

CYNGOR GWYNEDD - Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet



Title of item:	Annual Performance Report and Self-assessment 2023/24
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn
Relevant officer:	Dewi Wyn Jones, The Council's Business Support Service Manager
Date of meeting:	17 September 2024

1. Decision Sought:

To approve Cyngor Gwynedd's Performance and Self-Assessment Report 2023/24 and to recommend its adoption by the Full Council.

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

In accordance with the Council's performance management procedure, Cyngor Gwynedd's Annual Performance and Self-Assessment Report for 2023/24 is initially submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

3. Introduction and Rationale

3.1 Background / Introduction

This report provides information about the progress made against the content of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2018-23 during 2023/24. The intention is to provide a balanced report, that shines light on aspects that were not successfully achieved as well as the successful aspects. It is noted that the self-assessment is a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Regular reporting is an essential monitoring requirement within the Council's performance management arrangements. We monitor our performance regularly at Departmental performance challenge meetings and submit the performance reports of individual Cabinet Members to a cycle of Cabinet meetings during the year, as well as preparing this report to evaluate the progress made.

Cyngor Gwynedd's Annual Performance and Self-Assessment Report 2023/24 (**Appendix 1**) is structured to reflect the format of the Cyngor Gwynedd's Plan 2023-28. As per last year's version the Council's Self-Assessment has been incorporated within the Annual Performance Report. In the first part the focus is on the performance of the Council Plan's projects and the day-to-day work while the second part includes the Self-Assessment. It is noted that the report is much more concise than in the past and the intention was to

make it a document that is easier to read while continuing to give the reader reassurance that the Council reports meaningfully on its performance .

There is a duty to publish a report setting out the conclusions of the self-assessment once in relation to each financial year and to complete the work "as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year in which it relates."

A duty to consult at least once in a financial year with local people, local businesses, council staff and trade unions is also stated. These consultations should be used to obtain feedback on the extent to which the authority is fulfilling the performance requirements. It is a statutory requirement that attention is given to the results of the consultation when preparing the self assessment and it is confirmed that this has been done and highlighted in the document.

The Governance Group has led/taken an overview of the process within the Council to ensure that the work is owned and led at a strategic level.

According to the Act, a draft of the self-assessment report needs to be submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee before it is finally adopted to give them an opportunity to submit any comments and recommendations. These will need to be considered when the document is formally submitted to Cabinet and Council. If there are recommendations for change that are not adopted, the reasons for this must be reported formally.

It is noted that the Chair and Vice-chair of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to feed into the process of drawing up the report and also had the opportunity to provide comments on a draft version over the past few weeks.

The Governance and Scrutiny Committee discussed the self-assessment at its meeting on the 5th of September. The Committee suggested that minor amendments were needed in terms of clarity and the latest version reflects these modifications.

3.2 The reasoning and justification for recommending the decision

Reviewing, reporting and assessment arrangements on the Council's performance has been the subject of legislative change through the arrangements of part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. This requires the Council to measure its performance against three aspects, namely;

- (a) That it is exercising its functions effectively
- (b) That it uses resources economically, effectively, efficiently and
- (c) That its governing arrangements are efficient in achieving this.

This report responds to these new requirements. Feedback is sought on the content of this draft Annual Performance Report and Self-assessment for 2023/24, before the Council approves the final document in October 2024.

Equality Act 2010

As part of the process of preparing the 2018-23 Cyngor Gwynedd Plan, an Equality Impact Assessment was prepared (presented to the Cabinet on 20 February 2024 and to the Full Council on March 07 2024). 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. Project Leaders are responsible for undertaking a full Equality Impact Assessment on individual projects.

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

In order to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act we need to report on what we have done to contribute towards the principles of the Act and specifically the well-being objectives we have adopted. This report has been drawn up on the basis of our well-being objectives (the seven priority areas) outlining what has been achieved in the period in question. For convenience there is also a table at the end of the first part of the report identifying the objectives to which the projects contribute.

3.3 Next steps and timetable

The Council will discuss and accept the report, or not, at its meeting on 3 October 2024. When the Council approves the final report, it will be published on Cyngor Gwynedd's website. Arrangements will be made to inform the public of the report by communicating the report and the main successes visually via social media as well as by printing copies and sharing them via the Council's usual media and locations e.g., libraries.

4. Views of the Statutory Officers

4.1 Chief Finance Officer

The Annual Performance Report and Self-Assessment is a key document that is now a core part of demonstrating the appropriateness of the Council's governance and performance arrangements. I am satisfied that the contents of the document are a fair and accurate reflection of Gwynedd Council's position.

4.2 Monitoring Officer

I am satisfied with the propriety of the decision sought

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Cyngor Gwynedd's Annual Report and Self-assessment 2023/24