

CYNGOR GWYNEDD - Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of Item:	Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 - 2026/27 Review
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Nia Jeffreys
Relevant officer:	Catrin Thomas, Corporate Director & Dewi Wyn Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager
Date of meeting:	10 March 2026

1. The Decision Sought:

- 1.1 Cabinet approval of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 – 2026/27 Review (the Plan) to be presented to the Council on 14 May 2026.
- 1.2 Delegate the right to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Leader to make editorial changes and to amend the Plan, including updating the foreword, before it is presented to the Full Council

2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision:

- 2.1 To ensure that there is agreement on the content of the Plan, including any updates that have been made to it, before it is presented to a meeting of the Full Council for adoption at its meeting on 14 May 2026.

3. Introduction and Relevant Considerations

- 3.1 The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 is our public statement as a Council regarding what we intend to deliver for the people of Gwynedd. It conveys our priorities and our ambition for the next five years together with the projects we will be carrying out.
- 3.2 The Plan comprises a series of projects for five years (2023-2028) under seven priority areas: Tomorrow's Gwynedd, A Prosperous Gwynedd, A Homely Gwynedd, A Caring Gwynedd, A Welsh Gwynedd, A Green Gwynedd and An Efficient Gwynedd. The priority areas are our Well-being Objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The objectives will directly contribute to achieving the seven national well-being goals. A copy of the current version can be found here - [Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28](#)
- 3.3 The purpose of reviewing the Plan is to look at where we have reached as we are now over halfway through the Plan, looking specifically at:
 - **Reviewing the ambitions and delivery of projects** (looking at where we want to be by the end of 2028 and are the current projects the right ones for us to get there)
 - **How do we want to get there?** (outline what actions we intend to take and establish meaningful milestones for the final 2 years of the Plan).

- **Establishing the impact on the people of Gwynedd** (Looking to improve how we measure the impact on residents and how to report on this).
- 3.4 It is also noted that we are expected to review our Well-being Objectives (Priority Areas) annually to ensure they remain up to date.
- 3.5 We considered what has changed, looking at priority areas, ambitions and the projects in the current Plan and considered if there are any that should be added, modified or removed/moved because they have been delivered or the projects are now incorporated into the day-to-day business of the departments.
- 3.6 In January we held two workshop sessions (one for the Cabinet Members and the other for the Management Team) to look at where we have reached and to review the content of the current Plan. A further session for Cabinet Members was held on 12 February to consider the issues raised in the first two sessions and agree modifications to the 2026/27 version of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28.

4. Reviewing ambitions and projects

- 4.1 The issues that Cabinet members need to consider before approving the modifications to the Plan are set out below. Details regarding these modifications have been highlighted in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.1 It is suggested to include a New Section within the Plan in order to recognise the importance of the work of the Response Plan:
- **Response Plan: Our Bravery Brought Justice**
- 4.1.2 In order to convey the importance of Equality and treating everyone equally it is suggested to establish a New Priority Area (An Equal Gwynedd) and move the following projects to that priority:
- **Ensuring fairness for all** - move from *An Efficient Gwynedd*
 - **Women in Leadership** - move from *An Efficient Gwynedd*
- 4.1.3 The following projects have been added:
- Priority Area: A Prosperous Gwynedd/A Welsh Gwynedd***
- **Return to Gwynedd**
 - **Gwynedd Economic Development Strategy**
- 4.1.4 The following projects/programmes need to be adapted or their scope or content changed:
- Priority Area: Tomorrow's Gwynedd***
- **Extend opportunities for play and socialising for the county's children and young people**
- Priority Area: A Prosperous Gwynedd***
- **Creating the best possible circumstances in Gwynedd for community enterprises and businesses to thrive.**
 - **Regenerating communities and town centres**
 - **Keeping the Benefit Local**

Priority Area: A Homely Gwynedd

- Control of second homes and short-term holiday lets

Priority Area: A Caring Gwynedd

- Working with Health Services to enable people to live their best life in the community
- Autism Plan
- Llechen Lân

Priority Area: An Efficient Gwynedd

- Developing the Council's Culture

4.1.5 The following projects transfer to be part of another priority project; have been incorporated into the day-to-day work of the relevant Department from 2026/27 onwards, or have been carried out:

Priority Area: Tomorrow's Gwynedd

- Promote the well-being of children and young people and reduce the cost of sending children to school

Priority Area: A Homely Gwynedd

- Dealing with the energy cost crisis and fuel poverty

Priority Area: A Welsh Gwynedd

- Modernising and extending the immersion provision to teach Welsh to children

Priority Area: A Green Gwynedd

- Clean and Tidy Communities
- Public transport

Priority Area: An Efficient Gwynedd

- Strategic review of Health and Safety management
- Workforce Planning
- Manage the impact of national budgetary cuts

4.1.6 In addition, it is suggested that the title of the following projects be adjusted (changes are indicated in red) to better reflect the emphasis of the projects and what is aimed to be achieved for the remainder of the Plan period:

Priority Area: Tomorrow's Gwynedd

- ~~Formulate and~~ Implement a 10-year strategic direction for education in Gwynedd

Priority Area: A Prosperous Gwynedd

- Supporting the people of Gwynedd into work **which enables them to live a good life**

Priority Area: A Homely Gwynedd

- Increasing the supply of **suitable** housing for local people

Priority Area: A Caring Gwynedd

- Develop **further** the residential provision for looked-after children in small group homes

Priority Area: A Green Gwynedd

- **Establish** a new Local Development Plan

Priority Area: An Efficient Gwynedd

- **Implement the** Digital Plan

4.2 It is suggested that the remaining projects under the seven priority areas will continue from 2025/26.

4.3 Over 20 Councillors attended a workshop session on 24 February, where they had the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Plan as part of the review. The main issues they identified are outlined below. In summary, these are areas that can be incorporated within the Plan's existing projects by adding actions or milestones.

- **Increased emphasis on job creation and quality employment across the County.** – suggest that this be covered by projects within the A Prosperous Gwynedd Priority Area
- **Promoting and enabling disabled people to work by ensuring the right support and environment.** – a suggestion to keep the project **Developing training and employment opportunities for individuals in need of support** in the plan rather than it.....*transfer to be part of another priority project; incorporated into the day-to-day work of the relevant Department from 2026/27 onwards or has been carried out.*
- **Support for parents and carers of (non-Welsh-speaking) children in immersion provision so that they can support them confidently.** – a suggestion to include milestones within the project **Review the Gwynedd Education Language Policy and conduct an evaluation of the Immersion System to ensure that all the education policies and services provided to children and young people in Gwynedd set a firm foundation for the Welsh language**
- **More social opportunities and activities for young people.** – this is already being covered within the project **Extending opportunities for play and socialising for children and young people.**

4.4 We have also consulted with the trade unions (as required under the Social Partnership Duty) to receive their input on the recommendations but have not receive a response.

4.5 Over the coming weeks, it is suggested that the Corporate Director work with the Leader to produce a foreword that will set out the political direction and priorities for the final two years of the Plan. The foreword will be presented as part of the review to the Full Council meeting on 14 May.

5. How do we want to get there?

5.1 Once the list of projects has been confirmed it is suggested that the following steps should be followed in order to identify the outcomes and milestones for the final two years of the Plan:

5.1.1 New Projects

- a) Cabinet to confirm the commission and ask Departments to identify outcome and milestones to implement the project over the next two years.
- b) Departments to identify the impact on residents and how they will measure it.

5.1.2 Projects to Keep

- a) Departments to identify outcome and milestones to implement the project over the next two years.
- b) Departments to identify the impact on residents and how they will measure it.

c) Emphasis shifts to delivery and completion.

5.1.3 **Projects with Changes or Modifications**

Cabinet Members to work with Departments to:

- a) Set the Cabinet's expectations on the changes required.
- b) Agree the outcome and milestones to implement the project over the next two years.
- c) Emphasise the need to identify and outline the impact on residents and how this will be measured.

5.1.4 **Projects transferring to Day-to-day Work**

- a) Departments to identify and report on performance through measures and Departmental Performance Challenge.

6. Establishing the impact on the people of Gwynedd

6.1 To strengthen the attention given within reports to the impact that projects have on the County's residents, the Business Support Team has adapted the reporting template for the performance challenge and support meetings. A column will be added asking Departments to outline the impact (or likely impact) on residents and how this is intended to be measured (outlined in bright yellow). An example of the template can be found in **Appendix 2**.

6.2 The template for reporting on what has been achieved at the end of the year already requires this information, although everyone may not be paying full attention to this. We will be taking steps to remind Departments of the importance of highlighting the impact on residents when reporting at the end of the year in the coming weeks. An example of the template can be found in **Appendix 3**.

6.3 It is noted that as Cabinet Members (with the support of the Chief Executive/Corporate Directors) you have a key role to play in ensuring that attention is paid to the impact on residents in reports submitted to performance challenge and support meetings, as well as questioning and challenging if meaningful information is not presented.

7. Resources

7.1 Additional resources are required in order to achieve the commitments noted for a number of projects within the Plan. Without the resource, it may not be possible for us to deliver what is noted.

7.2 Proactive steps have been taken to identify resources for the matters that are being included as new in the Plan or where the scope of work has changed. Several of these bids will be considered at the same Cabinet meeting that will consider the Review of the Council Plan and further information can be found below:

Plan/Project	Resource
Response Plan: Our Bravery Brought Justice	£600,000 of permanent revenue has been included in the revenue budget which has already been approved by Cabinet which will be considered by Full Council on 5

	March. £200,000 of one-off revenue funding is also being considered at this Cabinet meeting.
An Equal Gwynedd	£200,000 of one-off revenue funding is being considered at this Cabinet meeting.
Creating the best possible circumstances in Gwynedd for community enterprises and businesses to thrive. (Trawsfynydd Science Park)	£1M of capital already committed by the Council and an Outline Business Case (OBC) for £10M of Growth Deal funding will be considered by the Corporate Joint Committee's Economic Well-being Sub-Committee at its meeting on 13 March. Bids for funding from other sources are also in hand.
Return to Gwynedd	£200,000 of one-off revenue funding is being considered at this Cabinet meeting.
Gwynedd Economic Development Strategy	Delivered within existing Economy and Community Department resources

8 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

8.1 The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, public bodies are required to publish well-being objectives that outline how they will improve well-being. Our seven priority areas are our Well-being Objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The objectives will directly contribute to achieving the seven national well-being goals. Our Well-being Statement for 2023-28 remains current.

9 Public Consultation

9.1 A new public consultation on the review was not carried out as extensive work has already been done during the formulation of the Council Plan 2023–28, including the use of information from the previous plan, the ‘**Ardal Ni’ (Our Area)** engagement, and Well-being Assessments for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

9.2 As noted above, a workshop session for the Elected Members was held in February 2026. There was general agreement to the modifications as well as a welcome opportunity to feed into the process prior to the formal submission of the review of the Plan to Cabinet and the meeting of the Full Council.

10 Equality Act 2010

10.1 There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider the findings of an equality impact assessment when preparing the plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as is implemented in Wales. The assessment is attached in **Appendix 4**.

10.2 The assessment on the Plan in its entirety does not identify any impact that would justify a departure from the recommendation, and there are elements for which a positive impact is anticipated. The Project Leaders will be responsible for undertaking a full Equality Impact Assessment on individual projects.

11 Next Steps and Timetable

11.1 With approval of the modifications to the Plan, the revised Plan is scheduled to be submitted for adoption at the next full Council meeting on 14 May 2026.

12 Observations of the Statutory Officers

i. Chief Finance Officer

I can confirm the financial information contained in this report. The Council Plan is a key part of the Council's governance arrangements and keeping it under review is essential. I support the decision sought.

ii. Monitoring Officer

The Council Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework which is in the hands of the Full Council for adoption and adaptation. However, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007 reflected in the Constitution, the matter is referred to the Council's decision on a Cabinet recommendation. I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Modifications to the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 - 2026-27 Review

Appendix 2 – Year 4 and 5 Milestones Template

Appendix 3 – Model End of Year Milestones Template

Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment - 2026/27 Review