

APPENDIX 1

Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 Priorities

Progress on 2025-26 milestones

A Homely Gwynedd:

- Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

A Green Gwynedd:

- New Local Development Plan
- Waste and Recycling
- Active Travel
- Public Transport

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





Project: Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

The substantial number of houses in Gwynedd that are being used as second homes and short-term holiday accommodation is having a detrimental impact on the ability of the people of Gwynedd to have access to homes in their communities.

The Council has presented detailed research to the Government which highlights the need to act in the areas of planning, taxation and licensing in order to gain better control of the situation. Following announcements from the Government, including the establishment of the Dwyfor Pilot, which commits to introducing steps to tackle problems in the field, the Council is implementing legislative changes and sets a Council tax premium for second homes and empty homes every year at an appropriate rate to respond to the situation at the time.



Project: Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

Milestone for 2025/6	Update on the milestones so far	Completed/ on track
1. Following a public consultation period on the introduction of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Managing the Use of Dwellings as Holiday Homes which ended on 7 April 2025, all observations received will be considered as will the need to make any changes or not to the Guidance.	1. Consideration was given to the observations received during the public consultation period which closed on 7 April. Subsequently, some minor amendments to the SPG were submitted for consideration by the Council's Cabinet.	 Yes completed
2. Submit a report to the Council's Cabinet (June 2025) asking Members to consider the observations from the consultation and the response to them on the above SPG, and requesting the adoption of the Guidance so that it can then be taken into consideration when dealing with planning applications.	2. Report submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 10 June, and the SPG adopted: Managing the Use of Dwellings as Holiday Homes (Second Homes and Short-term Holiday Lets), to be used as a material planning consideration when making planning decisions in the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority Area.	 Yes completed
3. Continue with a monitoring framework that considers the side effects of the introduction of the Article 4 Direction.	3. Information is being gathered to assess the impact of implementing the Article 4 Direction. *In light of the recent High Court ruling relating to the Article 4 Direction, we will be receiving and considering legal guidance and taking appropriate action.	 Yes - ongoing
4. In terms of the Council Tax Premium: ·The results of research into the impact of the Premium in relation to any change of use of property were reported to the Council on 2 December 2024, and it was decided to keep the level of the Premium unchanged (2025/26) ·The Cabinet to consider in September 2025 whether it will hold a public consultation on increasing the level of the Premium for 2026/27 for certain groups of properties ·Undertake a consultation on changing the level of the Premium – if there is one – (September-October 2025) ·The Full Council to consider the level of the Premium for 2026/27 in December 2025 (whether or not a change is recommended)	4. The outcome of research into the impact of the Premium in relation to any change of use of property was reported to the Council on 2 December 2024, and it was decided to keep the level of the Premium unchanged (2025/26) Discussion between the Housing and Property Department and the Finance Department in September 2025 to consider the impact of long-term empty houses in Gwynedd, highlighting research in the field The Cabinet to consider a report on the Premium on 11 November to decide on a recommendation to the Council The Full Council to consider the level of the Premium for 2026/27 in December 2025 (whether or not a change is recommended)	
5. Consider and respond to any developments by the Welsh Government in relation to the side effects of the potential enforcement/ regulatory requirements of a statutory registration and licensing scheme for holiday accommodation.	5. The Council has been involved in discussions following the passing of the Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Act 2025. The registration and enforcement procedure will be managed nationally by the Welsh Revenue Authority and no licensing scheme or levy enforcement/regulation requirements fall on Cyngor Gwynedd. The Statutory Licensing Act will begin its journey through the Senedd during the autumn 2025 and we will consider and respond to any implications or requirements for the Council as a result of that act during the scrutiny and development process through the committees of Senedd Cymru.	Ongoing

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project:

New Local Development Plan

We will draw-up a new Local Development Plan for Gwynedd that will address housing needs, employment and the social and environmental needs of the county's residents over the next 15 years.



Project: New Local Development Plan

Milestones for 2025/6	Update on the milestones so far	Completed/ on track
<p>1. Continue to operate at the pre-deposit stage for the new Plan, which will include:</p> <p>i) developing the strategic options (following from the main issues, vision and strategic objectives identified)</p> <p>ii) preparing specific background papers/text, impact assessments.</p>	<p>1. Work continues to implement the pre-deposit phase:</p> <p>i) Develop the implementation of the strategic options. The work includes consideration of Gwynedd's demography evidence paper.</p> <p>ii) Research has been commissioned for this element. It is anticipated that household projections (2022 basis) will be published by the Welsh Government during the autumn of 2025, and therefore this will need to be taken into account when developing the strategic options.</p>	<p>Pre-deposit phase aspects to be partially completed this year, and to continue in 2026/7.</p>

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis




Project: Waste and Recycling

We will prepare a new waste and recycling strategy to try and increase the county's recycling level to meet the national target of 70% by 2025.

We will assess how effective the current litter collection arrangements are in terms of promoting recycling (from door-to-door and in our centres) and introduce new arrangements where required.



Project: Waste and Recycling

Milestones for 2025/6	Update on the milestones so far	Completed/ on track
1. Submission of draft Waste and Recycling Strategy to the Cabinet, requesting the right to undertake a public engagement exercise	1. A report was submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 10 June, with approval for the draft Waste and Recycling Strategy to go to public consultation in order to receive feedback from Gwynedd residents.	 Yes - completed
2. Undertake a public engagement exercise on the Waste and Recycling Strategy taking the findings into account	2. Collaborate with the Communications and Engagement Service on the public engagement exercise, with an expectation that it will be live in the coming weeks for a period of 8 weeks.	
3. Report back to Cabinet, taking into account the feedback from the public engagement exercise, and request support for the adoption of the Strategy	3. Details of the timetable to be confirmed following the public engagement exercise.	
4. Based on the Strategy, we will i) Prepare waste treatment assets upgrade options to develop modern and fit-for-purpose sites that will assist in processing more of the waste ourselves and improve product quality; ii) Undertake data-driven behaviour change work to support the Waste and Recycling Strategy. This may mean that we will use enforcement powers to back up any lack of commitment in some cases; iii) As part of a wider review of collection arrangements, we will be piloting the use of sacks for recycling collections in some areas and reviewing success to consider the suitability of extending to other areas of the county; iv) As part of work to review commercial waste arrangements we will be investing in a bespoke system to administer contracts and collections, and we will create a relevant customer portal for businesses to be able to contact us and e-trade with us.	4. i) The initial works have now been completed, and we have received plans for sites in Caernarfon and Harlech. The next step in the process is to refine the options and develop a comprehensive plan that is affordable and practical. The aim of this is to enable an application to be submitted to the Welsh Government for financial support, to facilitate the implementation of the project. ii) The process of encouraging behavioural change is taking place in the background, with several specific campaigns scheduled, including activity in the Bangor area. The feedback gathered through the engagement that is part of the Strategy will contribute significantly to our understanding of the most effective approaches to set about this work. This will enable us to formulate a clearer, evidence-based approach for further action. iii) Trial the use of hessian sacks on 3 routes in the Arfon area. A monitoring report is being finalised, and consideration being given to some practical adjustments to facilitate piloting on routes in other parts of the county iv) The current contract with Bartec has been extended to include commercial waste as part of the management system. Data transfer work is currently underway, with the aim of ensuring full integration and operational efficiency within the extended system.	Ongoing
5. Continue with the management of overspend levels and the realisation of savings planning. We will also put a fit-for-purpose structure in place to ensure that we are in a strong place to be able to face the challenges and changes efficiently. As part of wider savings plans, we will be working with Wrap Cymru to model the frequency options of residual collections.	5. The process of strengthening control over budgets continues, with monthly meetings now established between management and the Finance Department. While some delays and obstacles have arisen in attempting to implement a new structure, it is expected that this work can be resumed in September. In the meantime, initial modelling has been carried out to explore options for reducing the frequency of collections or reducing the size of bins here in Gwynedd.	Ongoing

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis



Project: Active Travel

Active travel aims to ensure that walking and cycling becomes the normal choice for daily journeys, to improve our personal health, air quality and to make places more pleasant to live and work.

We will improve the county's existing walking and cycle paths, and introduce new active travel routes to facilitate more walking and cycling in our communities.




Project: Active Travel

Milestones for 2025/6	Update on the milestones so far	Completed/ on track
<p>1. After submitting detailed plans for Active Travel and Safe Routes in Communities schemes to the Welsh Government, implement the following successful schemes:</p> <p>a) a.Bangor – Phase 3 Penrhos Road/Penchwintan (Active Travel);</p> <p>b) Ysgol Foel Gron, Mynytho (Safe Routes in Communities);</p> <p>c) Deliver schemes with the £500,000 Active Travel core capital fund.</p>	<p>1. Since receiving confirmation of the level of financial support earmarked by the Welsh Government in April, we have been developing the detailed plans for their realisation during 2025/6:</p> <p>a) Construction work on phase 3 is progressing, installing a multi-use path for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as the installation of a crossing near Ysgol y Faenol, Penrhosgarnedd.</p> <p>b) Designs are being completed on footpaths and crossings for the school, along with an improved footpath in the centre of the village and a crossing to link to the shop/post office. Work is expected to start on the ground in the new year.</p> <p>c) Chwillog to Afonwen – physical work to start early in the new year on the first phase of the route (Afonwen to the laundry). Feasibility and design work is taking place on a series of schemes including Tywyn-Aberdyfi, Llanberis-Caernarfon, Llanystumdwy-Cricieth, Bethel-Caernarfon.</p>	
<p>2. Complete improvements to Lôn Las Ogwen as part of a scheme funded through the Levelling Up fund to strengthen local travel links in Dyffryn Ogwen.</p>	<p>2. Work completed in July 2025 on the first phase including installing a cattle underpass which has enabled the removal of a series of gates facilitating the use of the path from the direction of Tregarth to Bethesda for pedestrians and cyclists. Work started in August and is progressing well to install the new Pont Sarnau over the river Ogwen, which will improve user access along Lôn Las in this part of Dyffryn Ogwen and improve links to routes to Llyn Ogwen and the Zip World attraction.</p>	

Continued on next page

Project: Active Travel

Milestones for 2025/6	Update on the milestones so far	Completed/ on track
3. Monitor developments and act on any potential changes based on the adoption of the Regional Transport Plan (during 2025/26).	3. The Council's response to the North Wales Regional Transport Plan public consultation was presented – with the consultation period having closed on 14 April. The Plan is going through the process of approval for formal adoption, with the Transport Service contributing to discussions at a regional level.	Ongoing
4. Continue to promote routes for residents and visitors to the county and the walking and cycling opportunities on Gwynedd's active travel network.	4. Work is taking place on an ongoing basis to promote developments that facilitate walking and cycling on active travel networks in the county, including announcements on the funding secured and progress on projects as they become operational. In addition, we create information packs for school headteachers, including guidance and information to share with parents about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Road safetyoActive TraveloPublic transportoHow to create Walking and Cycling BusesoAccess to road safety trainingoRules for travelling on the bus and train to school, etc. Maps for active travel to schools in specific locations where recent improvements have been delivered (Garnedd, Cricieth, Bala)	 Ongoing



A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project: Public Transport

We will review our existing public transport provision with the aim of developing a public transport network that will be convenient, reliable and reasonably priced to allow the residents of Gwynedd to travel every day of the week. As a part of this plan, we will also introduce new electric buses.



Project: Public Transport

Milestones for 2025/6	Update on the milestones so far	Completed/ on track
1. Maintain and review the network based on experience and any potential changes that are beyond the Council's control.	1. A new network becoming established with positive feedback and passenger numbers. Continue to look for minor improvements/adjustments where possible within the available resources.	Ongoing
2. Continue to pilot and monitor the use of Sherpa'r Wyddfa, G23 services between Abermaw and Porthmadog and Fflecsi in south Meirionnydd.	2. The revamped services becoming established with positive feedback and passenger numbers – 83,393 passengers on the Sherpa in August this year, an increase of more than 10,000 on the same month in 2024. Where practicable, we continue to look for improvements/ adjustments within the available resources.	Ongoing
3. Implementation of £500,000 worth of improvements to bus stops. .	3. Work is underway in line with the programme to introduce improvements to stops at locations in the county – 3 locations in Arfon, 3 in Dwyfor and 3 in Meirionnydd.	
4. Monitor developments and act on any potential changes based on the adoption of the Regional Transport Plan (during 2025/26).	4. The Council's response to the North Wales Regional Transport Plan public consultation was presented – with the consultation period having closed on 14 April. The Plan is going through the process of approval for formal adoption, with the Transport Service contributing to discussions at a regional level.	
5. Continue to review the financial picture in terms of the cost of providing the network and the various sources.	5. Close collaboration continues between Transport Service officers and the Finance Department to monitor the financial situation and intervene as necessary.	