

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



A report to a meeting of the Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting: 21 December, 2021

Cabinet Member: Cllr Catrin Wager

Liaison Officers: Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal Department
Huw Williams, Head of Gwynedd Consultancy Department

Contact Numbers: 32402 / 32426

Subject: PERFORMANCE CHALLENGING REPORT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND MUNICIPAL AND GWYNEDD CONSULTANCY

THE DECISION SOUGHT

To accept and note the information in the report.

THE REASONS WHY A DECISION IS NEEDED

In order to ensure effective performance management.

Highways and Municipal Department

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on what has been happening in the areas for which I am responsible as Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal. This includes outlining the latest developments against pledges within the 2018-2023 Gwynedd Council Plan; the progress of performance measures; and the latest on the savings and cuts plans.
- 1.2 I wish to remind you that all matters have already been the subject of discussions and have been scrutinised by myself at a meeting of the Highways and Municipal Department's Management Team, which also included representatives from the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 On the whole I am comfortable with the performance of the measures being reported. The Department is facing considerable work in order to ensure that we will reach the Welsh Government's target for statutory recycling by 2025. There will be an opportunity to look at

other measures as we complete the main project (Clean and Tidy Communities) and we look forward to developing the target and producing an action programme.

2. PROJECTS of the GWYNEDD COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2023 (Improvement Priorities)

- 2.1 Below we note the progress made to date against the Department's improvement priority projects. Overall, I feel that all projects are currently going in the right direction against the pledges we have made in the Council Plan. However, an important part of the work is engaging with the communities in order to understand and hear what matters to them. This work will accompany the 'Our Area Engagement Plan 2035'.

Clean and Tidy Communities

As part of this project we will work with the residents and communities of Gwynedd by engaging with them to develop an Action Plan corresponding to this priority, expanding and developing community partnerships to improve the quality and appearance of the County. The principles agreed can be seen below.

The Department's aim is to work with the residents and communities of Gwynedd to have clean and tidy communities by:

1. Working with the residents and communities of Gwynedd
2. Ensuring clean and tidy communities
3. Having materials remain in use for as long as possible, with the ambition of becoming a waste-free County
4. Respecting and protecting our special environment.

As outlined above, this work will follow the timetable in 'Our Area Engagement Plan 2035' that is eager to use the 'Engagement HQ' interactive forum for communities to discuss various matters. This software is already being used by a number of other Councils to conduct successful and modern consultations. The Department will also initiate engagement work with staff/the workforce. We are in the process of organising virtual focus groups where there will be an opportunity for staff to share their ideas/views regarding how to achieve 'clean and tidy communities'. A task team has been established, and meetings regularly take place.

As part of the 'Our Area Engagement Programme', observations were gathered about what is important to the residents from all regeneration areas during September/October 2021. The majority of the comments related to untidiness and a lack of investment in enhancing our communities. The following are some of the observations collected:

'Not enough spent on infrastructure to upgrade/tidy up' (Bro Ardudwy)

'Work needed to tidy-up and improve standards, paths, woods, hedgerows, walls' (Bro Peris)

'More projects to enhance the community and bring the community together' (Bro Peris)

'Areas of the town look untidy e.g. Pool Street' (Caernarfon area)

I will update you on this project in my next report.

Strengthen Communication and Engagement

The Highways and Municipal Department is very visible and every resident in the County is affected by some aspects of the service. Value can be added to the Department's work by means of effective communication and engagement plans; for example, campaigns to prevent littering or dog fouling, or campaigns and guidelines to encourage re-use, re-purposing and reduction of waste. It is also crucial that residents have confidence in the Department's services and that their concerns and enquiries are dealt with effectively.

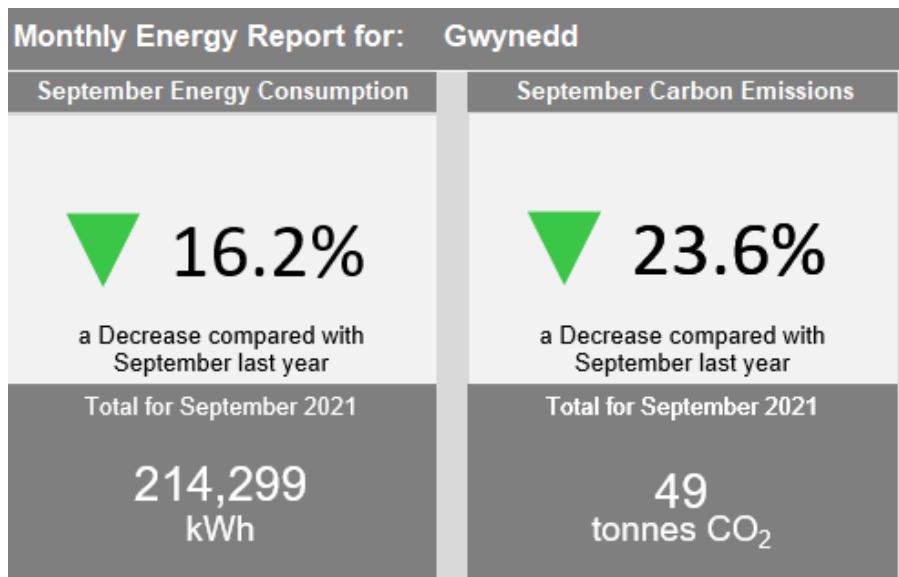
This project has commenced recently, beginning by reviewing our current engagement arrangements - a task group was established with cross-departmental representatives (the Galw Gwynedd team, the internet team and the Corporate Communications and Engagement Unit). The work of mapping out our processes to ensure they are accurate and up-to-date is operational. As a group we have identified that better use is required of the FFOS system to strengthen our communication streams with Gwynedd residents. For example, it is possible to inform a list of addresses within the system if a vehicle has broken down or if any other matter affects their collection day. Therefore, meetings are being held with the Team Leaders to make use of this feature within FFOS.

Another project that is about to start and linked to this improvement priority is the 'Mapping Services Project'. The hope of this project is to map our assets/services on the Council's website. Local residents/staff will be able to see a number of the department's assets/services such as street lamps, street bins and roadworks. When choosing an asset or service the status will be displayed. I.e. if someone has reported a problem with a street lamp this will be shown with the asset's status and when exactly the asset will receive attention by a member of staff. We hope that this project will strengthen our communication stream with Gwynedd residents by sharing the details of our services/assets in an innovative and modern way.

Other projects

Programme for Changing Street Lighting to LED lamps

In my last report I noted that the work of changing our street lighting and signs to LED technology was continuing. The Street Lighting Service is working on replacing street lights and signs with LED technology, and also include a dimming mechanism. This work is continuing and we are now in the project's final year, and are pleased to report that approximately 15,000 lamps have been replaced with approximately 2,500 remaining. Since 2015/16, we have replaced more than 14,300 street lights and signs with LED technology. The graph below illustrates the reduction in CO2 emissions (Street Lighting) as a result of the project. We anticipate that the work will be completed by the end of March, 2022.



Project to Review the Council's Fleet Management

One element of this project is managing the use of Council vehicles. This project is still in progress but there has been some delay with the work because of specific legal requirements that are set out in employment law. I am pleased to report that, with assistance from the Council's Human Resources Service, we have now begun the process of consulting with the staff. The project is expected to be completed by the new financial year.

Another important element of the fleet management project is the decarbonisation of the fleet. This corresponds with 'Improvement Priority 8 of the Council Plan 2018-23 - Respond to the Climate Change Crisis'. We have committed to taking decisive action to reduce carbon emissions and strive for a zero-carbon future, which includes looking for innovative approaches.

We have conducted a review of all the Council's vehicles with the support of the Welsh Government, and are busy producing an action programme. We will look at opportunities to add to our small fleet of electric vehicles and also increase charging points within our depot and offices. We have received a £300k grant for this purpose. The collection service will receive two electric refuse collection vehicles and these will be with us before the end of the financial year.

The Head of Department also sits on the Deeside Hydrogen Hub board which is very important in considering alternative technology in the area of heavy load vehicles such as refuse vehicles and gritters.

Playing Fields Project

We know that playing fields are important for children, parents and child carers, but as play equipment is expensive and funding is very scarce, maintaining them so that they are safe for children and young people to enjoy, is challenging. The Department is resuming this project and updating the work that was carried out up until March 2020. This project is exploring the interest by Community/Town Councils or community/groups in looking after and running children's playing fields.

The Department has already corresponded with community councils by letter for their initial observations but there was a delay due to the pandemic. The Department has now resumed discussions. The Department will also contact other groups and partners within the community that would be interested in forming a partnership with the service. There is a risk to this project as at present, only around five Community Councils have expressed an interest in holding further discussions. As a result, the Service will open discussions with community/interest groups and will look at opportunities for working alongside them rather than transferring the responsibility entirely. We are of the view that playgrounds as a resource will be a priority for our residents as we emerge from the crisis. The Service has borne significant cuts and the equipment is now in dire need of investment. By opening the discussions with others, we anticipate that opportunities will arise to attract grants.

We will resume this work, and the Department will submit a bid to the transformation fund by looking at a potential alternative plan. We have also submitted a grant application to improve the play provision in seven playing fields within the County.

3. PERFORMANCE

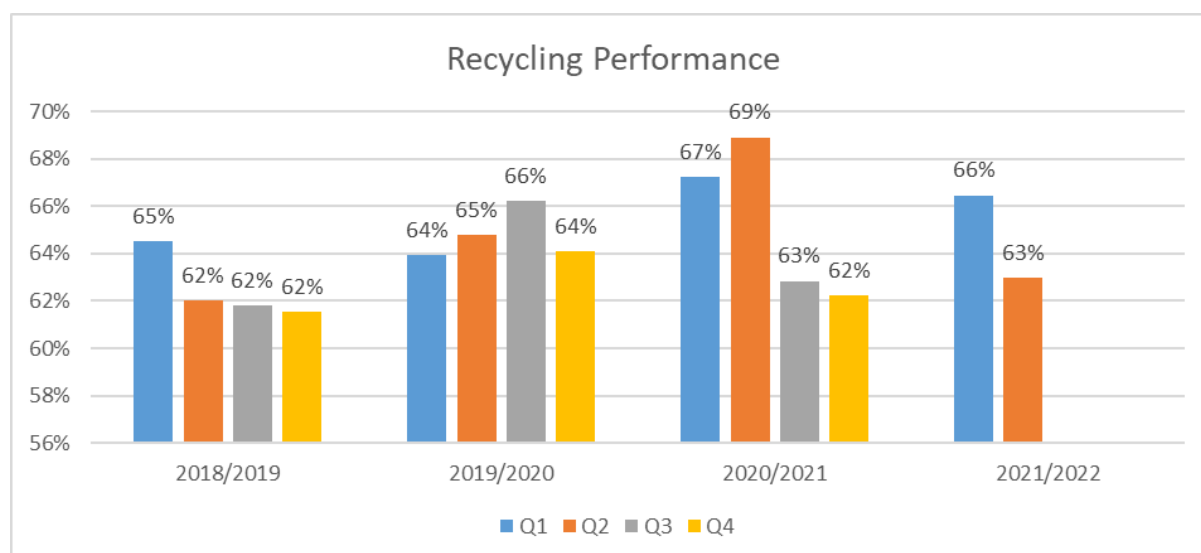
- 3.1 We remain in a very different period with a great deal of pressure on our resources and staff. However, we can be proud of what has been achieved in new and challenging circumstances, and the Department has managed to ensure the continuity of our services while also complying with the requirements of the crisis. In terms of the Department's measures, I am generally happy with their performance. Nevertheless, I draw your attention to the main issues arising.
- 3.2 In the previous report, I noted that the changes to the new system of waste collection would be implemented in the Meirionnydd area during the end of 2020/21, I am pleased to record that this work was introduced on time and the project has now been completed across the County.
- 3.3 **Waste and Recycling Service** - as reported previously, it is imperative that waste is handled correctly if we are to protect our environment. An Economy that promotes reuse and recycling to reduce waste (known as the Circular Economy) is vital as we work towards this aim.

During the past year, we managed to attract £1.4m grant funding to deliver projects in this field. Below, is an update on some of the projects that have been/are being addressed:

- *Llandygai Bangor Recycling Centre Adaptation Project, which includes establishing a reuse shop* - work completed on the site and is now fully operational - our shop is scheduled to open early in the new year.
- *Repair cafe project* - establish a network of shops across the County which will see opportunities for training and the repair of items.
- *Alterations to the Caergyfchu Materials Recycling Centre, Caernarfon* – work has been completed and is now fully operational, this has improved the quality of the treated materials.
- *Community food provision project* - we have provided 11 food hubs with the required equipment, which have all been distributed by now. Many of the hubs have received commercial fridges and freezers to provide food to a wide range of people in our communities. We will build on the links that have already been made in order to look at expanding on further opportunities.
- *Warws Werdd and Antur Waunfawr joint project* - infrastructure work on the site completed.
- *The Repair Café project and Re-use/bulky items project* - this introduced a provision on the high street in several centres to provide opportunities to repair items so they can be reused.
- *Finish distributing the Cartgylchu* - targeting the rural areas of the County.

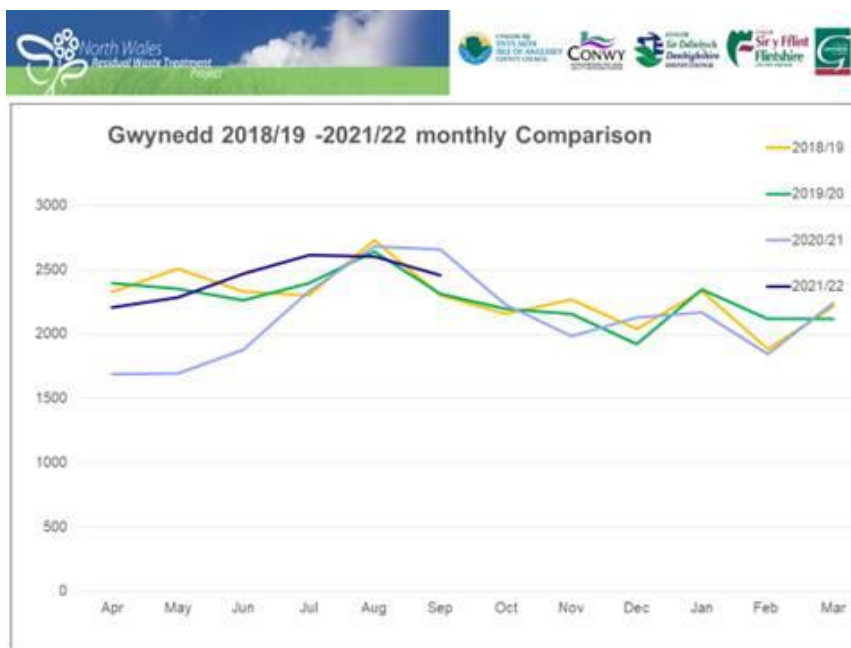
Recycling bins on the street – The Department is looking to introduce litter site recycling bins within our main centres, we will fund these bins via the Tidy Towns grant. We will coordinate messages to raise public awareness to ensure that they place the disposed materials in the correct bins.

The graph below highlights our recycling performance per year and per quarter. We are concerned that the impact of residual waste has an effect on our performance that can be seen in quarter 2 this year. The situation will need to be monitored during quarter 3 to ensure that we do not fall further.



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
2018/19	65%	62%	62%	62%	62.31%
2019/20	64%	65%	66%	64%	64.74%
2020/21	67%	69%	63%	62%	65.87%
2021/22	66%	63%			64.64% (half year)
2022/23					
2023/24					
2024/25					Must be at 70%

An increase has been seen in the residual waste collected which is concerning, but possibly expected. This graph illustrates the situation, comparing with residual weight for the same period in 2020. The situation will require monitoring over the course of this year.



We handle all the recyclable materials collected across the County, sorting and packaging them to be sent for processing. The table below gives an idea of the weight of recyclable materials collected from household waste.

Material	Tonnes 2021/22 (April-September)	Where does it go	The recycling process
Glass	2,531.86t	We send the glass collected to Berryman recycling company in South Kirby.	Berryman specialises in new methods of treating glass so the material can have a second life. This new material is used to produce new bottles/jars for construction products, insulation and many more.
Plastic Bottles	510.44t	Jayplas Recycling. (This company has several sites across the UK which specialise in recycling different types of plastics to the highest quality).	Here, the plastic bottles are sent through a processing system to produce PET Flakes which are then sold to companies that mould them to produce new food packaging.
Paper	1,6102.20t	Palm Paper Mill near King's Lynn.	Here, our paper bulks are sent through a newsprint machine. This is the largest machine of its type in the world. At a speed of nearly 2,000m/minute it has the capacity to produce 400,000 metric tonnes of newsprint per annum.
Food	2,693.78t	GwyrriAD Anaerobic Digestion Facility in Clynog Fawr.	GwyrriAD - which is run by Biogen on behalf of the Council - is a specialist centre that converts food waste into electrical energy for the national grid. It also produces fertiliser for agricultural land.
Steel Cans	A total of 252.73t of steel/aluminium cans.	EMR (European Metal Recycling).	Our steel cans are processed at the EMR site near Liverpool. Here, our cans are crushed using a mega shredder that has the power to recycle a car every 15 seconds.
Aluminium Cans		Tandom Metallurgical Recycling.	Tandom uses a shredding line for recycling our aluminium cans. Through this shredding line our cans are broken down into 50mm particles. The steel is then separated using a magnet.
Garden Waste	1,904.76t	Gwrtaith Gwynedd.	The green waste that is processed on the Harri Parri/Gwrtaith Gwynedd site near Pwllheli is turned constantly in compost wind-rows. The vast majority of the processed material is composted and used on farmers' fields - including Harry's.
Residual Waste	Domestic – 9,198.48t Commercial – 2768.58t Street cleaning - 978.82t Bulky - 141.2t Recycling centres - 1382.26t	Parc Adfer.	Our residual waste is processed on the Parc Adfer site in Deeside. This site is a heat and power facility that generates enough energy to power more than 45,000 homes and businesses in the UK. The site was established as part of a Public-Private Partnership with support from the Welsh Government, to serve five local authorities that are part of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project.

The Department is also facing pressure from the demand for receptacles, the levels are beyond what we can cope with within our programme/capacity, and the waiting list is currently longer than expected. We are working hard to reduce the waiting time.

Ffordd Gwynedd Review on the Waste Service – There has been a slippage in terms of commencing the Ffordd Gwynedd review due to the lack of staff within the field to take ownership/lead. The work will now commence by the end of November.

- 3.4 **Highway Maintenance Service** - Since the Ffordd Gwynedd review of the service, the new system of working has now been operational since 1st April this year. It is pleasing to note that this work has been successful and has addressed the historic system of working. We are also in the process of updating our Asset Maintenance Plan to reflect the new requirements in the Code of Practice, which emphasises risk management. We are also reconsidering our system for maintaining road verges and dealing with weeds - this will be covered in the review of our Highway Assets Maintenance Plan.
- 3.5 **Street Cleaning Service** - there has been considerable pressure on this service since the pandemic, where litter, overflowing bins and dog-fouling problems seem to have increased. While we are keeping on top of the situation, I predict that issues like these will come to the fore in the work on the 'Clean and Tidy Communities' project. I am also pleased to report that we undertook a consultation on a Dog Order which will be introduced, and much good material was recorded from this consultation. Another element of work that will be part of this service are the Clean and Tidy Communities Teams'. A report was submitted to the Cabinet on 30/11/21 outlining our intention to establish work teams to improve the image and enhance our communities in the County. We are pleased to report that our decision was unanimously supported.
- 3.6 **Bereavement Service** - despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, I am incredibly pleased to be able to report that the Bereavement/Crematorium Service was able to continue to offer a full service to the residents of Gwynedd throughout 2020/21.
- 3.7 **Ash Dieback** - A team has now been established to deal with Ash Dieback. The team's main purpose is to conduct surveys of ash trees on the Council's land and road verges, assess their condition and draft a work programme to deal with those that cause a safety risk to the public. In addition, they will offer advice to Council departments and private tree owners regarding Ash Dieback and prepare information packs and a variety of resources on the Council's external website to raise public awareness of the disease.

Another important role for the team is to issue private owners with legal notices if their trees cause a safety risk to users of Council land.

Although the team will to all intents and purposes act as a 'one stop shop', in relation to Council land and roads, they will not take over the responsibilities of regular inspection and treatment of trees by each department.

Since the team has been established, they have commenced revisiting some of the sites inspected by specialist contractors to determine if the trees designated as red at the time have got worse and also if nearby trees previously designated as amber have deteriorated. The team follow a recognised tree risk assessment to deliver this and they will use the results to form a tree cutting programme for this financial year (there is a revenue budget of £150,000 available for the work). It should be noted that trees included on the programme should be prioritised based on the risk to the public and not according to area, department or any other method that is not risk-based.

Trees absorb carbon and store it whilst releasing oxygen back into the atmosphere. As a result, our tree cutting programme can have an impact on the Council's ability to deliver its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. To this end, the team is working very closely with the Countryside Service in the Environment Department to look into ways of compensating for this and to try and partner with other authorities and organisations to prepare plans to grow and re-plant trees that have been cut.

- 3.8 **BSI Accreditations** - The Department has been successful in transferring from Accreditation 18001 (BSI) and reaching the requirements of 45001 which we were required to complete before autumn of this year. This means that we are meeting high requirements in terms of service delivery, with management systems and Health and Safety arrangements that are monitored by the BSI for the accreditation.

An audit is carried out twice a year to ensure that we are adhering to the requirements, which is done on various fields within our scope.

We also have the following Accreditations:

- BSI 14001 – Environment
- BSI 9001 – Quality Management

The same procedure of audit applies, where a BSI auditor will visit the Department twice a year to conduct a detailed audit of our arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL POSITION/SAVINGS

- 4.1 The Highways and Municipal Department ended the 2020/21 financial year in a balanced financial position as a result of the receipt of grants from the Government to compensate for our additional expenditure and loss of income due to the pandemic.
- 4.2 In the financial review submitted to the Cabinet on 12 October, it was reported that an overspend of 982k was anticipated by the Highways and Municipal Department for 2021-22. The overspend and most obvious problems can be seen once again this year in the waste collection field. The Department has commissioned reviews from Ffordd Gwynedd and WRAP to look in detail at this Service. There are also a number of historic savings that have not yet been realised, and this in turn places additional pressure on the Department's budgets. The next detailed review will be undertaken at the end of November and reported to the Cabinet early in January.

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

The Department will prioritise moving forward with the highlighted projects and will also prioritise reducing the noted overspend figure.

With the Department delivering front-line services, we will continue with the aim of providing the best service to the residents of Gwynedd.

Gwynedd Consultancy Department

6. INTRODUCTION

6.1 The purpose of this report is to update my fellow members on developments in the fields within my remit as Cabinet Member for YGC. This will include outlining the latest developments against pledges within the 2018-2023 Gwynedd Council Plan; the progress of performance measures; and the latest on the savings and cuts schemes.

6.2 On the whole, I am satisfied with the performance of the measures for which I am responsible and I am grateful to the Department for their work. I am satisfied with the Department's financial performance.

6.3 As a result of publishing the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (July 2020), I look forward to developing the Local Strategy. This will be an opportunity to put appropriate measures and priorities in place to reduce flooding risk and make the communities of Gwynedd safer.

7. PROJECTS IN THE GWYNEDD COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2023

The Department does not lead on any projects in the 2018-23 Council Plan. The Environment Department is leading on the Climate Change Action Plan with YGC supporting it on flood risk management and coastal erosion matters, which forms an important part of the scheme.

Below, please find attached information about the three very high risks, and it is noted that risks 2.1 and 2.2 are a fundamental part of renewing the Local Flood Risk Management and Coastal Erosion Strategy (Local Strategy), which is to be completed by October 2023. The Local Strategy will feed into the Council's Climate Change plan.

The risks in 2.1 and 2.2 have been challenged by the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

7.1 The risk of inland flooding because of the effect of climate change.

My interdepartmental Flooding Project Group is in the process of prioritising inland areas by uploading information to the catchment area prioritisation matrix.

In addition, the Department is chairing cross-departmental meetings to ensure an awareness of flooding projects, and to seek to add elements from other departments that will maximise value for those projects.

7.2 **The risk of flooding from the sea in coastal areas because of the effect of climate change.**

The Department is working to identify vulnerable communities in terms of the risks from the effects of storms, erosion and coastal flooding. My interdepartmental Flooding Project Group is in the process of formulating a coastal prioritisation matrix. Then, the department will fill-in the matrix in order to identify the list of vulnerable communities that will require support.

7.3 **The impact of climate change on Fairbourne.**

The document titled Fairbourne: A Framework for the Future, contains five work streams that are developing individual plans - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Plan (FCERM), People and the Built Environment Plan, Infrastructure Management Plan, Business Support Plan and Natural Environment Plan. The Fairbourne Moving Forward Project Board includes the following bodies: Arthog Community Council (Chairing), Gwynedd Local Councillor, Gwynedd Council, Scottish Power, NRW, Community Ambassador, Network Rail, the Health Board, Welsh Water and Snowdonia National Park.

Recent progress has been as follows;

- Work has commenced to get up-to-date terms of reference in place.
- A temporary Project Manager is in place.
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are now leading on a Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Plan. NRW are in the process of reviewing the condition of its assets and preparing an Outline Business Case (OBC).
- Gwynedd is leading on the People and the Built Environment Plan by working cross-departmentally. The Strategic Outline Business Case is moving ahead to assess the feasibility of different options to support the community. As part of this work, the Board has decided that a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) needs to be completed with the community. This work will also analyse the population's options. This will provide better information of the actual position, and extend our ability to support Arthog Community Council.

8. PERFORMANCE

8.1 This year continues in new and challenging circumstances. We can be proud that the Department is succeeding to ensure the continuation of its services whilst complying with the requirements of the crisis, and it continues to fulfil its responsibilities. I am happy with the Department's performance.

Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) acts as:

- A commercial department that brings substantial income to the Council.
- Undertakes statutory functions in the field of water and flood management.

I now draw your attention to the main matters for YGC, starting with the commercial side.

8.2 Commercial Work

8.2.1 The income and structure of the commercial work.

The four Services are:

- Water and the Environment
- Building and Infrastructure
- Business and Project Delivery
- Technical

Again, this year is challenging in terms of striking a balance of work as the schedules of many clients have changed during the year. However, we can be proud of what has been achieved, and the Department has succeeded to obtain a robust work programme.

In terms of the financial measures, I am happy with their performance, which is important bearing in mind that a vast majority of the Department's officers are involved with commercial work, which brings an income of over £5.4 million to the Council annually. As the staffing structure is extended, the income target will rise.

The work pattern for the first and second quarters follows the same work pattern as last year. Please see below the main clients that the Department works for, along with an estimate of the 2021/22 income:

NMWTRA (£2.1M)	Housing and Property Department (£0.52M)	Environment Department - Transportation and Street Care (£0.36M)
Highways and Municipal Department (£0.44M)	Ceredigion County Council (£0.71M)	Welsh Government (£0.82M)

8.2.2 I note that there are 260 projects are on the books to date by the department ranging from assessment of bridges and retaining walls after storms to the construction of Vaynol School.

8.2.3 Over the past year, the environmental team has been working on a number of schemes. They have conducted several protected species surveys to ensure that natural habitats are protected, and have also provided environmental improvement measures for the schemes. In addition, the team is taking advantage of opportunities to add elements that increase biodiversity on schemes. Environmental and sustainability matters influence all types of developments. Protecting conservation and improving the environment are all-important and are critical components in sustainable development and implementation.

The team is working on many projects, including the following work:

- This year, YGC ecologists have been on-site conducting over 300 hours of bat surveys.
- They have conducted a protected species survey of over 500 road structures over the summer.
- We supervised environmental matters on the Caernarfon and Bontnewydd bypass project.
- Assessed environmental matters on over 20 active travel plans.
- Responded to matters relating to plant invasion on the trunk road network.

- 8.2.4 The flooding and environmental risk teams make a substantial contribution to developing new projects to ensure no projects have a detrimental impact on our natural environment. By working closer to nature, the department has developed a plan that manages flow more naturally in the Wnion catchment area. This scheme has been jointly-developed with Snowdonia National Park to plant trees, plants, and create ponds in the catchment area.
- 8.2.5 The Department is very glad to maintain and develop local employment through the structure, which are quality jobs. Due to opportunities in the market, the Department has added nine posts to the structure this year, with plans to add another 11 posts over the coming 18 months.
- 8.2.6 One challenge faced by the department is the retirement of experienced officers and the growth in the size of the department, there is a need for more officers on team leader level and above, who have professional qualifications. The management team is giving strong support to officers who have the aspiration and ability to gain professional qualifications and the department is collaborating with educational bodies and professional bodies.
- 8.2.7 The Department gives high priority to staff training. The Department is the Regional lead on the North Wales Regional Professional Training Agreement on engineering work via the ICE (Institution of Civil Engineers). At present, there are eight trainee officers. This will enable the officers to develop their skills, and enable them to work on more challenging schemes. Staff are also aware that professional qualifications are key to attracting and winning work.
- 8.2.8 The department's succession plan includes eight senior officers who are studying Level 7 Diploma qualifications in Strategic Leadership and Management, including the four Service Managers.

8.3 Undertaking statutory functions in the field of water and flood management.

- 8.3.1 During the financial year, the Water and Environment Service in its client role manages flood prevention plans that will reduce the risk to Gwynedd residents. The Flooding Service is working on nine business bids in order to attract investment to deliver more flood alleviation projects including Barmouth, Hirael, and the Ogwen catchment area.

It is intended to complete these projects over the next 3-4 years. To succeed, there is a need to add some of the 11 new posts to this Service. Also, as with the North Promenade scheme in Barmouth (Arup), and the Porthdinllaen scheme (Mott MacDonald), there is a need to employ specialist consultants to provide sufficient capacity to complete elements of the work, or the whole projects.

- 8.3.2 There is a programme of major and minor schemes across the County that respond to previous flooding incidents. The department is working jointly with the highways department to complete 10 small-scale plans in the current financial year, which reduce the risk to almost 100 houses.
- 8.3.3 I will continue to work with the Department to hold appropriate discussions with key stakeholders including the Welsh Government, community councils and others such as the private and third sectors.

- 8.3.4 A flooding assets management system has been developed jointly with the Council's Information Technology service. This enables us to store all our data assets, along with data regarding flooding events all within one system.
- 8.3.5 The assets to be inspected during the 2021/22 year have been completed. This has enabled us to identify the condition of our assets and programme any required maintenance. The assets inspection work has been submitted before the Communities Scrutiny Committee. Work to repair defective assets has been scheduled and the department continues to monitor the assets in the meantime.
- 8.3.6 North Promenade, Barmouth has suffered damage and coastal flooding for some years now. The work of drawing up an Outline Business Case (OBC) has been completed. The next step is to commence the North Promenade detail design.
- 8.3.7 There is a duty upon us to investigate flooding incidents under the Flood and Water Management Act. Although, in the 2021/22 financial year, there were 101 internal flooding incidents.
- 8.3.8 Work to approve Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is continuing and the number of applications is increasing. 48 applications were received in 2020/21 and this year, the department has already received 47 applications. The team has increased by one officer to meet the increased work load.
- 8.3.9 Keeping our coastal assets safe for the public is a priority and therefore risks need to be assessed for the coastal assets owned by the Council, the department has submitted a business case application for funding to address this work on a cross departmental basis.

9. Accreditation

9.1 Investors In People (IIP) Accreditations.

Back in October 2018, the department received an "Investors in People" accreditation for the second time. Three years have passed, and it is now time for the department to renew the "Investors in People" accreditation. At the end of the process, the IIP report and action plan will tie into the department's business plan for 2022/23.

9.2 BSi Accreditations

The Department has been successful in transferring from Accreditation 18001 (BSi) and reaching the requirements of 45001 which we were required to complete. This means that we are meeting high requirements in terms of service delivery, with management systems and Health and Safety arrangements that are monitored by the BSI for the accreditation. Also, the department has the following Accreditations, namely - BSi 14001 - Environment and BSi 9001 - Quality. The procedure in terms of the audit is that BSi inspectors visit the Department twice a year in order to conduct a detailed audit of our arrangements.

Internal audits are being completed in the department by the Business Unit and the department is collaborating with the Treasurer's department to complete specific audits, e.g. this year on the work and responsibilities of CDM (Construction Design Management Regulations 2015) Health and Safety responsibilities in the design field.

10. FINANCIAL POSITION/SAVINGS

- 10.1 At the end of Quarter 2 of the 2021/22 financial year, the scheduled work profile is consistent with the previous years' profiles and our clients had sufficient work for the rest of the year. However, as the Llanbedr By-pass scheme is not going ahead, there is a risk of not reaching our budget target, if the work does not find additional work. Consequently, the Department estimates a *deficit* of £5,155 from an income of over £5.4 million to the Council.

11. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 11.1 The Department will prioritise progressing statutory water and flood management functions, as well as finding more commercial work to meet our target for 2021-22. The Department will continue with the aim of providing the best service to the residents of Gwynedd.

VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

Head of Finance (Views on the Highways and Municipal Report) :

I can confirm that the information presented in paragraph 4.2 of the report, on the financial position, is a fair and accurate reflection of what has already been reported to Cabinet following the financial review of the situation at the end of August. The Department has some savings plans that have proven complex to deliver, and I agree that this is a burden on the revenue budget. These financial concerns have been addressed recently at a meeting between the Highways and Municipal Department, the Finance Department and the Chief Executive.

Head of Finance (View on the Gwynedd Consultancy Report) :

I can confirm that the contents of Part 5 of the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of YGC".