

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Report for a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

Date of meeting: 26 November 2024

Cabinet Member: Councillor Nia Jeffreys

Contact Officer: Sioned Williams

Contact Number: 01286 679547

Subject: PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE REPORT - CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY

THE DECISION SOUGHT

To accept and note the information in the report.

THE REASONS WHY A DECISION IS NEEDED

In order to ensure effective performance management.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update fellow members on what has happened in the areas I am responsible for as Cabinet Member for the Economy and Community. This includes outlining the latest developments against pledges within the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28; the progress of performance measures; and the latest on the savings and cuts plans.

2. PROJECTS OF THE CYNGOR GWYNEDD PLAN 2023-2028 (Improvement Priorities)

2.1 The table in APPENDIX 1 gives an update on the progress of the three priority projects in the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 under the section **A Prosperous Gwynedd - Strengthening the economy and supporting the people of Gwynedd to earn a worthy wage**. From this information, you will note that the Department has made good progress against the main milestones of the three projects over the past months. The main risk that is common to these three schemes is that the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), which fund these schemes, are ending in March 2025, and there is uncertainty regarding funding to continue with the implementation of the projects after this time. I would like to draw specific attention to the following developments:

Priority Project: Regenerating Communities and Town Centres

- The Community Support Key Fund, worth £1.8m in SPF funding, has been committed in full and 22 projects from supported local initiatives and organisations are being implemented. In addition, the Town Centre Experience Improvement Project has secured £1.8m in SPF funding and is operational, and is being coordinated by a cross-departmental project group. The impact of these plans will be measured over the coming months as the work is delivered.
- The work of preparing the Placemaking Plan for the town centres of Pwllheli, Porthmadog and Bala was completed, and work was commissioned to create a new Placemaking Plan for Dolgellau town centre also. Over the past few months, additional Transforming Towns funding was secured for the Canolfan Bro Tegid, Bala improvement scheme and Tŵr, Pwllheli scheme.
- The Strategic Outline Case for the Bangor Health and Well-being Hub was approved by Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, and a bid for financial support from the Welsh Government has been submitted.

Priority Project: Create the best possible circumstances in Gwynedd for businesses and community enterprises to thrive, and support the people of Gwynedd into work

- 45 businesses across Gwynedd have received offers of support to the value of £1.4 million from the [Business Development Funds](#) funded with the SPF. Over £1 million has already been paid to businesses. The [Recharge](#) scheme commissioned by the Council, to date, has helped 42 local businesses review their activity and prepare for the future. A further 17 businesses have registered.
- We continue to support the North Wales Growth Application schemes, with particular attention to the schemes that offer Gwynedd the greatest benefit in the Digital Programme, Energy Programme, Agri Food Tourism Programme and Land and Property Programme.
- Gwynedd Business Week was held in October, with a series of events organised for businesses in Dolgellau, Pwllheli and Bangor. The highlights of the events can be found on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and a newsletter for Members will also be produced to share the main messages from Gwynedd businesses.
- 203 Gwynedd residents excluded from the world of work have secured a job following the support of the Gwaith Gwynedd team so far during 2024/25. Eight job fairs were held throughout the county to help employers and individuals who are looking for work. The fairs were attended by over 130 employers and over 750 individuals.

Priority Project: Promoting our Culture and a Sustainable Visitor Economy

- The new management structure for the Sustainable Visiting Economy Plan is operational and is steering the development of the Action Plan for 2024-25. As part of the work, a residents' opinion poll on tourism is being carried out and community benefit research deriving from the events will also be prepared jointly with Bangor University.
- You will note from the table in Appendix 1 that there has been substantial progress in the Llewyrch o'r Llechi programme to create local benefit from the Welsh Slate Landscape World Heritage site designation. I wish to draw particular attention to the fact that the work of upgrading Neuadd Ogwen, Bethesda, is almost complete; the work in Parc Padarn and the Slate Museum in Llanberis has commenced; the Blaenau Ffestiniog link path is in progress and improvements to Aelwyd yr Urdd and High Street building have commenced in Blaenau Ffestiniog. In addition, artwork and high street improvements have been agreed with local partners in Penygroes, Tywyn and Porthmadog. I'm also pleased to say that a £2m application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been successful which will extend support to the slate communities for a period of 5 years.
- 131 enterprises, companies or associations have been supported with an SPF '*Diwylliesiant*' (Culture and well-being) support fund totalling an investment worth £705,661.16. In addition, through this scheme, £360,000 is being invested to re-interpret the Lloyd George Museum. The Museum has now closed to carry out works with a view to reopening by Easter 2025.

3. PERFORMANCE OF DEPARTMENT SERVICES

3.1 The Department's Performance Dashboard is reviewed regularly. There was an opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the various services at a special meeting of 16 September 2024 and I would like to draw the attention of Cabinet Members to the following matters:

Leisure Resources Service - Byw'n Iach, Padarn and Glynllifon Country Parks

- 3.2 Last time, we reported on Byw'n Iach's recovery in providing services. It is seen again that the number of visits to leisure centres was higher in the first six months of 2024/5 compared to the same periods for 2023/4 and 2022/23.
- 3.3 It is also reported that the level of customer satisfaction for this year is slightly higher than last year. The data shows that centre staff continue to score the highest, with fitness room facilities and equipment scoring lowest due to their age and condition.
- 3.4 However, it must be reported that the company has faced cost increases during the 2024/25 period as a result of long-term absences or maternity leave, and the need to release staff for training, arising from staff turnover. It is anticipated that staff numbers will return over the autumn period reducing overtime and casual staff costs.

- 3.5 Over the past months, planning applications have been submitted for developments in Parc Padarn as a part of the Levelling Up Fund's Llewyrch o'r Llechi bid. Improvements include a new toilet block, work to restore Hafod Owen buildings, the Fire Queen shed and the Vivian Quarry structures. It is also noted that the National Slate Museum has closed for a period of two years in order to develop the site; and during this time National Grid will also carry out cable switching works in the Gilfach Ddu area.
- 3.6 At Parc Glynllifon, improvements are also underway with an SPF grant secured for path upgrades, new signage and promotional and marketing campaigns via social media.
- 3.7 For the 2024/5 period, the average customer satisfaction for Country Parks is 93.5%, representing a significant increase compared to an average of 72% for 2023/24.

Maritime Services, Hafan Pwllheli and Victoria Dock, Caernarfon.

Maritime - Beaches

- 3.8 Despite unsettled weather over the main summer season, there have been extremely busy periods on our coast and beaches again this year. The Service's beach management arrangements are considered to have worked effectively, and have received positive feedback from users. Unfortunately, there was a serious incident on Barmouth beach in the evening, in late May, which highlighted the hazards associated with the coast.
- 3.9 It is worth noting that 68% of Gwynedd beaches customer satisfaction questionnaire respondents consider their experience of our beaches to be 'Very Good' (47%) or 'Good' (21%); which is a decrease of about 8% from last year. The feedback indicates that the beaches are beautiful, clean and safe, but there are concerns about aspects such as unruly dogs. The Protection of Public Places (Control of Dogs) Order was reviewed earlier this year, and the new Order came into force in mid-August – it will continue to be in force for a period of three years.

Maritime - Harbours

- 3.10 The number of customers with a mooring contract increased by 6.5% in our harbours compared to the previous year, an increase from 250 to 266. The projections for 2025 are also good with a number of enquiries received from new customers over the past weeks. Porthmadog's main harbour mooring chains have been refurbished and security has been improved in Barmouth and Porthmadog harbours with the installation of a new CCTV system. In Aberdyfi, a temporary cabin has been installed on the quay due to concerns about the condition of the current building, and work has begun to consider options for the future.

- 3.11 During 2024/5, the Service has responded to damage on the coast due to strong storms. In June, boats that had run into difficulties in the Pwllheli harbour channel had to be moved. During Storm Ashley's strong winds in October, damage was caused to coastal structures, and three boats broke free from their moorings in Porthmadog harbour. Service staff recovered the situation avoiding damage to the boats or any pollution to the harbour.

Hafan Pwllheli and Victoria Dock

- 3.12 Customer numbers at Hafan Pwllheli fell slightly over the last quarter - down from 98% to 95%; four customers were lost. Many of those who have cancelled reported that the increase in the cost of living is the reason and that they are giving up sailing altogether. The Service keeps a list of prospective customers who have expressed an interest in taking a mooring at Hafan, but have no definitive commitment to do so.
- 3.13 During 2024, a further increase was seen in the Hafan Pwllheli customer satisfaction percentage, which has increased from 89% to 91% since the previous year. The data shows that Hafan staff score highest, with the quality of the car park and WiFi at the bottom of the list.
- 3.14 Currently, Victoria Dock is full and there is a waiting list for annual moorings. The work of adding a separate ladies shower and toilet site has been completed and has been operational this year.

Archives

- 3.15 On average, between April - October 2024, 91% of consumers have reported being very satisfied with the service. This was 93% for October with 253 users completing a questionnaire. The Service has dealt with 1,489 enquiries since April, accessing 3,889 documents to be viewed by the public. 2,766 documents have been digitised in this period. The Service delivered sessions to 1,164 pupils across Gwynedd schools since April with 100% of teachers strongly agreeing that the standard and relevance of the Service improves children's understanding of their history and heritage.

Museums and Arts

- 3.16 The cumulative total visiting the Service's museums and galleries to date stands at 19,404 and it seems that the ambition of 25,000 a year will be reached or passed. On average, 95% of consumers are satisfied with the Museum and Arts Service. Positive feedback to Storiell includes: "*Lovely display - full of character and colour*", "*Excellent*".
- 3.17 Lloyd George Museum opened for Easter 2024 and closed in mid-September before the end of term to realise a grant investment of £360,000 with a contribution of £250,000 SPF for re-interpretation. The re-interpretation will take place over the next few months before reopening by Easter 2025.

3.18 The Community Arts Team has undertaken a programme of activities to support access to the arts, particularly in the fields of health, well-being, and tackling loneliness. Grants are allocated and demand continues - Night Out grants; SPF culture fund grants; the new Sbarduno fund has received a good response with 17 schemes approved. A successful application for the "Arts on Prescription" project has been submitted to the Arts Council in partnership with Frân Wen and Bangor University and we will be implementing this over the coming months. There has also been positive feedback to the work of Oriel Ysbyty Gwynedd, which is run by the Team, following a recent exhibition with Gisda.

Libraries

3.19 168,416 books were borrowed from Gwynedd libraries between April - October 2024 which compares to 176,862 during the same period in 2023. 45,982 digital items were downloaded/loaned in 2023 and 76,577 in 2024 during the same period which shows an increase in digital loans. Digital loans continue to increase month on month. During the period April - October 2024 there were 42,930 active borrowers compared to 41,739 during the same period in 2023.

3.20 The Service has conducted two satisfaction surveys in 2024 showing satisfaction levels of 98% and 100% this year. Several examples of correspondence on the Council's Achievements Wall report on Gwynedd residents' appreciation for the service.

3.21 17 half-term activities were held for children this year, ranging from soft play activity for children aged under 3 to painting sessions with aerosols for children and young people.

3.22 The Service is continuing to distribute SIM cards to support access to the internet to those who require them through the National Databank scheme.

3.23 In collaboration with Public Health Wales, Bangor Library now distributes Sexual Health kits and the provision will be extended to Caernarfon Library soon.

3.24 Changes to the Library management system (LMS) are about to take place, and every member of Library staff is attending training to get acquainted with the new system before it goes live on 11 December. Cyngor Gwynedd takes pride in the fact that the Libraries Service led on this project on behalf of all Library Services in Wales.

Neuadd Dwyfor

3.25 The satisfaction rate remains quite high, with the usual rate between 92%-96% and comments regularly praising the facilities, staff and customer care. One of the priorities for 2024 was to improve the diversity of the programme by offering more live music events, in addition to the usual film and theatre show offerings. As a result, a number of evenings have been held and the monthly film club on Monday nights is also proving to be a success. All of these ideas are a way of renovating Neuadd Dwyfor, appealing to audiences old and new and trying to increase income. The rainy weather during the

summer holidays proved advantageous for Neuadd Dwyfor, resulting in very high numbers being attracted at times to see the children's film offering.

Economy and Regeneration Services

3.26 The Economy Development, Tourism, Regeneration and Community Support services have focused their efforts in recent months on implementing the priority projects outlined in Appendix 1. The performance of these services has therefore been reported there.

4. FINANCIAL POSITION

4.1 The Department has a scheme that was to generate savings of £100,000 between 2022/23 - 2024/25, which is the Neuadd Dwyfor remodelling plan. The COVID-19 crisis led to a delay in realising the development work in Neuadd Dwyfor, but this has now been completed. It is clear that the crisis and increase in living costs, along with other factors such as the impact of the new form of watching films, with a large number of people awaiting the release of films on the internet/television, raises concern about our ability to fully implement the savings. At the moment, it is difficult to see a long-term impact on numbers attending Neuadd Dwyfor.

4.2 One savings scheme remains from previous years (£45,000 in total), which is subject to charging parking fees on the site. The work has now been completed, but concerns have been raised locally about the introduction of parking fees, and local discussions will continue regarding future site management arrangements, including fees to be introduced.

4.3 Excluding the savings of schemes set out in 4.1 and 4.2, 4 schemes equating to £30,640 are yet to be realised in 2024/25, and it is expected that they will have been realised by the end of the financial year. Current plans worth £135,020 are programmed for 2025/26.

4.4 A report was given on the Department's comprehensive financial performance to the Cabinet at its meeting on 15 October 2024, with projections that the Department will overspend by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. The overspend is mainly on lack of income at Neuadd Dwyfor, due to the reasons stated in 4.1, along with the increased costs of running Byw'n lach properties, a lack of income in the Maritime service and a lack of income for Storiell. We will continue to review the areas closely in the new financial year, hoping to identify opportunities to implement savings where possible. A combination of underspending on other headings combined with the use of reserves reduces reported overspending to £127k.

STATUTORY OFFICERS' VIEWS

Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

Head of Finance Department:

I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of the Economy and Community Department.

ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT	
Improvement Priority:	Gwynedd Lewyrchus (A Prosperous Gwynedd)
Project:	Regenerating Communities and Town Centres
Project leader's Report:	Llŷr B Jones
Date:	November 2024
The Project's Aim:	We will establish a Regeneration Framework by developing Local Regeneration Plans for 13 catchments across the county and ensuring cross-departmental arrangements within the Council to ensure that work programmes intertwine and share knowledge with communities by continuing with the engagement work. Town/City Centre action plans will be prepared for individual towns.

1. What has been achieved since the previous meeting?

- Draft Local Regeneration Plans have been prepared for 13 catchment areas, with comments and information from various Council Departments incorporated
- A further series of meetings were held across Gwynedd during May / June taking feedback from local organisations and discussing the local action plans
- The £1.8m Community Support Key Fund is fully committed supporting 22 local organisation projects
- The Town Centre Experience Improvement Project has secured £1.8 SPF funding and is operational, and is being co-ordinated by a cross-departmental project group
- The work of preparing of a Placemaking Plan has been completed for Pwllheli, Porthmadog and Bala town centres
- Work was commissioned to prepare a Placemaking Plan for Dolgellau town centre (with the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns grant)
- The Strategic Outline Case for the Bangor Health and Well-being Hub was approved by Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, and a bid for financial support from the Welsh Government has been submitted
- Meetings of the Council's Empty Properties Group were held, and a work programme has been set for the Bangor High Street empty properties pilot scheme
- Additional Transforming Towns funding was secured for the improvement plans of Canolfan Bro Tegid and Cynllun Y Tŵr, Pwllheli.

2. The next steps

- We will hold a further series of meetings in the local areas with the intention of establishing working groups to coordinate and monitor local action plans.
- We will prepare presentations to the Area Forums to update Local Members.
- We will administrate and claim all Community Support Key Fund expenditure.

- We will complete and claim all Town Centre Experience Improvement Project expenditure during the 2024/5 period.
- We will hold a cross-departmental workshop to consider the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Programme 2025/26.
- We will complete the Dolgellau town centre Placemaking Plan.
- The pilot work on empty properties on Bangor High Street will become operational.
- The Empty Properties Group will have gathered data and information on empty properties brought back into use during the 2024/25 period.

3. Risks

- It is anticipated that the coordination and monitoring of Local Regeneration Plans will vary from area to area, with some areas requiring more support from the Council.
- Temporary resources of the Communities Support Service up to March 2025 - need to secure resources for the completion of the Regeneration Framework.
- Uncertainty about the main financial programmes after March 2025, and a lack of resources and grants to develop and implement projects identified as local priorities.
- The timetable for implementation of Town Centre Improvement Experience Project – needs to be completed by December 2024 in accordance with SPF funding requirements.
- Transforming Towns grants need to be claimed by the end of March 2024.
- Need to prioritise (areas and projects) when targeting Transforming Towns resources during 2025/26.

4. Timetable

- We will be offering updates on the Regeneration Framework (and draft Local Regeneration Plans) to local Members through Area Forums during Q4 2024/25.
- We will complete the Community Support Key Fund expenditure before the end of March 2025.
- We will complete the Town Centre Experience Improvement Project expenditure before the end of March 2025.
- We will complete the Dolgellau town centre Placemaking Plan before the end of March 2025.
- We will consider opportunities to submit the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Programme grant applications for 2025/6 and 2026/7.

ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT	
Improvement Priority:	Gwynedd Lewyrchus (A Prosperous Gwynedd)
Project:	Create the best possible circumstances in Gwynedd for businesses and community enterprises to thrive, and support the people of Gwynedd into work
Project leader's Report:	Sioned Williams/Dylan Griffiths
Date:	November 2024
The Project's Aim:	We will support businesses and community enterprises in Gwynedd to thrive in many ways such as product development and accessing new markets, helping enterprises to save money by reducing waste and using technology more effectively, supporting businesses in Gwynedd to trade together and prioritise helping enterprises that commit to paying a 'real living wage' to their employees. We will encourage businesses to make the most of the Welsh language, develop more work units for letting, and strive to ensure that the North Wales Growth Deal projects benefit the people of Gwynedd. In addition, we will help the people of Gwynedd to fulfil their potential and support those who are excluded from the labour market to return to employment and will work with employers to assist them to secure sufficient workers.

1. What has been achieved since the previous meeting?

Supporting business and enterprise

- 244 businesses have received support thus far during 2023/24 and 4,300 businesses on average are engaging every month.
- A consultation was held with the Council's Cabinet Members to establish a direction to create a new Economy Plan for Gwynedd.
- The [Cronfa Her ARFOR <https://menterabusnes.cymru/cronfa-her-arfor/>](https://menterabusnes.cymru/cronfa-her-arfor/) offers support to research and trial innovative solutions to local and regional challenges, learning about the link between the economy and the language. Nine organisations from Gwynedd have managed to secure £1.3m from the Fund; the highest amount in the region.
- Now, 45 business from across Gwynedd have received offers of support to the value of £1.4 million from the [Business Development Funds](#) funded with the SPF. £1.05 million has already been paid to businesses.

- The [Recharge](#) scheme commissioned by the Council, to date, has helped 42 local businesses review their activity and prepare for the future. A further 17 businesses have registered.
- With SPF funding, the Department is also implementing the Digital Future scheme to assist local businesses to make better use of technology to cut their costs and / or increase their sales. 305 training sessions are being held through the scheme, with 95 businesses also benefiting from individual mentoring support.
- We continue to support the North Wales Growth Application schemes, with particular attention to the schemes that offer Gwynedd the greatest benefit in the Digital Programme, Energy Programme, Agri Food Tourism Programme and Land and Property Programme.
- Nine business support drop-in sessions have been held since January, as well as three visits from the Cabinet Members to businesses. Six information fairs were held across the county to encourage businesses to take full advantage of the selection of business support available in the county this year as a result of SPF funding.
- Gwynedd Business Week was held in October, with a series of events organised for businesses in Dolgellau, Pwllheli and Bangor. Highlights of the events can be found on [X](#) and [Linkedin](#) and a newsletter for Members will also be produced to share the main messages from Gwynedd businesses.
- The Council's campaign to encourage residents and visitors to support local businesses has been busy with social media posts from Buy Local reaching 50,000 other accounts.

Supporting the people of Gwynedd to return to work and achieve their potential

- The activity of the [Llwyddo'n Lleol](#) programme, which targets young people from 11-35 to increase their awareness of opportunities available locally, has already created 8 new jobs and safeguarded 12 more in Gwynedd over the past year. 17 young people have received business training, with financial support worth £1,000 each to start on their journey to establish a new enterprise.
- 124 local residents excluded from the world of work have secured a job following the support of the Gwaith Gwynedd team so far during 2024/25.
- Eight job fairs were held throughout the county since January to help employers and individuals who are looking for work. The fairs were attended by over 130 employers and over 750 individuals.
- A new Gwaith Gwynedd activity to support residents to increase their skills – and thereby their earnings – has already assisted 99 people.

2. The next steps

The main activity for the next phase will be:

- Preparing a draft of the Gwynedd Economy Plan by the end of the year.
- Ensuring that every business which has accepted an offer of financial assistance finishes the work before the end of the SPF funding period.

- Realising the Council's plans in the business support / supporting people into work field funded by the SPF, and evaluating them.
- Ensuring that the ARFOR Programme is completed and evaluated by March 2025.
- Complete a joint-venture agreement with the Welsh Government, appoint a builder and commence the work of building new Council work units in Minffordd.

3. Risks

- The timetable for implementing the financial programmes meant that the Department had to recruit to a large number of temporary posts. With all the programmes ending simultaneously in March 2025, many posts will be under threat within the Department. The number will be much larger across the county's organisations.
- There is substantial uncertainty regarding the size and administration arrangements for any monies post-March 2025, which hinders our ability to plan for the future.
- The squeeze on public budgets is wider and this increases the pressure. The Welsh Government is already cutting back on the funding they provide to Local Authorities within areas such as support for the unemployed.
- There are substantial investments in the county, including Growth Deal plans, which are open to risk as a result of changes in the Welsh Government and UK Government's long-term policies and commitments.

4. Timetable

See above

ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT	
Improvement Priority:	Gwynedd Lewyrchus (A Prosperous Gwynedd)
Project:	Promoting our Culture and a Sustainable Visitor Economy
Project leader's Report:	Roland Evans
Date:	November 2024
The Project's Aim:	<p>We will implement a series of measures to promote our culture and create a sustainable visitor economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ The Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan, formed jointly with the Eryri National Park Authority, will be launched in spring 2023. The principal partners and stakeholders will collaborate to deliver the Plan by establishing a Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership. ➔ We will ensure prosperity from the North West Wales Slate Landscape World Heritage Site designation and secure resources to fulfil the World Heritage Site Action Plan. ➔ We will control Motor Homes visiting Gwynedd by piloting the development of up to six designated sites for motor homes to stay overnight. ➔ Hosting the 2023 National Eisteddfod in Gwynedd will be a platform to celebrate our culture and language, arts and sports and ensure that the Eisteddfod leaves a positive legacy for Gwynedd communities.

1. Progress since the previous meeting, January 2024:

Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan

- Every element of the new implementation structure has been met and has steered the development of the Action Plan for 2024-25.
- The Tourism Sector Group has elected two co-chairs as well as two co-vice-chairs to represent the community and business sector.
- New measures adopted.
- Action plan with a lead body and outputs approved by the Strategic Board in June.
- Bulletin published in September to update partners on the work's progress.
- Conwy County Borough Council have agreed to commit to the partnership for the Conwy Wledig area. A memorandum of understanding has also been drafted to be signed between the three main partners.
- Work on implementing the 'Diwylliesiant' Plan is progressing, including an 'experiences' communication and marketing programme and encouraging the language, culture, heritage and produce of Gwynedd and Eryri.
- An appointment has been made to the Sustainable Tourism Coordinator Post to support this field of work.
- A residents' opinion poll on tourism is being carried out and research into the community benefit deriving from events is being jointly prepared with Bangor University.

Benefits of the Slate Landscape World Heritage Site Designation

- New implementation structure and new membership agreed by the Partnership Board in October in order to simplify action, to be more representative and to confirm clearer operational and communication arrangements.
- A review of the World Heritage Site Action Plan is in progress in order to simplify and set clear and measurable measures.
- Meetings have been held with the six component parts to share information and provide an update on activities.
- Llewyrch o’r Llechi projects at work, funded through the LUF and SPF Programme:

Bethesda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial work has been completed on Lôn Las Ogwen. ▪ Upgrades to Neuadd Ogwen are almost complete. ▪ Hen Bost tenders have been received - discussions continue in terms of costs and budgets. ▪ High Street Improvements: locations for improvements have been identified and a work programme has been agreed with Highways. ▪ Artist appointed to complete public art work. ▪ A substantial conservation work package has commenced to safeguard and interpret the Penrhyn Quarry Hospital.
Llanberis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Applications have been submitted for Parc Padarn improvements. ▪ A work programme for the Welsh Slate Museum is in place and a team has been appointed to engage and implement the improvements. The Slate Museum has now closed temporarily until 2026. ▪ Discussions about the public art are in progress with the community and the artist, Howard Bowcott, and a planning application has been submitted. ▪ High Street Improvements: locations for improvements have been identified and a work programme has been agreed with Highways.
Blaenau Ffestiniog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishing a link path between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llechwedd is in progress. ▪ Improvements to Aelwyd yr Urdd have commenced. ▪ Improvements to High Street buildings are about to get underway. ▪ High Street Improvements: locations for improvements have been identified and a work programme has been agreed with Highways. ▪ Original Roofing Company have been appointed to undertake a public art scheme.
Penygroes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Art: location agreed with the artist. ▪ High Street Improvements: locations for improvements have been identified and a work programme has been agreed with Highways.
Porthmadog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Art: locations agreed with the artist, Howard Bowcott, and the art is being developed. ▪ Upgrades to the Crazy Golf have been completed. ▪ High Street Improvements: locations for improvements have been identified and a work programme has been agreed with Highways.

Tywyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Art: location agreed with Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy to carry out landscaping work on the high street. ▪ High Street Improvements: locations for improvements have been identified and a work programme has been agreed with Highways.
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- Communication Plan adopted and monthly meetings held with the Communication and Engagement Service.
- A £2m application to the National Lottery's Heritage Fund for the LleCHI LleNI project was successful. 1 manager and 2 officers appointed to the project over a five-year period. Activities have commenced, including interpretation, community work, art, outdoor trips, education, promoting the Welsh language and the culture of the slate areas.

Motorhomes

- Cricieth, Llanberis, Pwllheli and Caernarfon sites are operational and regular use is made of the sites. Llanberis has been 70% full on average since it opened in June, and positive comments have been received from its users.

Culture and the Eisteddfod's legacy

- A fund has been established and allocated to support communities, businesses and the Gwynedd cultural sector following the Eisteddfod, by means of SPF funding. The following applications and expenditure have been approved:

Fund	Number of supported projects	Total SPF expenditure
Supporting Culture	24	£318,032.10
Supporting Byw'n Iach	49	£229,510
Supporting Events	58	£158,118
TOTAL	131	£705,661.16

- Complete the Neuadd Dwyfor Business Plan review in order to run Neuadd Dwyfor more efficiently and attract an audience.
- Have commissioned work to reinterpret the Lloyd George Museum through SPF funding, in partnership with the Friends. Discussions held to agree on governance structure and the future Business Plan.

2. The next steps

Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan

- Administrate and monitor the impact of relevant funds deriving from Shared Prosperity and hold sessions with the sector to:
 - embed the principles
 - support the creation and sharing of messages on social media
 - promote the Ambassador scheme and Welsh language offer
 - manage risk in events
- Establish a Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Champion accreditation for local businesses and enterprises.
- Hold the Sustainable Visitor Economy annual summit in February 2025.

Benefits of the Slate Landscape World Heritage Site Designation

- Hold a Welsh Slate Annual Event.
- Establish and implement the new partnership structure.
- Strengthen the communication arrangements to ensure that information about investments are shared to raise the awareness of communities and businesses of the opportunities.
- Monitor, implement and manage the risks of every element and project partner.

Arosfan (Motorhomes)

- Carry out a review of lessons learnt when developing the pilot and the lessons learnt following action for 12 months.

Culture and the Eisteddfod's legacy

- Complete the Neuadd Dwyfor Business Plan review in order to run Neuadd Dwyfor more efficiently and attract an audience.
- Complete the Lloyd George Museum Reinterpretation project through SPF funding and agree on governance structures and the Business Plan.
- Establish the Storiell Trust and agree to the Business Plan.
- Hold an event for the Gwynedd culture sector in February.

3. Risks

- That the new management structure for the Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan is cumbersome or complicated and uses a lot of administrative time - this will need to be reviewed regularly.
- Lack of interest from businesses and enterprises in becoming 'Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Champions'.
- Failure of key partners to implement the Llewyrch o'r Llechi Plan projects within the timetable, leading to loss of investment in the area. A detailed risk register has been prepared for the Plan, which is being monitored by the Programme Board.
- That significant developments can pose a risk to the World Heritage designation – but robust planning arrangements are in place to manage this risk.
- Risk of failing to establish the Storiell Trust once more due to the stringent requirements from the Charity Commission and banks and consequent overspending.
- Failure of timetable for the reinterpretation of the Lloyd George Museum resulting in a funding shortfall to complete the project.

4. Timetable

Operate in line with funders' tight schedules during 2024 and 2025 and deliver the next steps seen in part 2 during 2024-25.