

# Document Pack



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**WEDNESDAY, 2 MAY 2018**

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, - COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN** AT **10.00 AM** ON **FRIDAY, 11TH MAY, 2018** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

*Mark James* CBE

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



PLEASE RECYCLE

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Ref:	AD016-001

# **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **13 MEMBERS**

### **PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 6 MEMBERS**

- |    |            |                   |
|----|------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Ann Davies        |
| 2. | Councillor | Handel Davies     |
| 3. | Councillor | Jeanette Gilasbey |
| 4. | Councillor | Betsan Jones      |
| 5. | Councillor | Gareth Thomas     |
| 6  | Councillor | Aled Vaughan Owen |

### **LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS**

- |    |            |                       |
|----|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Deryk Cundy           |
| 2. | Councillor | Sharen Davies (Chair) |
| 3. | Councillor | Shirley Matthews      |
| 4. | Councillor | Louvain Roberts       |

### **INDEPENDENT GROUP – 3 MEMBERS**

- |    |            |                 |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Anthony Davies  |
| 2. | Councillor | Irfon Jones     |
| 3. | Councillor | Hugh Shepardson |

# AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS
3. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
5. DRAFT NEW CORPORATE STRATEGY 2018-23 5 - 60
6. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 61 - 68
7. AMENDMENT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR RENEWAL POLICY 69 - 74
8. REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
2018 - 2033 DRAFT DELIVERY AGREEMENT 75 - 102
9. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - WIND AND  
SOLAR ENERGY - CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT  
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10. COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK  
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11. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 161 - 162
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13. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING HELD ON 29TH MARCH, 2018 165 - 170

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# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018

### Draft New Corporate Strategy 2018-23

- The Draft New Corporate Strategy 2018-23 document together with the relevant Well-being Objective detailed action plans for this Scrutiny Committee

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- The introduction of a New Corporate Strategy to:-
  - replace the current Corporate Strategy published in 2015
  - include our Well-being Objectives and Improvement Objectives and to incorporate key projects and programmes set out in *Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire the next 5 years*
- To keep the same set of Well-being Objectives for 2018/19 and an additional one on *Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources*

### Reasons:

- In January 2018, the new Administration published its plan – *Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 Years*. It required that a new Corporate Strategy should be developed to reflect its plans and programmes, in line with the Well-being Future Generations Act (WbFG).

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:

- Cllr. Emlyn Dole (Leader)
- Cllr. Mair Stephens (Deputy Leader)
- Cllr. Linda Evans (Housing)
- Cllr. Peter Hughes- Griffiths (Culture, Sport and Tourism)

Directorates: Regeneration & Policy / Communities	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:
<b>Names of Heads of Service:</b>		
Wendy Walters	Director of Regeneration & Policy	01267 224112 <a href="mailto:WSWalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">WSWalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Ian Jones	Head of Leisure	01267 228309 <a href="mailto:IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Jonathan Morgan	Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities	01267 228960 <a href="mailto:JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018

### Draft New Corporate Strategy 2018-23

- The Draft New Corporate Strategy 2018-23 document together with the relevant Well-being Objective (WBO) detailed action plans for this Scrutiny Committee
- The following sections within the document are relevant to Community Scrutiny:
  - Introduction
  - WBO 2. Help children live healthy lifestyles
  - WBO 6. Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county
  - WBO 7. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes
  - WBO 8. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)
  - WBO 14. Promoting Welsh language and culture
  - Appendices
- *Please Note: The detailed action plans for **all** the WBOs will be available as document links within the final published document*

This new Corporate Strategy consolidates the following plans into one document:-

1. The 2015-20 Corporate Strategy
2. The Improvement Objectives, as required by the Local Government Measure 2009.
3. It includes our Well-being Objectives as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Our Well-being Objectives do not have to change every year, or be deliverable within one year. It is perfectly legitimate to set objectives which span more than one year
4. Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board key projects and programmes for the next 5 years, as set out in '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years*'

The New Corporate Strategy is framed by our Well-being Objectives.

As part of budget consultation in December 2017, we consulted on our Well-being objectives. Over 600 responses were received, with agreement that all should remain.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

# IMPLICATIONS

We 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 & Policy  
 Ian Jones Head of Leisure  
 Jonathan Morgan Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Our key strategic policies are addressed throughout our Well-being Objectives  
 Crime and disorder is identified and addressed through the *Well-being Objective 9: Supporting good connections with friends, family and communities*  
 Equality implications are addressed within the *Well-being Objective 15: Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources*

## 2. Legal

The law states that:-

- a) We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is  
 ‘... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’
- b) We must demonstrate 5 ways of working:  
 Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative
- c) We must work towards achieving all of the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.
  1. A prosperous Wales
  2. A resilient Wales
  3. A healthier Wales
  4. A more equal Wales
  5. A Wales of cohesive communities
  6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
  7. A globally responsible Wales

### 3. Finance

We need to continue to strengthen the links between Strategic and Financial Planning.

The Act requires the publication of a statement detailing how a public body proposes to ensure that resources are allocated annually for the purpose of taking such steps to meet the well-being objectives. Para 53 SPSF 1

Our AGS has been revised to take account of the new CIPFA/SOLACE, 7 Principles of Corporate Governance. This is addressed in the Building a Better Council and Use of Resources Action Plan aligned to the 7 Principles. Internal Audit undertook a stocktake during 2017/18 against the guidance specifications and identified any gaps to be addressed.

### 4. ICT

ICT implications are being taken forward within our Digital Transformation Strategy and feature within the *Well-being Objective 15: Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources*

### 5. Risk Management Issues

Our key strategic risks are identified and addressed within Service Business Plans that underpin our Well-being Objectives

### 6. Physical Assets

The key strategic Asset Management Plan incorporates our Well-being Objectives, Capital prioritisation takes into account the Objectives.

### 7. Staffing Implications

People Management Strategy issues are identified in Well-being Objective 15: *Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources*



# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Wendy Walters Director Regeneration & Policy  
 Ian Jones Head of Leisure  
 Jonathan Morgan Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities

## 1. Local Member(s)

## 2. Community / Town Council

## 3. Relevant Partners

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - All Departments have been consulted and have had the opportunity to provide comments

## 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
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales ) Act 2015	-	<a href="#">The Essentials Guide</a>
Shared purpose:shared future Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales ) Act 2015	-	<a href="#">SPSF 1 Core guidance</a> <a href="#">SPSF 2 Individual Role (public bodies)</a>
Local Government Measure (2009)	-	<a href="#">Local Government Measure (2009)</a>
Corporate Strategy 2015-2020	-	<a href="#">Corporate Strategy 2015-2020</a>
Moving forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years	-	<a href="#">Moving forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years</a>
Well-being Objectives 2017-18	-	<a href="#">Well-being Objectives 2017-18</a>

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# Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire

## The Council's New Corporate Strategy 2018-2023

June 2018



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	2. Help children live healthy lifestyles
	3. Continue to improve learner attainment for all
	4. Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training
<b>Live Well</b>	5. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty
	6. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county
	7. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes
	8. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)
<b>Age Well</b>	9. Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities
	10. Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years
<b>In A Healthy, Safe &amp; Prosperous Environment</b>	11. A Council wide approach to support Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire
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# Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years

In January 2018, Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board presented its key aspirations for the next 5 years – '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years*'. This plan identified a number of key projects and programmes that the Council will strive to deliver over the next five years. It seeks to continuously improve economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being in the County.

Given this direction, the Council needs to publish a New Corporate Strategy that consolidates and aligns our existing plans.

## The Challenges facing the Council

Following a period of engagement and consultation, the Carmarthenshire Well-being Assessment was published in March 2017. The assessment looked at the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing in Carmarthenshire through different life stages and provides a summary of the key findings.

A copy of the Carmarthenshire Well-being Assessment (2017) can be found on: [www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales](http://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales). A precis of the Assessment's Executive Summary is outlined in **Appendix 5**

As the Council plans for the future we must take account of a number of challenges that we face. Most of these challenges are driven by factors outside of the Council's control but they are factors that we have to consider as we develop and, in some instances, change the way that we work and do things.

1. Acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WbFG principle) - TBC
2. Increasing demand and complexity for services
3. Increasing expectations of provision at the same time as managing decreasing budget
4. Challenging economic climate and local economy
5. Increasing need to strengthen the digital infrastructure and support digital inclusion for individual residents as well as public, private and third sector organisations looking to develop economic prosperity and agile working
6. Changing demographic profile of the county and in particular its ageing population
7. Increasing risks to ensure children and young people are protected from harm
8. Adapting to environmental change
9. Increasing deprivation and poverty with growing inequities between communities
10. Increasing legislation and regulation from Welsh Government
11. Managing the workforce risks associated with the pace of change required by the organisation.
12. Developing a dynamic economy in the context of Brexit - TBC

# The Council's Core Values

In delivering this strategy it is important that we maintain our core values in everything we do:-



**Customers First** – we put the needs of our citizens at the heart of everything that we do

**Listening** – we listen to learn, understand and improve now and in the future

**Excellence** – we constantly strive for excellence, delivering the highest quality possible every time by being creative, adopting innovative ways of working and taking measured risks

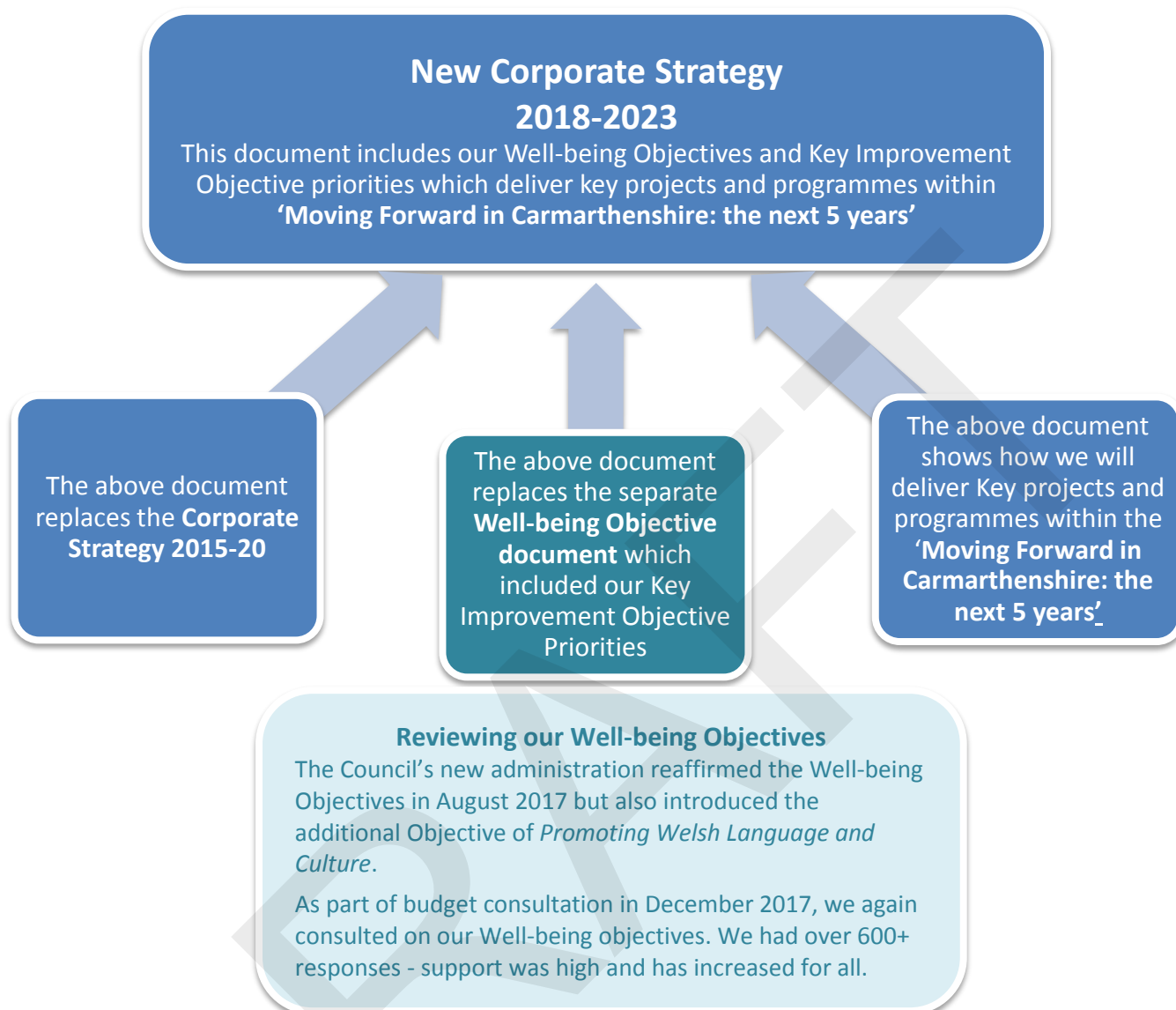
**Integrity** – we act with integrity and do the right things at all times

**Taking Responsibility** – we all take personal ownership and accountability for our actions

## Bringing Plans together

**This New Corporate Strategy consolidates the following plans into one document:-**

1. It supersedes the 2015-20 Corporate Strategy
2. It incorporates our Improvement Objectives as required by the Local Government Measure 2009 (See *Appendix 1*).
3. It includes our Well-being Objectives as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. For the first time in Wales, there is a shared vision and set of goals for all public bodies to work towards, our Well-being Objectives are set to maximise our contribution to these (See *Appendix 1*).
4. It includes Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board key projects and programmes for the next 5 years as set out in '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years*'.



## Priorities

*'Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years'* makes it clear that regeneration is the Council's number one priority. Our 15 Well-being Objectives cover the broad range of Council Services to ensure economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being.

The allocation of resources to deliver these objectives is outlined in *Appendix 2*.

## The Council's Vision can be summed up as follows:-

*'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment'*

**Life is for living, let's start,  
live and age well in a  
healthy, safe and  
prosperous environment**

				Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	
Start Well	Live Well		Age Well		
Well-being Objectives					
1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences		5. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work & improving the lives of those living in poverty		10. Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity & independence in their later years	12. Looking after the environment now and for the future
2. Help children live healthy lifestyles		6. Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county			13. Improving the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity
3. Continue to improve learner attainment for all		7. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes		11. A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire	
4. Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training		8. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)			
		9.Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities			
15. Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources					



## Start Well

(Infographics on the following will be ready for publication)

18% (32,846) of Carmarthenshire's population are aged between 0 and 15

there are currently;  
751 Children in Need;  
97 children on the  
Child Protection  
Register and 194  
Looked After  
Children in  
Carmarthenshire

12.3% of children in  
Carmarthenshire are  
living in workless  
households

30.7% of 4-5 year  
olds being  
overweight or obese

There are 98 Primary  
Schools (12,000  
pupils) and 14  
Secondary schools  
(11,000 pupils) in the  
County

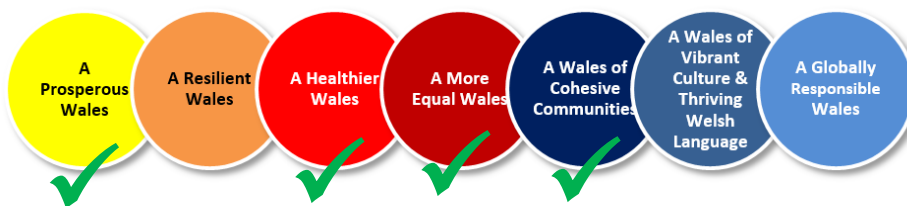


## Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

### So why is this important?

- Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing inequalities across the life course.
- What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being - from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status.
- Looked After Children (LAC) are more likely to have been exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) associated with poor long term outcomes before entering care (Jones, 2011<sup>1</sup>).



### Why this should concern us?

- For every 100 adults in Wales, 47 have suffered at least one adverse childhood experience (ACEs) during their childhood and 14 have suffered 4 or more.
- 12.3% of children in Carmarthenshire are living in workless households, lower than the 2015 figure of 15.3 and just below Wales (13.9%) but above UK (11.6%).
- In Carmarthenshire there are currently; 751 Children in Need; 97 children on the Child Protection Register and 194 Looked After Children. (these are Qtr 3 figs, to be amended at Qtr 4)

### What do we need to do?

- We need to give every child the best start in life and ensure development throughout early childhood.
- We need to build resilience against adverse experiences.

### How will we do this?

#### A. We will **support families** by:

- a. promoting bonding and attachments to support positive good parent-child relationships.
- b. better equipping parents and care-givers with the necessary skills to avoid ACEs arising within the home environment and encourage development of social and emotional well-being and resilience in the child.
- c. identifying and intervening where children may already be victims of abuse, neglect or living in an adverse environment.
- d. continuing to provide attachment awareness training in schools to ensure they become *attachment awareness schools*.
- e. ensuring that our specialist substance misuse team meets the needs of children by:
  - i. Providing specialist advice and support for front line teams
  - ii. Raising awareness of the dangers of substance misuse and support people to make informed decisions to prevent the harm caused by substance misuse.

- B.** We will ensure that every child with identified **additional learning needs (ALN)** in all Carmarthenshire schools will have access to delegated ALN funding and appropriate integrated support services – e.g. Educational and Child Psychology, Sensory Impairment support and Advisory Teachers.

We will continue to develop the **Flying Start** programme, promoting early intervention for disadvantaged families with children (0-3) living in specific deprived communities.

We will ensure the Council fully responds and delivers key childcare and play requirements moving towards delivering 30 hours of free education and care for working parents.



More Information - You can see our **detailed action plan** to achieve this objective here

<sup>1</sup> Jones (2011). Factors associated with outcomes for looked after children and young people: a correlates review of the literature Child: care, health and development

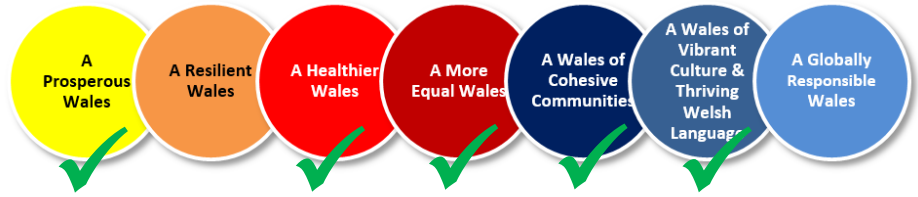


## Well-being Objective 2

### Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

#### So why is this important?

- Projections suggest an increase in trends for childhood obesity going forward with figures showing males between the ages of 2 – 15 being at greatest risk.
- The [Play Sufficiency Assessment](#) identified playing outside as the most popular setting for children but also found that 32% of parents worried so much about their child's safety that it affected their children's opportunity to play.
- Assessment engagement activity with primary school children showed being physically active to be the second most important factor for positive well-being of children aged 6 – 11, after connections with family and friends.
- Living healthy lives allows children to fulfil their potential and meet education aspirations.
- Habits established early in life remain with people to allow them to play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.



#### Why this should concern us?

- Carmarthenshire is the third worst County in Wales for levels of childhood obesity with 30.7% of 4-5 year olds being overweight or obese, almost 5 percentage points higher than the Welsh average of 26.2%.
- Engagement with primary schools identified a strong link between physical activity and opportunities to play in outside spaces, and to feel safe in that environment.
- 10% of people aged 5 to 16 have mental health disorders and 7% under 12 deliberately self-harm.

#### What do we need to do?

- We need to work with partners to ensure children across Carmarthenshire: eat healthily, are physically active and maintain good mental health.
- We need to review if current measures and actions are making any difference.
- We need to measure activity through schools.

#### How will we do this?

- A. We will increase the range of **physical activity** opportunities available for children, and target those at higher risk of inactivity, using activities such as swim sessions (Free, Splash, School, Wave, Skills Clubs), Actif Play and Storytime, Actif Passport to Physical Literacy, Dragon Multi-Skills and Sport, 5x60 and Focus Sport activity developments.
- B. We will **address mental health** including reducing exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
- C. We will **promote eating healthy**, including through school meals, the *Healthy Schools scheme* and the *School Holiday Enrichment Programme (previously Holiday Hunger scheme)*.
- D. We will **increase awareness** of healthy lifestyles including promoting the Public Health Wales' *10 Steps to a healthy weight* preventative programme to help beat childhood obesity.
- E. We will continue to develop, promote and deliver the **Flying Start Programme**.

We shall implement the School Holiday Enrichment (Holiday Hunger) Programme (SHEP), supporting families and children during school vacations to cook healthy meals, particularly aimed at pupils eligible for Free School Meals.

Through the Healthy Schools Scheme we will continue to increase the level of physical activity by developing the Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Project



More Information - You can see our [detailed action plan](#) to achieve this objective here



## Well-being Objective 2

### Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

#### How will we do this? Our detailed action plan to achieve this objective

(Lemon highlight means that this is not the Action or Measure's main objective)

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
<b>A</b>	<b>Increase physical activities for children</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will work with Town & Community Councils and other community organisations to look at ways to invest in upgrading Local leisure provisions <b>Part of MF5-71</b>	March 2019
<b>2</b>	We will ensure best use is made of school facilities to support wider community activity. <i>(Action also included in Objective 8, 9 and 11)</i> <b>MF5-30</b>	March 2019
<b>3</b>	We will review and implement an improved pathway of aquatics provision that enables participants to reach their full potential. <i>(Also in Well-being Objective 8)</i>	March 2019
<b>4</b>	Through the Healthy Schools Scheme we will continue to increase the level of physical activity by developing the Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Project, continue to hold our annual Pedometer Challenge and continue to embed the Food & Fitness Health topic within Schools.	March 2019
<b>5</b>	We will continue to work towards addressing the gaps identified in our most recent Play Sufficiency Assessment (2016-2019) in order to ensure that local children and young people have access to wide and varied play opportunities and experiences including the potential of utilising school grounds, outside of teaching hours. <i>(Also in Well-being Objectives 1 and 5)</i>	June 2019
<b>6</b>	We shall increase the % of children who can swim 25m aged 11 (3.4.2.1) <i>(Also in Well-being Objective 8)</i> (2017/18 Result 77.3%)	tbc
<b>7</b>	We shall maintain the number of young people (0-16) accessing free swim sessions (3.4.2.2) (2017/18 Result tbc)	tbc
<b>8</b>	We shall increase the number of attendances at Sporting Opportunities facilitated by Sport & Leisure Officers (3.4.2.8) (2017/18 Result - tbc)	tbc
<b>9</b>	We shall increase the number of visits to leisure centres per 1,000 population (PAM/017) <i>(Also in Well-being Objective 8)</i> (2017/18 Result - tbc)	tbc
<b>B</b>	<b>Address mental health</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will reduce exposure to adverse childhood experiences - these are addressed in <i>Objective 1 - Help to give every child the best start in life.</i>	
<b>2</b>	Through the Healthy School Scheme we will continue to support schools in their implementation of the Mental & Emotional Health and Well-being Health topic including Anti-bullying strategies and healthy coping mechanisms such as mindfulness and Speakr.	March 2019
<b>C</b>	<b>Promote healthy eating</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will seek to further develop healthy eating in schools, beyond statutory Welsh Government regulations.	March 2019
<b>2</b>	We will seek to increase take-up of school meals (including free school meals).	March 2020
<b>3</b>	We shall implement the School Holiday Enrichment (Holiday Hunger) Programme (SHEP), supporting families and children during school vacations to cook healthy meals, particularly aimed at pupils eligible for Free School Meals. <i>(Also in Well-being Objective 5)</i>	March 2018
<b>4</b>	We shall continue to ensure that schools are abiding by the Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards & Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013, during cluster meetings, schools visits and assessments.	March 2019

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
5	We will increase the % of schools achieving phase 4 of the Healthy Schools Initiative (8.3.1.5) (2017/18 Result - tbc)	tbc
6	We shall increase the percentage of children seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after (SCC/30) (2017/18 Result - tbc)	tbc
7	We shall increase the percentage of children looked after at 31 March who were registered with a GP within 10 working days of the start of their placement (SCC/31) (2017/18 Result - tbc)	tbc
<b>D</b>	<b>Increase awareness</b>	
1	We shall continue to work in partnership with the Sustainable Pre-School Healthy Schools Scheme in promoting the '10 steps to a Healthy Weight'	March 2020
2	We will continue to promote and raise awareness to campaigns specific to healthy eating, physical activity and mental health such as 'Walk to school Week', the 'Daily Mile', National Obesity Awareness Week and Mental Health Awareness Week and promote the School Health Research Network through the Healthy Schools' Twitter account, Healthy Schools Network on Hwb, cluster meetings and raise awareness with parents and carers via parents evenings.	March 2020
<b>E</b>	<b>Flying Start Programme</b>	
1	We will continue to develop the Flying Start programme, promoting early intervention for disadvantaged families with children (0-3) living in specific deprived communities, ensuring good multi agency support to families across the spectrum of need by developing clear pathways with internal and external partners. <b>MF5-82</b> (Action also included in Objective 1 and 5)	March 2020

Success Measure
<b>Childhood obesity</b> (Child Measurement Programme NHS)



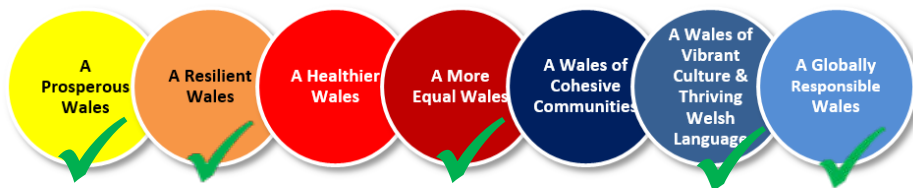


## Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Continue to improve learner attainment for all

### So why is this important?

- We all want all of our children and young people to have the best possible start in life by supporting them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.
- We want to improve outcomes for all ages through lifelong learning, to enable them to thrive in 21<sup>st</sup> Century living and the world of work.
- Research by *The Institute of Education* suggests that attending a good pre-school and primary school can have more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background (Taggart, 2015)
- Our service remains committed to both the principles and priorities as outlined in the Welsh Government's most recent strategic document '[Education in Wales: Our National Mission.](#)'



### Why this should concern us?

- There is currently a gap nationally (including Carmarthenshire) between the performance of pupils eligible for free school meals (eFSM) and those who are not. This aspect of our end of key stage performance and achievement continues to challenge and concern us.
- We have schools that need to improve in specific areas as recognised through the National Categorisation system\* (for 2017; 27% of Primary schools are rated 'Amber Support Category' and 1% of Primary schools is rated 'Red Support Category').  
\*Four levels of 'Support Category' exist – Green, Yellow, Amber and Red. All Secondary schools are currently rated in the Green or Yellow Support Category.
- The [2015 PISA results](#) (Programme for International Student Assessment), for which Kirsty Williams, Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Education, has stated "*remains the recognised international benchmark for skills*", continue to show Wales adrift from the rest of the UK.

### What do we need to do?

- We need to continue to improve results further for all learners, placing a focus on those entitled to Free School Meals and vulnerable learners - see also **Tackling Poverty Well-being Objective 5**.

### How will we do this?

- A. We will ensure a relentless emphasis on **improvement in education outcomes** for all children and young people across all learning phases, with a particular focus on vulnerable learners and those entitled to *Free School Meals*.
- B. We will continue to **improve school attendance** and learner well-being.
- C. We will provide **an excellent school in the right place** by:
  - a. Improving the condition, suitability and resource efficiency of our schools network through the *Modernising Education Plan*.
  - b. Developing an engaging, relevant and authentic *Local Curriculum*, within a clear framework of national guidance, which will fully prepare our children and young people for the challenges and opportunities of adult life.
- D. We will continue **workforce development and succession planning** by:
  - a. Developing and supporting a collaborative self-improving school system to ensure high quality leadership and provision for all learners.
  - b. Investing in further developing the skills of our teachers and support staff.
- E. We will continue the **development of Welsh in all our services**, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual. Pupils can fulfil their potential in gaining skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond.

We will increase the *Average Capped 9 points score* which is currently regarded as the key measure of achievement at the end of compulsory education.

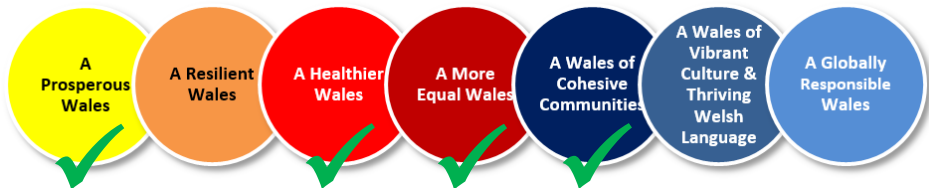


## Well-being Objective 4

Start Well - Reduce the number of young people that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

### So why is this important?

- Reducing the number of NEET young people reduces the effects of poverty and the wider cost to society of support services, reliance on benefits and offending.
- It is essential to maximise the life opportunities of children, ensuring that as many young people as possible are able to progress to school 6<sup>th</sup> forms, Further Education Colleges, apprenticeships, training provision or work.
- It enables young people to contribute positively to their local communities.



### Why this should concern us?

- The % of Carmarthenshire Year 11 pupils who became NEET in 2016 was 2.1% (40 pupils) although it is a reduction on 2015 of 3.5% (69 pupils), while the % of Carmarthenshire Year 13 pupils who became NEET was 2% (14 pupils) in 2016 down from 2.8% (21 pupils) in 2015.
- Carmarthenshire ranks 16<sup>th</sup> (of 22) Local Authorities in Wales for Year 11 pupils becoming NEET and above the All-Wales average of 2%.

### What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure that all children and young people in Carmarthenshire have the best possible opportunities to study, train and gain worthwhile employment locally, regionally or nationally.
- We will ensure that all vulnerable learners including those with a disability or additional learning needs are not excluded from programmes.
- We need to continue to deliver the six elements of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) which comprises of:
  - Identifying young people at risk of becoming NEET;
  - Providing brokerage and co-ordinated support for young people;
  - Improve tracking and transition support;
  - Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people;
  - Strengthening employability skills and entrepreneurship;
  - Ensuring we are accountable for our actions.

### How will we do this?

- We will implement the six **Youth Engagement and Progression Framework** Actions above.
- We will deliver the local elements of the *Cynnydd* and *Cam Nesa* **European Social Fund projects** (guaranteed funding till 2018-2020) which assists young people in progressing to further education, training and employment during the Post 16 education phase.
- We will implement the recommendations of the **Carmarthenshire 11-19 Education Strategic Review**.
- We will build on existing partnership relationships with local businesses and the public sector through the **Carmarthenshire Curriculum Review** to focus skills demands and employability of new and existing labour market entrants within Carmarthenshire to ensure that local and regional demands are met.

Also see Well-being Objectives 5+6 Action Plans re Hub and Regional Learning Partnership

We will work with partners to develop further opportunities for apprenticeships within the County.  
We shall support care leavers where possible to ensure that they are in education, training or employment at 24 months after leaving care.



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## Live Well

(Infographics on the following will be ready for publication)

59% (110,102) of Carmarthenshire's population are of working age (16-64)

Over 7 in 10 (73%; 78,600) of Carmarthenshire's working age population (16-64) are economically active

We created 280 jobs and accommodated 200 jobs with Regeneration assistance during 2017/18

Over 1 in 3 (35%) of households are living in poverty, according to the Welsh Government definition – households with less than 60% of GB median income

There were over 1.5 million visits to our leisure centres during 2017/18

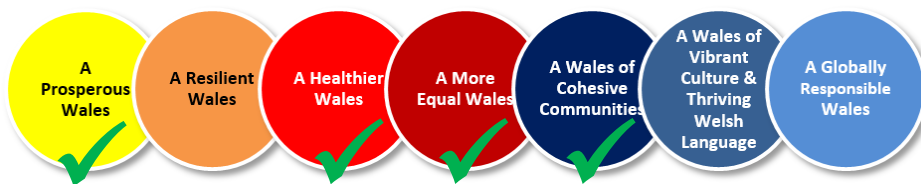


## Well-being Objective 5

Start Well/Live Well - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work & improve the lives of those living in poverty

### So why is this Important?

- Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects across all aspects of well-being. It limits the opportunities and prospects for children and young people, damages the quality of life for families and communities.
- Poverty can be a barrier to full participation in society and is too often an intergenerational experience which poses a significant threat to experiencing positive well-being both now and in the future.
- Research shows that children growing up in workless households experience consistently poorer outcomes than other children whose parents are always working, in relation to educational attainment and cognitive ability. 3,400 (12.3%) of Children are living in workless households.



### Why this should concern us?

- 35% of households in Carmarthenshire can be defined as living in poverty, (Welsh average 33%).
- 13% of households In Carmarthenshire are living in **severe poverty**, which means they have an income of less than £10,000 a year. Although this has fallen by 3% from the previous year.
- Of the 28,223 households living in poverty across Carmarthenshire, 33% (15,869) are rural.

### What do we need to do?

- We need to **prevent poverty** – There is a strong correlation between being born poor and experiencing a lifetime of poverty and many of the triggers of poverty experienced in childhood and later life are preventable if identified and addressed in a timely manner. Providing early, targeted and holistic interventions can therefore help reduce the likelihood of poverty occurring in our communities.
- We need to **help people into work** - work is one of the most fundamental and effective means of tackling poverty in all its forms. Work provides income and opportunities for social, emotional and cerebral development as well as improved health and well-being. Latest figures show that the median income for Carmarthenshire is £23,365 which is below the Welsh figure of £26,580 and a decrease on the median income for Carmarthenshire in the previous year.
- We need to **improve the lives of people living in poverty** by supporting those in poverty and improving access to help to maintain basic standards of living.

### How will we do this?

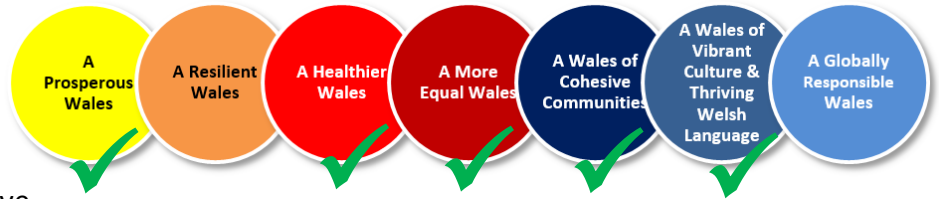
- Our children and education services will work to **prevent poverty** through delivering key early intervention programmes such as flying start and team around the family (TAF). In addition services such as housing will take a more proactive, preventative approach to addressing key triggers of poverty to prevent escalation of issues such as homelessness and fuel poverty.
- We will **help people into work** by building their confidence and skills through the dedicated Communities 4 Work programme and targeted support for those who are furthest from the labour market e.g. those who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET).
- We will **improve the lives of those living in poverty** through promoting and supporting greater financial literacy via services such as trading standards and housing benefits. We will also deliver initiatives to support key vulnerable groups including the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP), Toy Box and Hamper appeal.

We will develop a pilot project in the Tyisha ward to develop ways of addressing poverty in the area. We will undertake a comprehensive multi-service community engagement programme with a view to identifying key community and physical regeneration actions the Council, in partnership with other stakeholders, can take to support the community to develop future opportunities and prospects.



## Well-being Objective 6

### Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county



#### So why is this important?

- Providing secure and well paid jobs for local people is central to everything we are seeking to achieve.
- Increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty, reducing inequalities and has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.
- With an ageing workforce, feeling stimulated, using skills and social interaction are much more important to positive well-being in work than wage levels or job stability (well-being assessment survey).

#### Why this should concern us?

- Out of Carmarthenshire's 73.4% employed working age workforce @Sep 2017, 58% of the workforce are within the professional/technical/skilled trade occupations – well *below* the Welsh average of 63%, whilst 42% are within the caring/leisure/customer service/machine operative occupations – well *above* the 37% Welsh average.

Also see Well-being Objective 4 –Reduce the number of young adults that are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

- We must tackle a GVA (gross value added) gap that is widening between UK GVA & Wales GVA; *GVA is the measure of the value of the wages and profits from goods and services produced in an area.*

#### What do we need to do?

- We need to build a knowledge-rich, creative economy by maximising employment & training places for local people through creating jobs and providing high quality apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities, in order to have an on-going skilled and competent workforce to face the future.
- We need to evolve Carmarthenshire's position in the Swansea Bay City Region (Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot) into a confident, ambitious and connected county.
- We need to continue to invest in our local rural, infrastructure, including transportation to attract businesses, tourism/leisure to the county to promote economic growth and activity by building better connections and generating a strong tourism industry (see *Improving the highway & transport infrastructure and connectivity* Well-being Objective 13).
- We need to continue to invest in the strategic regeneration of our 3 principal towns, key strategic employment sites and continue to support business growth.
- We need to support Welsh Governments' - [\*Prosperity for All-the National Strategy:Economic Action Plan\*](#)

#### How will we do this?

- A. Regionally, by co-ordinating and delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal and specifically the Carmarthenshire based projects – Yr Egin and the Life Science and Wellness Village
- B. Locally, by delivering the Transformational Strategy Area Plans targeting bilingual urban, coastal and rural Carmarthenshire
- C. By identifying and addressing the issues facing rural communities
- D. By developing learning, skills, employability and encouraging a spirit of entrepreneurship throughout the county to support new businesses in the county (Regional Skills & Learning Partnership)
- E. By developing Carmarthenshire as a dynamic economy, in the context of BREXIT.

We will ensure the County fully benefits from the opportunities that will be created through the £1.3 billion investment through the Swansea Bay City Deal

We will establish regeneration initiatives to focus on the development of the rural market towns in the County.



More Information - You can see our [\*\*detailed action plan\*\*](#) to achieve this objective [here](#)



## Well-being Objective 6

Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

### How will we do this? Our detailed action plan to achieve this objective

(Lemon highlight means that this is not the Action or Measure's main objective)

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
<b>A</b>	<b>Regionally, by coordinating and delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal</b>	
<b>1</b>	As part of the City Deal we will deliver the project plan for the Life Science and Wellness Village. To include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the development of detailed planning and space specifications</li> <li>the delivery of full planning and commencement of the design and build phase ensuring community and public engagement in the development of the Village and use this to promote community connectivity and participation to ensure sustainability <b>MF5-72a</b> (Action ID 12985)</li> </ul>	June 2019
<b>2</b>	We will support the delivery of the £24million Yr Egin; to ensure the County fully benefits from the opportunities that will be created through the £1.3 billion investment through the Swansea Bay City Deal <b>MF5-72C</b>	March 2023
<b>3</b>	We will maintain the Swansea Bay City Deal Regional Office <b>MF5-72d</b>	March 2019
<b>B</b>	<b>Locally, by delivering the Transformational Strategy Area Plans targeting urban, coastal and rural Carmarthenshire.</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will deliver the <b>Carmarthen, Ammanford &amp; Rural transformational</b> plan and deliver initiatives and projects to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs created</li> <li>Jobs accommodated</li> <li>Floor space created</li> <li>Numbers into training</li> <li>Numbers into work</li> <li>Private sector funding</li> </ul> Via Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund; Property Development Funds; Projects including Pendine attractor; Margaret Street road widening; Carmarthen wetlands and Jacksons Lane Carmarthen development; Business Account Management and Business Start Ups and Incubation.	March 2019
<b>2</b>	We will deliver a Property Development Fund worth £8.6million (£3million from the Council and circa £5.6million private sector investment <b>MF5-73f</b>	March 2019
<b>3</b>	We will deliver the <b>Cross Hands Growth Zone, Llanelli and the Coastal Belt Transformational Plan</b> and deliver initiatives and projects to support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs created</li> <li>Jobs accommodated</li> <li>Floor space created</li> <li>Numbers into training</li> <li>Numbers into work</li> <li>Private sector funding</li> </ul> Via Llanelli Town Centre Loan; Projects including Opportunity St, Llanelli; Cross Hands East Phase 2; Strategic Employment Site; Workways + Buccaneer; Business Account Management; Beacon Bursary; Business growth fund and start up fund.	March 2019
<b>4</b>	We will develop Local Employment Sites across the County as part Transformations: strategic regeneration plan for Carmarthenshire <b>MF5-73e</b>	March 2019
<b>5</b>	We will develop a programme to support small business across the County. <b>MF5-78</b>	March 2019

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
6	We will Deliver Transformational town centre developments in Llanelli <b>MF5-73a</b>	March 2023
7	We will further develop the Carmarthenshire Coastal Belt at Pembrey <b>MF5-73C</b>	March 2023
8	We will further develop the Carmarthenshire Coastal Belt at Pendine	March 2023
9	We will deliver phase 2 of the development of Glanamman Workshops to provide improved workshop availability. <b>MF5-10</b>	March 2020
<b>C</b>	<b>By identifying and addressing the issues facing rural communities</b>	
1	We will deliver the Rural Enterprise Fund worth £4.3million (£2million from the Council and circa £2.3million private sector investment). <b>MF5-73g</b>	March 2019
2	We will consider opportunities to work with other local authorities and partners to establish a Rural Deal to focus on rural regeneration. <b>MF5-77</b>	March 2019
3	We will establish a Task Group to consider the issues effecting the rural communities in Carmarthenshire & identify actions the Council, in partnership with other public bodies and organisations, can take to address those issues. <b>MF5-76</b>	March 2019
4	We will consider options for ensuring the most effective use of the Council farm estate to support affordable farming initiatives. <b>MF5-14.</b>	March 2020
5	We will establish regeneration initiatives to focus on the development of the rural market towns in the County <b>MF5-73b</b>	March 2019
<b>D</b>	<b>By developing learning, skills, employability and encouraging a spirit of entrepreneurship throughout the county to support new businesses in the county.</b>	
1	We will deliver the £30million Skills and Talent Initiative to ensure the County fully benefits from the opportunities that will be created through the £1.3 billion investment through the Swansea Bay City Deal. <b>MF5-72b</b>	March 2023
2	We will extend the Hwb model developed in Llanelli to Ammanford and Carmarthen, making front line support services more accessible to residents <b>MF5-83</b> (Also in Well-being Objective 5)	March 2019
<b>E</b>	<b>Developing Carmarthenshire as a dynamic economy</b>	
1	We will investigate and monitor the impact of BREXIT on the economy of Carmarthenshire <b>MF5-84</b>	March 2019
2	We will maximise external funding in order to realise county wide economic activities	March 2019
3	Work with partners to address issues in terms of superfast broadband access and mobile phone signal across the County and in particular in rural areas. <b>MF5-74</b>	March 2019
4	We will continue to maximise external funding and to support the growth of the third sector.	March 2019
5	We will ensure the Council uses its stock and assets to facilitate economic development within the County. <b>MF5-79 &amp; MF5-92</b>	March 2019
6	We will lead on and complete all land acquisitions required to facilitate strategic highway schemes such as Cross Hands Economic Link Road and Towy Valley Cycleway	March 2019
7	We will develop and deliver the Countywide Tourism Destination Management Plan 2015-2020 and support the promotion of Carmarthenshire as an attractive and quality place to visit and stay.	March 2019
8	We will deliver a transformation plan for the existing Museums provision at the County Museum Abergwili, Parc Howard, Kidwelly Industrial Museum and Museum of Speed Pendine to improve the provision for residents and visitors whilst also maintaining links with and promoting independent museums within the County. In addition, it is intended to undertake work to further develop Oriel Myrddin. <b>MF5-64</b> (Action also in Well-being Objectives 8 & 14)	March 2022
9	We will begin the museums transformation plan with the delivery of a £1.2 million redevelopment of the County museum at Abergwili. <b>MF5- 65</b>	March 2020



Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
	<i>(Action also in Well-being Objectives 8 &amp; 14)</i>	
10	We will review and re-develop the Council's Theatre Services provision. <b>MF5-66</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objectives 8 &amp; 14)</i>	March 2019
11	Improve and develop the infrastructure and facilities at Pembrey Country Park to enable it to become a first class facility for residents and visitors. <b>MF5-67</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 8)</i>	March 2020
12	Deliver a £2million programme to re-develop Burry Port Harbour. <b>MF5-69</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 8)</i>	March 2019
13	We will support community groups and organisations to promote and publicise the rich variety of community event being held in Carmarthenshire from agricultural shows, festivals and carnivals to exhibitions, concerts and performances <b>MF5-85</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objectives 9 &amp; 14)</i>	March 2019
<b>F</b>	<b>Overarching Performance Measures</b>	
1	We will aim to create <b>TBC</b> more jobs <i>(EconD/001)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC)</i></span>	<b>TBC</b>
2	We will aim to accommodate <b>TBC</b> jobs <i>(EconD/002)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC)</i></span>	<b>TBC</b>
3	We will aim to place <b>TBC</b> people into jobs <i>(EconD/003)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC)</i></span>	<b>TBC</b>
4	We will aim to place <b>TBC</b> people into training <i>(EconD/004)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC)</i></span>	<b>TBC</b>
5	We will aim to create <b>TBC</b> sqft of Floorspace <i>(EconD/006)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC)</i></span>	<b>TBC</b> sqft
6	Level of Private Sector Investment / external funding secured <b>£ TBC</b> <i>(EconD/008)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC)</i></span>	£ <b>TBC</b>
7	We will ensure that a high percentage of undisputed invoices are paid within 30 days to help local businesses cash-flow <i>(CFH/006)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC %)</i></span>	<b>TBC</b> %
8	We will ensure that we conduct trading standards inspections for all high risk businesses <i>(PPN/001i)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC %)</i></span>	100%
9	We will ensure that we conduct animal health inspections for all high risk businesses <i>(PPN/001iii)</i> <span style="float:right"><i>(2017/18 Result - TBC %)</i></span>	100%

Success Measures
<b>Employment figures</b> <i>(ONS – Annual Population Survey) (National Well-being Indicator)</i>
<b>Gross weekly pay (Median)</b> <i>(ONS – Annual Survey of hours and earnings)</i>
<b>Number qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above</b> <i>(Stats Wales) (National Well-being Indicator)</i>
<b>People moderately or very satisfied with their jobs</b> <i>(National Survey for Wales) (National Well-being Indicator)</i>

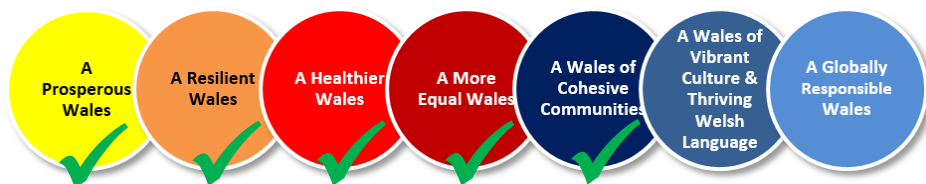


## Well-being Objective 7

### Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

#### So why is this important?

- Good quality affordable homes promote **health and well-being**, meeting the individual needs of the residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live.
- Good quality energy efficient affordable homes are good for the **People and the Environment** - as the energy use within the home will be reduced, having a significant effect on reducing the fuel costs for the occupying residents. It will also have a significant effect on reducing pollutants in the atmosphere and mitigating fuel poverty in our communities.
- It's good for the **Social Structure** - well-placed affordable housing developments allow communities to welcome a wide range of families and to create a vibrant, diverse, group of residents.
- It's good for the **Economy** - in order to thrive, new businesses need easy access to its workforce. Affordable housing developments ensure that working families will remain in their community.



#### Why this should concern us?

- People told us during our consultation on affordable Housing in 2015 that we need to:
  - Target help where the need is highest, in both urban and rural areas, by delivering more affordable homes for rent.
  - Be more flexible - whether by bringing wasted homes back into use, buying existing homes or building new ones.
  - Do whatever it takes by developing innovative and creative ways to deliver more homes.
  - Use our resources in the best possible way to ensure as many new homes as possible.
  - Use the expertise, skills and resources of those we work with.

#### What do we need to do?

- We need to provide additional affordable homes to meet the needs of residents in Carmarthenshire.
- We need to build new council homes across the County.
- We need to actively work with private landlords to encourage them to make their properties available at affordable rental levels, including bringing more private sector homes into the management of our in-house 'Simple Lettings Agency'.
- We need to work in partnership with Housing Associations in Carmarthenshire to maximize the supply of new build affordable homes.
- We need to actively work with property owners to bring empty homes back into use.
- We need to purchase homes from the private sector and increase the Council Social Housing stock.
- We need to maximize the number of affordable homes delivered through developer contributions from the planning system.
- We need to maximize all funding opportunities for both the Council and Housing Associations.

#### How will we do this?

- A. We will deliver all of the above through our [Affordable Homes Delivery Plan](#) by building new council homes directly through the Housing Revenue Account. By bringing empty homes back into use to increase choice and accessibility of homes in the areas of greatest housing need.

We will develop a wider range of homes through our recently established Housing Company. We will purchase private sector homes to increase the Council's housing stock in the areas of greatest housing need.

We will continue to manage private sector homes, for Private Landlords, through the 'Simple Lettings Agency'.





## Well-being Objective 7

### Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

#### How will we do this? Our detailed action plan to achieve this objective

(Lemon highlight means that this is not the Action or Measure's main objective)

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
<b>A</b>	<b>Affordable Homes Delivery Plan</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will increase the number of affordable homes in the County by delivering the affordable homes plan (7.3.2.24 <b>MF5-44</b> ) (2017/18 Result - <b>TBC</b> )	2018/19 - 236 2019/20 - 210 2020/21 - 196
<b>2</b>	We will increase the number of new additional properties managed by our internal social lettings agency. (7.3.2.25) (2017/18 Result - <b>TBC</b> )	<b>TBC</b>
<b>3</b>	We will deliver a clear affordable homes commissioning plan which will inform the newly established Local Housing Trading Company's Business Plan. <b>MF5-45</b>	June 2018
<b>4</b>	We will deliver the Swansea Bay City Deal programme to develop 'Homes as Power Stations' to help generate sustainable and affordable homes and address fuel poverty for our residents. <b>MF5-46</b> (Action also in Well-being Objectives 5 & 12)	March 2021
<b>5</b>	We will engage with tenants and key partners to maintain the Carmarthenshire Home Standard for all Council owned properties. <b>MF5 48</b>	Dec 2018
<b>6</b>	We will support all Council tenants through Welfare Reform as changes are implemented and deliver Universal Credit action plan in order to maximise income and develop new training and employment opportunities. <b>MF5-49</b> (Action also in Well-being Objective 5)	March 2021
<b>7</b>	We will develop a new Homelessness Strategy to ensure vulnerable residents are supported appropriately to include: - Develop housing options for single people - Develop a plan to ensure homeless people have access to health services - Review our approach to how we manage temporary accommodation <b>MF5 50</b> (Action also in Well-being Objective 5)	Dec 2018
<b>8</b>	We will develop actions to deliver a sustainable future for the Station Road area in Llanelli by: - Engaging with the community - Creating an ambitious but sustainable master plan - Development of a costed delivery plan <b>MF5 51 &amp; MF5-47</b>	Dec 2018 Jun 2019 Dec 2019
<b>9</b>	We will increase the % of empty private properties brought back into use (PAM/013) (2017/18 Result - <b>TBC%</b> - <b>TBC</b> dwellings) This measures include all previously empty properties and not only affordable homes.	<b>TBC%</b> <b>TBC</b> dwellings
<b>10</b>	We will increase the number of new homes created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use (PAM/014) (2017/18 Result - <b>TBC</b> additional dwellings) This measures include all previously empty properties and not only affordable homes.	<b>TBC</b> Additional dwellings

#### Success Measure

**Number of affordable homes in the County** (7.3.2.24)



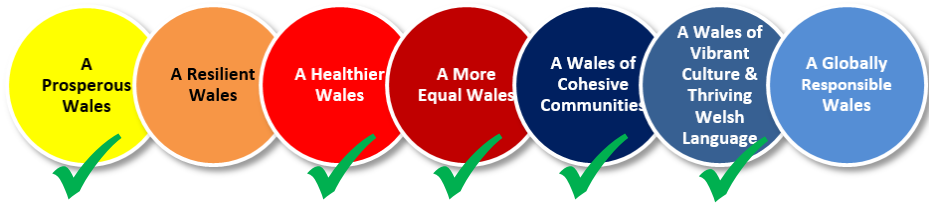


## Well-being Objective 8

### Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

#### So why is this important?

- Our way of life is changing, people are living longer with a higher quality of life.
- The challenge is to prevent ill health.
- Living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.
- Many of the preventive services and interventions required to maintain health, independence and well-being lie outside health and social care.
- Playing a part in providing accessible, inclusive, exciting, sustainable services, which promote and facilitate learning, culture, heritage, information, well-being and leisure.



#### Why this should concern us?

- There is a significant gap in life expectancy and a healthy life expectancy. In Carmarthenshire:-
  - Life expectancy for males is 78.6 years (2014-16) compared to a healthy life expectancy of 65 years (2010-14)
  - Life expectancy for females is 82.2 years (2014-16) compared to a healthy life expectancy of 66 years (2010-14)
  - Healthy life expectancy of both males and females are below the Welsh average of 65.3 and 66.7 years.
- 21% of adults are still smoking in Carmarthenshire and 57% of adults are overweight or obese (Welsh Average of 59%) Welsh Health Survey 2016/17

#### What do we need to do?

- We need to work with partners to ensure people across Carmarthenshire:
  - Eat and breathe healthily
  - Are physically active; and
  - Maintain good mental health.
- We need to remove inequalities around opportunities for people to address these 3 key areas

#### How will we do this?

- A. Eat and breathe healthily:** We will provide healthy vending and food options as part of their catering provision at our Leisure facilities and continue to ensure that our outdoor recreation facilities i.e. Country Parks, rights of way networks remain well maintained and accessed safely and enjoyed by everyone.
- B. Physical Activity:** We will continue investment in the new state of the art Wellness Village in Llanelli; promote in partnership the ethos of getting “more people more active more often” and enable employers in the workplace to support the health and well-being of their workforce through Workplace Health initiatives.
- C. Mental Health:** We will continue to work with health and third sector partners to transform mental health services and improve access to information, advice, preventive and crisis services in Carmarthenshire. We will aim for people to experience the positive health benefits of taking inspiration from museum collections to promote creativity, mindfulness and self-confidence and imbed the New Mobile Library Fleet to improve information, digital and health literacy across the county.

We shall invest in the County's leisure centre provision with the development of a new facility in Llanelli as part of the Wellness Village.

We will implement the Cycling Strategy for Carmarthenshire that will focus on 5 key strategic themes: Education, Development & Training; Infrastructure & Facilities; Marketing & Branding; Tourism & Events





## Well-being Objective 8

### Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

#### How will we do this? Our detailed action plan to achieve this objective

(Lemon highlight means that this is not the Action or Measure's main objective)

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
	Also see: <i>Objective 1 – Help to give every child the best</i> <i>Objective 2 – Help children live healthy lifestyles and improve their early life experiences</i>	
<b>A</b>	<b>Eat and breathe healthily</b>	
<b>1</b>	Review catering provision across the Leisure Division	July 2018
<b>2</b>	We will continue to monitor air quality (nitrogen dioxide) for the residents of and visitors to the County. This will be carried out by regular assessments and, where necessary, sampling programmes.	March 2019
<b>3</b>	Monitor private water supplies to ensure safety for the residents in Carmarthenshire. The service will explore the possibility of extending the programme to testing for the presence of radon and remediation as necessary.	March 2019
<b>4</b>	We shall ensure that a very high percentage of food establishments meet food hygiene standards ( <i>PAM/023</i> ) (2017/18 Result <b>TBC%</b> )	<b>TBC%</b>
<b>5</b>	We shall ensure that all high risk Food businesses that are liable to a programmed inspections are inspected. ( <i>PPN/001ii</i> ) (2017/18 Result – <b>TBC%</b> )	100%
<b>6</b>	We will utilise information from the population needs assessment to plan the service at a locality level within the 3 Locality areas, which incorporate the GP clusters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ TTT – Carmarthen Area</li> <li>➤ Aman Gwendraeth Area</li> <li>➤ Llanelli Area</li> </ul> This will provide a more detailed understanding of what the populations needs are and will allow planning of health and social care services at Locality Level and will consider the key objectives outlined in our 'model of delivery' section.	April 2021
<b>7</b>	We will work with community organisations to improve access to the network of footpaths and bridleways across the County. <b>MF5-68</b>	March 2019 Report 6 monthly
<b>B</b>	<b>Physical Activity</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will support and manage a Workplace health champion to effect change in physical activity levels and general well-being of staff and adults on a sustainable basis.	June 2019
<b>2</b>	We will ensure a range of targeted physical activity interventions are put in place across the life course to increase the activity levels of those who are inactive or at risk of becoming inactive and increase social and community cohesion. ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objective 11</i> )	March 2019
<b>3</b>	We shall invest in the County's leisure centre provision with the development of a new facility in Llanelli as part of the Wellness Village. <b>MF5-61</b>	March 2019
<b>4</b>	We will implement the Cycling Strategy for Carmarthenshire that will focus on 5 key strategic themes. 1- Education, Development & Training; 2- Infrastructure and Facilities; 3-Marketing & Branding; 4-Tourism and 5 - Events. ( <b>Part of MF5-1- Carmarthen Velodrome</b> )( <i>Action also in Well-being Objective 13</i> )	March 2023
<b>5</b>	We will review and implement an improved pathway of aquatics provision that enables participants to reach their full potential. ( <i>Also in Well-being Objective 2</i> )	March 2019
<b>6</b>	We will ensure best use is made of school facilities to support wider community activity. <b>MF5-30</b> ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objective 2</i> )	March 2020

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
7	We will develop a new 3G pitch and improved parking facilities in Ammanford and track improvements at Carmarthen leisure centre. <b>MF5-62</b>	March 2019
8	We shall strive to continue to increase the number of visits to leisure centres per 1,000 population ( <i>PAM 017</i> ) ( <i>Also in Well-being Objective 2</i> ) (2017/18 Result - <b>TBC</b> )	<b>TBC</b> per 1,000 population
9	We shall increase the % of children who can swim 25m aged 11 (3.4.2.1) ( <i>Also in Well-being Objective 2</i> ) (2017/18 Result 77.3%)	<b>Tbc %</b>
10	We shall increase the percentage of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that attend the initial consultation of the programme (3.4.2.6) (2017/18 Result <b>TBC%</b> )	<b>Tbc %</b>
11	We shall increase the percentage of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that complete the 16 week programme (3.4.2.7) (2017/18 Result <b>TBC%</b> )	<b>Tbc %</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Mental Health</b>	
1	We will contribute to health led transformation programmes in mental health and redesign of services within learning disability	Dec 2018
2	We will develop the 'Stordy Digidol' digital project to widen access to our County's collections and cultural services and promote improved mental health. ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objective 14</i> )	March 2019
3	We will deliver a transformation plan for the existing Museums provision at the County Museum Abergwili, Parc Howard, Kidwelly Industrial Museum (via the KIM Trust) and Museum of Speed, Pendine to improve the provision for residents and visitors whilst also maintaining links with and promoting independent museums within the County. In addition, it is intended to undertake work to further develop Oriel Myrddin. <b>MF5-64</b> ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objectives 6 &amp; 14</i> )	March 2022
4	We will begin the museums transformation plan with the delivery of a £1.2 million redevelopment of the County museum at Abergwili. <b>MF5-65</b> ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objectives 6 &amp; 14</i> )	March 2020
5	Review and re-develop the Council's Theatre Services provision. <b>MF5-66</b> ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objectives 6 &amp; 14</i> )	March 2019
6	We shall improve and develop the infrastructure and facilities at Pembrey Country Park to enable it to become a first class facility for residents and visitors. <b>MF5-67</b> ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objective 6</i> )	March 2020
7	We will deliver a £2million programme to re-develop Burry Port Harbour. <b>MF5-69</b> ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objective 6</i> )	March 2019
8	We will celebrate and promote Carmarthenshire's rich cultural and sporting achievements and diversity. <b>MF5 70</b> ( <i>Action also in Well-being Objective 14</i> )	March 2019 (Annual)
9	We shall increase the number of library visits per 1,000 population ( <i>PAM/016</i> ) (2017/18 Result <b>TBC</b> )	<b>TBC</b>

Success Measures
<b>Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good</b> ( <i>National Survey for Wales</i> )
<b>Adults who say they have a longstanding illness</b> ( <i>National Survey for Wales</i> )
<b>Adult mental well-being score</b> ( <i>National Survey for Wales</i> ) ( <i>National Well-being Indicator</i> )
<b>Adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours</b> ( <i>National Survey for Wales</i> ) ( <i>National Well-being Indicator</i> ) (Not smoking, drinking > 14 units or lower, eating at least 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day, having a healthy body mass index, being physically active at least 150 minutes the previous week).

DRAFT

## Age Well

(Infographics on the following will be ready for publication)

Almost 1 in 4 (23%, 42,662) of Carmarthenshire's population are of pensionable age (65+)

Life Expectancy is 78.6 for men and 82.2 for women but a Healthy Life Expectancy is 65 for men and 66 for women

Carmarthenshire has an ageing population. By 2039, around 1 in 3 (31%; 58,900) of residents will be aged 65 and over

1 in 3 have a limiting illness

48% (close to the National average of 50%) of Carmarthenshire residents feel they live in cohesive communities

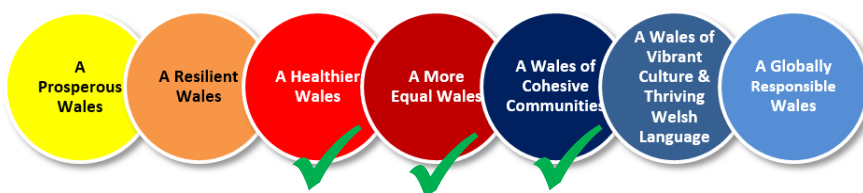


## Well-being Objective 9

Live Well/Age Well - Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities

### So why is this important?

- Loneliness and social isolation are harmful to our health, with research showing that lacking social connections is as damaging to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and is worse for us than well-known risk factors such as obesity and physical inactivity.
- Social networks and friendships not only have an impact on reducing the risk of early death and illness, but they also help individuals to recover when they do fall ill.
- Social isolation puts individuals at greater risk of cognitive decline with one study concluding that lonely people have a 64% increased chance of developing clinical dementia
- The lack of connectedness is not just an issue of older people with a recent report suggesting that almost two-thirds (65%) of 16-24-year-olds said they feel lonely at least some of the time, and almost a third (32%) feel lonely often or all the time.
- Loneliness amongst young people has been shown to increase the likelihood of poor physical & mental health, the risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and reduce future employment opportunities.



### Why this should concern us?

- In our well-being survey of 2,500 residents, good relationships and a sense of belonging was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest thing that mattered.
- The importance of family in positively influencing well-being is evident in findings from primary engagement activities delivered as part of Carmarthenshire's Well-being assessment. Family and friends were overwhelmingly identified as the most important factor in experiencing positive well-being by over 500 adults and children taking part in an exercise.
- 48% (close to the National average of 50%) of Carmarthenshire residents feel they live in cohesive communities. 72% agreed that local people treat each other with respect and consideration, 68% agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together and 70% feel they belong to their local area. (*National Survey for Wales, 2016/17*).
- Safety-related issues were highlighted throughout the Carmarthenshire Wellbeing Assessment and feeling safe at home and in the local community impacts on everyone's sense of well-being

### What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure services respond to the needs of families and communities.
- We need to continue to build greater community cohesion and to support and empower communities to address their safety, collective well-being and the well-being of those within the community, including the building of social bonds within groups and social bridges between groups in our communities.
- We need to encourage promotion of independence, wellbeing, community engagement & social inclusion.
- We need to keep our communities safe when delivering our services.

### How will we do this?

- A. We will continue to develop and implement how we provide information, advice and assistance across social care services.
- B. We will promote and develop strong connections for people, places and organisations.
- C. We will identify the strengths and resources within communities which can contribute to promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of neighbours.
- D. We will continue to support community safety to help increase people's sense of personal security and their feelings of safety in relation to where they live, work and spend their leisure time.

We will implement the new Mid and West Wales Community Cohesion Regional Delivery Plan.





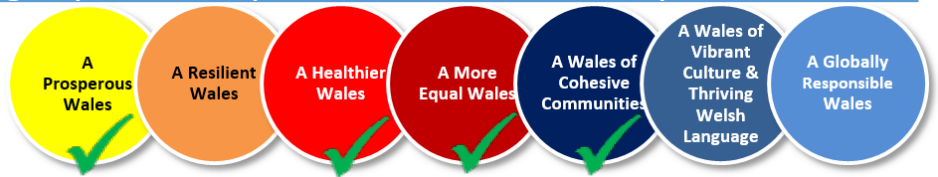


## Well-being Objective 10

Age Well - Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years

### So why is this important?

- Consultations have demonstrated that 'what matters' to individuals is to be able to be as independent and well as possible for as long as possible.  
**'Being respected as an older person and not being seen as a burden on the local health and social care system'**
- Research shows that a vital factor of healthy aging is for older people to feel included and useful.
- Older people contribute to the economy in Carmarthenshire by caring for their grandchildren or other family members. Figures from the Family and Childcare trust report that 2.3 million grandparents say that they look after their grandchildren in order to enable the children's parents to go to work. In the UK as a whole those aged 65 and over contributed £61bn to the economy through employment, informal caring and volunteering.
- The Royal Voluntary Service have described older people as the '*social glue*' of communities.



### Why this should concern us?

- The census in 2011 found that 28% of the adult population is over the age of 65, and by 2030 the proportion of older adults will increase to 34%, although age is increasingly redundant as a means to analyse need, evidence does indicate that older people are more likely to need care and support.
- Life expectancy in Carmarthenshire is increasing but this is not matched by disability free life expectancy, we have lower expectancy of disability at 71 for males and 72.2 for females compared to the national average.
- Our frail population demographic is increasing & will require support to remain as independent as possible.
- It is essential that we lay robust foundations to future proof the availability of services that promote and support ongoing well-being and independence for our frail older adult population.

### What do we need to do?

- We need to continue to integrate health and social care at population health level to address the complex needs associated with age related multiple conditions and frailty.
- We need to work with individuals and communities together with the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop and promote innovative and practical ways to make Carmarthenshire a good place to grow older for everyone (see Objective 11 on *Ageing Well*).
- We need to develop service provision on a smaller footprint which are population based, integrated across health & social care and seek to reduce demand and growth in the future

### How will we do this?

- A. We will improve population health which requires efforts to change behaviours and living conditions across communities. It also means that accountability for population health is spread widely across these communities. We will develop a '*social*' model of health and care that focuses on physical, mental and social wellbeing rather than ill health. This will be done on a population level.
- B. We will continue to promote our '*offer*' across three tiers – Tier 1, Help to help yourself; Tier 2 – Help when you need it and Tier 3 – Ongoing help when you need it.
- C. We will strive to develop '*place based systems of care*' that will enable health and care providers to work together for the population they serve. We will modernise our workforce to ensure they are fit for purpose and sustainable into the future. A multi-professional and multi-organisational approach to care is required. (Also see Well-being Objective 9 - Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities)

We shall provide support for carers, and young carers in particular, to enable them to continue providing the invaluable care they offer to family and friends in need



More Information - You can see our [\*\*detailed action plan\*\*](#) to achieve this objective here



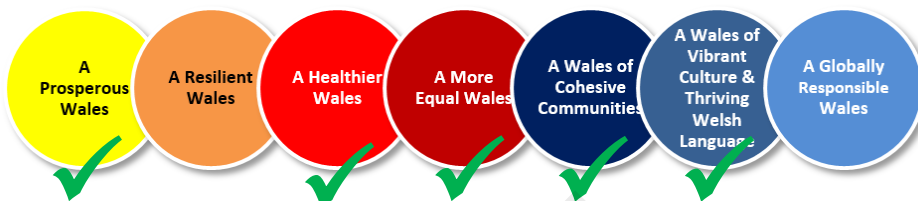
## Well-being Objective 11

### Age Well - A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire

*This Well-being Objective now supersedes the Councils Ageing Well Plan 2015-2018*

#### So why is this important?

- Wider services can make an important contribution in supporting and sustaining the independence of older people and reducing the demand on Social Services and Health Care.
- When planning services for older people, we need to listen to what they have told us.
- In deciding what to do, we need to ask ourselves, would this service *be ok for me or my relatives?* If not, how can we improve?
- Tackling the causes of loneliness and social isolation is a national priority for the Welsh Government.
- Older people's rights must be promoted and protected so they can live free of abuse, neglect, ageism and discrimination and are able to participate fully in their communities and thrive in older age.



#### Why this should concern us?

- Older people are a significant asset to Wales, worth over £1bn to the Welsh economy annually. We must take forward an asset-based approach which, rather than focusing on the costs of providing services for older people, considers instead the cost of not investing in older people. Older people provide around £469m worth of volunteering every year, including childcare - the value of which is around £750m per annum.
- Carmarthenshire has an ageing population and by 2039 around 1 in 3 residents will be aged 65 +.
- Older people who are supported by tailored services and living in inclusive communities, are able to contribute more to the local economy and society.
- When surveyed older people have told us that they want as much support as possible to help them do the things they enjoy and to be able to manage day to day.

#### What do we need to do?

- We need to 'join-up' our diverse divisions and departments to support independent living and to help older people live in their communities. Making sure that the impact of all service changes on elderly people are carefully thought through.
- We need to consult in a meaningful way with older people who are often '*experts by experience*' and know the services they need to remain active and independent in their communities.
- We need to focus on an outcome based approach to draw out the changes and improvements seen in an individual's life – we need to build services around the outcomes older people need.
- We need to examine how we will work with the Public Service Board (PSB) to achieve the Older People's Commissioner for Wales's targets for inclusion in the PSBs *Well-Being Plan*.

#### How will we do this?

- We will take forward the 5 priority aims of the [National](#) Ageing Well in Wales Plan 2014-19
  - A. By developing Age Friendly Communities
  - B. By developing Dementia Supportive Communities
  - C. By working to help prevent falls
  - D. By creating opportunities for employment and new skills
  - E. By supporting people who are experiencing loneliness and isolation

We will work with partners to provide more opportunities for vulnerable and older people to socialise in order to reduce loneliness.



More Information - You can see our [detailed action plan](#) to achieve this objective here



# Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment

(Infographics on the following will be ready for publication)

Carmarthenshire has a population of 185,610

47 crimes per 1000 population (8,624 recorded crimes during 2016/17); 79% feel safe in their area

64% of waste from 87,000 households was recycled during 2017/18

There are over 3,300Km of roads in Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire has the highest number of Welsh speakers in Wales at 80,700

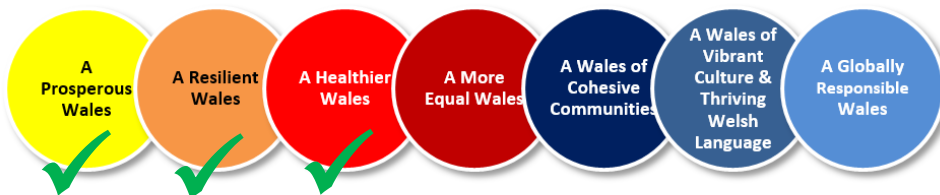


## Well-being Objective 12

Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future

### Why is this important?

- The *Natural Environment* is a core component of sustainable development. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 expands the duty placed on public bodies, requiring them to *maintain & enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience*.
- A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience. Carmarthenshire's natural environment is the natural resource on which much of our economy is based – tourism, farming, forestry, and renewable energy. It is a major factor that attracts people, both young and older to live, work and visit the county, bringing inward investment with them.
- The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is vital in our response to climate change and key ecosystem services such as food, flood management, pollination, clean air and water.
- 60% of the County's people live in rural areas and the remaining 40% live within 400m of natural or semi-natural green space.
- The Well-being Needs Assessment survey identified a strong relationship between residents' well-being and their surrounding environment from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture.
- The 'Resilient Wales' goal set out in the Well-being Future Generations Act requires public bodies to set objectives to achieve a 'biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems'



### Why this should concern us?

- The environment contributes £8.8 billion of goods and services annually to the Welsh economy, 9% of Welsh GDP and 1 in 6 Welsh jobs; with the environment being relatively more important to the Welsh economy than is the case for the other UK nations.
- A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience, as well as our health and well-being.
- Responses from the Well-being Assessment survey showed that a clean environment is important to well-being and that residents are concerned with preserving and enhancing the local environment with repeated references to tipping, littering and recycling.
- Rising sea levels are likely to impact not only the 5,587 properties in Carmarthenshire already at risk of tidal and rising river level flooding, but additional properties along the coastal & river communities. A biodiverse natural environment will be more resilient to both climate change, and changes in sea level.

### What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure that in delivering all our strategies, plans, projects and programmes for development, economic growth and the attraction of inward investment, we deliver our S6 Environment (Wales) Act duties and actively maintain and protect biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.
- We need to sustain and enhance natural & built spaces to encourage healthy living for residents & visitors.
- We need to support resilience within our rural and urban communities.

### How will we do this?

- A. We will advise the whole Authority and partners on our need to address the environmental requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- B. We will monitor delivery of CCC's Environment Act Forward Plan, as required by the Environment (Wales Act 2016), so demonstrating its compliance with the Biodiversity & Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
- C. We will continue to implement and promote the increased use of renewable energy.
- D. We will protect our environment and properties through delivering our *Flood & Waste Management Plan*; and protect and manage our coast by delivering the *Shoreline Management Plan*.
- E. We will deliver actions from the 'Towards Zero Waste strategy', to become a high recycling nation by 2025 and a zero waste nation by 2050.

We will finalise Flood Risk Management Plans as part of the strategy for identifying, managing and mitigating flood risk within our communities.



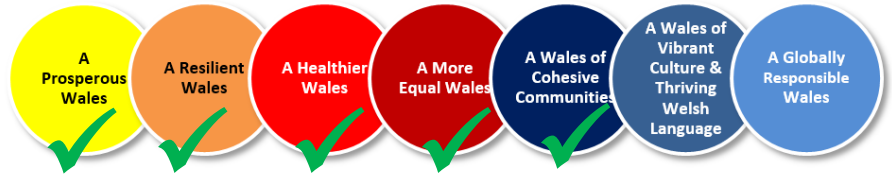


## Well-being Objective 13

### Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

#### Why is this important?

- Transportation & highways play a key role in sustaining our community and deliver 'Prosperity for All.' A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods; providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure, social and retail services.
- *United & connected* is one of the four Welsh Governments' aims in its 'Taking Wales Forward' plan. Providing integrated and affordable access for businesses, for residents and visitors can stimulate economic development, reductions in deprivation and social exclusion and an increase in well-being.
- Sustaining access to services will deliver improvements in health and wellbeing for all sections of the community e.g. that includes: walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.
- By 2030 South West Wales will be a confident, ambitious and connected City Region.



#### Why this should concern us?

- Our survey identified *transportation and highways as important* and in the top 10 priorities for the community was road maintenance, bus services and pavement maintenance.
- In our survey on satisfaction with services and the importance of services - *Road Maintenance and Repairs* were identified as one of the highest importance with low satisfaction.
- Our highway network is the second largest in Wales covering 3,343 Kilometres, more than double the Welsh average of 1,566 Kilometres; covering 16 million square metres of carriageway.
- The condition of our roads was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> out of 22 across Wales in 2016/17.
- 18.8% of residents do not have access to a car or van. However, 43.5% of households have one car per household, which may indicate reduced accessibility in areas not well served by public transport.
- Only 55% aged 80 or over have access to a car/van therefore public transport and community based services are important to enable people to continue to live within their communities; it can mean the difference between a person staying independent at home or entering residential care.
- Air quality is emerging as a concern in Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli.

#### What do we need to do?

- We need to develop and support access to services to improve connectivity, reduce congestion and improve competitiveness.
- We need to sustain investment into our public and community transport systems and facilitate travel to and from schools to support our Modernising Education Programme.
- We need to also invest in infrastructure to support more sustainable journeys. For example through cycle ways, footpaths and public transport infrastructure.
- We need to continue to sustain investment in our existing highway infrastructure to improve connectivity;
- We need to maintain our focus on road safety and deliver our road safety strategy priorities.
- We need to ensure our fleet of vehicles is modern, efficient and safe.

#### How will we do this?

- A. We will develop the highway infrastructure to meet the priorities of our Regeneration Plan. We will develop new highways at Carmarthen West, Cross Hands and Ammanford and continue to develop key active travel sites and the Towy Valley Path.
- B. We will continue the successful integrated public transport network such as Bwcabus/LINC and Traws Cymru.
- C. We will plan to redesign our school transport network to support the Modernising Education Programme.
- D. We will continue to support community transport.
- E. We will meet our objectives set out in our Road Safety Strategy.
- F. We will continue to modernise our vehicle fleet to improve efficiency and reduce emissions.

We will continue to invest in strategic transport infrastructure links to support economic development.

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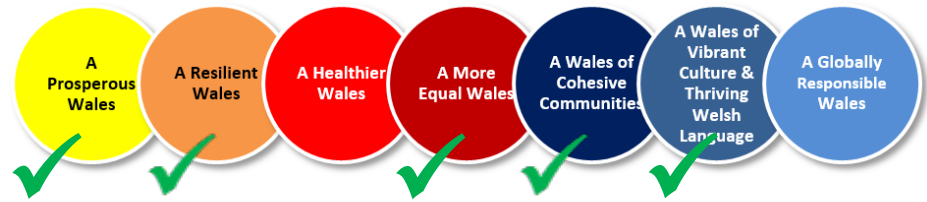


## Well-being Objective 14

### Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

#### So why is this important?

- Carmarthenshire is a stronghold for the Welsh language and is considered to be of high strategic importance in its future.
- There are many advantages to bilingualism, including increased cognitive skills,
- It is a unique selling point. Tourist and hospitality industries throughout Europe are now realising the importance of offering unique experiences. Having two languages and a sense of Welsh history and culture places Carmarthenshire in a strong position.
- Engaging in cultural activity has demonstrable positive impact on starting well, living well and ageing well.



#### Why this should concern us?

- According to result of the 2016/17 National Survey for Wales **40%** of people in Carmarthenshire said that they spoke Welsh.
- The 2011 Census showed that the number of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire had reduced to **43.9%** compared to 50.1% in 2001.
- The Welsh Government's ambition through the [Cymraeg 2050 - Welsh language Strategy](#) is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a **million by 2050**.
- The Welsh Government's [Light Springs through the Dark: A Vision for Culture in Wales](#) is reinforcing the importance of culture as a priority.

#### What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure compliance with the [Welsh Language Standards](#) under the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 and monitor progress across the Authority.
- We need to promote the use of the Welsh Language in our communities and work with partners such as the Mentrau Iaith, the Urdd and Mudiad Meithrin to realise the vision and outcomes set out in our [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy](#)
- We need to promote and support adult learners through our [Welsh for Adults](#) provision. Support and encourage our children and young people to become confident bilingual citizens, who chose to continue with bilingual education throughout their educational pathway and encourage more people to learn the Language.
- We need to increase the number of people participating in cultural activity.
- We need to ensure that our collections and our County's heritage assets are protected and accessible for future generations

#### How will we do this?

- A. We will implement and monitor the **Welsh Language Standards** under the Welsh Language Measures 2011 across the Council, to the citizens of Carmarthenshire and other public services
- B. We will implement the **Welsh Language Promotion Strategy** - which will facilitate the use of Welsh in everything we do across all communities
- C. We will continue the **development of Welsh in all our Education services**, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual. Pupils can fulfil their potential in gaining skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide.
- D. We will promote our **Welsh Culture & Heritage**

To promote the *Strategy for Welsh Language* - We will increase the numbers acquiring basic and further skills in Welsh through the education system and through language transmission in the home. We will also deliver a new archives and storage service for Carmarthenshire.



## Well-being Objective 14

### Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

#### How will we do this? Our detailed action plan to achieve this objective

(Lemon highlight means that this is not the Action or Measure's main objective)

Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
<b>A</b>	<b>Implement and monitor the Welsh Language Standards</b>	
<b>1</b>	In June each year, we will prepare an Annual Report to the Welsh Language Commissioner detailing the steps taken to comply with the Welsh language Standards	June 2019
<b>2</b>	We will develop an integrated Welsh Language Programme for our staff <i>(Action ID 12425)</i>	March 2020
<b>3</b>	To facilitate good decision making, we will introduce an integrated Impact Assessment which consolidates Equality, Welsh language and Well-being of Future Generations requirements.	March 2019
<b>4</b>	We will promote the use of the Welsh Language to our citizen's and other public services	March 2019
<b>B</b>	<b>The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy</b>	
<b>1</b>	To promote the Strategy for Welsh Language - We will increase the numbers acquiring basic and further skills in Welsh through the education system and through language transmission in the home	March 2021
<b>2</b>	To promote the Strategy for Welsh Language - We will increase the confidence of Welsh speakers and therefore the use of the Language in every sphere of life, and encourage and Support the county's organisations to make the Welsh Language an increasingly natural medium for their Services. <b>MF5-86</b> <i>(Action ID 12939)</i>	March 2021
<b>3</b>	To promote the Strategy for Welsh Language - We will take purposeful steps to positively affect population movements attempting to attract our young people to establish or re-establish themselves in the county so that the gains that are made in terms of Welsh speakers through the education system are not lost. Also, to make significant efforts to assimilate newcomers and ensure that new planning developments do not have a detrimental effect on the viability of the Welsh language. <b>MF5-86</b> <i>(Action ID 12940)</i>	March 2021
<b>4</b>	To promote the Strategy for Welsh Language - We will target specific geographic areas within the county, either because they offer the potential to develop or because they cause linguistic concern to increase the numbers of residents in those areas who can and do use Welsh. <b>MF5-86</b> <i>(Action ID 12941)</i>	March 2021
<b>5</b>	To promote the Strategy for Welsh - We will market and promote the Welsh language. Raising the status of Welsh and awareness of the benefits of bilingualism and bilingual education. And by raising awareness of these benefits, attracting more residents of the county to acquire the language. <b>MF5-86</b> <i>(Action ID 12942)</i>	March 2021
<b>6</b>	We will further strengthen the provision and use of the Welsh language within social care services to be able to provide services in the language of service users' choice and ensure compliance with the 'Active Offer'. <b>MF5-56</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 10)</i>	March 2019
<b>7</b>	We will develop a suite of measures to support our progress on promotion of the Welsh Language	March 2019



Ref	Actions and Measures	Date/Target
<b>C</b>	<b>The development of Welsh in all our Education services</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will implement the content of the 'WESP' Welsh in Education Strategic Plan in partnership with school leaders for the benefit of all Carmarthenshire learners. <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 3)</i>	March 2020
<b>2</b>	We shall increase the percentage of pupils to receive a teacher assessment in Welsh (first language) at the end of the Foundation Phase <i>(new Measure, ref no. tbc) (2017/18 Result – tbc - 16/17 Academic Year)</i> <i>(Measure also in Well-being Objective 3)</i>	Tbc %
<b>3</b>	We will work with the County's primary and secondary schools to move them along the Welsh language continuum and also ensure that individual pupils within relevant schools are provided with opportunities to continue with their Welsh medium education throughout all key stages. <b>MF5-31</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 3)</i>	March 2019
<b>D</b>	<b>Promoting our Welsh Culture &amp; Heritage</b>	
<b>1</b>	We will develop the 'Stordy Digidol' digital project to promote improved mental health in conjunction with show casing Carmarthenshire's heritage collections. <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 8)</i>	March 2019
<b>2</b>	We will start to implement our Libraries Development plan 2017 – 2022 and as part of that plan roll out the new mobile library service. <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 11)</i>	March 2022
<b>3</b>	We will deliver a transformation plan for the existing Museums provision at the County Museum Abergwili, Parc Howard, Kidwelly Industrial Museum and Museum of Speed Pendine to improve the provision for residents and visitors whilst also maintaining links with and promoting independent museums within the County. In addition, it is intended to undertake work to further develop Oriel Myrddin. <b>MF5-64</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objectives 6 &amp; 8)</i>	March 2022
<b>5</b>	We will begin the museums transformation plan with the delivery of a £1.2 million redevelopment of the County museum at Abergwili. <b>MF5-65</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objectives 6 &amp; 8)</i>	March 2020
<b>6</b>	We will review and re-develop the Council's Theatre Services provision. <b>MF5-66</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objectives 6 &amp; 8)</i>	March 2019
<b>7</b>	We will deliver a new archives and storage service for Carmarthenshire <b>MF5-63</b>	March 2019
<b>8</b>	We will celebrate and promote Carmarthenshire's rich cultural and sporting achievements and diversity. <b>MF5-70</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objective 8)</i>	March 2019 (Annual)
<b>9</b>	We will support community groups and organisations to promote and publicise the rich variety of community event being held in Carmarthenshire from agricultural shows, festivals and carnivals to exhibitions, concerts and performances. <b>MF5-85</b> <i>(Action also in Well-being Objectives 6 &amp; 9)</i>	March 2019

Success Measures
<b>Can speak Welsh</b> <i>(National Survey for Wales( (NSW)(National Well-being Indicator) (NWBI)</i>
<b>Pupils receiving a teacher assessment in Welsh (first language) at the end of the Foundation Phase</b> <i>(ref no. tbc)</i>
<b>People attended arts events in Wales in last year</b> <i>(NSW)</i>
<b>People visited historic places in Wales in last year</b> <i>(NSW)</i>
<b>People visited museums in Wales in last year</b> <i>(NSW)</i>

# Building a Better Council & Better Use of Resources

(Infographics on the following will be ready for publication)

Carmarthenshire County Council Employs  
over 7,700 people

The Council's Budget is  
\*\*\*\*\* for 2018/19

\*\*% People agreed that  
the Council asks for  
their views before  
setting it's budget

? 'Do it online'  
payments

1.4 million visits to our  
website?



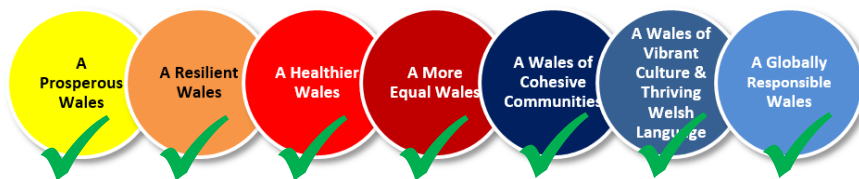


## Well-being Objective 15

### Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources

#### So why is this important?

- The general purpose of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the Well-being of Wales take the needs of future generations into account.
- There are increasing demands and expectations yet less resources are available. Under these conditions we need to work even more efficiently and effectively to maintain services and improve where we can, delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.



#### Why this should concern us?

- We need to further improve links between our financial, strategic and business planning. Improving these links was a *Proposal for Improvement in Wales Audit Office's Corporate Assessment*.
- Further financial pressures are likely to arise from such things as rising energy costs, an increasing number of older people needing services from us, offices, school buildings and highways that require significant investment, and this is in addition to the current uncertainty in the economic outlook as the UK embarks on the process of leaving the European Union.

#### What do we need to do?

- Our Transform, Innovate and Change (TIC) programme will support the achievement of a sustainable financial future by delivering more efficient and effective services.
- We will conduct the work of the Council in an open and accessible way, ensuring we are properly accountable for the decisions we make.
- We intend to invest somewhere in the region of *an additional £200 million pounds of capital funding* in our corporate priorities over the next five years.
- We will make better use of our resources which will help to minimise the impact on services primarily by making smarter use of our buildings, our people and our spending.

#### How will we do this?

##### A. By transforming innovating and changing the way we work and deliver services.

Our Transform, Innovate and Change (TIC) programme is aimed at thinking differently, acting differently and therefore delivering differently. The programme takes into account factors such as the potential to deliver financial efficiencies, service improvement, opportunities to work collaboratively with other public sector partners and transformational projects with potential to deliver greater efficiency savings.

##### B. We shall follow the 7 Principles of Good Governance set out Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/ Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) :-

**B1. Integrity and Values** - *(Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law)*

**B2. Openness and engagement** – *(Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement)*

**B3. Making a difference** - *(Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, & environmental benefits)*

**B4. Making sure we achieve what we set out to do** - *Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.*

**B5. Valuing our people; engaging, leading and supporting** - *(Developing capacity and the capability of leadership and individuals).*

**B6. Managing risks, performance and finance.**

*(Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management)*

**B7. Good transparency and accountability**

*(Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability)*

We will further develop the Council's consultation and engagement approaches.



## Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are separate but interconnected legal obligations and it makes sense to ensure that these requirements are fully aligned and combined in this New Corporate Strategy.

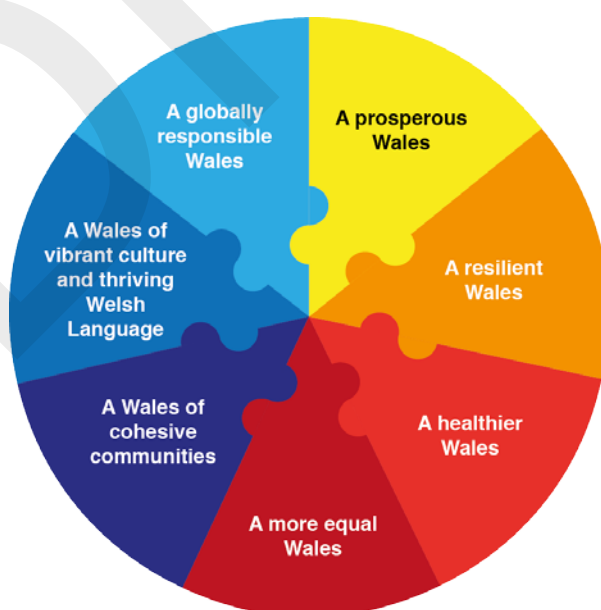
### The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Council to set Improvement Objectives every year. They do not have to change every year, or be deliverable within one year.
- Our Improvement Objectives are essentially the same as our Well-being Objectives as they are based on a thorough evidence-based understanding of the communities we serve and local needs. We compare our Service performance and satisfaction results with all Councils in Wales to make sure we improve where we most need to.
- We have a duty to improve, often delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.

### Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

This is an Act introduced by the Welsh Government which will change aspects of how we work. The general purpose of the Act, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the well-being of Wales, take the needs of future generations into account. The Act is designed to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales, in accordance with sustainable development principles. The new law states that:-

- a) We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is **'... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'**
- b) We must demonstrate 5 ways of working:  
Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative (see **Appendix 1**)
- c) We must work towards achieving all of the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.



For the first time in Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act, provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. As a public body subject to the Act we were required to set and publish Well-being Objectives that maximised our Contribution to the Well-being Goals.

## How our Well-being Objectives contribute to the 7 National Well-being Goals

Carmarthenshire's 2017/18 Well-being Objectives / KIOPs			7 National Well-being Goals						
			Prosperity	Resilience	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant culture & Welsh Language	Global responsibility
Start Well	1	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	2	Help children live healthy lifestyles	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	3	Continue to Improve learner attainment for all	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
	4	Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Live Well	5	Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	6	Create more jobs and growth throughout the county	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	7	Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	8	Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Age Well	9	Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities			✓	✓	✓		
	10	Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	11	A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in the county	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
In a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	12	Look after the environment now and for the future	✓	✓	✓				
	13	Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	14	Promote Welsh Language and Culture	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
	15	Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Financing the Council's Well-being Objectives

The financial position faced by local authorities has had a consistent theme over recent years, with the level of resources available to public services seeing significant reductions, which means that we have less money to invest in services now than we have in the past. Over the last five years we have had to manage reductions in service budgets of £53m, whilst at the same time the pressures on the budget have been increasing in terms of demand and expectations. So far, we have been able to manage this situation by reducing our spending without any significant impact on the frontline services valued by our communities.

### 1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences



Our *Flying Start* programme is reliant on grant funding from Welsh Government of nearly £3.8m annually. To achieve it we need to ensure we recruit and retain trained Health Visitors.

The *Families First* programme for this area has Welsh Government revenue funding of £1.3m for 2017-18.

To achieve this objective we need to ensure appropriate investment in the early years and through our community resources such as Integrated Children's Centres and Family Centres.

### 2. Help children live healthy lifestyles



In order to deliver against this objective the key points above also apply.

School meals in Carmarthenshire follow healthy eating legislation, for which annual core funding is £1.8m. This includes the cost of the Primary School Free Breakfast initiative.

Healthy activities for younger people are supported by existing sports development, and leisure facility programming budgets, supplemented by the Local Authority Partnership Agreement (LAPA) Grant of over £500k (17/18) which we access from the Welsh Government via Sport Wales. This helps pay for activities such as Free Swimming and the Active Young People Programme.

### 3. Continue to improve learner attainment for all



This key objective requires comprehensive support and resourcing from across our services.

Carmarthenshire is committed to ensuring a detailed and forward-thinking programme in support of improved attainment for all our children and young people. Schools receive £108.8m of delegated funding as well as approximately £18.5m through Welsh Government grants

In addition, our *Modernising Education/21st Century Schools Programme* will cost £87m to deliver the first tranche of priority projects (Band A), with £43m coming from the Welsh Government. The second tranche of projects (Band B) is projected to cost £129m, with £65m coming from the Welsh Government. To ensure ongoing comprehensive support and challenge for our schools, we require some £6.5m to resource our School Improvement and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Teams and their valuable provision. A further £3m is needed to continue to provide wider learning and achievement experiences and resources such as museum, gallery and archive services.

### 4. Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)



The Youth Support Service has a lead role in delivering this work in school and community settings. Annual core funding for this service is £530k. The service depends on annual external grants including the Welsh Government Youth Support Service (YSS) Grant (£204k) and Families First (£660k). Securing further funding from the Families First successor grant will be essential for this well-being target to be met.

In addition to these funding sources, we have been successful in gaining European Social Funding (ESF) for the Regional *Cynnydd* project which is further supported by match funding. There is a further £700k of ESF for the Regional *Cam Nesa* project which is also supported by £400k of match funding has been awarded. Both of these projects seek to reduce the number of young people becoming NEET in the county.

## 5. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty



It is difficult to estimate the resource implications for delivering initiatives to tackle poverty as this work is delivered across a wide spectrum of services. Some of this work is our core business for example homelessness support (£1m), and other targeted elements are grant funded such as previously mentioned *Families First* and *Flying Start*, along with the Pupil Deprivation Grant (£4.8m). In addition, as a result of the diverse nature of poverty and the many different influences that can result in someone experiencing poverty, many of the councils services contribute towards tackling poverty indirectly. For these services tackling poverty is not the ultimate goal but is a result of the work they do to support individuals and communities.

## 6. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county



Carmarthenshire's spend per head of the population on Economic Development is above the Welsh Average in Wales. Regeneration of the economy and jobs is the number one priority of the Council. Our 15 year regeneration plan will create over 5,000 jobs and see over £199 million investment over the next 5 years alone.

As part of the Swansea Bay City Deal we will have two major projects in Carmarthenshire:-

- At the *Creative Digital Cluster at Yr Egin* a total project cost worth £24m (£5m City Deal+£16m Public Sector £3m Private) will be delivered creating 200+ jobs over the next 15 years.
- At the *Life Science & Well-being Village project*, a total project cost of £200m (£40m City Deal, £32m Public Sector Funding and £127m Private Sector) will create 1800+ jobs over the next 15 years.

Also see Objective 3 for the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century Schools building programme and Objective 7 Affordable Homes.

## 7. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes



Our Affordable Homes Delivery Plan aims to deliver over 1000 homes and invest £60m into our communities. This will be funded through £31m from the HRA, £17m of Social Housing Grant, £11m private finance and £1m Welsh Government grant.

## 8. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)



This objective will bring together a lot of work done by services and in some cases it is difficult to isolate expenditure under this heading. However Capital expenditure over the next 5 years will be:

- £16m on a new Llanelli leisure centre
- £700k on Rights of Way, £2.5m on the development of open spaces including at Pembrey Country Park
- £5m for the Tywi Valley cycle way and £1.7m on walking and cycling linkages
- In addition to over £600k on safer routes in communities

In Revenue expenditure for 2017/18 we will be investing:-

- £1.4m on children getting 60 minutes of exercise 5 times a week and the exercise referral scheme
- £5.8m running leisure, sports and swimming facilities
- £5.2m on outdoor, countryside and coastal park
- In ensuring cultural well-being across facilities we will be spending £6.8m on delivering services
- For Learning Disability Services £34m and Mental Health services £9.7m and Support Services including Safeguarding and Transport £6.2m
- To support the physically disabled we will be spending £6.4m and £2.5m on supported employment
- We ensure Public Health Services (Food Safety, Air and Water Quality etc.) £2.3m
- Provision of Trading Standards £1m





## 9. Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities

When we ask people *what things in life matter to you?* They tell us that loved ones, family, friends, neighbours and community matter to them. In Children's Services our range of family support services contribute to this objective and it is difficult to break down the costs of this from some of our other objectives on helping children get the best start in life and improving early life experiences. In total nearly £23m is spent across the Children's Services Division.

Services to support carers and home support services help people to continue to live at home, with their families and in their communities – Also see Objective 10

We are also working to ensure broader community cohesion with a range of initiatives - Link to Objective 13



## 10. Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years

In terms of Capital expenditure we will be spending £10m on disabled facility grants over the next five years and £7m on the Llanelli Area Review in 2017/18.

We will be spending nearly £55m of our revenue budget in 2018/19 on Older People Services. This will include:

- £3.7m on Commissioning, £8.1m on Local Authority (LA) Residential homes, nearly £20m on Private Sector Residential Homes and £700k on extra care
- On Homecare Services £5.8m LA provision and £10.2M on Private provision
- Meals on Wheels £300k, Direct Payments £600K and grants to voluntary organisations £500k
- £1.7m on care-line service, £2.2m on enablement and £1.1m on Community Support & Day Services

Also see Objective 11



## 11. A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire

It is difficult to estimate the level of investment in this objective because it cuts across diverse services. This is about making sure that in everything we do, we think about supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire.

Put simply, older people are net contributors to the economy rather than beneficiaries with their contributions to the employment market, volunteering, mentoring and caring sectors. The work Council services deliver to help people live independent lives reduces the need for expensive health and social care interventions - Also see Objective 10



## 12. Look after the environment now and for the future

This priority can be addressed without the need for large additional investment. We will mainly focus on achieving this objective through the existing work we do within the Rural Conservation Team, advising and educating colleagues with regard to how our existing services can be further improved, so as to help sustain and enhance the natural environment.

With regard to delivery of actions relating to the *Towards Zero Waste Strategy, Flood & Waste Management Plan and Shoreline Management Plan*, these actions are already covered by the relevant budgets. The Waste & Environmental Services division's revenue budget of £20.5m (18/19) aims to fund the collection and disposal of waste which incorporates numerous recycling initiatives, street cleansing, environmental enforcement, grounds and parks maintenance, flood and coastal defence as well as maintaining public conveniences ensuring that we look after the environment now and in the future.

In addition the Welsh Government's *Environment & Sustainable Development Directorate Single revenue grant* (£3.7m in 2017/18) supports the integrated delivery of results and multiple benefits across three priority areas – namely Natural resource management, Waste & resource efficiency and Local environment quality and conservation. Consideration of resource implications for actions in future years will form part of the discussion during 2017/18, in putting together the forward plan for Services.

### 13. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity



Carmarthenshire's *Local Transport Plan* sets out our priorities for infrastructure investment. The priorities are aligned to our corporate objectives and set within the objectives of the Swansea Bay City Region. Our current approved capital programme includes over £30m for investment into the highway infrastructure, with around £14m reliant on external grant funding if available, along with developer contributions as new development is commenced.

The Highways and Transport division's revenue budget of £28.6m includes a sum of £8.2m for the highways infrastructure as well as funding for school and public transport, car park maintenance and administration, the upkeep of public lighting for the county and the development of transport strategies to maintain the connectivity of the highways infrastructure for Carmarthenshire.

The introduction of the transformation projects such as those included within the City Deal and integrated transport projects, supported through external funding, will provide opportunities for investment into the infrastructure and transportation services to support the safe movement of people and goods.

### 14. Promote Welsh Language and Culture



This priority can be addressed without the need for large additional investment. We will mainly focus on achieving this objective through the existing work we do within Regeneration & Policy, Leisure & Culture and Education & Children's Services, advising and educating colleagues with regard to how our existing services can be further improved and how we can promote a vibrant culture and ensure the Welsh language is thriving.

Additional support may become available through the Welsh Government's '*Cymraeg 2050 – Welsh Language Strategy*' and we will closely monitor any opportunities for Carmarthenshire to access this support.

### 15. Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources



Addressing this priority cuts across all service areas and is both about investment as well as efficiency savings. The Council is committed to financially sustainable delivery models - there are many examples of this across different departments, such as increased Extra Care provision where it better meets service user needs, a move towards agile working, thus reducing the Council's estate costs in the future.

Over a sustained period of budget reductions, the council has sought to maximise the proportion of managerial savings, thus minimising the impact on frontline services. The Council's medium term financial plan includes £11.1 million of "managerial" proposals, or 43% of total budget reduction proposals.

The council has committed to improving ways of working through the work of the "Transformation, Innovation & Change" programme (TIC), which is underpinned by the TIC team (£208k)



## Statements of Intent

### Well-being Statement

We welcome our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We have already addressed much of the new Acts requirements but recognize that we can do more.

1. We feel that our Well-being Objectives contribute significantly to the achievement of the National Well-being Goals. Our Well-being Objectives relate to different aspects of life's course and address well-being in a systematic way.
2. These Well-being Objectives have been selected with considerable consultation feedback and a basket of different sources of information on need, performance data and regulatory feedback. In developing action plans to achieve these objectives we will involve people (in all their diversity) with an interest in achieving them.
3. The steps we take to achieve the Well-being Objectives (our action plans) will look to ensure that long term, preventative, integrated, collaborative and involvement approaches are fully embraced.
4. An Executive Board member has a specific responsibility for the overall Act. In addition, each Executive Board portfolio holder will have responsibility for the relevant Well-being Objectives.
5. To ensure that we take these action plan steps we will use our in house developed Performance Information Monitoring System dashboard. All the action plans will be monitored and reported on quarterly to Department Management Teams, Corporate Management Team and Executive Board. In addition progress will be reported to Scrutiny Committees. The Council will prepare an Annual report on its Well-being Objectives and revise the objectives if required.
6. The content of action plans to achieve the Well-being Objectives are adequately resourced and embedded in Service business plans (see financial breakdown Appendix 2). To achieve these objectives services will 'join-up' and work together, work with partners and fully involve citizens in all their diversity.
7. Our Objectives are long term but our action plans will include milestones that will enable monitoring and assurance of progress.
8. To ensure that our Well-being Objectives are deliverable and that the expectations of the Act are embraced we will adapt financial planning, asset management, risk assessment, performance management and scrutiny arrangements.

### Community Covenant

In delivering these Well-being Objectives we will uphold the principles of the Community Covenant. These are, that the Armed Forces Community:



- Should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services; and that
- Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.

### Code of practice: Ethical employment in supply chains

- **Statement to follow**
- <http://gov.wales/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/code-of-practice/?lang=en>

## The County of Carmarthenshire's Well-being Plan – To be published by May 2018

The Well-being of Future Generations Act puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies across Carmarthenshire to act jointly and establish a statutory **Public Services Board (PSB)**. The Carmarthenshire PSB was established in May 2016 and is tasked with improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Carmarthenshire. It must do so by undertaking an assessment of well-being in the County and then preparing a county Well-being Plan to outline its local objectives.

- The assessment looks at well-being in Carmarthenshire through different life stages. The key findings can be found at [www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales](http://www.thecarmarthenshirewewant.wales)
- The PSB must publish a Well-being plan which sets out its local objectives to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the County and the steps it proposes to take to meet them. The first Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan will be published May 2018

**The Well-being Objectives of the Carmarthenshire PSB are not intended to address the core services and provision of the individual partners, rather they are to enhance and add value through collective action. The statutory partners of the PSB (Council, Health Board, Fire & Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales) each have to publish their own Well-being Objectives**

Carmarthenshire PSB's draft Well-being Objectives are:-

- **Healthy Habits:** people have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and environment
- **Early Intervention:** to make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it
- **Strong Connections:** strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change
- **Prosperous People and Places:** to maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county

Precis of Carmarthenshire's Well-being of Future Generations Assessment - Executive Summary			WBO Ref No
Start Well	A Good Start	Adverse childhood experiences are hugely detrimental, and have effects that can last through life.	1
	Prevention	Poor maternal and infant health can have significant long term impacts for children and families. Prevention is better than cure	1
	Levelling the playing field	Not all children have the same start in life and too many are born into circumstances that make it harder for them to thrive.	1
	Healthy Habits	Healthy habits learned early can last a lifetime. With one of the highest rates of overweight or obese children in Wales.	2
	Play	Carmarthenshire's children want to play, particularly in outdoor settings	2
	Learning Environments	Carmarthenshire's learning environments offer opportunities to nurture children's educational, social and personal development. Consideration needs to be given as to how to facilitate these aspects of well-being for those who cannot or chose not to attend formal school settings.	3
	Forging futures	Gaps in attainment levels of young people from the least and most deprived backgrounds.	3
	Poverty	35% of households and 20% of Carmarthenshire's children are living in poverty	4/5/6
Live Well	Making connections	People feel strongly that tolerance and respect is key to positive well-being.	9
	Nurturing networks	Building community networks can act as a support to parents and families and build a sense of belonging and resilience.	9
	Virtual World	Socialising, communicating and playing safely in the 'virtual world' are important to young people.	9
	Staying on track	Adolescence presents a range of opportunities to develop a sense of identity and independence, some of which have negative implications for well-being. Risks include smoking, alcohol and drugs	9
	Strong communities	Fewer people in Carmarthenshire feel they belong to their community however engagement activity identified community togetherness and cohesion as important for positive well-being in Carmarthenshire.	7/9
	Staying connected	Older people want to remain in- dependent for as long as possible & remaining embedded within one's community enhances social, emotional and physical well- being, whilst also helping to build and enhance community resilience.	9
	Caring	Carers improve the well-being of those they care for and also support economic well-being of wider society however their own needs are often misunderstood so it is important we listen and respond to our carers.	10
Age Well	Ageing well	Carmarthenshire has an ageing population.	11
	Nature Connectedness	A connection to nature has a positive effect on well-being, physical & psychological health and cooperative behaviour. It also encourages environmentally sustainable attitudes and behaviours.	8/11/12
In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	Rurality	Rurality and the significant distances to cover in Carmarthenshire, poses challenges to well-being in terms of connectivity and access to services for example. The recent rise in alternative technologies such as telehealth may provide a potential resource for accessing some services & support.	6/12/13
	Climate Change	Action is required to harness the positive and mitigate the negative and longer-term effects of climate change.	12/13
	The right time and place	Celebrating the heritage, history, traditions and language of Carmarthenshire is important to residents and in the main opportunities to do so are well-used and enjoyed. However, 1 in 3 cannot access cultural activities and this is particularly pronounced in some areas (e.g. rural) and within some groups (e.g. disabled).	14

## How we will measure success

The Council, working with local, regional and national partners, will strive to improve the following measures.

Well-being Objective		Success Measures
1	Best Start in Life	Children in care who had to move 3 or more times <i>(PAM/029)</i>
2	Children - Healthy Lifestyles	Childhood obesity <i>(Child Measurement Programme NHS)</i>
3	Improve Learner Attainment for all	Educational attainment - Average Capped 9 points score (Year 11 pupils) <i>(ref tbc)</i> <i>(Pupils best 9 results including English/Welsh, Mathematics–Numeracy, Mathematics and Science)</i>
		School attendance rates (Primary) <i>(PAM/007)</i> (Secondary) <i>(PAM/008)</i>
		Satisfaction with child's primary school <i>(NSW)</i>
4	Reduce NEETs	Number of leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) <i>(PAM/009)</i> Year 11 & Year 13 <i>(5.1.0.2)</i>
5	Tackle Poverty	Educational attainment - Average Capped 9 points score (Year 11 pupils) who are eligible for Free School Meals <i>(ref tbc)</i> <i>(NWBI)</i> <i>(Pupils best 9 results including English/Welsh, Mathematics–Numeracy, Mathematics and Science)</i>
		Households successfully prevented from becoming homeless <i>(PAM/012)</i> <i>(NWBI)</i>
		Working age population in receipt of out of work benefits <i>(5.6.3.4)</i> <i>(ONS)</i>
		Households in material deprivation <i>(NWBI)</i>
		Households Living in Poverty <i>(CACI's 'PayCheck' Data)</i>
		Adults that are able to keeping up with bills without any difficulties <i>(NSW)</i>
6	Creating Jobs and Growth	Employment figures <i>(ONS – Annual Population Survey)</i> <i>(NWBI)</i>
		Average Gross weekly pay <i>(ONS – Annual Survey of hours and earnings)</i>
		Number qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above <i>(Stats Wales)</i> <i>(NWBI)</i>
		People moderately or very satisfied with their jobs <i>(NSW)</i> <i>(NWBI)</i>
7	Affordable Homes	Number of affordable homes in the County <i>(7.3.2.24)</i>
8	Healthy Lives	Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good <i>(NSW)</i>
		Adults who say they have a longstanding illness <i>(NSW)</i>
		Adult mental well-being score <i>(NSW)</i> <i>(NWBI)</i>
		Adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours <i>(NSW)</i> <i>(NWBI)</i> (Not smoking, drinking > 14 units or lower, eating at least 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day, having a healthy body mass index, being physically active at least 150 minutes the previous week).

Well-being Objective		Success Measures
9	Supporting Good Connections	% Say they have a sense of community (NSW)(NWBI) (Derived from feeling of belonging; different backgrounds get on, treat with respect')
		People feeling safe (NSW)(NWBI) (At home, walking in the local area, and travelling)
10	Independent Lives	The rate of people kept in hospital while waiting for social care (PAM/025)
		Agree there's a good Social Care Service available in the area (NSW)
		Number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (PAM/015)
11	Ageing Well	People who are lonely (NSW)(NWBI)
12	Healthy and Safe Environment	Use of renewable energy
		Rates of recycling (PAM/030)
13	Highways & Transport	Road conditions (PAM/020, PAM/021 & PAM/022)
		Road casualties (5.5.2.21)
14	Welsh Language & Culture	Can speak Welsh (NSW)(NWBI)
		Pupils receiving a teacher assessment in Welsh (first language) at the end of the Foundation Phase (ref no. tbc)
		People attended arts events in Wales in last year (NSW)
		People visited historic places in Wales in last year (NSW)
		People visited museums in Wales in last year (NSW)
15	Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources	'Do it online' payments
		People agree that they can access information about the Authority in the way they would like to. (NSW)
		People know how to find what services the Council provides (NSW)
		People agree that they have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services. (NSW)
		Staff sickness absence levels (PAM/001)
		Organisational 'running costs'
		People agree that the Council asks for their views before setting its budget. (NSW)

**Key:** PAM – Public Accountability, National Measures; ONS –Office for National Statistics; NSW - National Survey for Wales; NWBI – National Well-being Indicator

One of the fundamental approaches advocated by the Well-being Future Generations Act is a shift in focus from gains in service output to a stronger link between the actions of public bodies and the outcomes that enhance the quality of life of citizens and communities both now and in the future. The Act is founded on Outcome Based Accountability which encourages a focus on the difference that is made, rather than just the inputs and processes that an organisation has. Success in the context of this Act is seeing positive action drive a positive contribution to the achievement of all the well-being goals through individual or collective action. (Paragraph 9 SPF2 – Statutory guidance)



**We would welcome your feedback – please send your thoughts, views and opinions to:**



**Performance Management**  
Regeneration and Policy  
Chief Executive's Department  
County Hall  
Carmarthen  
Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP



Tel: **01267 224486**  
Email: **[performance@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:performance@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)**



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Follow this plan and add your Tweets on our **[Twitter](#)** page - **#CarmsReport**

## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE: 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018**

### **SUBJECT :**

### **HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

#### **Purpose:**

To outline the approach with regard to the development of a Homelessness Strategy.

#### **To consider and comment on the following issues:**

To recommend to Executive Board:

- To approve the approach and consultation plan outlined.
- To confirm our intention to develop opportunities to work on a regional basis.

#### **REASONS:**

- Each local authority in Wales will be required to produce a homelessness strategy by December 2018.
- The development of the strategy will require a comprehensive approach in engaging and consulting with all key stakeholders. This will involve service users, local members and internal and external partners.
- Preliminary discussions have taken place with Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, and Powys to work on a regional basis. This will offer opportunities in terms of a potential regional approach in the development of the strategy, particularly in defining some key principles in the approach to homelessness that will inform local action plans.
- Developing a regional approach will be more advantageous because we could share the tasks involved between us and pool our knowledge and skills.

#### **To be referred to the Executive Board/Council for decision:**

**Exec Board Decision Required** - **Yes** - 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

**Council Decision Required** - **No**

#### **Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr. Linda Evans(Housing Portfolio Holder)

<b>Directorate</b> <b>Communities</b> <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> <b>Jonathan Morgan</b>  <b>Report Author:</b> <b>Jonathan Willis</b>	<b>Designations:</b>  <b>Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities.</b>  <b>Advice and Tenancy Support Manager</b>	<b>Tel Nos.</b> <b>01267 228960</b> <b>01554 899232</b>  <b>E Mail Addresses:</b> <a href="mailto:jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jnwillis@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">jnwillis@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**DATE: 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018**

**SUBJECT:**  
**HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to outline the approach with regard to the development of a Homelessness Strategy.

**Context**

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 introduced new responsibilities on local authorities to prevent homelessness. In Carmarthenshire we undertook a service review prior to the new legislation coming into force. Key changes involved the re-alignment of our Housing Options Service which involved creating a single point of contact for service users seeking housing advice. The team pooled a range of expertise and the team now has a range of specialist advisors and partners whose aim it is to tackle the root cause of any particular housing problem presented.

Partnership working has been key to meeting these new duties and providing a better service. Key partners who are co-located with our housing teams are:

- The Wallich who provide mediation services.
- Shelter, who provide money advice and general advocacy.
- Care and Repair who support older people install adaptations and help with other home improvements.
- Pobl who provide financial support to access the private rented sector.

The changes have had a significant effect on the number of people who are defined as homeless under the Act. In 2013 there were in excess of 500 households defined as homeless compared to 135 in 2016.

**What do we need to do next?**

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 also requires local authorities to regularly review their homelessness services. Welsh Government produced guidance last year and confirmed that local authorities should formulate homelessness strategies by December 2018. Once a strategy is produced there is a requirement to review its content at least every four years.

The main elements of a homeless strategy should relate to how local authorities:

- Prevent homelessness.
- Secure accommodation for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

- Provide support to those homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Strategic approaches should reflect Welsh Government's Ten Year Homeless Plan which emphasises prevention, placing the service users at the centre of service delivery and making the best use of resources.

Welsh Government have also suggested that local authorities may wish to consider developing a regional approach. With this in mind, officers have had preliminary meetings with colleagues from Powys, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. There are clear advantages of adopting a regional or sub-regional approach. These include:

- There are many similarities between the issues faced by local authorities which could be addressed together;
- Many third sector organisations work across authority boundaries so there could be a joint approach;
- Research and development work can be shared; and
- There is a broader pool of expertise.

In terms of managing the approach it is proposed that a set of key principles will be developed regionally, based on the review of data and the stakeholder engagement process. These principles will then underpin our local action plans.

### **How will we approach it?**

In terms of developing the strategy it is proposed that the process will involve the following steps:

#### **1. Review of data and information**

This will essentially be a desk top exercise which will involve an analysis of a range of homeless statistics such as the numbers of homeless, cases prevented and re-housed, trends and causes. Other relevant information about housing supply and demand, and the resources dedicated to prevention, will also be considered.

#### **2. Stakeholder engagement**

This will be done by gathering feedback locally and regionally from stakeholder events and surveys. A range of service users and local members will be involved with the aim of gathering their views, needs and experiences. Similarly there will be a range of internal and external partners who need to be involved such as third sector organisations, teams providing services to children, care leavers, older people and those with mental health problems.

**Appendix 1** outlines the intended approach.

#### **3. Strategy Development and Statement of Principles**

This is likely to involve the collation of key findings and statement of broader principles which will be applicable across the region. For example, we may wish to place more emphasis on much earlier prevention of homelessness, with greater involvement of other services, such as Health and Education, and third sector organisations. We may also wish to broaden the

range of housing solutions for groups who are more likely to become homeless, such as young, single people.

#### **4. Development of Local Action Plans**

This will involve individual actions applicable to each local authority. For example, education campaigns amongst young people who are at risk of homelessness; ensuring access to mental health services for people who are at risk of homelessness; reducing the time spent in temporary accommodation, particularly high-cost supported housing projects, by faster move-on into ordinary housing.

#### **5. Formal Public Consultation on Draft Strategy and Action Plan**

A report on the draft Strategy and Action Plan will be prepared for consultation

##### **To recommend to Executive Board:**

- To approve the approach and consultation plan with regard to the development of a homeless strategy.
- To confirm our intention to develop opportunities to work on a regional basis.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>NO – Attached - Appendix 1 Homelessness Strategy -Consultation and stakeholder engagement</b>
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# 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: Jonathan Morgan

Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

This report sets out a proposal in relation to the development of a new homeless strategy. The homeless strategy will need to link with a range of other service strategies and Future Generations five ways of working.

## 2. Legal

Section 50 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to carry out a homeless review and formulate a homeless strategy.

The Welsh Government Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness Chapter 5 sets out how local authorities plan homeless services.

## 4. Finance

Any review of homelessness services will need to consider if there are sufficient resources to be able to meet our statutory duties. This will be fully considered as part of the new strategy development.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities

## 1. Local Member(s)

Local Members will be involved in stakeholders' activities/events and will be consulted as part of the political process when the new strategy document has been produced.

## 2. Community / Town Council

Community and Town Councils be involved as part of the stakeholder activities/events.

## 3. Relevant Partners

Relevant partners will be involved in stakeholders' activities/events and will have the opportunity to comment on the new strategy document.

## 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Relevant staff will be fully involved throughout the process

## 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
Wels Government Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness		Welsh Government Website

## Appendix 1

### Homelessness Strategy -Consultation and stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder Description	Method of Engagement
Service Users (Those who have approached the service because they have been threatened with or made homelessness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus Group meetings.</li> <li>• Face to face interviews.</li> </ul>
Current applicants on the register	Emails/letters/text messages sent to existing applicants on the housing register where there is a mobile number, directing them to the consultation page on the website.
Website	Questionnaire posted on the website under the consultations section which an electronic feedback survey.
Facebook	Notice posted on the wall which links to the Carmarthenshire website.
Press Release	Article placed in press informing public of the engagement exercise and ways of providing us with feedback.
Tai Pawb	Letter, questionnaire will be sent.
Tenant Networks	<p>Sessions held with all tenant networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A&amp;G</li> <li>➤ Llanelli</li> <li>➤ TTT</li> </ul>
Partner Organisations	Discussions will be held at the Homeless Forum. Homeless Forum group included: The Wallich, Shelter Cymru, NHS, Gwalia Care and Support, Leaving Care team, Hafan Cymru, Prison Service, Careers, Hywel Dda, Christians Against Poverty, Probation, Llety, Catrefi Hafod, Mental Health Team, CAB, Red Cross
Housing Associations	Workshop as part of regular meetings in relation to the running of our Housing Choice Register (Family Housing, Pobl, Wales & West Housing Association, Bro Myrddin Housing Association).
Landlords Forum	Work shop involving the forum
Other Council Divisions	Meetings with officers from key divisions/teams including Legal Services, Education and Children's Services, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Care Line, Community Resource Teams. E-mail forwarded to Heads of Service with our proposals.
Staff Focus Group	Sessions held with staff of council and housing associations.
Local Members	Consultation via member's seminars/meetings of the political groups.
AM's / MP's	Letters ,questionnaire copy of the draft policy will be sent to AMs/MPs.
Neighbouring Local Authorities	We will share findings as a minimum but are looking to develop a regional or sub-regional approach.
Welsh Assembly	Letter will be sent outlining our proposals
Welsh Local Government Agency	Letter will be e-mailed outlining our proposals.
Community/Town Councils	Questionnaire will be sent to all with e-mail addresses and letters sent to the remainder informing them of the internet link to look at documents and provide feedback.





## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018

### SUBJECT:

### AMENDMENT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR RENEWAL POLICY

#### Purpose:

To amend the Private Sector Renewal Policy to reflect changes within the Welsh Government's Home Improvement Loan and Houses into Homes Schemes.

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To recommend to Executive Board that the Welsh Government's revised Home Improvement Loan and Houses to Homes scheme criteria be adopted.

#### Reasons:

- Welsh Government have amended their House to Homes and Home Improvement Loans scheme to give local authorities more flexibility on how they spend the allocated funding.
- To continue to take advantage of the funding we will need to amend our approach.

To be referred to the Executive Board/Council for Decision:

Executive Board Decision Required	YES – 4 <sup>th</sup> June, 2018
Council Decision Required	NO

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Evans (Housing Portfolio Holder)

Directorate: Communities	Designations:	Tel Nos.
Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan	Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities	01267 228960 / 01554 899232
Report Author:		E Mail Addresses:
Rob Evans	Home Improvement Agency Manager	<a href="mailto:jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">jmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:rjevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">rjevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**DATE: 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018**

**SUBJECT;**  
**AMENDMENT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR RENEWAL POLICY**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to amend the Private Sector Renewal Policy to reflect changes with the Welsh Government's Home Improvement Loan and Houses to Homes schemes.

**Context**

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 gave local authorities more wide ranging powers to offer financial assistance. Each Authority had to publish a Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy outlining the support and assistance that it will provide.

The Council's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy was adopted in 2006. The approach at the time introduced the concept of providing loans for critical improvements to the owner occupier's home where they were unable to access or couldn't afford any other forms of recognised finance.

In 2013 the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy was amended to offer loans to owners of empty properties in accordance with the Welsh Government's **Houses to Homes scheme**. Welsh Government encouraged Local Authorities to work collaboratively within regions and Carmarthenshire acted as regional lead for the Mid and West Wales region.

In Carmarthenshire we have administered £1.3m of loans for owner of empty properties. These are short term loans, either over a 2 or 3 year period and are to be repaid as a lump sum at the end of the loan term. These loans were based on the free equity within the property and secured as a charge with the Land Registry.

In 2015 the Welsh Government launched a **Home Improvement Loan scheme** and Carmarthenshire was awarded £625,000 in funding. A further £625,000 was provided for the Houses to Homes Scheme.

The Home Improvement Loans scheme is a monthly repayment loan over a maximum term of 10 years for owner occupiers or five years for landlords but this scheme is dependent on the homeowner being able to afford the monthly repayments. These loans are secured against the owner's property with the Land Registry and are subject to the applicant being subject to an affordability check. The Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy was further amended in 2015 to take account of these changes.

## What are we proposing?

Whilst there has been a good take up in relation to the Houses to Homes Scheme, local authorities reported far less take up in the Home Improvement Loan Scheme.

In February 2018 Welsh Government reviewed the criteria around House to Homes and Home Improvement Loans schemes to give authorities greater flexibility on how they use the funding provided.

The total funding awarded to each Local Authority will now be pooled together (£1.25m in Carmarthenshire's case) and can be used to support all forms of financial assistance for homeowners to maintain their home.

In allowing authorities to do this, Welsh Government have revised the criteria for some forms of assistance and we need to ensure our Renewal Policy reflects these changes.

### House to Homes

1. Landlords can now apply for £250,000 per application - £25,000 per property for up to 10 properties. Once repaid the applicant can apply for further funding. Previously this was £150,000 - £25,000 per property for up to 6 properties.
2. The loan term has been extended from 2 and 3 years:
  - a. Up to a maximum of 2 years if the intention is to sell the property following the works. The loan is repayable in full either at the point of sale or at the end of the 2 year loan term, whichever is the sooner.
  - b. Up to a maximum of 5 years if the intention is to rent the property following the works.
  - c. Up to a maximum of 10 years if the intention is to rent the property at the affordable Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates following the works, with up to a 10 year commitment for Local Authority tenant nomination rights.

### Home Improvement Loans

The original scheme was reliant on applicants being able to afford monthly repayments. If the applicant failed the affordability check they did not qualify for assistance under this scheme.

The intention under the revised scheme is to offer loans and assistance on the following basis:

1. Home Improvement Loan –The first stage will be to consider applicants for a repayment loan. This will be offered on a monthly basis for a fixed term of up to 10 years, subject to the applicant passing an affordability check.

2. Property Appreciation Loan –If applicants cannot afford monthly repayments consideration will be given if they have free equity within the home. There will need to be a minimum of 30% free equity within their property and the loan is repaid when the property changes ownership.
3. Owner Occupier Repayable Financial Assistance – If applicants are unable to service a loan and do not have sufficient equity they will be offered financial assistance which will also be repaid upon the sale of the property. This would replace our current Home Improvement and Emergency Repairs Assistance which currently takes the form of a grant and is repayable if the property is disposed of within 10 years. By introducing lifetime repayment conditions the funding will be able to be recycled to assist those in greatest need.

**To recommend to Executive Board:**

1. To adopt Welsh Government's revised Home Improvement Loan and Houses to Homes scheme criteria.

**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: Jonathan Morgan

Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities

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

### 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Adopting the Welsh Government's scheme will provide us with greater flexibility in utilising the funding provided and allow the Council to assist more homeowners to maintain their homes which currently present a risk to the health and wellbeing of the occupants.

### 2. Legal

Council's solicitors were consulted on the original scheme and the amended scheme retains the need for the applicants to accept a land charge or a full legal charge being registered against their property. There is already an established process in place to register these charges.

### 3. Finance

The funding for this scheme has been received by the Authority in previous years. We will amend our approach in line with the new Welsh Government's proposals.

### 5. Risk Management Issues

All loans are secured against the property and there is already agreed processes and procedures in place with debtors and legal to ensure that agreed repayments are being met.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jonathan Morgan Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities

1. Local Member(s) - N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners - N/A
4. 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
Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002		<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2002/1860/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2002/1860/made</a>
CCC Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2006		<a href="http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/COCO20060412/index.asp">http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/COCO20060412/index.asp</a>
Report to Executive Board – 13 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015 – Welsh Government's Home Improvement Loan Scheme (Item 3)		<a href="http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EXEB20150713/index.asp">http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EXEB20150713/index.asp</a>

## Community Scrutiny 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018 - 2033

#### Draft Delivery Agreement

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To consider and note the representations received, and the recommendations, in respect of the Draft Delivery Agreement.
- To consider the amendments to the timetable.
- To note the submission of the Delivery Agreement (inclusive of the recommendations of this report) to the Welsh Government for agreement.
- To note the extension of the consultation period for the submission of Candidate Sites to the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

#### Reasons:

- To comply with the Council's statutory obligations in terms of the preparation and progression of a revised Local Development Plan for Carmarthenshire in accordance with statutory procedures.
- To respond to the content of the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs.
- To ensure that the preparation and adoption of the Revised (replacement) LDP proceeds in a timely manner ahead of the expiration of the current LDP.

**To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: YES**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Mair Stephens

Directorate : Environment

Designations :

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **Community Scrutiny**

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

### **Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018 - 2033**

#### **Draft Delivery Agreement**

#### **1. Brief Summary of Purpose of Report.**

This Report follows the approval at County Council on the 10th January 2018 to formally commence the preparation of a Revised (replacement) Local Development Plan (LDP), along with the resolution to publish the Draft Delivery Agreement for formal public consultation.

The consultation period for the Draft Delivery Agreement commenced on the 5th February 2018, and closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. In total some 10 representations were received from a range of organisations, interested parties and members of the public – the details of which, along with officer responses and recommendations are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

Reference is also made to Appendix 2 of this report which identifies a series of recommended officer based amendments to the Draft Delivery Agreement, including those arising from contextual changes.

#### **2. Background**

The preparation of the Delivery Agreement (DA) represents an important first step in developing the revised LDP. It reflects the requirement for the Council to prepare, publish and agree with the Welsh Government (WG) a DA in accordance with Section 63 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

In line with statutory regulations and guidance, the DA must consist of the following:

- Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), which sets out how and when stakeholders and the community can contribute to the plan preparation process, and the timing and mechanisms used in undertaking such engagement; and
- Timetable for plan preparation and adoption, which once agreed by the Welsh Government commits the Council to preparing the revised LDP to the timescales identified.

The DA in setting out a timetable for the key stages in preparing the revised LDP, and a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), which sets out how and when stakeholders and the community can contribute during the Plan's preparatory process, sets the context for the Plan's preparation.

The timetable set out within the Draft DA identified a challenging, but realistic, timeframe for preparing the Revised LDP. This timetable has however through this consultation, and notably in light of the content of the letter from Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, been further refined. Further details are set out within this report and Appendix 2. This notably includes an amendment to the adoption date proposed within the Draft DA from September 2021 to November/December 2021.

This in part accommodates the Cabinet Secretary's expectation that the Revised LDP be prepared and adopted within 3.5 years of formal commencement of the process. It should be noted the formal commencement of the process corresponds with the WG approval of the DA, anticipated as July 2018. Consequently the revised timetable reflects the 3.5 year preparatory process. Critically, this still ensures that the Revised Plan is in place ahead of the expiration of the current adopted Plan at the end of 2021.

Further detail relating to the letter from the Cabinet Secretary is set out in section 4 of this report.

A further component of this report relates to the ongoing consultation on the call for 'Candidate Sites'. Having commenced on the 5th February 2018, the call for 'Candidate Sites' is currently scheduled to close on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This report further considers the length of this consultation and provides the context for its subsequent extension of that period to maximise the opportunity available for the submission of such sites. This consultation or "call" for sites provides an opportunity at the outset of preparation of the Revised LDP for submissions from developers, landowners and the public for sites that could be included for new development, re-development or protection in the LDP.

### 3. Key Elements of the Delivery Agreement

**The timetable** set out within the Draft DA identified a challenging, but realistic, timeframe for preparing the replacement LDP. From the start of the plan making process it was anticipated that the revised LDP will be adopted by September 2021.

It should however be noted that following the letter from the Cabinet Secretary on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the timetable proposed in this report has been amended to reflect the expectations contained within that letter. In this respect the anticipated adoption date has been revised to November/December 2021, this taking into account the resources available to the Local Planning Authority. Further information in respect of the letter from the Cabinet Secretary is set out within section 4 below.

The main stages for plan preparation have been split in to Definitive and Indicative Stages as follows:

- Definitive Stages – These include the stages in plan preparation up to and including the statutory deposit stage (i.e. consultation on the 'Deposit Revised LDP'). These stages are deemed as under the control of the Council and as such, reflect a realistic assessment of what can be achieved within particular timescales.
- Indicative Stages – These include the stages of the plan preparation process after statutory deposit stage and up to and including adoption of the revised LDP. Their indicative nature reflects that the Council is able to exhibit less control over these stages given that they are influenced by, and subject to external factors, such as the

number of representations received at deposit stage and the availability, requirements and capacity of the Planning Inspectorate.

It should be noted that at the deposit stage, an updated DA with definitive timescales for the final stages of plan preparation will be prepared and submitted to the WG for agreement.

The **Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)** sets out why it is important to involve the community. It identifies who should be involved and suggests how to get involved in the LDP process. The CIS sets out the Council's participation strategy; the role of the Local Planning Authority, Councillors and Officers; the methods of engagement and the bodies, agencies and organisations to be involved; and the Council's expectations of all stakeholders and participants who become involved in the process and what they can expect of the Council.

The CIS also recognises the need to strengthen community involvement in order to achieve an LDP that has local ownership and is legitimate for the policies that will shape the level and future distribution of growth and development within the County.

The Appendices of the DA identifies all of the bodies, agencies and organisations that will be consulted in accordance with the DA. The lists are not, however, exhaustive, and new consultees can be added at a later date. It should also be noted that an extensive mailing list has been compiled through the preparation of the current LDP. This mailing list ensures interested parties who may not be identified as consultees are informed of progress at appropriate stages of the Plan's preparation. New interested parties will be encouraged to register.

#### **4. Letter from the Cabinet Secretary**

Members may be aware that on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs wrote to a number of local authorities outlining the benefits for undertaking Joint LDPs and inviting proposals for the preparation of such Plans. In this respect Carmarthenshire along with Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion were identified and invited to consider the preparation of a Joint LDP.

Following this invitation and responses from Council's across Wales, a further letter was received from the Cabinet Secretary on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. This letter outlines a series of expectations in light of the assurances provided by Local Authorities around the preparation of individual LDPs. These expectations are as follows:

- That WG receive the DA within 3 months of the date of the letter.
- That the DA demonstrate that plan preparation can be achieved within 3.5 years. (It should be noted the commencement of the 3.5 year preparatory process commences with the WG approval of the DA, anticipated as July 2018.)
- That there be a single additional slippage period of 3 months.

The letter also indicates that the Cabinet Secretary will not be minded to agree any further extensions beyond the initial DA, and that the Planning Inspectorate will be asked to give special consideration to collaboration and planning outcomes when the LDP is examined.

Reference is also made to Local Government reform and its implications on the preparation of the LDP: Should the National Assembly agree to reform Local Government ahead of the revised

LDP reaching Deposit stage, the local authority may be required to re-commence the Plan making process.

## **5. Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

It should be noted that the content of the Revised LDP will be informed by a variety of assessments, including an SA/SEA and HRA. The former is required by Section 62 (6a) of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, while the latter is a requirement of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC1. An SEA is a mandatory requirement for plans/programmes.

The DA also consider the integration of SA/SEA and the HRA as part of the Revised LDP's preparatory process.

## **6. Next Steps**

Following the Council's deliberations, the DA will be submitted to the WG for agreement. Subject to WG agreement the DA commits the Council to producing the Revised LDP to the stated timescales and through the identified consultation and engagement processes. The DA forms part of the statutory process in relation to producing an LDP and is therefore a requirement of the legislation.

Once agreed, the DA will be formally published. It will then commit the Council to producing the Revised LDP to the stated timescales and consultation processes.

Note: the letter from the Cabinet Secretary places an expectation that the DA be submitted to the WG for agreement no later than 3 months from her letter dated the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. In this respect reference is made to the reporting timetable below:

Corporate Management Team	- 17 April 2018
Preliminary Executive Board	- 30 April 2018
Community Scrutiny	- 11 May 2018
Executive Board	- 4 June 2018
Council	- 13 June 2018

## **7. Call for 'Candidate Sites'**

As outlined above, the consultation or 'call' for Candidate Sites represents a key stage as it provides landowners, interested parties and developers the opportunity to submit sites for consideration at the outset of the Plan's preparation. Indeed, it is at this stage where those wishing to propose sites for inclusion within the Deposit Plan, with its development limits, land use allocations and other site specific matters, must do so. It also provides an opportunity to propose areas for protection.

This consultation process is supported by the Site Assessment Methodology (as approved at the meeting of County Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018), and requires proposers of sites to complete a questionnaire and where appropriate submit supporting information. It seeks to do this in a proportionate manner reflective of the scale and complexity of sites. Further information may be sought to further support the consideration of the site. Where a site is proposed for development purposes, a greater emphasis is now being placed on the inclusion of sites that are genuinely available and deliverable. As such the process requires the provision of certain information which supports its deliverability.

In light of these additional requirements, it has been considered prudent to extend the consultation period for the call for 'Candidate Sites'. This provides an enhanced opportunity for their submission, and ensures sufficient time is available to 'spread the message' as broadly as possible. It is also prudent in procedural terms to extend the period of consultation beyond the date of agreement from the WG for the DA to ensure full compliance with the statutory Regulations on LDP preparation.

Consequently the call for 'Candidate Sites' will run until the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Further notification on the extension of this period will be advertised and circulated accordingly.

Note: It should be noted that whilst the revised LDP is being prepared, the current adopted Plan remains extant and will continue to provide the planning policy framework by which planning applications will be determined.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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# 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: L Quelch

Head of Planning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

## Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Delivery Agreement identifies the links and requirements necessary to ensure the Plan, and the processes in its preparation are compatible with Carmarthenshire County Council's well-being objectives. It also ensures alignment with the national Well-being Goals set out within the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. Through its land use planning policies, the Revised LDP will seek 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. The formulation of the Revised LDP will closely consider matters of sustainability and will be prepared with the outcomes of the Plan measured in light of the Sustainability Appraisal indicators. 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.

The DA, in identifying the timetable and CIS for the preparation of the LDP, recognises and reflects the requirements emanating from the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the implications for the LDP in general. In this respect, the LDP will have full regard to the national legislative provisions and will relate and have regard to the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan. The LDP will assess compatibility of the LDP and the National and local Well-being Objectives. It is noted that the Revised LDP will ensure the requirements emanating from the Act are fully and appropriately considered with the Plan, reflective of its duties.



## **Legal**

The preparation of the Revised LDP reflects the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the requirements of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and secondary legislation in the form of the Local Development Plan (Regulations) Wales (As amended) 2015.

The preparation of the LDP will also have appropriate regard to other sources of primary and secondary legislation including the Environment (Wales) Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

The preparation of the Delivery Agreement is in accordance with Section 63 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. It is also in line with national regulations and guidance in relation to its scope and content.

## **Finance**

Financial costs to date are covered through the financial provisions in place - including growth items and reserves. Should the Planning Division Budget not be in a position to provide further funding necessary to meet the statutory requirements to review and prepare a development plan then an application will be made for a further growth bid.

The Delivery Agreement, in making reference to such matters, outlines the Council's commitment to prepare and adopt an up-to-date LDP in accordance with the Council's statutory duty.

## **ICT**

Requirements in relation to ICT will seek to utilise existing resources. An additional and revised data management requirement will be procured to ensure the plan's preparatory process is conducted in a speedy, efficient and transparent manner in accordance with regulatory requirements.

### **Physical Assets**

Reference is made to the potential for the submission of Council owned sites and properties through the call for 'Candidate Sites'. The preparation of the Revised LDP will impact on Council land and property holdings through their inclusion or otherwise for potential development purposes. This will have implications on potential disposal and land valuations and consequently capital receipts.

### **Staffing Implications**

It is anticipated that the review of the LDP be accommodated in the main by utilising the existing staff structure. The revised structure subject to current ongoing recruitments is set out within Appendix 2 of this report. This includes an Officer to oversee SA/SEA and HRA work (appointment anticipated late Spring 2018).

Provision will be required for a Programme Officer for the Examination into the LDP (anticipated 2020/21).

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: L Quelch

Head of Planning

## **1. Scrutiny Committee**

11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Community Scrutiny.

## **2. Local Member(s)**

The content of the DA has been subject to full public consultation. Members will be engaged throughout the LDP revision process. The Candidate Site consultation is ongoing.

## **3. Community / Town Council**

The content of the DA has been subject to full public consultation. Town/Community Councils(s) are a specific consultee at statutory stages throughout the LDP revision. The Candidate Site consultation is ongoing.

## **4. Relevant Partners**

The content of the DA has been subject to full public consultation. A range of partners are identified as specific and general consultees throughout the review process. The Candidate Site consultation is ongoing.

## **5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

The content of the DA has been subject to full public consultation. Internal contributions will be sought throughout the revision process. The Candidate Site consultation is ongoing.

**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
Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/local-development-plan/">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/local-development-plan/</a>
Supplementary Planning Guidance		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/supplementary-planning-guidance/#.V06h-JwrKUk">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/planning/policies-development-plans/supplementary-planning-guidance/#.V06h-JwrKUk</a>
Annual Monitoring Report 2015/16		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/3683/annual-monitoring-report-201516-amr-document-for-web.pdf">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/3683/annual-monitoring-report-201516-amr-document-for-web.pdf</a>
Annual Monitoring Report 2016/17		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212553/annual-monitoring-report-2016-17.pdf">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212553/annual-monitoring-report-2016-17.pdf</a>
LDP Review Report		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213042/ldp-review-report-english-version.pdf">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213042/ldp-review-report-english-version.pdf</a>
Draft Delivery Agreement		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213084/final-draft-delivery-agreement-eng.pdf">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213084/final-draft-delivery-agreement-eng.pdf</a>
Call for 'Candidate Sites'		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/candidate-sites/#.WsPYouaotMs">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/candidate-sites/#.WsPYouaotMs</a>

## Appendix 1

### Draft Delivery Agreement – Consultation Responses

The following responses we've received during the consultation period held between the 5<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 in respect of the Draft Delivery Agreement for the Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033. Where appropriate each representation is accompanied by the comments received (summarised where appropriate) along with officer comments and recommendations.

Representation No: **DA/001**

Name: **W Thomas**

Organisation (where applicable): **N/A**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **YES**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **YES**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **YES**

Comment: **Mae'r amserlen yn dynn o gofio bod angen trafod gyda nifer sylweddol o randdeiliaid.**

**The timetable is tight given that there is a need to discuss with a significant number of stakeholders.**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **YES**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **YES**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **YES**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **YES**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:  
**None**

Officer Response

**Wedi nodi. Er ei bod wedi nodi bod proses paratoi'r Cynllun Datblygu Lleol (CDLI) a'i amserlen ar gyfer ei pharatoi yn cynnwys nifer o gyfnodau allweddol gan gynnwys y rheiny pan fydd ymgysylltiad yn arbennig o bwysig. Mae'r amserlen gyfan ar gyfer paratoi'r CDLI Diwygiedig wedi ei seilio ar gyngor wrth Lywodraeth Cymru a'r cyfnodau sydd wedi eu gosod yn y rheoliadau statudol. Dylid nodi bod yr amserlen yn cynnwys elfennau sydd wedi ei gosod yn gadarn, yn enwedig o gwmpas yr Archwiliad Cyhoeddus pan mae ychydig o ddisgresiwn gyda'r awdurdod i wneud addasiadau pellach.**

**Noted.** Whilst it is noted that the LDP's preparatory process and its timetable for preparation includes a number of key stages including those where engagement is of particular importance. The overall timescale for its preparation of the Revised LDP is based upon Welsh Government advice and the stages set out within the statutory regulations. It should also be noted that the timetable includes fixed timetabling elements, notably around the Examination in Public where there is limited discretion for the authority to make further adjustments.

Recommendation

**Dim newid i'r Cytundeb Cyflenwi.** Modd bynnag, dylid cyfeirio at y 'newidiadau arfaethedig y swyddogion' sydd wedi eu gosod yn yr adroddiad yma. Gweler Atodiad 2.

**No change to the Delivery Agreement.** Reference should however be had to the 'Officer Proposed Changes' as set out within this report. See Appendix 2.

Representation No: **DA/002**

Name: **F Jones**

Organisation (where applicable): **West Wales Rivers Trust**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **YES**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **YES**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **YES**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **NO**

Comment: **The West Wales Rivers Trust is not listed within the list of consultation bodies.**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **YES**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **NO**

Comment: **Environmental Non-Government Organisations should be represented on the stakeholder group - Wales Environment Link can nominate a person.**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **NO**

Comment: **The West Wales Rivers Trust should be included in the list of consultation bodies.**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:  
**None**

Officer Response

**Noted. The preparatory process associated with the Revised LDP and the Delivery Agreement is recognised with the value of the Environment and central in the preparation of the Revised LDP and its policies and proposals.**

**Whilst it is agreed to add The West Wales Rivers Trust to the list of consultation bodies. It is not considered necessary to further add to the membership of the Key Stakeholder Forum as sufficient representation is currently included to facilitate a discussion across a range of groups.**

Recommendation

**Amend the Delivery Agreement by adding The West Wales Rivers Trust to the list of consultation bodies.**



Representation No: **DA/003**

Name: **C Peters-Bond**

Organisation (where applicable): **N/A**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **No**

Comment: **If the document is aimed at members of the public, then the plan is dense, full of jargon and relatively impenetrable.**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **YES**

Comment: **If you can get through the language used to describe it.**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **YES**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **YES**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **YES**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **YES**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **YES**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:

**The respondent states that the lack of a coordinated development plan with adjoining Councils is a mistake. While a long list of potential consultees have been listed, it's not clear how their views will effectively influence the plan which appears quite inward looking.**

Officer Response

**Noted. Whilst it is recognised that some aspects around the content of the Delivery Agreement may not be entirely Plain English its content in places reflects the often technical nature of its content. The Council will however be preparing an 'easy read' publication to support the use of the Revised LDP.**

**The value attached to working with neighbouring Council's is reflected in the Welsh Governments Tests of Soundness against which the appropriateness of the Revised LDP will be measured and assessed. In this respect the neighbouring authorities within the region have a long standing and close relationship with collaboration and information sharing an important part. This remains and each neighbouring authority are a specific consultee in plan making and have representatives on the Key Stakeholder Forum. Reference is made to section 1.8 of the Draft Delivery Agreement.**

Recommendation

**No change to the Delivery Agreement.**

Representation No: **DA/004**

Name: **J Rollinson**

Organisation (where applicable): **J4mRoll Solutions**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **YES**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **YES**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **YES**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **YES**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **YES**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **YES**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **YES**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:  
**None**

Officer Response  
**Noted**

Recommendation  
**No change to the Delivery Agreement.**

Representation No: **DA/005**

Name: **M. Lindsley**

Organisation (where applicable): **The Coal Authority**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **N/A**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **N/A**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **N/A**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **N/A**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **N/A**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **N/A**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **N/A**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:

**Note comments submitted in light of the Review Report. Having had an opportunity to review the Review Report and note that no fundamental changes are proposed to the mineral or unstable land policies, although these policies will respond to any contextual, evidential or factual changes arising. On this basis we have no specific comments to make at this time.**

Officer Response

**It is noted that the comments received predominately relate to the content of the Review Report. The respondent remains a consultee in the preparation of the Revised LDP.**

Recommendation

**No change to the Delivery Agreement.**

Representation No: **DA/006**

Name: **G Ayres**

Organisation (where applicable): **Carmarthenshire County Council**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **N/A**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **N/A**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **N/A**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **N/A**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **N/A**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **N/A**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **N/A**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:

**Page 4, paragraph 1.4.1 - There is reference here to ‘the Council’s Well-being Plan’. The respondent wishes to confirm that the Well-being Plan is the responsibility of the PSB and not the Council. Could this be amended?**

**Page 4, Soundness tests questions – Whilst appreciating that these questions are probably set at a national level the respondent points out that the questions relating to Single Integrated Plan (SIP) will not be relevant after May 2018 as all Counties will have replaced their SIPs with well-being plans from May 2018 onwards.**

**Page 13, paragraph 3.3.3 - Key Stakeholder Forum - There is reference to ‘existing Community Strategy Partnership’. This require clarification.**

**Page 16, paragraph 3.4.3 - Seldom Heard Groups – Highlights the opportunity to access some such groups through other Council resources.**

**Page 17, paragraph 3.4.6 - Town and Community Councils – Reference is made to the existing network (forum) and the current 7 town and community councils subject to the Act. Highlights that this is a forum with the Clerks and Development Officers from those councils and not directly with the Community Councillors. Suggests that there is an opportunity to utilise such a forum. Makes reference to the requirement for these Councils from 2019 onwards to prepare an annual report to the PSB on how they’re working to achieve the objectives of the well-being plan.**

**Page 46, Appendix 7 – Key Stakeholder Forum - Amend ‘Carmarthenshire Local Health Board’ to ‘Hywel Dda University Health Board’.**

**Notes Dyfed Powys Police are named twice. The Police and Crime Commissioner is now responsible for all Police estates.**

**Officer Response**

**Noted. The respondent's points in relation to the tests of soundness are noted however, these reflect that material issued by the Welsh Government. The Revised LDP will however have full regard to the Well-being Plan once it supersedes the SIPs.**

**Welcomes the respondent's comments in respect of assisting in accessing a number of groups and forums is welcomed. Reference is made to paragraph 3.4.9 in respect of engaging with Town and Community Councils, including the forum identified.**

**The inclusion of Dyfed Powys Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner is intended to reflect the diversity of responsibilities and the range of contribution they can make to the Revised LDP's preparations**

**Recommendation**

**Amend paragraph 3.3.3 to ensure it is up-to-date and reflective of current provisions.**

**Amend paragraph 1.4.1 to clarify that the Well-being Plan is the responsibility of the Public Service Board.**

**Amend Appendix 7 to change 'Carmarthenshire Local Health Board' to 'Hywel Dda University Health Board'**

Representation No: **DA/007**

Name: **S Luke**

Organisation (where applicable): **Natural Resources Wales**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **N/A**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **N/A**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **N/A**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **N/A**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **N/A**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **N/A**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **N/A**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:

**The respondent agrees with the proposed 'proposed schedule of works' as set out within the draft DA.**

**The respondent has no further comments.**

Officer Response

**Noted and welcomed.**

Recommendation

**No change to the Delivery Agreement.**

Representation No: **DA/008**

Name: **S Morris**

Organisation (where applicable): **Pembrokeshire County Council**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **N/A**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **N/A**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **N/A**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **N/A**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **N/A**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **N/A**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **N/A**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:

**The respondent notes that the proposals are for a replacement Plan which will run to 2033, which corresponds with that for the proposed Pembrokeshire replacement LDP. Comments that this is helpful, particularly in the context of the letter from Lesley Griffiths AM, which proposed a Joint LDP for Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. Although the three authorities are currently moving ahead with proposals for single-authority LDP reviews, it is wise for each to align its review procedures and co-ordinate evidence preparation wherever possible.**

**Paragraphs 1.8.2 and 1.8.3 set out Carmarthenshire's position on Joint Plans and on the desirability of collaborative / collective work with neighbour Local Planning Authorities, wherever opportunities allow. The respondent supports Carmarthenshire's views in this respect.**

**The respondent supports their inclusion as a member of the Key Stakeholder Forum and its listing as a Specific Consultation body for the LDP. The respondent highlights that it will be pleased to contribute throughout the process of preparing the LDP.**

**In referencing Table 2 the respondent notes that the timescale is set out as being September 2018 – June 2020. Should this read September 2019 – 2020?**

Officer Response

**Support Welcomed.**

**The comments in relation to collaboration and co-ordination of evidence is welcomed.**

Recommendation

**Amend table 2 of the Delivery Agreement as appropriate (reference should also be had to the proposed amendments set out within Appendix 2 of this report).**



Representation No: **DA/009**

Name: **E W Evans**

Organisation (where applicable): **Llangennech Community Council**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **N/A**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **N/A**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **N/A**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **N/A**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **N/A**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **N/A**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **N/A**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:

**The respondent makes a general comment in respect of the Revised LDP highlighting that they have resolved to oppose any further development in Llangennech. Further comments/observations will be made during stages of the preparation of the Revised LDP.**

Officer Response

**Noted**

Recommendation

**No change to the Delivery Agreement.**

Representation No: **DA/010**

Name: **Not identified**

Organisation (where applicable): **Not identified**

Question 1a – Do you consider the content and purpose of the DA to be Clear and Understandable?: **YES**

Question 1b – Does the draft DA make clear the appropriate steps/stages in respect of LDP preparation?: **N/A**

Question 2a – Do you consider the proposed Timetable for the preparation of the LDP to be realistic and deliverable?: **N/A**

Question 3a – Does the CIS make it clear how and when you or your organisation can get involved?: **N/A**

Question 3b – Do you consider that the methods of involvement identified within the CIS are appropriate?: **N/A**

Question 3c – Do you consider that the appropriate key stakeholders have been identified to achieve a representative Plan?: **N/A**

Question 3d – Do you consider that the appropriate Consultation Bodies and multi-agency partnerships have been identified?: **N/A**

Question 4 - Additional Comments/suggestions:  
**None**

Officer Response  
**Noted**

Recommendation  
**No change to the Delivery Agreement.**

## Appendix 2

### Draft Delivery Agreement - Officer Recommended Changes

The following appendix considers and recommends further amendments where they are required to address matters of accuracy and implementation, and where they offer clarity and enhance their meaning and understanding.

The following also sets out further recommended amendments to the timetable arising from the receipt of the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths AM dated the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. This letter followed the earlier invitation to Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion County Councils to give consideration to the preparation of a Joint Revised Local Development Plan (LDP).

In referencing the above letter, regard has been had to the requirement for a prescribed timetable of no more than 3.5 years from formal commencement of the process, with allowance for a single slippage period of 3 months. It should be noted that the Cabinet Secretary makes it clear that she is not minded to agree to any further extensions to the Delivery Agreement (DA) beyond the initial agreement.

#### Chapter 2. The Timetable

In light of the reference to the Cabinet Secretary's letter above, and the requirement to amend the Revised LDP Timetable to reflect no more than a 3.5 year preparatory process, it is consequently recommended that the timetable for Plan preparation be revised as set out in figure 1 below. It should be noted the 3.5 year preparatory process commences with the WG approval of the DA, anticipated as July 2018.

It should be noted that this will form the amended Appendix 1 within the final DA.

It is further recommended that consequential changes be made as required within the relevant sections of the DA to reflect the changes to the timetable (notably Table 2 – Timetable – Key Stages and Appendix 2: Timetable and Community Involvement).

For ease of reference, the main changes include:

- Extension to the Candidate Site Stage (and consequential changes to the publication of Candidate Sites) as outlined in the main report.

- Removal of the Focused Changes Stage from the timetable. In this respect the Focused Changes are not a statutory part of the Plan making process, indeed they may not in themselves be required. The inclusion of this stage within the Draft DA was in the interests of completeness. It is also noted that the three month slippage period identified above would suffice in terms of any requirement to undertake focused changes.
- Removal of the initial stages which preceded the consultation on the Draft DA from the timetable.
- Amendments to timetable to reflect the amended adoption date.
- Rationalisation of the Examination period, including a recognition of the August recess in scheduling the proposed adoption date for the Revised LDP.
- Consequential amended date for the Adoption of the Revised Carmarthenshire LDP November/December 2021.

It should be noted that no representations were received which directly to the content of the DA timetable.

### **Paragraph 2.2.7**

Recommended that the list in relation to the staff resources set out within para 2.2.7 be amended to read as follows. This reflects the Council's commitment to resourcing the preparation of the Revised LDP:

#### ***'LDP Team***

*Head of Planning (5%)*

*Forward Planning Manager (60%)*

*Forward Planning Officer (x5) (70%)*

*Sustainability and Ecology Support Officer (Policy) (70%)*

*Monitoring and Implementation Officer (30%)*

*Graphic Design and Technical Support Officer (70%)*

*Technical Assistant (75%)*

*Forward Planning Assistant (75%)'*

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## Community Scrutiny 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To consider the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance set out within the report for formal public consultation for 6 weeks.
- To note 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.

#### 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.

**To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: YES**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Mair Stephens

Directorate : Environment	Designations :	Tel Nos. 01267 228659
Name of Head of Service:		E Mail Addresses:
Llinos Quelch	Head of Planning	<a href="mailto:LQuelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">LQuelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Report Author: Ian Llewelyn	Forward Planning Manager	<a href="mailto:IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Community Scrutiny

11<sup>th</sup> May 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 wind turbine 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.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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# 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: L Quelch

Head of Planning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 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 in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: L Quelch

Head of Planning

## **1. Scrutiny Committee**

11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Community Scrutiny.

## **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 be consulted as appropriate.

## **5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

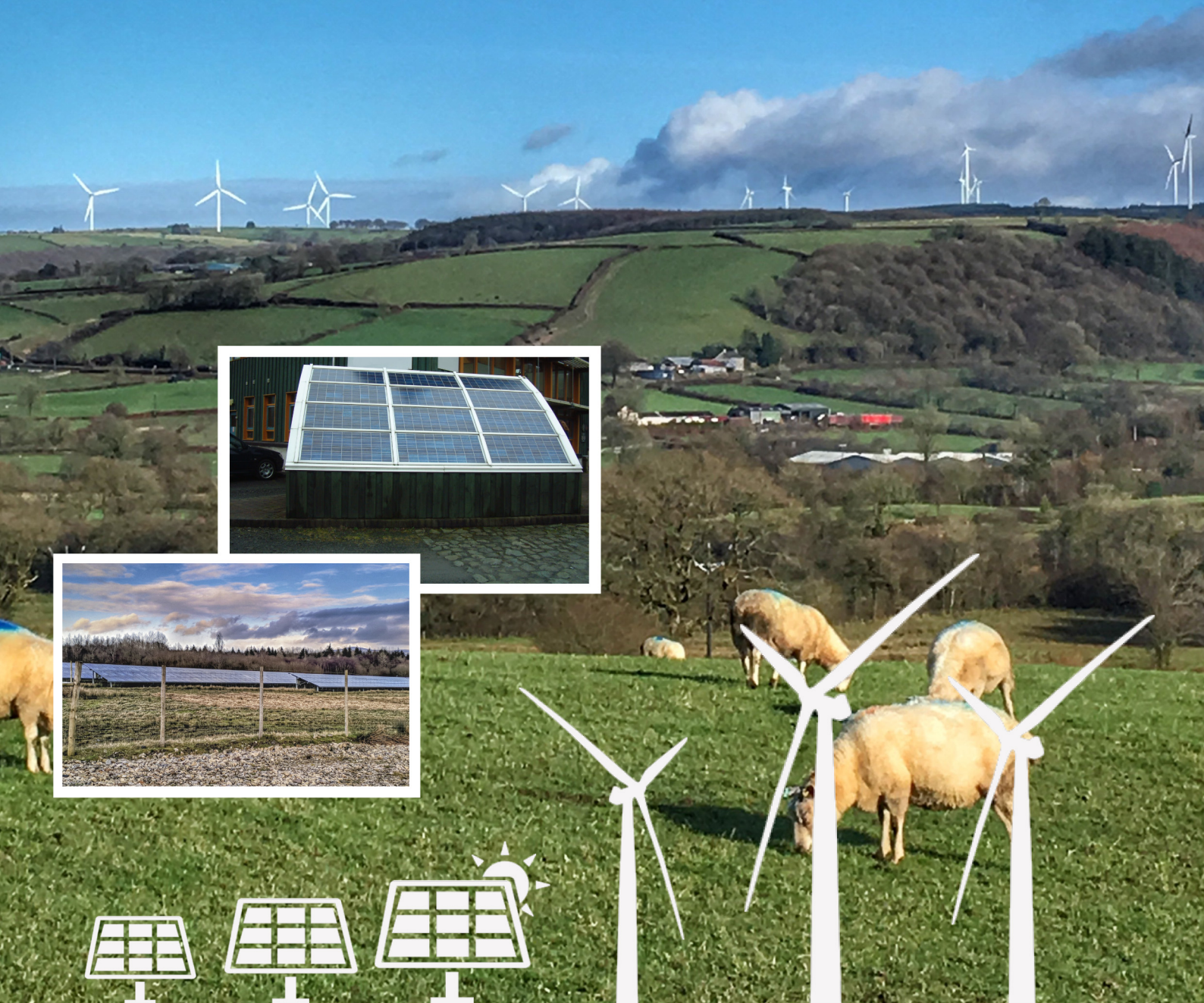
Contributions have been sought from relevant internal consultees to ensure the draft SPG reflects the specialist and detailed nature of their subject matter.

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



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**Appendix A: Guidance Document for Assessing Noise Impact from Wind Turbine(s)**

**Appendix B: European Sites**

# 1. Introduction

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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

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2.1 Under European Union targets<sup>1</sup>, the UK has a legally-binding target to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The UK Renewable Energy Strategy<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> EU Renewable Energy Directive

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228866/7686.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228866/7686.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 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<sup>4</sup> 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<sup>5</sup>” (2011) and “Planning for renewable and Low Carbon Energy: A Toolkit for Planners” (2015)<sup>6</sup>. 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;*

<sup>4</sup> <http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/guidanceandleaflets/householder-permitted-development-rights/?lang=en>

<sup>5</sup> <http://gov.wales/topics/planning/policy/guidanceandleaflets/planningimplications/?lang=en>

<sup>6</sup> <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**

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### **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<sup>7</sup>, 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**

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<sup>7</sup> <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 16<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>8</sup> 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

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<sup>8</sup> Development Management Procedure Wales Order 2012, Article 2:  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2012/801/pdfs/wsi\\_20120801\\_mi.pdf](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"<sup>9</sup>.

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**

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<sup>9</sup> 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](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.

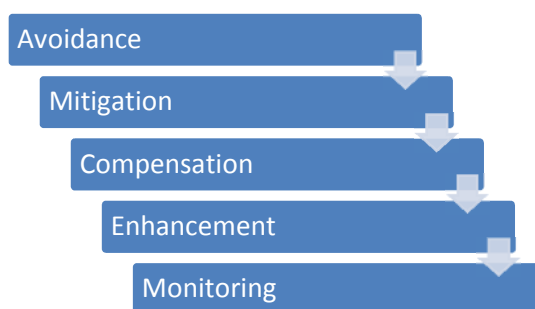
#### Ecological Surveys

- 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

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### 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<sup>10</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<sup>10</sup> 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 micro-siting, 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*”<sup>11</sup>. 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<sup>12</sup>:

- 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

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<sup>11</sup> Taken “Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Development” Scottish Natural Heritage, March 2012.

<sup>12</sup> 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 corridors, 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 species 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 provides 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 associated 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](http://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<sup>13</sup>.

### 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*

<sup>13</sup> 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"*<sup>14</sup>. 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

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<sup>14</sup> Taken "Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore 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 to 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 associated 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)

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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<sup>2</sup> 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<sub>Aeq, t</sub>**
- 2. Large Turbine - 35dB L<sub>A90, 10mins</sub>**
- 3. Financially involved - 45dB L<sub>A90, mins</sub>**

## **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 be 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 where 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<sub>Aeq,T</sub> within the amenity space of any lawfully existing dwelling, at wind speeds up to and 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):

$t = 4 \cdot D$  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 immissions 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  $L_{A90, 10 \text{ mins}}$ , within the amenity space of any lawfully existing dwelling, at wind speeds up to and including 10m/s, standardised/measured to a height of 10m.
- ❖ The noise immission from the wind turbine shall not exceed a sound pressure level  $L_{A90, 10 \text{ mins}}$  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 immissions 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 Estuaries	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	Pembrokeshire
Yerbeston Tops	SAC	Pembrokeshire
Rhos Llawr-cwrt	SAC	Ceredigion
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes / Safleoedd Ystlym Sir Benfro a Llynnoedd Bosherton	SAC	Pembrokeshire
Gower Ash Woods / Coedydd Ynn Gwyr	SAC	Swansea



Pembrokeshire Marine	SAC	Pembrokeshire (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	Pembrokeshire
Preseli	SAC	Pembrokeshire
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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# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018

### Community Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for 2018/19

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee confirm its Forward Work Programme for 2018/19.

#### Reasons:

- The County Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to develop and publish annual forward work programmes that identify issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: NOT APPLICABLE**

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive's  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> KevinThomas	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration & Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224027 <a href="mailto:kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018

### Community Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for 2018/19

#### Purpose of the Forward Work Programme

Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution states that: *"Each scrutiny committee is required to develop and publish an annual forward work programme, identifying issues and reports to be considered during the course of a municipal year"*.

The development of a work programme:

- Provides an opportunity for members to determine the priority issues to be considered by their scrutiny committee over the course of the next year.
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- Provides a focus for both officers and members, and is a vehicle for communicating the work of the Committee to the public. The programme (see attached report) will be published on the council's website and will be updated on a quarterly basis – [www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny) – and sent to key stakeholders for information. It will also be updated on a quarterly basis.
- Ensures agreement of provisional agendas for scheduled scrutiny meetings within the council diary. The Programme is a flexible document that can be amended to reflect additional meetings and agenda items during the course of the year.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES – Draft Forward Work Programme 18/19**

## 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: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

**1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – In line with requirements of the County Council's Constitution.

**2. Legal** – In line with requirements of the County Council's Constitution.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. 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

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## Community Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Programme 2018/19

11 <sup>th</sup> May 18	25 <sup>th</sup> June 18	July	4 <sup>th</sup> October 18	23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 18	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 18	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 19	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 19	28 <sup>th</sup> March 19
Community Scrutiny FWP 18/19	End of Year Budget Monitoring 2017/18	Local Development Plan – Annual Monitoring Report	Budget Monitoring 2018/19	Actions and Referrals update	Revenue Budget Consultation 2019/20 - 2021/22	HRA Budget Service Charges and Rent Setting 2019/20		Q3 New Corporate Strategy Performance Management Report 2018/18
Approach to Homelessness Strategy	Scrutiny Actions Update	LDP Preferred Strategy	Q1 New Corporate Strategy Performance Management Report 2018/18	Ammanford and Carmarthen Regeneration	Capital Budget Consultation	Carmarthenshire Home Standards Plus (HRA Business Plan 2019-2022)		
New Corporate Strategy	Theatre and Arts Strategy 2018-2022	Compliments and Complaints Report	Annual Performance Report (Planning Services)		Communities Departmental Business Plan	Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report 2017/18: Carmarthenshire		
Amendments to Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy	Annual Report Wellbeing Objective 2017/18		Community Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18		Chief Executive's Departmental Business Plan	Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19		
Supplementary Planning Guidance – Energy	Llanelli Development Order		Home Checker/MOT visits		Environment Departmental Business Plan	Scrutiny Actions Update		



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LP Delivery Agreement	Supplementary Planning Guidance – Highways		Homelessness Strategy					
	Section 106 Update		Counter Terrorism					

**ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PROGRAMME:**

**COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW PROGRAMME:**

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS:**

- TBC

**SITE VISITS (TBC):**

- Outdoor Recreation – Burry Port Harbour, Pembrey Country Park.
- Regeneration Projects – e.g. Crosshands, Pendine, S4C building, Wellness Centre
- Leisure Facilities
- Theatres
- Libraries (repeat for new Members)
- Museums – link to Museums Strategies
- To view one of the new mobile libraries (Action Sheet 20<sup>th</sup> January refers)
- Carmarthen Velodrome

## **TASK & FINISH REVIEW SUGGESTIONS:**

- Large empty old churches/chapels/ halls blighting town centres (provisional – awaiting the outcome of initial investigations by the Ammanford Task Group)
- Provision of affordable Bungalows in Carmarthenshire

**Dates to be Confirmed**

**Neighbourhood Support Strategy**

**Universal Credit Action Plan**

**Tenant Vision Engagement Plan - deferred from February 2018**

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## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

### FORTHCOMING ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2018

Discussion Topic	Background
End of Year Budget Monitoring 2017/18	This item will provide a report on the final out turn in respect of the revenue and capital budgets for 2017/18
Scrutiny Actions update	This item will provide members with an update on progress achieved in relation to actions, requests or referrals emerging from previous meetings
Theatre and Arts Strategy 2018-2022	This item will provide committee with an overview of the development of the Theatres & Arts services for the next four years.
Annual Report Well-being Objective 2017/18	This report will provide members with details of the Council's performance for 2017/18
Llanelli Development Order	This report will provide Committee with an update on the proposed introduction of the Llanelli Development Order
Supplementary Planning Guidance - Highways	This report refers to the proposed introduction of Supplementary Planning Guidance for highways to be subject to formal public consultation for 6 weeks.
Section 106 Update	This report is being provided in response to a request from the Committee and will provide an outline on current requirements in relation to Section 106 Agreements

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# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

### Explanation for non-submission of scrutiny report

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	EXPLANATION	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
Counter Terrorism	Wendy Walters	Continue to wait for result of pilot programme in order to present likely duties for local government.	October 2018

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Thursday, 29 March 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillor S.L. Davies (Chair)

**Councillors:**

D.M. Cundy, C.A. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, H.L. Davies, B.W. Jones, B.A.L. Roberts, A.Vaughan Owen and J.G. Prosser (In place of S. Matthews)

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor L.D. Evans, Executive Board Member for Housing  
A.G. Morgan

**The following Officers were in attendance:**

I. Jones, Head of Leisure  
J. Morgan, Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities  
S. Walters, Economic Development Manager  
J. Willis, Housing Services Manager (Advice & Options)  
S Jenkins, Physical Regeneration Strategic Programme Manager  
A Bowen, Investing in Homes Lead  
T Peregrine, Economic Development Co-ordinator  
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer

**Chamber, - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP. - 10.00 - 11.35 am**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Howells, H.I. Jones, S. Matthews, H. Shephardson and G.B. Thomas.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

**3. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS**

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**

No public questions had been received.

**5. LLANELLI TOWN CENTRE - REGENERATION**

The Committee received a presentation on Regeneration activity within Llanelli Town Centre aligned with the work of the Llanelli Task Force which, over the last two years, had aimed to stimulate growth and investment in the town centre. That included supporting traders, reducing the number of vacant and commercial properties, boosting business, promotion of the Town Centre as a place to live, work, shop and visit, increasing footfall and ensuring it was clean and accessible to all.



The Committee noted the following initiatives/funds had been established/secured to help achieve the aims and regeneration proposals for both Llanelli town centre and countywide:-

- The delivery of the Opportunity Street programme;
- Town Centre Loan scheme;
- Carmarthenshire Business Start Up Grant and Carmarthenshire Business Growth Fund;
- Carmarthenshire Transformational Commercial Property Development Fund;
- Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme.

The following questions/issues were raised on the presentation:-

- Arising from a question on the Carmarthenshire Start Up Grant and Carmarthenshire Business Growth Fund, the Economic Development Manager confirmed the schemes' were not specific to Llanelli and were available countywide. The level of funding available totalled £500k, with any grant award being subject to a number of qualifying criteria.
- In response to a query regarding the fire damaged church building on Murray Street, Llanelli, the Economic Development Manager advised that he could explore the current position relative to that property.
- Reference was made to the accessibility of the Town Centre for cyclists and clarification sought on the current position regarding the production of information maps directing cyclists from the coastal path to the town centre. It was confirmed that whilst a number of access points to the Town Centre had been created, additional work was required on advertising those routes.

The Head of Leisure reminded the Committee that the Authority was preparing a county wide cycling strategy. That included the establishment of a cycling group incorporating Sustrans, Voluntary Groups and its communications division with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach to cycling within the County, and would include the publication of a cycling map.

Arising from the above, reference was made to involving external organisations such as the Heritage Society to link up with tourism to encourage footfall into the Town Centre to promoting attractions such as Llanelli House and Park Howard via the heritage information notice boards within the area.

- Reference was made to the impact commercial business rates could have on redevelopment proposals for the town centre. It was confirmed that following a re-valuation exercise undertaken by the Revaluation Office last April, the level of rates for properties in the town centre had reduced significantly, some by up to two thirds, with Stepney Street and Vaughan Street having seen one of the largest reductions within Wales.
- Reference was made to the work being undertaken in renovating town centre properties and to whether the Council, as landlords, had adopted a requirement for tenants to promote bilingualism in their signage etc. The Economic Development Manager confirmed he would review the current position on the council's requirements for bilingual signage etc to be displayed within any shop premises let as part of Llanelli Town Regeneration and advise the committee members of the outcome.

- In response to a question on the time needed to process applications to the Carmarthenshire Start Up Grant and Carmarthenshire Business Growth Fund, the Economic Development Manager advised it was hoped they could be processed within a month of receipt, subject to applicants providing all the necessary information with the application.
- Reference was made to Phase 3 of the Town Centre Loan and to whether that was available for allocation within Ammanford. The Economic Development Manager confirmed that was the position, however, no applications had been received to date for spend on projects within Ammanford.

Arising from the above, a question was raised on whether the Committee could be provided with an update on the situation within Ammanford. It was also reminded that at the meeting of Council held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, the Leader of the Council is to provide a presentation to Full Council on the work of the task forces established for both Llanelli and Ammanford Town centres and also on the work of the Carmarthen Town Development group. The Economic Development Manager advised that he could arrange for a presentation on regeneration activity for both Ammanford and Carmarthen to be made to a future meeting of the Committee.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the presentation be received.**

## **6. 2017/18 WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 3 - 1ST APRIL TO 31ST DECEMBER 2017**

The Committee received for consideration the 2017/18 Well-being Objectives Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 3 in respect of the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31st December, 2017.

The following issues were raised on the report:-

- In response to a question on the lower than anticipated attendance figures at the Council's leisure centres, the Head of Leisure advised that the indicator in question was a national measure incorporating paying and non paying customers and included other facilities managed by the authority such as parks. Whilst the figures had increased by 45,000 in comparison with the corresponding period last year, with a corresponding increase in income, they had fallen short of the target which may be attributable to attendance at outdoor facilities. However, further analysis of the figures would be undertaken to obtain a better understanding of the reasons for the short fall.
- With regard to the proposals to develop a range of options to reward tenants to look after their own home, the Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities confirmed proposals were being developed with regard thereto for submission to a future meeting. Those could include for example rewarding tenants who maintained their homes in good decorative repair, paid their rent on time or paid by direct debit.
- The Advice and Tenancy Support Manager, responded to a question on the average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant and advised that some 600 were delivered each year, with the time taken on their provision within the Council's housing stock averaging 50 days. However, the time taken in the private sector could be significantly

longer on the basis the home owner, and not the Council, was responsible for commissioning a builder to undertake the works. He confirmed the council monitored the quality of work undertaken and projects were not signed off unless the required standards were attained.

- The Advice and Tenancy Support Manager responded to a question on homelessness and confirmed the Department undertook periodic assessments of the numbers of people sleeping rough, with the most recent identifying 11 such individuals. Of those, half had been provided with accommodation and discussions were ongoing with the remainder. A new Homelessness Strategy was also being prepared, in consultation with the voluntary sector, to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
- Reference was made to various tourism campaign themes eg. Year of Legend, 2018 year of the Sea and the Pan Wales 2019 year of discovery and to whether the authority was benefitting from those. The Economic Development Manager confirmed that as each theme was announced the authority was able to plan for their introduction and took every opportunity to draw down funding to assist with their promotion to maximise the benefits for Carmarthenshire.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.**

## **7. PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE BUNGALOWS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE**

The Committee received a report on the provision of affordable bungalows within Carmarthenshire providing:-

- An overview of the current need, demand and provision of affordable bungalows;
- Details of the demographics of existing tenants and applicants wishing to become council tenants;
- An outline of other available options to support older and disabled tenants to remain independently within their own homes.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:-

- Reference was made to the lack of availability of one bedroom homes in the rural areas and the availability of two bedroom properties which, in line with council policy, were allocated to those over the age of 55. Clarification was sought on the operation of that policy in relation to persons with a disability under that age limit wishing to remain in the community close to family support.

It was confirmed that whilst the Council operated the over 55 allocation policy it did permit exceptions where medical and physical conditions applied. The Council also operated an accessible housing register whereby adaptations could be undertaken to a persons' property to meet their specific requirements.

- Considerable debate was undertaken on the type of homes provided by the Council and the need to meet the changing needs of tenants e.g. downsizing as children left home, requiring larger accommodation as families grew. As part of that debate reference was made when looking at the need to build properties to involve the Planning Division in respect of the preparation of the revised LDP.

The Interim Head of Housing and Safer Communities in responding to the issues raised advised the Committee that currently, the biggest demand faced by the Council was for the provision of single bed accommodation for single persons. He referred to the committee suggestion that a task and finish group be established to examine the provision of bungalows and advised it would need to be specific on the group's remit and potential outcomes. He therefore suggested there would be merit, in the first instance, in him preparing a scoping document reflecting the committee's views and identifying the level of resources available to facilitate the delivery of any outcomes.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a scoping document be prepared on the provision of affordable bungalows within Carmarthenshire for submission to a future meeting of the Committee.**

**8. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT**

The Committee considered the explanations provided for the non-submission of two reports.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the non-submission report be received.**

**9. MINUTES - 30TH JANUARY, 2018**

Reference was made to the resolution of Minute 5 as being 'unanimous' The Committee was advised that was incorrect and it should have read 'RESOLVED'

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 30<sup>th</sup> January be assigned as a correct record subject to the resolution of minute 5 being amended to read 'RESOLVED'.**

**10. MINUTES - 16TH FEBRUARY, 2018**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 be signed as a correct record.**

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**

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