



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 the fields of engineering, construction and climate change in relation to flooding and coastal erosion.

Water and Flooding

As a result of Climate Change, the threat of coastal erosion and flooding is exacerbating. Our intention is, where possible, to manage and reduce the impacts of these threats on the people of Gwynedd. This work is an important part of the Council's Climate Change plan.

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 plan ahead for these challenges, we are creating a picture of flood risk 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 Local Strategy Flood Risk Management.

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 that investment is made in Gwynedd's infrastructure 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.

Below is a summary of the data collection which feeds into this work.

Investigating Flooding Incidents



There is a duty upon us to investigate flooding incidents under the Flood and Water Management Act. Since the Act came into force in 2010, on average YGC has investigated 49 incidents of indoor flooding each year. We also gather information by identifying faults or by receiving any flood-related concerns from Gwynedd residents. Our aim is to respond to these concerns as soon as possible.

Flood Prevention Asset Maintenance



We are responsible for maintaining 226 coastal assets which extend along 21km of coastal defences, and 55 assets that manage the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses. Surveying and maintaining these assets is essential as we protect Gwynedd's 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 to 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 in relation to surface water flooding and the requirements of the new guidelines on planning for floods and coastal erosion that are operational from 1 December 2021.
- Advising on work in watercourses and approving relevant applications - on average per annum, we receive 50 applications that affect or prevent the flow in an ordinary 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 upon us to respond in 28 days; however, the aim in every case is to approve applications as soon as possible.

Sustainable Drainage Systems Consent

Since January 2019, specific types of developments need to receive Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) consent. Before commencing the building work, developers must 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 offer pre-application advice to assist developers to meet the requirements.

The number of applications have increased recently from 12 in 2019/20 to 48 in 2020/21

During 2022/23, we will:

- **Continue to prioritise flood prevention work in the county, and develop plans in order to mitigate flooding risks for the people of Gwynedd.**
- **Ensure that we can influence the process of renewing the Shoreline Plan 2, that will establish the long-term vision in relation to Gwynedd's coast.**
- **Change our systems in order to meet the requirements of the new guidelines on planning for floods and coastal erosion.**

Commercial 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

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Turnover: £5.3m	Turnover: £5.3m	Turnover: £6m	Turnover: £6.7m
Profit +£81k	Profit +£59k	Profit +£11k	Profit +£63k
<i>target exceeded</i>	<i>target exceeded</i>	<i>target exceeded</i>	<i>target exceeded</i>

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 also plays an essential role in our ability to meet our statutory requirements in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. Our ability to attract fees for our consultation work enables us to build technical expertise within the Council, and retain that expertise and employ local people.

In turn, this expertise enables 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 2022/23, 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.

The day-to-day work of this Department contributes towards the following Gwynedd Well-being Objectives, ensuring that Gwynedd residents can:

- **Enjoy happy, healthy and safe lives,**
- **Live in quality homes within our communities**
- **Make the most of the county's natural environmental beauty.**