

2024-25 Self- assessment

(part of the 2024-25 Annual Report)



Purpose of the presentation

- ▶ *To give members of the Governance and Audit Committee an opportunity to consider our **main** strengths and risks before we complete our Self-assessment.*

Background

- ❖ A high-level summary of the Council's performance during 2024/25, categorised as a series of Strengths and Risks for each of the priorities set out in the Council Plan.
- ❖ Risks based on:
 - Our main risks as set out in the corporate risk register
 - Issues identified by external audit bodies
 - Other issues that we have identified and included in the Council Plan
 - Issues arising from the internal performance challenge and support process
- ❖ Strengths based on:
 - Highlights of the annual performance report
 - Feedback received from external audit bodies (e.g. Audit Wales, Care Inspectorate Wales, Estyn etc.)
 - Issues arising from the internal performance challenge and support process

Background

- ❖ Not all risks/strengths are listed in this presentation – **only the main ones are seen here.**
- ❖ A large number of our strengths and risks will be included in other parts of the annual report, particularly where they relate to Council Plan projects and our day-to-day work. To avoid repetition, we (mostly) do not list them in the Self-assessment as well.
- ❖ The 'Efficient Gwynedd' section is much more corporate in nature as many of the strengths and weaknesses found here are organisational.

An Efficient Gwynedd - Strengths

Putting the residents of Gwynedd first and treating them fairly and ensuring that the Council performs effectively and efficiently

- ❖ Have come to terms with periods of austerity/lack of money thus far.
- ❖ Good corporate governance arrangements.
- ❖ Able to provide the necessary support effectively to partnerships – Gwynedd is a host authority for many of them.
- ❖ We are aware that there is a need to continue reviewing the procedure of identifying and scoring risks, particularly in order to ensure consistency across the organisation in terms of the assessment and scoring process.
- ❖ The Council gathers the views of the people of the county in many different ways in order to improve services.
- ❖ As part of the 'Ffordd Gwynedd' scheme, we have improved our managers' understanding of the steps required to create a satisfied and healthy workforce who put the people of Gwynedd at the heart of everything we do.

An Efficient Gwynedd - Risks

Putting the residents of Gwynedd first and treating them fairly and ensuring that the Council performs effectively and efficiently

- ❖ Revenue Budget Challenges for 2024-25.
- ❖ Departmental overspend / budget deficit of £6.6m with a significant overspend in the departments of Adults, Health and Well-being; Children and Families; Highways, Engineering and YGC; and Environment.
- ❖ Pressure to set a balanced budget for 2025/26.
- ❖ Difficulties in recruiting to posts in some areas which can jeopardise continuity of service.

A Caring Gwynedd – Strengths

Supporting the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities

- ❖ Timely Statutory Reviews of a good quality conducted to ensure that care and support plans remain appropriate.
- ❖ An improvement in outcomes for people who receive domiciliary care as a result of the use of technology and alternative methods of service provision.
- ❖ An improvement in practice in the area of adult safeguarding and assessment of mental capacity.
- ❖ There are examples of good collaboration with health organisations, the police and the third sector to support good outcomes for people.
- ❖ Strategic planning developments - Llechen Lân has been published and i-Lechen is being implemented.

A Caring Gwynedd – Risks

Supporting the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities

- ❖ Not enough efficient care for domiciliary care, residential homes and nursing homes. This could also lead to harm, additional needs and extra costs.
- ❖ The importance of multidisciplinary collaboration to ensure the best quality services and effective cost management. Working with partners such as health, the police, the third sector and care providers is vital to achieve this.
- ❖ Failure to plan the workforce effectively which would mean that we are unable to provide the best services for the people of Gwynedd.

A Caring Gwynedd – Risks

Supporting the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities

- ❖ If there is an insufficient and inefficient provision of domiciliary care, residential and nursing homes, it could lead to harm, increased needs and additional costs. Among the steps we are taking to deal with this is a new project in the Council Plan – Llechen Lân (A Clean Slate).
- ❖ To ensure the highest quality services and effectively manage costs, the teams need to collaborate on a multi-disciplinary level with partners such as health, police, the third sector, and care providers.
- ❖ If the Business and Care Commissioning services are not effective and efficient, there will be a risk to the safety of individuals and staff, and a risk that we are not providing quality services to the residents of Gwynedd.
- ❖ Increased demand for services and the complexity of needs can lead to overspending.

Tomorrow's Gwynedd - Strengths

Giving our children and young people the best possible start in life

- ❖ The outcomes of primary and secondary school inspections are generally strong.
- ❖ Support to meet the needs of learners/Welsh-language provision - including the Immersion Education system.
- ❖ The Authority firmly promotes and supports pupils' well-being.
- ❖ We continue to make improvements to school buildings across the county.

Tomorrow's Gwynedd - Risks

Giving our children and young people the best possible start in life

- ❖ Demography, and the impact on the viability of the current school system.
- ❖ Improve arrangements for monitoring, evaluating and promoting pupils' attendance.
- ❖ We will strengthen provision for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, and ensure arrangements for monitoring and improving the quality of that provision.
- ❖ Ensure that our safeguarding arrangements in schools are of the best possible standard and deliver on the content of our Responding to Crime Plan.
- ❖ A fundamental change in school improvement support following the end of GwE. With such a significant change, it is inevitable that it may affect the quality of support in terms of school improvement and standards.

A Prosperous Gwynedd - Strengths

Strengthening the economy and supporting the people of Gwynedd to earn a decent salary

- ❖ A Local Regeneration Plan drawn up for each of the 13 regeneration areas in the county.
- ❖ The 'Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035' has been jointly developed by Cyngor Gwynedd and the Eryri National Park Authority.
- ❖ Funding from sources such as the Shared Prosperity Fund and ARFOR was secured to strengthen Gwynedd's economy.
- ❖ Town Centre strategic plans in place and the Empty Properties Group starting to achieve success.

A Prosperous Gwynedd - Risks

Strengthening the economy and supporting the people of Gwynedd to earn a decent salary

- ❖ The ARFOR Programme ended in March 2025.
- ❖ The SPF programme has been extended for one year only, giving rise to uncertainty regarding the funding and administration of any future economic development programmes.
- ❖ Growth Deal (Ambition North Wales) – some projects are fragile.

A Homely Gwynedd - Strengths

Supporting the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities

- ❖ Reduced homelessness numbers and the costs of emergency accommodation
- ❖ Since 2021 the Housing Action Plan has led to additional housing becoming available. This has included bringing empty houses back into use and developing new social housing.
- ❖ Penrhos Site – additional grant from the Welsh Government (£7M)
- ❖ Social Housing Grant - £8M in additional funding

A Homely Gwynedd - Risks

Supporting the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities

- ❖ Homelessness remains a challenge – ambitious plans need to be continued.
- ❖ Establish the Housing One Stop Shop.
- ❖ Ensure that Housing Associations support/partner on every aspect of the Housing sector.
- ❖ There has been some delay in renovating houses after purchasing them through the Buy-to-Let Scheme and establishing a new financial business case to enable the purchase to go ahead, but the situation is improving.
- ❖ Room to accelerate the construction work with Tŷ Gwynedd housing and to partner with housing associations.
- ❖ Support for social housing construction applications.

A Green Gwynedd - Strengths

Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

- ❖ Consistently managed to meet statutory recycling targets in the past.
- ❖ Have set an ambition of being zero carbon by 2030 and adopted a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan to meet the ambition.
- ❖ A Flood Strategy has been adopted which highlights the current and future risks of flooding and coastal erosion in the county and how the risks will be managed.
- ❖ Hundreds of homes received grant support to improve their energy consumption performance.
- ❖ Attracted significant energy grants to reduce carbon emissions from buildings, purchased electric vehicles and nature conservation work.

A Green Gwynedd - Risks

Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

- ❖ In order to meet the national recycling target of 70% and avoid a financial fine, residents' behaviours need to change so that they recycle more and reduce the residual waste that needs to be collected.
- ❖ Waste treatment sites need to be modernised and improvements undertaken to our recycling centres.
- ❖ There is a significant risk of coastal flooding which could have a detrimental impact on many communities such as Fairbourne.
- ❖ Failure to meet the ambition in the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan that.....'Cyngor Gwynedd will be net-zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030.' This is a practical and financial risk for the Council.

A Welsh Gwynedd - Strengths

Ensuring that we give our residents every possible opportunity to use the Welsh language in the community

- ❖ The Welsh language is a key part of all the Council's work, and any plans that affect the people of Gwynedd.
- ❖ The Council has modernised and expanded the immersion provision for learning Welsh to children, and intends to further increase the provision of Welsh-medium education in the county.

A Welsh Gwynedd - Risks

- ❖ Workforce Planning – a perception of language standard.
- ❖ Welsh-speaking young people are migrating.