

Request for scrutiny by a member of the public

Dear Chair,

I am writing to formally object to the decision made by the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet on 12 March 2024 to delegate authority over the remaining £1.14 million of the Climate Plan Fund to the Chief Executive, Mr Dafydd Gibbard, in consultation with the Council Leader and the Climate and Nature Board.

I am concerned that the delegation of financial prioritisation—without further Cabinet oversight or public consultation—risks undermining transparency, accountability, and the evidential basis for public benefit.

Grounds for Objection:

1. Lack of Public Scrutiny

The decision bypasses the normal scrutiny process for significant public expenditure. Given the scale and strategic importance of the fund, I believe future allocations should be subject to Cabinet approval or, at minimum, periodic reporting to the Scrutiny Committee.

2. Insufficient Public Engagement

The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan commits to “consulting widely with the communities of Gwynedd.” Delegating authority without mechanisms for public input on future projects contradicts this principle.

3. Unclear Evidential Thresholds

The delegated authority allows for experimental and pilot schemes, including electric vehicle leasing and staff commuting incentives. These may offer incidental benefits but require robust evidence to meet the public benefit test under the Charities Act 2011. I urge the Council to publish the criteria by which future projects will be assessed.

4. Risk of Strategic Drift

Without clear parameters, there is a risk that delegated decisions may favour short-term or internal operational gains over long-term community resilience and climate impact.

Request for Action:

I respectfully request that the Scrutiny Committee:

- Reviews the governance framework surrounding the delegated authority
- Recommends the publication of a decision-making protocol for future allocations
- Ensures that all funded projects are subject to evidential review and public benefit assessment
- Considers reinstating Cabinet-level approval for allocations above a defined threshold

I submit this objection in the spirit of constructive engagement and democratic accountability.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Cook