

APPENDIX A

Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 Priorities

Progress on 2025-26 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

2025/6 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
<p>1. Following a public consultation period on the introduction of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Managing the Use of Dwellings as Holiday Homes, which ended on 7 April 2025, all observations received will be considered as will the need to make any changes (or not) to the Guidance..</p>	<p>1. Consideration was given to the observations received during the public consultation period which closed on 7 April. Subsequently, some minor amendments to the SPG were submitted for consideration by the Council's Cabinet.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Yes - completed</p>
<p>2. Submit a report to the Council's Cabinet (June 2025) asking Members to consider the observations from the consultation and the response to them on the above SPG and requesting the adoption of the Guidance so that it could then be taken into consideration when dealing with planning applications.</p>	<p>2. Report submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 10 June, and the SPG: Managing the Use of Dwellings as Holiday Homes (Second Homes and Short-term Holiday Lets), adopted to be used as a material planning consideration when making planning decisions in the Gwynedd Local Planning Authority Area. As a result of the Judge's decision (6 February 2026) to refuse permission for the Council to appeal, the Article 4 direction was quashed and therefore the SPG is not now operational.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Yes – completed (but not operational anymore)</p>
<p>3. Continue with a monitoring framework that considers the side effects of the introduction of the Article 4 Direction.</p>	<p>3. As a result of the latest Court decision (see above) which quashed the Article 4 Direction, the information gathered during the period of implementing Article 4 is being considered if it is proposed in the future to re-submit this.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ongoing</p>
<p>4. In terms of the Council Tax Premium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The results of research into the impact of the Premium in relation to any change of use to property were reported to the Council on 2 December 2024, and it was decided to keep the Premium level unchanged (2025/26) ·The Cabinet to consider in September 2025 whether it will hold a public consultation on increasing the level of the Premium for 2026/27 for specific groups of properties ·Undertake a consultation on changing the Premium level – if there is one – (September-October 2025) ·The Full Council to consider the Premium level for 2026/27 in December 2025 (whether or not a change is recommended) 	<p>4. Update by the Finance Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·The results of further research into the impact of the Premium were reported to the Council on 4 December 2025, and it was decided to keep the Premium level unchanged for second homes, but to increase the Premium on long-term empty property to 150% in 2026/27. 	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>5. Consider and respond to any developments by the Welsh Government in relation to the side effects of the potential enforcement/regulatory requirements of a statutory registration and licensing scheme for holiday accommodation.</p>	<p>5. The Senedd has passed new legislation to introduce a licensing scheme for student accommodation in Wales. The scheme will be relevant to self-catering accommodation providers, and they will need to show that their property satisfies safety and quality standards.</p> <p>There are two elements to the change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration - with the window to register commencing in October 2026 and administrated centrally by the Welsh Government. • Licensing - further details are awaited regarding this element, and the Council has already highlighted the matter in consultations that there would be likely significant implications and resources for Local Authorities if the proposal was to implement this locally. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Ongoing</p>

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

2025/6 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
<p>1. Continue to operate at the pre-deposit stage for the new Plan, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) developing the strategic options (following from the main issues, vision and strategic objectives identified) ii) preparing specific background papers/text, impact assessments 	<p>Work continues to implement the pre-deposit phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Develop the implementation of the strategic options. The work includes consideration of Gwynedd's demography evidence paper. ii) Research has been commissioned for this element. It is anticipated that household projections (2022 basis) will be published by the Welsh Government at the end of November 2025, and therefore this will need to be considered when developing the strategic options. iii) Conduct an informal survey (February and March 2026) to seek views on what matters are important and relevant that the LDP may influence. 	<p>Pre-deposit phase aspects to be partially completed this year, and to continue in 2026/7.</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

2025/6 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
<p>1. Submission of draft Waste and Recycling Strategy to the Cabinet, requesting the right to undertake a public engagement exercise.</p>	<p>1. Report submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 10 June 2025, with approval for the draft Waste and Recycling Strategy to go to public consultation to receive feedback from Gwynedd residents.</p>	<p> Yes - completed</p>
<p>2. Carry out a public engagement exercise on the Waste and Recycling Strategy taking the findings into account.</p>	<p>2. A consultation was undertaken on the Strategy for over seven weeks and concluded on 30 November 2025.</p>	<p> Yes - completed</p>
<p>3. Report back to Cabinet, taking into account the feedback from the public engagement exercise, and request support for the adoption of the Strategy.</p>	<p>3. The results of the consultation have been analysed and have been incorporated in the Strategy. Because of the pre-election period, the report's submission to the Cabinet has been deferred. We now expect this to be undertaken early in 2026/27.</p>	<p>Partially - complete early in 2026/27.</p>

Project: Waste and Recycling (continued)

2025/6 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
<p>4.As a result of the Strategy, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Prepare waste treatment assets upgrade options to develop modern and fit-for-purpose sites that will assist in processing more of the waste ourselves and improve product quality; ii) Carry out data-driven behaviour change work to support the Waste and Recycling Strategy. This may mean that we will use enforcement powers to back-up any lack of commitment in some cases; iii) As part of a wider review of collection arrangements, we will be piloting the use of sacks for recycling collections in some areas and reviewing success to consider the suitability of extending to other areas of the county; iv) As part of work to review commercial waste arrangements we will be investing in a bespoke system to administer contracts and collections, and we will create a relevant customer portal for businesses to be able to contact us and e-trade with us. 	<p>4. Summary below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The initial works have now been completed. The next step in the process is to refine the options and develop a comprehensive plan that is affordable and practical. The aim of this is to enable an application to be submitted to the Welsh Government for financial support, to facilitate the implementation of the project. ii) The process of encouraging behavioural change is continuing in the background, with several specific campaigns scheduled. Every household in Gwynedd has by now received postal information about the recycling service, and we have submitted a bid for an apprentice to join the raining awareness team, to share information and market the recycling service digitally. iii) Pilot the use of hessian sacks on 3 routes in the Arfon area. The results had been reported to the Area Forums during the autumn. Consideration was being given to some practical adaptations to facilitate piloting in other areas of the county in 2026/27. iv) By now the Bartec system is used by the collection crews and to administrate contracts. There has been some delay in terms of the billing process. The next phase of the project would be to develop a customer portal. 	 Ongoing
<p>5. Continue with the management of overspend levels and the realisation of savings planning. We will also put a fit-for-purpose structure in place to ensure that we are in a strong place to be able to face the challenges and changes efficiently. As part of wider savings plans, we will be working with Wrap Cymru to model the frequency options of residual collections.</p>	<p>5. The work of strengthening control over budgets continues, with monthly meetings now established between management and the Finance Department. The first part of the restructuring has been completed, and the second part is currently proceeding. In the meantime, initial modelling has been carried out to explore options for reducing the frequency of collections or reducing the size of bins in Gwynedd, and the next step will be more detailed planning by considering the comments of the public consultation and the Strategy. We will then present the options to the Cabinet</p>	 Ongoing

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

2025/6 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
<p>1. Following the submission of detailed plans for Active Travel and Safe Routes in Communities schemes to the Welsh Government, the following successful schemes will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bangor – Phase 3 Penrhos Road/Penchwintan (Active Travel) b) Ysgol Foel Gron, Mynytho (Safe Routes in Communities) c) Deliver schemes with the £500,000 Active Travel core capital fund 	<p>1. Since receiving confirmation of the level of financial support earmarked by the Welsh Government in April, we have been developing the detailed plans for their realisation during 2025/6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Construction work on phase 3 has been completed (end of January 2026), installing a multi-use path for cyclists and pedestrians, between Ysbyty Gwynedd and Treborth. The plan also includes providing a new crossing in front of Ysgol y Faenol, Penrhosgarnedd. b) Work ending on footpaths and crossings for the school, along with an improved footpath in the centre of the village of Mynytho and a crossing to link to the shop/post office. c) Chwilog to Afonwen Physical work on the first phase (Afonwen to the laundry) completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tywyn to Aberdyfi: Currently purchasing a parcel of land with confirmation that the required finance for the work is on track for 2026/7 and 2027/8. -Feasibility and design work is taking place on a series of schemes including Llanberis-Caernarfon, Llanystumdwy-Cricieth, Bethel-Caernarfon. 	
<p>2. Complete improvements to Lôn Las Ogwen as part of a scheme funded through the Levelling Up fund to strengthen local travel links in Dyffryn Ogwen.</p>	<p>2. Following the completion of the work in July 2025 on the first phase of the plan, which introduced many improvements such as installing a cattle underpass to facilitate the use of the path from the direction of Tregarth to Bethesda for pedestrians and cyclists, a new multi-use footbridge has been installed over afon Ogwen. The new Pont Sarnau will improve access to users along Lôn Las in this part of Dyffryn Ogwen will improve links to routes to reach Llyn Ogwen and the Zip World attraction. Due to environmental restrictions in terms of when work can be completed in the river, the work to remove the old bridge and to open the new bridge will take place in May 2026.</p>	

Project: Active Travel (continued)

2025/6 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
<p>3. Monitor developments and act on any potential changes based on the adoption of the Regional Transport Plan (during 2025/26).</p>	<p>3. The Council's response to the North Wales Regional Transport Plan public consultation has been presented – with the consultation period having closed on 14 April. The final version of the Plan was approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales on 28 October 2025, with the Councils financial allocation presented for 2026/7. Officers are continuing to provide information to secure the full allocation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  Ongoing </p>
<p>4. Continue to promote routes for residents and visitors to the county and the walking and cycling opportunities on Gwynedd's active travel network.</p>	<p>4. Work is taking place on an ongoing basis to promote developments that facilitate walking, scootering and cycling on active travel networks in the county, including announcements on the funding secured and progress on projects as they become operational.</p> <p>In addition, we have created information packs for school headteachers, including guidance and information to share with parents about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Road safety ◦ Active Travel ◦ Public transport ◦ How to create Walking and Cycling Buses ◦ Access to road safety training ◦ Rules for travelling on the bus and train to school, etc. <p>The above will be trialled in the schools of y Garnedd, Treferythyr and Godre'r Berwyn.</p> <p>Maps for active travel to schools in specific locations where recent improvements have been delivered (see above).</p> <p>During 2026, a further consultation process will seek the views of residents on the current active travel routes as well as future active travel plans. This will be included as part of the report to be submitted to the Welsh Government by December 2026.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  Ongoing </p>






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

2025/6 Milestones	Update on the milestones so far	Completed / On track
<p>1. Maintain and review the network based on experience and any potential changes that are beyond the Council's control.</p>	<p>1. A new network becoming established with positive feedback and passenger numbers. Continue to look for minor improvements/adjustments where possible within the available resources.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Ongoing</p>
<p>2. Continue to pilot and monitor the use of Sherpa'r Wyddfa, G23 services between Abermaw and Porthmadog and Fflecsi in south Meirionnydd.</p>	<p>2. The revamped services becoming established with positive feedback and passenger numbers – 563,783 journeys in 2025/6, an increase of more than 6.6% on the previous year. Where practicable, we continue to look for improvements/adjustments within the available resources. Arrangements for summer 2026 have been agreed with the stakeholders and the services have been registered and the summertime-table has commenced from 28 March before the Easter holidays.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>3. Implementation of £500,000 worth of improvements to bus stops.</p>	<p>3. Work completed in line with the programme to introduce improvements to bus stops at locations in the county – 3 locations in Arfon, 3 in Dwyfor and 3 in Meirionnydd. Plans for 2026/7 have been included in the Regional Transport Plan, with further improvements to be submitted to bus stops during 2026/7.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>4. Monitor developments and act on any potential changes based on the adoption of the Regional Transport Plan (during 2025/26).</p>	<p>4. The Council's response to the North Wales Regional Transport Plan public consultation was presented – with the consultation period having closed on 14 April. The Plan was approved by the Cabinet Secretary on 28 October 2025, with the Council's financial allocation submitted for 2026/7. We will move on to implement this in accordance with the finance allocated for 2026/7.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>5. Continue to review the financial picture in terms of the cost of providing the network and the various sources.</p>	<p>5. Close collaboration continues between Transport Service officers and the Finance Department to monitor the financial situation and intervene as required. Specific work now to be undertaken to identify the level of resources Cyngor Gwynedd is investing to support the local buses network. This is in the context and as preparatory work for the new franchise system for buses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>