

# CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



**Date of Meeting:** 19 December 2023  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn  
**Relevant Officer:** Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive  
**Title of Item:** Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23  
Cyngor Gwynedd

## Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

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### 1. Decision Sought

- i. That the Cabinet considers and approves the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 Cyngor Gwynedd.
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### 2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision

- 2.1 2022/23 was the first year of the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) existence and it is therefore timely for Cabinet to review the work undertaken during this period.
- 2.2 Cabinet can provide comments and guidance on the future trajectory of the work of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.

### 3. Background

- 1.1 The Council adopted the [Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#) following a Cabinet meeting on 8 March 2022. The ambition of the plan is "Gwynedd Council will be net zero carbon and ecologically positive by 2030." "Responding to the climate change crisis" is also one of the Council's 8 Improvement Priorities within [The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#)
- 1.2 The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (the Plan) outlines how we as a Council will adapt the way we work and deliver services to reduce our carbon emissions and increase carbon absorption capacity. It provides examples of projects we will be pursuing, their outline costs and the timeframe to deliver.

- 1.3 The Plan became effective in April 2022 and it is therefore timely to present a Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 (Annual Report) which takes stock of what has been achieved during the first year of the scheme's existence. The Annual Report can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The Annual Report was presented to a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 30th November 2023 and their comments and recommendations of matters to be discussed by Cabinet are set out below:
- 1.5 RESOLVED:
1. To accept the report and to recommend:
    - (i) That information about 'Active Travel' should be added under Section 3 of the Report: 'Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016'.
    - (ii) Consideration should be given to adapting the format of how information is displayed under the 'What did we promise to do in 2022/23?' and 'What we did' titles in Sections 5-11 of the Report for clarity to the reader.
  2. Recommend to the Cabinet that the staffing resource should be considered to achieve the vision of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.
- 1.6 Recommendations 1(i) and 1(ii) have been implemented and can be found in Appendix 1. In terms of Recommendation 2 in 1.5 any request for additional resources will be addressed in accordance with the Council's normal procedures, and we will actively discuss with the relevant officers to identify costs and the most appropriate funding mechanisms.
- 1.7 Gwynedd Council, like most public sector bodies in Wales, collects data on emissions and carbon absorption following a methodology developed by the Welsh Government. We collected data for the 2022/23 year following these processes, and are using the 2019/20 data as its baseline year for comparison.
- 1.8 We need to collect data about the carbon derived from our procurement processes, but the current methodology is based on measuring by financial expenditure alone. The more we spend, the greater the emissions. Because this can paint an imperfect picture of the true situation the Annual Report sets out our total emissions data with, and without, procurement data.
- 1.9 Our procurement emissions fell by 20% between the baseline year 2019/20 and 2022/23. Emissions for the other 7 areas fell by 37% between 2019/20 and 2022/23 (buildings and energy, waste, fleet, business travel, staff commuting, street lighting, working from home).
- 1.10 Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 says public authorities operating in Wales have a duty to maintain and improve biodiversity and to encourage ecosystem strength.

The Welsh Government published a national biodiversity strategy, the 'Nature Recovery Action Plan' in 2015 which outlined the commitment to reversing biodiversity loss in Wales, and the objectives for action. It contains 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales.

At the end of sections 5-11 of this Annual Report you will find a description of how the work that has been undertaken contributes to the realisation of one or more of the above 6 objectives, which in turn comply with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

#### **4. Next Steps and Timetable**

- 4.1 We will publish the Annual Report on our website and share information about it.
  - 4.2 We will continue to discuss and build relationships with external partners to discuss lessons learned from each other's work, and how best to develop the work into the future.
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#### **Views of the Statutory Officers**

##### **Monitoring Officer:**

I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought. I note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and that they are receiving appropriate consideration. Nevertheless, because responsibility for the decision lies with the Cabinet it is crucial that the Cabinet report considers the situation in its totality.

##### **Chief Finance Officer:**

I have no objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.

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#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2022/23 Cyngor Gwynedd