# APPENDIX 2
# Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-2028 Priorities
# Progress on 2026-27 milestones

**A Homely Gwynedd:**

- Managing second homes and short term holiday accommodation

**A Green Gwynedd:**

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

# 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

| 2026/7 Milestones | Update on the milestones so far | Completed / On track | What to be achieved in fifth year? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Article 4 Direction:**<br>Following the Judge's decision (6 February 2026) to refuse to allow the Council to appeal, the Article 4 Direction was quashed, we have:<br>- Presented a report on the process and legal challenge to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 11/6/26.<br>- If it is intended to proceed with the reintroduction of A4D, consideration will need to be given to an appropriate timetable for this process and the bulk of the associated work and any potential challenges. | **1.** Report submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 11/6/26.<br><br>Consideration of any further action and timeline for this is subject to contextual changes. | ✓ | The next steps will depend on decisions about whether or not to proceed with the introduction of a new Article 4 Direction and an appropriate timetable for delivering the work. |
| **2. Council Tax Premium (Finance Department Update)**<br>Consideration if public consultation to be held on increasing the level of Premium for 2027/28, with Full Council to consider the level of Premium for 2027/28 in December 2026 (whether or not a change is recommended). | **2.** Full Council to consider the level of the Premium for 2027/28 in December 2026. | ✓ | Continue to review on an annual basis. |
| **3. Holiday accommodation registration and licensing scheme:**<br>Following new legislation in the Senedd to introduce a licensing scheme for visitor accommodation (which will apply to self-catering accommodation providers), it will be necessary to demonstrate that properties meet safety and quality standards. Whilst the Registration element which will open from October 2026 is centrally administered by the Welsh Government, further details on the Licensing element are awaited.<br>The Council has already highlighted in consultations on the issue that there would be significant implications and resources likely for Local Authorities if the intention is to implement the Licensing element locally, and we will consider any updates from the Welsh Government on this and will consider and respond to any requirements and implications for the Council's services. | **3.** The Senedd has passed new legislation to introduce a licensing scheme for visitor accommodation in Wales. The scheme will apply to providers of self-catering accommodation, and will need to demonstrate that their properties meet safety and quality standards.<br>There are 2 elements to the change:<br>• Registration - with the window to register starting in October 2026 which will be centrally administered by the Welsh Government.<br>• Licensing - the Council has already highlighted in consultations on the issue that there would likely be significant implications and resources for Local Authorities if this is intended to be implemented locally. The risks in terms of resources have been highlighted in the Environment Department's risk register. The Department has agreed that a representation from Public Protection Services will attend workshops for the development of the plans for a Lead Authority (and to that end have submitted an expression of interest). This will enable it to contribute to the development work, as well as ensuring that the Department has a greater understanding of the lead role in due course. | ✓ | Respond to any public consultations that may be held on the arrangements for licensing.<br><br>To consider any implications for the Council's resources as a result of the Welsh Government's decision to establish a Statutory Registration and Licensing Scheme in Wales for holiday accommodation. |

# **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

| 2026/7 Milestones | Update on the milestones so far | Completed / On track | What to be achieved in fifth year? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Continue on the pre-deposit stage for the new Plan, which will include:<br><br>**i.** Develop and consult on the main issues, vision, strategic objectives and the growth and spacial options.<br><br>**ii.** Preparation of specific background/text papers, impact assessments.<br><br>**iii.** Assess information received during an informal opinion finding survey (which ended 24/3/26). | **i.** Continue the work with a view to reporting to the Planning Policy Working Group in October, the Communities Scrutiny Committee in November and the Cabinet in December to seek their approval to undertake a public consultation on the main issues, vision, strategic objectives and the growth and spacial options during January/February 2027.<br><br>**ii.** Work continues with the specific background/text papers, and impact assessments.<br><br>**iii.** Report to the Planning Policy Working Group on 3 July 2026 on the response following the informal opinion-finding exercise. | ✔ | Prepare and consult on the Preferred strategy.<br><br>It should be noted that there are other steps in the process (which will not be achievable in the Fifth year) namely:<br>- Prepare and consult on the Deposit Plan.<br>- Submit the Plan (Draft) to the Government for public scrutiny.<br><br>The final step will be to recommend to the Full Council the adoption of the new Local Development Plan. The new Plan will then replace the Joint Local Development Plan as the main basis for deciding planning applications in the area. |

# **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%.

We will assess how effective the current waste 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

| 2026/7 Milestones | Update on the milestones so far | Completed / On track | What to be achieved in fifth year? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** Formally adopt the **Waste and Recycling Strategy** – report to Council Cabinet for approval.<br><br>Following the adoption of the Strategy, we will implement the following actions: | **1.** On 7 July 2026, the Cabinet formally approved Cyngor Gwynedd's Waste and Recycling Strategy, confirming support for the strategic direction and work programme set out. | ✓ | A new Waste and Recycling Strategy has been adopted, providing a clear direction for modernising and developing the service over the coming years. The Strategy includes a comprehensive action plan with clear and transparent milestones to ensure that the Waste and Recycling Service delivers the six strategic objectives identified. Early initiatives that will emerge from the Strategy include the introduction of flexible plastics collections and the development of an education and awareness programme in primary schools to foster recycling practices and reduce waste from an early age.<br><br>Progress has also been made in delivering on the Council's Climate and Nature Plan commitments, including the opening of a reuse shop in Llandygai and the formal adoption of the Strategy.<br><br>Consultants will be appointed to develop plans for the upgrade and modernisation of the processing centres in Harlech and Caernarfon. This will ensure that the Council is in a sound position to submit applications for match funding from the Welsh Government to support the construction and development of new sites. |
| **2. Prepare options for upgrading waste treatment assets** to develop modern, efficient and fit for purpose sites, which will enable more of our waste to be processed locally and improve the quality of the final product. | **2.** As well as adopting the Waste and Recycling Strategy on 7 July 2026, the Cabinet decided to support its operation by investing the additional EPR funding received for the collection and treatment of packaging materials. The funding, valued at up to £4 million per year, provides the necessary resources to accelerate the modernisation programme and implement a number of the initiatives set out in the Strategy, including the development of plans for upgrading the service's facilities and infrastructure. | ✓ | |
| **3. Refine the pathway towards achieving the 70% recycling target** by evaluating the range of options and action plans. This will include assessing the frequency of collections, considering bin capacity and size, exploring the potential to collect new materials such as flexible plastics, and identifying opportunities to increase the recycling of additional materials such as wood. | **3.** The Waste and Recycling Strategy includes an action plan and a draft work programme setting out the steps to increase recycling performance and move towards the 70% target. These plans will be the subject of further discussion with the Welsh Government in September. While preparatory work has already begun on a number of schemes, including flexible plastics collections from 2027/28, progress in some areas is dependent on solutions and changes at a national level, particularly in terms of developing markets and infrastructure for recycling more wood and other materials that are not currently widely recycled. | Partial | |

**Continued overleaf**

# **Project:** Waste and Recycling (continued)

| 2026/7 Milestones | Update on the milestones so far | Completed / On track |
|---|---|---|
| **4.** At our recycling centres, we will continue the current arrangements for opening black bags in order to reduce the amount of residual waste and expand opportunities for **reuse** and repair by working closely with our partners. | **4.** The programme of opening black bags will continue to be rolled out in phases across the recycling centres. In addition, a reuse shop and dedicated community repair space is due to open at Bangor Recycling Centre in the autumn. Options for the development of similar hybrid facilities at Dolgellau and Pwllheli Recycling Centres will also be considered as part of the service's commitment to supporting the circular economy and reducing waste. | ✓ |
| **5. Continue to deliver data-driven behaviour change work** in support of the Waste and Recycling Strategy. This may mean using enforcement powers where there is a lack of commitment but also putting more emphasis on improving understanding and awareness within schools and the wider community. | **5.** The restructuring process is ongoing, and the awareness raising team will be based in a way that ensures the best support for the team. A digital marketing apprentice has been appointed to strengthen the use of digital channels in promoting recycling. In addition, we have collaborated with a local teacher to develop an education programme for primary schools, and we will be partnering with Antur Waunfawr to roll out this pack in schools across the county. In the coming months, we will also be working with behaviour change experts to develop further interventions to increase recycling rates and reduce residual waste. To complement this, EPR funding has enabled the service to fund two additional enforcement posts to support compliance. | ✓ |
| **6. As part of the review of commercial waste arrangements**, we will be developing an online customer portal to enable businesses to connect with us and engage through e-commerce. In addition, we will encourage businesses to increase their recycling rates by at least 10% compared to current levels. A recent case study shows that up to 60% of commercial residual bin content contains recyclable materials. | **6.** Work on the development of the customer portal element continues. The restructuring will allow us to shift the operational work of commercial waste to the officers at the depot. The role of the awareness raising team will also expand to include our business community. | Partial |

# **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

| 2026/7 Milestones | Update on the milestones so far | Completed / On track | What to be achieved in fifth year? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** Following securing financial support from the Regional Transport Fund for 2026/7, we will:<br><br>• Complete phase 4 of the Penrhos Road Active Travel scheme, Bangor<br><br>• Complete phase 2 of scheme between Chwilog and Afonwen<br><br>• Further developmental work on the Tywyn-Aberdyfi scheme<br><br>• Use active travel core funding for:<br>- preparatory work and studies.<br>- feasibility on various active travel plans.<br>- update the Active Travel Map.<br>- work to promote infrastructure improvements.<br>- provide bike storage in schools.<br>- other minor improvements in communities. | **1.**<br><br>• Detailed design for phase 4 of the Penrhos Road scheme has been completed (extension of an existing route from the Coed Mawr junction to the Penrhos Road/Belmont Road roundabout), with work having gone out to tender during the summer. Work has now commenced on the site (commencement September).<br><br>• Work has commenced on the ground in September to avoid disruption during the peak summer period, and so that the work can be completed in one phase.<br><br>• Developmental work commenced – discussions ongoing with relevant stakeholders for preparatory work to start on the ground during winter 2026 (with the scheme itself to be delivered in 2027/8).<br><br>• Work continues on developing designs for the implementation of elements during 2026/7:<br>- update of the Active Travel Map – consultation has commenced (see point 5 for further details).<br>- provision of cycle storage in schools – work to commence on Ysgol Edern store during next half term.<br>- other minor improvements in communities -solar lighting to Lon bach Odro, Bethesda to facilitate use. | ✓ | Planning, preparing and implementing active travel schemes which will receive Welsh Government financial support.<br><br>To undertake engagement/consultation exercises with the public and key stakeholders in order to realise Active Travel schemes. |
| **2.** Safe routes in communities - Ysgol Maenofferen, Blaenau Ffestiniog. | **2.** Work has commenced with the development of the outline plan.<br>Consulted with the local community, constructive comments that will inform improvements moving forward. Work is expected to start early in new year. | ✓ | |

.

**Continued overleaf**

# **Project:** Active Travel (continued)

| 2026/7 Milestones | Update on the milestones so far | Completed / On track |
|---|---|---|
| **3.** Improvements to Lôn Las Ogwen completing quality bespoke walking and cycling route infrastructure between Llyn Ogwen and Bangor, including the upgrade of Pont Sarnau. | **3.** Work on the improvements has been completed – the official opening of Pont Sarnau was held which was an opportunity to celebrate this work and improvements in the area that strengthen the walking and cycling network in the area. Find out more about the official opening **here**.<br>Preparatory work for phase 2 of the scheme which will include the completion of a link with Lon Ogwen on the west side. | ✓ |
| **4.** Continue to promote routes for residents and visitors to the county about the walking and cycling opportunities on Gwynedd's active travel network. | **4.** Work continues – hosted the launch of the School Transport Package with positive media coverage. More **here**. Work continues to encourage the use of the pack among schools.<br>As part of Walk to School Week, Road Safety officers held an Active Travel competition, which was an opportunity to celebrate the successes of schools in their efforts to encourage more walking, scootering and cycling to school.<br>Continue to collaborate with Communications Service to develop videos to promote pathway improvements and benefits. | ✓<br>Ongoing |
| **5.** Carry out a survey asking residents' views on current active travel routes as well as plans for the future. This will be included as part of a report to be submitted to Welsh Government by December 2026. | **5.** Active Travel Survey has opened, and work is underway to promote and encourage members of the public to have their say. More about the survey **here** | Partial – survey carried out, with final report to be submirtted to Welsh Government early in new year. |