

MEETING	Full Council
DATE	2 March 2023
TITLE	Council Plan 2023-28
PURPOSE	To approve the Council Plan
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
CONTACT OFFICER:	Dewi W. Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager, Leadership Team

1. Decision Sought

1.1. That the Council adopts the **Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028**.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 is our public statement as a Council regarding what we intend to deliver for the people of Gwynedd. It conveys our priorities and our ambition for the next five years together with the projects we will be carrying out during this period (**Appendix 1**).
- 2.2 Over the past few months much work has been undertaken to identify areas that should be prioritised, having considered what is important to the people of Gwynedd. This will set a direction for the Council's work for the 2023-28 period. As part of the process, consideration was given to several pieces of work / information, including the projects that were in the current 2018-23 Plan, feedback from engagement in the 'Our Area' Regeneration Framework, and the Well-being Assessments completed by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board.
- 2.3 As part of the process of formulating the Plan, two sessions in the form of workshops were held during December 2022 and all Elected Members received an invitation to these workshops. They were given the opportunity to highlight any matters that needed addressing on a county level along with the areas they represent. A public consultation was also held in December 2022. 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 in 2023.
- 2.4 One point that was raised during the consultations was the need to consider including a project relating to providing play/leisure opportunities for children and young people. As a result, a project has been included to address this

which is 'Extending opportunities for play and socialising for the county's children and young people'.

- 2.5 It is also noted that revisions have been made to projects in Priority Area 4 compared with what was consulted upon. The projects included in the former draft plan (a Suitable and Sustainable Care Provision for the Future, and Re-designing our Care Services) have been repackaged within three new projects - Local Preventative Support, Living Independently, and Specialist Quality Care. We hope that these new projects reflect an individual's journey through the services and are more easily understood by the layperson.
- 2.6 The Council Plan 2023-28 is based on these materials and it includes the **headings** and **priority areas** for 2023-28 (these are our well-being goals for the purpose of the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act Wales 2015) and the **ambitions** for those areas. In addition, there is a brief description of each **project** that we will be implementing, outlining why we are addressing it and what we will be doing over the Plan's lifespan to respond. The aim for the new plan is for it to be a concise, appealing and easy to read document which will include information about the priority areas, ambitions and the priority projects.
- 2.7 At its meeting on 14 February 2023 the Cabinet approved the **Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 (the Plan)**, and recommended that the Full Council adopted the Plan at its Full Council meeting on 2 March 2023. It was suggested that an additional ambition was included for Priority Area 5 (Ensure access to facilities and information of a good quality in relation to leisure, culture and the arts). This ambition has been incorporated into the plan.

3.0 Resources

- 3.1 Additional resources are required in order to achieve the commitments noted for a number of projects within the Plan. Without the resource, it may not be possible for us to deliver what is noted. Currently, we propose that all the projects are approved as part of the Plan, subject to the Cabinet's agreement to fund them, after they have considered each business case individually. This is expected to take place as soon as possible.

4. Consultation Results

- 4.1 Sessions with Elected Members were held on the priorities of the Council Plan for 2023-28 as well as a public consultation conducted between 8 December 2022 and 3 January 2023. Appropriate opportunities were provided for individuals and interest groups to participate in the exercise by completing a questionnaire that was available on the Council's website or via hard copies available in Siopau Gwynedd and the county's Libraries. In addition, we contacted third sector organisations to encourage them to participate.
- 4.2 We received 643 responses to the public consultation and there was general agreement to our identified priorities and draft projects. A summary of the responses received can be viewed in **Appendix 2**.

4.3 Points 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 in the above report highlight the adaptations made to the draft Plan following the consultation. We will need to consider whether other matters have arisen during the consultation that need to be addressed.

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

5.1 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.

5.2 We have also reviewed our well-being objectives as part of the process of forming the Council Plan for 2023-28. In reviewing our well-being objectives, we have considered several sources of evidence including information from consultation sessions held with Elected Members, the response to the public consultation on the proposed priorities for the Council Plan and the results of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board's Well-being Assessments which were issued in 2022.

5.3 Our well-being objectives will directly contribute to delivering the national well-being goals and include the practical steps or projects that we will implement in order to contribute towards the objective. The aim will be to review these regularly.

5.4 As part of the process we have also reviewed our Well-being Statement (**Appendix 3**).

6. Equality Act 2010

6.1 There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider the findings of an equality impact assessment when preparing the Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as is implemented in Wales. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached so that the Council can assess whether the projects are acceptable from the point of view of the impact they have on people who have one or more of the characteristics protected under the Act. The assessment is attached in **Appendix 4**.

6.2 The assessment on the Plan in its entirety does not identify any impact that would justify a departure from the recommendation, and there are elements for which a positive impact is anticipated. The Project Leaders will be responsible for undertaking a full Equality Impact Assessment on individual projects.

7. 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 five years. I can confirm that specific, limited funds are in place to finance the Plan's priorities. The report

contains an acknowledgment that that resource requirements for all the improvement priorities in the Plan is greater than the money available to them, and I therefore agree with what is set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report, that there is a need to consider each individual business case before funding is agreed.

Financial propriety means that we will continue to ensure that a funding source has been identified for any commitment to spend.

ii. The Monitoring Officer:

The adoption of the Council Plan constitutes one the main functions of the Full Council and the recommendation of the Cabinet is fundamental to the process. The report appropriately confirms that the interrelationship with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is intertwined in the Plan. The results of the consultation process undertaken and the impact assessments are noted. It is important that the Council has due regard to these matters when coming to it's decision.

8. Local Member's views

Not a local matter.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 (Draft)

Appendix 2 - Summary of the Public Consultation

Appendix 3 - Well-being Statement 2023/24

Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment