

MEETING	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	11 June 2026
TITLE	Environment Cabinet Member Performance Report
REASON TO SCRUTINISE	To report to the Scrutiny Committee on the performance of the Environment Department
AUTHOR	Dafydd Wyn Williams, Head of Environment Department
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Craig ab Iago

1. Why it needs to be scrutinised?

- 1.1 In order for Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be satisfied that I, the Cabinet Member for Environment, have a grip on performance matters within the Department.

2. Background / Introduction

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to update you on what has been achieved in the area for which I am responsible as Cabinet Member for Environment. This includes outlining the latest on the projects in the Council's Plan, as well as the Department's day-to-day work for the period up to the end of March 2026.
- 2.2 We are implementing the Council's Plan 2023-28, and here I report on the progress made up to the end of 2025-26. All matters have been the subject of discussion and scrutiny in challenging and support performance meetings, and I am satisfied with the performance of the Department.

3. Council Plan Projects Performance

- 3.1 The Environment Department leads on five priorities in the Council Plan 2023-28, namely:
- Management of second homes and short-term holiday accommodation;
 - New Local Development Plan;
 - Waste and Recycling;
 - Active Travel;
 - Public Transport.
- 3.2 I welcome the work achieved during 2025-26, and the progress against the milestones set for the five priorities for last year is outlined in Appendix A.
- 3.3 A specific report on an element of the 'Management of second homes and short-term holiday accommodation' project, specifically the Article 4 Direction led by the Department, can be found on the programme of this meeting.

3.4 Also, additional questions have been submitted by the Committee regarding the 'New Local Development Plan' project and responses to these specific questions can be found below:

- **How much staffing capacity does the Planning Policy Service have to deliver the project?**

The current structure of the Planning Policy Team consists of a Manager, two Team Leaders, two Senior Officers, one Officer and one Support Officer. Due to staffing changes (retirement and relocation), 1 Team Leader position has recently been filled internally which has currently left 1 post vacant, and one Team Leader position remains to be filled.

We are in the process of advertising the positions that are currently vacant.

- **What are the risks in establishing the new Scheme?**

A Delivery Agreement for the Local Development Plan outlines the risks that have been identified in relation to the establishment of the Plan. All risks, potential impacts and mitigation measures are set out in Appendix C.

- **What is the latest timeline for delivery?**

Work on the preparation of the new Local Development Plan is progressing, but it is recognised that the timetable will need to be revisited following the latest recruitment process.

However, the intention remains to proceed as efficiently as possible, ensuring that the Plan is robust, evidence-based and meets statutory requirements.

4. Day to day work of the Department

4.1 Appendix B contains the performance measures for Services across the Department. The detailed report in Appendix B includes data on the most recent period, along with further context and explanation that provides detail on the performance of all areas during 2025-26.

4.2 The Environment Department includes a range of areas and responsibilities, the majority being frontline services that provide key services to Gwynedd's residents. I'd like to thank the Department's staff for their commitment, and I am confident that the hard work they carry out is appreciated by the county's residents.

5. Consultation

5.1 The report has been created based on the information and content of a recent meeting to challenge and support the performance of the Environment Department, with the Corporate Director, Head of Department, Assistant Heads and Service Managers.

Appendices

Appendix A: Progress reports on Council Plan projects milestones

Appendix B: The Department's Performance Indicators

Appendix C: Potential risks – Delivery Agreement for Local Development Plan