

# CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



**Date of Meeting:** 14 October 2025  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Craig ab Iago  
**Relevant Officer:** Bethan Richardson, Climate Change Programme Manager  
**Title of Item:** Climate and Nature Emergency Plan: Annual Report 2024/25

## Report to a meeting of 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 2024/25.
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### 2. The reason why the Cabinet needs to make the decision

- i. Gwynedd Council issued a climate emergency declaration in March 2019 which led to the publication of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2022/23 - 2029/30 (CNEP) in March 2022. The CNEP is also one of the projects within the Green Gwynedd heading in The Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28.
- ii. The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan became operational at the beginning of 2022/23 and since then annual reports for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have been published following approval by the Cabinet.
- iii. Much of the work described in this Annual Report has already been scrutinised by the Climate and Nature Board and through the Council's internal performance challenge arrangements, but the annual report brings all the information together for the first time.
- iv. Following the same procedure as in previous years, this is an opportunity for Cabinet to decide whether they are satisfied that the Annual Report at Annex 1 provides an accurate and balanced picture of the work delivered during 2024/25 to meet the ambition of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.
- v. According to Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities operating in Wales have a duty to maintain and improve biodiversity and to promote the strength of ecosystems. We report on the progress against the 'Section 6 duty' within the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan Annual Report 2024/25.
- vi. A draft version of the Annual Report was discussed at a meeting of Gwynedd Council's Communities Scrutiny Committee on 18 September, and the committee's comments are summarised in 4. below.

- vii. Cabinet can also offer comments and guidance on the future work of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan.

### **3. Background**

- i. 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 \(llyw.cymru\)](#).
- ii. The Climate and Nature Emergency Plan (the Plan/CNEP) 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.
- iii. Cyngor Gwynedd, like most public sector bodies in Wales, collects data on carbon emissions and absorption following a methodology developed by the Welsh Government. We collected data for the 2024/25 year following these processes, and are using 2019/20 data as our baseline year for comparison.
- iv. 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. Simply put, the more we spend, the greater the emissions. Because this can paint an imperfect picture of the true situation the Annual Report sets out two different sets of data – with procurement and without procurement data.
- v. Based on this data we know how much the 'gap to net zero' is and therefore how much more work lies ahead if we are to reach our target.

### **4. Recommendations of the Communities Scrutiny Committee**

- i. The Annual Report was presented to a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 18 September 2025 and their comments and recommendations of matters to be discussed by Cabinet are set out below:
  - 1. To accept the report noting the comments submitted during the discussion
  - 2. To recommend to the Environment Cabinet Member that the Council's ambition to be net zero carbon by 2030 needs to be revisited and that a realistic target for reducing carbon emissions should be considered

### **5. Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

- i. 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.
- ii. The Welsh Government published a national biodiversity strategy, the 'Nature Restoration Action Plan' in 2015 which outlined the commitment to reverse biodiversity loss in Wales, with which there are 6 objectives for action. In order to comply with the duty of Section 6 public authorities must publish a plan of their own based on the Welsh Government's plan, and then the progress needs to be reported upon.

- iii. Cyngor Gwynedd has been updating our own Nature Recovery Plan to comply with the requirements of the Act, but in the meantime we are reporting on our progress against the 6 objectives of the national Nature Recovery Action Plan through the Climate and Nature Annual Report. The information can be found in chapter 3 and at the end of chapters 6 to 11.

## 6. Main Issues

- i. Chapter 5 of the Annual Report provides information on the levels of emissions and carbon absorption for which the Council was responsible, and on the all-important figure, which is the remaining gap to reach net zero. Our gap to net zero in 2024/25 was 18,132,729 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- ii. Carbon emissions from our procurement processes are currently based solely on expenditure, and this can paint a misleading picture of the true impact of our climate spending. Simply put, the more we spend the greater the emissions.
- iii. Gwynedd Council's total carbon emissions in 2024/25, including procurement, had increased by 4% since the 2019/20 baseline year and increased by 24% since 2023/24. The main reason for that is the increase in financial spending.
- iv. Gwynedd Council's total carbon emissions in 2024/25, excluding procurement, had decreased by 35% since the 2019/20 baseline year and increased by 4% since 2023/24. The main reasons for the increase since 2023/24 are the increase in energy consumption and increased travel, but the more detailed explanation can be found in the annual report.
- v. Looking at our carbon emission and absorption data together, without taking into account procurement data, then our gap to net zero is 32% smaller in 2024/25 compared to 2019/20 and 4% higher than in 2023/24.

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

- i. Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you intend to consult with them?
- ii. The final Annual Report will be published on the Council's website after receiving the Cabinet's seal of approval and we will share information about it with all Council members, and with the residents of Gwynedd and the general public.
- iii. Have you considered **collaboration**?
- iv. Chapters 11 and 12 of the Annual Report cover the work carried out in part by the Gwynedd Nature Partnership, namely a consortium of local organisations led by the Council. A number of other projects in CNEP are carried out in partnership with others, such as active travel projects in collaboration with Public Service Board partners.
- v. What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems arising or worsening in the future?
- vi. One of the basic principles of CNEP is to try to prevent further increases in the average temperature of the planet and to limit global warming to "well below 2°C" in accordance with the United Nations Paris Agreement. Each of the plan's projects seek to stabilise or even reverse the probability that the current situation will lead to further problems in the future.

- vii. How have you considered the **long-term** and what will people's needs be in coming years?
- viii. As noted above, the basis of the CNEP is to seek to prevent global warming problems from getting worse in the future, and while the Council has its own target of net zero carbon by 2030 the Welsh Government has set a target for the whole of Wales to be net zero by 2050. The CNEP therefore also takes into account that changing the habits of Gwynedd's residents and businesses will be long-term work beyond 2030.
- ix. The Annual Report highlights that the CNEP itself states that further work is needed to incorporate projects that will help residents, businesses and communities to respond to climate change that is already changing our landscape, such as the impact of flooding and extreme weather. Work is currently underway to review the CNEP and make any necessary amendments so it is very likely that we will see additional projects in the future that will focus on helping Gwynedd residents to adapt to the different needs over a long period of time.
- x. To ensure **integration** have you considered the possible impact on other public bodies?
- xi. A large number of the CNEP projects are planned or implemented in conjunction with other public bodies or with the voluntary sector and communities. See 8.4.
- xii. A number of local public bodies including Cyngor Gwynedd are members of the Public Services Board and one of the three Well-being Objectives in the Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan 2023-2028 is 'We want to work together to support our services and communities to move towards Net Zero Carbon'. There is ongoing collaboration with other local authorities across north Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Welsh Government's Energy Service, Transport for Wales which has resulted in joint planning and commissioning. A number of CNEP projects are also dependent on successful collaboration with other partners, such as our biodiversity and land use projects in conjunction with the Gwynedd Nature Partnership.

## **8. Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Socio-Economic Duty**

- i. The impact of Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Socio-Economic Duties on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan were assessed when it was adopted at a meeting of the Cabinet on 8 March 2022. This assessment is directly relevant to the Annual Report on the CNEP.

## **9. Next steps and timetable**

- i. We will publish the Annual Report on our website and share information about it.
- ii. We will continue to discuss in partnership 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.

**Monitoring Officer:**

No observations to add in relation to propriety

**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 2024/25