

## DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	25/06/2026
<b>DATE DECISION PUBLISHED</b>	30/06/2026
<b>DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE and implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25.1 of the Gwynedd Council Constitution.</b>	07/07/2026

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### **NAME AND TITLE OF THE CABINET MEMBER:**

Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes (Cabinet Member for Economy and Community)

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### **SUBJECT – Implement the 'Connect to Work' programme in Gwynedd.**

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### **DECISION**

1. To approve the proposal to implement the Connect to Work programme in Gwynedd.
  2. To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department, in consultation with the Head of Legal Service, to receive £1,856,000 to implement the Connect to Work programme by agreement with Denbighshire County Council (the lead body for North Wales).
  3. To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department to implement and manage the Connect to Work programme in Gwynedd.
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### **REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED**

Please see attached Officer Report.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

None.

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### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

Consultation with  
Cyngor Gwynedd Statutory Officers.

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report.

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**DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF CYNGOR GWYNEDD'S  
CABINET – OFFICER'S REPORT**

Name and title of Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes Cabinet Member – Economy and Community
Name and title of the Report's Author:	Kelvin Roberts, Employability Programme Manager, Economic Development Service
Date of Decision:	25 June 2026
Cabinet Member(s)'s Signature:	

**Subject:**

Implement the 'Connect to Work' programme in Gwynedd.

**Recommendation for the Decision:**

1. To approve the proposal to implement the Connect to Work programme in Gwynedd.
2. To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department, in consultation with the Head of Legal Service, to receive £1,856,000 to implement the Connect to Work programme by agreement with Denbighshire County Council (the lead body for North Wales).
3. To authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department to implement and manage the Connect to Work programme in Gwynedd.

**The reason for the need for a Decision:**

Connect to Work is a UK Government programme to help disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to employment, find sustainable work.

In Wales, the programme will be implemented through local authorities on a regional basis. Denbighshire County Council will be the lead Connect to Work Local Authority in North Wales.

The arrangements for the management and implementation of the programme in North Wales have now been developed and have received the UK Government's seal of approval.

An agreement is required to be signed between the North Wales counties and Denbighshire County Council to confirm the management arrangements and appropriately share responsibilities to receive the funding. It is also required to confirm that Cyngor Gwynedd is willing to implement the programme in the county.

### **Rationale and justification for reaching the Decision:**

Connect to Work has been established under the brand of the ['Get Britain Working'](#) strategy of the UK Government.

The aim of [Connect to Work](#) is to tackle 'hidden unemployment' by helping people with complex needs find sustainable work. It is a voluntary programme that will link work support, health and skills.

The essence of the programme is to provide intensive support to get individuals into work immediately and then continue to support them for a period of time after they get a job.

In Wales, the programme is implemented by local authorities on a regional basis. The programme is managed by the UK Government's Department for Work and Pensions and works alongside Welsh Government schemes in the area, such as Communities for Work Plus. It is intended to transfer Connect to Work funding to Welsh Government control over time.

Connect to Work will continue until the end of 2029/30 with activity peaking in 2026/27 and 2027/28.

The North Wales budget for Connect to Work is £13.38 million with 3,600 individuals expected to receive support. The allocation to Gwynedd is £1.85 million with a target of 550 beneficiaries.

As with other UK Government programmes (e.g. the Shared Prosperity Fund / SPF), a single local authority is required to act as a body accountable to the funding for the region. Denbighshire County Council has agreed to take on this role.

An agreement has been prepared between Denbighshire County Council and the other counties to share the money and responsibilities that will come with it.

The Gwaith Gwynedd team in the Council's Economy and Community Department, will lead Connect to Work in the county and ensure that residents across Gwynedd get every opportunity from the programme.

Gwaith Gwynedd already provides a selection of support to help local people return to work or secure a better job. They will be able to ensure that Connect to Work fills gaps without disrupting existing provision.

Connect to Work will fill a gap by focusing on individuals who are the least likely to succeed through the support currently available, taking advantage of the ability of Connect to Work to continue to provide help for a period after an individual has started work. This will increase the likelihood that beneficiaries participating in the programme will remain in the jobs they secure.

Connect to Work will therefore strengthen the existing employability offering in the county.

Gwaith Gwynedd will provide the support directly, mostly through officers employed by the Council, but working with other counties in some cases to ensure the right help for individuals with specialist needs.

In October 2025, there were 6,642 claiming Universal Credit in Gwynedd that did not require them to look for work. A proportion of these individuals will want a job and the majority of Connect to Work beneficiaries will come from this cohort; we can therefore be confident that there will be adequate demand for the support available from the programme.

**Record of any interest declared by any Cabinet Member consulted and any dispensation by the Standards Committee:**

None

**Any consultations undertaken prior to making the Decision:**

Chief Finance Officer:

"I am satisfied that robust governance and operational arrangements are in place to protect the interests of the Council, coupled with the experience of managing such schemes. Finance officers will be working closely with officers from the Economy and Community Department to ensure the implementation of the plans within the allocation. I therefore support the decisions sought."

Monitoring Officer:

The decision sought relates to administering a programme which is led by the UK Government through the North Wales Councils. An appropriate procedure for the administration of Connect to Work in Gwynedd is proposed through the decision sought.

Local Member(s):

*Not relevant*