.5. A Corporate Safeguarding Promoter was appointed to ensure that every member of Cyngor Gwynedd staff is aware of their responsibilities in terms of safeguarding. The role will promote key messages that safeguarding is everyone's business and educate staff to be more aware and promote confidence when reporting on concerns.
- 4.9.6. The Corporate Safeguarding Promoter is working to increase the number of staff who complete the mandatory safeguarding training. Although office staff have been directed to use the e-learning platform, the challenge is to reach members of front-line staff who have no access to the Council's Information Technology systems. To overcome this challenge, a comprehensive video was prepared that will be presented to the workforce in easily accessible and easy to understand collective sessions.
- 4.9.7. The Corporate Safeguarding Promoter is also collaborating with the Safeguarding Operational Group to develop a central page on the intranet with all promotional/associated information to the workforce regarding safeguarding. This includes the Corporate Safeguarding Policy, details of the Designated Safeguarding Officers, mandatory training and contacts for support.
- 4.9.8. A further internal audit is intended to be held during the autumn 2026 in order to assess the effectiveness of the current arrangements and level of understanding across the organisation. This will also be an opportunity to evaluate whether the new interventions have increased awareness amongst staff, and to identify any further gaps where support or additional guidance will need to be provided.

5. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- 5.1. Although the Safeguarding Strategic Panel focuses on the corporate responsibilities relating to safeguarding matters within Gwynedd, collaboration also happens on a

regional level through the **North Wales Safeguarding Board** for Children and Adults Safeguarding. These are Statutory Boards with cross-agency membership and specific statutory and legal responsibilities. Further information regarding the work of the Boards can be seen here - <https://www.northwalesafeguardingboard.wales/>

5.2. During the year, the Welsh Government conducted a review into safeguarding governance and supervision arrangements. This national review focuses on how suitable the current structures are, investigating the roles of the Regional Safeguarding Boards and National Independent Safeguarding Boards, how these bodies are collaborating with regulators and inspectorates, and what improvements are needed to strengthen accountability and governance. The final report is expected in the spring 2026.

5.3. The **Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership** has also shown that working in partnership across county borders is proving to be a success. Several organisations have a statutory duty to be part of the partnership, including Local Authorities, Police, Probation Services, Fire and Rescue Service and the Health Board. Information on all aspects of community safety that the Council deal with is available on our [website](#).

6. THE FUTURE

6.1. In terms of the Panel's priorities for the coming year, the intention is to focus on the following priorities:

- Implement and monitor the Council's response to the recommendations of the *Our Bravery Brought Justice* report, ensuring that the necessary improvements are embedded across the organisation.
- Strengthen the corporate safeguarding awareness, understanding and culture across all services, including increasing the completion of training and ensuring that staff are confident to act on concerns.
- Publish a safeguarding video to make it easy and accessible for field workers to complete the mandatory training.
- Increase capacity within the safeguarding services, particularly in relation to work on Part 5, adult safeguarding and DoLS arrangements.
- Further develop the regional and local partnership work with the Police, schools, the Health Board, Welsh Government and other partners in order to respond more effectively to complex safeguarding risks.
- Continue to strengthen the arrangements for corporate governance, accountability and scrutiny in the field of scrutiny, including the role of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel and Safeguarding Operational Group.
- Conduct further internal audits to assess the efficiency of new arrangements and identify any further gaps in awareness, training or practice.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of item:	<i>Safeguarding Policy Review (2026)</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Councillor Dewi Jones, Cabinet Member for Education and Chair of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel</i>
Relevant officer:	<i>Dylan Owen, Statutory Director of Social Services</i>
Date of meeting:	<i>7 July 2026</i>

1. Decision Sought:

1.1 That the Cabinet adopts the revised **Safeguarding Policy 2026** and approves the awareness-raising actions set out in the report.

2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision:

2.1 The Safeguarding Policy sets out how the Council intends to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults at risk in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

2.2 The Strategic Safeguarding Panel agreed that the Safeguarding Policy should be reviewed every two years to ensure that it continues to reflect legislative requirements, national guidance and good practice.

2.3 This report presents the outcome of the 2026 review of the Policy. Cabinet approval is sought in order to adopt the revised Policy.

3. Introduction / Background

3.1 Between January and March 2026, a comprehensive review of the Policy was carried out. A sub-group was established to lead the review, including the Director of Social Services, Safeguarding Children and Adults Managers, Learning and Development Manager, Head of Adults Department, Community Safety Officer, and Senior Executive Officer.

3.2 Several changes were made to the Safeguarding Policy following the review, including strengthening the clarity and usefulness of the document. More emphasis was placed on explaining the pathway for raising concerns, highlighting it clearly at the beginning of the document.

- 3.3 More practical procedures were developed for reporting and recording concerns, including a detailed, new section, noting the information that should be recorded when seeing or hearing about a safeguarding matter.
- 3.4 The accountability and lead role of senior officers was strengthened, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals and different groups of staff were also made clearer.
- 3.5 The training requirements were explained more explicitly, emphasising the mandatory and regular (every three years) training expectations for staff and elected members, as well as strengthening the compliance monitoring arrangements.
- 3.6 Further steps were taken to strengthen accountability across the Council in the safeguarding field. The Policy now includes the following requirements:
- Including data (%) on the number who have completed safeguarding training and domestic violence training as a part of the Performance Challenge process in each department.
 - Establishing safeguarding as a permanent item on the agenda of the Corporate Management Team.
 - Asking every department to include safeguarding as a standing item on the agendas of our departmental management team.
 - Continuing with the procedure of submitting the Annual Report to the Care Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet and the full Council.
- 3.7 An informal consultation on the revised Policy was undertaken with members of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel and members of the Safeguarding Operational Group. A number of valuable comments were received during the process, including suggestions to move the reference numbers and flow of actions to the front page to improve accessibility, and to further clarify and strengthen the role of the Designated Safeguarding Person within the policy.
- 3.8 Discussions were also held with the Procurement Team to review and amend the clause relating to commissioned services, to ensure that safeguarding expectations and responsibilities are clearly and consistently reflected within commissioning arrangements.
- 3.9 The draft Policy was also presented to the Care Scrutiny Committee on 4 June, where a constructive and useful discussion took place. Following the discussion, two points were raised for consideration:
- A specific reference to online safeguarding should be included to reflect the contemporary challenges and risks facing children and vulnerable adults. **This**

has been addressed through the inclusion of a reference to the relevant safeguarding procedures.

- The definitions of safeguarding should be highlighted earlier in the document to improve clarity. **As a result, the definitions have been moved to the first page of the Policy.**

3.10 The adoption of the new Policy will ensure that the Council has a robust safeguarding procedure in place, and fulfils its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults at risk.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 In accordance with the legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 (“the Act”) (including the Welsh public sector equality duties), when making decisions the Council must have due regard to the need to: (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination; (2) advance equality of opportunity; and (3) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Due regard must also be given to relevant socio-economic impacts.

4.2 No new Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for this review, as the statutory requirements and the Council’s core responsibilities remain unchanged. The proposed amendments primarily provide further clarity for staff and Elected Members regarding their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

4.3 However, given the length of time since the original policy was adopted, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the next review of the Policy to ensure it continues to reflect good practice.

5. Next Steps

5.1 If approved by Cabinet, a copy of the Policy will be presented to the next meeting of Full Council as an appendix to the Strategic Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2025/26. This is considered an important step in raising awareness amongst elected members.

5.2 Further work will be required to promote the revised Policy amongst all Council staff to ensure a consistent awareness and understanding of safeguarding responsibilities. The Council has appointed a Corporate Safeguarding Champion, and promoting the Policy, safeguarding training, and awareness of its contents will form a key part of their work programme over the coming months.

6. Views of the Statutory Officers

6.1 Chief Finance Officer

No objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.

6.2 Monitoring Officer

The Safeguarding Policy supports the range of responsibilities which relate to the safety and wellbeing of our residents. It meant that the Council's commitment to safeguarding and the expectations around this important issue are clear and available in one document. I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought.

List of Appendices:

- Safeguarding Policy (2026 Review)

Cyngor Gwynedd

Policy and Guidance for Safeguarding Children and Adults who are at Risk of Abuse and Neglect

(Referred to as the Safeguarding Policy for Cyngor Gwynedd)



Reviewed June 2026

Safeguarding children and adults is the responsibility of everyone who represents, or works on behalf of, the Council. Everyone has a responsibility to report any concern or suspicion that a child or adult is at risk of being abused and/or neglected.

PROCEDURE FOR REFERRING ANY CONCERN

1. The Police (999) should be contacted immediately and without delay if a child or adult is in imminent danger.
2. Any member of staff or Councillors who have concerns about the safety of a child or adult should contact the following immediately:

the Referrals Admission Team on 01766 772577

Select option 1 = Children

Select option 2 = Adults

For any concerns about the safety of a child or adult outside normal office hours, **after 5:00pm Monday to Friday and on weekends and Bank Holidays**, you should contact:

the Social Services Out of Hours Team on 01248 353551

3. Any member of staff who is unsure whether there is a child or adult safeguarding issue should discuss with the Department's Designated Safeguarding Person or their line manager. If they are not available, then the matter should be immediately referred to the Teams stated above.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. "**Safeguarding**" is broader than protecting children and adults. It means preventing abuse or harm, and promoting well-being, including encouraging:
 - mental, physical and emotional health
 - protection from harm and neglect

- education, training and leisure
- constructive contribution to society
- social and economic well-being.

- 1.2. **"Protection"** responds to the concerns about the likelihood of significant harm to an individual, meaning a person who is at risk of abuse and neglect. The arrangements for the protection of children and adults at risk of abuse are outlined in the [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#), and are implemented by Social Services and the Police.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. Cyngor Gwynedd's main priority is to ensure that children and adults at risk are protected from abuse, neglect, radicalisation, slavery, domestic abuse and exploitation.
- 2.2. Everyone in Cyngor Gwynedd has a responsibility to create an environment that ensures that children and adults are less likely to be abused. These safeguarding arrangements are outlined in this policy and are the responsibility of all services within Cyngor Gwynedd.
- 2.3. Social Services hold the leading responsibilities to protect children and adults who may be suffering from harm and neglect.
- 2.4. Employees of Cyngor Gwynedd and Councillors are expected to act in accordance with the principles set out in this policy at all times, whether during working hours or otherwise.

3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1. [Section 28 of the Children Act 2004](#):
Cyngor Gwynedd has a duty to ensure that it undertakes its functions to safeguard and promote children's well-being.
- 3.2. [Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#):
Cyngor Gwynedd has a duty to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to protect adults and prevent crime and disorder when undertaking its functions.
- 3.3. [Section 7 of the Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#):
Cyngor Gwynedd has a duty to promote the well-being of children and adults who need care and support. Well-being is defined in the Act as having eight common aspects, one of which includes protection from abuse and neglect.
- 3.4. [Section 2 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2020](#):
Cyngor Gwynedd employees and volunteers have a duty to report any child or adult deemed to be at risk of abuse, neglect and/or harm.
- 3.5. [Children's Rights](#):
The principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provide the foundation for children's safeguarding by recognizing that every child has the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect, and they impose a clear duty on adults

organisations and the State to promote their well-being, listen to their opinions, and act in their best interest at all times. Article 19 relates specifically to safeguarding.

3.6. [Human Rights:](#)

Under the United Nations human rights framework, every individual is entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms that the State must respect, protect and fulfil. Article 3, Article 6 and Article 8 are specifically relevant to safeguarding.

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1. Safeguarding children and adults is the responsibility of everyone who represents, or works on behalf of, the Council.
- 4.2. Every child and adult has the right to be protected from harm, exploitation and abuse.
- 4.3. Cyngor Gwynedd places the safeguarding and well-being of children and adults at the heart of our policies and procedures.
- 4.4. All children and adults (whatever their background) have the right to participate in a safe society free from any violence, fear, abuse, exploitation, grooming, bullying or discrimination.
- 4.5. Cyngor Gwynedd operates in partnership with children, their parents, carers and adults, as well as other agencies to safeguard and promote the well-being of children and adults.
- 4.6. Cyngor Gwynedd recognises the importance of preventative work and early intervention to reduce the likelihood of abuse or harm occurring.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1. All Councillors, members of staff, volunteers and contracted service providers are responsible for following the guidelines set out in this Policy.

5.2. THE FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS AND KEY COUNCILLORS

5.2.1. Statutory Director of Social Services

Name:	Phone Number:	E-mail Address:
Huw Dylan Owen	01286 679387	DylanOwen@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

- 5.2.1.1. The Director of Social Services has the ultimate responsibility for safeguarding matters. He will ensure that the Council has appropriate safeguarding measures and arrangements and is responsible for reporting on these arrangements regularly to Councillors.
- 5.2.1.2. The Director must be aware of any potential conflict of interest between his role and the responsibility for corporate protection matters. Should such a conflict arise, the Director

should remove himself from one of the roles for the duration of that position, and the responsibility will transfer to the Chief Executive.

5.2.2. Councillors

5.2.2.1. All Councillors should act in accordance with the procedures of this Policy and follow the guidelines and procedures attached to the Policy to safeguard children and adults from harm and abuse.

5.2.2.2. All Councillors are expected to undertake training on safeguarding children and adults every three years. A register is kept of those who have completed the training, and this is reported as part of the performance monitoring arrangements coordinated by the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

5.2.3. Cabinet Members

Name:	E-mail Address:
Councillor Menna Trenholme <i>Cabinet Member - Children and Families</i>	Cynghorydd.MennaTrenholme@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Councillor Dilwyn Morgan <i>Cabinet Member - Adults</i>	Cynghorydd.DilwynMorgan@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Councillor Dewi Jones <i>Cabinet Member - Education</i>	Cynghorydd.DewiJones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

5.2.3.1. The Cabinet Members for Adults, Education and Children and Families will keep an overview of safeguarding matters across the Council.

5.2.3.2. These Cabinet Members will be standing members of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel. The Cabinet Members will report annually on the work of the Strategic Panel to the Care Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet and the Full Council.

5.2.4. Care Scrutiny Committee

5.2.4.1. Members of the Care Scrutiny Committee will scrutinise and receive information about the Strategic Panel's work programme through the Annual Report.

5.2.5. The Full Council

5.2.5.1. Each Councillor will receive an Annual Report on the work of the Safeguarding Children and Adults Strategic Panel.

5.3. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL'S DEPARTMENTS, MANAGERS AND STAFF

5.3.1. All Departments within the Council should take full ownership of their safeguarding responsibilities and promote procedures to report any concerns to the Social Services and/or the Police.

5.3.2. All Members of Staff

5.3.2.1. All members of staff and volunteers have a responsibility to exercise their duties in a manner that safeguards and promotes the well-being of children and adults.

5.3.2.2. All staff must undertake training on safeguarding children and adults **every three years**. A register is kept of those who have completed the training, and this is reported as part of departmental performance monitoring arrangements and the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

5.3.3. Heads of Department

5.3.3.1. Responsibility for safeguarding and implementing this Policy within each Department rests with the Head of Department.

5.3.3.2. Every Head of Department should ensure that all members of staff in relevant posts are vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and that their staff comply with this Policy. Compliance in this area will be recorded and scrutinised by the Strategic Safeguarding Panel.

5.3.3.3. Safeguarding will be on the agenda of every Corporate Management Team meeting.

5.3.3.4. All Heads of Department should ensure that safeguarding features regularly on the Departmental Management Team agenda.

5.3.4. Line Managers

5.3.4.1. Every Line Manager is responsible for ensuring that their teams have received at least the mandatory safeguarding (Group A) training they require and that the training is up-to-date and relevant to their responsibilities.

5.3.5. Designated Safeguarding Person

5.3.5.1. Each Council Department has nominated a "Designated Safeguarding Person" who is responsible for:

- familiarising themselves with this Policy and with the [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#);
- acting as the primary source for safeguarding advice and support for other staff in the Department;
- ensuring that there are effective internal procedures for dealing with concerns within the Department;
- attending the relevant training for a "Designated Safeguarding Person";
- maintaining an overview of staff compliance with the relevant training within their Department.

5.3.5.2. The Designated Safeguarding Person for each department will be a member of the Safeguarding Operational Group, which is accountable to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

5.3.5.3. Each Department has a responsibility to ensure that all Members of Staff are aware of who the Designated Safeguarding Person is.

5.3.6. Organisations commissioned by Cyngor Gwynedd

5.3.6.1. All organisations commissioned by Cyngor Gwynedd are required to:

- Arrange and carry out appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for all relevant members of staff.
- Ensure that their staff comply fully with the principles and requirements of Cyngor Gwynedd's Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Adults.
- Ensure that all members of staff receive appropriate safeguarding training and regular refresher training, so that they understand their roles, responsibilities and the expectations.
- Promptly inform the relevant Council managers of any safeguarding concerns or protection matters that arise.

5.3.6.2. It is the responsibility of the contract manager to ensure that the organisation complies with all the above requirements.

5.3.6.3. The requirements set out in paragraph 5.3.6.1 must be included in all:

- tender documents
- service agreements
- relevant contracts

6. THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

6.1. Strategic Safeguarding Panel

6.1.1. Responsibility for maintaining an overview of child and adult safeguarding arrangements has been delegated by the Cabinet to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

6.1.2. The Panel's main responsibilities are to ensure that:

- there are robust corporate and departmental arrangements in place to safeguard children and adults in Gwynedd.
- there are clear and unambiguous communication arrangements in place across the organisation, including information on the key officers in each service who are responsible for child and adult safeguarding matters.
- elected members have a clear understanding of the policies and guidance for safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm and/or abuse.

6.1.3. The Panel meets three times a year. See further information about the Safeguarding Strategic Panel in its terms of reference (**APPENDIX 1**).

6.2. Safeguarding Operational Group

6.2.1. The Safeguarding Operational Group is accountable to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel and operates in accordance with that Panel's guidance and requirements, and independently.

6.2.2. The Safeguarding Operational Group will monitor performance across the services from a child and adult safeguarding perspective. The Safeguarding Operational Group reports to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel at each panel meeting, clearly outlining any concerns or barriers.

6.2.3. The Safeguarding Operational Group will ensure that:

- There is clear understanding in the Council's workplace, and amongst those working on behalf of the Council, of the policies and guidance for safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm and/or abuse.
- Members, staff and volunteers receive appropriate and timely information and training on safeguarding.
- Safe recruitment takes place and that the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is used consistently.

6.2.4. See further information on the Safeguarding Operational Group in its terms of reference (**APPENDIX 2**).

7. REPORTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING

7.1. The Annual Report of the Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Adults reports on the Council's performance in complying with the Safeguarding Policy and Guidance. The Annual Report is presented to the Corporate Management Team, the Cabinet and the Full Council.

7.2. This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed every two years or if changes are made to the legislation or when considering changes in working practices that may arise from incidents or allegations.

APPENDICES

- **APPENDIX 1:** Terms of Reference of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel.
- **APPENDIX 2:** Terms of Reference of the Safeguarding Operational Group.
- **APPENDIX 3:** Recording a Concern.

USEFUL LINKS

- **Signs of Abuse:** [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- **Workforce Code of Conduct and Practice:** [Document](#)
- **Mandatory Safeguarding Training (Group A):** [E-learning Portal](#)
- **Disclosure of Offences and Checking Criminal Records:** [Recruitment and Appointment Procedure](#)
- **Departmental Designated Safeguarding Person:** [Who's who](#)
- **Referral Form:** [Document](#) (for professional/agency person only)
- **Safeguarding Role for Councillors:** [Welsh Local Government Association \(WLGA\) website](#)
- **Dealing with Allegations in Positions of Trust:** [Wales Safeguarding Procedures \(Section 5\)](#)
- **Safeguarding children from online abuse:** [Wales Safeguarding Procedures: Online Abuse](#)

APPENDIX 1

Terms of Reference of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Safeguarding children and adults is a priority for Cyngor Gwynedd. To ensure that suitable and appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place, the Statutory Director of Social Services convenes a Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Adults, which represents Members and senior management from all Council departments.
- 1.2. The Safeguarding Children and Adults Strategic Panel is expected to lead and advise on the safeguarding requirements contained in paragraphs 64-69 of Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 1.3. All agencies must also establish internal arrangements for ensuring that the counter-terrorism agenda, prevention of radicalisation and community safety matters are given the appropriate attention.
- 1.4. For the purpose of this Panel, the term 'safeguarding' applies to adults, children and young people and it means preventing them from being abused or neglected and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers. Safeguarding, and promoting individuals' well-being, is a broader term than 'protecting' individuals from being abused. It's about individuals and services identifying the risk factors and taking steps to prevent vulnerable individuals from being abused. Protection is part of the work of safeguarding and promoting well-being. It refers to the activity of protecting children, young people and adults who are suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm because of abuse or neglect.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SAFEGUARDING STRATEGIC PANEL

- 2.1. The aim of the Panel is to provide assurance to Members and to the Statutory Director of Social Services, as the senior officer within the Council with full and ultimate accountability for safeguarding children, young people and adults, that suitable arrangements and procedures are in place at a corporate level to ensure the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. The Panel will exercise 3 statutory duties, namely:
 - a general corporate duty to safeguard,
 - Social Services statutory duty,
 - community safety duty.
- 2.2. In order to fulfil these duties, the Panel is expected to:
 - Identify any gaps in relation to safeguarding at a corporate level and approve work programmes to respond to these. Work with the Safeguarding Operational Group to respond to any gaps identified.
 - Identify lessons to be learned, at a corporate level, from serious case reviews and from other relevant reviews and ensure that these are implemented. (Adult Practice Review, Child Practice Review and Domestic Homicide Review).
 - Identify lessons to be learned from external and internal audits and ensure that these are implemented.

- Notify the relevant lead members of key matters/developments in the area of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Act as a medium for raising awareness among all Council staff and all elected members of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.
- Be a means of ensuring that members of staff and elected members receive appropriate training (for example the two mandatory VAWDASV and Prevent) in a timely manner and to monitor attendance at this training.
- Ensure inter-departmental working relationships and effective communication within the Council in the area of safeguarding.
- Ensure that the Council's arrangements comply with the legal requirement to ensure that staff are qualified to work in regulated posts.
- Ensure an overview of broader Safeguarding matters including counterterrorism, modern slavery, domestic violence and community safety.

3. MONITORING PERFORMANCE

3.1. The Safeguarding Strategic Panel will have a responsibility to monitor and challenge performance relating to the area of Safeguarding.

4. CHAIRMANSHIP

4.1. The Panel will appoint a Chair and Vice-chair every two years.

5. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

5.1. The Panel will meet three times a year.

6. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

6.1. The Safeguarding Strategic Panel is accountable to the Cabinet. An Annual Report will be presented to the Cabinet every year. That Report will also be submitted to the Full Council annually.

6.2. Business management [i.e. drawing up a work programme, meeting agendas, the secretariat, a central point of communication, arranging additional professional advice if required]] is the responsibility of the Corporate Support Department.

7. MEMBERSHIP

Title
Cabinet Member for Children and Supporting Families
Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being
Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Chief Executive
Corporate Director

Statutory Director of Social Services
Head of Children and Supporting Families Department
Head of Education Department
Head of Adults Department
Head of Corporate Services Department
Chair of the Safeguarding Operational Group
Head of Legal Service
Manager of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Safety Partnership
Senior Manager for Quality and Safeguarding, Children and Supporting Families
Senior Manager for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health

APPENDIX 2

Terms of Reference of the Safeguarding Operational Group

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Safeguarding children and adults is a priority for Cyngor Gwynedd. To ensure that suitable and appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place, the Statutory Director of Social Services convenes a Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Adults, which represents Members and senior management from all Council departments.

1.2. The Safeguarding Operational Group is accountable to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel and works to its guidance.

1.3. For the purpose of this Group, the term 'safeguarding' applies to adults, children and young people and it means preventing them from being abused or neglected and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers. Safeguarding, and promoting individuals' well-being, is a broader term than 'protecting' individuals from being abused. It's about individuals and services identifying the risk factors and taking steps to prevent vulnerable individuals from being abused. Protection is part of the work of safeguarding and promoting well-being. It refers to the activity of protecting children, young people and adults who are suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm because of abuse or neglect.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SAFEGUARDING OPERATIONAL GROUP

2.1. The Safeguarding Operational Group operates in accordance with the guidance and requirements of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

2.2. The Safeguarding Operational Group will monitor performance across the services from a child and adult safeguarding perspective. The Group will report to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel at each meeting, clearly outlining any concerns or barriers. The Panel will work with the Group to respond to any gaps identified.

2.3. The Safeguarding Operational Group will ensure that:

- There is clear understanding in the Council's workplace, and amongst those working on behalf of the Council, of the policies and guidance for safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm and/or abuse.
- Each department in the Council has its own safeguarding procedures, which are properly documented and used and are compatible with the Council's Safeguarding Policy.
- Staff and volunteers receive appropriate and timely information and training on safeguarding.
- Safer recruitment takes place and that the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is used consistently and effectively.

2.4 The Designated Safeguarding Person will undertake the role of raising awareness within their departments.

3 CHAIRMANSHIP

3.4 The Panel will appoint a Chair and Vice-chair every two years.

4 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

4.4 The Group meets four times a year.

5 GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

5.4 The Safeguarding Operational Group is accountable to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel.

5.5 Business management [i.e. drawing up a work programme, meeting agendas, the secretariat, a central point of communication, arranging additional professional advice if required]] is the responsibility of the Corporate Support Department.

6 MEMBERSHIP

6.4 The Membership of the Operational Group is the Designated Safeguarding Person for safeguarding children and adults in every Department within the Council.

6.5 A list of the Designated Safeguarding Person for each Department can be found on the staff self-service.

APPENDIX 3

Recording a Concern

If there is an immediate danger ...

If you believe an individual is in immediate danger of harm, **call 999 immediately.**

If there is concern but no immediate danger...

If you are concerned that a child (under 18) or a vulnerable adult is being abused or neglected, you should record the concern immediately.

If it is easier, call **01766 772577** for a conversation. It would be desirable for you to record this on paper in writing, or the easiest way to record it would be to e-mail your manager / senior employee or the Designated Safeguarding Person with the following information:

- **The names and addresses of the individuals you are concerned** about. If additional details are available (date of birth for example) you should note them, but you are not expected to go and enquire about these.

You should note...

- **What happened?**
- **What did you see?**
- **What did you hear?**
- **What were you told?**
- **Where and when did the incident happen?**
- **Why are you concerned?**

Keep the record factual, without including personal opinions. The exact words used can be cited if you remember them.

You should also note...

- **Your name and role**
- **Date and time of the record**

You should sign the record if it is on paper, this is not necessary if it is an e-mail to your manager/senior employee or the Department's Designated Safeguarding Person.

What will happen next?

- Your manager/senior worker or the *Department's Designated Safeguarding Person* will consider whether the information should be forwarded immediately to the social services referrals admission team.
- This is done through a [Safeguarding Referral Form](#), which is available on the Council's intranet.

This information should be treated confidentially and only shared with the appropriate individuals.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD'S CABINET



Report to Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet meeting

Meeting date:	7 July 2026
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Huw Wyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance
Contact Officer:	Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance
Contact Telephone No:	01286 682684
Item Title:	Allocation of income surplus from the Second Homes and Empty Homes Premium for 2025-26

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. Allocate the additional income from the premium on empty properties and second homes to the priority areas set out in Part 4 below.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. Councils are required to determine the use of the premium in accordance with the [Statutory Guidance Council Tax on empty and second homes | GOV.WALES](#)
- 2.2. The Council has collected income from the premium during 2025/26 that exceeded the estimates that need to be earmarked for priority areas.
- 2.3. In line with usual arrangements, an outturn review was carried out at the end of the financial year to calculate the Council's actual income and expenditure against the budget; this included a review of the income received from the premium.
- 2.4. The results of the work were reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 19 May 2026 and one of the decisions made was that an underspend of (£914k) on the Council Tax Premium in the 2025/26 financial year be transferred to the Council Tax Premium fund with its use to be determined by Cabinet: [Agenda for the Cabinet on Tuesday, 19th May, 2026, 1.00 p.m.](#)

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. Cyngor Gwynedd has powers, under Council Tax legislation, to charge a premium on second homes and long-term empty homes. The premium generates additional income for the Council, and the statutory guidance sets clear expectations about how this income should be considered and used.
- 3.2. On 19 May 2026 Cabinet approved a programme of projects to allocate a total of £1,222,100 of Council Tax Premium income. This amount was a combination of £893,700 of additional income from increasing the empty property premium to 150% that is available from the 2026/27 financial year onwards, and £328,400 of previous years' income not previously allocated.

4. RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

Context

- 4.1. A total surplus of **£917,770** for 2025/26 is available for allocation, which is a combination of £3,700 of Premium up to and including 2024-25 which has not yet been committed (Cabinet report 19 May 2026) and £914,070 of 2025-26 Premium that was collected above commitments.
- 4.2. As has been noted in previous reports on the allocation of premium income, we will need to review the affordability of all commitments going forward in order to respond to potential fluctuations in the collection rate, property moves between domestic and non-domestic taxes; and costs increases.

Use of the Premium

- 4.3. Councils are required to consider the requirements of the [Statutory Guidance on the Council Tax on empty and second homes | GOV. WALES](#) in determining the use of the premium.
- 4.4. The discretion given to local authorities to charge a premium is intended to be a resource to help do the following:
 - ensuring that long-term empty properties are re-used to provide safe and affordable homes
 - helping local authorities increase the supply of affordable housing and make local communities more sustainable
- 4.5. Authorities can use the additional revenue for any purpose, but are encouraged to use it to help meet local housing needs, in line with the policy intentions of the premiums.
- 4.6. The Council is expected to publish, for the sake of transparency, how the additional income raised has been used to address the problems caused by long-term empty properties and second homes, or to address other local housing problems.

- 4.7. At the meeting on 19 May 2026, Cabinet decided on new commitments from the Council Tax Premium, meaning that the current use of the Premium for 2026-27 is:

	£
Housing Action Plan	8,115,120
Homelessness	3,369,510
Housing Posts	165,840
Taxation Posts	59,890
New Accountancy Post	60,040
New Taxation Posts	136,420
Permanent Homelessness Bids	936,880
Staffing of the Empty Housing Team	200,000
Reports and Preparatory Work	60,000
Empty Homes Grant	500,000
Vacant Property Enforcement Costs	50,000
Networking Forum	10,000
Community Fund	150,000
Online Tax Forms System (one-off)	78,500
Online Tax Forms System (permanent amount)	63,900
Recovery Officers	106,000

New Proposals

- 4.8. We have started by looking at the recent bids to identify any suitable applications of need from departments that were not funded through that process, as a starting point.

Permanent Amount £	One-Time Amount £	Description	Effect
95,180	330,000	Storage and Transport of household property in emergency accommodation / temporary accommodation	<p>There is a potential for all households accommodated in emergency accommodation to need assurance that their property is protected while waiting for permanent accommodation. In 2025/26, 632 households were placed in emergency accommodation.</p> <p>In an emotional and traumatic time of being homeless, the safe storage of personal belongings will provide reassurance to people who find themselves homeless, and will have easy access to them in line with their fundamental rights.</p>

			<p>Ensure that individuals' personal belongings (those with an emotional connection or sentimental value) are treated with respect</p> <p>Ensuring that the Council complies with its statutory duty</p> <p>Avoids a departmental overspend (in 2025-26 the overspend was £232,000)</p>
64,420		Project Manager position for the Housing Action Plan	The project manager will work on approximately 7 development projects during the year, as well as offering overall support to the objectives of the Housing Action Plan.
159,600	330,000	Total Amount	
	489,600		

- 4.9. It is recommended not to allocate the remainder at this point so that the commitments and their affordability are reviewed as part of the November Review so as not to over-commit due to the reasons set out in 3.1 above. The above means committing 53% of the estimated additional income.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. An impact assessment on the proposals has been prepared and is included in the Annex. The assessment anticipates the neutral impact of the decision sought.

6. THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

- 6.1. There is a duty to act in accordance with the principle of sustainable development, which is to seek to ensure that the needs of the present are met without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- 6.2. In acting in accordance with this general duty the Council needs to take into account the importance of long-term impact, being integrated, inclusive, collaborative and preventive in the development and implementation of the proposal before it.
- 6.3. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, Cyngor Gwynedd has adopted well-being objectives. Particular attention is drawn to the following objectives:
- Communities that thrive and thrive for the long term
 - Healthy and Independent Residents with a Good Quality of Life

- 6.4. The current Premium funds the Council's Housing Action Plan, which is a proactive attempt to strengthen the sustainability of those communities within Gwynedd that have a high number of second homes and long-term empty homes.
- 6.5. The Council's Housing Strategy sets out the vision of "Ensuring that the people of Gwynedd have access to a suitable and quality, affordable home that improves their quality of life".
- 6.6. The Strategy identifies five objectives that had to be met if the Council was to achieve this vision:
- Nobody is homeless in Gwynedd
 - Social housing available to everyone who needs one
 - Everyone's home in Gwynedd is affordable for them
 - Tai Gwynedd is environmentally friendly
 - Cartrefi have a positive influence on the health and well-being of the people of Gwynedd.
- 6.7. The Housing Action Plan includes a number of projects which, taken together, deliver on these objectives.

7. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 7.1. If Cabinet decides to fund the schemes outlined in the table above, they will be implemented in 2026/27.

Statutory Officers' Comments

Chief Finance Officer's comments:

I have worked with the Cabinet Member to prepare this report and confirm the contents.

Monitoring Officer's comments:

The allocation and prioritisation of the income from the premium is a matter for the Cabinet to decide. I am satisfied that the recommendation is appropriate and in line with the flexibility contained in the Statutory Guidance.

Integrated Impact Assessment

This document assesses the impact that the policy, procedure, plan etc will have on the population of the county and operates on the basis of a number of laws.

- **The Equality Act 2010.** It places a duty on public organisations to pay due attention to the impact of any new policy, procedure, scheme etc (or in adapting them) on people with protected characteristics. We are asked
 - abolish unlawful discrimination, harassment and persecution and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - promote equal opportunities between people who share a relevant protected feature and those who do not.
 - foster good relationships between people who share a protected trait and those who don't.

In Wales the specific duty sets out the need to carry out an impact assessment following specific guidelines to consider the impact that a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure) will have on people with protected equality characteristics. A timely assessment must be made before a decision is made on any material change (i.e. affecting people with a protected feature).

- **Socio-Economic Duty.** Wales has now implemented this duty which is part of the Equality Act 2010 giving a duty to address socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decisions.
- **Welsh Language Standards (Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011).** The Council is required to consider the impact that a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure) will have on opportunities for people to use Welsh and to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English. This document therefore ensures that these decisions protect and promote the use of the Welsh language.
- **Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.** The Council has a duty to implement the five ways of working, and to respond to the 7 national well-being goals.

- **the Armed Forces Act 2021.** Councils must give due regard to the impact of this proposal on those serving or having served in the Armed Forces, as well as their families.

Premium Allocation June 2026

Author : Dewi Aeron Morgan

Job Title: Head of Finance

Date: 03/06/2026

Version: Cabinet Version

STAGE 1 - Main Aims and Objectives of the Policy or Practice

1. What kind of document or procedure is being assessed?

- Setting budget allocations for the new financial year and strategic financial planning

2. What are the goals, objectives and intended outcomes of the policy or practice?

Allocation of a surplus in the Council Tax Premium collected in 2025/26 and not yet allocated. Approximately £914,000 remains to be allocated following previous commitments.

3. Who are the main advisory groups (stakeholders)?

Officers in the affected departments, and the relevant Cabinet Members.

STEP 2 - Engagement Data and Impact Assessment

4. Has an attempt been made to comply with the duty to engage in accordance with what is described above and has sufficient information been gathered to proceed?

Yes

Details of engagement. Please note any consultation or engagement you have made or intend to do

Operation	Dates	Carmarthenshire
Consulted with relevant officers within the Council	5/6/2026 12:00:00 AM	The vast majority of Premium income has already been earmarked but a surplus in 2025/26 has provided an opportunity to use the money to fund specific housing schemes.

5. What information is available about the impact on each of the features and topics below?

	Relevant Evidence, Information and Data	Potential Positive and/or Negative Impact
Race	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Disability	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.

Gender	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Age	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Religion and belief	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Sexual Orientation	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Gender reassignment	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Pregnancy and Maternity	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Skip to content _ Skip to footer	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.

Socio-Economic Considerations	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect
Those who serve or have served in the armed forces, together with their families	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Skip to footer	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.
Other	The use of the money relates to investment to avoid maintenance costs, and to fund the position of project manager.	Neutral effect.

6. Are there any data or information gaps and if so, what are these and how are they intended to be addressed?

No

7. When considering other key decisions affecting these groups, is there a incremental effect (cumulative effect)?

Previous decisions have been made over several years in earmarking the use of the Premium. In considering these decisions, these groups are not considered to be affected by the decisions.

8. What does the proposal include to show that you have given due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (to promote equal opportunities; help to eliminate discrimination, harassment or unlawful victimisation and foster good relationships and wider community cohesion) as covered by the 3 aims of the General Duty in the Equality Act 2010?

This proposal assists the Housing and Property Department to take positive action to avoid the costs of housing furniture etc, and to implement specific projects. Attention has been paid to the Equality Duty but it is not seen that the decision sought has an impact in this area.

9. How does the proposal show that due attention has been given to the need to address inequalities in the cause of socio-economic disadvantage? (Note that this is about closing inequality gaps rather than just improving outcomes for all)

This is a cost-saving proposal, and the projects will assist the Housing and Property Department in the realisation of projects. This in nature will address inequality in the cause of socio-economic disadvantage.

10. How does the proposal demonstrate action in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), not to treat the Welsh language less favourably than English, and to ensure opportunities for people to use Welsh? Also how will action be taken in accordance with the Council's language policy and strategy to take advantage of every opportunity to promote the Welsh language (beyond providing services bilingually) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

Not applicable – this proposal deals with the storage of goods, as well as the position of a project manager.

11. How does this proposal meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act by implementing the five ways of working, and responding to the 7 national well-being goals including creating a More Equal Wales?

The current Premium funds the Council's Housing Action Plan, which is a proactive attempt to strengthen the sustainability of those communities within Gwynedd that have a high number of second homes and long-term empty homes. The Council's Housing Strategy sets out the vision of "Ensuring that the people of Gwynedd have access to a suitable and quality, affordable home that improves their quality of life". The Strategy identifies five objectives that had to be addressed if the Council was to achieve this vision:

- No one is homeless in Gwynedd
- Social housing available to all who need one
- Everyone's home in Gwynedd is affordable for them
- Gwynedd housing is environmentally friendly
- Homes have a positive influence on the health and wellbeing of the people of Gwynedd. The Housing Action Plan includes a number of projects which, taken together, deliver on these objectives.

PHASE 3 - Procurement and Partnerships

12. Will this policy or practice be carried out in whole or in part by contractors or in partnership with other organisation(s)?

No

What action will be taken to comply with the General Equality Duty, Human Rights and Welsh language legislation and the Socio-Economic Duty in relation to procurement and/or partnerships?

Procurement:

-

Partnership:

-

STEP 4 - Dealing with Negative or Unlawful Impact and Strengthening the Policy or Practice

13. In considering proportionality, does the policy or practice cause a significant positive or negative impact or create unequal outcomes?

Significant Positive Impact:

The proposal is a way to invest in order to allow us to operate in a cheaper way, by internalizing the service.

Significant Negative Impact:

None

14. Any intentional negative impact and why it is believed that there is justification for such action (for example, on the basis of improving equal opportunities or fostering good relationships between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not or because of objective justification or positive action

No negative impact

15. Will any of the negative impacts identified count as unlawful but unavoidable discrimination (e.g. reduction of funding)?

No

Please note the reason for saying so and the justification for continuing

No negative impact

16. What other measures or changes could be included in order to strengthen or change the policy/practice to demonstrate that due attention has been given to the promotion of equal opportunities; helping to eradicate unlawful discrimination, harassment or persecution and foster good relationships and wider community cohesion; as addressed in the General Duty of the Equality Act 2010?

That is not considered necessary.

17. What other measures or changes could be included to strengthen or change the policy/practice to demonstrate that due attention has been given to the need to reduce unequal outcomes as a result of socio-economic disadvantage?

That is not considered necessary.

18. What other measures or changes could be included to strengthen or change the policy/practice to demonstrate that due regard has been given to the need to increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and not to treat the Welsh language less favourably than English in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and to reduce or prevent any adverse effects that the policy/practice may have on the Welsh language?

That is not considered necessary.

19. Is there enough information to form a balanced view and move forward?

Yes

STEP 5 - Decide to Go Ahead

**20. Given the information gathered at Steps 1-4, is it possible to proceed with the policy or practice, and if so, on what basis?
Choice of:**

Continue the policy or practice in its current form

PHASE 6 - Actions and Arrangements for Monitoring Results and Reviewing Data

The IIA process is an ongoing one and does not end when the policy/practice and the IIA have been agreed and implemented. There is a specific legal duty to monitor the impact of the policies/practices on equality on an ongoing basis to identify whether the outcomes have changed since you introduced or modified this new policy or practice. If you do not have the relevant data, you should be taking action to correct this in your action plan. To view the EHRC's guidance on data collection you can review their [Measurement Framework](#)

21. What actions identified in Steps 1-5 or any additional data collection work will assist in monitoring the policy/practice when implemented:

Operation	Dates	Timeline	Skip to content _ Skip to footer	Add to Service Plan
Reviewing the value for money of the scheme	3/31/2027 12:00:00 AM	Annually	Head of Finance	No

22. What arrangements to monitor and review the ongoing impact of this policy or exercise will be implemented, including timescales for when it should be formally reviewed:

Monitoring and Review Arrangements (including where the results will be recorded)	Timetable and Frequency	Skip to content _ Skip to footer	Skip to content _ Skip to footer
Reviewing value for money	Annually	Head of Finance	No



CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Date of meeting: 7 July 2026

Cabinet Member: Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes
Cabinet Member for Economy and Community

Relevant Officers: Sioned Williams,
Head of Economy and Community Department

Item Title: **LOCAL GROWTH FUND: GWYNEDD 2026/27 PROJECTS**

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. To agree to commit the £6,317,640 of funding provided to Cyngor Gwynedd for allocation to projects in 2026/27, to the 10 schemes listed in the report.
- 1.2. To delegate authority to the Head of Economy and Community Department - in consultation with the Head of Legal Service, the Head of Finance and the Chief Executive - to confirm the scheme details and financial contribution, to decide on issuing a letter of offer and any other documentation required to agree the funding of the projects.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. The arrival of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) was reported to Cabinet on [10 March](#).
- 2.2. The first year of the Fund (2026/27) has now commenced, and an offer of funding from the Welsh Government to North Wales has been received.
- 2.3. The priorities of the LGF differ from those of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), which has been in operation since 2022; however, 2026/27 is considered a transition year towards the new LGF arrangements.
- 2.4. In accordance with the wishes of the Welsh Government, the procedures established for the SPF will continue to be used for 2026/27.
- 2.5. Responsibility for the Local Growth Fund will transfer to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee from 2027/28 onwards.
- 2.6. £6,317,640 of the North Wales budget has been allocated to Cyngor Gwynedd to commit to projects. 73% of the funding is capital, and

planning must be undertaken on the basis that the funding is spent before 31 March 2027.

3. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 3.1. Since 2022, North Wales has received funding from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). The SPF was administered jointly by the North Wales counties (through Cyngor Gwynedd), with a financial allocation to each county to determine its own use individually.
- 3.2. A total of £32.15 million has been invested by Cyngor Gwynedd through the SPF, benefiting individuals, businesses, local organisations and communities across Gwynedd (examples of schemes that have received support are available on the [Council's website](#)). 2025/26 was the final year of the SPF.
- 3.3. The Local Growth Fund (LGF) is the main successor to the SPF. £547 million will come to Wales from the Fund over three years between 2026/27 and 2028/29.
- 3.4. The LGF remains a UK Government programme, but the Welsh Government will receive the funding and be accountable for its expenditure. The Welsh Government intends to allocate a large proportion of the funding to regions and wishes to do so via the Corporate Joint Committees, namely Ambition North Wales in the case of Gwynedd.
- 3.5. Funding for the Fund has been confirmed until 31 March 2029. On 23 March, it was announced that the UK Government and the Welsh Government had agreed on a three-year [investment plan](#) for the Fund in Wales.
- 3.6. The Welsh Government considers 2026/27 to be a transitional year to allow time for the Corporate Joint Committees to prepare and plan, and therefore the SPF administration and governance arrangements will continue to be used this year.
- 3.7. Cyngor Gwynedd will be the lead Local Authority for the LGF on behalf of the North Wales counties in 2026/27. The Council has received an offer letter for North Wales' 2026/27 funding from the Welsh Government. The offer was signed on 23 April.

2026/27 Budget

- 3.8. £33,781,826 of Local Growth Fund funding has been allocated to North Wales for 2026/27. 70% of the funding will be received as capital.
- 3.9. In line with the principle of continuing the SPF delivery approach, there is agreement among the North Wales counties to allow individual counties to determine the use of the funding based on the spatial distribution of the SPF. 19.3% of the North Wales allocation has been earmarked for Gwynedd.
- 3.10. The total allocation for Gwynedd is £6,524,379. In line with the practice established by the SPF, 4% of the funding (£260,975) has been earmarked for the management and administration of the Fund; based on experience, this full amount is not required, and therefore it is intended to plan on the basis that £6,317,640 is available to be committed to activity.
- 3.11. The breakdown of the funding available to support projects is:
- | | |
|---------|------------------|
| Capital | £4,567,378 (72%) |
| Revenue | £1,750,262 (28%) |
- 3.12. The budget represents a reduction of 20% (£1.6 million) from the SPF in 2025/26. The shift in emphasis towards capital funding means that there is £4.2 million (70%) less revenue funding available in 2026/27.

Local Growth Fund Priorities

- 3.13. Although it succeeds the SPF, the intention and priorities of the LGF differ, reflecting new UK Government priorities and the change in the composition of the funding (i.e. a shift from revenue funding to predominantly capital funding).
- 3.14. The ambition is to *support productivity growth and address the issues that lead to economic inequalities across Wales.*
- 3.15. The Fund has three priorities and eight objectives. The Fund's priorities are:
- More productive and competitive businesses
 - Increasing skills and supporting people into work
 - Improving regional infrastructure
- 3.16. Appendix B of the Fund's [Investment Plan](#) lists the LGF objectives in Wales and includes important information on the activities envisaged by the Welsh Government.

4. RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

- 4.1. The Local Growth Fund (LGF) is different from the SPF; the LGF prioritises economic development and securing growth, with an emphasis on activity of regional significance. There is no focus on community development within the Fund, and the scope for regeneration activity has been reduced.
- 4.2. The implications of the shift towards primarily capital expenditure are also significant, particularly given that planning must be undertaken on the basis that expenditure must be completed by 31 March 2027.
- 4.3. There is also a requirement to plan with incomplete information and within a short timeframe. The budget was confirmed at the end of March, only draft indicators for the LGF in Wales are available, and the Fund's guidance has yet to be published.
- 4.4. The development of a portfolio of schemes for the Local Growth Fund in Gwynedd in 2026/27 has been shaped by the above and, in particular, the practical requirements of meeting the conditions.

Principles and considerations

- 4.5. The above guides the Council's choices for the LGF. Ideally, in line with our usual practice, an open process would have been undertaken to invite applications in order to give local enterprises and organisations the opportunity to submit their proposals; however, there is insufficient time, and elements of the information that would be expected from applicants remain unknown.
- 4.6. Despite this, efforts have been made to identify a list of investments that could be eligible and suitable to receive funding from the Council through the LGF in 2026/27, based on:
 - the county's Local Area Regeneration Plans;
 - input from stakeholders and partners to the proposed delivery plan for our [Economic Strategy](#);
 - feedback from our officers working with communities and enterprises; and,
 - existing schemes that may be suitable for the LGF.

Anyone with appropriate suggestions was encouraged to get in touch (see [the Council's website](#)).

- 4.7. It is important to note that the LGF is one among a range of funding programmes and is not the sole source of investment in the county. Significant expenditure in Gwynedd is planned or underway through the North Wales Growth Bid, the Local Regeneration Fund, the Transforming

Towns programme and the Pride in Place programme, which will benefit areas across the county.

- 4.8. All schemes supported through the LGF will be required to demonstrate their intention to make a positive contribution to the future of the Welsh language.
- 4.9. It will also be required that all schemes deliver the following principles (originally established by the Council for the SPF):
- a) That there is a deliberate effort to ensure that the funding, and the benefits derived from it, helps communities and residents across Gwynedd.
 - b) That there is a deliberate effort to encourage activities (and organisations) that have not previously received funding to access support.
- 4.10. Further to the above, the key considerations in bringing together a package of proposals to receive funding from the Gwynedd Local Growth Fund allocation were:
1. the need to ensure that all parts of Gwynedd benefit;
 2. alignment with the priorities of the Economic Strategy;
 3. relevance to the Gwynedd Prosperous projects within the Council Plan;
 4. consistency with local priorities set out in the Area Regeneration Plans; and,
 5. fit with the priorities and objectives of the Local Growth Fund and the North Wales Regional Economic Framework.
 6. **the practicality of operating within the time constraints of the LGF** (planning on the basis that expenditure must be completed by 31 March 2027).

The proposals under consideration

- 4.11. Based on the above considerations, 10 projects have been developed for the Local Growth Fund in Gwynedd in 2026/27. A number of these projects include a programme of activities to ensure that all parts of Gwynedd are able to benefit from the schemes.
- 4.12. In light of the limited timescale for developing and delivering activity funded by the LGF, the development of the individual elements within the programmes is ongoing, and the composition of the activity will evolve as further information becomes available.
- 4.13. The package of activities under consideration has been discussed and has received input from the Council's partners through the Advisory

Group established for the purpose of the SPF, which includes representatives from the public, business and third sectors.

- 4.14. The programmes have been selected based on the themes of our Economic Strategy; *enterprise, people and place*:

ENTERPRISE	estimate: £1.27M	20%
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M1: Menter Gwynedd support and assistance programme £990k

A package of practical and financial support from Cyngor Gwynedd and other business support providers in the county (Bangor University, the Enterprise Hub and Cwmpas) to help establish new enterprises led by women or young people, and to support all types of enterprises to adopt technology, innovate and reduce their costs.

M2: Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre £280k

Completion of detailed planning work that will secure investment of £20 million+ to build a centre and science park in Trawsfynydd, in order to create employment opportunities in the area and prepare local residents and businesses to make the most of the opportunity.

PEOPLE	estimate: £1.56M	25%
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P1: Gwaith Gwynedd support programme £462k

A package of support from Cyngor Gwynedd and local providers, such as Gisda and the county's housing associations, to help local people who are not in work to get the support they need to secure employment, and to support people in entry-level jobs to improve their skills in order to earn higher wages.

P2: Gwynedd workforce skills programme £600k

A package of support delivered by Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai to a) support vulnerable young people to transition successfully into the world of work, and b) help local businesses obtain the right skills to adapt to changes in the economy and to grow and create jobs.

P3: Gwynedd in its Community network development programme £495k

A programme to develop and pilot the concept of creating a network of locations to provide employability support, skills development, and business support across Gwynedd, co-located with the county's libraries.

- L11: Nôl i Wynedd Talent Vouchers £100k
 Building on activity within the Council Plan to encourage/support young people to remain in and return to the county by working with Bangor University to secure work opportunities for graduates.
- L12: Community Asset Energy Efficiency Fund £350k
 Providing financial support via Mantell Gwynedd to help install equipment that will reduce the energy costs of community assets in the county, making them more viable and sustainable for the future.
- L13: Bangor City Centre Programme £547k
 Completion of detailed planning for the use of leisure, health and wellbeing assets as a tool for regenerating Bangor city's commercial centre.
- L14: Land and Property Infrastructure Programme to Enable Growth £1.06M
 A programme of investments to improve and increase the provision of work units in the county, enabling local enterprises to establish and grow. Activities include improving working environments for businesses, providing additional units, and preparing detailed plans to target further funding to establish more units in the future.
- L15: Cultural Assets Programme to Enable Growth £1.39M
 A programme of investments across Gwynedd in cultural, leisure and heritage assets to facilitate and encourage the development of the local economy.

4.15. The total of the above commitments is £6.28 million. There is some variation in the costs, and approximately £42,000 remains to be allocated as the final details of the schemes are confirmed.

4.16. Appendix 1 provides further outline of the individual schemes. Appendix 2 (available to Cabinet Members only) outlines the budget of the projects in question together with any co-funding.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

- 5.1. Through this report, the Cabinet will decide on supporting the 10 projects listed above and will determine the allocation of LGF funding.
- 5.2. Subject to Cabinet support for the portfolio of programmes, the final details of the schemes will be developed and confirmed through the application form.

- 5.3. Completion of the application form will require details of the scheme activities, confirmation of costs, proposed outcomes, and alignment of the proposed activity with the LGF and local, regional, and national priorities. It will also be necessary to prepare an impact assessment and outline how the scheme addresses the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and contributes to the prosperity of the Welsh language.
- 5.4. The Head of Economy and Community, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, the Head of Finance, and the Chief Executive, will assess the proposals by confirming the scheme details and financial contribution. On this basis, it will be possible to request that funding agreements are drawn up and released, with the aim of having activity underway before the summer.
- 5.5. The budget has only been confirmed for the first year of the Local Growth Fund (2026/27), and responsibility for the Fund will transfer to the Corporate Joint Committee (North Wales Ambition) in April 2027. Planning must therefore be undertaken on the basis that the funding committed through this report must be spent before 31 March 2027.
- 5.6. The Joint Committee will receive funding from the Welsh Government in 2026/27 to plan and prepare for Years 2 and 3 of the Fund. This work will include preparing a vision and growth plan outlining the intention for investing the £70.61 million that will be available to the region over the period.
- 5.7. Although the Joint Committee will not be able to confirm any financial commitments to schemes, we wish to seek their support in principle to support certain schemes in Gwynedd that are of regional priority as soon as possible, with the Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre (M2) and Bangor City Centre (L13) schemes as initial priorities.

6. OBSERVATIONS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

6.1. Chief Finance Officer:

"The funding being offered to Gwynedd under the scheme for 2026/27 is significantly lower than that received in the previous period, and changing the profile of funding with a greater emphasis on capital funding adds to the challenge. As the report makes clear, the money has to be spent during the current financial year and that is going to be extremely challenging given the limited time that has been available to identify and plan for projects. It is already June, and while acknowledging that the preferred approach could not be used to identify suitable projects, the report offers a pragmatic solution, and I support the decision sought."

6.2. Monitoring Officer:

“As stated in the report the decision sought is based on a transitional situation as the management of this fund is transferred to the North Wales CJC. As the timetable is extremely short there is a need to create a regime that can respond to this challenge. The proposed delegation responds to this in an appropriate way. I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought.”

Menter Gwynedd support and assistance programme (M1)

ENTERPRISE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	990k
Funding from other sources	£	130K

2. Proposed partnership

Cyngor Gwynedd (lead), Bangor University, Enterprise Hub, Cwmpas

3. Proposed activity

- Support / grants for women and young people to start enterprises within specific sectors
- Support / grants for enterprises with growth potential to decarbonise and adopt technology
- Supporting local enterprises to benefit from the University's expertise
- Supporting enterprises wishing to transition to employee ownership

4. Delivery area

The project will operate across Gwynedd.

5. Likely outcomes

- Women encouraged to start local enterprises
- Local young people supported to start enterprises
- More enterprises within sectors that add value to the local economy
- Local enterprises within growing sectors in the county supported
- More local enterprises making use of the University's expertise
- The University more embedded within the local business community
- Long-established local enterprises continuing and remaining in local ownership

6. Estimated outputs

- Local enterprises supported 65

Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre (M2)

ENTERPRISE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	280k
Funding from other sources	£	None

2. Proposed partnership

Cyngor Gwynedd (lead), M-SParc, NRS / NDA, Welsh Government, Ambition North Wales, Eryri National Park Authority

3. Proposed activity

- Prepare a Full Business Case for the Centre
- Prepare detailed designs for the Centre and secure planning permission
- Prepare local enterprises to take advantage of the opportunities
- Prepare local young people to take advantage of the opportunities

4. Delivery area

The project will operate in Bro Ffestiniog

5. Likely outcomes

- £20M+ secured to build the Centre
- Designs have received planning permission
- Tender documents for appointing contractors have been prepared
- Local enterprises are ready to take advantage
- Local young people wish to remain in the area to take advantage of opportunities

6. Estimated outputs

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| • Local people supported | 20 |
| • Local enterprises engaged | 40 |

Gwaith Gwynedd support programme (P1)

PEOPLE

1. <u>Funding forecast</u>		
Local Growth Fund	£	462k
Funding from other sources	£	None
2. <u>Proposed partnership</u>		
Cyngor Gwynedd (lead), Gisda, Adra / housing associations		
3. <u>Proposed activity</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support to direct economically inactive individuals to the appropriate programmes• Help individuals in entry-level jobs to improve their skills and secure better employment• Support young people with complex needs to be ready to receive help in securing a job• Support individuals with learning disabilities—who do not meet the threshold for mainstream support—to gain employment• Help housing association tenants to access training / work experience		
4. <u>Delivery area</u>		
The project will operate across Gwynedd.		
5. <u>Likely outcomes:</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local people accessing the appropriate support• More local people succeeding after receiving support• Fewer young people becoming economically inactive• Local people supported to achieve their potential and less likely to experience in-work poverty		
6. <u>Estimated outputs:</u>		
• People helped to secure employment		120
• People attending accredited training		115

Gwynedd workforce skills programme (P2)

PEOPLE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	600k
Funding from other sources	£	None

2. Proposed partnership

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (lead), local employers

3. Proposed activity

- Help to ensure that vulnerable young people remain in college and complete their courses
- Help to ensure that vulnerable young people successfully transition to further training or employment upon finishing college
- Training for employees of local enterprises to improve their skills
- Upgrade engineering equipment at the College in Dolgellau

4. Delivery area

The project will operate across Gwynedd.

5. Likely outcomes:

- Fewer young people becoming economically inactive
- Local workers improve their skills and are able to achieve their potential
- Local enterprises have the right skills to enable development
- More courses for employers in Meirionnydd

6. Estimated outputs:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • People helped to secure employment | 200 |
| • People attending accredited training | 80 |

Gwynedd in its Community network development programme (P3) PEOPLE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	495k
Funding from other sources	£	125k

2. Proposed partnership

Cyngor Gwynedd (lead), Jobcentre, Citizens Advice / Mid Wales Council, local housing associations

3. Proposed activity

- Develop a model to establish a sustainable network of centres across Gwynedd to provide training, employability support, business advice and access to services
- Pilot the model in Tywyn at the library site by adapting the building, improving digital connectivity and providing accessible spaces
- Develop detailed plans to extend the model to Barmouth and Blaenau Ffestiniog
- Develop provision across Gwynedd to help local people begin using the internet to access services, improve skills and secure employment

4. Delivery area

Direct investment will take place in the Bro Dysynni area, with plans for investment in the Dolgellau area and Bro Ffestiniog. An element of the project will also operate across Gwynedd.

5. Likely outcomes:

- Redevelopment of Tywyn Library as an example of how existing space can be adapted to extend its capacity to deliver a range of services
- Development of an alternative model that can be rolled out across Gwynedd
- More people accessing employability services and employment advice
- More people using digital and online services
- More people receiving cost-of-living support and partner services
- Improved digital skills and confidence among users

6. Estimated outputs:

- New support centre developed 1

Nôl i Wynedd Talent Vouchers (LI1)

PLACE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	100k
Funding from other sources	£	None

2. Proposed partnership

Cyngor Gwynedd (lead), Bangor University

3. Proposed activity

- Placing local graduates within local enterprises for up to 3 months.

4. Delivery area

The project will operate across Gwynedd.

5. Likely outcomes:

- Local graduates gaining work experience within a local enterprise
- Promotion of graduate employment opportunities in Gwynedd
- Local enterprises benefiting from the talent of local young people

6. Estimated outputs:

- Local enterprises supported 14
- Young people given the opportunity to work within their community 14

Community Asset Energy Efficiency Fund (LI2)

PLACE

- 1. Funding forecast
 - Local Growth Fund £ 350k
 - Funding from other sources £ None
- 2. Proposed partnership

Mantell Gwynedd (lead), Department for Economy and Community
- 3. Proposed activity
 - Support / grants for enterprises and voluntary community organisations with growth potential to decarbonise and adopt technology
- 4. Delivery area

The project will operate across Gwynedd.
- 5. Likely outcomes:
 - Community enterprises adopting technology and decarbonising assets
 - Running costs of community assets reduced
 - Community assets remaining viable
- 6. Estimated outputs:
 - Local community enterprises supported 15
 - Improvements to community facilities 15

Bangor City Centre Programme (LI3)

PLACE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	497k
Funding from other sources	£	100k

2. Proposed partnership

Cyngor Gwynedd (lead), Byw'n Iach, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

3. Proposed activity

- A further stage in the development of the business case for the Menai Health Centre development completed
- Safeguarding assets to facilitate the use of leisure, health and wellbeing as a tool for regenerating Bangor city centre

4. Delivery area

The project will operate in the Bangor Area

5. Likely outcomes

- Progress in developing the vision for using leisure, health and wellbeing as a tool for regenerating Bangor city
- Progress in developing the Menai Health and Wellbeing Centre scheme
- Assets of community/societal benefit safeguarded

6. Estimated outputs

- Land unlocked for development 0.54 hectares

Land and Property Infrastructure Programme to Enable Growth (LI4) PLACE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	1.06M
Funding from other sources	£	1.85M

2. Proposed partnership

Cyngor Gwynedd (lead), Welsh Government, Dolgellau Mart, Adra, Plas Heli, Antur Nantlle, Ynni Stradau / Cwmni Bro

3. Proposed activity

- Completion of enterprise units in Minffordd
- Improvements to the appearance / environment of industrial estates to support the businesses located there
- Pre-development and planning for new units at Tywyn Business Park
- Development of an initiative to refurbish and let vacant commercial properties
- Pre-development and planning for new units at Glyn Rhonwy
- Development of the Dolgellau Mart site
- Feasibility work and creation of technical designs for an energy scheme in Tanygrisiau
- Decarbonisation of an Enterprise Centre in Talysarn
- Conversion of vacant space into 4 work units / targeting commercial investment in Penrhyn Glandon

4. Delivery area

Elements relevant to the county as a whole and specific developments in the Porthmadog / Penrhyndeudraeth area, Bro Dysynni, Bro Peris, the Dolgellau area, Bro Ffestiniog, Bro Lleu / Nantlle and the Pwllheli area.

5. Likely outcomes:

- Plans in place to secure funding to develop more work units
- Employment sites becoming more sustainable and attractive for investment
- Reduction in enterprises' energy costs
- More business units available to local enterprises

6. Estimated outputs:

• Facilities refurbished	10
• New space available for enterprises	1.58 hectares

Cultural Assets Programme to Enable Growth (LI5)

PLACE

1. Funding forecast

Local Growth Fund	£	1.39M
Funding from other sources	£	472k

2. Proposed partnership

Adran Economi a Chymuned (lead), Caernarfon FC, Llyn Tegid Railway, Byw'n Iach, Cwmni Tabernacl, Menter y Tŵr, Galeri Cyf., Y Ganolfan, Porthmadog

3. Proposed activity

- Development of The Oval to secure international football matches
- Extension of the Llyn Tegid Railway path through Bala town centre
- Establishing Byw'n Iach Penllyn as a centre of excellence for water sports
- Upgrade Tafarn y Fic, Bethesda, to include accommodation
- Improve the lecture theatre and shop at the Lloyd George Museum
- Improve cultural infrastructure
- Improve harbour facilities
- Upgrade commercial infrastructure at the harbours of Aberdyfi, Barmouth and Porthmadog
- Improve coastal infrastructure at the far end of Llŷn
- Development of the stables at Menter y Tŵr into business units and a heritage museum

4. Delivery area

Developments in the Caernarfon area, Bala / Penllyn area, Dyffryn Ogwen, Pwllheli area, Bro Peris, Bro Dysynni, Porthmadog / Penrhyndeudraeth area, and Dolgellau area.

5. Likely outcomes:

- Cultural, heritage and leisure assets developed
- Local fishing industry supported
- New space for local businesses

6. Estimated outputs:

- Facilities improved

11

CYNGOR GWYNEDD - Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of Item:	<i>The National Fostering Service and Foster Wales National Joint Committee - reducing the quorum for the meeting</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Menna Trenholme</i>
Relevant officer:	<i>Sharron Carter Williams</i>
Date of meeting:	07/07/2026

1. Decision Sought:

- 1.1 Cabinet approval to reduce the quorum of the National Fostering Service and Foster Wales National Joint Committee from 60% to 40%, provided that at least three regions are represented.

2. The reason why the Cabinet must make the decision:

- 2.1 Every local authority must make a formal decision in the Cabinet on the operational functions of the National Fostering Service and Foster Wales National Joint Committee.
- 2.2 Every other local authority in Wales has agreed to the change and most have by now signed the Deed of Variation. A request is made to make the decision by July 2026 to enable amended arrangements to be considered and implemented through the Meeting of the National Fostering Service and Foster Wales National Joint Committee in October 2026.

3. Introduction and Rationale

- 3.1 The National Adoption Service was established in 2014 to strengthen and improve the adoption service across Wales. Following the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directive 2015, every local authority agreed on national, regional and local governance arrangements for the service. Following a review in 2018, changes were introduced to simplify these arrangements and strengthen accountability.
- 3.2 Foster Wales was developed more recently to support local authorities with specific fostering functions, particularly the recruitment and retention of foster carers. To avoid duplication, reduce costs and make the best use of resources, it was agreed that

the national functions for fostering should be governed alongside the National Adoption Service.

- 3.3 The National Joint Committee provides strategic supervision of the work of the National Fostering Service and Foster Wales National Joint Committee on behalf of the 22 local authorities in Wales. Through these arrangements, every local authority receives an overview of the national services and functions undertaken by the Director and the Central Team.
- 3.4 Every local authority agreed formally to establish the Joint Committee through its local governance arrangements, before signing a legal agreement to support its work. The Cabinet Member responsible for children's services in every local authority is a member of the Joint Committee, along with relevant officers and stakeholders.
- 3.5 Since April 2024, it has been responsible for supervising the work of the National Fostering Service Wales and Foster Wales on behalf of every local authority in Wales.

4. The rationale and justification for recommending the decision

- 4.1 The first meeting of Joint Committee was held in April 2024. Since then, three further meetings were arranged, but it was not possible to hold two of them as there was no quorum. This occurred despite efforts to facilitate attendance, including consulting with members on suitable dates and times, establishing delegation arrangements, and making direct contact with members to confirm their availability.
- 4.2 At the most recent meeting where there was no quorum, in May 2025, the members of the Joint Committee expressed concern regarding the current arrangements and called for the review of the quorum requirements of 60%.
- 4.3 Following discussions with stakeholders and officers, a proposal was made to amend the quorum arrangements by reducing the requirement to 40% of members, provided that representation from at least three of the adoption and fostering regions are in attendance.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The proposed changes to the quorum represent a technical amendment to the current governance arrangements to improve practicality and to enable the Joint Committee's business to be conducted effectively. The change does not affect the structure, terms of reference or core functions of the Joint Committee, and therefore there is no significant change to the basic governance arrangements.

5.2 The change supports business continuity and reduces the risk of failed meetings due to a lack of quorum, ensuring that the Joint Committee can achieve its functions more effectively.

5.3 Therefore, it is recommended that the Cabinet approves the change in quorum as noted in Section 1, and that the Deed of Variation is signed to enable the implementation of the amended arrangements.

6. Views of the Statutory Officers.

6.1 Chief Finance Officer

6.2 No objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.

6.3 Monitoring Officer

6.4 As this National Joint Committee as well as its constitution has been established through agreement of the Cabinet a decision to amend the quorum is also a Cabinet matter.

List of Appendices:

1. Quoracy of the NJC

DATED

2025

- (1) BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (2) BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (3) CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (4) THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF
- (5) CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (6) CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL
- (7) CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (8) DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (9) FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (10) GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL
- (11) ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
- (12) MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (13) MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (14) NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (15) NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL
- (16) PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (17) POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
- (18) RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (19) THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
- (20) TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (21) VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
- (22) WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEED OF VARIATION OF AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT
COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE

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- 3. Governing law 4
- 4. Jurisdiction 5
- 5. Counterparts4

This Deed of Variation is dated

2025

Parties

(1) Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council of Municipal Offices, Civic Centre Ebbw Vale NP23 6XB (“Council”)

(2) Bridgend County Borough Council of Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB (“Council”)

(3) Caerphilly County Borough Council of Ty Penallta, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG (“Council”)

(4) The County Council of the City and County of Cardiff of County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW (“Council”)

(5) Carmarthenshire County Council of County Hall, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP (“Council”)

(6) Ceredigion County Council of Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 OPA (“Council”)

(7) Conwy County Borough Council of Bodlondeb, Bangor Road, Conwy LL32 8DU (“Council”)

(8) Denbighshire County Council of County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin LL15 1YN (“Council”)

(9) Flintshire County Council of County Hall, Mold CH7 6NB (“Council”)

(10) Gwynedd Council of Council Offices, Shirehall Street, Caernarfon LL55 1SH (“Council”)

(11) Isle of Anglesey County Council of Council Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW (“Council”)

(12) Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council of Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN (“Council”)

(13) Monmouthshire County Council of PO Box 106, Caldicot NP26 9AN (“Council”)

(14) Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council of Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ (“Council”)

(15) Newport City Council of Civic Centre, Godfrey Road, Newport NP20 4UR (“Council”)

(16) Pembrokeshire County Council of County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 1TP (“Council”)

(17) Powys County Council of Powys County Hall, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LG (“Council”)

(18) Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council of The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany CF40 2XX (“Council”) 2

(19) The Council of the City and County of Swansea of Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN (“Council”)

(20) Torfaen County Borough Council of the Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB (“Council”)

(21) Vale of Glamorgan Council of Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4RU (“Council”)

(22) Wrexham County Borough Council of The Guildhall, Wrexham LL11 1AY (“Council”)

(collectively referred to as “the Councils” for the purposes of this Agreement)

BACKGROUND

- (A) The Councils entered into an agreement dated 19th April 2024 for establishment of a Joint Committee for the national Adoption Service (Agreement).
- (B) Within the Agreement, it sets out the required quorum for attendance at the Joint Committee. At a Joint Committee meeting on the 24th September 2025, the Councils proposed to amend the current quorum. The parties therefore wish to amend the Agreement as set out in this Deed of Variation with effect from the date of this deed] (**Variation Date**).

Agreed terms

1. Terms defined in the Agreement

In this Deed of Variation, terms defined in the Agreement and used in this Deed of Variation have the meaning set out in the Agreement unless otherwise defined or context requires otherwise or as set out below.

2. Variation

2.1 With effect from the Variation Date, the parties agree the following amendments to the Agreement:

a)	New Definitions	<p>Insert the new following definitions:</p> <p>“Regional Areas means each of the following areas;</p> <p>North Wales regional area comprising of the following 6 local authorities - Ynys Mon, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham</p> <p>South East Wales regional area comprising of the following 5 local authorities - Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Newport, Caerphilly</p> <p>Vale Valleys and Cardiff regional area comprising of the following 4 local authorities - Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan</p> <p>Western Bay regional area comprising of the following 3 local authorities - Swansea, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot</p> <p>Mid and West Wales regional area comprising of the following 4 local authorities - Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys”</p>
b)	Schedule 1 para 16	<p>The entire paragraph is deleted and replaced with:</p> <p>“A meeting of the Joint Committee shall require a quorum of 40% of the voting members subject to there being representation from at least 3 Regional Areas. If there is a quorum of members present but neither the chair nor the vice-chair is present, the members present shall designate one member to preside as chair for that meeting.”</p>

2.2 Except as set out in clause 2.1, the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

2.3 To the extent of any conflict between the terms of the Agreement and this Deed of Variation, the terms of this Deed of Variation shall prevail.

3. Governing law

This Deed of Variation and any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

4. Jurisdiction

Each party irrevocably agrees that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with this Deed of Variation or its subject matter or formation.

5. Counterparts

- 5.1 This Deed of Variation may be executed in one or more counterparts. Any single counterpart or set of counterparts executed, in either case, by all the parties shall constitute a full original of this Deed of Variation for all purposes.

This document has been executed as a deed and is delivered and takes effect on the date stated at the beginning of it.

THE COMMON SEAL OF Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Bridgend County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Caerphilly County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF The County Council of the City
and County of Cardiff was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Carmarthenshire County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Ceredigion County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Conwy County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Denbighshire County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Flintshire County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Gwynedd County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Isle of Anglesey County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Monmouthshire County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Newport City Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Pembrokeshire County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Powys County Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF The Council of the City and County of Swansea
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Torfaen County Borough Council
was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Vale of Glamorgan Council

was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL OF Wrexham County Borough Council

was affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory