

## A Report to a meeting of the Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	15 February, 2022
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
Contact Officer:	Dewi W. Jones, Council Business Service Support Manager
Department / Service:	Corporate Support
Title of Item	Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 - 2022/23 Review

### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. The Cabinet's approval of the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 - 2022/23 Review (the Plan) for submission to the Council on 3 March 2022.


### 2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1. The Council Plan for 2018-23 was originally adopted by the Full Council at its meeting on 8 March 2018. Since then, we have been reviewing its contents annually in order to ensure that we as a Council are continuing to prioritise our work according to the needs of the people of Gwynedd.
- 2.2. The Cabinet is firstly required to approve the contents of the Plan, including the updates made to it, in order to recommend that the Full Council adopts the Plan at its meeting on 3 March 2022.

### 3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. The Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023 is our public statement as a Council of what we intend to achieve for the people of Gwynedd. In its first year, the Plan outlined our vision for the five years, and then every annual review offers an update that summarises where we have arrived on the journey, and what our priorities will be for the year to come.
- 3.2. We now need to review the Plan in order to state what we intend to achieve during 2022/23, which is the last year of the five-year plan. The Cabinet will need to approve the changes that have been made to the Plan between 2021/22 and 2022/23. The new revised Plan is attached in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3. For significant changes made to the content of the Plan, we submit an Equality Impact Assessment in order that the Cabinet can weigh up whether the changes are acceptable in terms of the impact they might have on people who have one

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or more of the characteristics that are protected under the Equality Act 2010. The Assessment can be seen in **Appendix 2**.

- 3.4. The Plan is divided into two main sections, namely the **Improvement Priorities** and the **Departmental Plans**. The Improvement Priorities identify our Well-being Objectives and our Priority Projects for the period in question, and they summarise all the areas which we will specifically address in order to make the greatest difference possible to our residents' lives. Under each Improvement Priority is a summary of what we intend to deliver.
- 3.5. Descriptions of the Departments' day-to-day work have been included in the **Departmental Plans**. These also address what we are doing in response to the matters that were highlighted by Councillors as Local Priorities back in autumn 2017.
- 3.6. Over the past year much of our efforts as a Council have focused on responding to the Covid-19 crisis, therefore we are now planning for stabilising and re-building. To ensure that the priorities still address the needs of the people of Gwynedd we consulted on a broader level with the Elected Members on what we wish to deliver during 2022/23.
- 3.7. Two engagement sessions were held with the Elected Members in December 2021 which were attended by 27 members. Generally, there was agreement to the draft priorities along with welcoming the opportunity to be able to feed into the process before submitting the Plan formally to the Cabinet and the Full Council.

#### **4. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1. The matters for the Cabinet members to consider prior to approving the Plan are noted below.
- 4.2. Much work has been undertaken in identifying the areas that should be prioritised, considering what matters to the people of Gwynedd as we stabilise and re-build following the Covid-19 crisis. By now the scope of a number of projects has been extended to include the matters identified.
- 4.3. The main changes are summarised below. The information includes an explanation of which projects are new to the plan, and which projects are a continuation of those in the current Plan or have been changed slightly (e.g. extending on a previous project, or changing its focus).
- 4.4. The following projects are newly-added.

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- **Free school meals for primary schools** - following the Government's announcement in November 2021 that it is intended to provide free school meals to all primary pupils, considerable work is needed in terms of the practicality of the scheme.

4.5. In addition, the scope or content of the following projects have changed:

- The scope of the **Bangor Catchment-area** project has been extended to include improving resources and the learning environment at Ysgol Hiracl, investing in the secondary provision to improve the learners' experience, and increase the number of learners who choose to take advantage of Welsh-medium secondary education in the city.
- The scope of the **Managing the use of dwellings as holiday homes and second homes** has been extended to include greater emphasis on gaining better control through the planning process.
- **A shortage of suitable homes for the people of Gwynedd: Secure approval for the Housing Plan and begin acting** has now been extended and re-named as **A shortage of suitable homes for the people of Gwynedd: Implementing and delivering projects within our Housing Plan to increase opportunities for local people to have a suitable home within their communities.**
- The **Workforce and Recruitment in the Care Field** project has been incorporated as part of the broader **Workforce Planning** project. Consequently, several departments will work together closely to respond to the recruitment challenges facing the Council.

4.6. The remaining Improvement Priorities projects will carry on from 2021/22. Does the Cabinet agree with the changes that have been highlighted above, to be set out as outlined in **Appendix 1**?

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

The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, public bodies are required to publish well-being objectives that outline how they will improve well-being.

4.8. We consulted with the Elected Members and the public regarding the matters that affect their well-being as part of the development of the original Plan (and with Elected Members during February 2021 and December 2021) and we also analysed the findings of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board's Well-being Assessment. As part of the review this year we are also reviewing whether the Well-being Objectives remain up-to-date.


4.9. We will need to add the Foreword by the Leader to the Plan that is to be submitted to the Council for approval, which will be done following the discussion at the Cabinet meeting.

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4.10. The 'Financial Information' section will also be updated before the final Plan is submitted for the Council's approval.

## **5. Equality Act 2010**

- 5.1. There is a statutory requirement to prepare an equality impact assessment and consider its findings when preparing the Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as is implemented in Wales. The assessment is included in **Appendix 2**.
- 5.2. The assessment of the Plan in its entirety does not identify any impacts which would justify deviating from the recommendation and it is anticipated that there are elements which would have a positive impact. The Project Leaders will be responsible for undertaking a full Equality Impact Assessment on individual projects.

## **6. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE**

- 6.1. By approving the plan, it is intended to submit it to be adopted at the next full meeting of the Council on 3 March 2022.
- 6.2. When the Full Council adopts the Plan, it will be published on the Council's website. We will also consider how best to communicate the key messages of the plan to the public, and Cabinet Members will have the opportunity to give their opinion on this after the Plan is adopted.

## **7. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

### **7.1 Views of the Statutory Officers:**

#### **i. The Head of Finance Department**

The Council Plan is a key document, which sets out what Gwynedd Council aims to do over the next year. As the final year of the current plan commences, the specific funds remain in place in order to finance the Plan's priorities, but a proportion of these funds has already been committed. There is a likelihood that resource requirements for all the improvement priorities in the Plan is greater than the money available to them, whilst financial propriety means that we will continue to ensure that a funding source has been identified for any commitment to spend.

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## ii. The Monitoring Officer:

Within the Council Plan there are statutory aspects which are addressed, specifically in relation to the Wellbeing Objectives established under the Wellbeing of Future Generations ( Wales) Act 2015. By reviewing the Plan the Council addresses annual requirements which relate to these. I support the recommendation from a propriety perspective.

## 8. Local Member's views

Not a local matter.

## 9. Results of Any Consultation

None to note.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 - Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023: 2022/23 Review

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment