Mark James LLM, DPA, DCA
Prif Weithredwr,
Chief Executive,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

MONDAY, 23 APRIL 2018

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EXECUTIVE BOARD** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN, AT 10.00 AM, ON MONDAY, 30TH APRIL, 2018** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Mark James CBE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PLEASE RECYCLE

Democratic Officer:	**Martin S. Davies**
Telephone (direct line):	**01267 224030**
E-Mail:	**MSDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**
Ref:	**AD016-001**

EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEMBERSHIP - 10 MEMBERS

Councillor	Portfolio
Councillor Emlyn Dole	**Leader** Corporate Leadership and Strategy; Chair of Executive Board; Represents Council at WLGA; Economic Development Represents the Council on the Swansea Bay City Region; Collaboration; Marketing and Media; Appoints Executive Board Members; Determines EBM Portfolios; Liaises with Chief Executive; Public Service Board
Councillor Mair Stephens	**Deputy Leader** Council Business Manager; Human Resources; Performance Management; Wales Audit; Training; I.C.T.; T.I.C. (Transformation, Innovation and Change); Strategic Planning
Councillor Cefin Campbell	**Communities and Rural Affairs** Rural Affairs and Community Engagement; Community Safety; Police; Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015; Tackling Poverty; Wellbeing of Future Generations; Third Sector Liaison ;Equalities
Councillor Glynog Davies	**Education and Children** Schools; Children's Services; Special Education Needs; Safeguarding; Respite Homes; Regional Integrated School; Improvement Service; Adult Community Learning; Youth Services; School Catering Services, Lead Member for Children and Young People; Youth Ambassador
Councillor Hazel Evans	**Environment** Refuse; Street Cleansing; Highways and Transport Services; Grounds Maintenance; Building Services; Caretaking; Building Cleaning; Emergency Planning; Flooding
Councillor Linda Evans	**Housing** Housing – Public; Housing – Private, Ageing Well
Councillor Peter Hughes Griffiths	**Culture, Sport and Tourism** Town and Community Councils Ambassador; Development of the Welsh Language; Theatres; Sports; Leisure Centres; Museums; Libraries; Country Parks; Tourism.
Councillor Philip Hughes	**Public Protection** Trading Standards; Environmental Health. Environmental Enforcement; Planning enforcement; Unlicensed Waste; Parking Services; Bio diversity
Councillor David Jenkins	**Resources** Finance & Budget; Corporate Efficiencies; Property/Asset Management; Procurement; Housing Benefits; Revenues; Statutory Services (Coroners, Registrars, Electoral, Lord Lieutenancy); Armed Forces Champion Contact Centres and Customer Service Centres
Councillor Jane Tremlett	**Social Care & Health** Adult Social Services; Residential Care; Home Care; Learning Disabilities; Mental Health; NHS Liaison/Collaboration/ Integration; Care Home Catering Services, Carers' Champion; Dementia Care Champion; Disability Ambassador

A G E N D A

1.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**	
2.	**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.**	
3.	**TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 26TH MARCH 2018.**	5 - 10
4.	**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS**	
5.	**PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**	
6.	**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2018-2021.**	11 - 30
7.	**DIGITAL SCHOOLS STRATEGY 2018-2021.**	31 - 48
8.	**USAGE POLICY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS.**	49 - 60
9.	**DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**	61 - 108
10.	**CHANGE OF NAME OF QUARTER BACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND TRELECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.**	109 - 112
11.	**CWMAMMAN AFC.**	113 - 116
12.	**ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.**	

NB: Reports are only printed in black and white to reduce costs. All reports however are available on-line so that members of the Committee / County Council and the public can view photographs/graphs in colour

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 26 March 2018

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair);

Councillors:
H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, D.M. Jenkins, L.M. Stephens, J. Tremlett, P.M. Hughes, P. Hughes-Griffiths, G. Davies and C.A. Campbell;

Also in attendance:
Councillors J.S. Edmunds, D.M. Cundy, S.L. Davies, R. James and B.A.L. Roberts;

The following Officers were in attendance:
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
Mrs R. Mullen, Director of Environment
W. Walters, Director of Regeneration & Policy
R. Hemingway, Head of Financial Services
J. Morgan, Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities
M. Palfreman, Head of Regional Collaboration
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
D. Hockenhull, Marketing and Media Manager
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen 10.00 am - 10.40 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. MINUTES - 26TH FEBRUARY 2018

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 26th February, 2018 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS
The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
The Chair advised that no public questions on Notice had been received.

6. CARMARTHENSHIRE WELL-BEING PLAN: THE CARMARTHENSHIRE WE WANT
The Executive Board considered the 'Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan: The Carmarthenshire We Want 2018-2023' which had been developed by the Public Services Board [PSB] with a view to it being published by May 2018, in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Carmarthenshire County Council was a statutory member of Carmarthenshire PSB (along with Hywel Dda University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and Mid

and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service) and before the Plan could be published it had to be approved by the statutory members of the Board.

The Chair of the PSB, Mr. Barry Liles, and officers were thanked for the work they had undertaken in producing the Plan.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the 'Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan – The Carmarthenshire We Want – 2018-2023' be endorsed.

7. REVISED HANDLING PERSONAL INFORMATION AND BREACH REPORTING & RESPONSE POLICIES

The Executive Board considered a report detailing revisions to the Handling Personal Information and Breach Reporting & Response Policies in light of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which would come into force across the European Union and the UK from 25th May, 2018, replacing the provisions of the current Data Protection Act 1998.

Councillor D. Cundy, in accordance with CPR 11.1 enquired as to how the Authority, given that many systems would be changed to take advantage of 'Cloud' technology, would ensure that its systems guaranteed security of personal data held in this way yet allowed the relevant departments, across disciplines, adequate access to these records for completeness of operation and enhanced services?

The Executive Board Member - Deputy Leader - advised that no department would be able to migrate systems or data to Cloud technology before first liaising with ICT Services. At that point ICT Services would guide departments and facilitate the scoping, procurement and migration to any Cloud services. Vet providers would ensure all relevant compliance and certification including GDPR and an insistence that data processing agreements with Carmarthenshire were signed. ICT Services would also steer departments to the relevant internal service areas to ensure compliance of Cloud providers on issues such as Welsh language standards and Procurement regulations. For central infrastructure and services which migrate to Cloud services, ICT would again carry out all of the above. Access to Cloud systems and data would be facilitated via secure, encrypted connectivity from centrally managed devices, networks and accounts.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the revised policies be endorsed.

8. CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Further to minute 6 of the Executive Board meeting held on the 26th June 2017 consideration was given to a revised Corporate Enforcement Policy document incorporating amendments to reflect responses received during the consultation exercise. The amendments had been approved through the Corporate Multi-Disciplinary Enforcement Group and, if endorsed by the Executive Board the Policy would come into effect on the 1st April 2018.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the amended Corporate Enforcement Policy be adopted from the 1st April 2018.

9. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S GYPSY & TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)

The Executive Board considered a report which highlighted the results of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) for Carmarthenshire (2016) with a view to ensuring that future identified need was addressed with the Gypsy and Traveller community and any plans were appropriate. All local authorities in Wales were required to publish the assessment once it had been approved by Welsh Government and Carmarthenshire's had been approved on 28th March 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

9.1 that the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Carmarthenshire be published on the Council's web-site;

9.2 to confirm that the Council will work with the Gypsy and Traveller community in the County to develop plans to meet any identified need in the future.

10. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Executive Board considered the revenue budget monitoring report which provided an update on the latest budgetary position as at the 31st December, 2017. Overall, the report forecast an end of year underspend of £479k on the Authority's net revenue budget, with an overspend at departmental level of £1,348k. The Housing Revenue account was predicting a £162k underspend to the year-end.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

10.1. that the budget monitoring report be received.

10.2 that Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review their budgetary positions and implement appropriate actions

11. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017-18 UPDATE

The Executive Board considered a report providing an update on the capital programme spend against the budget for 2017/18 as at the 31st December, 2017.The in-year slippage of £-4,120k would be incorporated into future years of the programme.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the capital programme update budget monitoring report, as detailed in Appendix A and B, be received and the virement to Pembrey Country Park endorsed.

12. PETITION IN REGARD TO CHOOSE LIFE, PRESENTED BY THE GLANYMOR AND TYISHA SAFER COMMUNITIES GROUP

Further to minute 5 of Council held on the 10th January 2018 the Executive Board considered a report detailing the timeline leading up to the submission of the petition requesting the relocation of the Charity Chooselife to suitable alternative accommodation away from the new infants and junior school, Ysgol Pen Rhos, in Copperworks Road, Llanelli. The report also referred to responses received from Chooselife and Dyfed Powys Police, details of The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and the actions the School had in place and the outcome of a Public Meeting held on the 19th of January 2018. Pupils from the Copperworks and Lakefield sites were due to transfer to the new Ysgol Pen Rhos building following the Easter break i.e. April 9th, 2018.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, in order to ensure the safety of children, that the following recommendations detailed in the report be endorsed:

12.1 The Local Authority will assess the nature of the route walked by the children along Copperworks Road. If the route is not safe to walk the local authority will work to make it safe;
12.2 The school will put in place a system to check the school boundary and grounds, on a daily basis, to ensure everything is in order;
12.3 The school will monitor incidences during the Summer term and update the Education Department of any concerns.

13. REGIONAL POOLED FUND AGREEMENTS

The Executive Board considered a Partnership Agreement setting out the terms of pooled fund legal agreements in respect of Adult care home placements. Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act stipulated a requirement for councils and local health boards to establish and maintain pooled funds – underpinned by legal agreements. The Regional pooled fund agreement for care home placements would take effect on 1st April 2018 and provided for a 'virtual' regional budget for older people's care home placements (long term) – where - for the initial financial year - money did not transfer between organisations.

Councillor D. Cundy, in accordance with CPR 11.1 referred to Schedule 2 of the proposed Agreement detailing Partners Indicative 'Budget Assumptions for Financial Contribution'. He commented that it appeared to show that there was to be 'an approximate £45 million pound pot of which Ceredigion provides £6,232,000, Pembroke provides £12,141,000, Hywel Dda £13,177,000 and Carmarthenshire the highest contributor at £17,449,000' and asked why Carmarthenshire was the highest contributor?

The Executive Board Member - Social Care & Health – advised that the figures quoted were accurate and the amounts were 'out turn' figures, which meant they reflected what each party expected to pay for relevant care home placements. The figures were higher for Carmarthenshire County Council vis a vis Ceredigion or Pembrokeshire and this was expected given the relative populations and associated number of users. She referred to the fact that Carmarthenshire had a higher amount of spend than the Health Board due to the fact that the types of placement provided differed and therefore the figures were not comparable. The Health Board provided a small number of Continuing Health Care (CHC) placements (at relatively high average cost), and the Funded Nursing Care (FNC) element of nursing placements. In contrast, the Council paid for the residential costs of (a higher volume of) placements, in line with statutory obligations. She added that it had to be recognised that the figures represented each organisation's spend and that 'cross-subsidisation' (Council Tax payers money being used to pay for a service in another county) would not take place.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the legal agreement necessary for the establishment of Regional pooled fund arrangements for Adult care home placements be endorsed.

14. WEST WALES AREA PLAN 2018-2023

The Executive Board considered the West Wales Area Plan 2018-2023 which had been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements set out in Section 14A of

the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and accompanying Statutory Guidance. The Plan had been developed in response to the Population Assessment published in March 2017 and a range of regional partners from across sectors had been directly involved in its drafting. It provided a clear public statement of strategic intent by the West Wales Care Partnership regarding the ongoing transformation of care and support in West Wales.

Councillor D. Cundy, in accordance with CPR 11.1 commented that whilst he appreciated that this was a plan, much of the report referred to the Implementation Plan with associated links that were not included and he asked if there was a reason for this and when would these links be available to peruse?

The Head of Regional Collaboration commented that reporting deadlines had prevented the inclusion of all links to other implementation plans in the draft Plan but all available links would be included prior to its publication. He added that where links were not available, for example in instances where detailed implementation plans were still under development, these would be added at a later stage and made available via the on-line data portal.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the West Wales Area Plan for 2018-2023 be endorsed.

15. SCHOOL MEAL PRICES 2018/19

The Executive Board considered a proposal to retain the price of a school meal at £2.50 for the 2018/19 financial year. This followed concerns raised by the Executive Board Member of Education and Children's Services that there was a need to address the drop in take-up of school meals following 4 consecutive price rises which have seen Carmarthenshire school meal prices become amongst the most costly in Wales. It was also suggested that there needed to be a campaign to encourage take-up of school meals.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the price of a school meal be retained at £2.50 for the 2018/19 financial year.

_____ _____

CHAIR **DATE**

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

30TH APRIL 2018

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2018-2021

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the content of the Digital Technology Strategy 2018-2021

Reasons:

A Digital Technology Strategy is required that sets out the Council's strategic digital technology priorities and aspirations and outlines what we plan to do to achieve our vision for a Digital Carmarthenshire and underpin our Digital Transformation Strategy.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Council Decision **No**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- **Cllr Mair Stephens**

Directorate : Chief Executives		
Name of Head of Service: Noelwyn Daniel	**Designation:** Head of ICT	**Tel No :** 01267 246270 **Email Address:** NDaniel@sirgar.gov.uk
Author : Gareth Jones	**Designation :** Digital Business Transformation Manager	**Tel No : 01267 246350** **Email Address: garethjones@sirgar.gov.uk**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

Digital Technology Strategy 2018-2021

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Digital Technology Strategy sets out the Authority's digital technology priorities and aspirations over the next 3 years. Its purpose is to identify the key technologies and initiatives that will facilitate and underpin the vision and delivery of the organisations existing and overarching Digital Transformation Strategy. The Authority will make use of appropriate emerging and existing technologies to facilitate and underpin service transformation, improvement and efficiencies.

This Digital Technology Strategy recognises that flexible, agile and integrated technology can only be delivered to the Council and its residents if we adopt the same leading edge models of some of the most forward thinking and efficient companies across the globe.

The Strategy provides clarity on :

Our digital vision for Carmarthenshire

Our Overarching Principles in delivering the strategy

Carmarthenshire's Digital Estate

Key Priority Areas
A Cloud First Approach
Resilient Data and Voice Networks
Modern Digital Workplace
Secure and Resilient Data Centres

Key Projects to be delivered

Resources Required to deliver the Digital vision

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Signed: Noelwyn Daniel **Head of ICT**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities
The Digital Technology Strategy is aligned to delivering key outcomes of the Corporate Strategy and the Authorities Future Generations Well Being Plan. Embedded within the action plans for delivering the key projects are the five sustainable development principles.

Finance
Funding has been identified to assist in delivering the Key Projects within the Digital Technology Strategy. Savings have been identified from the delivery of these projects.

ICT
There will be a significant impact on ICT resource to deliver the key priorities identified within the Digital Technology Strategy. The ICT Service has re-aligned to ensure it can deliver these projects.

Risk Management Issues
All risks associated with the delivery of the projects within the Digital Technology Strategy will be managed by the Project Managers.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed: Noelwyn Daniel Head of ICT

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A
2. Local Member(s) – N/A
3. Community / Town Council – N/A
4. Relevant Partners – N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW :-

Two Digital workshops have been held and attended by over 60 senior officers and Heads of Service from across the Authority. The Digital Business Transformation Manager has attended all DMT's to engage and consult with service managers.

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/corporate-strategy/
Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire:the next 5 years		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/moving-forward-in-carmarthenshire-the-next-5-years/
Digital Transformation Strategy		http://intranet/media/537853/digital-transformation-strategy-2017-2020.pdf

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Carmarthenshire County Council
Digital Technology Strategy 2018 – 2021

‘A cloud first approach’

Cyngor Sir Gâr Carmarthenshire County Council

EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani
www.sirgar.llyw.cymru

YOUR COUNCIL doitonline
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Leader

"The internet dominates so much of what we do in life these days and it is having an increasing impact on public services too. Carmarthenshire County Council is determined to embrace the digital revolution and to ensure that we are in a position to take full advantage of the major changes brought about by new technology. Our Digital Technology Strategy sets out a new approach that will underpin just about everything we do as a Council.

'Digital Transformation' has been described as the change associated with the application of digital technology in all aspects of society. Carmarthenshire County Council needs to take advantage of new digital platforms so that our residents and businesses can find information or complete their dealings with the local authority in ways that are convenient to them and also saves public money. This important document outlines how Carmarthenshire County Council will underpin and deliver the components necessary to achieve digital transformation".

Cllr. Emlyn Dole,
Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council

Chief Executive

"Welcome to Carmarthenshire County Council's Digital Technology Strategy 2018-2021. This strategy sets out how we underpin our ambitious approach to transform the way we deliver our services to the residents of Carmarthenshire.

We continue to face some tough challenges ahead against a backdrop of on-going austerity and it is essential we maximise the use of the very latest digital innovations to ensure Council services are financially sustainable into the future.

An enhanced digital infrastructure that takes advantage of the latest technologies will provide the foundations allowing us to work with partners from across the Region to deliver more effective, efficient services and transform the local economy ensuring it can compete on the global stage.

The Digital Technology Strategy will be reviewed annually and we will report our progress in delivering on our key projects in our Annual Report".

Mark James,
Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council

Our Vision

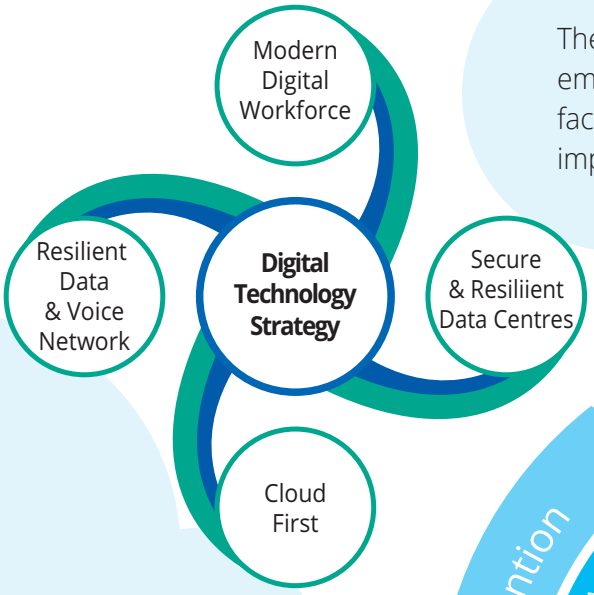
‘A Digitally enabled Carmarthenshire’

To achieve this bold vision:

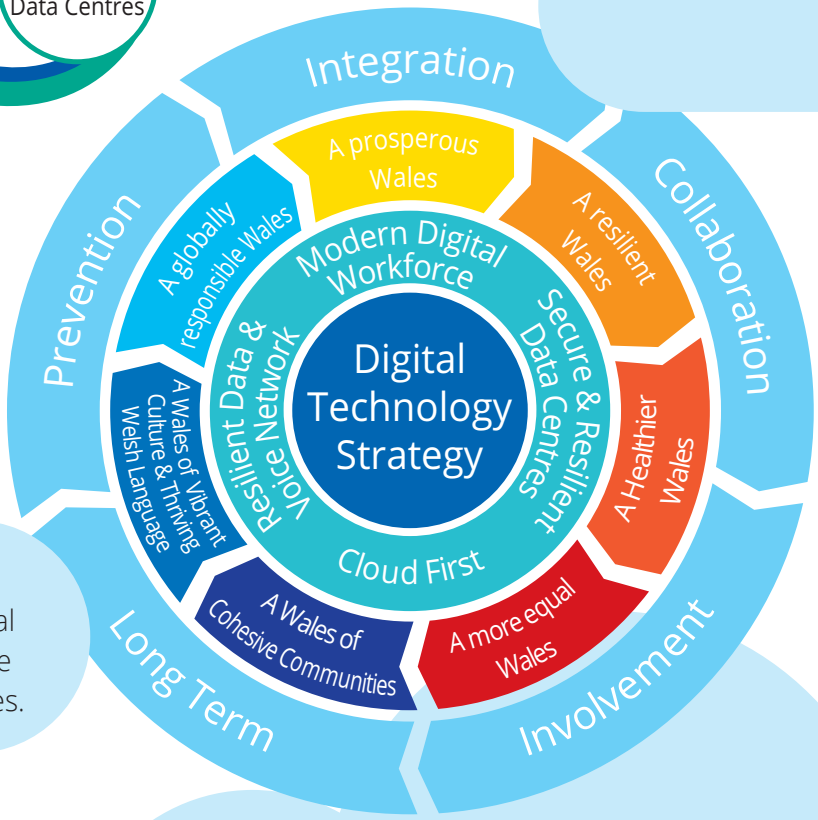
- We will build a more flexible, agile and integrated technology infrastructure.
- We will adopt a highly available, modern, and ‘citizen centric’ digital platform at the heart of our technology.
- We will harness cloud environments to deliver technology anywhere, anytime for the organisation.
- We will make significant improvements to productivity by harnessing new technology and devices for all our Councillors and Staff.
- We will decommission our on premises infrastructure and replace with virtual cloud technology where at all possible.
- We will pursue a policy of converging and unifying our communications platforms to a single system.
- We will seek to collect, interrogate and extract value from data to facilitate organisational strategy, decision-making and service delivery.
- We will make digital connectivity and bandwidth the foundation of our technology stack, for the organisation, elected members, citizens and businesses.
- We will facilitate and underpin collaboration locally, regionally and nationally through the intelligent deployment of technology.
- We will value, recognise and invest in the people and skills required to achieve the aims of this Strategy.

What is a Digital Technology Strategy?

The Digital Technology Strategy sets out the Authority's digital technology priorities and aspirations over the next 3 years. Its purpose is to identify the key technologies and initiatives that will facilitate and underpin the vision and delivery of the organisations existing and overarching Digital Transformation Strategy. The audience for this Strategy are the leadership of the organisation, elected members, our customers and our staff.



The Authority will make use of appropriate emerging and existing technologies to facilitate and underpin service transformation, improvement and efficiencies



We will adopt the Sustainable Development Principles of the Well Being Future Generations Act in our design and implementation of new digital technologies to assist us in delivering the Future Generations Well Being Objectives.

This Digital Technology Strategy recognises that flexible, agile and integrated technology can only be delivered to the Council and its residents if we adopt the same leading edge models of some of the most forward thinking and efficient companies across the globe.

Overarching Principles

To achieve the ambitions laid out in this strategy we will adhere to the following overarching guiding principles:

There are significant and compelling drivers to adopt a **CLOUD FIRST APPROACH** towards infrastructure and technologies. We will pursue these cloud-based solutions where at all possible.

We currently host a variety of complex and ageing legacy technologies. Supporting and maintaining these is both resource intensive and organisationally restrictive. We will seek to **RATIONALISE & CONSOLIDATE** at every opportunity.

We will take advantage of potential benefits and efficiencies through the active investigation, pursuit and adoption of **NEW & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.** Where there is potential to add significant value, we will pursue that technology.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY & DISASTER RECOVERY will serve as a key priority in all of the initiatives outlined in this document. We will place resilience and reliability at the heart of everything we do.

We will strive to **IMPLEMENT ALL CHANGES** in a methodical and controlled manner. We will consult and communicate frequently with all relevant stakeholders.

Where there are opportunities to underpin and add value through **COLLABORATION**, we will do so locally, regionally, nationally and across the public and private sector.

Carmarthenshire's Digital Estate

Communications (Voice & Data)

Core Network Circuits: 156

Broadband Circuits: 310

Wireless/Radio Circuits: 2031

Core routers supported: 160

Data switches: 400

Telephone systems: 17

Data Centers

Data Centre's - **2 plus DR site**

Corporate Servers - **465 (405 virtual, 60 physical)**

Schools Servers - **45 virtualized centrally, 54 in Secondary, 43 in primary**

Total volume of storage - **250TB** made up of

- **60TB backup data**
- **143TB VMware data (includes server C: drives at 2TB)**
- **6TB Solaris Unix**
- **4TB SQL Clusters**
- **37TB free space for growth**

Total number of tapes to support 1 year of backups = **1800 (each tape hold 800Gb)**

End Users

Corporate staff - **3500, plus 81 Councillors and co-opted members**

Corporate sites/Buildings supported - **137**

Partner accounts (NHS, Housing partners etc) - **440**

Schools staff - **3,600**

Pupils - **27,000**

Laptops - **1826**

PC's - **1916**

Tablets - **540 iPad's**

Smartphones - **426**

Desk Phones - **3800**

Mobiles (non smartphone) - **1148**

Schools Laptops & PC's - **Primary 8500, Secondary 5254**

Tablets - 4000

Resources

The Authority is investing a significant amount of resources in ensuring we have a robust and resilient infrastructure to underpin citizen service delivery across the County. In addition to ICT Services ongoing revenue budget, we will also invest the following over the next 3 years:

Capital

- £692K to provide staff with the appropriate technology to work in an agile manner.
- £767k Enhancements to County Backbone Networks and Cloud Technology.
- £130k invested in ICT Security provision to meet ever increasing and evolving threats.
- £100k on our Storage Area Network.
- £350k on our Virtual Unix replacement, which hosts several core financial systems.
- £100k on our Disaster Recovery Technologies and capabilities.
- £400k on specific Digital Transformation Projects.

People & Skills

We will invest £112K over the next 3 years in retaining and upskilling ICT staff, providing them with the ability to take this ambitious adoption of future technology forward.

Challenges

The traditional model of maintaining our infrastructure via cyclic capital spends will become less prevalent over the coming years. The transition to more Cloud based "As a Service" ICT models will require a shift to increased revenue spend. ICT Services will work closely with Senior Managers and Finance colleagues on a case-by-case basis to ensure sound business cases are developed to address this transition, and that best value is achieved for the organisation.

Efficiencies

The successful implementation of key projects within this strategy over the next three years will deliver significant cashable savings for the Authority. The projects will also ensure improved resilience and provide the authority with a sustainable robust infrastructure for the next decade and beyond.

This cloud first strategy aligns to, facilitates and critically underpins the **£2.5 Million** efficiencies identified via Agile working. This cloud first strategy has the potential to facilitate significant Capital cost avoidance in future years via the decommissioning of physical assets and infrastructure. The following revenue savings will be delivered:

- £100K Revenue efficiencies from the upgrade and transition of PSBA network circuits to the latest technologies.
- £100K Revenue efficiencies from the virtualisation of our telephony capabilities.
- £99k Revenue efficiencies from the migration of workloads to cloud based Office 365 technologies.
- £41K Revenue efficiencies from power and cooling as a result of the future decommissioning of our County Hall Data Centre.
- £27K Revenue Efficiencies from the comprehensive redesign of our county backbone network infrastructure.
- £30K Revenue efficiencies from the migration to Welsh Governments cloud based digital learning environment (HWB).

‘A cloud first approach’

When procuring new or existing services, public sector organisations should consider and fully evaluate potential cloud solutions first before considering any other option. This approach is mandatory for central government and strongly recommended to the wider public sector

UK Government Cloud First Policy, 2017.

The rapid development and uptake of cloud based solutions for the provision of key ICT services such as e-mail and data storage provides further scope for efficiency and cost savings. Working together to realise these benefits and building any new joint supporting services on cloud-based technologies is likely to secure greater economies of scale

Welsh Government

Whitepaper, Reforming Local Government, 2017.

What it means

- The rapid deployment of cloud based solutions for the provision of key ICT services such as email, productivity tools, applications and data storage provides significant scope for efficiencies, cost savings and productivity.

- A reduction in costly, cyclic, wasteful physical infrastructure refresh and replacement exercises. This should result in decreased capital infrastructure expenditure, transitioning to more revenue based operational expenditure as we evolve to an “as a service” model for hardware, software and services.

- An environmental impact - as cloud needs fluctuate, server capacity scales up and down to fit. We only use the energy we need and don’t leave oversized carbon footprints.

Why is it Important

- The organisation’s data is an extremely valuable asset. Just as we store our finances in a bank rather than on premises, we should store our data in the most secure, resilient, efficient, cost effective and appropriate place.

- The proliferation of on premises data centers across the public sector is no longer sensible nor sustainable. Carmarthenshire’s cloud journey will allow us to scale down and decommission much of our physical infrastructure in the coming years.

- Cloud allows greater flexibility and rapid deployment of new services in a more efficient, sustainable and scalable manner.

- It will facilitate increased collaboration and provide a means for improved sharing of data and systems.

- It will allow staff to work from the best possible locations from a number of various platforms as required.

- Provides the opportunity to exploit the latest products, features and services as and when released without the need for costly, disruptive upgrades and changes. An “evergreen model”.

How will we achieve ‘A Cloud First Approach’

- We will design our approach to cloud with the expectation of change.

- In every future technology refresh or adoption, we will consider the cloud option our default, unless there are significant and compelling reasons to deviate.

- We will create, evaluate and scrutinise business cases for all significant cloud migrations to ensure best value for the organisation.

Resilient Data and Voice Network

What it means

- Our local and wide area networks, internet feeds, telephony and unified communications systems underpin communication across the organisation and with partners.

- Our already significant and sophisticated network provides the ability to communicate, collaborate and share data, systems and services.

Why is it Important

- Data and voice network connectivity and internet access are critical in delivering 21st century citizen services.

- The demand on our bandwidth and internet connectivity channels from corporate services, schools and partners has grown rapidly. We fully expect this demand to increase in the coming years.

- Our network is the foundation of everything we do in terms of technology. Without it departmental, schools and partner systems and services simply would not function.

- We already have both central and departmental systems and services in the Cloud. Our network is the vehicle that allows us to access those, now and in the future.

How will we achieve 'Resilient Data and Voice Networks'

- Dynamically develop and advance our already complex and sophisticated network technology to ensure our network capabilities continue to be fit for purpose.

- Virtualize and consolidate our voice systems to provide enhanced functionality, increased resilience and significant cost efficiencies.

- Enhance our connectivity to the all Wales Public Sector network (PSBA), exploit its full potential as a foundation for collaboration, and utilize shared Cloud services across Wales via that medium.

- Provide truly resilient internet connectivity for corporate, schools and partners.

- Work closely with Welsh Government and BT to Increase bandwidth at all schools to minimum of 100mb.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2018	2019	2020
Core Network Switch/Router replacement.	• New hardware will provide opportunities to further enhance and expand our network capabilities.	→		
Data Centre core switch/router replacement.	• New hardware will provide opportunities to further enhance our Data Centres.	→		
PSBA Transformational re-design, includes approximately 500 connected sites within Carmarthenshire.	• Allow for increased resilience and value for Welsh Public Sector. • Significant revenue efficiencies as part of PSBA transformation.	→	→	→
Telephony (SIP & Mitel)Virtualization.	• Significant revenue savings and the ability to build resilience into telephony services. • Transition from multiple physical systems to two virtual.		→	
Increased deployment of Corporate Wi-Fi connectivity at 10 of our largest buildings.	• 100% Wi-Fi coverage across core buildings. • Increased functionality providing a far more seamless Wi-Fi experience.		→	
Additional, resilient PSBA Internet feeds.	• A second resilient internet feed providing access to the internet and Cloud services for Schools, Corporate and Partners.		→	

Modern Digital Workplace

What it means

- Empowering our workforce to be as efficient and effective as possible in the right place, at the right time based on the needs of citizen service delivery.

- Facilitating a truly Modern Digital Workplace through the efficient and appropriate deployment of laptops, tablets, smartphones, productivity tools and technologies.

Why is it Important

- The workplace has and continues to evolve rapidly in terms of the tools and technologies being utilized on a daily basis.

- To ensure continuous improvement in workplace productivity we must evolve and keep pace.

- The technology used most commonly in our offices, classrooms, meetings etc. can and should facilitate the aims and objectives of teams, divisions, departments and ultimately the organisation.

How will we achieve 'A modern Digital Workplace`

- Transform our workforce's ability to be productive and to collaborate as individuals, teams and departments through the adoption of cloud based secure productive environments.

- By ensuring our end-user devices are upgraded and updated in terms of hardware and software, providing users with the latest features and functionality.

- Deploying technologies that facilitate a truly agile approach to work, allowing users to connect, communicate and access resources from the most appropriate location in relation to their customers and services.

- By allowing users to securely utilize their own companion devices (tablets & smartphones) for work through the provision of a voluntary "Bring Your Own Device" scheme.

- Enhance and transform traditional workplace practices through the deployment of innovative concepts and technologies such as the 'Internet of Things' and 'Robotic Process Automation'.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2018	2019	2020
Microsoft Office 365 (Productivity & Collaboration Platform).	• Improved access to productivity & collaboration tools. • Decommissioning of significant on premises infrastructure.			
Windows 10 migration.	• Improved user and management functionality. • A compliant and secure end-point environment.			
Remote users access provision upgrade (Direct Access).	• A seamless remote experience for users. • Improved and reliable access to resources from anywhere.			
Roll out of agile working devices.	• Transformation of our device estate to 80% laptops, 20% desktops. • An agile workforce able to work from the most appropriate location at the most appropriate time.			
Provision of optional “Bring Your Own Device” for personal smartphones & Tablets.	• The ability to use your own smartphone or tablet for work. • A secure, productive solution for personal devices.			
Unified Communication.	• Integration of communication services i.e. Voice, Instant Message, Video etc. to a single platform.			

Secure & Resilient Data Centers

What it means

- Ensuring our data, systems and services are hosted in the most efficient and appropriate location.

- Ensuring our data, systems and services are built and managed on the most efficient and appropriate platforms.

Why is it Important

- Our Data Centers are the core of our business, housing our infrastructure, data, and applications. Without them, ICT simply would not function.

- The contents of our data centers are of extremely high organisational value in terms of physical assets, data, annual spend, organisational performance and service delivery.

How will we achieve 'Secure & Resilient Data Centers'

- We will act responsibly, plan ahead and be realistic in terms of timescales relating to Carmarthenshire's journey to the cloud.

- We will seek to decommission our on premises environment, migrating to an "as a service" model for infrastructure, platform and software wherever possible.

- We will seek to rationalise our existing physical footprint from 2 Data Centers and 1 Disaster Recovery site down to 1 Data Centre with Cloud based DR, Backup and Recovery. Our longer-term goal will be to house our primary data center in the cloud as well.

- We will consolidate servers, data and applications, improving overall performance through the adoption of the latest high-speed storage, making best use of technology and preparing us for cloud migration.

- We will seek efficiencies through the adoption of Cloud based storage.

- We will decommission all Citrix based services, replacing them with existing and new technologies that are more efficient and effective for both users and ICT Services.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2018	2019	2020
Expansion and evolution of Cyber Security capabilities.	• A more resilient and secure digital environment. • Improved response capabilities to a Cyber breach.			
Replacement and upgrade of our Storage Area Network (SAN).	• Improved performance of systems and data. • A sustainable data storage environment.			
Replacement and upgrade of our UNIX environment.	• Sustainability of several business critical systems			
Replacement and upgrade of our Disaster Recovery capabilities.	• A more resilient organisation. • Improved capability to respond to a disaster situation.			
Windows Server 2012/16 migration and adoption.	• A secure and compliant server environment. • Increased management and performance capabilities.			
Adoption of Cloud hosted web content filtering.	• A more resilient, less resource intensive filtering solution. • An increase in schools and corporate web bandwidth availability.			

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

30TH APRIL 2018

DIGITAL SCHOOLS STRATEGY 2018-2021

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the content of the Digital Schools Strategy 2018-2021

Reasons:

A Digital Schools Strategy is required that clearly outlines where we intend to the take the ICT provision within Schools over the coming years to ensure that schools have the appropriate technology to deliver Welsh Governments Digital Competence Framework.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Council Decision **No**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- **Cllr Mair Stephens**

Directorate : Chief Executives		
Name of Head of Service:	**Designation:** Head of ICT	**Tel No :** 01267 246270 **Email Address:**
Noelwyn Daniel		NDaniel@sirgar.gov.uk
Author : Gareth Jones	**Designation :** Digital Business Transformation Manager	**Tel No : 01267 246350** **Email Address:** **garethjones@sirgar.gov.uk**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

DIGITAL SCHOOLS STRATEGY 2018-2021

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

Carmarthenshire's ICT Services Division provides extensive support and services to all schools across the Authority. This will be the 1st ever Digital Schools Strategy for Carmarthenshire that sets out our vision, underpinned by overarching principles and key priorities areas for the provision of ICT Services to Schools.

The schools' use of technology promotes innovative learning by digitally confident students, inspired by skilled and creative teaching. This three year Digital Schools Strategy outlines where we intend to take the ICT provision within schools over the coming years, to ensure that schools have the appropriate technology to deliver the Digital Competence Framework.

<u>The Strategy provides clarity on :</u>

Why we need a Digital Schools Strategy

Our digital vision for Carmarthenshire Schools

Our Overarching principles for delivering the Strategy

Carmarthenshire Schools Digital Estate

Key Priority Areas
HWB First
Security of data & Online Services
Efficient & Effective Networks
Digital Schools & Classrooms

Key Projects to be delivered

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Signed: Noelwyn Daniel Head of ICT

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	Yes	Yes	Yes	NO	No

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities
The Digital Schools Strategy is aligned to delivering key outcomes of the Corporate Strategy and the Authorities Future Generations Well Being Plan. It will enable schools to deliver against the Digital Competence Framework. Embedded within the action plans for delivering the key projects are the five sustainable development principles.

Finance
Funding has been identified to assist in delivering the Key Projects within the Digital Schools Strategy. These are highlighted in the Digital Technology Strategy.

ICT
There will be a significant impact on ICT resource to deliver the key priorities identified within the Digital Schools Strategy. The ICT Service has re-aligned to ensure it can deliver these projects.

Risk Management Issues
All risks associated with the delivery of the projects within the Digital Schools Strategy will be managed by the Project Managers.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed: Noelwyn Daniel Head of ICT

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A
2. Local Member(s) – N/A
3. Community / Town Council – N/A
4. Relevant Partners – N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW :-

Three meetings have been held to consult with primary school head teachers.

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Corporate Strategy		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/corporate-strategy/
Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire:the next 5 years		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/moving-forward-in-carmarthenshire-the-next-5-years/

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Carmarthenshire County Council
ICT Services

Digital Schools Strategy 2018 – 2021

‘A HWB First, Cloud First Approach”

Cyngor Sir Gâr Carmarthenshire County Council

EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani
www.sirgar.llyw.cymru

YOUR COUNCIL doitonline
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Leader

Digital technology is already firmly established in modern life but its benefits are not always fully felt within our education establishments.

This strategy aims to improve the current provision of technology within schools, creating the conditions to allow everyone involved with delivering education in Carmarthenshire, along with pupils and parents to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technology in order to raise attainment, ambition and opportunities for all.

This strategy outlines the technology we will deliver and support within schools, underpinning the skills and confidence of teachers whilst improving access to digital technology for all learners. We want to ensure that digital technology is a central consideration in all areas of curriculum delivery and that ICT is embedded deeply so as to enhance the overall quality of education throughout the county.

Cllr. Emlyn Dole,
Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council

Chief Executive

Welcome to Carmarthenshire County Council's Digital Schools Strategy 2018-2021. This strategy sets out how we underpin our ambitious approach to transform the way we deliver our services to Schools and ensuring that our teachers can achieve the ambitions of the National Digital Competence Framework.

We continue to face some tough challenges ahead against a backdrop of on-going austerity and it is essential we maximise the use of the very latest digital innovations.

The Digital Schools Strategy will be reviewed annually and we will report our progress in delivering on our key projects in our Annual Report.

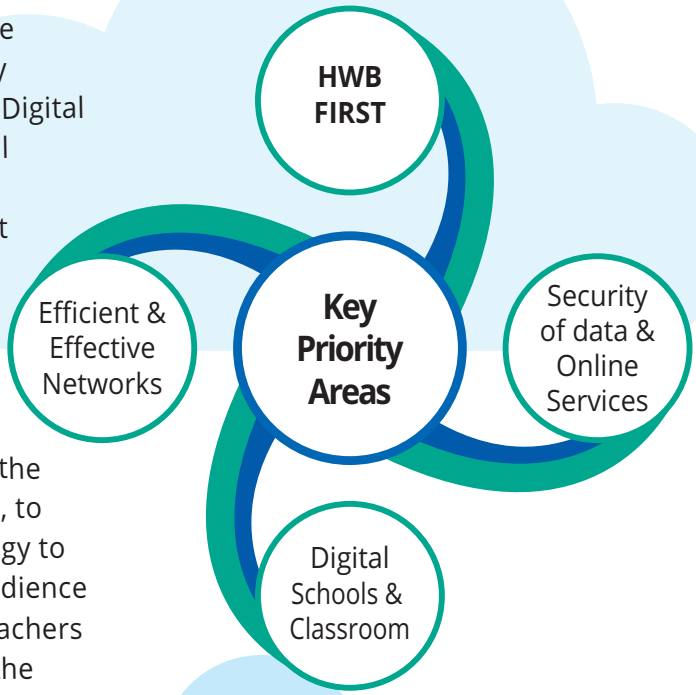
Mark James,
Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council

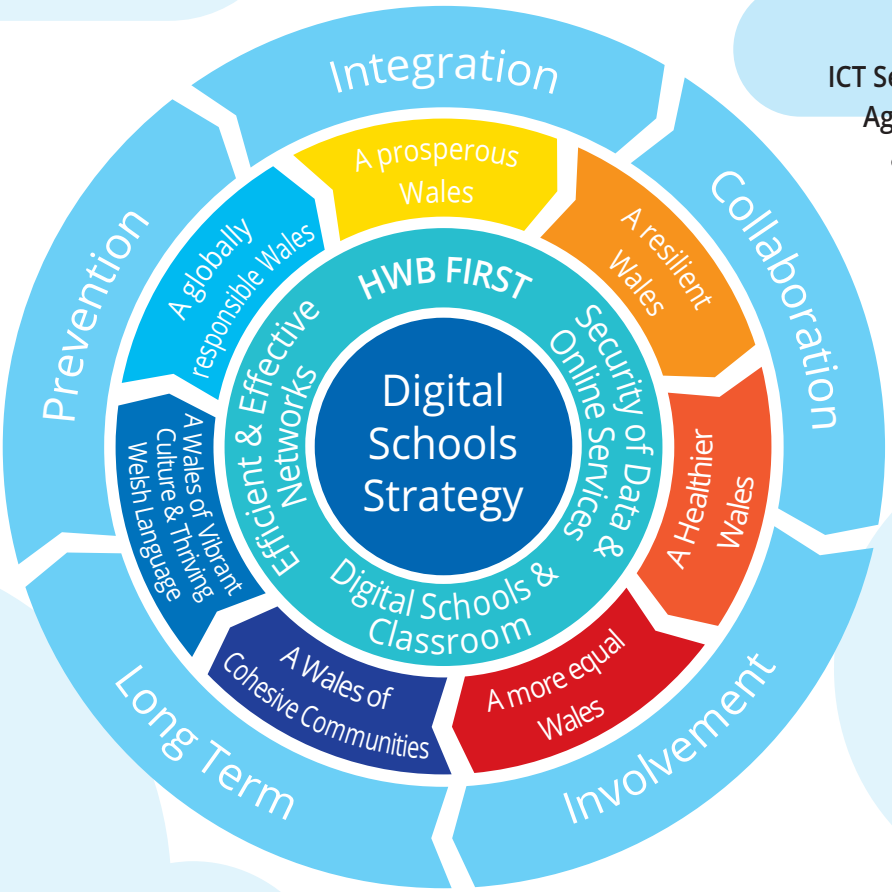
Why do we need a Digital Schools Strategy?

Carmarthenshire's ICT Services Division provides extensive support and services to all schools across the Authority. This will be the 1st ever Digital Schools Strategy for Carmarthenshire that sets out our vision, underpinned by overarching principles and key priorities areas for the provision of ICT Services to Schools.

The schools' use of technology promotes innovative learning by digitally confident students, inspired by skilled and creative teaching. Welsh Government's Digital Competence Framework is distinct from ICT. Digital competence is one of three cross-curricular responsibilities, alongside literacy and numeracy; it focuses on developing digital skills which can be applied to a wide range of subjects and scenarios that are transferrable to the world of work.

This fully costed and resourced three year Digital Schools Strategy outlines where we intend to take the ICT provision within schools over the coming years, to ensure that schools have the appropriate technology to deliver the Digital Competence Framework. The audience for this Digital Schools Strategy are our schools, teachers and staff, elected members and the leadership of the Authority.





ICT Services through the Service Level Agreements it has in place with schools articulate how we will continue to support schools on a day to day basis with its ICT support and services.

We will adopt the Sustainable Development Principles of the Well Being Future Generations Act in our design and implementation of all transformational activity and new digital technologies to assist us in delivering the Future Generations Well Being Objectives.

Our Vision

‘A Digitally enabled Carmarthenshire’

To help achieve this bold vision within Schools we must:

- Align all digital technology to the needs of teachers, learners, the Curriculum and the Digital Competence Framework.
- Fully migrate all schools to the Welsh Government HWB digital learning platform.
- Make digital connectivity and bandwidth the foundation of our schools technology stack, providing reliable and fast access to the Internet and HWB environment.
- Harness cloud environments to deliver technology anywhere, anytime for schools, teachers, staff and pupils.
- Decommission our central and schools based on premises infrastructure and replace with virtual cloud technology where at all possible.
- Assist schools wherever possible to achieve efficiency savings without affecting learning outcomes.
- Ensure schools have access to cost-effective ICT equipment, with a reasonable life span, that is supported by the central service and can be purchased within financial regulations.
- Provide timely remote and onsite support to ensure that essential equipment is available at key times.
- Provide appropriate web filtering controls to ensure that Internet users are safe online.
- Help and encourage schools to take ownership and responsibility of all matters relating to ICT within their school.

ICT is an ever-changing environment. It is critical that the services and technology provided to schools underpins the key objectives of teaching and learning in order to enable students to reach their full potential and to fulfil the requirements of the Digital Competence Framework.

Overarching Principles

To achieve the ambitions laid out in this Digital Schools Strategy we will adhere to the following overarching guiding principles:

There are significant and compelling drivers to adopt a **HWB FIRST, CLOUD FIRST APPROACH** towards teaching resources, technologies and infrastructure. We will pursue and migrate to these solutions where at all possible.

Fully commit and align schools ICT provision to the **NATIONAL ICT AGENDA** as directed by Welsh Government where at all possible, to include but not limited to HWB, LiDW2, 21st Century Schools and the requirements of the Digital Competence Framework.

We currently host and support a variety of complex and ageing legacy technologies both centrally and within schools. Supporting and maintaining these is both resource intensive and educationally restrictive. We will seek to **RATIONALISE & CONSOLIDATE TO HWB** at every opportunity.

We will take advantage of potential benefits and efficiencies through the active investigation, pursuit and adoption of **NEW & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.** Where there is potential to add significant value within schools, we will pursue that technology.

We will strive to **IMPLEMENT ALL CHANGES** in a methodical and controlled manner. We will consult and communicate frequently with all relevant stakeholders.

Where there are opportunities to underpin and add value through **COLLABORATION**, we will do so, locally, regionally, nationally, across the education sector, the public sector, and private sector.

Carmarthenshire's Digital Estate

Communications (Voice & Data)

Core Schools Network Circuits: **116**

Wireless Access Points: **2100**

Core Schools routers supported: **121**

Schools Data switches: **1000**

Schools Telephone systems: **45**

Data Centers

Data Centres - **2 plus DR site**

Schools Servers: **45 virtualized centrally, 54 in Secondary**

Storage Servers: **43 in primary**

MAC Servers: **46**

End Users

Schools staff: **3,600**

Pupils: **27,000**

Devices

Primary Laptops & PCs: **8500**

Secondary laptops & PCs: **5254**

Tablets: **4000**

Chromebooks: **247**

HWB First

What it means

- Fully migrating to and exploiting Welsh Government's cloud-based services within the HWB digital learning platform. This will form one of the key foundations to future learning developments in the classroom and at home.

- A reduction in costly, cyclic, wasteful physical infrastructure refresh and replacement exercises. This should result in decreased capital infrastructure expenditure, with schools taking full advantage of Welsh Governments significant investment in HWB.

- For non-HWB workloads that migrate to the cloud this means transitioning to more revenue based operational expenditure as we evolve to an "as a service" model for various hardware, software and services.

Why is it Important?

- Schools data is an extremely valuable asset. Just as we store our finances in a bank rather than on premises, schools should store their data in the most secure, resilient, efficient, cost effective and appropriate place.

- The proliferation of on premises data storage and services both centrally and across Carmarthenshire's schools is neither sensible nor sustainable. Our schools HWB first, Cloud first journey will allow us to scale down and decommission much of this physical infrastructure in the coming years.

- The HWB platforms digital tools and resources support a national approach to planning and delivery; enable the sharing of skills, methods and resources between education practitioners in Wales; support teaching and learning in Welsh and English; and provide equal access to free, classroom focused tools and resources for all teachers and learners in Wales.

How will we achieve 'A HWB First, Cloud First Approach'?

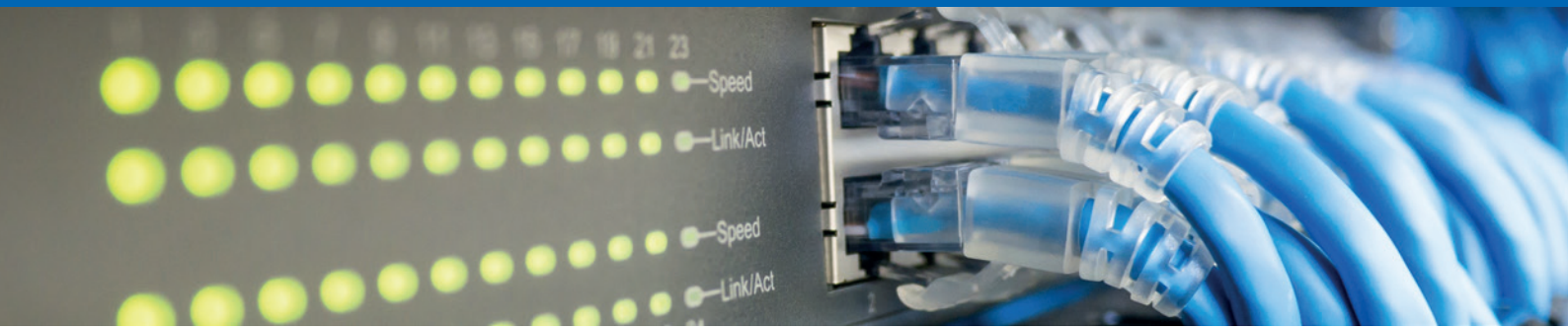
- Any schools ICT workload that can be migrated to the HWB platform, will be. Examples include all schools domains, email, data storage, productivity tools and websites.

- In every future technology refresh or adoption that cannot be migrated to the HWB environment, we will consider alternative cloud options our default, unless there are significant and compelling reasons to retain on premises.

- Working closely with Welsh Government and the central HWB team to ensure timely, well-managed changes and migrations.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2018	2019	2020
On premise Zimbra to HWB Office 365 email migration.	• A modern, safe and sustainable email solution. • A more secure, resilient and highly available email solution.			
Migration of all teacher and student data from on premises solutions into HWB's secure platform.	• A modern, safe and sustainable solution for data storage. • A more secure, resilient and highly available data storage solution. • Increase functionality relating to sharing and collaboration of data.			
Migration of all schools websites from on premises Umbraco solution into the HWB digital platform.	• A consistent, safe and sustainable solution for schools websites. • The ability for schools to take full ownership of and self-manage their websites and content.			

Efficient & Effective Networks



What it means

- A truly resilient, 21st century data and voice network infrastructure that facilitates and underpins teaching and learning across the county.

- Sufficient bandwidth and internet access for all schools, to meet both current and future digital education needs.

- Fast and effective access to the internet, HWB and all other Cloud based teaching and learning resources and data.

Why is it Important?

- To ensure schools have quick and easy access to the digital resources required to meet the demands of the Digital Competence Framework.

- To facilitate communication, collaboration, sharing of data, systems and services locally, regionally and nationally.

- The demand on our bandwidth and internet connectivity channels from schools, corporate services and partners has grown rapidly. We fully expect this demand to increase in the coming years.

How will we achieve 'Efficient and Effective Networks'?

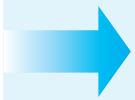
- By securing and investing significant central capital funding and human resource to achieving all of the above.

- Working closely with schools, our Education Department, Welsh Government and BT to Increase bandwidth at all schools via the LiDW2 project.

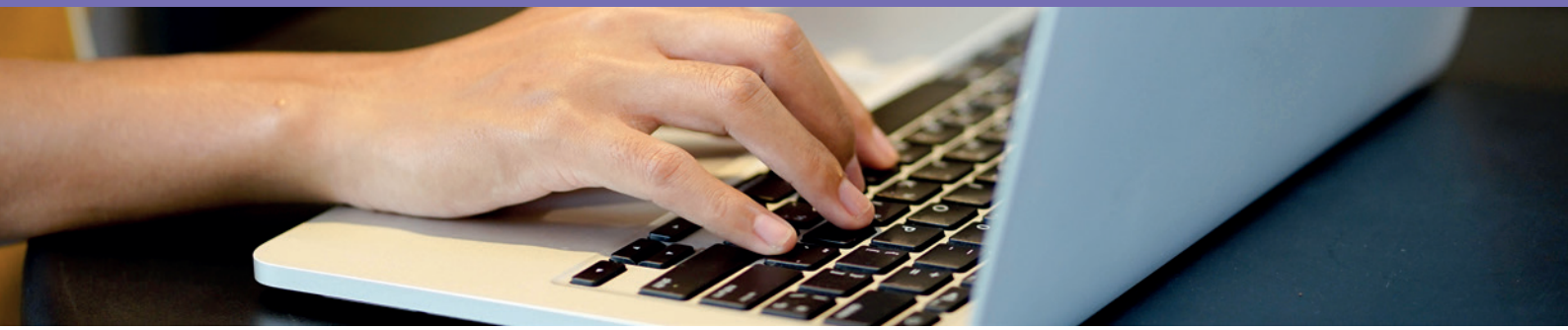
- Redesigning our network and Internet provision to facilitate a migration to cloud based web filtering, eradicating central bottlenecks and speeding up internet access.

- By maintaining, refreshing and enhancing the County wide all schools wireless network.

- Continuing to lobby Welsh Government and BT for increased broadband coverage across the County to support students and teachers accessing online resources at home.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2018	2019	2020
LiDW2 joint investment project.	• Upgrade of network circuits and infrastructure at 39 sub speed schools. • 100mbs network feeds at every primary and secondary.			
Adoption of Cloud hosted web content filtering.	• A more resilient, less resource intensive filtering solution. • The ability for schools to break out directly to the web, exploiting maximum bandwidth capabilities.			
Schools Wireless Network maintenance and development.	• An enhanced, refreshed wireless network at all schools. • A sustainable and fit for purpose wireless network for the next 5 years.			

Security of Data & Online Services



What it means

- Keeping Carmarthenshire's pupils, teachers and staff safe online.
- Ensuring schools' data, systems and services are secure.
- Managing and protecting the integrity of devices and appliances.

Why is it Important?

- To ensure the Local Education Authority and schools are meeting their obligations in terms of safeguarding Carmarthenshire's pupils.
- Data, systems and digital services are crucial in delivering 21st century education. With the increased and ever evolving cyber threat to individuals and organisations it is essential that we develop and enhance our protection accordingly.

How will we achieve 'Security of Data & Online Services'?

- We will act responsibly, plan ahead and be realistic regarding all aspects of schools' ICT security.
- We will seek to decommission on premises storage, migrating to a secure "as a service" model for infrastructure, platform and software wherever possible (HWB).
- We will ensure our countywide schools' network is protected via the relevant firewalling, access controls, permissions and other suitable cyber protection.
- We will migrate to a more resilient cloud based web content filtering solution to protect all schools' web traffic and users.
- We will upgrade our device protection and encryption where necessary to ensure the security and integrity of schools' hardware and devices.
- We will provide secure authentication and access to core central services for the appropriate teachers and staff as and when necessary.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2018	2019	2020
Expansion and evolution of schools' infrastructure cyber security capabilities.	• A more resilient and secure digital environment. • Improved response capabilities to a cyber breach.			
Review, upgrade and evolution of schools' antivirus and device encryption solutions.	• A well protected, safe end-user device and server estate for schools.			

Digital Schools & Classrooms

What it means

- Empowering teachers and learners to be as efficient and effective as possible in the right place, at the right time based on the needs of education.

- Facilitating truly Digital Schools through the efficient and appropriate deployment of laptops, tablets, smartphones, productivity tools and technologies.

Why is it Important?

- Digital education has and continues to evolve rapidly in terms of the tools and technologies available on a daily basis.

- To ensure continuous improvement in teacher and learner outcomes, schools must evolve and keep pace with this technology.

- The technology used most commonly in classrooms, offices, meetings etc. can and should facilitate the aims and objectives of schools, the education department and Welsh government.

How will we achieve 'A modern Digital Workplace'?

- Encourage and promote the adoption of first class productivity and collaboration tools available within the HWB digital learning platform.

- Assisting schools in ensuring end-user devices are upgraded and updated in terms of hardware and software, providing users with the latest features and functionality.

- Provide schools with the relevant frameworks and mechanisms to procure and extract maximum value for money for all their device hardware needs in accordance with our SLA's.

- Scope, asses and potentially procure and manage an all schools Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for software, in order to achieve standardisation and financial savings through economies of scale.

- Deploying technologies that facilitate a truly agile approach to learning, allowing teachers and learners to connect, communicate and access resources from the most appropriate location in relation to their needs.

- Provide consultancy and advise secondary schools who wish to offer a "Bring Your Own Device" scheme for teachers and learners.

Key Projects	Key Outcomes	2018	2019	2020
Classroom Hardware Provision.	• A cost effective consistent approach to schools' device hardware. • Schools hardware devices that can be supported via the SLA with ICT Services.			
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (Software)	• An all-encompassing licencing agreement for Carmarthenshire schools. • A more cost effective and efficient way of licensing all schools Microsoft solutions.			

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EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

USAGE POLICY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The Introduction of the proposed new policy

Reasons:

This is a new policy to govern how the Council provides its computers with internet access to members of the public.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Council Decision	**No**

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder/s:

- Cllr. Mair Stephens

Directorate: Chief Executive's	**Designations:**	**Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:**
Name of Head of Service: Noelwyn Daniel	**Head of ICT Services**	**01267 226270** **NDaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**
Report Author: John M Williams	**ICT Operational Delivery Manager**	**01267 226311** **jmwilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

USAGE POLICY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS

It is necessary to have a policy in place to govern the use of Carmarthenshire County Council computers being used by members of the public Public access computers are setup at various locations across the County, such as Libraries and Community Educations Centre, providing internet access and printing facilities. There are no standard procedures in place, and the recommendation of this report is that the attached Policy and Terms & Conditions (T&C) be approved and used at all sites. The policy specifies that acceptance of the T&C and proof of ID must be provided before access is granted to use a public access computer. This is to ensure that the identity of the user can be tracked should a subject access request be received from the Police or there is a breach of the T&C. An electronic registration system is already in place at the core library sites. Following an audit undertaken by the Council's Digital Security Officer, the recommendation would be that this system be rolled out to all other public access sites.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES – Policy & T&C attached

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel Interim ICT Manager

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
No	YES	YES	YES	YES	No	NO

Legal
Advice from legal has been provided on the terms & conditions of use.

Finance
There will be a licence cost of £50 per Computer (annual) to use the electronic registration system (MyPC) on a computer. This cost will have to be covered by the service department wishing to install a Public Access Computer.
There are approximately 150 public access computers without MyPC. Approximate costs would be £7,500 per annum and would have to be funded by the department hosting the public access.

ICT ICT will ensure that no access to a computer owned by Carmarthenshire County Council can be gained unless the user has logged on via MyPC. ICT will take responsibility for installing the appropriate software on every designated public access computer. ICT will ensure that every public access computer is connected to the authorities network which will ensure we can provide user identification in the event of an investigation.
Risk Management Issues Implementation of this Policy will significantly reduce the risk to the authority that our Council owned computers are not being used inappropriately.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below **Signed: Noelwyn Daniel Head of ICT**
1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A **2. Local Member(s) – N/A** **3. Community / Town Council – N/A** **4. Relevant Partners – N/A** **5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A**
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: **THERE ARE NONE-**

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Carmarthenshire County Council

Usage Policy for Public Access Computers

Contents

1. Purpose

1.1 This Policy defines accepted practices, responsibilities and procedures for the use of computers provided for members of the public to use

1.2 Public access computers are located across the County in Council premises and provide members of the public with access to a Computer providing internet access

1.3 Internet access is provided through the Council's internet access and basic website filtering is in place

1.4 This is a free service provided by Carmarthenshire County Council to members of the public

2. Scope

2.1 This policy applies to every user of a public access service provided by Carmarthenshire County Council

3. Requirements & Responsibilities

3.1 Registration details of the user must be obtained before access is granted to this service. Personal details must be kept in compliance with relevant laws and regulations such as the **Data Protection Act (1998)** and the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

3.2 The Council's **Handling Personal Information Policy** should be followed by all members of Council staff who collect personal information in relation to this policy

3.3 All users of this service must sign (digitally or by hand) the **Public Access Terms & Conditions** and provided **valid proof of identification** before using this service

3.4 The Council reserve the right to deny or remove access to this service for a user at any time

3.5 The Council reserve the right to instigate a cross authority ban on users of this service who they believe have breached the terms & conditions

4. Compliance Measurement

4.1 Compliance with this policy is mandatory for any user of this service. Breaches of this policy by staff may lead to disciplinary action being taken. Breaches of the terms & conditions related to this policy by a user may result in a report being made to the Police.

5. Sponsor

5.1 This Policy is owned by the Corporate Information Governance Group.

6. Ensuring equality of treatment

6.1 This policy must be applied consistently to all, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, language, disability, religion, belief or non-belief age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, parental, marital or civil partnership status.

Policy written by: John M Williams CISMP

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Public Access - Usage Terms & Conditions

This is a free service provided by Carmarthenshire County Council. Your use of this service constitutes your agreement to these terms and conditions.

1. Use of this service

1.1 Carmarthenshire County Council ("we or us") are providing this service

1.2 We are not under any obligation to you to provide this service nor are we liable to you (or any third party) in any way if our service is not available for use

1.3 We may terminate provision of internet service at any time

1.4 Use of our service is entirely at your own risk and we will not accept any liability for any loss of any kind

1.5 We cannot be held responsible for the privacy or security of your activities whilst accessing the internet through this service

1.6 We cannot provide technical assistance to you in relation to using our service

1.7 We monitor and log all internet activity whilst using this service, including web sites visited. As providers of an Internet service, we are responsible for responding to official requests for information from the police to comply with legislation

1.8 To minimise access to inappropriate material we block certain web sites using filtering software. This software, however, may not always prevent access to such material and we are not responsible if any unsuitable sites have not been blocked

1.9 Your encrypted web sessions will be decrypted to scan for viruses, spyware, and other malware. Financial & medical related website will be excluded. No data will be stored or made available for other purposes

1.10 We reserve the right to instigate a cross authority ban on any users that we believe has breached these terms and conditions

2. Your responsibilities as a user of this service:

2.1.1 You are fully responsible for all activities and communications that take place during your session

2.1.2 You shall use our service in accordance with our usage Terms & Conditions

2.1.3 You must not attempt to gain unauthorised access to any computer, computer network, system or information or engage in any illegal or unlawful activities

2.1.4 You must not deliberately search for pornographic, obscene, violent or racist materials or use search terms considered to be obscene, racist or offensive. The service is filtered but this is not always effective in blocking unsuitable material. You must take responsibility for your own use of the service and your own activities

2.1.5 If inappropriate material accidently appears on your screen then it is your responsibility to highlight this to the member of staff who will make a note of the time and the website holding the inappropriate material

2.1.6 You must not send e-mails or messages, post blogs, publish or download content or carry out any other activity through this service in any way which is offensive, racist, discriminatory, obscene, promotes violence or public disorder, is intended to deceive, infringes copyright or other intellectual property rights, breaches confidential information, privacy or any other rights or is done with any criminal or terrorist intent

2.1.7 You must not use this service to access any form of activity that could be considered inappropriate under Counter Terrorism

2.1.8 You must not use our service to send spam emails or other unsolicited advertising or promotional materials

2.1.9 Many of the pages on the Internet are subject to copyright. Do not infringe any of the copyright regulations that apply to web pages

2.1.10 You will be responsible for any losses, damages, expenses, liabilities or claims arising out of you breaking any of the terms and conditions of use of our service.

Name:

Address:

Signature:

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EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY
CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- To consider and approve the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance set out within the report for formal public consultation for 6 weeks.
- To approve the publication of the Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance and the Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Studies as supporting documentation to the SPG and the forthcoming Revised LDP.
- To delegate to the Head of Planning authority to correct typographical, cartographical or grammatical errors, and to make amendments in order to enhance accuracy and clarity of meaning.

Reasons:

- To reflect the requirements and commitments set out within the Adopted Local Development Plan.
- To support implementation of, and provide guidance and elaborate on the policies and provisions of the Adopted Local Development Plan.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted YES
Community Scrutiny TBC

Exec Board Decision Required	YES
Council Decision Required	YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Mair Stephens

Directorate: Environment		
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	Tel Nos.
Llinos Quelch	Head of Planning	01267 228918 LQuelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Ian Llewelyn	Forward Planning Manager	01267 228816 IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance – Wind and Solar Energy Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

1. Brief Summary of Purpose of Report.

This Report presents the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Wind and Solar Energy prepared to support and elaborate on the policies and provisions of the adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP). The aim of the report is to seek authorisation to undertake formal public consultation on the SPG and then formally adopt it, reflecting the commitment set out within the LDP, particularly in Appendix 3.

It should be noted that it is not the purpose of the SPG to devolve policy matters from the LDP, SPGs set out more detailed guidance on how the policies of the LDP will be applied.

2. Background

The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by Full Council on the 10th December 2014 along with 8 thematic and site specific SPG prepared concurrent to the LDP. Since this date, the LDP has been the development plan for the County (excluding that area contained within the Brecon Beacons National Park). The LDP is one of the statutory high level strategies which must be prepared and approved for the County, setting out in appropriate land-use terms, the priorities expressed in the Integrated Community Strategy.

In recognising the role of SPG in supporting the Plan, and as a means of providing more detailed policy guidance, Appendix 3 of the LDP sets out a series of proposed SPG for preparation during the Plan period through to 2021. These SPG, range from thematic policy guidance through to site-specific Development Briefs. Each of these is accompanied by an indicative date for their publication and represents commitments within the Plan. The preparation of the SPG, are key indicators in the LDP Monitoring Framework and will be subject to reporting to the Welsh Government through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

3. Draft Wind and Solar Energy SPG

The appended Draft SPG provides further, more detailed guidance for facilitating the development of renewable energy schemes, focusing in particular on wind and solar energy. The SPG is generally split over three sections: general guidance; onshore wind; and solar. The SPG is not applicable to wind farm schemes located within the two Strategic Search Areas within the County (SSA G: Brechfa Forest and SSA E: Pontardawe) as guidance for renewable energy schemes within the Strategic Search Areas is covered within Technical Advice Note 8.

General guidance is provided for onshore wind and solar energy applications on issues such as pre-applications, Environmental Impact Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment, grid connection, community energy, community benefits, agricultural land, ecological considerations, mitigation and enhancement.

The Onshore Wind section includes issues such as landscape, cumulative impact, design considerations, noise, ecological considerations, historic environment and highways. The Solar section includes issues such as landscape, design considerations, noise, cumulative impact, ecology, historic environment and highways.

Two studies are referred to in the guidance as providing more detailed information on the consideration of landscape aspects of the SPG, which are: the Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire: Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance; and the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Studies for Wind Turbine Developments and Solar PV Developments. These Studies are not intended for public consultation, they have been commissioned by the Council to provide support to these policy areas.

4. Supporting Studies

The following two studies have been produced and support the content of the SPG:

- Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire: Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance
- Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Studies

The content of the above studies are available for inspection from Planning Services and will be formally published to coincide with the consultation on the SPG.

Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire: Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance - This guidance provides good practice guidance for applicants, developers, consultees and Council officers in the Pembrokeshire County Council planning area. The guidance was commissioned by this Council in conjunction with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Pembrokeshire County Council and was published in 2013.

Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Studies - The Studies have been commissioned and completed by Anthony Jellard Associates. The Studies address the landscape capacity and sensitivity of Carmarthenshire to: -

- Wind turbine development
- Solar PV development

The overall purpose of the studies is to provide guidance to inform the appropriate design and siting of wind turbine development through setting out a baseline assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity and capacity in relation to different development classifications.

The studies will form a useful tool for the Local Planning Authority's Planning Policy and Development Management Officers in the assessment of the landscape and visual effects of proposals for windturbine and Solar PV development. The studies are intended to provide a baseline to help achieve a context for consistent and robust decision making, by both officers and elected members, when considering planning applications and as guidance for developers.

The studies use a common methodology deriving data from LANDMAP aspect datasets, to provide baseline assessments of landscape and visual susceptibility and landscape value through 80 distinct landscape units covering the entire authority area. Assessments of the sensitivity of each landscape unit to different development classifications, primarily based upon scale, are derived from the baseline assessments. The studies also provide landscape unit specific comments on landscape capacity and guidance for siting, and overall guidance on design, site context, and siting.

5. Next Steps

The Draft SPG will be published for formal public consultation for a six week period, during this time comments will be invited from a range of organisations, interested parties and members of the public. There is no identified requirement in relation to the length of any consultation in respect of SPG within

National Planning Policy and statutory regulations. However, the use of the six week period proposed within this report would ensure that any consultation is consistent in length with the statutory consultation period for an LDP set out within Local Development Plan Regulations.

The Draft SPG and the representations received will be reported back to a future meeting of Council for consideration prior to its formal adoption.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Llinos Quelch** **Head of Planning**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	**NONE**	**YES**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The provisions of the SPG are compatible with Carmarthenshire County Councils well-being objectives and notably, Objective 12: Looking after the environment now and for the future. It also aligns with the national Well-being Goals set out within the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 in relation to the creation of 'A Prosperous Wales'.

The Draft SPG is an elaboration on the policies and provisions of the Local Development Plan. Through land use planning policies, the LDP seeks to promote the principles of sustainability and sustainable development by facilitating the creation of communities and local economies which are more sustainable providing access to local services and facilities and reducing the need to travel.

The integration of sustainability as part of the preparation of the LDP is reflected in the undertaking of a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment reflecting national and international legislative requirements. This iterative approach ensures sustainability is at the heart of the Plan and that it is reflective of the requirements emanating from the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015 and the emerging Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan.

Finance

Financial costs (including production of the final SPG, translation, publicity etc.) are covered through the financial provisions in place - including reserves.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken place and the outcomes are as detailed below **Signed: Llinos Quelch Head of Planning**

1. Scrutiny Committee

Draft SPG will be reported to Communities Scrutiny as part of approval process for consultation purposes. Date TBC.

2.Local Member(s)

Members will be consulted as part of the SPG's preparatory process.

3.Community / Town Council

Community and Town Councils represent a statutory consultee within the LDP process and will be consulted as part of the SPG's preparatory process.

4.Relevant Partners

Statutory consultees, the public, interested parties and key agencies and bodies will consulted as appropriate.

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Contributions have been sought from relevant internal consultees to ensure the draft SPG reflect the specialist and detailed nature of their subject matter.

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan	**http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2006-2021/**
Annual Monitoring Reports	**http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/planning-policy/annual-monitoring-report-amr/**
Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire: Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance	Available to view at Planning Services with formal publication to coincide with the consultation on the SPG (details to be confirmed).
Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Studies	Available to view at Planning Services with formal publication to coincide with the consultation on the SPG (details to be confirmed).

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Draft Wind and Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been prepared to support the Renewable Energy policies contained within the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP). This SPG provides further, more detailed guidance for facilitating the development of renewable energy schemes, focusing in particular on wind and solar energy. It is aimed at developers, local communities, landowners and community councils and seeks to provide a better understanding of how planning applications for wind and solar energy may be assessed by the Council. This SPG should be read in conjunction with the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Studies for Wind Turbine Development and Solar PV Development and the Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire: Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance.

1.2 This draft SPG will be subject to a consultation exercise conducted in a manner consistent with that set out within the Delivery Agreement for the LDP. Following consideration of the responses received, the SPG will be adopted and used in the consideration of renewable energy proposals. The SPG will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

1.3 Reference is made in this SPG to a number of documents and legislation which may be superseded by new or amended documents following publication, where this is the case regard should be given to the most up-to-date and relevant guidance.

2. Background

2.1 Under European Union targets[1], the UK has a legally-binding target to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The UK Renewable Energy Strategy[2] sets out the UK Government's vision to ensure that this target is met. The Welsh Government is committed to playing its part by delivering an energy programme which contributes to reducing carbon emissions as part of its approach to tackling climate change[3]. Current government policy and guidance is centred on reducing CO2 emissions in an attempt to slow down climate change, and producing electricity from renewable sources is considered to be part of the solution. The planning system has an important role to play in supporting, encouraging and facilitating renewable energy schemes.

2.2 The Council supports the development of renewable energy schemes within the County and seeks to ensure that they are located in the most suitable locations. The County is well located in terms of tapping into renewable sources of energy, and the number of applications for such schemes, in particular for wind and solar, have increased in recent years. The County's upper areas produce a consistent and high wind-speed, making these areas attractive for wind turbines, whilst the County offers many other opportunities for other technologies, particularly solar.

2.3 Brechfa Forest has been designated a Strategic Search Area (SSA) in Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8), for large-scale wind power. In addition to Brechfa, the County also has a small part of the Pontardawe Strategic Search Area within its area. This SPG is not applicable to wind farm schemes located within Strategic Search Areas.

[1] EU Renewable Energy Directive
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228866/7686.pdf
[3] Planning Policy Wales Edition 9 (Section 12.8.1)

2.4 The Council is responsible for determining planning applications for renewable energy schemes of less than 10MW, excluding those smaller householder schemes that are classed as "permitted development" which do not require planning permission. Permitted Development rights are subject to change over time, the latest guidance is outlined on the Welsh Government[4] website.

2.5 Detailed guidance for Renewable Energy schemes is provided by the Welsh Government their documents: "Practice Guidance – Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy[5]" (2011) and "Planning for renewable and Low Carbon Energy: A Toolkit for Planners" (2015)[6]. It is recommended that developers and householders refer to this document for further, detailed guidance on technologies and general policy.

2.6 Whilst the Council is, in principle supportive of renewable energy developments, it is recognised that they can, in some instances have a variety of impacts. Appropriate weight will be given to local opinions and consultation responses during the planning process. This SPG provides information to applicants and interested parties as to the Council's expectations and key considerations for planning renewable energy schemes. This guidance does not set out specific locations suitable for renewable energy technologies. The Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study should be consulted when considering the siting of schemes.

3. Planning Policy Context

3.1 Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

3.1.1 PPW, which is supplemented by Technical Advice Notes sets out the land use policies of the Welsh Government. PPW seeks to ensure that planning policy on all levels work towards delivering UK energy targets. The latest version of PPW is edition 9 which was published in November 2016. It states that the Welsh Government aim "to secure an appropriate mix of energy provision for Wales which maximises benefits to our economy and communities, whilst minimising potential environmental and social impacts" (para 12.8.6).

3.1.2 A definition of renewable energy is provided in para 12.8.7: "*renewable energy is the term used to cover those sources of energy, other than fossil fuels or nuclear fuel, which are continuously and sustainably available in our environment. This includes wind, water, solar, geothermal energy and plant material (biomass). These sources of energy can be utilised to generate power, heat, fuels (for transport) and cooling through a range of renewable energy technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines*."

3.1.3 The responsibilities for Local Planning Authorities are set out in paragraphs 12.8.9 and 12.8.10. There is an emphasis of facilitating the development of all forms of renewable and low carbon energy to move towards a low carbon economy.

12.8.9 Local planning authorities should facilitate the development of all forms of renewable and low carbon energy to move towards a low carbon economy (see 4.4.3) to help to tackle the causes of climate change (see 4.7.3). Specifically, they should make positive provision by:

- *considering the contribution that their area can make towards developing and facilitating renewable and low carbon energy, and ensuring that development plan policies enable this contribution to be delivered;*
- *ensuring that development management decisions are consistent with national and international climate change obligations, including contributions to renewable energy targets and aspirations;*

[4] http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/guidanceandleaflets/householder-permitted-development-rights/?lang=en
[5] http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/guidanceandleaflets/planningimplications/?lang=en
[6] http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/151021renewable-energy-toolkit-en.pdf

– *recognising the environmental, economic and social opportunities that the use of renewable energy resources can make to planning for sustainability (see Chapter 4); and*
– *ensuring that all new publicly financed or supported buildings set exemplary standards for energy conservation and renewable energy production.*

12.8.10 At the same time, local planning authorities should:

– *ensure that international and national statutory obligations to protect designated areas, species and habitats and the historic environment are observed;*
– *ensure that mitigation measures are required for potential detrimental effects on local communities whilst ensuring that the potential impact on economic viability is given full consideration; and*
– *encourage the optimisation of renewable and low carbon energy in new development to facilitate the move towards zero carbon buildings (see 4.11 and 4.12).*

3.1.4 PPW acknowledges that wind energy continues to offer the greatest potential for delivering renewable energy in the short to medium term. There is however, a recognition that the "introduction of new, often very large structures for onshore wind needs careful consideration to avoid and where possible minimise their impact" (para 12.8.12). Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (2005) identifies the most appropriate location where large turbines should be sited. The TAN identifies areas known as Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) which will accommodate large-scale (generating over 25MW) wind energy developments.

3.1.5 PPW contains a number of key points to be considered by Local Planning Authorities in the determination of applications and by applicants when designing schemes:

- LPAs should facilitate grid network infrastructure to support SSAs (para 12.8.14).
- The development of large wind farms or other large scale renewable and low carbon energy schemes will not generally be appropriate in internationally or nationally designated areas and sites (para 12.8.14).
- The contribution the scheme would have in terms of delivering renewable energy to meeting national targets and any environmental, social and economic benefits the scheme would bring (para 12.10.1).
- Impacts should be minimised on local communities to safeguard quality of life for existing and future generations and any adverse impacts should be avoided, mitigated or appropriately compensated (para 12.10.1).
- LPAs should consider the likely impact of on existing or other proposed renewable and low carbon energy developments and sources (para 12.10.4).
- Community benefits should be sought but should not be treated as a material consideration (para 12.10.5).
- Planning conditions or obligations should be used to mitigate impacts and secure the benefits and opportunities arising from renewable energy schemes (para 12.10.6).
- Outside Strategic Search Areas, the implicit objective is to maintain the landscape character, whilst within and immediately adjacent to the SSAs, the implicit objective is to accept landscape change. (para 8.4)

3.2 Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8)

3.2.1 Supplementing the guidance provided by PPW, TAN 8, published in 2005 provides guidance for the land use planning considerations of renewable energy. It is acknowledged in the TAN that wind power offers the greatest potential for achieving these targets, and as such seven Strategic Search Areas (SSAs), which are broad-brush areas suitable for large scale wind power proposals have been identified. SSA Area G: Brechfa Forest and a small part of Area E: Pontardawe fall within the County's boundary. Indicative targets for each

SSA are set out in the TAN, but have since been revised. The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development in his letter dated July 2011 set out the maximum capacities for each SSA. For SSA G: Brechfa Forest, the capacity set was 132MW.

3.2.2 Key points from the TAN to be considered by Local Planning Authorities in the determination of applications and by applicants in designing schemes include:

- Most areas outside SSAs should remain free of large wind power schemes. LPAs should consider the cumulative impact of small schemes in areas outside of the SSAs and establish suitable criteria for separation distances from each other and from the perimeter of existing wind power schemes or the SSAs (para 2.13).
- Extending or re-powering existing wind farms outside SSAs should be encouraged (para 2.14).
- Some community benefits can be justified as mitigation, while others may be offered not directly through the planning process (para 2.16).
- The TAN describes a number of other renewable energy processes and their planning considerations including: Anaerobic Digestion (biomass), Bio-fuels for Vehicles, Combined Heat and Power, Community (or District) Heating, Energy from Waste, Fuel Crops (including Woodfuel), Hydro-Power, Methane, Solar Thermal and Solar Photo-Voltaic (PV).
- Appropriate conditions for decommissioning wind farms or turbines, their restoration and proposed after-use of the site should be used (para 6.4).

3.3 Practice Guidance: Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2011)

3.3.1 This document was published after TAN 8, and provides further guidance to assist Local Planning Authorities in determining applications for renewable energy development. It provides detailed guidance on a range of technologies including: wind; biomass; anaerobic digestion; biofuels; small scale hydro; solar – building integrated and solar PV arrays; ground, water and air source heat pumps; geothermal; fuel cells; combined heat and power and combined cooling heat and power; district heating; and waste heat.

3.4 Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan

3.4.1 Adopted in December 2014, the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out the Authority's policies and proposals for future development and use of land. Whilst the Plan should be read as a whole, there are a number of specific policies that apply to renewable energy proposals. This SPG is designed to provide further guidance and detail to support and implement these policies.

3.4.2 The LDP contains four dominant policies specific to renewable energy proposals, Policy SP11 is a Strategic policy, while Policies RE1, RE2 & RE3 are detailed policies.

SP11 Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

Development proposals which incorporate energy efficiency measures and renewable energy production technologies will be supported in areas where the environmental and cumulative impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. Such developments will not cause demonstrable harm to residential amenity and will be acceptable within the landscape. Each proposal will be assessed on a case by case basis.
Large scale wind farms will only be permitted within Strategic Search Areas.

Policy RE1 Large Scale Wind Power

Large scale wind farms of 25MW and over will be permitted provided that the following criteria can be met:

a) The development is located within a Strategic Search Area and will contribute to meeting the indicative generating capacity within the Area;

b) The development will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity or landscape character through: the number, scale, size, design and siting of turbines and associated infrastructure;

c) The development will not result in demonstrable harm to statutorily protected sites and species, and habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan;
d) The development will not have an unacceptable impact upon areas designated for their landscape value;
e) The development will not result in significant harm to the safety or amenity of sensitive receptors and will not have an unacceptable impact on roads, rail or aviation safety;
f) The development will not result in unacceptable loss of public accessibility to the area; existing footpaths, mountain bike trails and equestrian trails will be safeguarded from development with no permanent loss to their length and quality;
g) The development will not result in unacceptable electromagnetic interference to communications installations, radar or air traffic control systems, emergency services communications, or other telecommunication systems;
h) The development will not have unacceptable cumulative impacts in relation to existing wind turbines and those which have permission;
i) Turbines and associated infrastructure will, at the end of the operational life of the facility, be removed and an appropriate land restoration and aftercare scheme agreed;
j) Proposals will not cause an unreasonable risk or nuisance to, and impact upon the amenities of, nearby residents or other members of the public.

Policy RE2 Local, Community and Small Wind Farms

k) Local, Community and Small wind farms or individual turbines will be permitted provided the following criteria can be met in full:
l) The development will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity or landscape character through: the number, scale, size, design and siting of turbines and associated infrastructure;
m) The development will not have an unacceptable cumulative impact in relation to existing wind turbines and other renewable energy installations and those which have permission;
n) The siting, design, layout and materials used should be sympathetic to the characteristics of the land-form, contours and existing features of the landscape;
o) The development would not cause demonstrable harm to statutorily protected species, and habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan;
p) Turbines and their associated structures will not be sited in, or impact upon archaeological resources, the setting and integrity of Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings or other areas of historical value;
q) Proposals will not cause an unreasonable risk or nuisance to, and impact upon the amenities of, nearby residents or other members of the public;
r) No loss of public accessibility to the area, and existing bridleways and footpaths will be safeguarded from development with no permanent loss to their length and quality;
s) Turbines and associated infrastructure will, at the end of the operational life of the facility, be removed and an appropriate land restoration and aftercare scheme agreed;
t) The development will not result in significant harm to the safety or amenity of sensitive receptors and will not have an unacceptable impact on roads, rail or aviation safety;
u) The development will not result in unacceptable electromagnetic interference to communications installations; radar or air traffic control systems; emergency services communications; or other telecommunication systems.

Policy RE3 Non-wind Renewable Energy Installations

Proposals within Development Limits

Proposals for non-wind renewable energy installations will be permitted within defined Development Limits, provided they do not cause an unacceptable impact to the character of the local area and to the amenity of adjacent land, properties, residents and the community. Proposals will not be permitted if they negatively impact upon archaeology or the setting and integrity of Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings or other features or areas of historical value.

Proposals outside Development Limits
Proposals for small scale non-wind renewable energy installations outside defined Development Limits are required to satisfactorily justify the need to be sited in such a location. Such proposals should be sited in close proximity to existing buildings and structures and will not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape. Large scale schemes located outside defined Development Limits may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where there is an overriding need for the scheme which can be satisfactorily justified, and the development will not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape.
Proposals that would cause demonstrable harm to the landscape, visual impact, noise, ecology, or ground and surface water as a result of the cumulative effect of renewable energy installations will not be permitted.

3.4.3 In addition to these dominant policies, there are a number of additional policies which will also be considered as being key to the determination of planning applications. These are:

- GP1: Sustainability and High Quality Design;
- GP3: Planning Obligations;
- GP4: Infrastructure and New Development;
- TR3: Highways in Developments – Design Considerations;
- EQ1: Protection of Buildings, Landscapes and Features of Historic Importance;
- EQ3: Regional and Local Designations;
- EQ4: Biodiversity;
- EQ6: Special Landscape Areas;
- EP1: Water Quality and Resources;
- EP2: Pollution.

4. General Guidance

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section is applicable to both onshore wind development and solar development. More detailed, specific advice to each of the developments is contained in sections 5 and 6.

4.2 Pre-application advice

4.2.1 Applicants are encouraged to contact the local authority prior to submitting an application in order to ascertain what information would be required to be submitted as part of the application. The local authority will be able to offer pre-application advice before a formal application is submitted in order to guide applicants through the process[7], which may minimise delays later in processing the application. A fee may be applicable for this service, as set out on the Council's website.

4.2.2 Pre-application discussions can also help the applicant and the planning authority identify areas of concern about the proposed development so that consideration is given to amending the proposal before the application is submitted. The advice and guidance provided at the pre-application stage is given in good faith, however, it does not guarantee or supply a definitive undertaking as to whether the proposal is likely to be acceptable.

4.3 Pre-application consultation

[7] http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/planning-applications/pre-application-service/#.WCCuoE2b-Uk

4.3.1 New legislation came into effect on the 16th March 2016 with the Planning Wales Act 2015 that requires applicants of "major developments" to submit a pre-application consultation report as part of the application. "Major developments" are defined in the Development Management Procedure Wales Order 2012[8] and for the purposes of Renewable Energy schemes includes "development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more". Detailed guidance is set out in Section 17 of the Planning Wales Act 2015 of the requirements for pre-application consultation.

4.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

4.4.1 Certain planning applications require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), under the Town and County Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999. An EIA ensures that when assessing planning applications, consideration is given to the environmental effects of that application. The EIA process aims to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse environmental effects of development proposals, and enhance positive ones.

4.4.2 Developers should ask for a formal opinion from the Council as to whether or not a scheme requires an EIA, this is known as a screening opinion. A screening opinion is usually sought for wind energy developments when the development consists of:

- the installation of more than 2 turbines; or
- the hub height of the turbine or other structure on the site exceeds 15m; or
- the site is located within a "sensitive area" as defined by the Regulations.

4.4.3 Solar energy developments are not specifically mentioned within the Regulations, however, depending on the size of the array and the potential impacts it may be necessary to undertake an EIA and a screening opinion should be sought.

4.4.4 When requesting a screening opinion, sufficient information should be provided by the applicant, this should include:

- a description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment;
- a location and site plan; and
- details of the power output.

4.4.5 Further details on screening opinions are contained within the EIA Regulations.

4.5 Habitat Regulations Assessment

4.5.1 In addition to an EIA, some proposals may be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, any proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on designated European sites will be required to be assessed. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and European Offshore Marine Sites (EOMS), and under Welsh Government policy, Ramsar sites are also treated as being fully designated. Appendix B lists the European sites within the County.

4.5.2 A screening opinion from the LPA through a Test for Likely Significant Effect (TLSE) will be undertaken where a European designated site may be impacted. If the TLSE reveals that significant adverse effects are likely, then an Appropriate Assessment will be required. Appropriate Assessments will be undertaken by the LPA with sufficient information supplied by the applicant to determine whether the proposal complies with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. HRA legislation. Where

[8] Development Management Procedure Wales Order 2012, Article 2: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2012/801/pdfs/wsi_20120801_mi.pdf

an appropriate assessment is necessary, it must be demonstrated that significant effects will be absent with no reasonable scientific doubt remaining.

4.6 Grid Connection

4.6.1 Some small-scale installations may not require new overhead connections to the electricity grid network and in the majority of cases, connection to the grid will not be a planning consideration.

4.6.2 The District Network Operator (DNO) is responsible for establishing a connection between the substation and the electricity grid network. The Council encourages developers to undertake early engagement with DNO and the placing of cables should avoid areas of high landscape, ecological and archaeological sensitivity. On site cabling and infrastructure will require careful consideration.

4.7 Community Energy

4.7.1 Community energy has the potential to reap many long term benefits for communities by ensuring energy security, saving money on energy bills, generating income streams for communities and ownership to local people. It is the UK Government's ambition "that every community that wants to form an energy group or take forward an energy project should be able to do so, regardless of background or location" [9].

4.7.2 For the purposes of this guidance, Community Energy can be defined as an energy scheme which is led by, or meets the needs of the local community. The community must have ownership of the development, either in full or shared, whilst maintaining full control over it. As a result of a number of positive case studies and the local benefits involved in such schemes, community energy projects will be given support and encouragement by the Council.

4.7.3 Developers of renewable energy schemes are encouraged to discuss the potential of shared ownership with communities. The benefits of shared ownership are numerous, for example, increased local acceptance, a new financial source from investors in the community, community involvement and education; and financial benefits from Feed-in-Tariffs. Shared ownership could involve a share in the overall generated income from a scheme or part or full ownership of the scheme (for example, the community could own a turbine in a larger scheme).

4.7.4 The decision on the acceptability of a scheme will be made irrespective of who the applicant is and will be based on an assessment of the impacts. Such applications should be accompanied with a "Community Benefit Statement" which meets the requirements of the relevant LDP policies and this guidance. The Community Benefit Statement should include details of the community ownership model, a Terms and Conditions Document, details of the energy and financial benefits of the scheme to the community.

4.8 Community Benefits

4.8.1 Community funds via contributions from developers are often offered as part of large schemes to offset negative consequences of development, to help meet local needs or to secure benefits which will make the development more sustainable. Such financial contributions cannot be taken into account in the determination of a planning application and should be used by developers to alleviate any negative consequences of the development and ensure that the community benefits from the development.

4.8.2 Communities and developers are encouraged to work together in deciding how the community fund should be spent.

4.9 Agricultural Land

[9] Department of Energy and Climate Change, Community Energy Strategy Update (2015) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414446/CESU_FINAL.pdf

4.9.1 Agricultural land within Carmarthenshire is mainly made up of grade 3 and 4, with parcels of grade 2 located to the east of Llanelli. PPW states that land of grades 1, 2 and 3a, being the best and most versatile should be conserved as a finite resource for the future. PPW continues by stating that such land "*should only be developed if there is an overriding need for the development, and either previously developed land or land in lower agricultural grades is unavailable, or available lower grade land has an environmental value recognised by a landscape, wildlife, historic or archaeological designation which outweighs the agricultural considerations"* (para 4.10 PPW).

4.9.2 Renewable Energy schemes should avoid being developed on agricultural land of grades 1-3a. If schemes are proposed on grade 3b land, consideration should be given to siting on less versatile land. If this is not possible, then a full justification should be given in site selection.

4.9.3 In the construction and operation of Renewable Energy schemes, disturbance to agricultural land and boundary features should be minimised. Agricultural land surrounding operational wind turbines should not be sterilised and should still be used for agricultural purposes.

4.10 Ecological Considerations

Ecological Considerations:

- Renewable Energy schemes should not be located on ecologically important sites (including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation).
- Ecological benefits and appropriate mitigation should be considered as part of the application.

4.10.1 The development of renewable energy schemes has the potential to harm habitats and species. Developers will be expected to maximise the ecological potential of the site, whilst ensuring that there is no demonstrable harm to statutorily protected species, and those habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan or the Environment Act 2016, Section 7 list of habitats and species of principle importance to biological diversity in Wales. All applications are expected to be accompanied by an **Ecological Survey**, assessing the potential effects on the development on both habitat and species. The level of the survey will be dependent upon the scale of the proposal and the sensitivity of the surrounding habitat and species.

4.10.2 Consideration should be given to enhancing habitats for biodiversity conservation and providing features for protected and priority species. Retained or new habitats or features that are created will likely require ongoing management and maintenance to ensure their longevity, and may require a specific habitat or ecological management plan.

4.10.3 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site and immediate surroundings will be required to support any proposed wind turbine, solar or hydro scheme application regardless of size and number. Guidelines for PEA Requirements can be found in the 2013 document published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (2013). Details of any invasive species should be noted within any PEA. The PEA must incorporate an extended phase 1 habitat survey consisting of a broad habitat assessment and mapping exercise, determining protected species interest.

4.10.4 Where habitats are noted of high ecological interest, a further vegetation survey may be requested, a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey is a detailed method for determining habitat quality.

4.10.5 Useful information can be found in the following documents:

- Guidelines for Phase 1 survey can be found in the document - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a Technique for Environmental Audit* Reprinted by JNCC, Peterborough.

- Guidelines for NVC survey can be found in the document - Rodwell JS (2006) *National Vegetation Classification: Users' Handbook* JNCC, Peterborough.

4.10.6 Reference should also be made to the SPG on Natural Environment and Biodiversity.

4.10.7 The construction stage of any development raises potential for ecological damage through site clearance, construction of temporary access roads, installation of services, or storage of materials. In order to protect a site's biodiversity value, it is often necessary for certain development works and environmental management operations to be undertaken at specific times of the year, and often within a restricted time-scale. The importance of adhering to the correct timing of operations, in line with the results of the Ecological Survey, is essential to ensure that any unacceptable impacts are to be avoided.

4.10.8 Further guidance can be sought from the County Council's Ecologist.

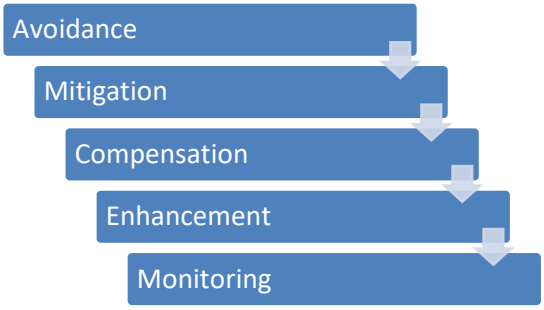
Ecological Surveys

- Surveys will be required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- Surveys should be undertaken early in the process in order to inform the scheme's design and prior to submitting the application, it is preferable that planning permissions will not be conditioned depending upon survey results.
- The timing of ecological surveys is mainly seasonal and can only be carried out at certain times of the year, surveys will be required to reflect this.
- Surveys should follow best practice standards and methodologies.

4.11 Mitigation and Enhancement

4.11.1 Some developments and installations may cause a negative impact on the ecology. Careful siting, design and layout of installations can assist in minimising any adverse impacts. Applications are expected to include a Mitigation Plan detailing the measures and the implementation of them. Mitigation measures should aim to avoid, reduce or remedy any significant adverse impacts on the landscape and biodiversity. The SPG on Natural Environment and Biodiversity sets out the Mitigation Hierarchy.

4.11.2 Any mitigation measures proposed should reflect recent survey work and demonstrate a clear understanding of the site and its ecological considerations. Any mitigation requirements should be incorporated and highlighted in ecological assessments and surveys.



4.11.3 Applicants must ensure that they take account of all the potential effects of the proposed development and make sure that avoidance and mitigation are appropriate to the site. All stages of a development must be considered, as should the extent of any required land take or potential indirect effects during the construction, operation, and where applicable the decommissioning of the proposed development.

4.11.4 It is, however recognised that mitigation often still entails the off-setting of some form of harm. Where a site or its surroundings have a clear biodiversity value, and the mitigation measures proposed are

insufficient to reasonably protect its value then, planning permission may be refused subject to all relevant considerations having been taken into account. Proposed mitigation measures that are acceptable in planning terms will likely be a condition of the planning consent. Compensation for lost habitat should not be construed as making an unacceptable development acceptable. If a compensation approach will be likely utilised for a development, early discussion is encouraged with the LPA ecologist and if applicable, Natural Resources Wales. There is also an expectation that biodiversity enhancement is delivered to meet the requirements of the Environment Act Wales 2016.

4.11.5 In instances where harmful damage is unavoidable and will still occur in spite of mitigation, consideration may be given to compensating for any loss by creating a new habitat at an alternative location, (on or off-site). Prior to compensation being considered the developer/applicant will be required to satisfactorily demonstrate that avoidance and mitigation are not possible and that the proposed compensatory measures would not result in a net loss of habitat of the same habitat type.

5. Onshore Wind

5.1 Context

5.1.1 Onshore wind development first made an appearance in Carmarthenshire in the 1980s in Pembrey, as part of The Carmarthen Bay Wind Turbine Test Programme. Turbines are a common sight in the Carmarthenshire landscape today due to the favourable wind conditions that exist in parts of the County.

5.2 Strategic Search Areas

5.2.1 This SPG is not applicable to wind farm schemes located within the Brechfa Forest Area (Strategic Search Area G).

5.2.2 Major wind turbine developments and wind farms are considered to be necessary in order for the Welsh Government to achieve committed energy targets. TAN 8 identifies seven areas in Wales that are considered to be the most appropriate locations for large scale wind farm development, these areas are known as Strategic Search Areas (SSA). SSA G: Brechfa Forest lies within Carmarthenshire, generating targets and upper limits for search areas are set by the Welsh Government in TAN 8, but have since been reviewed in recognition that SSAs have a finite environmental capacity. The revised upper limit for SSA G is 132MW[10]. SSA E: Pontardawe is mainly located within the Neath Port Talbot and Swansea administrative boundaries, but a small part of it straddles the County boundary to the east of Ammanford.

5.2.3 Welsh Government TAN 8 policy sets out that major wind turbine development and wind farms which are larger than 5MW overall installed generating capacity will be restricted to the Strategic Search Areas.

5.2.4 Alltwalis Wind Farm is currently the only operational wind farm within the SSA, having an installed generating capacity of 23MW from 10 turbines. Brechfa Forest West is currently under construction and is due to be operational in 2018. The scheme comprises 28 turbines, each measuring 145m in height which is anticipated to have an installed generating capacity of 56-84MW. Planning Permission for Brechfa Forest East was approved on the 17th December 2013, subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 agreement with the Council. This scheme comprises 12 turbines, each measuring 145m in height which will contribute 24-36MW of installed capacity.

[10] Letter from the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

5.2.5 Should the Brechfa Forest East application be implemented, together with the existing Alltwalis Wind Farm and the Brechfa Forest West wind farm, then the upper limits for the SSA would be met, or marginally exceeded.

5.2.6 Any new applications for large scale wind farms within SSA G will be discouraged in line with the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development letter which imposed upper limits of generating capacity in SSAs, whilst these applications are valid.

5.3 Wind Turbine Development outside Strategic Search Areas

5.3.1 Individual wind turbine sizes can vary, from roof mounted micro scale turbines up to and exceeding turbines of 145 meters to blade tip (as approved at the Brechfa West Wind Farm). Wind energy development can take the form of an individual turbine or as a group of multiple turbines.

5.4 Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

5.4.1 Wind turbines by their nature are substantial vertical structures, with moving blades. They represent large man-made elements within the landscape which result in inevitable changes to the landscape and visual character of an area. The acceptability of turbine development within an area will depend upon the magnitude of these changes in relation to the sensitivity and capacity of the receiving landscape.

5.4.2 The Carmarthenshire Wind Turbine Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study undertaken by Jellard Associates sets out guidance on the sensitivity and capacity of the Carmarthenshire landscape. The study is intended to inform the appropriate design and siting of wind turbine development through setting out a baseline assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity and capacity in relation to a range of typologies relating to turbine size and groupings. The study uses a methodology deriving data from LANDMAP aspect datasets, to provide baseline assessments of landscape and visual susceptibility and landscape value through 80 distinct landscape units covering the entire authority area. Assessments of the sensitivity of each landscape unit to different development typologies, are derived from the baseline assessments.

5.4.3 The guidance and baseline assessments set out in the study should be used as a basis for the design of wind turbine development and the assessment of landscape and visual impacts.

5.5 Landscape and Visual Impacts

5.5.1 Appropriate siting and design of wind turbine development in relation to the sensitivity and capacity of the receiving landscape to minimise landscape and visual impacts is fundamental to the acceptability of wind turbine development.

5.5.2 The Carmarthenshire Wind Turbine Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study provides landscape unit specific comments on landscape capacity and guidance for siting, and overall guidance on site context, siting and design considerations. The principles of this guidance are set out below:

A Factors Relating to Site Context

Landscape Character

Impacts on landscape character are likely to be related to:

- Scale of the landscape – whether it is small or large, and whether the proposed turbine(s) is/are of an appropriate scale;
- Topography – turbines can dominate small scale or intricate landform if not carefully sited;
- Skylines – turbines can interrupt the simplicity of skylines or ridges, even if located below such features;
- Settlement pattern – turbines should be sensitively sited in relation to existing buildings and their relationship with the landscape;
- Influence on the tranquillity of the landscape – turbines create movement, the amount depending on the particular model, and this disturbance to tranquillity can be greatly enhanced by a darker land or

vegetation backdrop, where typical pale surface colours for turbines proposed in mitigation for skyline effects are rendered completely ineffective.

Areas with a Sense of Remoteness
Rural areas which are particularly valued for their remoteness can be affected by the introduction of turbines, although this is less likely to be the case if the turbines are of an appropriate scale and if located close to farms or other existing buildings. However, incremental erosion of the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity should be avoided. Some locations close to centres of population are valued as an important recreational resource yet have a sense of being unspoilt and remote, even though they are close to urban areas. Locating turbines in these areas should be very carefully considered.

Valued Landscapes and Cultural Heritage Assets
Detailed and specific analysis will be required, in order to fully appreciate the nature of the development, the site and its surroundings and the likely effects on any locally designated or valued landscapes, including their essential setting, where appropriate. The siting of turbines should be carefully considered so as to protect views to and from important landscape and cultural heritage focal features (including Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), and their wider landscape setting, including the defined 'essential setting' of registered parks and gardens.

B Factors Relating to Siting

Landform
Smaller turbines have greater potential to utilise landform (often in combination with vegetation) to help reduce their visual impact than larger scale turbines. It is important that the scale of turbine does not overwhelm the scale of the landform. The human eye tends to be drawn towards the skyline, and turbines should be set back from the edges of plateaus, ridges and skylines, so as to reduce their visibility within the wider landscape. The siting of turbines on distinctive or prominent summits or skylines should generally be avoided, in preference to side slopes or gently undulating landform below ridgelines. Wind turbine developments should preferably be grouped upon the level or gentler sloping parts of the site, so that the development appears to be less visually confusing when viewed from different elevations and directions.

Landscape Pattern
Turbines can be sited to reflect the landscape pattern, for example field and woodland boundaries. Conversely, care must be taken not to site turbines so that they conflict with noticeable patterns in the landscape. The grouping and numbers of turbines can affect how they appear in the landscape. For example, several dispersed turbines could be grouped to form a single feature in a visually complex landscape, whilst in a larger scale landscape, a larger single turbine with the same generating capacity may be preferable. A small group of smaller scale turbines is most likely to be preferable where sited on valley floors and on lower valley slopes.

Focal Features
Turbines are likely to become focal features in the landscape. Care is required to ensure that they do not cause visual conflict or competition with other focal points. The siting of turbines should therefore be carefully considered so as to protect views to and from important landscape and cultural heritage focal features. Turbines can draw the eye to features which would otherwise remain unnoticed. For example, a turbine sited next to an isolated farm could draw attention to its presence when the farm itself is partially hidden by either landform or trees.

Settlements and Urban Landscapes
Turbines should be carefully sited in relation to nearby settlements, buildings and other structures. In sparsely settled rural landscapes, turbines should be located near to existing buildings or structures. Views to or from, or on the approach to settlements (including dispersed properties), should be carefully considered when siting wind energy developments. Turbines should be located in the least visually prominent location. The selection of the scale and design of turbines may be influenced by its proximity to a settlement.

Turbines should be sited to minimise impacts on views obtainable from promoted or locally valued publicly accessible viewpoints.

Woodlands and Trees
Although trees and woodlands can cause turbulence which interferes with the efficiency or longevity of turbines, in some locations there may be the opportunity to screen or assimilate small scale turbines by locating them close to trees and woodland. Care should be taken to site turbines so that they do not visually dominate or compete with prominent vegetation such as parkland trees, trees on knolls, and avenues. Turbines should be located where there is no need to fell trees and woodlands, particularly where these are important features in the local landscape.

C Design Considerations

Turbine Selection
There is a wider range of design and colour options for smaller turbines, and these matters should be carefully considered in relation to the landscape characteristics of the area in which they are to be located. This is particularly important when other turbines are present, in order to ensure that there are no conflicting design characteristics within the same locality.

Turbine Colour
The colour should be chosen to help assimilate the turbine into the receiving landscape. The same colour should be used for all external components of the turbine and should be non-reflective. A pale grey is commonly used because it minimises the visibility of the turbines when they are seen against the skyline, which is how most large scale turbines are viewed. However, muted colours (such as mid to darker greys, or blue-grey tones) for the surface finish of towers, hubs, nacelles and rotor blades should be preferred where there is a significant factor of a land or vegetation backdrop to be considered, when the proposed turbine(s) is/are viewed from sensitive visual receptor locations on higher ground within the zone of visual influence; this is particularly relevant to micro and small turbines sited within or adjacent to dense coniferous or broadleaved woodland. In all cases, the aim should be to minimise the visibility and reflectivity of the external surfaces of all turbine components.

Turbine Size and Scale
Small scale turbines are likely to have fewer landscape and visual effects than large scale commercial models. However, they can still visually dominate the nearby landscape or important component features of that landscape. Identifying the main landscape and visual characteristics of the landscape in which the turbines are to be sited is therefore an important determinant in selecting the most appropriate size. Landscapes with a simple, strong and mainly horizontal form are generally able to accommodate taller turbines and large turbine groups, as the height of turbines appears more proportionate to the landscape. Small scale turbines, smaller groupings or individual turbines tend to be more suited to smaller scale, more complex landscapes where there are other features such as buildings, trees or hedges.

It is also important to understand that smaller turbine rotors appear to rotate more rapidly than larger rotors. If smaller turbines are sited close to larger turbines and appear in the same horizontal arc of view, the relative speeds of rotation can appear discordant, with the tendency of the more rapid movement to draw the eye to the smaller turbines. This may consequently increase the visual effects of the whole of the group of turbines, even though the larger turbines may be more distant

Turbine Layout
Although there may be scope to design a small group of turbines as a coherent visual image, this may be difficult where there are other built elements such as buildings, wood poles, steel lattice towers and communications masts present. Where possible, turbine layout should respond to existing landscape patterns, whether field boundaries, buildings or vegetation patterns. Turbine layout should always seek to avoid the occurrence of overlapping rotor blades - or the ‘stacking effect’, caused when one or more

turbines are seen as closely juxtaposed when viewed from sensitive receptor locations, resulting in discordant multiple rotor movements being seen within the same angle of view.

In all cases, turbine layout should respect the underlying landform and, where possible, groups of turbines should be located at very similar elevations.

Micro-siting
Relocation of one or more wind turbines from their original position, referred to as micrositing, often takes place during construction, due to unforeseen circumstances, such as ground conditions. This can affect the original design concept, particularly the relationship with nearby vertical features such as trees and masts. It is preferable that developers undertake pre-application ground surveys to collect geophysical data at appropriate sufficient degree of detail, so as to minimise the requirement for micro-siting at the construction stage. It is important to ensure that micro-siting considerations may not only affect wind turbine locations, but also the horizontal and vertical alignment of access tracks, and that these factors are properly considered at the stage of assessing the predicted landscape and visual effects of any wind turbine proposal.

Ancillary Infrastructure
Landscape and visual impacts of any ancillary developments and visual conflicts between turbines and ancillary structures should be minimised by:

- Sensitive siting and design of ancillary equipment and infrastructure (e.g. using local landform, locally appropriate materials, architectural style and colours to more successfully integrate them into their surroundings);
- Using turbines with integral transformers;
- Siting turbines as close as possible to the point of use or grid connection, so as to avoid long sections of overhead power lines or cable runs (more applicable to large scale wind farm developments). In particularly sensitive locations, placing the grid connection underground is the preferred option;
- Utilising existing tracks to avoid tree and hedgerow or other vegetation removal, which may have adverse landscape effects. New tracks, if absolutely necessary, should follow existing landscape features, such as field and woodland boundaries, wherever possible;
- Minimising cut and fill operations, following contours closely wherever possible for access track alignments;
- Designing fencing or walling to fit the local situation, whilst maintaining the required security;
- Identifying locations for new tree and shrub planting to provide long term screening or assimilation, and requiring the appropriate re-seeding of cutting slopes or embankments, in preference to a reliance upon natural regeneration to re-establish vegetation cover.

5.6 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

5.6.1 The effect on the landscape can be measured as changes in the character, the experience and/or value of the physical landscape as a result of a change. The significance of the effect on the landscape will be dependent upon a number of factors including the sensitivity of the landscape and its designation, and the magnitude of the proposed change.

5.6.2 The impact upon visual amenity can be a subjective one, but ultimately can be measured as being people's responses to a change in the composition of views as a result of changes within the landscape.

5.6.3 Applications shall be accompanied by an appropriate **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)**, which is expected to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment; Third Edition, April 2013; published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA3). This is the industry standard for undertaking landscape and visual assessments.

5.6.4 The scope and content of an LVIA for a specific development will depend upon the development typology and context. Guidance on information requirements should be sought from the case planning officer as part of pre-application consultation.

5.7 Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

5.7.2 Cumulative impact can be defined as "*the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar development or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together*"[11]. Where a Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is required, an assessment of both combined and additional effects will be required.

5.7.3 The guidance and baseline assessments set out in the following documents commissioned by the Council should be fully addressed as part of all cumulative impact assessments: -

- Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire: Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance; and
- Carmarthenshire Wind Turbine Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study

5.7.4 **Cumulative scoping assessments** should be carried out where the development may be viewed in conjunction with other wind turbine developments that are already operating, have planning permission or where a planning application has been submitted. **Detailed Cumulative Impact Assessments** will only be required where the proposal could result in significant cumulative impact. Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire: Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines on Landscape and Visual Amenity Guidance provides further, more detailed guidance on undertaking such assessments. Further guidance on information requirements should be sought from the case planning officer as part of pre-application consultation.

5.8 Direct Landscape Impacts

5.8.1 Wind turbine development frequently results in direct physical changes to existing landscape elements[12]:

- at constraint points along the proposed turbine delivery route;
- at site access from the public highway;
- from construction of the proposed turbine structure and ancillary elements and from associated construction phase disturbance.

In most situations, adverse direct physical impacts can be effectively mitigated through scheme design, construction phase management, and mitigation and enhancement proposals.

5.8.2 The following additional information will be required as part of applications for larger scale turbines.

- **Physical Landscape Impact Audit (PLIA)**
  The PLIA should identify all direct physical effects of the proposed development upon existing landscape elements. The PLIA shall provide clear indication of which landscape elements will be retained, temporarily disturbed, translocated or permanently removed. Whilst sympathetic siting, design and layout can reduce the impact on the landscape, mitigation measures should be considered in order to reduce any adverse impacts.
- **Physical Landscape Impact Mitigation Scheme (PLIMS).**
  All direct landscape impacts identified within the PLIA should be mitigated through an appropriate Physical Landscape Impact Mitigation Scheme (PLIMS). The PLIMS should provide sufficient details of all mitigation proposals to enable compliance monitoring and enforcement

[11] Taken "Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshire Wind Energy Development" Scottish Natural Heritage, March 2012.

[12] Landscape Elements are defined in LDP Policy EQ5 as including: existing trees; groups of trees; large shrubs; and all features identified as contributing to biodiversity and local distinctiveness/qualities of the County in the County, namely: "Hedgerows, ditches and banks, stone walls, streams, tree belts, woodlands, veteran trees, parklands, green lanes, river corridoes, lakes, ponds, road verges, or habitat mosaics or networks of other locally important habitats including peat bogs, heath-land, wetlands, salt marshes, sand dunes and spcies rich grasslands"

Further guidance on additional information requirements should be sought from the case planning officer as part of pre-application consultation.

5.9 Landscape Compensation & Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

5.9.1 Wind turbine development inevitably results in changes to local landscape character through the introduction of new, manmade moving landscape elements. The significance of these changes in terms of magnitude and extent of effect are addressed as part of determination of a planning application, in terms of their acceptability against planning policy. However, in most situations, approved turbine development will result in residual adverse impacts upon landscape character. Whilst these impacts may not be of a significance to justify refusal of the application, it is considered that a suitable Landscape Compensation and Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme (LCBES), which ensures the retention, protection and enhancement of existing landscape character should be secured as part of any planning approval. Further guidance on the requirements of a LCBES should be sought from the case planning officer as part of pre-application consultation.

5.10 Noise

5.10.1 Turbines produce mechanical noise from generators, gearbox and drivetrain, and aerodynamic noise, which is produced from the movement of their blades through the air. In order to assess the acceptability of noise levels produced by a proposed turbine, all planning applications are expected to be accompanied by a **Noise Assessment**. Appendix A provies further guidance on how the Council will assess noise impact from wind turbine(s).

5.10.2 All turbines are required to accord with ETSU-R-97: The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms published by the Department of Trade and Industry. Sites should minimise noise by being located an appropriate distance from noise sensitive locations.

5.10.3 Noise during construction should also be taken into account at an early stage. Measures to minimise instances of significant residential disturbance should be implemented. Actions could include avoidance of weekend and early morning working.

Noise Assessments

- Assessments must be carried out by a qualified and competent acoustician.
- "A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise", published by the Institute of Acoustics (May 2013) should be used as reference.

5.11 Ecological Considerations

5.11.1 General guidance on ecological considerations is provided in Section 4 which is applicable to all renewable energy schemes. However, turbine development has specific concerns relating to bats and birds which require additional consideration. As of this date, these are the Council's best guidelines but may be subject to change as a result of new guidance or up to date surveys.

Bats

5.11.2 Bats and their roosts are legally protected by UK and International legislation. All planning applications for turbines will require a **bat survey**, primarily to determine whether the proposed site is used by, or is likely to be used by bats and which species are present. Surveys will also identify what time of the year the bats are utilising the site as activity changes throughout the year, this is particularly important for those species identified as high risk which will exploit open habitats and are more likely to be at risk from collision with turbines, although all species using the site to any significant extent need to be identified. Bat activity across and within the site must be established and any roosts (maternity roosts, swarming sites or

significant hibernation sites) on or close to the site must be located. Any survey must examine any features that may be utilised by bats for commuting and foraging.

5.11.3 Guidance on survey effort, timing and methodology is available in Bat Surveys - Good Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition published by the Bat Conservation (L. Hundt 2012) – Section 10.

Bat Assessments

- Surveys will be required at least once in spring, autumn and summer for low risk turbine sites or more if a higher risk is identified.
- The applicant may be able to opt for a curtailment of a turbine after one survey has been undertaken, based upon the level of risk this survey identifies. This can only be agreed once initial survey work has been assessed and must be agreed with the LPA Ecologist.
- Both manual (transects) and static surveys are required. Static surveys should be for 5 consecutive day's duration.
- Any manual surveys should be carried out on warmer, drier evenings where the wind speed is low.
- Details of temperature and weather conditions during surveys must be included in final report.

Birds

5.11.4 A comprehensive desk study must be undertaken to assess the records for bird activity around a proposed turbine site. Cumulative impacts must also be considered. A walkover survey of the site and surrounding area relevant to appropriate disturbance buffer zone distances for relevant species such as Red Kite, must be undertaken to identify if the desk study reflects the situation on the ground and indicate any potential sites of avian importance or species that must be considered.

5.11.5 On the basis of the findings of the desk and walkover studies there may, or may not be a requirement to carry out full vantage point surveys and collision risk assessments. Initial survey work must be assessed and agreed with the LPA Ecologist pre-application to determine whether further survey will be required. Any further surveys will need to be carried out following recognised guidance to ensure it has been carried out to a recognised protocol.

5.12 Historic Environment and Archaeological Settings

5.12.1 Carmarthenshire has an important historic environment, with parts of the County being highly regarded with features of historic and archaeological importance, many of these features are protected by legislation. Consideration needs to be given to the County's historic environment in the early stages of schemes. Such sites include Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscapes, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings.

5.12.2 It is important that turbines do not directly physically impact upon the features of historic interest, or cause unacceptable visual harm to the setting of historic and archaeological sites. Turbines should be sited away from known archaeological sites.

5.12.3 An **Archaeological Assessment** may be appropriate in locations where turbines are proposed close to known or undiscovered archaeological sites. Such surveys should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified professional to standards set by the Institute of Archaeologists. Early engagement with Dyfed Archaeological Trust and Cadw is recommended.

5.12.4 Reference should be made to the Archaeology and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance for further, more detailed advice.

5.13 Residential Amenity, Aviation and Electromagnetic Transmissions and Telecommunications Interference

5.13.1 In siting turbines, regard should be had to the amenities of the residents and occupants of nearby properties. This requirement, in line with TAN 8 should reduce the potential nuisance arising from wind turbine operation, noise, shadow flicker, safety risk, and radio or telecommunications interference. Local circumstances will dictate the appropriate distance based on topography, the orientation of nearby properties and the existing nature and landscaping surrounding the site.

5.13.2 Shadow flicker occurs at certain times of the day when the sun passes behind the rotors of the turbine which then casts a shadow which flicks on and off in time with the movement of the rotor. If shadow flicker is liable to occur close to residential properties, an assessment should be undertaken. Mitigation measures to prevent shadow flicker could include shutting down the turbine during affected times or appropriate screening.

5.13.3 Wind turbines have the potential to cause a number of negative effects on aviation, including physical obstructions to air traffic movements, interference to Air Traffic Control and Air Defence radar installations and turbulence. Consultation with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) should be undertaken at an early stage, in order that any effects on aviation and potential mitigation is identified.

5.13.4 Turbines also have the potential to affect electromagnetic transmissions. Turbines should be sited away from radio and microwave signal corridors and should not impact upon domestic TV, radio reception, and mobile broadband. Where interference cannot be avoided, mitigation measures will be required by the developer.

5.14 Safety, Proximity to Roads, Railways, Buildings and Public Open Spaces and Aviation Safety (Including Topple Distance)

5.14.1 Turbines should be located an appropriate distance from roads, railways, buildings and public open spaces. The appropriate distance otherwise known as the “topple distance”, which is calculated as being the height of the turbine.

5.14.2 Turbines should not cause a visual distraction to drivers and should be located away from junctions, tight bends and crossings.

5.15 Public Accessibility / Rights of Ways

5.15.1 A Public Right of Way is a route over which the public have a legal right to pass and re-pass. Public Rights of Way include public footpaths, bridleways and byways and are recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement. The Definitive Map and Statement is a legal record of public rights of way in the County.

5.15.2 In public areas or areas, visited by members of the public, it is expected that the developer provides interpretation boards explaining the project.

Considerations:

- Consideration should be given to the amenity, health and safety of all users of the right of way. Turbine blades should not over sail public rights of way.
- Where turbines are likely to impact upon public rights of way, whether temporary or permanently, it is recommended to discuss the impacts with the Council’s Countryside Recreation & Access Unit. Existing bridleways and footpaths shall be safeguarded with no permanent loss to the length and quality of trails.

- Horses – A minimum separation of 200m distance, or 3 times blade tip height, whichever is greater, from routes available to horses is recommended. Where this is not achievable, there are a number of factors that should be examined in order to provide an appropriate solution including: the availability of alternative routes; the number and siting of the turbines; and undulating ground.
- Mitigation should be considered as a permanent measure, or temporary during the construction period. Such mitigation measures could include the provision of new routes, improving the current right of way network or interpretation and visitor facilities. Encouragement will be given to enhancing existing facilities and providing new recreational facilities.

5.16 Highways

5.16.1 Some turbines will be located in the rural areas served only by minor roads. The construction of wind turbines will require sufficient and safe access to transport the turbine components. Proposals will be required to ensure that they do not give rise to problems of highway safety or have a detrimental effect on the highway network as a result of construction and maintenance traffic, in line with Policy TR2 – Location of Development – Transport Considerations. Applications are expected to be accompanied with a Traffic Management Plan.

Highway Considerations:

- The developer will be required to demonstrate that traffic during construction and maintenance will be able to travel safely to and from the site and should not cause damage to existing hedgerows and trees. Applicants will also be required to identify if third party land is required for road widening in association with the delivery of the turbine.
- New field access and access tracks should be kept to a minimum. Where they are necessary, they should be constructed causing minimal impact on the surrounding hedgerows and local character. New tracks should follow existing site contours and field boundaries. It will be expected that any new field access will be closed and access tracks, hedgerows re-instated or grassed over to be fully restored upon decommissioning.
- Liaison should be carried out with the Highways Authority after permission is granted in terms of arranging the timing of delivery in order to minimise traffic disruption.

5.17 Drainage / Flood management / Water Quality

5.17.1 Due to the groundworks necessary in the construction of turbines, consideration should be given to any resultant effects on land drainage or increase in flood risk. Where developments are likely to cause surface water issues, applications will be expected to be accompanied with a Surface Water Management Plan. Turbines should not be sited in Flood Risk Areas nor adjacent to bore holes. No degradation of water quality should take place as a result of turbine construction.

5.18 Decommissioning / Site Restoration / Duration of Planning Permission

5.18.1 Applications are expected to be accompanied with an agreed decommissioning schedule and details of the restoration of the site. In restoring the site, it is expected that the site will revert completely to its state prior to the construction of the turbine(s), all development, ancillary infrastructure and access tracks should be removed and any soils and vegetation restored appropriately. It will be expected that any new field access will be closed and access tracks will be closed, hedgerows re-instated or grassed over to be fully restored.

5.19 Site Security / Safety / Lighting

5.19.1 Any security measures should not cause visual harm to the character of the local area. In rural areas, lighting should be kept to a minimum and if, where required should be infra-red for aviation purposes.

Application checklist

✓ Application Form (all)

PLANS:

✓ Location Plan (1:2,500)

✓ Site Plans showing: (all)
- the site size,
- site boundary
- location of the turbine(s) and association infrastructure
- proximity to existing dwellings
- photomontages, wireframe drawings and viewpoints

✓ Elevation plan (all)

✓ Surface water management plan (if applicable)

✓ Decommissioning & Restoration Plan (all)

DETAILS:

✓ Capacity – electrical output (KW) (all)

✓ Estimated energy generation (KW/h/yr) (all)

✓ Average site wind speed (minimum of 12 months data) that fully demonstrates the installation(s) is capable of meeting the stated energy generation (all)

✓ Site Specific Analysis (all)

✓ Pollution prevention method statement (if applicable)

✓ For large wind turbines, additional information will be required:
- Topple zones
- Radar & Air traffic control interference
- Microwave transmission buffers

SURVEYS:

✓ Ecological Survey (all)

✓ Landscape Compensation and Ecological Enhancement Scheme(all)

✓ Landscape and Visual Assessment (all)

✓ Cumulative Impact Assessment

✓ Physical Landscape Impact Audit & Physical Landscape Impact Mitigation Scheme (all)

✓ Noise Assessment (all)

✓ Bat Survey (all)

✓ Birds Survey (minimum desk study for all)

✓ Archaeological/Heritage Assessment (if applicable)

✓ Traffic management plan (all)

✓ Vibration, shadow flicker and visual impact assessments (if applicable)

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED:

✓ Environmental Impact Assessment

✓ Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations

✓ Community Benefit Policy for Community Energy Projects

6. Solar

6.1 Context

6.1.1 Harnessing the sun's energy for heat and power is becoming a popular and affordable solution for low carbon energy generation. Solar panels are increasingly being used by householders on new-build dwellings by being integrated into roof designs, whilst also being retrofitted to existing roofs. The Authority is also receiving increasing numbers of planning applications for solar farms / arrays covering large areas of agricultural and vacant land.

6.1.2 Solar schemes are categorised by their site area and output for the purposes of this guidance and LDP policy implementation as follows:

	Site Area	**Indicative Output Based upon 2ha/MWp**
Small	1 ha to 5 ha	0.5 MWp to 2.5MWp
Medium	>5 ha to 15 ha	>2.5MWp to 7.5MWp
Large	>15 ha	>7.5MWp

Table 2: Solar Typologies

6.2 Types of Technology

Solar Thermal Systems / Hot water

6.2.1 Solar energy can be used to provide hot water via solar thermal systems, which usually consist of thermal panels placed on building roofs. For domestic properties outside a conservation area, planning permission may not be required (please see www.planningportal.gov.uk).

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) / Electricity

6.2.2 The sun's energy is converted into electricity via Photovoltaic (PV) cells. PV panels can be roof mounted, or are increasingly being installed as commercial scale solar PV arrays. PV arrays normally comprise large numbers of individual panels grouped into "arrays" and mounted on freestanding racks[13].

6.3 Policy Context

6.3.1 For solar proposals, Policy RE3 is applicable in addition to the general policies listed in section 3.4.3. Since the adoption of the LDP, it is clear that further clarification is required in terms of proposals located outside development limits.

Proposals outside Development Limits

6.3.2 For the purposes of Policy RE3, the scheme sizes are summarised in table 2.

6.3.3 The policy states that "*large scale schemes located outside defined Development Limits may be permitted in exceptional circumstances*". The purpose of this statement is to ensure that only feasible schemes will be permitted and will contribute to meeting the national renewable targets. Large solar parks can be very visible in the landscape and applications should be supported by appropriate supporting information to enable a comprehensive assessment of the scheme to ensure it will not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape.

6.3.4 The policy's amplification (para 6.7.31) explains that in respect of solar parks, "*such schemes can play an important role in assisting WG achieve its renewable energy generation targets, and for this reason, the need for the scheme will be weighed up against the need to protect the landscape from inappropriate development. Such schemes will be assessed against other policies contained within this Plan primarily*

[13] Practice Guidance – Planning Implications of Renewable and Low carbon Energy

relating to the impact on the landscape and biodiversity of the proposal and the cumulative impact of renewable energy installations".

6.4 Roof Mounted

6.4.1 Generally, in many cases, roof mounted panels will not require planning permission as they are permitted development. It is recommended that applicants consult the latest version of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) prior to installation. The Council will also advise whether or not permission is required via the pre-application process.

6.4.2 Encouragement is given to applicants of new buildings to incorporate roof mounted panels into building design at an early stage. There are a number of considerations that applicants should consider when incorporating panels in roof design:

- Visual impact & design – The panels should be well incorporated and blend into the overall design. They should also be placed in locations which would not harm the proportions or take away from the overall design of the building and surrounding buildings. Consideration will be given to the cumulative impact of panels. Outbuildings or extensions could be considered as being suitable to incorporate panels.
- Landscape Considerations – Consideration and allowance should be given to any large trees that may cause shadow to any proposed panels.
- Ecology – Bats and birds use buildings for roosting and nesting and as such, an assessment will have to be undertaken to assess whether any are present in the roof as all bats and some birds are legally protected. The installation of panels should not cause demonstrable harm to important habitats and species.
- Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas – Listed Building Consent and planning permission is normally required to attach solar panels to Listed Buildings, as in most cases they will be fixed to the building which may change its character and/or appearance. Panels should not cause disturbance to, or destroy the historic fabric of the Listed Building. In Conservation Areas, solar panels should be located in unobtrusive areas which would not impact upon the area's character.
- Glint and Glare – Glint is described as being intense direct reflections of the sun, and glare being diffuse reflections of the bright sky around the sun. Glint and glare can cause particular problems for users to the south-east of a development, for example to homes, businesses and public highways. A glint and glare assessment should be completed and should accompany a planning application if required. Mitigation measures could be put in place to address any harmful impact.

6.5 Ground Mounted Panels

6.5.1 Carmarthenshire has a number of Solar Farms or Solar PV arrays. These consist of free-standing panels or arrays which should face due south and angled at 20-45 degrees in order to achieve the maximum energy generation. Technology is available for some arrays to track the path of the sun, although the cost for these systems is considerably higher.

6.5.2 Large areas of land are required for solar farms, for this reason there are a number of considerations required in order to make the scheme acceptable. The following guidance sets out the considerations that applicants should consider when planning a solar farm, these considerations will also be used when assessing applications.

6.6 Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

6.6.1 Field scale solar PV developments represent large man-made elements within the landscape which result in inevitable changes to the landscape and visual character of an area. The acceptability of Solar PV

development within an area will depend upon the magnitude of these changes in relation to the sensitivity and capacity of the receiving landscape.

6.6.2 The Carmarthenshire Solar PV Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study undertaken by Jellard Associates sets out guidance on the sensitivity and capacity of the Carmarthenshire landscape. The study is intended to inform the appropriate design and siting of solar PV development through setting out a baseline assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity and capacity in relation to a range of Solar PV typologies.
The study uses a methodology deriving data from LANDMAP aspect datasets, to provide baseline assessments of landscape and visual susceptibility and landscape value through 80 distinct landscape units covering the entire authority area. Assessments of the sensitivity of each landscape unit to different development typologies, are derived from the baseline assessments.

6.6.3 The guidance and baseline assessments set out in the study should be used as a basis for the design of solar PV development and the assessment of landscape and visual impacts.

6.7 Landscape and Visual Impacts

6.7.1 Appropriate siting and design of solar PV development in relation to the sensitivity and capacity of the receiving landscape to minimise landscape and visual impacts is fundamental to the acceptability of development. Field scale ground mounted arrays have the potential to harm landscape quality and character. In order to minimise harm, the first step applicants should take is appropriate site selection. Thought should be given to the design and layout of the arrays in order to minimise harm to the landscape. The most appropriate sites for ground mounted arrays are those which are south facing and are on flat areas or on lower slopes of lowland landscapes, rather than upland, prominent slopes.

6.7.2 The Carmarthenshire Solar PV Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study provides landscape unit specific comments on landscape capacity and guidance for siting, and overall guidance on site context, siting and design considerations. The principles of this guidance are set out below: -

A Factors Relating to Design

Solar PV Layout

When siting development, it is equally important to consider the appearance of the proposed development as it would appear when viewed from those aspects where the supporting frames will be more visible, as well as from the frontal aspect which shows the solar panels in full. The design should ensure that the arrays follow contours wherever possible and fit within existing enclosure patterns - avoid siting panels that are remote from the rest of the group. It will be important to maintain land uses on the site that fit with the character of the area.

For sites which are overlooked by higher ground from where it is close enough to clearly discern the detailed characteristics of the proposed development, the design of the site layout and how it relates to - or is assimilated into - the landscape will be particularly important. Where field scale solar PV is proposed which does not occupy the entire area of one or more fields, then the potential for introducing new boundary features, such as hedgerows or linear belts of woodland, must be carefully examined in relation to the prevailing pattern and texture of the receiving landscape.

The designed height of the solar PV panels should be such that they will be as unobtrusive as possible in the landscape. In areas where mature hedgerows form the field boundaries, the aim should be to site the arrays below the height of the field boundary hedgerows, which should be managed to a top height of around 3 metres above existing ground level on the field side.

B Factors Relating to Site Context

Landscape Character

Impacts on landscape character are likely to be related to:

- Scale of the landscape – whether it is small or large, and whether the proposed solar PV developments are of an appropriate scale which is compatible with that of the receiving landscape;

- Topography – field-scale solar PV development can dominate small scale or intricate landform if not carefully sited;
- Skylines – field-scale solar PV development can affect the perception of the simplicity of skyline or ridges if located on or immediately below these features;
- Landscape pattern – field-scale solar PV development should be carefully sited so as to avoid conflict with existing tangible patterns in the receiving landscape;
- Settlement pattern – field-scale solar PV development should be carefully sited in relation to existing settlement.

Areas with a Sense of Remoteness
Field-scale solar PV development should be sited away from areas valued for their remoteness, areas free from human influence and perceived wilderness, e.g. extensive tracts of upland moorland.

Valued Landscapes and Cultural Heritage Assets
Detailed and specific analysis will be required, in order to fully appreciate the nature of the development, the site and its surroundings and the likely effects on any locally designated or valued landscapes, including their essential setting, where appropriate. The siting of field-scale solar PV installations should therefore be carefully considered so as to protect views to and from important landscape and cultural heritage focal features (including Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), and their wider landscape setting, including the defined 'essential setting' of registered parks and gardens.

C Factors Relating to Siting

Landform
Field-scale Solar PV development should be sited on flat lowland or on the lower slopes within gently rolling lowland landscapes; steeper landform - and in particular the higher slopes – are likely to be more sensitive. Such solar PV development in plateau landscapes should be sited in extensive and undulating areas and set back from the edge, so as to minimise any effects on views from adjacent upland areas

Landscape Pattern
Field-scale solar PV development should be sited so as to reflect and harmonise with tangible patterns in the receiving landscape - for example, those produced by well-defined field and woodland boundaries. Conversely, care must be taken not to site field-scale solar PV arrays so that they would conflict with such patterns in the landscape.
Small-scale medieval field patterns are generally more sensitive to field-scale solar PV development than more recently enclosed fields, which are likely to be regular in shape and larger scale. Arrays of solar panels should be designed so as to be properly assimilated into the existing field pattern, avoiding the imposition of unsympathetic hard edges and straight lines within landscapes with irregular or curved field boundaries. In addition, when designing a scheme across multiple fields, the following guidance should be fully taken into consideration:

- Preserve the legibility of field patterns by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed, and by setting solar PV arrays back from the edges of fields. This will also permit the continuation of efficient and cost-effective boundary hedgerow management;
- Designing a site layout around conserved and enhanced existing field boundary hedgerows, or belts of woodland, will contribute to reducing the massing effect of contiguous field-scale solar arrays.

Woodland and Trees
Field-scale solar PV developments should be sited within landscapes with some degree of enclosure (by landform, woodland or hedgerows – or combinations of these elements), rather than in open or relatively unenclosed landscapes.

Focal Features
Consider views from local viewpoints, popular routes, recognised or noted iconic views, and designated landscapes when considering the siting of field-scale solar PV development in the landscape. This is particularly important when a prominent or conspicuous landmark may be present, such as at Paxton's Tower, which is an important focal point in the landscape. Field-scale solar PV developments should be sited

in such a way that they can be well concealed or properly assimilated into sensitive views. The siting of solar arrays should therefore be carefully considered to protect views to and from important landscape and cultural heritage features

Settlements and Urban Landscapes

Field-scale solar PV development should be carefully located in relation to nearby settlements, buildings and other structures. In sparsely settled rural landscapes, solar PV development should be located near to existing buildings or structures. Views to/from, or on the approach to settlements (including dispersed properties) should be carefully considered when siting field-scale solar PV developments.

5.15 Field-scale solar PV development should be located in the least visually prominent location, and should be sited so as to minimise adverse effects on sensitive public viewpoint locations, promoted recreational routes, roads and other public rights of way.

Ancillary Infrastructure

- Field-scale solar PV developments should utilise existing access points and existing access tracks wherever possible, in order to minimise the introduction of new tracks into the landscape, as well as devising temporary access measures which can be removed completely following the completion of the construction phase of the scheme. Locating access tracks between arrays of panels should be avoided wherever possible.
- Avoid the use of hardworks elements which could have an 'urbanising' effect - such as concrete kerbs and posts - in rural situations; and minimise the extent of sealed hard surfaces, the use of urban or industrial styles of perimeter fencing and security gates; CCTV infrastructure; and the use of lighting, particularly in those landscapes with no apparent artificial lighting. Lighting should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. If it is considered to be essential, then the design of the fittings and columns should be sympathetic to the rural context and all lighting should utilise passive infrared (PIR) technology for its activation. The design of fittings should minimise light spillage, particularly onto adjacent or nearby hedgerows, woodland or scrub where it could have detrimental effects on wildlife.
- Existing or new landscape features should be utilised in order to integrate security features into the landscape, such as perimeter security fencing. Security fences can be made to appear less prominent in the landscape if they are set back from hedgerow boundaries on the site's perimeter, which has the effect of reducing their overall height when viewed from outside the site. Where possible, security fencing should be avoided to minimise visual impact. As an alternative, for example, it may be possible to construct ditches and berms which would control access but in a more sympathetic way. However, if security fencing is deemed necessary, it should be constructed of materials which are sympathetic to the countryside with the means for wildlife to move freely, for instance, by erecting deer fencing as opposed to conventional security perimeter fencing. Planting alongside the fencing can reduce its impact, although there may be surveillance constraints to consider.
- New hedgerow or woodland belts can be planted to screen views of the perimeter fences. In many instances, hedgerows or tree belts will be an important part of creating a visually acceptable setting within the wider landscape for a solar PV array. Such new landscape features need to be appropriate to the character of the local landscape, such as the selection of locally-occurring tree and shrub species, or the creation of hedgebanks in the local vernacular. There is a need to avoid potential shading from boundary screening treatments. The relationship between boundary vegetation height and its distance from the arrays is an important design factor.
- Proposals should ensure that all on-site cables are buried underground (without undue damage to existing hedgerows or archaeology), so as to minimise adverse effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Grid connections should be placed underground wherever possible.
- Inverters should be enclosed within existing buildings wherever possible, particularly where these are of local vernacular, and the scheme design should locate these facilities as close as possible to the site. Switchgear and control cabinets or control buildings should be carefully sited and should generally avoid high or exposed locations, making optimum use of existing and locally occurring vegetation or field

boundary walls to screen or assimilate such features into the receiving landscape. Placing an inverter building within the centre of solar arrays should always be avoided.

- New buildings constructed as part of a field-scale solar PV development should be required to match the local vernacular, in terms of their form and scale, together with the external materials and colours to be utilised.
- Drainage provisions can have significant visual impacts. Often, on flat ground, solar panels can simply drain to the ground with little problem, but sloping sites can cause more difficulties, with the potential for run-off being concentrated and leading to the formation of erosion gullies. SUDS type drainage schemes, utilising a network of appropriately designed ditches, swales and berms, are likely to be the most cost-effective and visually acceptable methods of achieving the satisfactory collection and discharge of surface water run-off in a rural context.

Appearance of Solar PV Arrays – Materials and Finishes

When designing the layout and selecting the materials for the panels, the design process should consider the appearance of the development as it would be viewed from all aspects, not just the aspect in which the arrays would be seen from the front. Dark, recessive colours in natural tones - and non-reflective materials for structures associated with the PV panels (including supporting frames, control cabinets and posts) - are generally considered to be less visually intrusive than reflective materials and bright colours for finishes. The following considerations should be given in the design of the array:

- The layout and design of schemes should follow the site's contours and respect any landscape features on the site.
- Panels should be considered as a whole and not create a piecemeal development where some panels are sited away from the rest of the group.
- Whilst it is accepted that panels need to be orientated to achieve the best performance, the appearance of the panels from all directions should be considered.
- Consideration should be given to locating panels close to existing buildings, particularly if there are agricultural buildings close to the site.
- The scale of the array should respect its location, particularly within the landscape it lies.
- Existing field enclosures and patterns should be maintained and arrays placed within these enclosures. Consideration should be given to enhancing existing, and reinstating hedgerows. A suitable buffer should be given to hedgerows in order to afford protection to them, they should also be protected throughout the construction period.
- The height of the panels should not be taller than the existing hedgerows in the area, panels should be screened as much as is possible without compromising efficiency.
- An effort should be made to minimising development on the site to only necessary development in rural areas. Hard surfacing, tall fencing and urbanisation should be minimised.
- Cables should be buried underground where possible, particularly on-site and to grid connections. When burying cables, works should not cause harm to important features on the site, including hedgerows.
- Ancillary buildings should be in-keeping with existing local buildings and be screened where possible. Buildings should also be sited in the most appropriate location, avoiding prominent locations.
- Any boundary treatment should be in-keeping with its location, use of landscaping will be encouraged and if fencing is required then it should be of an agricultural form to blend in with the area. Tall, compound-style fencing in rural areas will be resisted.
- New field access and access tracks should be kept to a minimum. Where they are necessary, they should be constructed causing minimal impact on the surrounding hedgerows and local character. New tracks should follow existing site contours and field boundaries. It will be expected that any new field access will be closed and access tracks, hedgerows re-instated or grassed over to be fully restored.
- Reference should be made to the Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Study, in particular with the relevant landscape unit.

6.8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

6.8.1 The effect on the landscape can be measured as changes in the character, the experience and/or value of the physical landscape as a result of a change. The significance of the effect on the landscape will be dependent upon a number of factors including the sensitivity of the landscape and its designation, and the magnitude of the proposed change.

6.8.2 The impact upon visual amenity can be a subjective one, but ultimately can be measured as being people's responses to a change in the composition of views as a result of changes within the landscape.

6.8.3 Applications shall be accompanied by an appropriate **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)**, which is expected to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*;* Third Edition, April 2013; published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA3). This is the industry standard for undertaking landscape and visual assessments.

6.8.4 The scope and content of an LVIA for a specific development will depend upon the development typology and context. Guidance on information requirements should be sought from the case planning officer as part of pre-application consultation.

6.9 Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

6.9.1 Cumulative impact can be defined as "*the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar development or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together*"[14]. Where a Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is required, an assessment of both combined and additional effects will be required.

6.9.2 Potential cumulative landscape and visual effects should be carefully considered on a case by case basis assisted, where appropriate, by the production of Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) and visualisations Further guidance on information requirements should be sought from the case planning officer as part of pre-application consultation.

6.9.3 **Cumulative Effects - Considerations**

When considering the siting and design for multiple field-scale solar PV developments within same Landscape Unit, the following guidance should be fully taken into consideration:

- When designing any field-scale solar PV development, it is important to consider how the scheme fits with other operational, consented and proposed renewable energy schemes (including those located within neighbouring planning authorities), or with other developments which may have similar characteristics, e.g. polytunnels or glasshouses, so as to minimise any adverse cumulative effects which might arise;
- The design should aim for similarity of design between schemes that would occur within the same type of landscape (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics), in order to maintain a simple and coherent visual effect which is sympathetic to the prevailing landscape characteristics;
- When designing extensions to operational field-scale solar PV sites, it will be important that the scale and appearance of the panels and arrays are compatible. Individual solar PV developments should generally appear visually separate, unless specifically designed to create the appearance of a single combined development;
- Ensure the area of the combined development remains in scale with the landscape in which it lies;
- It will be important to ensure that field-scale solar PV developments do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape, and that some open views devoid of solar PV developments are

[14] Taken "Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshire Wind Energy Development" Scottish Natural Heritage, March 2012.

maintained within Carmarthenshire, (i.e. ensure that rural character remains and that solar PV developments do not dominate in any one locality);

- If two or more field-scale solar PV developments are clearly visible in the same arc of view and appear in the same Landscape Unit, they should appear of similar scale (unless the first development is considered too large for its landscape context) and their design should relate to the underlying landscape in the same manner;
- Views from settlements should not be compromised by an accumulation of field-scale solar PV developments in close proximity, as a result of which, a settlement could be seen to be enveloped by such installations.

6.10 Noise

6.10.1 Solar farms produce very little noise, and this is generally confined to daylight hours. In order to assess the acceptability of noise levels produced by a solar farm proposal, a **Noise Assessment** may be requested where it is deemed necessary, for example for larger developments where there may be the electrical equipment, inverters and transformers, housed in enclosures or containers around the site.

6.10.2 Permissions will typically include a condition to ensure that the noise rating level will not exceed background noise levels in the locality. In designing solar farms, consideration should be given to locating mechanical equipment in the middle of the site in order to minimise noise to the surrounding areas.

6.10.3 Noise during construction should also be taken into account at an early stage. Applications should also be accompanied with information relating to the method by which the solar panels are to be fixed to the ground and the intended hours of construction associated with the proposal. Measures to minimise instances of significant residential disturbance should be implemented. Actions could include avoidance of weekend and early morning working.

6.11 Cumulative Impact

6.11.1 Due to increasing numbers of solar arrays being erected in the Carmarthenshire countryside, there is an increasing need for developers to consider how an additional array will look when assessed against operational schemes and ones with planning permission.

6.12 Ecology

6.12.1 In identifying suitable sites, consideration should be given to the type of habitats on the site. The most suitable land for solar arrays would be previously intensively managed agricultural land, being of least ecological value. Sites should not include semi-natural habitats and should not be located on regionally or locally designated sites (including Local Nature Reserves, Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest).

6.12.2 Sites should also not impact upon priority species, habitats and features of recognised principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity and nature conservation.

6.13 Historic Environment

6.13.1 Carmarthenshire has an important historic environment, with parts of the County being highly regarded with features of historic and archaeological importance. Many of these features are protected by legislation. Consideration needs to be given to the County's historic environment in the early stages of schemes. Historic sites include Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscapes, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings. It is important that the solar arrays do not directly

physically impact upon the features of historic interest or cause visual harm to the setting of historic and archaeological sites.

6.13.2 An **Archaeological Assessment** may be appropriate in locations where solar arrays are proposed close to known or undiscovered archaeological sites. Such surveys should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified professional to standards set by the Institute of Archaeologists.

6.13.3 Reference should be made the Archaeology and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance for further, more detailed advice.

6.14 Drainage / Flood Management / Water Quality

6.14.1 Solar arrays have the potential to increase surface water flood risk. Schemes are expected to be accompanied with a Surface Water Management Plan which details how such matters will be dealt with during the construction period and during operation. Consideration should be given to the integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) within schemes. SUDS is a term used to describe the various approaches that can be used to manage surface water drainage in a way that mimics the natural environment in a more sustainable way than conventional drainage systems.

6.14.2 Sites should maintain as much vegetation cover as possible in order to manage surface water naturally. Access tracks should be permeable and any surface water runoff created by tracks should be collected by localised SUDS.

6.14.3 Water courses should have a 7m buffer at each side.

6.15 Rights of Ways

6.15.1 A Public Right of Way is a route over which the public have a legal right to pass and re-pass. Public Rights of Way include footpaths, bridleways and byways and are recorded on a Definitive Map and Statement which is the legal record. The Definitive Map and Statement is a legal record of public rights of way in the County.

Considerations:

- Consideration should be given to the views from public rights of way into the site.
- Where arrays are likely to impact upon public rights of way, whether temporary or permanently, it is recommended to discuss the impacts with the Council's Countryside Recreation & Access Unit. Existing bridleways and footpaths shall be safeguarded with no permanent loss to the length and quality of trails.
- Mitigation should be considered as a permanent measure, or temporary during the construction period. Such mitigation measures could include the provision of new routes, improving the current right of way network or interpretation and visitor facilities. Encouragement will be given to enhancing existing facilities and providing new recreational facilities.

6.15.2 In public areas or areas visited by members of the public, it is expected that the developer provides interpretation boards explaining the project.

6.16 Glint and Glare

6.16.1 Full consideration should be given to how glint and glare of solar arrays will affect the environs. Glint is described as intense direct reflections of the sun, while glare as diffuse reflections of the bright sky around the sun, which is a continuous source of brightness. Glint and glare can cause particular problems for users to the south-east of a development, for example to homes, businesses and public highways. Applications for solar arrays will be expected to consider the effects of both glint and glare on the surrounding environment

and should be accompanied with a **Glint and Glare Assessment**. Mitigation measures could be put in place to address any harmful impact.

6.17 Site Security / Safety / Lighting

6.17.1 Any site security and safety measures should not cause demonstrable harm to landscape and visual amenity on the site and its surroundings.

- Security fencing should be of an appropriate material and height to the setting of the site, and where appropriate should be screened by existing or new hedgerows.
- Security lighting should be minimised and use made of infra-red lighting in order to minimise light pollution and reduce any impact on biodiversity.

6.18 Mitigation

6.18.1 Whilst sympathetic siting, design and layout can reduce the impact on the landscape, mitigation measures should be considered in order to reduce any adverse impacts. Applications will be expected to include a **Landscape Mitigation Plan**, which should include the steps undertaken in site selection, design and layout, and the considerations to minimise any adverse impacts. The Plan should also include details of its implementation and any maintenance required.

6.18.2 As part of applications, consideration should be given to enhancing the landscape. Particular enhancement measures could include hedgerow improvement and management of landscape features and habitats.

6.19 Construction Period

6.19.1 During construction, consideration should be given to the protection of residential amenities of properties close to the site, especially in terms of noise.

6.20 Highways

6.20.1 The development of solar arrays will require sufficient and safe access to transport during the construction period. Proposals will be required to ensure that they do not give rise to problems of highway safety or have a detrimental effect on the highway network as a result of construction and maintenance traffic, in line with policy TR2 – Location of Development – Transport Considerations.

Highway Considerations:

- The developer will be required to demonstrate that traffic during construction and maintenance will be able to travel safely to and from the site. Traffic should not cause damage to existing hedgerows.
- Liaison should be carried out with the Highways Authority after permission is granted in terms of arranging the timing of delivery in order to minimise traffic disruption

Application checklist

✓ Application form (all)

PLANS:

✓ Location Plan (1:2,500)

✓ Site plans showing: (all)

- the site size,
- site boundary
- location of the panels and association infrastructure (including sub-station & cabling route)

✓ Design of the module or array (all)

✓ Elevations to show the proposed location (if applicable)

✓ Surface water management plan (if applicable)

DETAILS:

- ✓ Capacity / Electrical output (KWp) (all)
- ✓ Estimated energy generation (KWh/yr) (all)
- ✓ Pollution prevention method statement (if applicable)
- ✓ Orientation / roof pitch & details of roof mounting (if applicable)

SURVEYS:

- ✓ Landscape and Visual Assessment (all)
- ✓ Archaeological Assessment (if applicable)
- ✓ Ecological survey (all)
- ✓ Traffic management plan (if applicable)
- ✓ Landscape Mitigation Plan (if applicable)
- ✓ Visual impact assessment (if applicable)
- ✓ Glint and glare assessment (if applicable)

Appendix A

Guidance Document for Assessing Noise Impact From Wind Turbine(s)

This guidance note is not formal supplementary planning guidance but aims to provide information and advice to improve the quality of planning submissions, which will enable officers to provide consistent decision making.
Failure to provide the following information with the full planning application may lead to a delay in Public Health Team providing comment with respect to the application or even the Public Health Team objecting to the application due to insufficient information that has been provided, as the noise impact from the proposed development cannot be sufficiently assessed. Please note that the provision of noise contours or printouts from computer models alone are not considered as sufficient information.

1 Definitions

1.1 Small Turbine

A small turbine is defined in accordance with the Renewable UK (formally known as British Wind Energy Association) definition, which is contained in the BWEA Small Wind Turbine Performance and Safety Standard 29 February 2008, which can be accessed using the following link http://www.renewableuk.com/
The definition states that:
"a wind turbine having a rotor swept area of 200m^2 or less. In a horizontal axis wind turbine this equates to a rotor diameter of less than 16m.

1.2 Large Turbine

Large turbine is any one that does not fall within the above mentioned definition.

2. The key objective

The key objective of Carmarthenshire County Council is to try and ensure that the wind turbine noise levels (including cumulative noise from consented and existing turbines in the vicinity) at noise sensitive properties does not exceed:

1. **Small turbines - 35dB $L_{Aeq,\ t}$**
2. **Large Turbine - 35dB $L_{A90,\ 10mins}$**
3. **Financially involved - 45dB $L_{A90,mins}$**

3. Site Specific Desktop Noise Assessment

All applications submitted must include a desktop noise assessment which is specific to the development locality. The assessment must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and competent acoustician. The desktop noise assessment should contain all the following information;

- A twelve figure national grid reference for the precise location of the turbine
- Identification of the nearest noise sensitive premises and details of their respective distances from the proposed development. Property that is in ownership of the applicant

should also be included. A statement should be provided as to whether any properties in ownership of the applicant are let to third parties.

- The make, model, hub height, declared apparent emission sound power level and rotor diameter of the proposed turbine.
- The most recent turbine-specific emission data (usually supplied by the turbine manufacturer) providing information on the derivation of the sound power level of the turbine, including the level of uncertainty.
  - For small wind turbines the assessment must comply with the BWEA Small Wind Turbine Performance and Safety Standard" 29 February 2008.
  - For large wind turbines the assessment must comply with the most recent version of IEC 61400-11.

- An appropriate modelled assessment must be undertaken detailing the predicted level of turbine noise for each identified receptor:
  - For small wind turbines the noise predictions must be undertaken in accordance with BWEA performance and safety standard, 29 February 2008, therefore the predictions must be based on a hemispherical sound propagation. The predictions should be based upon the declared sound power level up to and including wind speeds of 8m/s at hub height.
  - For large wind turbines the noise predictions must made in accordance with ISO 9613- 2 following the IOA guidance with regards the input parameters to be used. The predictions must be based upon the apparent sound power level (plus uncertainty) and a minimum wind speed range (10m Standardised) for background noise surveys;
    - For pitch-regulated turbines: between cut-in wind speed and the wind speed corresponding to its maximum sound power level.
    - For stall-regulated turbines: between cut-in and 12m/s
- Where multiple small or large turbines are proposed, a desktop noise assessment must be submitted that demonstrates that the cumulative noise emissions from the turbine will not exceed the lower fixed noise limits stipulated in ETSU-R-97.
- If the proposed development produces noise levels within 10dB of any existing turbine/s, consented turbine/s and any turbine/s currently the subject of an application at the same receptor location, then a cumulative noise impact assessment is necessary. In the first instance, the cumulative impact assessment must be based upon the consented levels of existing or approved turbines. We appreciate that there may be some circumstances where an alternative approach is more appropriate. If you wish to use an alternative approach, please contact the Public Health Team. Should there be no consented levels then the assessment should be based on the sound power level of the existing or approved turbines. A full explanation on how the cumulative impact has been determined should be submitted as part of the application. For assistance in completing this task then please contact the Carmarthenshire County Council's planning department on 01267 234567. Carmarthenshire County Council reserves the right to request a wider search radius where large scale developments are involved.
- In instances were wind shear has not been taken directly into account, it will be necessary to apply corrections to address this. Any such corrections should be clearly outlined and detailed in any noise assessment. The Institute of Acoustics "A Good Practice Guide to the

Application of ETSU-R-97 For the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise" provides examples of suitable methods to correct predictions to account for wind shear effects.

4. Site Specific Detailed Noise Assessment

Where the site specific desk top study demonstrates that the proposed wind turbine(s) do not meet the noise limits of:

1. **Small turbines - 35dB $L_{Aeq,\ t}$**
2. **Large Turbine - 35dB $L_{A90,\ 10mins}$**

then the applicant must undertake and submit a site specific detailed noise assessment.
This assessment should include the following:

- Predicted turbine(s) noise levels at the noise sensitive properties undertaken in accordance with the method detailed in point 3.
- A detailed background noise survey undertaken in accordance with requirements stipulated in ETSU-R-97, which are further explained in Institute of Acoustics' Good Practice Guide. Locations and details of which should be discussed and agreed with the local planning authority. Two weeks' notice of when the background noise measurements will be undertaken must be provided to the Public Health Team, so that they can attend where appropriate.
- Noise limits specified in ETSU-R-97 and the difference between the predicted noise levels and ETSU-R-97 derived noise limits.

Please Note that the Local Planning Authority of Carmarthenshire County Council so reserve the rights of specifying a single noise limit, which are not specified in ETSU-R-97.

Example Noise Conditions for Small Wind Turbines

- The rating level of noise emission from the wind turbines (including the application of any tonal penalty) should not exceed a sound pressure level of 35 $dBL_{Aeq,T}$ within the amenity space of any lawfully existing dwelling, at wind speeds up to an including 8m/s at hub height. Measurements should be made at least 3.5m away from the building facade or any reflecting surface except the ground.

  The measurement time period shall be based on BWEA blade length calculation (3.4.1):
t = 4*D seconds
  Where:
  t - measurement period in seconds (Subject to a minimum period of 10 seconds)
  D – rotor diameter in meters
- Within 21 days from the receipt of written request from the Local Planning Authority, the operator of the development shall, at its expense, employ an independent consultant approved by the Local Planning Authority to assess the level of noise imissions from the wind turbines using a method agreed with the Local Planning Authority, to ensure that the noise from the development meets the level specified in condition X.
- During the course of the investigation, should the wind turbine be identified as operating above the parameters specified in the above Condition the wind turbines will be modified, limited or shut down. These measures shall be applied until such time as maintenance or repair is undertaken sufficient to reduce the absolute noise level of the operating turbines to within the parameters specified in the above Condition.
- In the event that the operational turbine subsequently develops an audible tone, then a penalty shall be added to the measured sound levels in accordance with ETSU-R-97. This

condition applies where no tone has been identified at the assessment stage and no penalty applied.

Example Noise conditions in relation to a large wind turbine

- The rating level of noise immission from the wind turbine/s (including the application of any tonal penalty) should not exceed a sound pressure level not exceeding 35dB $L_{A90,\ 10\ mins}$, within the amenity space of any lawfully existing dwelling, at wind speeds up to an including 10m/s, standardised/measured to a height of 10m.

- The noise immision from the wind turbine shall not exceed a sound pressure level $L_{A90,\ 10\ mins}$ of 45dB at the financially involved noise-sensitive property at wind speeds up to and including 10m/s at 10m height.

Where this is not possible ETSU-R-97 conditions will apply, based on the background noise levels and predictions submitted.

- Within 21 days from the receipt of written request from the Local Planning Authority, the operator of the development shall, at its expense, employ an independent consultant approved by the Local Planning Authority to assess the level of noise imissions from the wind turbines using a method agreed with the Local Planning Authority, to ensure that the noise from the development meets the level specified in condition X.
- The assessment of the rating level of noise immissions shall be undertaken in accordance with an assessment protocol that shall previously have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The protocol shall include the proposed measurement location where measurements for compliance checking purposes shall be undertaken, the method to assess the presence of any tonal component, and also the range of meteorological and operational conditions (which shall include the range of wind speeds, wind directions, power generation and times of day) to determine the assessment of rating level of noise immissions.
- During the course of the investigation, should the wind turbine be identified as operating above the parameters specified in the above condition the wind turbine/s will be modified, limited or shut down. These measures shall be applied until such time as maintenance or repair is undertaken sufficient to reduce the absolute noise level of the operating turbines to within the parameters specified in the above condition.
- In the event that the operational turbine subsequently develops an audible tone, then a penalty shall be added to the measured sound levels in accordance with ETSU-R-97. This condition applies where no tone has been identified at the assessment stage and no penalty applied.

Useful web links

1. IOA Good Practice Guide
   http://www.ioa.org.uk/pdf/ioa-gpg-on-wtna-issue-01-05-2013.pdf
2. ETSU-R-97
   http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/explained/wind/onshore-offshore/page21743.html
3. BWEA Small Wind Turbine Performance and Safety Standard 29 February 2008.
   http://www.renewableuk.com/

Appendix B

European Sites

There are a number of European sites that fall within the County, in addition there are a number that fall outside but should be considered in assessments.

Site	Designation	Location
Afon Tywi River Tywi	SAC	Carmarthenshire
Caeau Mynydd Mawr	SAC	Carmarthenshire
Cernydd Carmel	SAC	Carmarthenshire
Carmarthen Bay Dunes	SAC	Carmarthenshire
Afon Tefi River Teifi	SAC	Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire
Afonydd Celddau / Cleddau Rivers	SAC	Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire
Carmarthen Bay and Esturaries	SAC	Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Pembrokeshire
Bae Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen Bay	SPA	Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Pembrokeshire
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen	SAC	Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion
Elenydd – Mallaen	SPA	Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Powys
Burry Inlet	SPA	Carmarthenshire and Swansea
Burry Inlet	Ramsar	Carmarthenshire and Swansea
Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion	SAC	Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands / Coedydd Gogledd Sir Benfro	SAC	Pembrokshire
Yerbeston Tops	SAC	Pembrokshire
Rhos Llawr-cwrt	SAC	Ceredigion
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes / Safleoedd Ystlym Sir Benfro a LLynnoedd Bosherton	SAC	Pembrokshire
Gower Ash Woods / Coedydd Ynn Gwyr	SAC	Swansea

Pembrokeshire Marine	SAC	Pembrokshire (The Carmarthenshire Rivers connect Carmarthenshire with the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC)
Gower Commons / Tiroedd Comin Gwyr	SAC	Swansea
River Wye / Afon Gwy	SAC	Powys (The catchment area for the River Wye is partially within Carmarthenshire)
Gweunydd Blaencleddau	SAC	Pembrokshire
Preseli	SAC	Pembrokshire
Mynydd Epynt	SAC	Powys
River Usk, Afon Wysg	SAC	The catchment area for the River Wye is partially within Carmarthenshire
Bristol Channel Approaches	cSAC	Extends across the western approaches of the Bristol Channel, from Carmarthen Bay in South Wales to the north coast of Devon and Cornwall.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

CHANGE OF NAME OF QUARTER BACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND TRELECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Purpose: To seek Council's approval to change the name of Quarter Bach Community Council and Trelech Community Council

Recommendations / key decisions required:

It is recommended that the Council consider giving approval to the change of name for Quarter Bach Community Council to Cwarter Bach Community Council and to give approval to the change of name for Trelech Community Council to Trelech a'r Betws.

Reasons: To meet County Council's duty under Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted	NA
Exec Board Decision Required	YES
Council Decision Required	YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr David Jenkins (Resources)

Directorate		
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	Tel Nos.
Wendy Walters	Director of Regeneration and Policy	01267 228750
Report Author:	Electoral Service Manager	E Mail Addresses:
Amanda Bebb		ABebb@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

CHANGE OF NAME OF QUARTER BACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND TRELECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL Section 76, Local Government Act 1972

In accordance with Section 76 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Clerk of Quarter Bach Community Council and the Clerk of Trelech Community Council has requested the County Council to consider changing the name of the Community from Quarter Bach to Cwarter Bach Community Council and from Trelech to Trelech a'r Betws Community Council.

Section 76 of the Local Government Act, 1972 states that at the request of a Community Council, the principal Council in which the Community is situated may change the name of the Community. At their meeting held on 30th January 2017, Trelech Community Council unanimously agreed to forward a request to Carmarthenshire County Council to consider changing the name of the Community Council to Trelech a'r Betws.

On 1 February 2017, Quarter Bach Community Council unanimously agreed to seek guidance from Carmarthenshire County Council on the procedure to change the name of the Community Council to Cwarter Bach.

Should the Council be minded to approve the change of name for both Community Councils, notice of this change is required to be sent to the National Assembly for Wales, to the Director General of the Ordance Survey and to the Registrar General for England and Wales. It must also be published in each respective Community area.

A change of name of the Community Council would not affect any rights or obligations of the Community nor render defective any legal proceedings which may be commenced or continued as if there had been no change of name.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	**NO** **(copy of email received from Trelech Community Council and copy of minutes from Quarter Bach Community Council and copies of emails of support from Councillor Glynog Davies in respect of Quarter Bach Community Council and Councillor Jean Lewis in respect of Trelech Community Council).**

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Wendy Walters, Director of Regeneration and Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	**YES**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**

Legal

Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that at the request of a Community or Town Council, the principal Council, in which the community is situated may change the name Community.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Wendy Walters, Director of Regeneration and Policy

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A

2.Local Member(s)

Councillor Glynog Davies (Quarter Bach) and Councillor Jean Lewis (Trelech) have been consulted and support the proposals.

3.Community / Town Council

Request to change name of Quarter Bach Community Council received on 4 April 2017 and a request to change the name from Trelech Community Council received on 6 February 2017

4.Relevant Partners N/A

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Contact Amanda Bebb for further information on correspondence received.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

CWMAMMAN AFC

Purpose: Financial Assistance to Cwmamman AFC

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the financial assistance to Cwmamman AFC to the value of up to £45k

Reasons:

Provide financial assistance to Cwmamman AFC to enable them to improve existing facilities. This forms part of the criteria set by FAW which would enable them to compete in the Division 1 of the Welsh Football League.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted	NA
Exec Board Decision Required	YES
Council Decision Required	NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Councillor David Jenkins (Resources)

Directorate		
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	Tel Nos. 01267 224121
Chris Moore	Director of Corporate Services	E Mail Addresses:
Report Author:		cmoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Chris Moore	Director of Corporate Services	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD
30TH APRIL 2018

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CWMAMMAN AFC

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

Cwmamman United was founded in 1976 having formally been known as Glanamman. They started off in the Neath and District League Division 3 and over the last 40 years the club has achieved various success as the playing capabilities and overall participation grew. This resulted in the remarkable achievement at the end of last season where Cwmamman United was promoted to the Welsh Football League Division 1, the second tier in Welsh Football Leagues.

Cwmamman United currently have around 140 players signed with the club, involving 3 adult teams and over 100 youth and junior players. This playing success is driving huge interest and participation is expected to continue to grow.

The club play out of Grenig Park in Glanamman and the challenge now is to meet the Tier 2 ground requirements set by the Welsh Football Association, which requires a 100 seater arena and extending the field by a further 6 metres. Also installing a further 150 seats and establish a floodlight system for evening matches. The Club have therefore approached the County Council requesting support for this project

The total cost of the project is estimated at £136,228. The club has already identified funding as detailed below and have a shortfall in the region of £43k. The County Council has therefore been requested to support the project with a contribution to match the shortfall.

Funding already secured:

£41,250 – Football Assoc. of Wales

£27,000 – Welsh FA Improvement Scheme

Funding applied for, pending a decision:

£15,000 – MYB

£10,000 – Playing Fields Legacy fund

The local community is supportive of the improvements to the ground and facilities. It also has full support of local council members, assembly members and a member of parliament. The project is fully supported by the Football Association of Wales, as they have awarded the Club a financial contribution of £41,250.

OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS

Failure to meet these requirements will result in an automatic relegation for the team, while also clearly missing the community and people involvement opportunities that these developments will bring.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :
Signed: Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	None	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES

3. Finance
Funding provision has been included within Capital Programme for 2018/19.

7. Physical Assets
The club is currently progressing Asset transfer discussions, ensuring a long term lease and have just agreed a 15 year lease for Grenig Park ground and changing facilities with a longer lease to be discussed.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below
Signed: Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services

1. Scrutiny Committee n/a
2.Local Member(s) Cllr David Jenkins, fully supportive of the project
3.Community / Town Council Cwmamman Community Council, fully supportive of the project
4.Relevant Partners Football Association of Wales
5.**Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** n/a

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Correspondence from Cwmamman AFC		CFP/Economic Development

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