

MEETING	Language Committee
DATE	25 January 2022
TITLE	Research report - New Housing in Gwynedd
PURPOSE	To present the findings of the research for members' information
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Research and Information Service was commissioned by the Council's Leadership Team in 2018 to undertake a research project on new housing in Gwynedd.
- 1.2 The results report (appended with the committee agenda) fully explains the purpose and brief of the research and what was done. It is important to note that this was not a research project on the Welsh language specifically. In commissioning the work corporately, the intention was to collect evidence on the subject so that this information would then be available for various Council functions in the fields of housing, planning, the Welsh language etc., helping to throw some light on the area of new housing in general - a field where definitive evidence can be quite scarce.
- 1.3 Very briefly, the research involved visiting every comparatively new house in Gwynedd (around 1,000 houses in total) asking some questions about who lived there, where they had moved from, the language of the home, and their reasons for choosing a new house / a house in that area. In addition they were asked where they lived previously - where relevant (and if that address was in Gwynedd) we subsequently went to that house asking the same type of questions. In doing so, we were trying to gather evidence about the whole house "chain" which followed moving to a new house - not only the new house itself.

2. Results of the research

- 2.1 The results report (brief version in **Appendix 1**, and the full results in **Appendix 2**) details the results of the research. Some of the main findings will be presented and explained at the Committee meeting.
- 2.2 All elected members of the Council have previously had an opportunity to attend a presentation on the findings in a briefing session on housing matters that was held in December.
- 2.3 The main difference between the full version and the brief version of the report is that the full version (in accordance with the original brief of the research) presents the results for local areas within Gwynedd, along with the whole of Gwynedd. However, as many more new houses have been built in some areas than others, and the response rate can vary widely, the number of responses received is very small in some areas.
- 2.4 The results for the whole of Gwynedd (presented in the brief version of the report) are, therefore, much more robust from a statistical viewpoint than the results per local area as shown in the full report.

3. Developments since the research was completed

- 3.1 The research project was completed around mid-2019 and the intention was to present the results as part of a large group event that the Council was going to hold on housing issues

during 2020. Unfortunately, of course, these plans were postponed due to Covid, and it is unlikely by now that holding such an event would be practical for some time yet.

- 3.2 Therefore, the report is presented as it was written in 2019. The report notes (p.6) that *"...it is important not to be over-reliant on the outcomes of this research and assume that it tells us everything. This research was carried out at a particular point in time; it is difficult to assume that exactly the same patterns would be repeated in respect of any future developments when numbers / types / exact locations of new housing, and the condition of the housing market locally / generally, may be different"*.
- 3.3 We were not to know at the time of course that the local housing market would be transformed following Covid. This means that the findings of the research have perhaps dated sooner than expected, but are presented here as a reflection of the situation as it was at the time.