



Gwynedd Consultancy Department (YGC)



The Gwynedd Consultancy Department (YGC) operates as a commercial department that generates income for the Council, whilst also undertaking statutory functions in water and flood management. By combining the commercial and statutory, YGC can maintain high quality jobs, whilst retaining expertise within the county. The department specialises in engineering and construction.

Water and Flooding

As a result of Climate Change, the threat of coastal erosion and flooding is exacerbating. Our intention is to manage and reduce the impacts of these threats on the people of Gwynedd. There are also national legislations that place statutory responsibilities on the Council.

Forward Planning and Identifying Risk

In accordance with the objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015), it is essential that we plan ahead to keep our communities safe, healthy and viable for the future. Climate change is creating specific challenges, and flooding has been acknowledged as an international priority.

In order to forward plan for these challenges, we are creating a picture of flood risks across Gwynedd by analysing the data that we are collecting, as well as other official external data, such as climate and sea level projections. All of this then forms the basis to our Flood Risk Management Plan.

The service also encourages collaboration between the whole Council and various stakeholders (such as Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water and our communities), to ensure that we take every available opportunity to collaborate to adapt and protect from flooding. Successful grant applications ensure an investment is made in the infrastructure of Gwynedd which increases the resilience of our communities in light of flood risks. We have identified that ongoing support is required in every community in order to ensure sustainable resilience to mitigate against these risks in the future.

See below a summary of the work of gathering data which feeds into this work.

Investigating Flooding Incidents



There is a duty on us to investigate flooding incidents under the Flood and Water Management Act. Since the Act came into force in 2010, YGC has investigated 42 incidents of indoor flooding every year, on average. We also gather information by identifying faults or by receiving any flood-related concerns from Gwynedd residents. We aim to respond to these in the shortest possible amount of time.

Flood Prevention Asset Maintenance



19 km
of coastal defences are
maintained

We are responsible for maintaining 229 coastal assets which extend along 19km of coastal defences, and 52 assets that manage the risk of flooding from common watercourses. Surveying and maintaining these assets is essential as we protect Gwynedd communities. We give a score from 1 to 5 (with 1 meaning 'as new') to

each asset, and set a condition target for each one. Our aim is for every asset in Gwynedd to meet its condition target to ensure that they mitigate against flood risks for the people of Gwynedd. We also maintain and implement a coastal monitoring programme, which assesses changes in the coastline. This, due to climate change, will increasingly affect our coastal communities in the years to come.

Our Role in the Planning System

Gwynedd Council is the Local Lead Flood Authority and therefore YGC has a role to prevent developments and activities that could contribute to the flood risk. These mainly include:

- Providing advice on planning applications
- Advising on work in watercourses and approving relevant applications - on average per annum, we receive 50 applications that affect or prevent the flow in a common watercourse. We ensure that the construction work is done in a way that has the least possible impact on flood risk and the environment. There is a statutory requirement on us to respond in 28 days; however, the aim in every case is to approve applications as soon as possible.

Approving Sustainable Drainage Systems

Since January 2019, specific types of developments need to receive Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) consent. Before commencing the building work, a developer needs to consider how they will manage water on the site in order to ensure the quality of the water and reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

We are a SUDS approval body and we also offer pre-application advice to assist developers to meet the new requirements.

In 2020/21, and beyond, we will continue to develop plans in order to attract investments to mitigate against flood risks to the residents of Gwynedd and we will raise awareness of these risks throughout the county in an attempt to increase the resilience of our communities against the risks facing them.

Consultative Services



YGC design and manage projects relating to roads, structures, buildings, etc. in Gwynedd and across Wales. We create and maintain quality jobs that would not otherwise be available in the county, and as we attract fees for our work, we are contributing towards the costs of maintaining Gwynedd Council.

We provide various consultative services in the following fields:

- building and infrastructure,
- water and environment,
- technical, and
- business and project management.

Financial Performance			
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Turnover	£5.5m	£5.3m	£5.3m
Profit/Loss	+ £96.5k	+ £81k	+ £59k

As part of these services, we can undertake architectural, surveying, design, inspection and assessment, hydraulic modelling and geo-technical work, and much more.

This work plays an essential role in our ability to realise our statutory requirements in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. This is the case as our ability to attract fees for our consultation work enables us to build technical and scientific expertise within the Council and retain that expertise. In turn, this expertise provides a foundation for us to successfully attract grants by developing innovative and sustainable flood risk management work plans. Therefore, the consultation services are essential to allow us to protect the people of Gwynedd in light of the impact of climate change.

In 2020/21, we will be focusing on adding to our list of clients in order to increase the investment we attract, whilst also expanding the range of professional services that we can offer.

This department's day-to-day work contributes towards the Gwynedd Well-being Objectives, ensuring that residents can:

Enjoy happy, healthy and safe lives

Live in quality homes within their communities

Take advantage of the the county's natural environment