



MEETING	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	22 January 2026
TITLE	Request for scrutiny from a member of the public - Climate and Nature Emergency Plan funding matters
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request from a member of the public• Officers' response to the points raised in the request for scrutiny• If a specific recommendation(s) needs to be made
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	Assurance in terms of funding arrangements
AUTHOR	Bethan Richardson, Climate Change Programme Manager

1. A request was received from a member of the public for the Committee to scrutinise funding issues relating to the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan on 7 October 2025. See attached application (Appendix 1).
2. Officers have been asked to provide a written response to the points raised in the application. Please see the responses below, following the order of enquiries in Appendix 1.
3. Lack of Public Scrutiny

Following a decision by Gwynedd Council's Cabinet on 2 March 2024 ([Item 7 - FUNDING FOR CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY PLAN PROJECTS.pdf](#)) expenditure out of the Climate Plan Fund has required approval by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Members of the Climate and Nature Board. The members of that Board include 5 Cabinet Members and 2 other elected members, namely the Biodiversity Champion and a representative from the scrutiny committees along with a number of senior officials.

An application needs to be submitted with thorough information about the need for the funding, and the benefit that will come from carrying out the work in question. A copy of the application form used can be found at the end of this appendix.

Expenditure from the Climate Plan Fund is subject to regular financial reviews through the Council's internal arrangements, and budgets in turn are also subject to review by the Governance and Audit Committee, Cabinet and Council.

The Climate and Nature Plan Annual Report is scrutinised by the Communities Scrutiny Committee before being submitted to Cabinet, and that report contains information on the projects receiving funding.

4. Insufficient Public Engagement

Between 12 June and 31 July a public consultation was held on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan. The results are being shared at this meeting (Communities Scrutiny Committee 22 January 2026), and the results have fed into the review of the Climate and Nature Plan: Version 2, which is also being discussed at this meeting.

5. Unclear Evidentiary Thresholds

All applications for funding to support pilot and innovative schemes must follow the process described in 3 above, and therefore must be leading to a reduction in Gwynedd Council's carbon emissions in order to receive support.

6. Risk of Strategic Drift

See answers to 3 and 5 above.

Climate and Nature Board funding application form

APPLICATION DETAILS		
1.	Title	
2.	Department	
3.	Project Officer (and telephone and email)	
4.	Application amount (£)	
5.	What other funding sources are available?	
6.	Is there match funding? (please provide details of the amount, if secured, or the timetable of any other funding applications)	
BUSINESS CASE		
7.	Outline of the need / project	
8.	Identify the likely annual carbon saving or likely impact on biodiversity.	
9.	Estimated financial savings	
10.	What is the risk of not responding	
11.	Is the issue on the Department's risk register?	
12.	Equality and sustainability aspects of the application	

**** Part 1 – 13 will be submitted to the Climate and Nature Board so it should be ensured that it is concise, but a separate Business Case could be submitted to justify the application****

AUTHORIZE

13. Climate and Nature Board Approval	Date of meeting	
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