

Assessing the Impact on Characteristics of Equality, the Welsh language and Socio-Economic Disadvantage

Please refer to the How to Do an Equality Impact Assessment leaflet for help completing this form. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext 32708, or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further assistance.

The Council is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the effect that a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure) will have on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties to ensure fairness and foster good relationships. A timely assessment must therefore be made before making a decision on any relevant change (i.e. which has an impact on people with a protected characteristic).

The Council is also required, under the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Section 44 Measure of the Welsh Language (Wales) 2011) to consider the effect of a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), in its to have opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favorably than the English language. This document therefore ensures that these decisions protect and promote the use of the Welsh language.

From April 1st 2021 onwards the Council has a duty to give due attention to tackling socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decisions.

I) Details

I.1 What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Create two Orders: Traffic Management Order under section 1 and 32 of the Road Traffic Management Act 1984

I.2 What is the purpose of the policy/service being created or changed? What changes are being considered?

Provision of parking spaces for vehicles (self-contained motorhomes) to stay overnight in designated areas in four car parks, namely the Shell Caernarfon Site, Y Maes Criccieth which are already car parks and Ffordd y Gogledd Pwllheli and Y Glyn Llanberis Site which are to be new car parks.

As part of the scheme, there is an intention to offer suitable provision to dispose of gray waste and obtain fresh water (if practically possible in all locations). We will also ensure that there are a sufficient number of bins for general waste and recycling.

These locations were chosen following checks e.g. no negative impact on residents, there is spare capacity in the car parks and locations outside the flood zone.

This is the main purpose of our service in terms of enforcement:

- To facilitate traffic flow and contribute to having safe and unobstructed lanes. A large number of motor home owners choose to park on sections of the highway including byways and residential streets. The 'Arosfan' scheme was established in response to our Communities' desire to have better control of vehicles of this type.
- Encourage a high level of compliance by motorists in accordance with the parking controls and restrictions.
- Being responsive to changing priorities, local factors and demand.

1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Dafydd Jones, Cyfreithiwr y Cyngor

1.4 When did you start the assessment? Which version is this?

On 27.3.2023, and this is the First version

2) Action

2.1 Who are the stakeholders or partners who will have to work with them to make this assessment?

We will need to collaborate with the Town or Community Councils, Local Members, North Wales Police, Fire Services, Transport Services and representatives from the Motor Home Sector.

2.2 What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either because of location or because of need) who live with socio-economic disadvantage?

The consultation process and giving notice in the press is part of the procedure and members of the public can submit their comments or objections or give a positive opinion through this statutory process.

It is an essential requirement for the Council to advertise the proposed changes in the local newspapers as well as display the information (including the new fees) in a prominent position in the car parks that will be affected.

In order to introduce provision for motorhomes in the locations indicated above, the Council had to submit applications for planning permission. During this process, there is a consultation period which invites Members of the Public including car park users, general motorists, residents, businesses including caravan parks, Local Members, Town and Community Councils, Emergency Services to share comments or state any concerns.

2.3 What was the outcome of the consultation?

No objections were received during the consultation process before planning permission was granted.

In 2021 the Council's Environment Department and the Economy Department worked together and carried out an investigation into the subject.

As part of this investigation, Cyngor Gwynedd's Tourism, Marketing and Events Service carried out online research with owners of caravan and camping grounds in Gwynedd. The purpose of the research was to find out more about the county's camping provision and find out local opinions about the situation.

As part of the consultation, research work was carried out in order to ascertain the opinion of the residents and communities of Gwynedd on the motor homes situation locally. The research was carried out online for a period of 6 weeks during the Summer.

4,868 questionnaires were completed, 2,169 complete questionnaires. Responses were received from a cross section of residents across Gwynedd including Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd.

Based on the evidence resulting from this work, it is believed that better management of the motor home sector in Gwynedd is needed and that the following recommendations should be considered:

- Using public assets such as public car parks in appropriate destinations in order to trial 'overnight' parking provision for the purpose of motor homes (this will of course be subject to the need for planning permission, site licence)
- A trial to look at the possibility of using current car parks where simple modifications can be made to provide basic services such as fresh water, toilet emptying, gray water and rubbish.

There has been a significant increase in the number of motor homes registered in Britain by the DVLA. Communities in Gwynedd have expressed concern about the numbers of these vehicles that decide to park on parts of the public highway, residential streets etc. The intention of the proposed changes is to try to get better control of the situation.

The pilot scheme in question is the first of its kind throughout Wales so we will continuously monitor the situation and introduce adjustments as appropriate.

2.4 What other evidence do you act on?

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed significantly in driving the increase in motor home sales and hire. The regulations and restrictions on traveling abroad on holiday have increased the demand for the British 'Staycation'.

The increase in visits by motor home owners has not gone unnoticed here in Gwynedd and concerns have been raised in a number of communities across the county as an increasing number of motor home owners decide to stay in locations and on 'public' land. where there is no legal right to sleep in a vehicle overnight. The Council's Environment and Economy Departments have mainly received a significant number of complaints and allegations related to the attitude of some motor home owners e.g. parking irresponsibly, leaving general rubbish as well as human waste behind and taking valuable parking spaces on residential streets.

The Council does not allow people to sleep overnight in their vehicles at the moment. In order to alleviate some of the problems above, we believe it is timely and sensible to introduce suitable provision in an attempt to improve the situation. There was also a large number of requests from motorhome owners for provision of this type and confirmation that they were willing to pay a fee for a safe site to park and sleep overnight.

It appears that there is quite substantial provision for meeting camping needs in Gwynedd. Despite this, it must be noted that a large number of caravan and camping sites now operate on the sale of seasonal pitches / 'seasonal pitches' to caravan owners which means a significant reduction in the number of touring pitches available which do not match the needs of home owners a motor that prefers more freedom and moving from one place to another often.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be collected?

We believe it is premature to be able to report on the gaps. The result of the pilot will give us more information to be able to report as required.

3) Identifying the effect

3.1 The Council must pay due attention to the effect any changes will have on people with the equality characteristics below. What is the effect that the new policy/service or the proposed changes will have on people with these characteristics? It is also necessary to consider the impact on socio-economic disadvantage and on the Welsh language.

Characteristics	What kind of effect? *	How? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	None	No effect has been identified Motor home owners from Wales, Britain and other countries Improving the situation for local people - better waste management and disposal
Disability	None	Bays for motorhomes will be created and due to fire service requirements, there will be 6 meters of space between the motorhome bays so there will be enough space for wheelchair users to get in and out of the vehicles. This is not a reasonable adjustment for people with disabilities so it is reasonable to charge a fee.
Sex	None	No effect has been identified
Age	None	No effect has been identified
Sexual orientation	None	No effect has been identified
Religion or belief (or lack of belief)	None	No effect has been identified
Gender reassignment	None	No effect has been identified
Pregnancy or Maternity	None	No effect has been identified

Marriage and Civil Partnership	None	No effect has been identified
The Welsh Language	None	<p>We will continue to ensure that signs and any new software are bilingual.</p> <p>It is expected for the provision to be used by Welsh people in addition to people from other Countries.</p>
Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Positive	<p>By doing this we are promoting tourism, and helping public health. The Town Councils will receive 10% of the income generated from the new scheme. The income will be spent on Community projects or benefits.</p> <p>Research with motor home owners shows that a large majority are keen to stay overnight in more urban locations in order to be close to services such as shops, restaurants etc. They also tend to stay an average of 2 nights before moving on.</p> <p>It also shows that camping sites allow people to turn up without booking in advance and prefer to sell pitches for a long period. The Council has therefore identified a gap in the market in order to address this need.</p> <p>A fee of £15 per night has been established for vehicles wishing to use the Stop scheme. We believe that the fee is reasonable because it is much cheaper than a camping site but cheap enough to encourage people to use it and park responsibly. We will of course monitor the suitability of the fee as the scheme matures.</p>

3.2 It is the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to contribute positively to a fairer society by promoting equality and good relationships in its activities in the areas of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must pay due attention to the way any change affects these duties.

General Duties of the Equalities Act	Does it have an effect?*	How? What is the evidence?

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	No	As a Council we will continue not to charge disabled people a parking fee in the normal bays so that they can access shopping and other services as usual.
Hyrwyddo cyfleoedd cyfartal	No	
Meithrin perthnasau da	Yes	No effect has been identified. An opportunity to foster a good relationship between the visitors and the local people.

3.3 How does your proposal ensure that you work in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Mesur y Welsh (Wales) 2011), to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favorably than English, and that all are taken advantage of an opportunity to promote the Welsh language (beyond providing services bilingually) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

We will ensure that we take advantage of every opportunity to promote and showcase the Welsh language. There is an expectation that people from Wales as well as people from other countries will use the Arosfan provision.

3.4 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice in order to have a positive effect on people's opportunities to use the Welsh language, and to reduce or prevent any adverse effects that the policy / practice could have on the Welsh language?

3.5 How does the proposal show that you have paid due attention to the need to tackle inequality due to socio-economic disadvantage? (Note that this is about closing inequality gaps rather than just improving outcomes for all).

Not relevant because it is not a strategic issue

3.6 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice to demonstrate that you have given due

consideration to the need to reduce unequal outcomes as a result of socio-economic disadvantage, in accordance with the Socio-Economic Act ?

Not relevant because it is not a strategic issue

4) Analysis of the results

4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the above? What is the reason for this?

We believe it is fair to say that the change is likely to have a positive impact in social economic terms. One of the main purposes of the provision is to alleviate the number of vehicles that park on the highway overnight, so there will be better control of these vehicles, there will be less chance for vehicles to park and dispose of their rubbish or waste in an irresponsible manner .

We will of course monitor the impact continuously and introduce changes as appropriate.

4.2 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the above? What is the reason for this?

4.3 What should be done?

Choose one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	
Modify the policy to remove any barriers	
Suspend and remove the policy as the harmful effects are too great	
Continue the policy because any adverse effect can be justified	
No further steps at the moment, it is premature to decide, or there is not enough evidence	

4.4 If continuing with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative effects?

A monitoring plan in place in accordance with the planning applications.

4.5 If you are not taking further action to eliminate or reduce negative impacts, please explain why here.

Not Applicable

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

This is a pilot scheme so we will monitor and report back as the scheme develops and matures.

A monitoring plan will be in place in accordance with the conditions of the planning permission. We will look specifically at the parking situation on parts of the highway now, how many motorists are using the Arosfan scheme, any problems linked to the scheme, income levels, water use in the nearest public toilets, use and performance of the gray waste disposal equipment etc.