

CYNGOR GWYNEDD - Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Title of item:	<i>North Wales Regional Anchor Charter</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Councillor Dilwyn Morgan</i>
Relevant officer:	<i>Dylan Owen, Director of Social Services</i> <i>Dewi Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager</i> <i>Dafydd Gwynne, Strategic Partnerships Director, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board</i>
Date of meeting:	15 September 2026

1. Decision sought

1.1 The Cabinet is requested:

- To note the content of the North Wales Regional Anchor Charter, approved by the Regional Partnership Board on 8 May 2026.
- To note the cross-referencing work completed between the commitments of the Charter and the priorities of the 2023-28 Cyngor Gwynedd Plan and the Council's day-to-day work.
- To acknowledge that the Council's existing work already makes a substantial contribution towards achieving the objectives of the Charter, and that there is an opportunity to strengthen these contributions in accordance with the Council Plan priorities.
- To note the opportunity to share the learning from the cross-referencing process, as well as examples of noteworthy practice, with other partners across the region as a part of the Council's commitment to the Wellbeing, Prevention and Anchor Framework approved by the Regional Partnership Board on 8 May 2026.

2. The reason why the Cabinet must make the decision:

2.1 By submitting this report, the intention is to ensure that the Cabinet is aware of the Regional Anchor Charter and the way its principles correspond with the current priorities and work of Cyngor Gwynedd.

2.2 An Anchor Organisation can be defined as a place-based organisation that has a substantial influence on the wellbeing of their local population, often in ways that are additional to their core business, such as in their role as employers, procurers of goods

and services, building and land owners, their impact on the environment and how they engage with and include their communities.

- 2.3 The aim of the Charter is to encourage public organisations and partners to make the best possible use of their role as employers, service commissioners, asset owners and community organisations in order to improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and increase economic and social opportunities for local people.
- 2.4 There is no request for the Cabinet to adopt a new policy **or** commit to an additional work programme. Instead, the report provides an overview of the regional framework and highlights the contribution already being made by the Council, in the context of the Regional Partnership Board's approval of the Charter earlier this year.

3. Background

- 3.1 Evidence shows that significant inequalities continue across north Wales. The gap in healthy life expectancy between the least deprived and most deprived people is increasing, with the latest data showing a 12-year gap in men, and an 11-year gap in women, on average.
- 3.2 In response, regional partners have been co-developing a method for action that supports prevention, early intervention and improving wellbeing, by collaborating across organisation and ensuring alignment with policy drivers and key evidence, including the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Marmot Principles.
- 3.3 The Regional Wellbeing, Prevention and Anchor Framework was approved by the Regional Partnership Board on 8 May 2026, and it includes the following components:
- A series of Prevention Missions and high-impact actions, which respond to broader health indicators.
 - A Regional Anchor Charter, making the best of the role of Anchor Organisation.
 - Resources to strengthen the system learning around wellbeing, prevention and early intervention, including a fund of noteworthy practice.
 - A commitment to work with our communities as equal partners.
- 3.4 The aim of the Framework developed under the leadership of the Regional Partnership Board, with support from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, is to provide a whole-system method to enable organisations and partnerships across north Wales to act collectively to address the factors influencing people's health and wellbeing, strengthening the role of anchor organisations both locally and regionally.

3.5 The Anchor Charter was developed using a co-production method with a broad range of partners across the region. The process has drawn attention to several examples of work already taking place across the region to improve the health and wellbeing of communities and reduce inequalities.

3.6 The Charter focuses on five main themes:

- Workforce, employment and skills
- Buildings and Land
- Environmental impacts
- Community participation
- Procurement and expenditure

3.7 Anchor organisations are encouraged to use their influence as employers, service commissioners, asset owners and community partners, to ensure the best possible wellbeing for local people and communities. A copy of the Charter is included as an attachment to this report.

3.8 Mapping Work

3.8.1 To assess the relevance of the Charter to Cyngor Gwynedd, a cross-referencing exercise was completed between the commitments of the Charter, priorities of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28, and the Council's day-to-day work.

3.8.2 The exercise showed that there is a strong connection between the aims of the Charter and much of the Council's core work, including:

- Supporting the people of Gwynedd into work;
- Developing skills and employment pathways;
- Promoting the use of the Welsh Language;
- Supporting the wellbeing of people and communities;
- Achieving the objectives of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan;
- Keeping the economic benefit local through procurement and economic development work.

3.8.3 The assessment also shows that the Council is already operating in a way that reflects many of the Charter's commitments through the day-to-day work of the Council's services. In several areas, the Council's performance was scored over 3 out of 5, with some areas, such as promoting the Welsh language, scoring higher.

3.8.4 In terms of commitment to ensure continuous improvement, see below a list of the elements that scored 3 or less in the self-assessment. There is an opportunity for the

Council to consider opportunities to respond to these as a part of corporate business plans, and to share good practice between Council departments.

- 3.8.5 In order to raise awareness of the Charter and its relevance to the Council's work, the cross-referencing work was presented to the Corporate Management Team. This provided an opportunity to discuss the Charter in a cross-departmental context and identify how the Council's services are already contributing to its objectives. The discussion also highlighted the importance of continuing to collaborate across Council departments in order to make the best possible use of our role as an anchor organisation.
- 3.8.6 In general, the cross-referencing work suggests that Cyngor Gwynedd is on firm footing in terms of the principles of the Charter and is already making a substantial contribution towards its objectives.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Regional Partnership Board has already adopted the Regional Anchor Charter as part of the broader work of strengthening wellbeing and preventing inequalities across north Wales.
- 4.2 The purpose of submitting this report to Cabinet is:
- To raise awareness and give publicity to the Charter within the Council's governance arrangements.
 - To acknowledge the positive contribution already being made by the Council towards its objectives.
 - To commit to share noteworthy practice and learning regionally.
 - To identify opportunities to strengthen our contribution as an Anchor Organisation by addressing the areas that scored lowest in the assessment.

5. Views of the Statutory Officers.

5.1 Chief Finance Officer

I am satisfied that the decision sought will not create new spending commitments.

5.2 Monitoring Officer

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

List of Appendices:

1. North Wales Anchor Charter
2. Mapping the Objectives of the Anchor Charter against the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan