

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Communities Scrutiny Committee
MEETING DATE	10 March 2022
TITLE	Climate and Nature Emergency Plan
AUTHOR	Dafydd Wyn Williams, Head of Environment
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader
PURPOSE	An update on what the Council is currently doing to meet the challenges of climate change and nature and other steps that are practical for the Council to act on in future.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council declared a climate emergency at their meeting on 7 March 2019, committing to taking decisive action to reduce our contribution to those issues that cause climate change and protect our communities from its impacts.
- 1.2 At a Council meeting on 19 December 2019 a progress report was passed which noted that a taskforce had been established by the Cabinet – the Climate Change Board – and that it would develop a ‘Climate Change Action Plan’.
- 1.3 A progress report was discussed by this committee on 23 September 2021 which stated that:
 - A Programme Manager had been appointed in July 2021 to lead on the work of developing the action plan
 - Work to map current provision and activities in the climate change field was already underway, and examples of relevant projects were shared
 - Further steps had already been identified – e.g. how could the council implement its Biodiversity Duty Plan; the need to incorporate the flooding, fleet and waste strategies into the Climate Action Plan; how best to promote the circular economy; the need for broader consultation in the future on how we can reduce the carbon emissions of Gwynedd as a county.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan was presented to a meeting of the Cabinet on 8 March 2022. By the date of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 10 March it will be known if the plan has been adopted or not. All relevant papers can be viewed under Item 6 on the Cabinet meeting agenda by following this link - [Agenda for The Cabinet on Tuesday, 8th March, 2022, 1.00 pm \(llyw.cymru\)](#) or the plan can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan has been developed under the strategic lead of the Climate Emergency Board, who’s membership included Cabinet Members and Chief Officers. It was the wish of the Board to expand its membership and it was decided to invite the Biodiversity Champion and a representative from the Communities Scrutiny Committee to become members. Cllr. Angela Russell and Cllr. Mike Stevens have now joined the Climate Change Board to fulfil those two roles.

- 2.3 The plan will be monitored following the Council's current performance monitoring procedures: Cabinet Member's performance reports to Cabinet meetings and Gwynedd Council Annual Performance Report. A data report on the levels of carbon emissions and sequestration will also be presented annually to the Welsh Government, and that data will also be shared in the council's Annual Performance Report. This Scrutiny Committee can also, of course, call for updates on the plan as a whole or on individual projects within the plan.

3. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 3.1 The publication of this version of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan is considered to be 'Phase 1'. 'Phase 2' of the Plan will follow by 2023/24 after we have held consultations, and will include more information on how we can support activities in the community and how to respond to flood risk.
- 3.2 The plan states openly that the current funds available to the council at this moment in time aren't sufficient to cover the whole costs of all the projects in the plan. Further work needs to be done to identify the true costs and to influence governments, and others, in order to attract more funds. A further financial report will be prepared for the Climate Change Board and the Cabinet in order to prioritise the projects to be funded over the next 3 years.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Climate and Nature Emergency Plan