

Results of Cyngor Gwynedd's Financial Strategy Questionnaire 2025-2026

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Produced by the Research Team, Corporate Services

Introduction

The purpose of the questionnaire was to gain the public's views regarding what matters most to them. The results will assist the councillors with the work of establishing a financial strategy and set a budget for the 2025-2026 financial year.

The questionnaire was live on the Council's website on 28 November up to 20 December 2024. It was promoted by sharing it with the Gwynedd Residents' Panel, with Members through an article in the Members' bulletin and messages on the Council's social media accounts.

Results

A total of 627 responses were received to the questionnaire. Most of them (94.4%, N=592) came from individuals, 3.8% (N=24) came from 'others', 0.8% (N=5) came on behalf of an organisation, group or business, and 0.3% (N=2) came on behalf of a Community / City / Town Council. Responses were received from Felinheli Community Council and Caernarfon Town Council.

	Number	Percentage
As an individual	592	94.4
On behalf of an organisation, group or business	5	0.8
On behalf of a Town/Community council	2	0.3
Other	24	3.8
No response	4	0.6
Total	627	100.0

Responders were asked to choose up to five services that Cyngor Gwynedd should prioritise in terms of expenditure. The table below shows the outcomes of the five main priorities from highest to lowest.

Services	No.	%
Education – primary and secondary schools	350	55.8
Adults Social Services - provision of care and support to adults with care / disability needs, e.g. domiciliary care / care homes	296	47.2
Highways - roads maintenance	235	37.5
Children's Social Services - provision of support, safeguarding and childcare for vulnerable children / children with a disability	234	37.3
Housing - construction of social housing, housing schemes for local people	213	34.0
Waste and Recycling - Waste and recycling collection	206	32.9
Economic development - employment support, business support, town centre regeneration and economic growth	159	25.4
Education in the early years, additional learning needs, school transport	154	24.6
Clean and tidy communities and towns	130	20.7
Transport - public footpaths, car parks, public transport	129	20.6
Flood prevention and coastal protection	120	19.1
Youth Services	99	15.8
Leisure Centres	96	15.3
Tourism services and sustainable visitor economy	86	13.7
Homelessness	83	13.2
Libraries and archives	83	13.2
Public Protection - food safety, pollution control, trading standards and licensing	76	12.1
Recycling Centres	54	8.6
Benefits and welfare	52	8.3
Costs of running the Council and support services	38	6.1
Maritime, beach management and harbours	33	5.3
Planning and Building Control - control of new building developments, conservation, building safety, planning enforcement	31	4.9
Country parks and museums	25	4.0
Information technology and digital services	17	2.7

After responders chose their five priority fields, there was a space for them to provide comments if they wished to do so. Comments were received from almost half the responders (47.4%, N=297). The following table summarises those comments per field. No observations were obtained from 52.6% (N=330) of the responders.

Area	No.	%
Social Care / Childcare / Health	44	14.8
Other	32	10.8
Education (with early years education being referred to again repeatedly)	27	9.1
Community homes / Affordable housing / Better housing for local people	23	7.7
Consider the impacts on specific groups of people, e.g. Disability, children, vulnerable adults	21	7.1
Less salary for councillors / Fewer councillors	19	6.4
Economic growth / Job development / good local employment	20	6.7
Tourism - Not charging a tourism tax / Gwynedd is a place that is reliant on tourism / Helping the tourism industry	18	6.1
Need to improve lanes / roads	13	4.4
Look at the value of each officer / function	13	4.4
No spending on specific projects, e.g. Dinas Dinlle Parking, costs of sea defences, widening pavements	13	4.4
Better communication from activities / Coordinating volunteers to carry out some functions / Community activities to improve well-being	12	4.0
Need to improve town centres	11	3.7
Need fewer managers / more frontline staff	11	3.7
Merge services with nearby councils / other partners / Need to be innovative and try different thing / Map out what is already being done by other organisations	12	4.0
Additional Learning Needs	11	3.7
Better collaboration between departments to reduce duplication save money / efficiency audit / design the organisation	11	3.7
Environmental factors, e.g. Flooding, biodiversity, walking paths	11	3.7
Waste and Recycling	10	3.4
Monitor any spending	9	3.0
Need to protect statutory services	8	2.7
Less emphasis on the Welsh language	8	2.7
Public Transport	7	2.4
Parking / collecting fines	6	2.0
Unable to prioritise / Every service needs support / Equal cuts across every service	6	2.0
Cuts to preventative services increasing the work pressures of front line services	5	1.7
Need to look more long-term / what is the impact of the cuts being made now in the long-term	5	1.7
Need to improve playing areas	4	1.3
Leisure Centres	4	1.3
Positive impact on some services when improving other services	3	1.0
Making cuts fairly across the county, e.g. Urban and rural / Arfon, Dwyfor, Meirionnydd	3	1.0
Remembering about the people who are not on benefits but who are also finding it hard	3	1.0
Active Travel	3	1.0
No increases to Council Tax	3	1.0
Libraries	3	1.0

Not increasing the second homes premium	3	1.0
No employment of new staff / fewer staff	3	1.0
Staff to work in the offices rather than from home	3	1.0
Grass cutting	2	0.7
Keeping streets clean and tidy / Reducing dog fouling	2	0.7
Using grants instead of Council money to run some services	1	0.3
Offering early retirement / redundancies to officers	1	0.3
CCTV	1	0.3
Public Toilets	1	0.3
Reduction in administrative costs	1	0.3
Holding meetings on-line	1	0.3
Increasing the second homes premium	1	0.3
Council Buildings - switching off lights, lowering the heating	1	0.3
Need to be able to choose more than 5 services to prioritise / need a better explanation of what every service does	1	0.3
<i>Denominator = 297</i>		

Then it was asked 'considering the 5 priority services you have chosen, do you believe that cutting spending in those fields will have a potential impact on the Welsh language, the opportunities to use it and on its status within the community?'

41.3% (N=259) responders believe that it would have a negative impact (combination of 'slight negative impact' and 'negative impact'), whilst 38.4% (N=241) believed that it would have no impact, and 18.6% (N=117) believed that it would have a positive impact (combination of 'some positive impact' and 'positive impact').

	No.	%
Positive impact	78	12.4
Some positive impact	39	6.2
No impact	241	38.4
Some negative impact	56	8.9
Negative impact	203	32.4
No response	10	1.6
Total	627	100.0

It was asked 'Is there anything that can be done to have a more positive impact on the Welsh language and the use made of it, or to get rid of any negative impacts?' Comments were received from 35.9% (N=225) of the responders.

The table below summarises the observations of the responders who noted that it would have a **negative impact** per field.

Area	No.	%
No Observations	172	66.4
Education – primary and secondary schools (Protection / Budget Increases) / Welsh a part of the curriculum of every school / Language Centres	16	6.2
Housing - construction of social housing, housing schemes for local people, control of second homes and holiday homes	14	5.4
Free Welsh language lessons / Welsh language groups in the evenings / more GCSE level courses / Make it easier to learn Welsh	13	5.0
More jobs	10	3.9
Not giving priority to the Welsh language / Not a priority in the current economic climate / Not conducting Council job interviews in Welsh only	8	3.1
The Welsh Language First / Continue with the current situation / Protect the Welsh language budget	7	2.7
The use of Leisure Centres, Libraries and Museums is important	6	2.3
Bilingual society	5	1.9
I do not understand the question / Irrelevant or unclear answer	4	1.5
Encourage businesses to use the Welsh language	4	1.5
Improve Public Transport	3	1.2
Encourage parents to speak Welsh in the home	2	0.8
Instil pride in the environment and the Community	2	0.8
Promote Tourism / Improve the image of the Welsh language in the media / Image of Tourism in the context of the Welsh language being attacked	2	0.8
Article 4 affecting people's desire to remain in Gwynedd	2	0.8
Improve Social Services / Ensure that Social Services' staff are Welsh speakers	1	0.4
Ensure that AI understands Welsh	1	0.4
Ensure that signs are bilingual	1	0.4
Council Staff - Welsh test for Council employees / raise staff's salaries	1	0.4
All political groups to encourage the use of the Welsh language	1	0.4
Welsh language projects with young people	1	0.4
Improve the salaries of domiciliary carers and care homes	1	0.4
<i>Denominator=259</i>		

The table below summarises the observations of the responders who noted that it would have a **positive impact** per area.

Area	No.	%
No Comments	69	59.0
Not giving priority to the Welsh language / Not a priority in the current economic climate / Not conducting Council job interviews in Welsh only	8	6.8
Housing - construction of social housing, housing plans for local people, control of second homes and holiday homes	7	6.0
Free Welsh language lessons / Welsh language groups in the evenings / more GCSE level courses / Make it easier to learn Welsh	7	6.0
The Welsh Language First / Continue with the current situation / Protect the Welsh language budget	6	5.1
A bilingual society	4	3.4
Education – primary and secondary schools (Protection / Budget Increases) / Welsh a part of the curriculum of every school / Language Centres	4	3.4

More jobs	3	2.6
Promote Tourism / Improve the image of the Welsh language in the media / Image of Tourism in the context of the Welsh language being attacked	3	2.6
Council Staff - Welsh test for Council employees / raise staff's salaries	2	1.7
Encourage parents to speak Welsh in the home	2	1.7
I do not understand the question / Irrelevant or unclear answer	1	0.9
Improve Social Services / Ensure that Social Services' staff are Welsh speakers	1	0.9
The use of Leisure Centres, Libraries and Museums is important	1	0.9
No need to send out correspondence in both languages, only in the recipient's main language / Use Welsh that is easier to understand	1	0.9
Instil pride in the environment and the Community	1	0.9
Encourage businesses to use the Welsh language	1	0.9
Learn Welsh through Sports clubs	1	0.9
<i>Denominator=117</i>		

The table below summarises the observations of the responders who noted that it would have **no impact** per area.

Area	No.	%
No Comments	167	69.3
Not giving priority to the Welsh language / Not a priority in the current economic climate / Not conducting Council job interviews in Welsh only	28	11.6
Bilingual society	8	3.3
Free Welsh language lessons / Welsh language groups in the evenings / more GCSE level courses / Make it easier to learn Welsh	6	2.5
The Welsh Language First / Continue with the current situation / Protect the Welsh language budget	6	2.5
Education – primary and secondary schools (Protection / Budget Increases) / Welsh a part of the curriculum of every school / Language Centres	6	2.5
No need to send out correspondence in both languages, only in the recipient's main language / Use Welsh that is easier to understand	5	2.1
Promote Tourism / Improve the image of the Welsh language in the media / Image of Tourism in the context of the Welsh language being attacked	5	2.1
I do not understand the question / Irrelevant or unclear answer	3	1.2
More jobs	3	1.2
Look at how to provide better Welsh-medium services	3	1.2
Housing - construction of social housing, housing plans for local people, control of second homes and holiday homes	2	0.8
Encourage businesses to use the Welsh language	2	0.8
Improve Public Transport	1	0.4
Ensure that signs are bilingual	1	0.4
Important that Welsh-medium Dementia Services are available	1	0.4
Welsh language projects with young people	1	0.4
Grants for businesses / clubs / social areas	1	0.4
<i>Denominator=241</i>		

Then it was asked 'Considering the 5 priority services you have chosen; do you believe that reducing spending in those fields would have a possible impact on people facing socio-economic

disadvantage? Socio-economic disadvantage means all types of poverty - financial poverty, digital poverty, living far away from services, etc.'

64.9% (N=407) believed that it would have a negative impact (combination of 'negative impact' and 'some negative impact').

	No.	%
Positive impact	74	11.8
Some positive impact	36	5.7
No impact	96	15.3
Some negative impact	64	10.2
Negative impact	343	54.7
No response	14	2.2
Total	627	100.0

Finally, they were asked to note any other comments. Comments were received from 16.9% (N=106) of responders.

The table below summarises the observations of the responders who noted that it would have a **negative impact** per area.

Area	No.	%
No Comments	328	80.6
Prioritising our young and vulnerable residents / Protecting schools' budgets	23	5.7
Reducing spending that will create a negative impact / more poverty / impact on the economy and social care	23	5.7
More jobs needed / economic growth	12	2.9
Affordable housing priorities / Suitable Housing / Fair Council Tax	9	2.2
Irrelevant Comment / Unclear	6	1.5
Protecting spending on public transport / Improving public transport / roads	5	1.2
Libraries essential, also museums and parks	4	1.0
Tourism is important	4	1.0
Need more volunteers / Community to help / Embracing all sections of the Community	3	0.7
Cut jobs in the Council / Efficiency Measures	3	0.7
Looking after the Environment is important	2	0.5
Need well-being measures (e.g. Investing in sports and Leisure Centre)	2	0.5
Not giving priority to the Welsh language / Reducing spending on the Welsh language	1	0.2
Encourage use of Welsh, but sending information out bilingually is a waste of money	1	0.2
Invest in educating parents from deprived backgrounds	1	0.2
Ensure that there is no impact on homeless people	1	0.2
Need to invest in IT and digital technology elements	1	0.2
Focus on statutory / essential services	1	0.2
Focus on people who are native to Gwynedd	1	0.2
Need to continue to support people with disabilities	1	0.2
<i>Denominator=407</i>		

The table below summarises the observations of the responders who noted that it would have a **positive impact** per area.

Area	No.	%
No Comments	95	86.4
Prioritising our young and vulnerable residents / Protecting schools' budgets	7	6.4
Reducing spending that will create a negative impact / more poverty / impact on the economy and social care	4	3.6
Affordable housing priorities / Suitable Housing / Fair Council Tax	4	3.6
More jobs needed / economic growth	3	2.7
Tourism is important	3	2.7
Protecting spending on public transport / Improving public transport / roads	2	1.8
Looking after the Environment is important	2	1.8
<i>Denominator=110</i>		

The table below summarises the observations of the responders who noted that it would have **no impact** per area.

Area	No.	%
No Comments	87	90.6
Irrelevant Comment / Unclear	4	4.2
More jobs needed / economic growth	1	1.0
Reducing spending that will create a negative impact / more poverty / impact on the economy and social care	1	1.0
Not giving priority to the Welsh language / Reducing spending on the Welsh language	1	1.0
Looking after the Environment is important	1	1.0
Tourism is important	1	1.0
Cut jobs in the Council / Efficiency Measures	1	1.0
Reduce spending on translation	1	1.0
<i>Denominator=96</i>		

Information about the responders

Gender

	No.	%
Woman / Female	364	58.1
Man / Male	203	32.4
I prefer not to say	47	7.5
No response	10	1.6
I identify in a different way	3	0.5
Total	627	100.0

Please note your age group

	No.	%
16 – 24 years	5	0.8
25 – 34 years	75	12.0
35 - 44 years old	104	16.6
45 - 54 years old	119	19.0
55 - 64 years old	129	20.6
65 - 74 years old	93	14.8
75 - 84 years old	40	6.4
85+ years old	7	1.1
I prefer not to say	9	1.4
No response	46	7.3
Total	627	100.0

Section 6 (1) of the 2010 Equality Act states that an individual is disabled if: a) Does that individual have a physical or mental impairment? and b) That the impairment has a substantial and long-term detrimental impact on the individual's ability to carry out usual day-to-day activities. Using this definition, do you consider yourself a disabled person?

	No.	%
Yes	77	2.2
No	483	8.5
I prefer not to say	53	77.0
No response	14	12.3
Total	627	100.0

How would you describe your Welsh language skills?

	No.	%
Speaking, reading and writing fluently	300	47.9
Speaking, reading and writing, but not very confident	84	13.4
Speaking, reading and writing - currently learning	73	11.6%
I prefer not to say	55	8.8%
Unable to speak or understand Welsh	49	7.8
Other	27	4.3

Speaking, but unable to read or write	26	4.2
No response	13	2.1
Total	627	100.0