

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Date of Meeting : 10 March 2026
Cabinet Member : Cllr. Craig ab Iago
Relevant Officer : Dylan Owen, Statutory Director of Social Services
Title of Item : Delegation of Expenditure Responsibilities Arrangements

Report to a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

1. Decision Sought

- i. That Cabinet approve a change in the right to delegate expenditure of the climate plan fund from the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and members of the Climate and Nature Board, to the Cabinet Member leading the climate and nature portfolio in consultation with the members of the Climate and Nature Board and the lead Director on the Climate and Nature Board.
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2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision

- i. The Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Act 2000, the Local Authorities Regulations 2007, and the constitution of Cyngor Gwynedd outline where responsibilities lie in setting a budget, and then who gets to make decisions on how to spend that budget.
- ii. At the Council meeting on 3 March 2022 it was agreed to create a £3m 'climate plan fund' through the one-off revenue bidding process, for the purpose of implementing the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.
- iii. Then, at a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet on 12 March 2024 it was agreed that Cabinet would delegate the right to prioritise expenditure from the remainder of the climate plan fund to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Members of the Climate and Nature Board.
- iv. Since summer 2025 there have been changes in the membership of the Climate and Nature Board, of which neither the Chief Executive nor the Leader of the Council are current members, so the delegated right needs to be amended to reflect the current membership of the Climate and Nature Board.
- v. At a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2026 a request to scrutinise the funding and expenditure arrangements of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan by a member of the public was discussed.
- vi. The proposed new delegation of expenditure responsibilities arrangements would also further strengthen public accountability and transparency, as the decisions would be published via an

Individual Cabinet Member Decision Notice on the council's website. Following the publication there is a further opportunity to challenge the decision in accordance with section 7.25.1 of the Constitution of Gwynedd Council.

3. Background

- i. Cyngor Gwynedd issued a climate emergency declaration in March 2019 and as a result the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf](#) 2022/23-2029/30 (CNEP) was published in March 2022. The CNEP is also one of the projects within the Green Gwynedd heading in the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028.
- ii. The funding to implement the CNEP has come from the climate plan fund (see 2.i above); of direct applications to Cabinet for funding to support projects (e.g. Cabinet decision of 22 November 2022 to allocate £2.8m to install solar PV panels on our assets); and mostly from grants from external sources. Between 2019/20 and 2024/25 we successfully attracted grants of £13.5m to support the work of the CNEP.
- iii. Decisions on expenditure on CNEP projects are taken in accordance with the priorities of the scheme, whilst following the Council's financial management arrangements.
- iv. Since 12 March 2024, when the right to prioritise the remainder of the climate fund was delegated by Cabinet, the funding in the fund has been spent or set aside in its entirety.
- v. If Cabinet decides to set aside additional funding to fund the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan projects from 2026/27, then the new arrangements on which a decision is requested today will come into effect.
- vi. Since the summer of 2025 not only has the membership of the Climate and Nature Board also changed, but in addition the portfolio responsibility for climate change issues has been transferred from the Leader of the Council to the Environment Cabinet Member. Executive responsibility has also been transferred from the Chief Executive to the Corporate Director of Social Services.
- vii. To reflect the current responsibilities, it is timely to change the delegated right over expenditure of the climate plan fund and therefore Cabinet will be asked to delegate the right to the Cabinet Member with the climate and nature portfolio (currently the Environment Cabinet Member) in consultation with the members of the Climate and Nature Board.

4. Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Socio-Economic Duty

- i. The impact of [Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Socio-Economic Duties](#) on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan were assessed when it was adopted at a meeting of the Cabinet on 8 March 2022.

5. Next steps and timetable

- i. The new delegation of responsibility for expenditure arrangements will come into force from 1 April 2026.
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6. Views of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

Rwy'n fodlon gyda priodoldeb y penderfyniad a geisir. Mae'r dirprwyo yn cynnig trefn briodol a thryloyw ar gyfer didoli gronfa pan gaiff ei hail gyflenwi.

I am satisfied with the appropriateness of the decision sought. The delegation process offers an appropriate and transparent procedure for distribution of the fund when it is replenished.

Chief Finance Officer:

I am satisfied that implementing the decision sought will not weaken the financial control of the Climate Plan Fund, and it is appropriate that the delegated powers are transferred for the reasons noted in the report. I have no objections to the decision sought.