

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Date of Meeting: 24 January, 2023
Cabinet Member: Councillor Berwyn Parry Jones
Contact Officer: Steffan Jones, Head of Highways, Municipal and YGC Department
Contact Telephone Number: 32400
Title of Item: Green Fleet Plan

Report to a meeting of the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 That the Cabinet adopts the Green Fleet Plan 2023-28 (see Appendix 1) and agrees:
- that the Council's Departments are not to buy, renew, or dispose of any vehicle before first discussing its needs with the Fleet Manager, and obtaining his consent;
 - that it is necessary to create a corporate pool system instead of Departmental ones;
 - that the Fleet Manager is to lead the work of weeding out the existing stock of Council vehicles and creating a vehicle structure for each Department.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

- 2.1 In order to comply with the Environment (Wales) Act, Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (Welsh Government) and the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 - 2029-2030 Cyngor Gwynedd.
- 2.2 The aim of the Green Fleet Plan 2023-28 is to reduce carbon emissions that derive from using the Council's Fleet.
- 2.3 An overview of the potential funding methods is given in 6.2 of the Green Fleet Plan 2023-28 (Appendix 1). The financial information is for a worst case scenario and it is likely that the entire fleet would not need to be renewed and some can be disposed of following the weeding work.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 A draft report outlining the vision of the Fleet Service was submitted to the Climate Change and Nature Board on the 14th of November, 2022.
- 3.2 Following this meeting, it was agreed that the report would be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

3.3 There is an opportunity to change the number of vehicles through the process of 'weeding out' the Council's Fleet and look at reducing the number of fleet vehicles.

4. THE RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

4.1 During March 2019, Cyngor Gwynedd declared a Climate Change Emergency and this led to the Council's Cabinet publishing a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022.

4.2 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan has set an ambition that "Gwynedd Council will be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030", which corresponds to the Welsh Government's target for the public sector in Wales to be net-zero carbon by this date.

4.3 Using data about our emissions, it highlights the difficult task facing us to transform our fleet stock.

4.4 It is essential that we implement the plan to decarbonise the fleet, focusing on three main themes outlined in the Green Fleet Plan, namely Weeding, Innovation and Renewal.

4.5 It is important to note that a considerable amount of work needs to be achieved and any delay may affect our work to achieve our aim.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

5.1 There is a duty to create 'A Prosperous Wales' as part of this act which specifically looks at creating an innovative, productive, low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and which, as a result, uses resources in an efficient and proportionate manner (including action on climate change).

5.2 There is a cost associated with reducing carbon emissions, but a balance must be struck between this and the much higher cost that would result from doing nothing. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is therefore key to the way in which public bodies in Wales are tackling these challenges. By implementing sustainable development and contributing to the national well-being goal that Wales is responsible for at a Global Level, we can show its contribution towards responding to the climate crisis.

5.3 The Green Fleet Plan includes a number of projects which, together, set out to realise these objectives.

6. NEXT STEPS

6.1 Following Cabinet approval, we will proceed to implement the steps within the Green Fleet Plan 2023-28 as well as the recommendations noted in 3.3.

7. VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

The Monitoring Officer:

The Report and the Plan highlight that these proposals represent an important step to address the duties and aims of the Council in relation to sustainability and carbon reduction. I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought.

Head of Finance Department:

I have no objection to the decision sought. Part 7 of the Green Fleet Plan states that the Fleet Service will need to work with the Finance Department on the various financial aspects of the scheme and I would reiterate that the figures which appear in the Plan are estimates. Further work will be needed and I expect this to happen soon if the Plan is adopted by Cabinet.