

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Date of meeting:	7 March 2023
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Nia Jeffreys
Liaison Officer:	Nia Gruffydd
Contact Number:	Telephone 01286 679 461
Item Title:	Living Libraries - Gwynedd Libraries Plan 2023-2028

1. Decision:

Approve the Gwynedd Library Service Plan – Living Libraries 2023-2028.

2. Reason for the decision:

We want to ensure that the Library Service has a clear direction for the next five years. According to the requirements of the Welsh Public Library Standards, each Authority is expected to have a current Library Plan publicly available.

3. Introduction

The More Than Books Strategy came to an end in 2020. This strategy gave direction to the Library service following the Her Gwynedd Challenge in 2016.

The Library Service, when drawing up the new plan, has tried to respond to the needs of the people of Gwynedd in line with the Ffordd Gwynedd way of working.

Gwynedd Libraries have 13 Libraries in different locations across Gwynedd varying in terms of size and opening hours. There is a library in each of the Regeneration Areas apart from Dyffryn Peris.

4. Rationale and Justification for recommending the decision

Libraries are a valuable physical contact point for the Council's services and today the Library Service operates as a digital service as well as being face-to-face, providing resources and digital resources that users can access from home.

Over the years the buildings of Gwynedd Libraries have benefited from Welsh Government Transformation Capital Grant funding, with Penygroes and Dyffryn Ogwen Libraries benefiting from an improvement grant this year to develop a Petha Library (borrowing everyday items and toys) to addressing the need to support communities, the environment and the anti-poverty agenda .

The decision will support the vision and direction of the Library Service for the next five years.

Equalities Act 2010

The Council is subject to public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics and having due regard to the socio-economic duty under Section 1 of the Act. An equalities impact assessment has been prepared and is appended at Appendix 1. The Cabinet will need to have regard to its findings when coming to a decision. The assessment does not identify any particular negative impacts stemming from the decision.

Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and is globally responsible. The recommendations have been prepared having regard to the requirements of the Act.

5. Next steps and timetable

Implement the plan and review annually.

We will endeavour to respond to budgetary challenges whilst trying to maintain core services in the most sustainable way possible, accepting that there may be an impact on availability and provision of some elements of the offers we have.

We will collaborate with external services and organizations in order to find the best methods of maintaining services in the most cost-effective way possible in the long term.

6. Any consultations undertaken prior to making the Decision

The Library Service staff teams were consulted in the drawing up of the plan.

The user engagement undertaken is outlined in the Equality Assessment document (attached) and the Equality Officer and the Language Officer were also consulted.

Chief Finance Officer's opinion:

"Adopting this Library Plan would not create a new spending commitment and the plan highlights the way in which the service will make the best use of the resources available to it. I therefore have no further comments to add from the perspective of financial propriety."

Opinion of the Monitoring Officer:

"No observations to add in relation to propriety."

Local Member's Opinion: Not a local matter.