

APPENDIX 1

(Environment Cabinet Member's Performance Report)

Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 Priorities

Progress on 2024-25 milestones

A Homely Gwynedd:

- Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

A Green Gwynedd:

- New Local Development Plan
- Waste and Recycling
- Active Travel
- Public Transport

A Homely Gwynedd: Supporting the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities

Project: Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

The substantial number of houses in Gwynedd that are being used as second homes and short-term holiday accommodation is having a detrimental impact on the ability of the people of Gwynedd to have access to homes in their communities.

The Council has presented detailed research to the Government which highlights the need to act in the areas of planning, taxation and licensing in order to gain better control of the situation. Following announcements from the Government, including the establishment of the Dwyfor Pilot, which commits to introducing steps to tackle problems in the field, the Council is implementing legislative changes and sets a Council tax premium for second homes and empty homes every year at an appropriate rate to respond to the situation at the time.



Project: Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

Milestones for 2024/5	Update on the milestones so far	Completed
1. Prepare a report following an engagement period on introducing an Article 4 Direction to be submitted to the: · Communities Scrutiny Committee on 16 May 2024; · The Council's Cabinet in June / July 2024 with a recommendation to confirm the introduction of Article 4 Direction, to be effective on 1 September 2024.	1. The Cabinet confirmed the Article 4 Direction on 16 July 2024.	✓
2. Subject to the decision of the Cabinet, use the same engagement methods that were used in the summer of 2023, to inform the residents of Gwynedd that the Article 4 Direction will be effective from 1 September 2024.	2. Implemented in August 2024.	✓
3. We will put arrangements in place to prepare for the implementation of the Article 4 Direction.	3. Arrangements in place and operational since 1 September 2024.	✓
4. Prepare Supplementary Planning Guidance (Managing the Use of Dwellings as Holiday Homes) for public consultation.	4. Draft Guidance reported to the Cabinet on 11 February 2025 and approved for public consultation, with the consultation coming to an end on 7 April 2025.	✓
5. Seek to strengthen the Article 4 Team in the period up to September 2024 by recruiting and training 2 Article 4 planning officers (using a resource from the Welsh Government in conjunction with a resource that has already been allocated by the Cabinet).	5. Recruited 2 Article 4 Planning Trainees since July and September 2024.	✓
6. Regarding the Council Tax Premium: · Research into the impact of the Premium in terms of any change of property use, including engagement and analysis of results (April – July 2024). · The Cabinet to consider the results in September 2024 if it wants to hold a public consultation on increasing the Premium level for 2025/26. · Consultation on changing the level of the Premium - if there is one - (September - October). · The Full Council to consider the Premium level for 2025/26 in December 2024 (whether a change is recommended or not).	6. The steps have been completed in accordance with the schedule. Following the research, a decision was made by the full Council in December 2024 to keep the Premium at the same level for 2025/26.	✓
7. Following the Welsh Government's announcement of an intention to introduce statutory registration and licensing scheme legislation for holiday accommodation by the end of 2024, consider the implications of the change for the Council regarding possible enforcement/regulatory requirements (further details awaited on new arrangements and possible expectations on Councils).	7. The Council has carried out the work that is within our control for 2024/5, and will consider any further developments in due course from the Welsh Government.	✓

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project:

New Local Development Plan

We will draw-up a new Local Development Plan for Gwynedd that will address housing needs, employment and the social and environmental needs of the county's residents over the next 15 years.



Project: New Local Development Plan

Milestones for 2024/5	Update on the milestones so far	Completed
<p>1. Subject to Welsh Government approval, start implementing the Delivery Agreement in order to facilitate the arrangements for the preparation of a new Local Development Plan for Gwynedd. (It is required to prepare a Local Development Plan within a period of three and a half years.)</p>	<p>1. Delivery Agreement approved by the Welsh Government in April 2024, and has begun being implemented.</p>	
<p>2. Action on the pre-deposit stage which includes gathering evidence for the new Plan which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· call for sites (April / May),· developing the strategic options (following on from the main issues, vision and strategic objectives that have been identified in 2023/24), preparing background papers / specific topic, impact assessments (April 2024 onwards, continuing into 2025/26).	<p>2. Call for sites began in July 2024 and extended up to 15 January 2025. The first step in the process of filtering potential sites has begun.</p> <p>The work of develop the strategic options is ongoing. This includes consideration of evidence such as the Welsh Government's population projections (for Wales) – published in January 2025, with the population projections for Gwynedd due to be published in the summer of 2025.</p>	<p>Aspects of pre-deposit stage partially completed this year, and to continue in 2025/6.</p>

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project: Waste and Recycling

We will prepare a new waste and recycling strategy to try and increase the county's recycling level to meet the national target of 70% by 2025.

We will assess how effective the current litter collection arrangements are in terms of promoting recycling (from door-to door and in our centres) and introduce new arrangements where required.



Project: Waste and Recycling

Milestones for 2024/5	Update on the milestones so far	Completed
<p>1. Prepare a Waste and Recycling Strategy that will set a direction for the coming years with the aim of maximising recycling levels with specific steps to transform the waste and recycling services.</p> <p>Feeding into the strategic work, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Review existing waste treatment assets and prepare upgrade options to develop sites that are modern and fit for purpose which will assist us to process more waste ourselves and improve the quality of the product.ii. As part of wider work to review collection arrangements, we will trial the use of hessian sacks for recycling collections in up to 2,000 homes, reviewing success in order to consider the suitability of extending to other areas in the county.iii. The hessian sack trial will be accompanied by awareness-raising, communication and engagement work, and a data-based behavior change plan will be prepared to support the Waste and Recycling Strategy.iv. New commercial waste arrangements that comply with all-Wales workplace recycling regulations and also transform the business to be more efficient and modern.v. Moving towards promoting a circular economy by reducing the tonnage of residual waste produced and increasing and supporting reuse and repair through our recycling centres.	<p>1. A draft strategy has been drawn up, and expected to be reported to the Council's Cabinet early in 2025/6 for approval to carry out a public engagement/consultation exercise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Collaborate with Wrap Cymru to prepare initial plans for modern and fit for purpose waste treatment and processing facilities for Caergylchu (Caernarfon) and Ffridd Rasus (Harlech) sites.ii. A specialist company has been appointed to lead the monitoring of the trial that will continue until July 2025.iii. A plan to raise awareness and promote the use of specific recycling services targeting an area that has been piloted in Tanygrisiau and Bangor, with the intention of extending to other areas in the new year.iv. Restructuring and re-examining how we manage and operate commercial waste including the purchase of a new back office system.v. A number of projects including assessing the accessibility of our recycling centres, encouraging more recycling and collaborating with partners to reuse the materials received before recycling them.	 <p>Partially completed - A draft strategy has been prepared, with the intention of presenting it for the Cabinet's consideration shortly.</p>
<p>2. Ensuring control of the overspend, taking into account the savings plans, as well as setting a staffing structure that is suitable to be able to carry out the work, within the resources available.</p> <p>As part of wider savings plans, we will consider the frequency of residual collections.</p>	<p>2. Positive progress continues in terms of control of the overspend.</p> <p>Initial work is currently being done with Wrap Cymru to model different options.</p>	 <p>Continue to manage budgets prudently.</p> <p>Assessment expected to be ready by summer 2025 to consider next steps.</p>

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project: Active Travel

Active travel aims to ensure that walking and cycling becomes the normal choice for daily journeys, to improve our personal health, air quality and to make places more pleasant to live and work.

We will improve the county's existing walking and cycle paths, and introduce new active travel routes to facilitate more walking and cycling in our communities.



Project: Active Travel

Milestones for 2024/5	Update on the milestones so far	Completed
<p>1. Following the submission of detailed proposals to the Welsh Government for Active Travel and Safe Routes in Communities schemes, the following successful schemes to be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ffordd Penrhos Bangor (second phase);· Ysgol Rhostryfan;· Ysgol Treferthyr, Cricieth.	<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ffordd Penrhos Bangor (second phase): First element of second phase completed with the remainder including the installation of a crossing point between the hospital and Cae Cilmelyn Road, commenced. The work is expected to be completed by the end of May.· Ysgol Rhostryfan: Work is ongoing – concrete structures for the ramp at the rear of the school have been installed but further work is needed before completion. Although the project is taking longer than anticipated, the contractors are committed to completing the work by June.· Ysgol Treferthyr, Cricieth: Work started on site in December 2024, with the creation of a walking and cycling route and crossing point outside the school completed. The main works on the A497 will be completed by the end of the Whitsun holidays. As additional work, we are also looking to introduce a footpath on Lôn Fel Isaf.	 Partially completed, with the schemes to be completed early in 2025/6
<p>2. Promote routes for residents and visitors to the county for the walking and cycling opportunities on Gwynedd's active travel network.</p>	<p>2. Promote the network of routes in operation and in collaboration with others (eg Visit Wales)</p>	 Permanent work

A Green Gwynedd: Protecting the county's natural beauty, and responding positively to the climate change crisis

Project: Public Transport

We will review our existing public transport provision with the aim of developing a public transport network that will be convenient, reliable and reasonably priced to allow the residents of Gwynedd to travel every day of the week. As a part of this plan, we will also introduce new electric buses.



Project: Public Transport

Milestones for 2024/5	Update on the milestones so far	Completed
1. Following a review and procurement process, implementation of the new public bus network in the Meirionnydd area.	1. New network operational in Meirionnydd.	✓
2. After reviewing the public bus network in the Dwyfor area, tender process completed and implemented.	2. A review has been carried out in Dwyfor, and despite tender on a new network, historic services re-tendered for 2 years, and the intention is to review arrangements in this period.	✓
3. Tender process for the rest of Arfon (following changes already in place in Dyffryn Nantlle and Caernarfon), and implementing a new network.	3. Review completed and network operational.	✓
4. As part of the above, consider alternative options such as Fflecsi to accompany more traditional services as part of an integrated network that offers local and longer travel opportunities.	4. Alternative Fflecsi provision introduced in parts of Meirionnydd (Dyffryn Dulas and Dolgellau). Provision continuously monitored in terms of operational issues, use and costs.	✓
5. Ensure a clear financial picture in terms of the cost of providing the network and the various existing sources.	5. The purchasing processes that have taken place as part of the county-wide review have identified the costs associated with maintaining the network for which the Council is responsible. This in the context that there are different elements to the network beyond the control of the Council (eg commercial which has been commissioned by others - Transport for Wales: TrawsCymru T2, T3 and T10). Officers working together with Transport for Wales and Welsh Government on various financial issues that maintain and support the network in Gwynedd. There are changes to the funds, the amounts available and how these are administered, so it is necessary to remain alive to this and respond appropriately. This extends and includes the situation and significant and general financial challenges the Council is facing.	✓ Yes, with continuous review