

# Document Pack



Mark James LLM, DPA, DCA  
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County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

**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 10:30AM ON THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016 (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE JOINT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – WHICHEVER IS THE LATER), FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.**

*Mark James*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**PLEASE RECYCLE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Kevin Thomas</b>
<b>Telephone (Direct Line):</b>	<b>01267 224027</b>
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<b>Ref:</b>	<b>AD016-001</b>

# **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **13 MEMBERS**

### **PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 5 MEMBERS**

- |    |            |              |
|----|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Councillor | J.M. Charles |
| 2. | Councillor | J.K. Howell  |
| 3. | Councillor | J. Owen      |
| 4. | Councillor | G.B. Thomas  |
| 5. | Councillor | J. Thomas    |

### **INDEPENDENT GROUP – 4 MEMBERS**

- |    |            |                          |
|----|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | W.R.A. Davies            |
| 2. | Councillor | H.I. Jones               |
| 3. | Councillor | H.B. Shepardson          |
| 4. | Councillor | E.G. Thomas (Vice-Chair) |

### **LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS**

- |    |            |                    |
|----|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | D.M. Cundy (Chair) |
| 2. | Councillor | S.L. Davies        |
| 3. | Councillor | T. Devichand       |
| 4. | Councillor | S. Matthews        |

# AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS
3. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
5. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 5 - 6
6. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2015/16 7 - 32
7. LEISURE SERVICES ANNUAL UPDATE 33 - 64
8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE 65 - 84
9. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT 85 - 86
10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 87 - 94

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## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

### Forthcoming items for next meeting – Friday 6th May 2016

*\* Please note that the following agenda items are subject to change as the Committee's Forward Work Programme for the 2016/17 municipal year is still being developed.*

Discussion Topic	Background
EU and externally funded Programmes	This report (deferred from January 2016), will provide progress made and outcomes from the EU pre 2013 funding and Rural Development Plan Phase 2 projects, including progress made on project management and grant compliance. It was also provide an update on the new EU programmes.
Community Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16	In accordance with Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution, each scrutiny committee must "prepare an annual report giving an account of its activities over the previous year." This report will provide members with an overview of the Committee's work during the 2015/16 municipal year.
Community Scrutiny FWP 2016/17	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. This report will enable the Committee to confirm its Forward Work Programme for 2016/17.

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# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

### Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16

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

- That the Scrutiny Committee receives the budget monitoring report for the Housing, Regeneration, Planning and Leisure & Sport Services and considers the budgetary position.

#### Reasons:

- To provide the Committee with an update on the latest budgetary position, as at 31st December 2015, in respect of the 2015/16 financial year.

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

#### Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:

- Cllr. Linda Evans (Housing)
- Cllr. Meryl Gravell (Regeneration & Leisure)
- Cllr. David Jenkins (Resources)

<b>Directorate:</b> Corporate Services	<b>Designation:</b>	<b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b>
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Owen Bowen	Interim Head of Financial Services	01267 224886 <a href="mailto:obowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">obowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Owen Bowen		

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> MAWRTH 2015

## Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16

The monitoring exercise for the period to the 31st December 2015 is attached and indicates that:

### **Revenue Budgets**

#### **Regeneration (Appendix A)**

Overall the Regeneration service is forecasting a break even position at year end. The Regeneration Business Unit is anticipating an overspend of £45k due to a previous year efficiency to sell the property at Nant y Ci which remains unsold. There is an overspend on Un Sir Gar due to increased staffing and maintenance (£10k) and WVEC are also overspent by £35k due to non achievement of targeted consultancy income. These overspends are offset by Llanelli Community recharging a staff member time to an externally funded scheme (£20k) and a vacant post in Regeneration Management (£58k).

#### **Planning (Appendix B)**

The Planning Division anticipates an underspend of £111k. This is as a result of a £89k saving on vacant posts within the division as well as 2 members of staff being charged out to an externally funded scheme (£52k) along with a planned reduction in admin costs of £24k. This is offset by an overspend in Development Management due to a reduction in planning fee income of £56k.

#### **Leisure & Sport (Appendix C)**

The Leisure Services Division is expected to break even at year end. There is a projected overspend on Sports and Leisure General due to forecast investment in fitness and linked refurbishments of £115k. There is also a maintenance commitment of £38k at Parc Howard museum. Within Libraries General there is a forecast overspend of £67k due to computer related expenditure relating to a rollout of digital format(H6), income collection and tagging(RFID) .These overspends are offset mainly by a net increase in projected income of £62k and vacancies across the division of £160K.

#### **Non-HRA Housing (Appendix D)**

The Non-HRA Housing service is projecting that it will be over its approved budget by £19k.

## **Housing Revenue Account (Appendix E)**

The HRA is forecasting an underspend of £2.09M to the year end for 2015/16.

Revenue repairs and maintenance -£408k due to poor weather conditions.

-£321k of this is within Supervision and Management – staff vacancies -£164k ,staff related travelling -£44k ,supplies & services costs of -£79k (postages/telephones etc.) and premises related costs -£33k (energy charges).Affordable Homes delivery plan will require staffing resources , which will be factored into the 2016/17 budget.

Slightly higher than forecast interest applicable to existing borrowing and buy-out from HRAS £71k.

The capital programme is also underspent due to savings on some contracts (£1.1M) and the requirement to roll forward on some contracts due the adverse weather (£1.5M). This has impacted on the direct revenue funding required in the budget monitoring by -£467k. Improvement in delivering savings on void turnaround times etc. will save -£408k. Forecast requirement for provision for bad debt is -£424k based on current aged debt analysis and forecast write offs.

## **Capital Budgets**

### **Regeneration (Appendix F)**

**Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site +£440k** Land values had originally been estimated at the start of the Compulsory Purchase Order process based on the land uses allocated within the Unitary Development Plan. This had been subsequently challenged by the owners and the Authority is in negotiation with the owners and District Valuer to agree final terms. (Additional costs in 16/17 to complete phase).

**Ammanford Town Centre Regeneration -£470k** Funding is committed for the Ammanford Master plan and recently launched Transformation Regeneration Strategy. Works currently being prepared to implement a programme of support commencing 2016. Funding to roll forward into 2016/17.

**Laugharne Car Park -£202k** Delay to project commencement due to technical studies, construction commencement now expected in April 16.

**Opportunity Street (Llanelli) -£446k** External funding to be used initially with CCC funding carried forward to 2016/17 in order to deliver the final year elements of the project. Should any works be accelerated and brought forward to 15/16 then the variance will be reduced accordingly.

**Cross Hands East Office Development -£465k** Project at early stage of development with concept currently being developed. Funding commitment required for implementation in 2016/17/18.

**Pendine Iconic International Visitors Destination -£502k** Funding package being worked up with Welsh Government and WEFO – decision expected early 2016. As such CCC capital spend forecast shows funding required in 2016/17.

**Building for the Future -£656k** This project is currently at an early grant application stage and a decision to approve (by Welsh Government) is anticipated later this financial year. In order to secure external grant funding (circa £1.6m) the approved budget must be safeguarded for future years delivery. This year's expenditure can only reflect early survey and feasibility works which will progress following confirmation of project grant approval.

**Health and Safety Remediation Works -£90k** Survey only in 15/16 - Implementation slipped to 16/17.

#### **Leisure (Appendix G)**

**Y Ffwrnes -£22k** Retention to be paid in 2016/17.

**Countryside Projects -£27k** Due to monies being retained for match funding purposes.

**Carmarthen Museum -£250k** Scheme led by 3rd party - Payment to be made in 2016/17.

#### **Private Sector Housing (Appendix H)**

**Private Sector Income +£797** Grant Income to be claimed following identification of properties for Area Renewal.

**Renewal Areas -£796** Properties yet to be identified with regards to Group Repair

**Renewal Assistance -£299k** Due to delay with partners

**County Steelwork -£225k** Less interest than anticipated.

#### **Public Sector Housing (Appendix I)**

**Internal and External Works(Housing Services) Fuel Switch – Gas Infrastructure - £130k** -Installation of mains gas pipeline delayed due poor weather conditions affecting programme or works.

**Planned M&E +£644k** Higher than expected level of boiler failures at properties which were previously deemed to be compliant under the CHS, extra upgrades on Void works, additional costs linked to the sheltered scheme fire alarm upgrade works to connect to the Tunstall system. Additional costs to upgrade the sheltered complex heating plant (this needs to include new controls as well as the boiler plant itself).

**Internal Refurbishment -£1,988k** Due to postponement of various sites plus various tenant declines.

**Housing Minor Works -£149k** Delay in external works due to poor weather conditions.

**External Rendering +£98k** Additional remedial works to cavities.

**External Insulation over Cavity -£125k** Due to fewer properties being identified.

**Re-Roofing Works -£100k** Delays due to adverse weather conditions.

**Adaptations for the Disabled -£200k** Large scale adaption to be carried out in 16/17 owing to inclement weather in 15/16.

**Housing Development Programme -£638k** Part of overarching Affordable Housing Delivery Plan. Money to be carried forward to support substantive programme over next five years.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES – *A list of the main variances is attached to this report.***

## 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:** Owen Bowen Interim Head of Financial Services

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

### 3. Finance

**Revenue** – The Non-HRA Housing, Regeneration, Planning and Leisure & Sport Services show a net variance of -£92k and the HRA Housing Service a net variance of £-2,090k against the 2015/16 approved budgets.

**Capital** – The capital programme shows a net variance of -£5,805k against the 2015/16 approved budget.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

**Signed:** Owen Bowen Interim Head of Financial Services

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
2015/16 Budget	Resources Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

## Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31st December 2015

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year	Note
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Regeneration</b>										
Europe Direct (E)	32	-32	4	4	1	-1	4	4	0	
WVEC Matchfunding for Future Schemes	1	0	14	15	1	0	14	15	0	
SETs Technical Assistance (E)	46	-46	3	3	21	-21	3	3	-0	
RDP Axis 3 Local Partnership (E)	116	-116	3	3	78	-78	3	3	-0	
RDP Leader Running Costs (E)	43	-43	0	0	43	-43	0	-0	-0	
RDP Leader Animation Costs (E)	77	-77	0	0	74	-74	0	0	0	
RDP Leader Implementation Costs (E)	52	-52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Regional Engagement Team (E)	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	0	
West Wales European Centre	446	-306	97	237	270	-95	97	272	35	1
Marketing Tourism Development	483	-20	59	521	457	-3	59	513	-9	
Castles and Princes (E)	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	-0	-0	
Destination Sir Gar 2 (E)	84	-84	0	0	84	-84	0	0	0	
Visitor Information	72	-9	14	77	77	-5	14	86	8	
Llanelli Community	40	0	25	65	36	-16	25	45	-20	2
Communities First - CCC Cluster (E)	616	-616	33	33	613	-613	33	33	-0	
Communities 2.0 (E)	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	-0	-0	
Communities First Match - Pupil Deprivation Grant (E)	49	-49	0	0	49	-49	0	0	0	
Communities First Lift (E)	92	-92	0	0	92	-92	0	0	0	
Amman Gwendraeth Community	94	0	12	106	89	0	12	101	-5	
3 T's Community Dev Core Budget	287	0	31	318	295	-13	31	313	-5	
Betws wind farm community fund (E)	110	-110	2	2	110	-110	2	2	0	
Community Grants	173	0	5	177	173	0	5	177	-0	
Rural Carmarthenshire	29	0	5	34	29	0	5	34	0	
Physical Regeneration	374	0	49	423	372	-2	49	419	-3	
Amman Gwendraeth Regeneration	27	0	2	29	27	0	2	29	0	
Llanelli Regeneration	27	0	3	30	27	0	3	30	-0	
Llanelli Coast Joint Venture	134	-134	5	5	134	-134	5	5	0	
RDP Axis 4 LAG (E)	27	-27	1	1	27	-27	1	1	0	
Collaborative Communities (E)	0	0	0	0	8	-8	0	0	0	
The Beacon	123	-123	8	9	156	-156	8	9	0	
Local Investment Fund (LIF) (E)	25	-24	11	11	62	-62	11	11	0	

## Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31st December 2015

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

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Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year	Note
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
RLP - Convergence Funded (E)	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	-0	-0	
Support for Carmarthenshire Businesses	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	
SWW Property Development Fund (E)	70	-70	2	2	146	-146	2	2	-0	
Regional Learning Partnership RCF (E)	0	0	0	0	262	-263	0	-0	-0	
ADREF (E)	70	-70	2	2	102	-102	2	2	-0	
Crosshands East SES (E)	63	-63	4	4	31	-31	4	4	-0	
Carmarthen town centre partnership (E)	54	-54	0	0	54	-54	0	0	0	
Ammanford town centre partnership (E)	36	-36	0	0	39	-39	0	0	0	
RLP - Skills Partnership (E)	0	0	0	0	71	-71	0	0	0	
RLP - UK Futures (E)	0	0	0	0	65	-65	0	0	0	
Regen Core & Policy Performance	0	0	39	39	10	0	39	49	10	
Regeneration Business Support Unit	322	-107	307	523	325	-65	307	567	45	3
Match Funding Earmarked for Future Schemes	7	0	249	255	7	0	249	255	0	
Regeneration Management	59	0	-1	58	1	0	-1	-0	-58	4
Business Support Projects	71	0	27	98	86	-23	27	90	-8	
UN Sir Gar	155	-117	0	39	172	-123	0	48	10	
Business Services Salaries	168	0	20	188	168	0	20	188	-0	
Workways(E)	0	0	0	0	2	-2	0	-0	-0	
Sector Development	61	0	6	67	61	0	6	67	-0	
Events	67	-29	3	41	88	-50	3	41	-0	
<b>Regeneration Total</b>	<b>4,882</b>	<b>-2,506</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>-2,722</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>-0</b>	

Net Forecasted End of Year Variance

-0

Main Variance Summary		£'000
1	Regeneration - West Wales European Centre - Mainly due to non-achievement of consultancy income	35
2	Regeneration - Llanelli Community -Due to the recharging of 1 member of staff to an externally funded project as a direct cost	-20
3	Regeneration Business Support Unit - Efficiency saving was identified for 14/15 in relation to premises costs at Nant Y Ci, with the intention of selling the property. The sale is currently on hold so savings have not been realised at this point	45
4	Regeneration Management - Vacant post	-58
	Other	-2
<b>Regeneration Net Variance</b>		<b>0</b>

## Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31st December 2015

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year	Note
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Planning</b>										
Planning Admin Account	395	-3	7	399	493	-125	7	375	-24	1
Building Regulations Trading - Chargeable	437	-502	65	0	390	-454	65	-0	-0	
Building Regulations Trading - Non-chargeable	19	0	3	22	18	-0	3	21	-1	
Building Control - Other	198	0	55	253	172	-0	55	227	-26	2
Build Control Other Works	5	0	2	7	7	-2	2	7	0	
Minerals	234	-94	63	204	245	-156	63	152	-52	3
Policy-Development Planning	424	-1	39	462	385	-25	39	399	-63	4
Development Management	1,433	-1,239	258	452	1,293	-1,044	258	507	56	5
Rechargeable Works - Enforcement	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	
Tywi Centre	1	0	6	7	31	-34	6	3	-3	
Conservation	253	-24	49	277	256	-26	49	278	1	
Coed Cymru (E)	56	-56	13	13	55	-55	13	13	-0	
Caeau Mynydd Mawr - Marsh Fritillary Project	120	-120	1	1	102	-102	1	1	-0	
Carmarthenshire LBAP (E)	59	-59	0	0	61	-61	0	0	0	
South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (E)	50	-50	0	0	37	-37	0	-0	-0	
Waste planning monitoring report (E)	29	-29	0	0	16	-16	0	-0	-0	
Foundations in Heritage (E)	0	0	0	0	86	-86	0	-0	-0	
Building Our Heritage (Delivery Phase) (E)	426	-426	0	0	457	-457	0	-0	-0	
Tywi Centre EF Holding Account	0	0	0	0	38	-38	0	0	0	
<b>Planning Total</b>	<b>4,139</b>	<b>-2,602</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>-2,718</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>-111</b>	

Net Forecasted End of Year Variance

-111

Main Variance Summary		£'000
1	Planning - Admin Account-Underspend anticipated, mainly due to planned general reduced spending on administration to offset the reduction in fees generated by the division	-24
2	Planning - Building Control (Other) - Staff vacancies	-26
3	Planning - Minerals - Underspend mainly due to proposed charging out of 2 members of staff to externally funded projects as a 'direct cost'	-52
4	Planning - Policy - Development Planning - Vacant posts, use of reserves to cover LDP costs and additional income from work undertaken for Corporate Property	-63
5	Planning - Development Management - Overspend mainly attributable to projected shortfall in Planning fee income	56
6	Other	-2
<b>Planning Net Variance</b>		<b>-111</b>

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## Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31st December 2015

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year	Note
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Leisure &amp; Sport</b>										
Local Nature Reserve Countryside Ranger (E)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Millenium Coastal Park	148	-98	1,011	1,061	130	-117	1,011	1,024	-37	1
Burry Port Harbour	144	-178	376	342	171	-186	376	361	19	2
Discovery Centre	91	-107	84	67	88	-101	84	71	4	
Pendine Outdoor Education Centre	413	-270	69	212	506	-364	69	210	-2	
Pembrey ski shop	111	-114	4	0	39	-36	4	7	7	
Pembrey Ski Slope	283	-224	114	173	285	-195	114	205	32	3
Sport & Leisure West	210	-32	17	195	202	-30	17	189	-5	
Newcastle Emllyn Sports Centre	273	-107	17	183	270	-102	17	185	2	
Carmarthen Leisure Centre	1,235	-1,027	337	545	1,170	-1,102	337	405	-140	4
St Clears Leisure Centre	112	-39	49	122	120	-50	49	119	-3	
Bro Myrddin Indoor Bowling Club	45	0	80	126	38	-10	80	109	-17	
Sport & Leisure East	169	-35	18	152	184	-45	18	157	5	
Amman Valley Leisure Centre	661	-505	78	234	638	-511	78	206	-28	5
Brynamman Swimming Pool	0	0	10	10	0	0	10	10	0	
Llandovery Swimming Pool	184	-97	9	96	179	-80	9	108	12	
Garnant Golf Course	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	
Gwendraeth Sports Centre	29	-17	2	14	32	-14	2	19	5	
Dinefwr Bowling Centre	46	0	60	105	62	0	60	121	16	
5 x 60 (E)	258	-257	13	13	247	-247	13	13	-0	
Dragon Sport (E)	112	-111	13	13	112	-111	13	13	-0	
LAPA Additional Funding (E)	32	-32	0	0	32	-32	0	0	0	
Sport & Leisure General	442	-44	125	523	560	-46	125	638	115	6
National Exercise Referral Scheme (E)	174	-173	0	1	175	-173	0	2	1	
Sport & Leisure South	187	-34	17	170	187	-34	17	170	-0	4
Manelli Leisure Centre	1,093	-938	416	571	1,038	-867	416	587	16	
Coedcae Sports Hall	42	-18	5	29	42	-21	5	26	-3	
Wales Coast Path Maintenance Fund (E)	43	-43	0	0	28	-28	0	-0	-0	5
Country Parks General	932	-44	109	997	933	-38	109	1,005	8	
Gelli Aur Country Park	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	4	0	6
Pembrey Country Park	292	-563	52	-218	339	-594	52	-203	15	

## Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31st December 2015

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

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Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year	Note
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Llyn Lech Owain Country Park	40	-20	42	62	33	-22	42	54	-8	
Carmarthen Library	393	-21	116	488	363	-19	116	461	-28	7
Ammanford Library.	239	-8	22	254	207	-14	22	215	-39	8
Llanelli Library	376	-22	110	463	392	-28	110	474	11	
Community Libraries	212	-7	118	323	208	-7	118	319	-4	
Libraries General	1,014	-2	105	1,116	1,082	-3	105	1,183	67	9
Mobile Library	192	0	10	202	165	0	10	175	-26	10
School Libraries General	0	0	8	8	0	0	8	8	0	
Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili.	119	-12	72	178	122	-13	72	181	3	
Kidwelly Tinplate Museum	6	-0	1	7	11	-0	1	11	4	
Parc Howard Museum	47	-6	90	130	82	-3	90	168	38	11
Museum of speed, Pendine	25	-12	20	33	28	-21	20	27	-6	
Museums General	140	0	26	166	124	0	26	150	-15	
Archives General	120	-2	99	218	133	-12	99	221	3	
Arts General	54	0	14	68	55	-1	14	68	-1	
St Clears Craft Centre	62	-32	46	76	50	-34	46	62	-13	
Cultural Services Management	76	0	3	79	80	0	3	83	4	
Laugharne Boathouse	142	-95	21	69	166	-118	21	70	1	
Lyric Theatre	206	-123	56	139	293	-198	56	150	11	
Y Ffwrnnes	650	-400	143	393	591	-341	143	393	0	
Ammanford Miners Theatre	41	-17	2	27	46	-10	2	38	11	
Entertainment Centres General	464	-44	28	448	465	-49	28	444	-4	
Works (E)	0	0	0	0	6	-6	0	-0	-0	
Oriel Myrddin Trustee	193	-194	0	-1	186	-187	0	-1	0	
Oriel Myrddin CCC	105	0	23	128	102	0	23	126	-3	
Motor Sports Centre - Pembrey	0	-82	0	-82	0	-82	0	-82	-0	
Pendine Beach	6	-26	3	-17	4	-37	3	-30	-14	
Beach safety	5	0	1	6	3	0	1	4	-2	
Leisure Management	271	0	89	360	256	0	89	345	-15	
<b>Leisure &amp; Sport Total</b>	<b>12,955</b>	<b>-6,232</b>	<b>4,358</b>	<b>11,081</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>-6,339</b>	<b>4,358</b>	<b>11,081</b>	<b>0</b>	

Net Forecasted End of Year Variance

0

**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31st December 2015**

<b><u>Main Variance Summary</u></b>		<b>£'000</b>
<b>1</b>	Leisure - Millenium Coastal Park - Supplies & Service -£18k along with increased income -£19k	-37
<b>2</b>	Leisure - Burry Port Harbour - Forecast overspend on dredging contract	19
<b>3</b>	Leisure - Pembrey Ski Slope - Forecast shortfall in income	32
<b>4</b>	Leisure - Carmarthen Leisure Centre - Part year staff vacancies -£39k, higher forecast income -£75k, Utilities -£26k	-140
<b>5</b>	Leisure - Amman Valley Leisure Centre - Part year vacancies	-28
<b>6</b>	Sport & Leisure - General - Projected overspend due to forecast investment in fitness and linked refurbishments	115
<b>7</b>	Libraries - Carmarthen Library - Part year vacancies	-28
<b>8</b>	Libraries - Ammanford Library - Part year vacancies	-39
<b>9</b>	Libraries - General - Computer related expenditure due to H6 (Heritage 6, rollout of digital format), income collection and RFID (tagging) rollout	67
<b>10</b>	Libraries - Mobile Library - Vacant Post	-26
<b>11</b>	Museums - Parc Howard Museum - Maintenance commitment	38
	Other	27
<b>Leisure &amp; Sport Net Variance</b>		<b>0</b>

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**Community Scrutiny Report - Non HRA Housing (Communities Department)**

**Appendix D**

**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year	Note
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non-Controllable	Total Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Council Fund Housing</b>										
Independent Living and Affordable Homes	277	-230	65	112	251	-236	65	80	-32	1
Supporting People Providers	6,495	-6,495	0	0	6,501	-6,471	0	31	31	2
Transitional Funding - Implementing the Housing (Wales) Act (	298	-298	0	0	298	-298	0	-0	-0	
Home Improvement (Non HRA)	623	-293	142	471	595	-225	142	512	40	3
Penybryn Traveller Site	124	-119	13	18	120	-115	13	18	0	
Benefit Reforms	13	-13	0	0	44	-44	0	-0	-0	
Homelessness	174	-62	24	135	130	-62	24	92	-43	4
Non HRA Affordable Housing	0	-15	168	153	0	8	168	176	23	5
Non Hra Re-Housing (Inc Chr)	178	0	96	274	165	0	96	261	-13	
Temporary Accommodation	255	-184	2	74	270	-182	2	90	17	
Social Lettings Agency	753	-764	9	-3	758	-773	9	-7	-4	
Community Floating Support	212	-212	0	0	159	-159	0	-0	-0	
Houses Into Homes WG Grant Scheme	0	0	0	0	302	-302	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,402</b>	<b>-8,687</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>9,593</b>	<b>-8,859</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>19</b>	

<b>Main Variance Summary</b>		£'000
1	Independent Living and Affordable Homes - General underspends in supplies and services for Supporting People	-32
2	Supporting People Providers - Underachievement of grant income due to 15/16 grant award being reduced by 14/15 underspend.	31
3	Home Improvement (Non HRA) - Underachievement of income relating to recoverable fees and costs to be covered by underspends in Homelessness	40
4	Homelessness -Savings in bond payments and prevention payments that are eligible under the transitional funding grant scheme. Underspend to cover the overspends anticipated in the Home Improvement and Temporary Accommodation cost centre	-43
5	Non HRA Affordable Housing - Anticipated underachievement of income relating to affordable home fees £13k plus one off legal/professional costs relating to one of the cases £10k	23
6	Other	0
<b>Non HRA Housing - Net Variance</b>		<b>19</b>

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# Community Scrutiny Report - HRA Housing

## Appendix E

### Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Approved Budget	Forecasted Expenditure	Variance for Year	Note
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>				
Responsive	1,600	1,550	-50	1
Minor Works	2,400	2,221	-179	
Voids	2,369	2,369	0	
Servicing	1,550	1,546	-4	
Drains & Sewers	230	155	-75	
Grounds	700	600	-100	
Unadopted Roads	100	100	0	
<b>Supervision &amp; Management</b>				
Employee	3,258	3,094	-164	2
Premises	1,323	1,290	-33	3
Transport	108	64	-44	4
Supplies	766	687	-79	5
Recharges	1,044	1,044	0	
Provision for Bad Debt	652	228	-424	6
Capital Financing Cost	12,512	12,583	71	7
Central Support Charges	1,609	1,609	0	
Capital - DRF	9,913	9,446	-467	8
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>40,134</b>	<b>38,586</b>	<b>-1,548</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Rents	-34,625	-35,033	-408	9
Service Charges	-846	-939	-93	10
Supporting People	-355	-355	0	
Mortgage Interest	-3	-3	0	
Interest on Cash Balances	-66	-75	-9	
Insurance	0	-22	-22	11
Other Income	-727	-737	-10	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-36,622</b>	<b>-37,164</b>	<b>-542</b>	

	£'000
<b>BALANCE B/F 1/4/15</b>	<b>10,662</b>
<b>Budgeted movement in year</b>	<b>-3,512</b>
<b>Variance for the year</b>	<b>2,090</b>
<b>BALANCE C/F 31/3/16</b>	<b>9,240</b>

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Page 24

Net Expenditure	3,512	1,422	-2,090		
-----------------	-------	-------	--------	--	--

Main Variance Summary		£'000
1	Expenditure - Repairs & Maintenance - Anticipated expenditure based on profiled spend to date. Reduction in forecast spend due to poor weather conditions	-408
2	Supervision & Management - Employee - Underspend in staffing costs due to vacant posts -£194k, pension set aside for any redundancy costs in 15/16 -£50k, medical exam fees -£8k, recruitment expenses -£3k, staff training -£18k offset by overspend on agency staff £109k	-164
3	Supervision & Management - Premises - Underspend in energy costs -£79k, Rents & Rates -£44k, offset by an overspend in Water £25k, Fixtures and Fittings £23k and Responsive Maintenance £42k	-33
4	Supervision & Management - Transport - General reduction in staff travelling expenditure	-44
5	Supervision & Management - Supplies - Overspends in legal & professional fees £28k, postages £4k and photocopying £4k offset by underspends in admin, office & operational equipment -£24k, fuel club/other allowances -£14k, compensation, misc expenditure and void decoration allowance -£62k, printing charges -£7k, telephone -£6k and services provided by other providers -£19k, computer hardware -£13k and other supplies & services £30k	-79
6	Supervision & Management - Provision for Bad Debt - Provision for bad debt adjustment includes an estimate for write offs based on current data available	-424
7	Supervision & Management - Capital Financing Cost - Slightly higher than forecast interest applicable to existing borrowing and buy-out from HRAS	71
8	Supervision & Management - DRF - Savings and roll forward on capital programme in excess of borrowing required to fund capital programme for 15/16	-467
9	Income - Rents - Void loss prediction at budget setting of 2.71% currently forecast at 2.01%	-408
10	Income - Service Charges - Forecast overachievement of service charge income	-93
11	Income - Insurance - Insurance income received	-22
	Other	-19
<b>HRA net variance</b>		<b>-2,090</b>

# Regeneration

## Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report for December 2015

### Appendix F

			Working Budget			Forecasted			Variance for Year £'000	Comment
Net Exp to December 2015 £'000	Scheme	Target Date for Completion	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000		
486	Llanelli JV General	Mar-17	0	0	0	521	-528	-7	-7	
3	Environmental Enhancement Projects	Completed	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	
-20	P1 M5	Completed	0	-20	-20	0	-20	-20	0	
36	Coastal Carmarthenshire - Physical Regeneration Projects	Ongoing	30	0	30	30	7	37	7	
29	Castles & Princes	Completed	0	0	0	60	-60	0	0	
98	Community Development	Mar-16	130	0	130	130	0	130	0	
1,018	Llanelli Town Centre Improvements - ADREF	Completed	952	0	952	1,028	-76	952	0	
6,289	Physical development Fund - PDF	Completed	0	0	0	7,057	-7,057	0	0	
5,173	Cross Hands East Strategic Employment Site	Completed	2,954	0	2,954	3,394	0	3,394	440	Due to possible increases in land costs - negotiations ongoing
-15	Ammanford Town Centre Regeneration	Ongoing	457	0	457	25	-38	-13	-470	Funding committed for Town Centre agreed priority projects
30	Amman & Gwendraeth Valleys - Physical Regeneration Projects	Completed	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	
129	South West Wales (SWW) Local Investment Fund (LIF) Grants	Completed	0	0	0	14	-14	0	0	
1	RDP2 - Carmarthenshire Landscape & Heritage Grants (CAR56)	Completed	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	
322	Rural Carmarthenshire - Physical Regeneration Projects	Ongoing	788	0	788	886	-300	586	-202	Due to technical studies required
90	Mynydd Y Betws Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund	Ongoing	90	0	90	90	0	90	0	
56	Opportunity Street (Llanelli)	Ongoing	846	-400	446	400	-400	0	-446	Utilising external funding initially with Internal funding carrying forward to 16/17
0	County Wide Regeneration fund 2015-16 Onwards		4,553	-2,800	1,753	132	0	132	-1,621	
0	Carmarthen Town Regeneration - Jacksons Lane	Ongoing	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	
0	SBCRC for Env Sustain - Cross Hands East Office Dev	Ongoing	1,465	-1,000	465	0	0	0	-465	First year of project - funding to be rolled into 16/17
0	Pendine Iconic International Visitors Destination	Ongoing	1,852	-1,300	552	50	0	50	-502	Awaiting funding package approval
0	Carmarthen Town Regeneration - King Street	Ongoing	80	0	80	80	0	80	0	
0	Building for the Future - Llanelli Area	Ongoing	1,156	-500	656	0	0	0	-656	Project at early stages and awaiting Welsh Government approval
0	Health & Safety Remediation Works	Ongoing	100	0	100	10	0	10	-90	Survey only in 15/16 - Implementation slipped to 16/17
13,996	NET BUDGET		10,903	-3,220	7,683	13,782	-8,488	5,294	-2,389	

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# Leisure

## Appendix G

### Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report for December 2015

			Working Budget			Forecasted		
Net Exp to December 2015 £'000	Scheme	Target Date for Completion	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
0	Y Ffwrnes	Completed	49	0	49	27	0	27
117	Countryside Recreation & Access	Ongoing	238	-85	153	189	-63	126
0	Libraries & Museums - Carmathen Museum	Mar-17	500	-250	250	0	0	0
37	Country Parks & Golf Courses	Completed	46	0	46	46	0	46
518	NET BUDGET		833	-335	498	262	-63	199

Variance for Year £'000	Comment
-22	Retention to be paid in 2016/17
-27	Due to monies being retained for match funding purposes
-250	Scheme led by 3rd party - Payment to be made in 2016/17
0	
-299	

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# Housing G.F.(Private Sector)

## Appendix H

### Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report for December 2015

			Working Budget			Forecasted			Variance for Year £'000	Comment
Net Exp to December 2015 £'000	Scheme	Target Date for Completion	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000		
-28	Private Sector Housing - Capital Receipts	Ongoing	-28	0	-28	-28	0	-28	0	
-37	Private Sector Income	Mar-16	0	-979	-979	0	-182	-182	797	Income reduced as expenditure not identified (see below)
37	Renewal Areas (Private Sector)	Mar-16	979	0	979	183	0	183	-796	Properties yet to be identified for current year (see above)
65	Renewal Assistance	Ongoing	436	0	436	137	0	137	-299	Due to delay with partners
1,435	Disabled Facility Grants	Ongoing	2,294	0	2,294	2,294	0	2,294	0	
-29	ART Homes (Property Appreciation Loan)	Ongoing	0	-29	-29	6	-35	-29	0	
-14	Penybryn Travellers Site	Mar-16	45	-45	0	45	-45	0	0	
111	Countywide Loans / Assistance (Renewal Grants)	Mar-16	148	0	148	148	0	148	0	
22	County Wide Steelwork Repair (Private Loans)	Ongoing	265	0	265	40	0	40	-225	Less interest than anticipated
1,562	NET BUDGET		4,139	-1,053	3,086	2,825	-262	2,563	-523	

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# Housing H.R.A.(Public Sector)

## Appendix I

### Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report for December 2015

			Working Budget			Forecasted		
Net Exp to December 2015 £'000	Scheme	Target Date for Completion	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
-3,097	Public Sector Housing External Funding	Ongoing	0	-6,315	-6,315	0	-6,315	-6,315
0	Internal and External Works (Housing Services)	Ongoing	250	0	250	120	0	120
7,233	Internal and External Works (Building Services)		13,123	0	13,123	11,503	0	11,503
15	External Windows & Doors Programme (PRG)	Ongoing	20	0	20	20	0	20
1,388	Voids To Achieve The CHS (VOI)	Ongoing	1,600	0	1,600	1,600	0	1,600
1,319	Planned M&E Works - Inc Smoke Detectors (PSW)	Ongoing	1,150	0	1,150	1,794	0	1,794
2,746	Internal Refurbishment (PKB)	Ongoing	6,488	0	6,488	4,500	0	4,500
406	Housing Minor Works (HMO)	Ongoing	750	0	750	601	0	601
1,331	Rendering and External Works (EXP & EXI)	Ongoing	1,465	0	1,465	1,563	0	1,563
11	External Insulating over Render	Ongoing	800	0	800	675	0	675
17	Re-Roofing - Council Dwellings	Ongoing	850	0	850	750	0	750
169	Environmental Works (Housing Services)	Ongoing	350	0	350	372	-22	350
10	Non Traditional Properties (Building Services)	Completed	0	0	0	10	0	10
1,485	Adaptations and DDA Works (Building Services)		2,100	0	2,100	1,883	0	1,883
695	Adaptions For The Disabled	Ongoing	1,200	0	1,200	1,000	0	1,000
7	Sheltered Housing Investment	Ongoing	0	0	0	7	0	7
783	St Paul's Development	Mar-16	900	0	900	876	0	876
114	Programme Delivery and Strategy		220	0	220	221	0	221
114	CHS Programme	Ongoing	150	0	150	151	0	151
0	Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment	Mar-16	70	0	70	70	0	70
95	Housing Development Programme (new builds & buybacks)	Ongoing	2,675	0	2,675	2,037	0	2,037
6,009	NET BUDGET		18,718	-6,315	12,403	16,146	-6,337	9,809

Variance for Year £'000	Comment
0	
-130	Works to install mains gas line delayed due to inclement weather in recent months.
-1,620	
0	
0	
644	Extra upgrades, higher level of boiler failures on properties and Oil Tank upgrades
-1,988	Due to postponement on various site plus tenant declines
-149	Delay due to poor weather
98	Additional remedial works to cavities
-125	Due to less properties identified
-100	Delay due to weather
0	
10	Retentions
-217	
-200	Large scale extension adaptation not started on site owing to inclement weather.
7	
-24	
1	
1	
0	
-638	Part of affordable housing delivery plan. Budget to be carried forward to support substantive programme over the next five years.
-2,594	

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# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

### Leisure Services Annual Update

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

- That the committee considers and comments on this update.

#### Reasons:

- To provide an update to members on the annual work programme of the Leisure Services Division.
- To keep members informed and involved in the process of improving Leisure Services and to enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Meryl Gravell (Regeneration & Leisure)

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Communities</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Ian Jones</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Ian Jones</p>	<p><b>Designation:</b></p> <p>Head of Leisure</p>	<p><b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b></p> <p>01267 228309  <a href="mailto:ijones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">ijones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

## Leisure Services Annual Update

Leisure is a much valued, front line service providing a range of health and well-being related facilities, activities and programmes, all aimed at getting:

**More people, More active, More often.**

We want Carmarthenshire to be a place:

- That is the most active and healthy in the UK
- Where every person is an active participant at a 'Community Club' or 'Leisure / Cultural Facility'
- Where every child is hooked on Leisure / Cultural activity for life

The service aims to deliver 7 key Outcomes for residents and visitors to the County:

- Outcome 1: People can access opportunities to be active
- Outcome 2: More children & young people are hooked on leisure / cultural activity for life (0-24)
- Outcome 3: More people (25+ yrs) are active in Leisure and Culture
- Outcome 4: People are affiliated to clubs / community groups or facilities
- Outcome 5: People are given the skills to become physically and creatively literate for life
- Outcome 6: People achieve their potential
- Outcome 7: Our facilities and services are well managed and efficient

The purpose of this annual report is to update members in relation to actions and measures delivered by the Division in relation to the above aims and objectives. Attached as Appendix 1 are trend analysis graphs looking at performance (financially related) over the last few years across the service.

The Division is also in the process of drafting its 2016/17 business plan which looks forward at next year's actions and would welcome members' observations and comments as part of that process.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
---------------------------	-----

## IMPLICATIONS

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

Signed: **Ian Jones** **Head of Leisure**

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

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Ian Jones** **Head of Leisure**

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:**

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2015/16 Business Plan for Leisure	Communities Department, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen (also available electronically upon request)

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**Report of the Director of Community Services**  
**Community Scrutiny Committee**  
**24<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

**Annual Report: Leisure Services**

<b>Head of Service &amp; Designation.</b> <b>Ian Jones</b> <b>Head of Leisure</b>	<b>Directorate</b> <b>Leisure</b>	<b>Telephone No.</b> <b>01267 228309</b>
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## **1. Service Overview**

Leisure is a much valued, front line service providing a range of health and well-being related facilities, activities and programmes, all aimed at getting:

**More people, More active, More often.**

We want Carmarthenshire to be a place:

- That is the most active and healthy in the UK
- Where every person is an active participant at a 'Community Club' or 'Leisure / Cultural Facility'
- Where every child is hooked on Leisure / Cultural activity for life

The service aims to deliver 7 key Outcomes for residents and visitors to the County:

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- Outcome 4: People are affiliated to clubs / community groups or facilities
- Outcome 5: People are given the skills to become physically and creatively literate for life
- Outcome 6: People achieve their potential
- Outcome 7: Our facilities and services are well managed and efficient

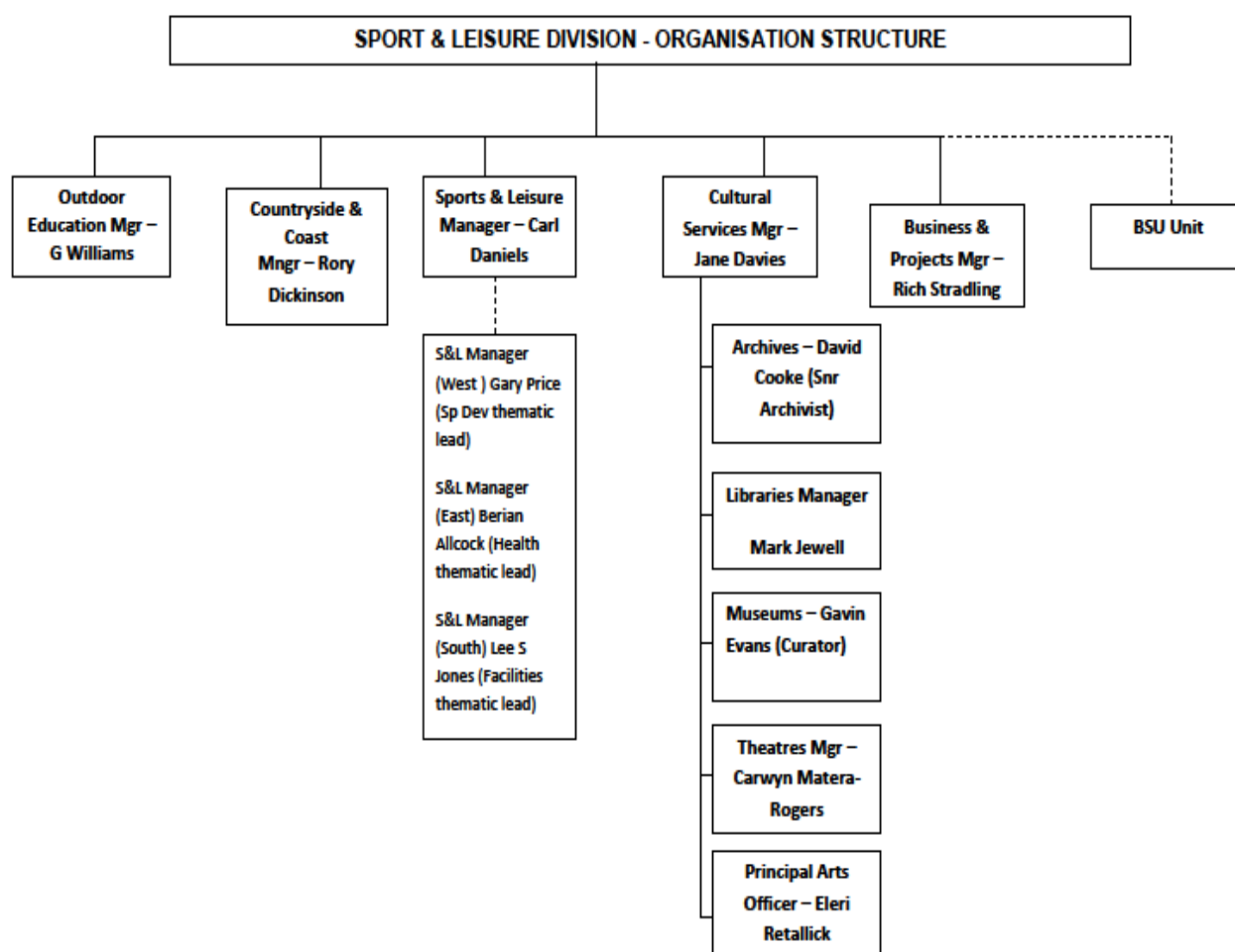
The service is non-statutory in the main, although elements of the service are classed as statutory, namely: Library services; elements of Archives and Museums Services, and KS2 swimming provision for primary schools.

For 2015-16, the division has a budget turnover of £23.725m with a total expenditure of £17.405m and an income target of £6.320m. Non controllable expenditure amounts to £4.520m resulting in a controllable expenditure of £12.885m, and a net controllable budget of £6.724m. The service as a whole employs 164 F/T staff and 105 P/T staff.

The division is facing considerable financial challenges and will have to deliver efficiency savings of £486k this year (15/16); £349k (16/17); £280k (17/18); and £448k (18/19). These savings come on top of the £120k of efficiencies delivered in 2014/15. The division is doing its utmost to protect front-line services however it is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver in excess of £1.5m of efficiencies (over a fifth of the current budget) without affecting front line services and staffing. Despite these difficulties, the department's employees continue to deliver an excellent service. Many of the services provided are recognised as sector leading. The service caters for around 3.5million visits per annum.

The Head of Leisure also chairs the Culture, Countryside and Leisure Officers of Wales (CCLOW) group, which is currently undertaking work at a national level tying in with the Welsh Government's agenda to deliver services more efficiently, and to review opportunities for more collaboration within the sector.

Having been part of the former Regeneration & Leisure Department for a number of years, the service has now embedded itself within the Communities Department.



## 2. 2015/16 Outcomes - Measures and Actions

### Outcome 1: People can access opportunities to be active:

- All 14 secondary schools plus 2 special schools are delivering the [5x60](#) extra-curricular physical activity scheme.
- 100% of primary schools on board for [Dragon Multi-skills / Sport](#) extra-curricular activity scheme, linking in with a number of community sports clubs.
- Introduced an 'Actif Playtime' programme into primary schools, with 18 equipment packs rotated on a loan basis, and training and support provided for older pupils to run structured playtime activities (external funding sourced).
- Extended the reach of Sport & Leisure to younger audiences in meithrins, libraries, etc through an innovative 'Actif Storytime' programme, providing equipment, training and support to staff and volunteers to run sessions, including providing libraries with 'homework' packs for parents and children to get active between sessions (external funding sourced).
- Overhauled playscheme provision and associated marketing materials ([Actif Club](#)) resulting in significant increases in attendance and income. This includes enabling online booking.
- Increased opening hours in line with customer feedback (gym, health suite, cafe) and increased the range and number of fitness classes available.
- Operate outreach health-related activity sessions at 6 community venues.
- £115k of Section 106 funding was used to fund a new play area in North Dock, Llanelli.
- Monthly [newsletters](#) produced for Culture, Countryside (Quarterly) and Sports & Leisure service areas.
- 'Welsh Language Champion' scheme and staff training programme being introduced across all services.
- 9-hole 'disc golf' course introduced at Pembrey Country Park, along with 'Tubing' activity at Ski Pembrey.
- 1,600 people took part in the 'Have a Go' at Archery day at Pembrey Country Park
- 67 events staged in Pembrey Country Park and the Millennium Coastal Park.
- Full school holidays programme and family workshops at Oriel Myrddin, including a regular 'free' book club, and cross-disciplinary talks on a broad range of themes e.g. architecture, farming, poetry and archaeology.
- Arts Development have commissioned an Arts Project for people with Dementia - 2,500 older people living with dementia in Carmarthenshire (2013) and predicted to increase by 31% by 2021.
- The Dylan Thomas Boathouse continues to draw in visitor numbers in excess of 30k a year.
- Number of visits to libraries annually 1,291,885.
- Number of Wi-Fi users per annum 32,348.
- Number of service related events per annum 980.
- Number of attendees at events per annum 26,808.
- Number of Volunteers (650 Hours per annum).
- A Library service is also offered to 115 schools; 104 housebound users and complexes (59).

- 37,000 Museum Visits in 2015/16, including 7 Exhibitions, 23 Events held, and 7 Outreach sessions.
- 5,200 Social Media followers for Museum service.

**Outcome 2: More children and young people are hooked on leisure / cultural activity for life (0-24 years):**

- 47% (increased by 7% from 2012) of [children in Carmarthenshire are 'hooked on sport'](#) (compared to 48% across Wales).
- 60% of our school pupils are members of a sports club.
- Provided [free swimming](#) for children (u16) at all CCC swimming pools on weekends and in school holidays, with the programme linked to the Welsh Learn to Swim pathway, [Aqua passport](#).
- Increased the number of people on 'Learn to Swim' Scheme by 8.7% resulting in £4k additional income per month.
- Created a 'learn to cycle' programme, running over 630 sessions and engaged over 8600 attendances (external funding sourced).
- 65% increase in child attendances at Actif Club since July (children's playscheme running at our leisure facilities), increasing associated income by 55% (£10k).
- Over 1,000 Carmarthenshire primary pupils have used POEC for their residential outdoor education centre experience in the past 12 months.
- £50k worth of adventure playground equipment ordered for Pembrey Country Park (PCP) in February 2016.
- Educational play panels introduced in PCP.
- The first festival for home educated children staged in PCP.
- Llanelli secondary schools cross country championships held in PCP for the first time in many years.
- New Llanelli junior duathlon staged in MCP.
- Junior mountain bike race series introduced at PCP.
- [Oriol Myrddin](#) operate a Young Artists Club (YACS) for 8-11 year olds and a fortnightly 'ArtLab Club' for young people aged 12-15 (with concessions for low income families).
- The Dylan Thomas Mobile Writing Shed has been temporarily moved to Coleg Sir Gar Campus to provide a Cultural installation for inspiring creativity.
- Arts Development team continues to support the [It's My Shout](#) Film Training Scheme, with workshops and auditions at Carmarthen Fete (10 attendees); Y Ffwrnes Theatre, Llanelli (42); Pencader Pavilion (12) leading onto further auditions and workshops within and outside the County at the BBC studios in Cardiff, with many trainees returning to film in the County, culminating in a short film made by young people from the Carmarthenshire called 'Hiraeth', which premiered at The Wales Millennium Centre on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- [The Gate](#) continues to be a hub for activity with workshops over-subscribed during all school holiday periods.
- Activities delivered on a regular basis to 0-24year olds within the [library service](#), including: Weekly story-time and active story-time for preschool ages (183 sessions); Regular 'messy time play' in regional branches for kids aged around 4 yrs, with parents/guardians in attendance providing them with the tools to encourage their youngsters to learn through play (15 sessions).

- 'Every child a Library Member' (ECALM) initiative working in partnership with schools to provide a 'Library experience' for young children in Year 4. School visits are actively encouraged with schools booking for repeat visits, and/or requesting a theme/topic for their visit so that the children will receive greater benefit from their visit (Participation from 648 children from 24 schools).
- The afterschool activities such as homework clubs and coding clubs make learning more fun and therefore they return and use the facilities that are available to them (13 coding clubs and 450 homework club sessions).
- Reference section research for specific topics such as '*Agen and Llanelli Town Twinning*' and Dyfed Archaeology Trust leading on '*Unloved Heritage*' project. Both these projects are specifically for those in the 16-24 year old age range (248 sessions).
- 1426 School visits at Carmarthenshire Museums, with 3706 school loans, and 7 workshops for young people.

### **Outcome 3: More people (25+ years) are active in Leisure and Culture**

- 40% of [Carmarthenshire adults say they are hooked on Sport](#) (41% for Wales)
- Provided [free swimming](#) for adults over 60 at all CCC swimming pools, with the programme linked to the Welsh Learn to Swim pathway, [Aqua passport](#).
- Almost 400,000 people visited Pembrey Country park during the year.
- Over 85,000 tickets sold across [Carmarthenshire Theatres](#).
- Nordic Walking Club staging 3 events per week in MCP and PCP.
- 28 large adult sporting events staged in PCP and MCP.
- Parkrun event staged every Saturday at Llyn Llech Owain.
- 33 Live performance sessions at Libraries.
- Number of issues at libraries annually 1,141,127.
- Number of PC's sessions per annum 73,647.
- A number of choirs using library as a venue for practice and performances (150 sessions).
- Reading Groups meeting monthly (216 sessions).
- Family History sessions: Each Regional library hosts a family history session on a weekly basis averaging 12 users a week (1,800 attendees at 150 sessions).
- Afternoon talks and presentations to the public across the Library service (87 sessions per annum).
- Welsh Lessons delivered (123 sessions).
- Film sessions with Matinee performances of movies of 'yesteryear' delivered bi-monthly (25 sessions).
- Variety of exercise classes and town walks, using the Library as the start and finish for the walks (15 sessions).
- Family History sessions; linked with the national curriculum (1960's and WW1 & WW2). (48 sessions).
- 20 volunteers used by the Museum service recording 1000 volunteer hours.
- Our Museums service took part in [Open Doors](#) (European Heritage Days) to bring new visitors into the service.

### **Outcome 4: People are affiliated to clubs / community groups or facilities**

- Distributed over £100k of Sport Wales 'Community Chest' grants in the community to [develop grass roots sports clubs](#).

- Provided swimming lessons to over 4,100 children during school time (income of over £100k), and over 2,000 children outside of school hours (circa £490k income).
- Projecting over 1.2 million attendances at Leisure facilities.
- 97,000 Carmarthenshire residents are library members.
- Theatrau SirGar / Carmarthenshire Theatres loyalty card membership over 2,000.
- 2000 PCP and 400 MCP season tickets sold.
- Pembrey and Burry Port Cycling Club set up in PCP.
- Both Y Gat and Oriel Myrddin now have established Book Clubs.
- The library service supports 44 community groups or 'clubs' who in turn provide the library with invaluable extra information as printed material or presentations.
- Hanes Sir Gâr History network established via the Library service, affiliated to Fforwm Hanes Cymru – 15 different local history groups and charities working together to promote heritage through activity.

### **Outcome 5: People are given the skills to become physically and creatively literate for life**

- The roll out and approach of the [Dragon Sport multi-skills](#) initiative is seen as sector leading across Wales, including the recent expansion of the approach to meithrins, libraries, etc. which is currently unprecedented elsewhere in Wales.
- '[Young Ambassadors](#)' for sport are now in place in all secondary schools and 80% of primary schools, becoming leaders of the future by inspiring their fellow pupils to get active. Carmarthenshire has engaged in a sector-leading development of this by introducing 'Bronze Plus' Ambassadors at Yr 7 to retain Bronze YA's and develop their leadership skills as they move from primary to secondary schools.
- Carmarthenshire's approach to identifying and using its limited resources to develop a core set of focus sports is innovative and sector-leading, and is resulting in strong pathways from young children exploring the sport to children and adults competing and/or forming part of the workforce.
- 83 primary schools visited Pendine Outdoor Education Centre to learn about outdoor adventurous activities and the environment.
- Carmarthenshire Libraries promote the role libraries play in relation to reading, literacy and wellbeing at every opportunity including working with: [Book Prescription Wales](#), which encourages children, young people and families to access a therapy book which is available to borrow from any library with over 32 surgeries participating across Carmarthenshire.
- The Reading Agency which supports the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) that encourages children to read six library books, collecting stickers and other rewards with over 584 children from Carmarthenshire Libraries involved during the summer of 2015.
- Primary School Project – 'Every Child a Member' rolled out to all schools in Carmarthenshire with over 24 schools and 648 pupils already enrolled.
- [Bookstart](#) (Dechrau Da) – a free bilingual book pack is given to every child in order to encourage a lifelong love of reading when they enrol at any of the three of the Carmarthenshire Regional Libraries.
- Total Stock holdings at County Libraries: 345,000 live with 200,000 reserves with a replenishment rate of 12.4% per annum.
- Number of training sessions per annum at Libraries: 353
- Number of attendees at training sessions in Libraries: 3,200

## **Outcome 6: People achieve their potential**

- There is an average of 92 minutes allocated to PE per week across Carmarthenshire schools (less than all Wales Average of 99 mins).
- CCC's Leisure team achieved '[InSport](#)' Bronze-level accreditation from Disability Sport Wales for the way in which we integrate and promote inclusive activity opportunities.
- Improved the school swimming programme, taking the % of children aged 11 who can swim 25m from 39% to over 64% (Need to target certain schools who are not performing as well as others)
- One of the first LA's in Wales (first in the mid and south west region) to introduce Swim Wales' 'Aqua Passport' system into our '[learn to swim](#)' programme, using the latest digital technology to improve the experience.
- Over 2,000 people on CCC's 'Learn to Swim' scheme.
- The number of people referred to the sector leading "Vitality Scheme" (NERS – National Exercise Referral Scheme) is projected to be over 1,000 again with completion rates for the 16 week programme increasing by 10% from 2014/15.
- Carmarthenshire have been selected as a pilot LA to work with Welsh Sports Association to audit the sports volunteer workforce and bind them as a network to develop their associated skills. Hosted at the Halliwell Centre, over 70 coaches from across the region are now involved in the volunteer programme.
- Carmarthenshire Sport & Leisure are now registered as a 'Millennium Volunteer Centre', engaging volunteers in a nationally recognised pathway.
- Oriel Myrddin continues to deliver master-classes for talented young artists through the national [Criw Celf](#) initiative, now in its third year.
- Carmarthenshire Young Carers summer programme 2015 – The Arts development Department has enabled [Arts Care Gofal Celf](#) (ACGC) to continue supporting young carers in another successful year of activities. The funds awarded have allowed ACGC to work with Carmarthenshire young carers to set up 8 days of fun filled activities across a vast array of art forms, including ceramics, mosaic, papier mache and graffiti workshops during the summer period which gave young people *"the opportunity to increase their confidence and self-esteem but also to make new friends and gain peer support"* (72 attendances across 10 workshop sessions).
- Carmarthenshire Regional Libraries continue to offer support for people to access information and services in life-critical areas such as careers and job seeking and are working in partnership with Job Clubs to ensure maximum potential (97,000 library membership)
- Digital offer of free access to the Internet and wi-fi use for every user with access to Citizen's Advice Notes, Theory Test Pro and Go Citizen (105,995 per annum).
- Libraries provide informal and community learning working with partners including Learn Direct, Return to Learn, Swansea University and Community First (303 sessions per annum).

## **Outcome 7: Our facilities and services are well managed and efficient:**

- Introduced performance management measures during the year to assist with monitoring our facilities' performance. Figures and trends shown as Appendix 1.

- Increased energy efficiency by installing pool covers at Amman Valley, Llandovery and Llanelli Swimming Pools, and energy-efficient lighting at St Clears. The overall effect is a cost-saving of circa £25k per annum
- Sport & Leisure introduced 'Net promoter Score' software to auto-survey customers to seek out feedback on service provision. Service Improvement Teams established in order to use this, and other processes, to improve facilities in particular.
- Extended IOSH training to broader management/co-ordinator team of Sports & Leisure unit to take an even more proactive approach to managing health & safety.
- Weekly voluntary litter picks introduced in PCP and MCP.
- New toilet/shower block opened in PCP caravan site.
- The percentage of total length of Rights of Way which are easy to use by members of the public was 35% (target 38%) showing improvement, albeit still lower quartile for Wales – The last survey, which was carried out in April 2014 showed that 41.4% of the network was easy to use (open, accessible and signed). In the year 2015/16 (to date, 03/03/2016), 613 issues were addressed, on 287 paths, giving 349.5km of improved access.
- The development and customisation of the Countryside Access Management ([CAMS](#)) IT system has continued. The Ranger Service is now able to survey routes with hand-held surveying devices and record survey electronically.
- Caravan/camping income increased by nearly 98% compared to the previous year.
- All car parking monies (MCP, LLO and Pendine) hit or surpassed targets.
- Visit Wales has introduced a series of accolades which will be awarded to attractions that are part of the Visitor Attractions Quality Scheme. The Gate achieved "HIDDEN GEM 2016" accolade, whilst the Dylan Thomas Boathouse, The Gate, Oriel Myrddin Gallery and the Museum of Speed all received VAQAS accreditation.
- Tywi Gateway project (re-instating the grounds at the County Museum in Abergwili) initiated.
- Oriel Myrddin £1.4m re-development project progressing to stage 2 application.
- Partnership Projects: Hidden Now Heard (MENCAP Cymru and affiliated Welsh museums, HLF-funded), Great War Poster Exhibition (SWM Museums Partnership, Welsh Government & HLF-funded), Ancient Egypt Day (with Egypt Centre, Swansea, Swansea University), Linking Natural History Collections (Welsh Museums Federation and affiliated Welsh museums), Welsh Ceramics & Dresser Project (Contemporary Arts Society Wales prize).
- All five of Carmarthenshire's museums achieved accreditation.
- Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS): Carmarthenshire met all of the 18 core entitlements in full. Of the 7 quality indicators which have targets, we achieved 6 in full and failed to achieve 1.

### **3. Year on year financial trends**

Appendix 1 shows the year on year financial trends for the service.

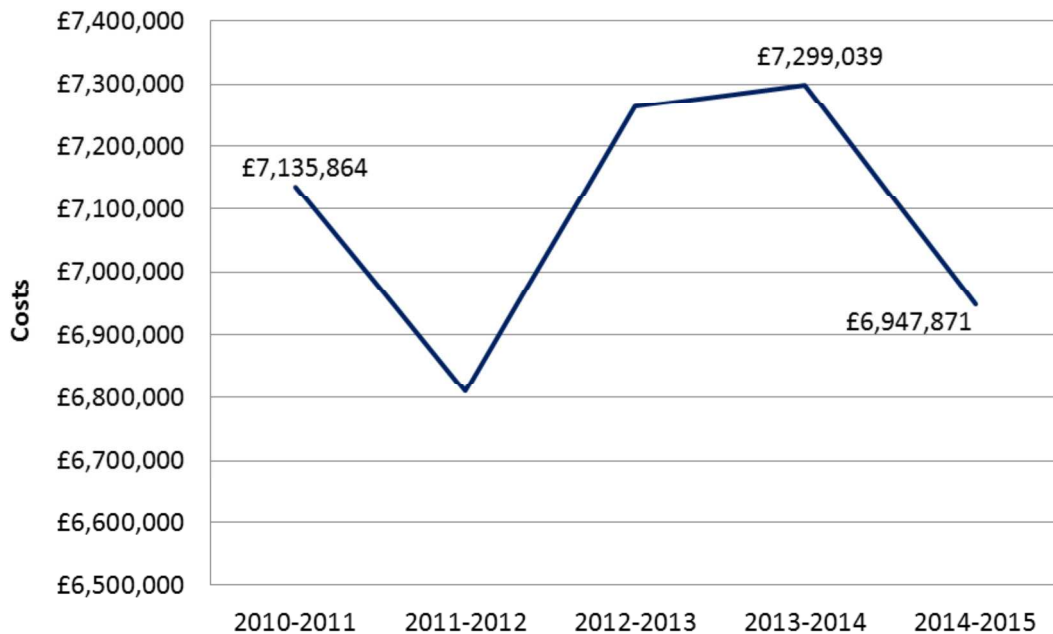
#### **4. Summary & Conclusion**

2015-16 has proved to be another busy and productive year for the division, set against the backdrop of a difficult financial position. The staff within the service have been dedicated and professional and huge credit must go to them in terms of moving the service forward, often as sector leaders.

The unit looks forward to working with members to plan and deliver quality leisure services for its residents again in 2016-17.

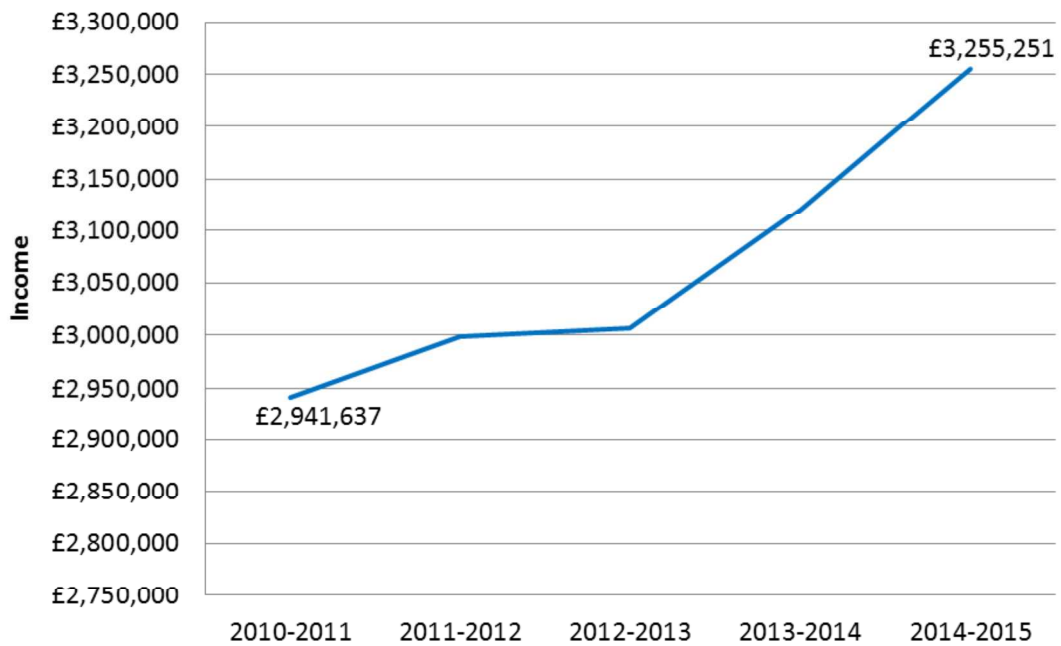
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**Leisure Services - Total Net Controllable Costs**



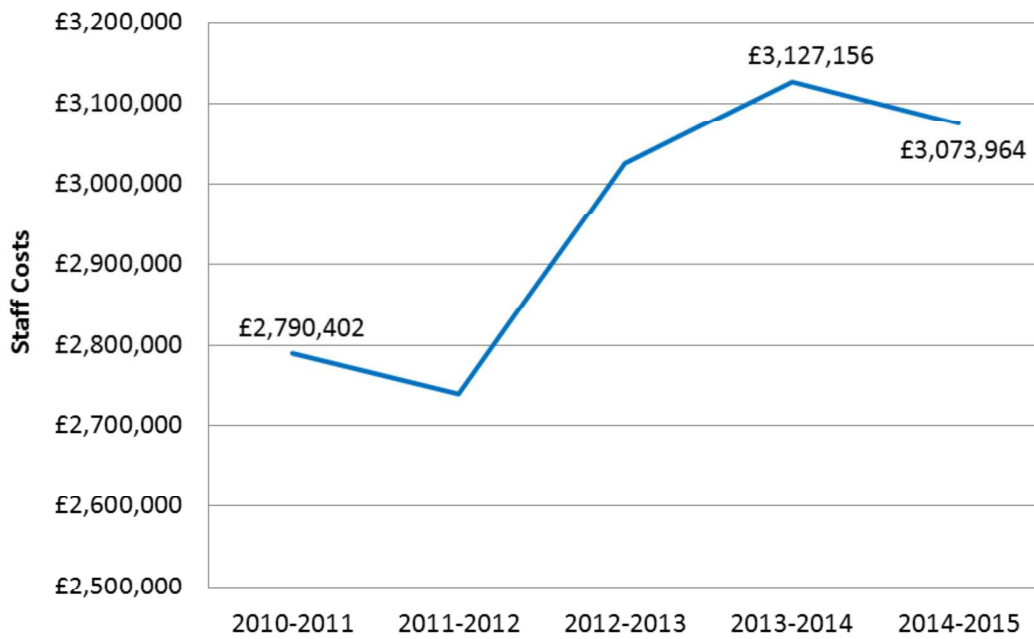
Libraries, Museums and Archives transferred over to Leisure from Education in Sept 2012 (joining Theatres and Arts in Cultural Services division). There is a general trend showing the service becoming more efficient from 2010/11 to 11/12, and from 2013/14 to 2014/15. The increase in costs in 2012/13 and 13/14 are as a result of the impact of Job Evaluation, where leisure posts were significant net gainers in terms of overall salary costs. The opening of Y Ffwrnes Theatre in 2012 also resulted in a revenue growth during this period as part of the agreed business plan supporting the much larger facility.

**Sport and Leisure - Total Controllable Income**



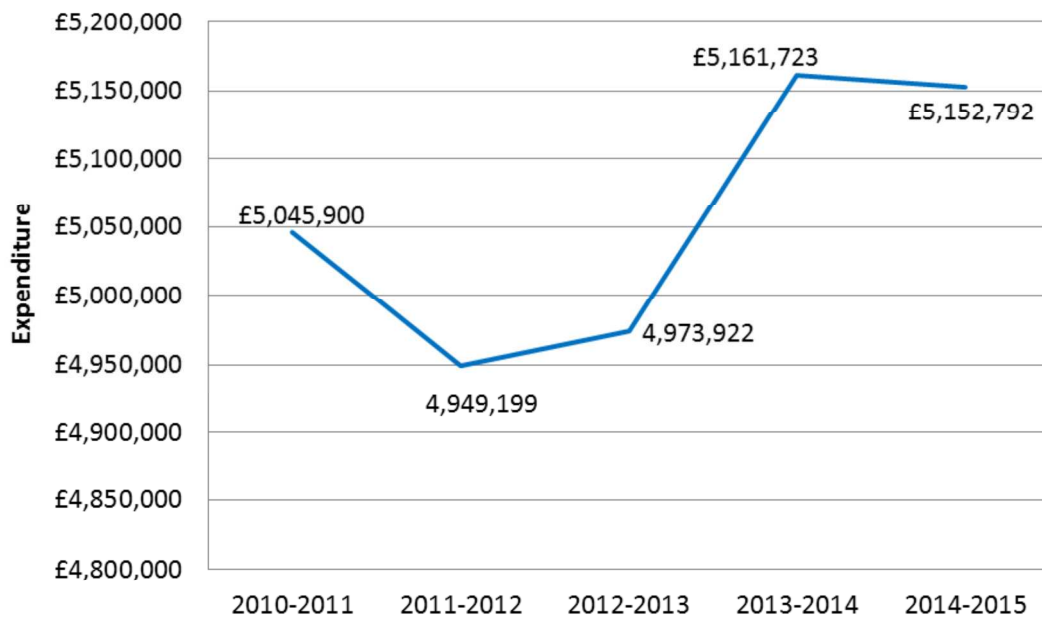
There has been a steady and significant increase in income across the Sport & Leisure service over the past 5 years, totalling £313,614, during a period of significant cuts to controllable budgets. These increases in income have helped offset very challenging PBB efficiencies during this period.

**Sport and Leisure - Total Staff Costs (Pay, NI, Sup & Agency)**



£385K increase in staff costs between 11/12 & 13/14 due to the implications of Job Evaluation. General trend is a reduction in staff costs outside of the JE 'window'

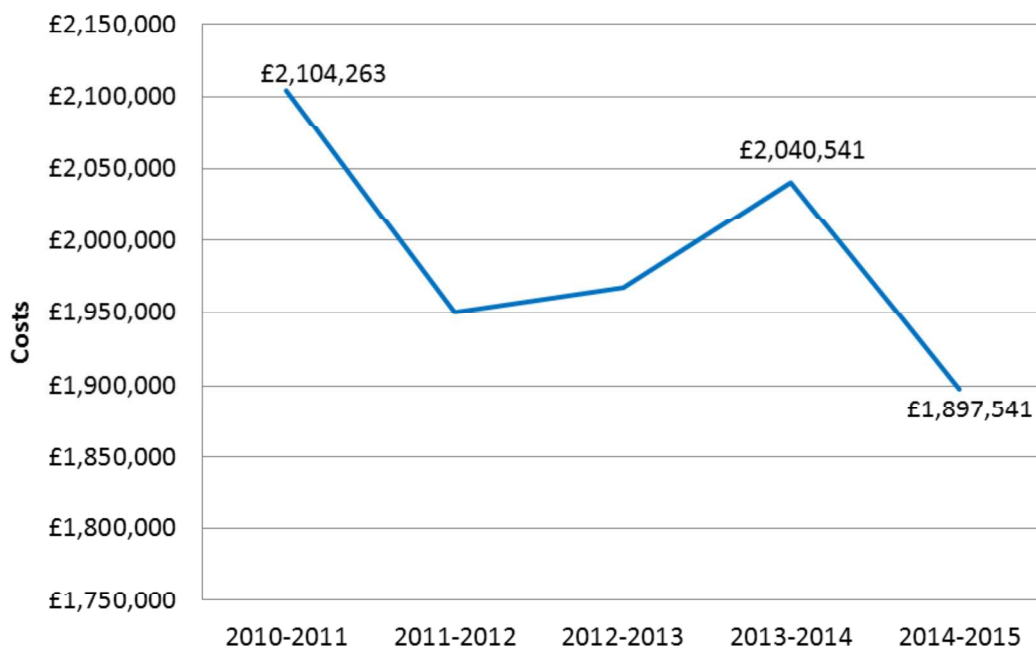
**Sport and Leisure - Total Controllable Expenditure**



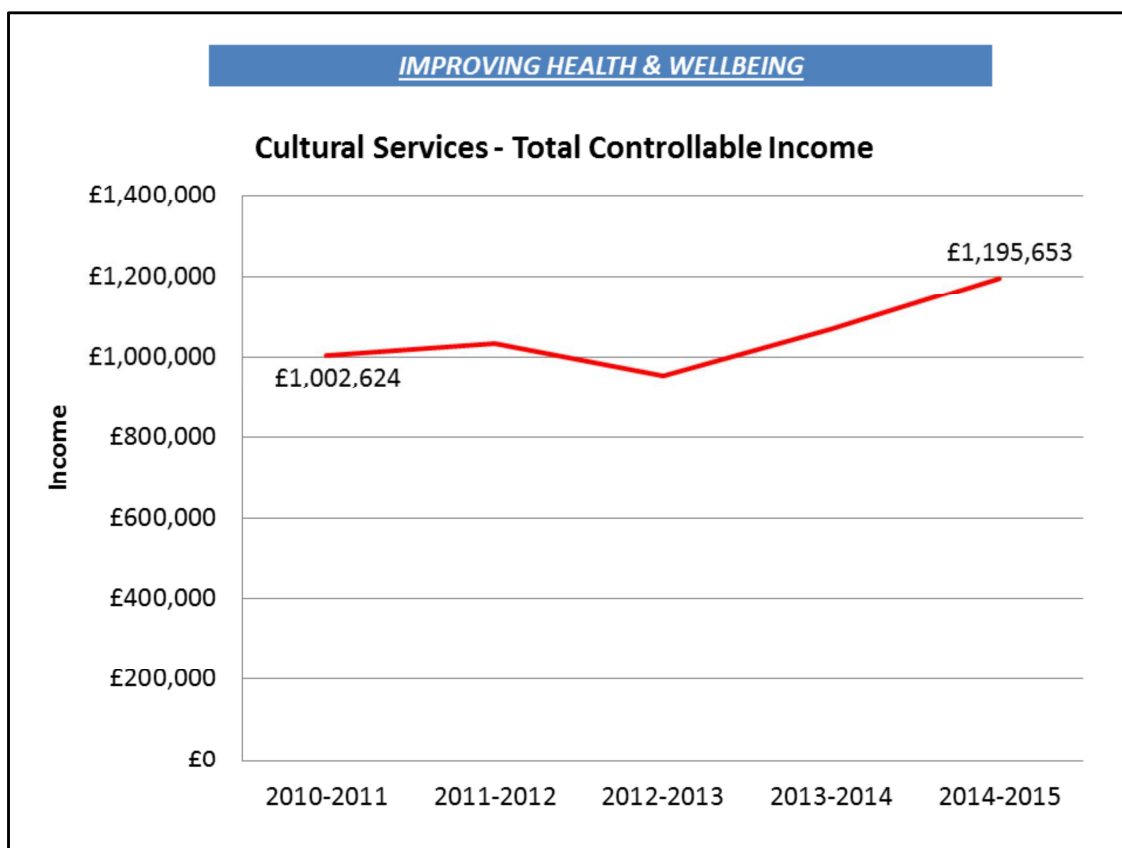
£213K increase in controllable expenditure from 2011/12 to 2013/14 primarily due to the £385K increase in salary costs linked to Job Evaluation, however, costs in all other areas reduced during this period by £145K

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING

**Sport and Leisure - Net Controllable Costs (Exp. minus Income)**

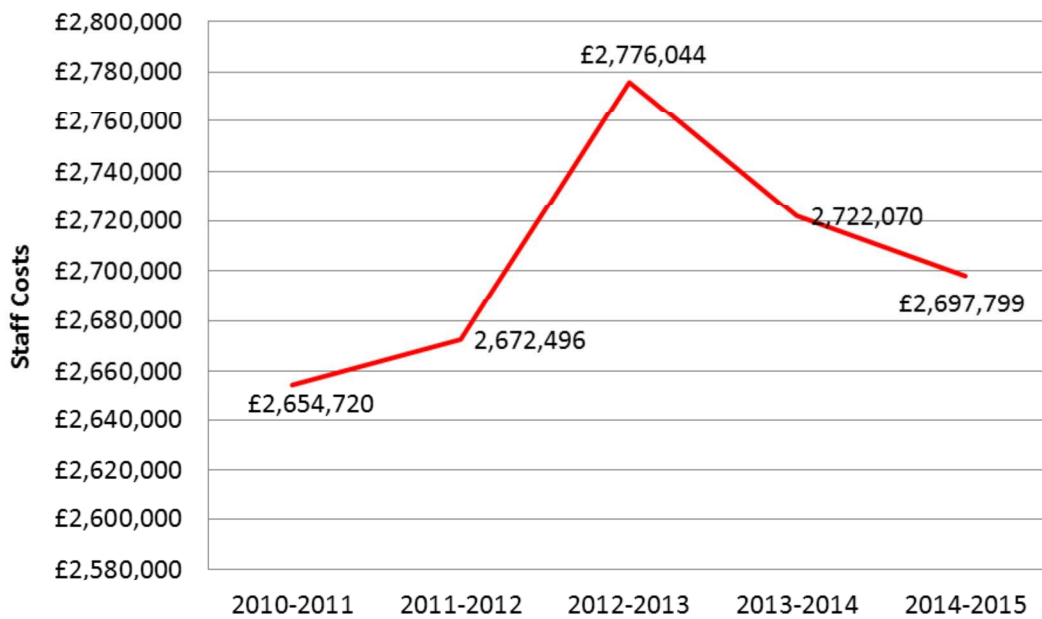


General trend is significant reduction in controllable costs year on year (despite the increases from 11/12 to 13/14 due to implication of JE)



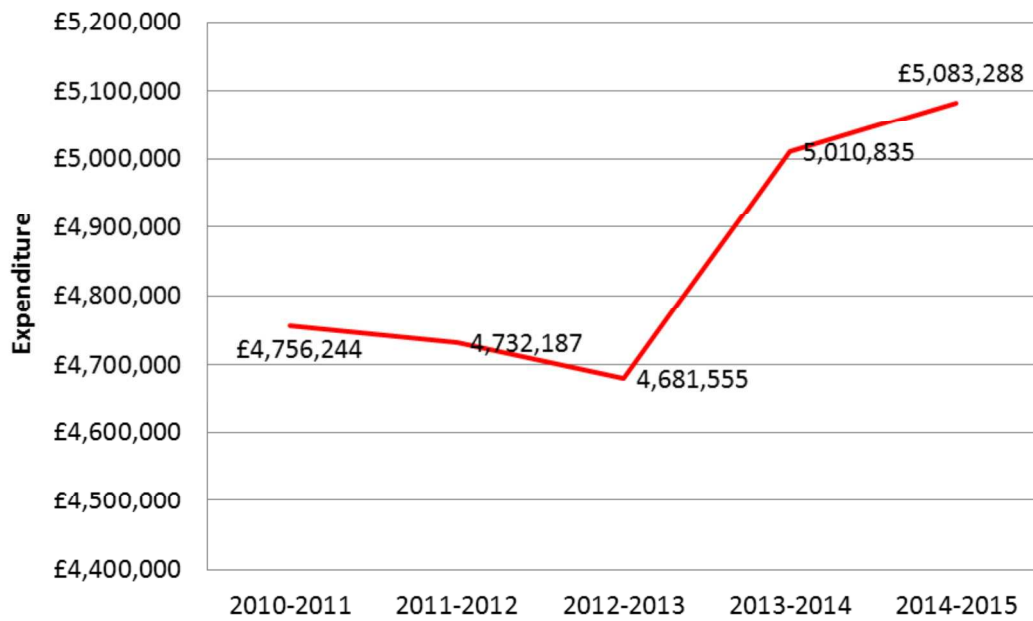
Positive trend overall, largely attributable to improved Theatre income. Archives, Libraries and Museums cannot charge for most services and therefore raise minimal income. The Dylan Thomas Boathouse (DT100) Celebrations in 2014 are also a notable contributor

**Cultural Services - Total Staff Costs (Pay, NI, Sup & Agency)**



2011/12 – 12/13, implications of Job Evaluation. From 2012/13 – 14/15 impact of Libraries re-alignment savings

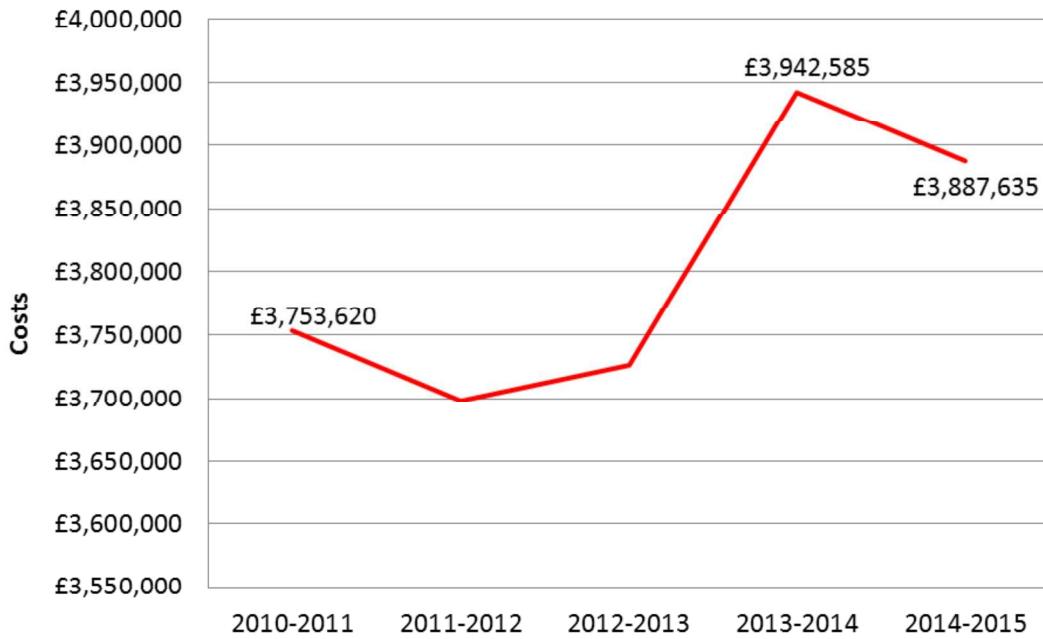
**Cultural Services - Total Controllable Expenditure**



Net reduction in cost from 2012/13 to 13/14, despite an increase in salary costs of circa £100k due to JE. Significant increase in controllable expenditure from 12/13 to 13/14 due to opening of Ffwrnes - additional revenue costs were agreed via growth bid as part of the business plan

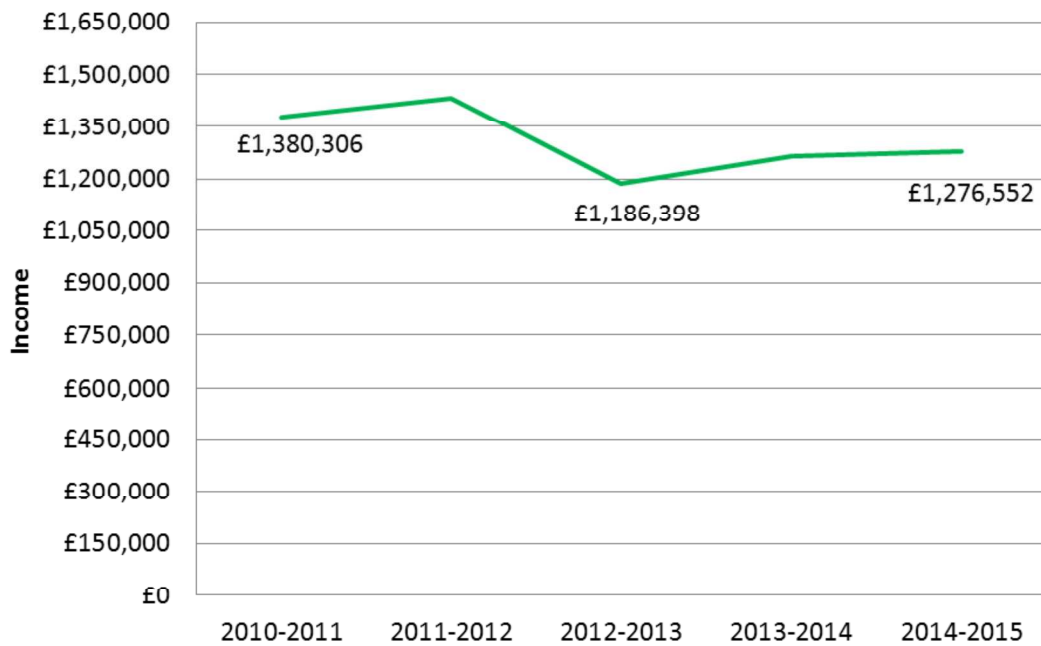
**IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING**

**Cultural Services - Net Controllable Costs (Exp. minus Income)**

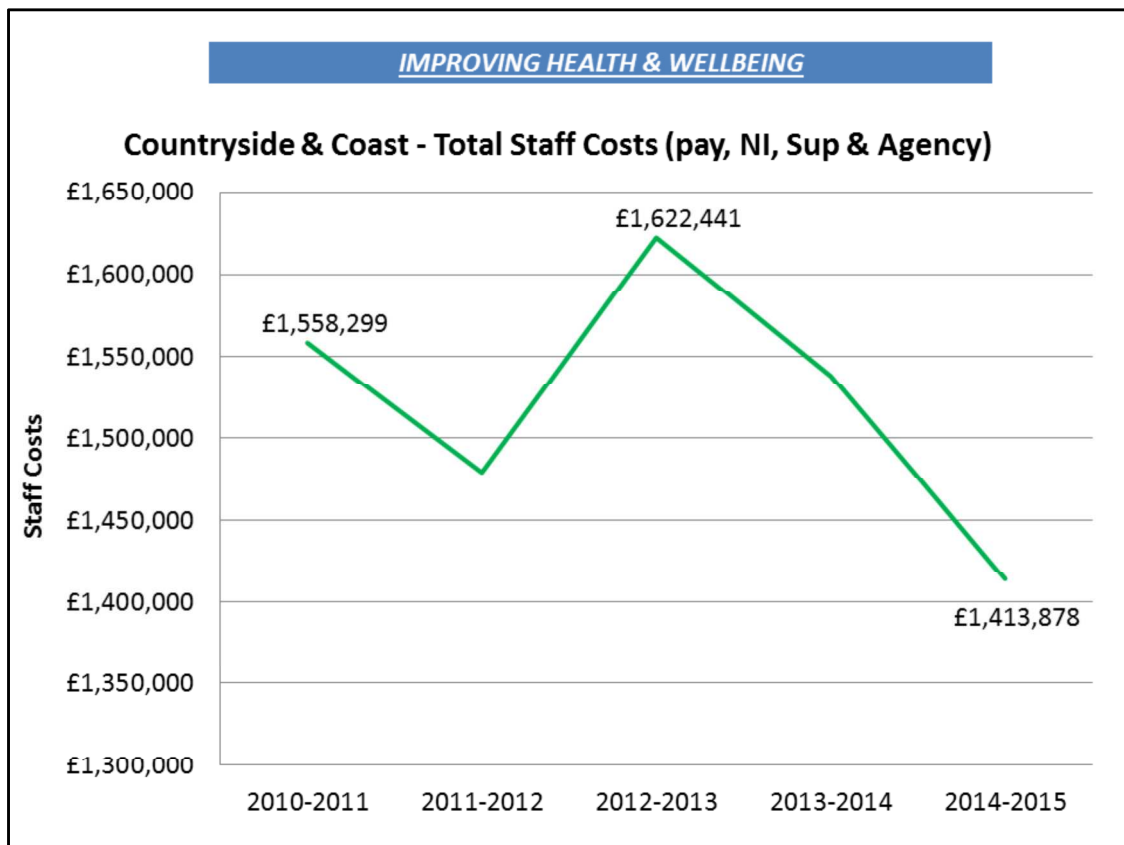


Overall, when taking account of JE implication between 11/12 and 12/13, plus the opening of the Ffwrnes from 12/13 to 13/14, there is general positive trend in reducing net controllable costs and making the Cultural Services more efficient.

**Countryside & Coast - Total Controllable Income**

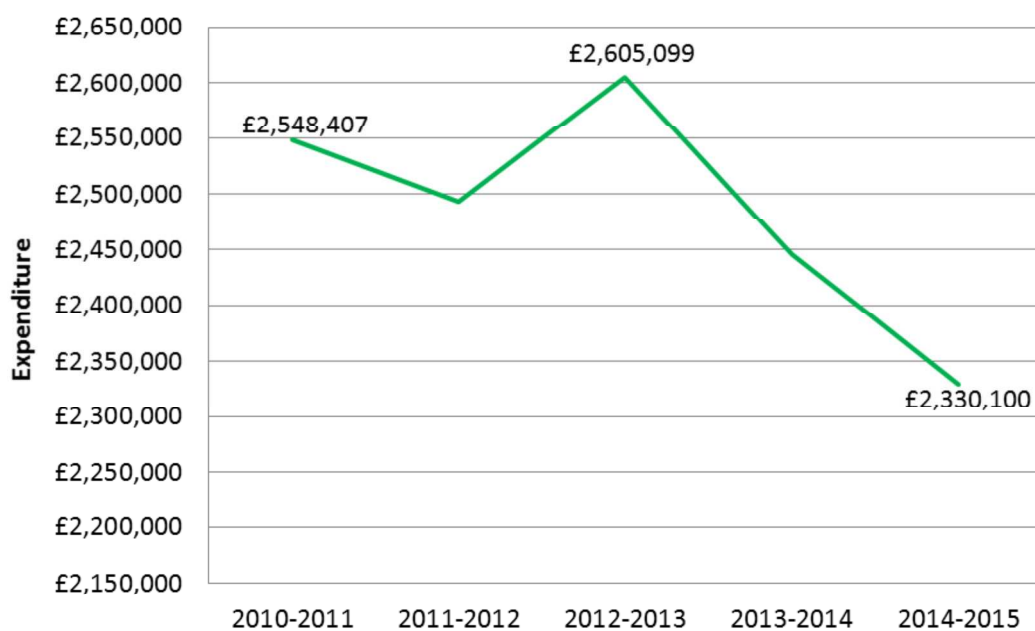


Since 2012/13 with the first phase of the Countryside re-alignment in place, net income has increased by £90k, this is largely due to the improvement with entry (parking) and caravan and camping income at PCP, despite reductions in income of circa £30K at Ski Slope, circa £30k at Burry Port Harbour (due to siltation issues); and a non controllable drop of rental income from the BARC motor racing circuit of £30k in 14/15. The trend for 15/16 continues to show a further positive trend due to PCP income.



Phase 1 re-alignment between 10/11-11/12, then JE implications 11/12 – 12/13, then 12/13 onwards phase 2 of re-alignment (to be completed, however, a number of staff released through severance)

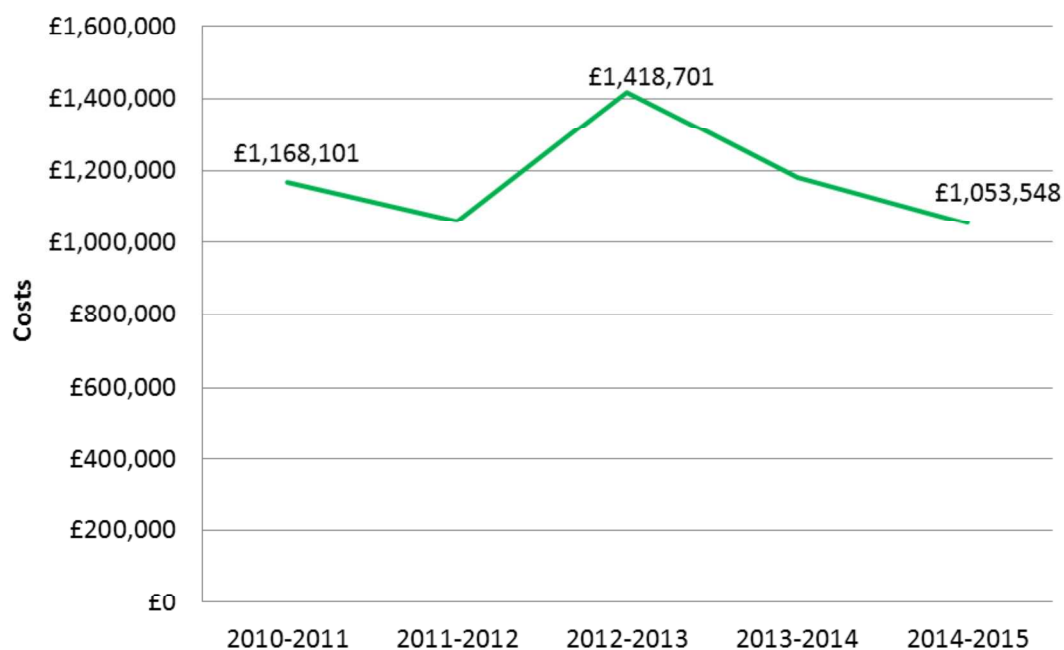
**Countryside & Coast - Total Controllable Expenditure**



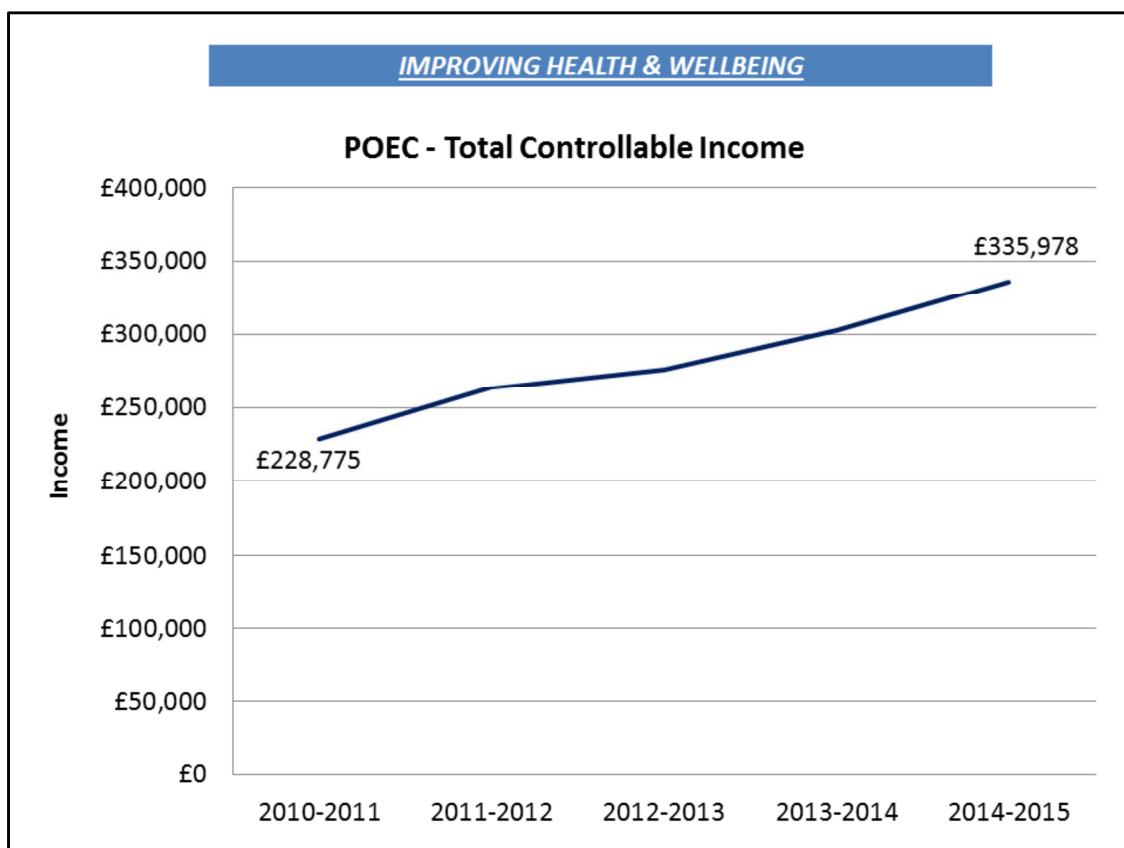
General trend is a significant reduction in controllable expenditure across the Countryside service, despite the JE peak in 2012/13

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING

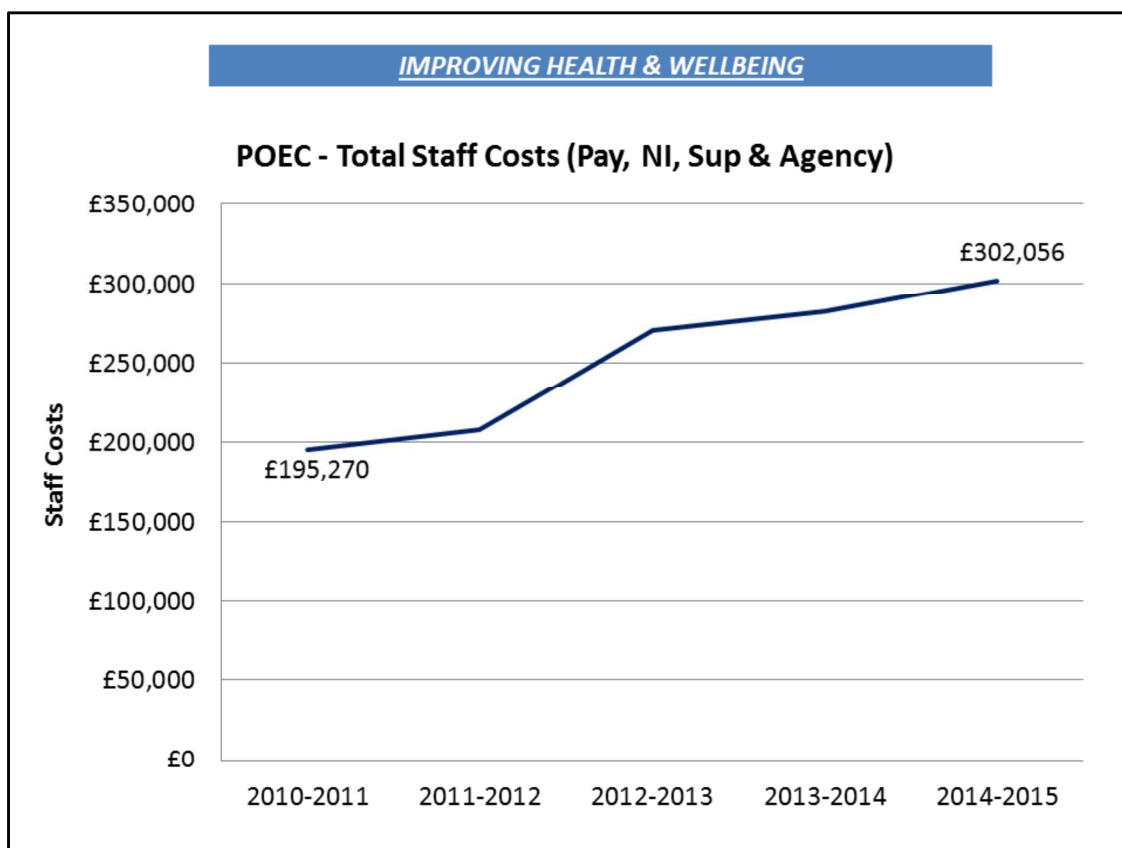
**Countryside & Coast - Net Controllable Costs (Exp. minus Income)**



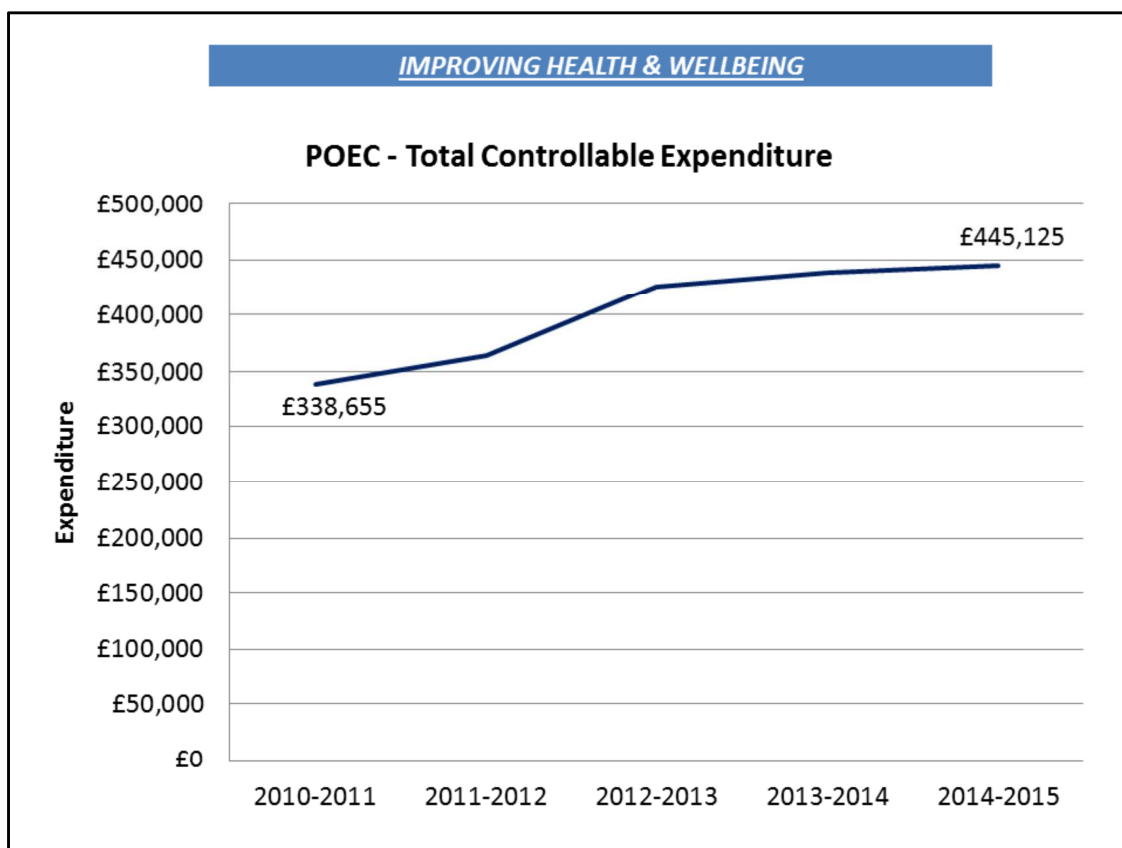
General trend is a significant reduction in net controllable cost i.e. Becoming more efficient across the Countryside service (despite the JE peak in 2012/13)



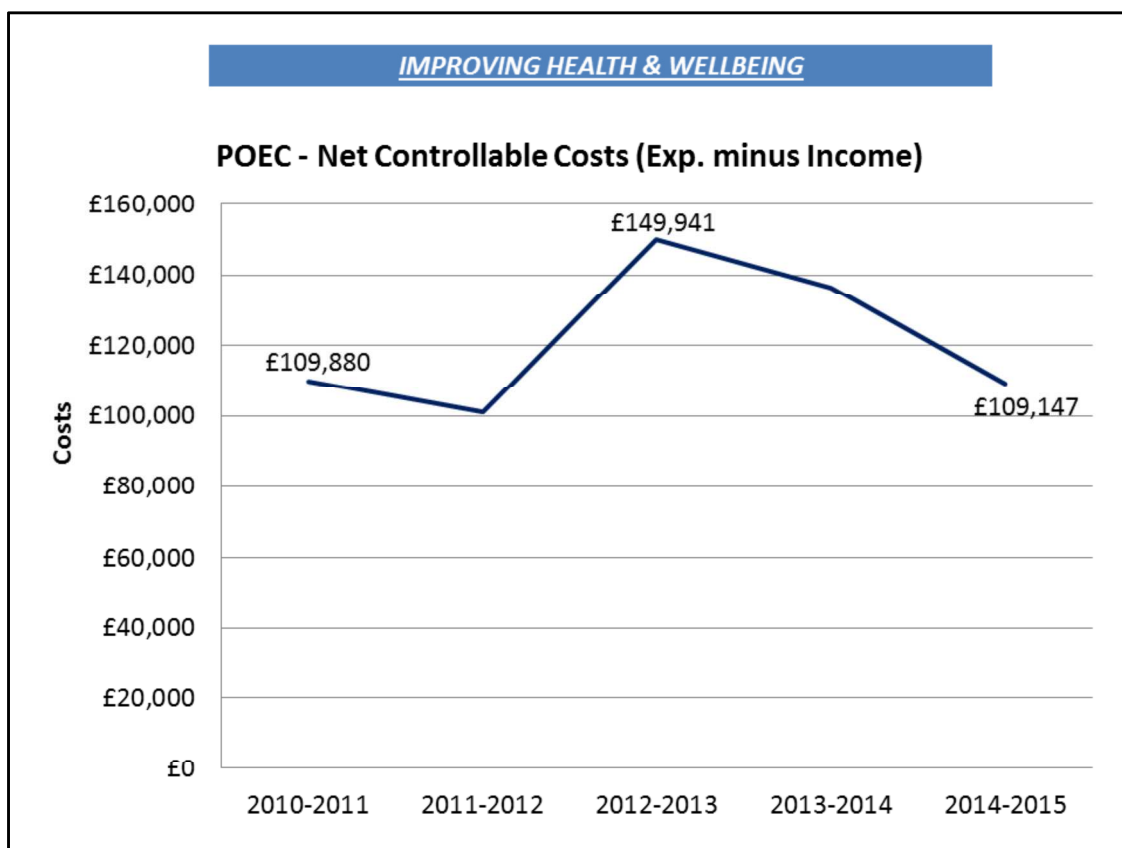
More year round bookings, and filling centre to near 120 capacity more often (split group / school bookings)



Impact of JE from 11/12 to 12/13, plus small increases since due to more instructors to cater with additional numbers and maintain safe pupil / instructor ratios



Spending more on staff (part JE effect), and meals for children on site due to all year round bookings now in place.



General trends in all years except those impacted by JE, are a reduction in net controllable costs, i.e. Meaning service in moving towards a position of becoming more efficient, year on year. Trend is anticipated to continue for 15/16

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## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

### Economic Development Update

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

- That the committee considers and comments on this update outlining the activities of the Economic Development Division.

#### Reasons:

- To provide information on the activity of the Division.
- To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.

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

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Meryl Gravell (Regeneration & Leisure)

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive's  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Wendy Walters  <b>Report Authors:</b> Helen Morgan  Stuart Walters	<b>Designations:</b>  Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)  Economic Development Manager  Economic Development Manager	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224112 <a href="mailto:wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224124 <a href="mailto:hlmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">hlmorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224124 <a href="mailto:swalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">swalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

## Economic Development Update

This report provides the Scrutiny Committee with an update of the key activities of the Economic Development Division. The report includes details on the following areas:

- Transformational Strategy 2015-2030
- Delta Lakes Project
- Structural and Investment Fund Programmes 2014 - 2020
- Rural Community Development Fund
- LEADER Programme
- Regional Learning Partnership
- Physical Regeneration
- Community Regeneration
- Support for Businesses
- Communities First
- Marketing and Tourism

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

## IMPLICATIONS

<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Signed:            Wendy Walters            Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration &amp; Policy)</b></p>						
Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## CONSULTATIONS

<p><b>I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:</b></p> <p><b>Signed:            Wendy Walters            Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration &amp; Policy)</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Local Member(s) – N/A</b>  <b>2. Community / Town Council – N/A</b>  <b>3. Relevant Partners – N/A</b>  <b>4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A</b></p>	
<p><b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information</b>  <b>List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b></p> <p><b>THERE ARE NONE</b></p>	
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>

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# Head of Service Update - Economic Development

## **Transformational Strategy 2015-2030**

During the autumn of 2015, The Strategic Regeneration Plan for Carmarthenshire 2015-2030 – Transformations was launched. The regeneration of Carmarthenshire for current and future developments, are both ambitious and challenging. The five key aims of the strategy are as follows:

- Business growth, retention and specialisation
- To be skilled and ambitious for long-term success
- Maximising job creation for all
- Knowledge economy and innovation
- Distinctive places and competitive infrastructures

The implementation of the Strategy will be supported by 4 Teams; Llanelli and Coastal; Ammanford and Cross Hands; Carmarthen and Rural; and Employment and Skills.

## **Delta Lakes**

The aim of the Project is to create a highly ambitious and complex Wellbeing and Life Science Village on development land at Delta Lakes Llanelli, meeting the aspirations of Carmarthenshire County Council, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Swansea University and Welsh Government.

Proposals are highly significant in the context of the Swansea Bay City Region and following an initial scoping exercise undertaken by the key partners will include such facilities and initiatives as, a health and wellbeing academy, business and enterprise, infrastructure, Institute of Life Science, hotel/health tourism and primary care provision. It is proposed a joint funding package, including EU/external funds, could realise an initial development in excess of £100M and has the potential to create between 800 and 1000 jobs.

The project will therefore deliver significant economic benefits across the region and beyond.

This project is also highly significant in its contribution and status within 'A Regional Collaboration for Health' (ARCH) which is a Programme made up of the three key partners - Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Hywel Dda University Health Board Swansea University – which is working with a number of key stakeholders to create improved health, wealth and wellbeing for the people of South West Wales

## **2014 - 2020 Structural and Investment Fund Programmes:**

To date, more than £388m of the funding from the new European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) programmes has already been committed to 37 projects across West Wales and the Valleys, representing 26% of total programme funds. A further 65 projects are at business planning stage. With such an emphasis being placed on national, backbone

projects, regional discussions are key in ensuring that delivery is fit for purpose to meet both local and regional needs. The Economic Development team are working with Welsh Government to realise local impact as part of the backbone schemes. The Regional Engagement Teams (RET) which is being delivered by the Authority on behalf of the region, has 'regionally proofed' 28 national backbone projects to ensure that they fit with local and regional needs.

The team are also working with internal departments on the development of ESF applications. These projects include the Cynnydd project, which aims to increase youth employment and attainment by supporting 11-24 year olds who are, or at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). It is likely that this application will be approved by the end of March 2016. A further project focusing specifically on NEETs is currently under development by the Department of Education and Children Services.

The Authority submitted a stage 1 application under the co-operation and supply chain development scheme noted above, for the further development of the Bwcabus project. The aim of the application is to build upon the success of the Bwcabus scheme to develop a new and innovative approach to providing integrated transport services across the region. Pembrokeshire County Council and the Community Transport Association will join the existing Bwcabus and Traws Cymru partnership to extend the geographical area covered. The Authority has been successful at this initial stage and has been invited to submit a full application by mid March 2016.

### **Rural Community Development Fund**

In addition to the above, the Welsh Government recently launched the new Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF), the objectives of which are to promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The first funding round for expressions of interest closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and the following 5 project ideas were submitted by the Authority, all have requested the maximum funding of £128k.

#### Carmarthen Wetlands

Development of the wetlands site In Carmarthen including installation of footpaths, trails and lakes to create a new sense of appreciation of the natural environment.

#### Development of Jackson's Lane

To re-develop Jackson's Lane promoting a creative café culture and new kiosk-style outlets for start-up businesses to use a test trading base for selling seasonal food and crafts as well as promoting Welsh language, culture and heritage.

#### Pendine Motor Home Site

The project involves the creation of a new 'Aires' site in Pendine which will accommodate overnight parking for 11 motor-homes / camper-vans and will range in size between 10 and 20 spaces.

#### Tywi Valley Cycleway

Initial phase of a safe walking and cycling route between Carmarthen and Llandeilo utilising the disused railway line running along the Towy Valley providing access to a number of settlements and tourist attractions thus encouraging a healthier lifestyle.

### Castle House

The 'Covered External Events Area' – development of an all weather canopy, signage and digital interpretation to extend the range of activities.

In addition to the above Authority led projects, the team has provided advice and assistance to a further 11 community led applications. The Welsh Government will publicise decisions relating to this initial call for applications by the end of March 2016. Successful applicants at this stage will be invited to submit 2<sup>nd</sup> stage applications.

### LEADER

The LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) for rural Carmarthenshire opened its first call for innovative project ideas in November 2015, specifically seeking projects that address certain priorities identified by the LAG. 18 Expressions of Interest were received by the close of the first call of which 6 were approved by the LAG to proceed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the application process. These projects included the following:

- Project to facilitate and develop supply chains, pilot new ways of encouraging entrepreneurship as well as identification of new markets for the arts and craft sector
- Pilot project to develop and trial innovative digital heritage interpretation ideas by pairing Carmarthenshire heritage organisations with University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) students and creative industries.
- Affordable childcare project: Pilot project targeting established holiday clubs to look at new ways of increasing affordability and access.
- Pilot project to expand the Un Sir Gar services offered at the 'Hub' in Llanelli, to rural areas through outreach provision.
- Pilot project to strengthen awareness of Carmarthenshire's cultural and heritage amongst children at primary schools across rural Carmarthenshire. Project will involve local children in identifying local sites for practical hands-on experiences and creating teaching aids and classroom resources to build on these practical heritage experiences.
- Mental health advocacy services – the project will pilot new ways of delivering mental health advocacy services in rural areas by raising awareness of mental ill health, including dementia and developing skills to enable people living in rural communities to help themselves and each other.

The second call for expressions of interest will close on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. This call will enable applicants to bring forward innovative ideas which will address the key priorities of the Local Development Strategy, including:

- piloting innovative ways to promote the economic value of the Welsh language
- Investigating and piloting innovative ways of providing non statutory service delivery

- Facilitating and piloting innovative ways of ensuring education and training is aligned to the needs of rural businesses
- Pilot innovative ways of developing sense of place within rural communities
- Investigate and pilot new ways of encouraging entrepreneurship/test trading

In addition, the LAG carried out a procurement exercise in order to appoint a service provider to deliver the digital exploitation theme of the LEADER programme, Carmarthenshire County Council's Community Regeneration Team were successful in their tender to undertake this role which will commence on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Ireland Wales Co-operation Programme 2014-2020**

We are currently working with internal departments on the following cross-border cooperation project proposals in partnership with other local authorities and organisations in Ireland and Wales. These are at different stages of development and include:

- **Innovation within the Social Enterprise Sector** – to share best practice in supporting, operating and the franchising of Social Enterprises both within West Wales and East coast of Ireland.
- **Achieving Community Benefits through Renewable Energy** – to identify innovative ways of utilising funding received from renewable energy technologies to support the regeneration of the area in the longer term.
- **Celtic Trails** – project aims to develop new tourism marketing brand and tourism trails based around the area's natural and cultural heritage spanning 3 counties both sides of the Irish Sea. **BUCANIER** – project aims to increase the innovation capacity within SMEs and social enterprises by collaborating with HE institution<sup>s</sup> and other public bodies to increase productivity across the Ireland Wales Programme area.

The authority will be the lead partner in relation to first three projects, with Pembrokeshire County Council leading on the fourth.

## **REGIONAL LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

### Regional Delivery Plan for Employment and Skills

Work is underway to update the Regional Delivery Plan for Employment and Skills for South West & Central Wales which will be submitted in draft form to the Welsh Government by the 31<sup>st</sup> March. This will then be followed by a consultation period with the industry training providers and employers. A final report will be submitted by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

### Demand and Supply Assessment

The Regional Learning Partnership undertook a Demand & Supply Assessment on behalf of the Welsh Government which was to be used to support the implementation of the Regional Delivery Plans and influence the delivery of skills training in the region in line with skills needs. The initial assessment focused on the four key areas:

- a. Energy and Environment
- b. Financial and Professional Services
- c. Tourism
- d. Health and Social Care

The report highlighted a number of key areas where there was a need to increase higher level of full and part time provision within a number of sectors and reduce provision in other areas. The feedback from the assessments has influenced Further Education providers to consider a number of options on course delivery moving forward.

The remaining five priority sectors will be addressed within the next version of the Regional Delivery Plan for Employment and Skills, these include:

- a. ICT
- b. Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
- c. Creative Industries
- d. Life Sciences
- e. Food and Farming

#### Links to Economic Development Activities

The Regional Learning Partnership's new Strategic Employer Reference Group (SERG) represents key employers focusing on the skills priorities for the region and provides the employers voice to drive the competitiveness and business growth of the economy of south west and central Wales.

### **PHYSICAL REGENERATION**

#### Pendine:

Work to construct the Coastal Communities funded commercial and events building on the Museum of Speed site is nearing completion in spite of difficult weather conditions. The building that will house four ground floor commercial units, incorporated public toilet facilities and an upper floor events / restaurant space is due to complete by the end of March 2016.

#### Laugharne:

Discussions are continuing with a Private Sector Developer to bring forward a residential development and new public car park in King Street Laugharne. The developer has secured planning permission for the site and work is ongoing to discharge the planning conditions and agree terms of the lease in order that work can commence later in the spring. In addition discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders in the township with a view to implementing a town wide parking charging strategy.

#### Carmarthen:

The officers are continuing to work closely with the Town Centre Regeneration Forum to develop and deliver a master-plan for the economic regeneration of Carmarthen and linked economic areas that will cover the period 2014 – 2030.

The Welsh Government Town Centre Partnership Funded Scheme which commenced in December 2014 is continuing to be delivered. The project elements delivered to date include: three new events including the Vintage Festival; the installation of a footfall counter in King Street; interpretation signage improvements in Nott Square and King Street; a mobile external projection system to display images on key buildings; trader tourism ambassador training and the launch of new branding.

The Carmarthen 'Business in the Community' (BITC) scheme continues to grow from strength to strength and now has 13 national retailers participating in Carmarthen.

Work has commenced on the designs for both the Jacksons Lane and King Street elements of the master-plan proposals, these are expected to be completed by July

#### Pibwrlwyd:

The team continues to work closely with Coleg Sir Gar to develop a master-plan for a strategic site that offers potential for: the consolidation and re-development of the existing elements of Coleg Sir Gar, newly created employment uses (Use classes B1, B2 (restricted) and B8 these being, Business Use: Office, Industrial and storage / distribution, and other compatible activities.

#### Vibrant & Viable Places – Tackling Poverty: Opportunity Street

This project aims to tackle the current high property vacancy rate by purchasing and refurbishing properties to create flexible, easily accessible, commercial / service space, and provide quality, affordable new residential units based on identified need.

Three properties acquired by end March 15 are currently being refurbished.

Renovation of the ground floor of 31 Stepney Street for use as a pop-up shop for the 2015 Christmas trade was completed by the end of November 2015. An opportunity has been provided for the STEPS Social Care social enterprise, currently based at Coleshill Centre, to use the space to trade. The property has provided a more accessible outlet and the opportunity for wider promotion of the STEPS project.

Further surveys, inspections, plans and costs for the complete renovation of the property have been requested from Property Services to inform future development possibilities.

For the refurbishment of 10 and 12 Stepney Street, surveys, cost plan, schematic drawings, tender documentation and supporting information has been prepared, building regulations are complete and planning application has been submitted. It is anticipated that this will be determined by end March. Tender documents have been issued to the Framework and are expected to be returned 1<sup>st</sup> March for Contractor appointment by the end of March.

Further acquisitions are planned by the end of March 2016 to ensure Welsh Government funding for 15/16 is drawn down.

Additional WG funding has also been approved to purchase by the end of March 2016 other vacant properties which will contribute to the project aims.

#### Ammanford

There are a number of on-going schemes within the town centre and Amman Valley which are updated as follows:

- Foundry Row Site - Developer interests have been sought, with a preferred developer identified.
- Cwmamman Road - The site has been marketed and developer interest shown.
- Glanamman Workshops - Scheme options have been explored with future funding avenues being investigated.
- Town Centre activities are continuing as part of the Town Centre Partnership funding from the Welsh Government. A footfall counter has been installed and is providing weekly data to monitor the effectiveness of activities and interventions for 15/16.

#### Cross Hands East: Strategic Employment Site

Construction works have reached a practical completion with 8.5ha of land transformed into a fully serviced employment site incorporating primary site infrastructure, landscaping and flexible development plateaus. The official launch will be in July. There has been significant interest for the site, with over 12 ongoing enquiries. The site will provide the necessary infrastructure to create a high quality commercial environment to deliver significant job opportunities. The site is a key strategic employment destination within the county and is well placed to serve the region. It is anticipated that the development would accommodate 600 jobs.

An application for funding is currently being drafted, requesting approximately £5m of ERDF grant for the South West region.

## **COMMUNITY REGENERATION**

#### Community Bureau

The Community Bureau provides a one stop shop for the Third Sector and can assist with funding information and guidance. The Community Bureau can support organisations to achieve their potential and offer designated officer support to develop viable and sustainable projects.

The Bureau has successfully introduced a tailored and focused Key Account Management (KAM) service for the Third Sector. Key Account Organisations include existing Social Enterprises, emerging Social Enterprises, Charities, Voluntary / Community Organisations, Town and Community Councils and partnerships.

### **Key outcomes 2015/16 to date: 1<sup>st</sup> April – December 2015**

- **12** - Number of Jobs Created
- **21** - Number of Jobs Safeguarded
- **139** - Number of individuals into Training/Education
- **120** - Number of individuals into Volunteering
- **32** - Number of individuals into Employment
- **39** - Number of Key Account Organisations receiving support
- **4** - Number of enterprises created
- **£4,251,862** - Public and Private Leverage Funding
- **185** - Number of Community Projects Funded

The Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund was launched in April 2013 for community projects which benefit specific wards in Carmarthenshire. Projects have to be new and innovative addressing the key themes of - recreation, culture, education, health, environment, energy efficiency and sustainability. The Community Bureau effectively administers Mynydd y Betws Community Benefit Fund with some **55 applications** approved to date across 4 Rounds:

- Round 1 – awarded - £299,159.42
- Round 2 – awarded - £319,893.56
- Round 3 – awarded - £110,501.50
- Round 4 - awarded - £120,438.79

To date £850,000 awarded with an additional £1.5 million of match funding invested into the Amman area. Round 5 will be live from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

### New Project Developments:

#### WCVA Active Inclusion Fund

An Expression of interest has been submitted to the WCVA Active Inclusion Fund to which we have recently been informed that we were successful and invited to the second stage. The aim of the bid is to reduce economic inactivity in Carmarthenshire targeting LSOA and social housing areas within key rural towns, improving the employability of disadvantaged people furthest away from the labour market. This project will act as a “first steps” in the participants journey to employment. Activities include digital inclusion to assist in online job match, universal credits, money management and volunteering through “time-banking” initiatives. We will work in partnership with Carmarthenshire Association Voluntary Services and other third sector organisations along with Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) Housing and Social Services to provide a holistic approach in tackling economic inactivity.

#### Digital Exploitation

The Community Regeneration Team successfully won a two year £90,000 RDP Tender for Exploitation of Digital Technology in Rural Carmarthenshire, in February 2016. The project will create a Digital Coordinator Role, Digital engagement team and a Carmarthenshire-wide Digital Partnership Strategic Stakeholder group. 12 Digital Exploitation Events will be run over the two year period (working closely with

the RDP LEADER and LAG teams), and five Digital “Hubs” are planned. We envision the Digital Hubs will be located in key Strategic market towns, Llandovery, Llandeilo, Newcastle Emlyn, Whitland/St Clears and Kidwelly. These will demonstrate innovative approaches enabled by Digital service delivery; improve access to Digital and Financial services, Digital Employability Opportunities and co-ordination of coaching, upskill and volunteering opportunities. The Digital Hubs are planned to drive economic development, by coordinating expert advice, maximising Superfast Broadband Exploitation, encouraging individuals, organisations and businesses to get online.

## **BUSINESS**

### Un Sir Gar

The Un Sir Gar Hub has now been open for 21 months. The overall service aim is to help customers to move closer to the labour market and financial independence. The Hub’s long term goal is to support residents in overcoming their barriers and find rewarding, long-term employment/training by utilising all services available to them across the County.

#### **Since April 2015, Un Sir Gar supported:**

- **744** New Customers
- **8288** Hub Footfall
- **536** Customers signposted into employment support organisations
- **73** Customers into Employment
- **77** Customers into Training
- **23** Customers into Volunteering

From the figures above, it is evident that Hub’s Team continue to signpost to relevant organisations and are achieving excellent outcomes.

Since June 2015, Customer Service Centre was relocated into The Hub, initially for a 3 month period, whilst refurbishment works were undertaken at Ty Elwyn. The move proved very successful, with benefits such as, increased footfall into Llanelli Town Centre and a more co-ordinated and seamless approach to supporting customers. As a result, it has been agreed to relocate CSC into the Hub on a permanent basis.

Un Sir Gar and The Library Service are currently working together in relation to the new mobile library provision. Un Sir Gar will jointly work with libraries on their mobile vehicles, which will allow Un Sir Gar to reach a further 28 communities across rural Carmarthenshire. Facilities on board will include digital access, printing and access to a phone and/or Skype, which will help customers access services within the Hub. Un Sir Gar will also facilitate regular Hub on Tour events alongside the mobile library, bringing up to 50 different organisations, such as Prime Cymru, Remploy, Workways, Shelter Cymru and Gwalia, to rural communities in Carmarthenshire.

## Entrepreneurship – Young People

As part of our continued commitment in supporting entrepreneurship we have delivered a number of key events to both students in secondary, higher and further education.

The final of the 2015 Beacon Bursary was held last June. The two winning business proposals were Rapid IT and Women's Workwear Company. They are both making good progress, with Rapid IT having moved into their office at The Beacon.

Six Carmarthenshire schools took part in last years' Swansea Bay Young Business Dragons. The two winners of the Carmarthenshire Semi final were QE High School and St John Lloyd and they went on to represent the county in the final, which was held last December in the Marriot, Swansea. QE High was given a Highly Commended prize, which was a great achievement for them. An evaluation of the whole event has taken place, dialogue has established that all the schools who participated was really positive. Schools are now participating in our world of work programme and recently worked in partnership with S4C and UWTSD to hold a World of Work event, which took place last November. The aim of the event was to help S4C to engage with local schools and to highlight the potential career opportunities which would come with Canolfan Yr Egin. Forty year 12 pupils from 6 schools attended the event, which involved three interactive workshops on topics associated to the creative sector. These were delivered in partnership with UWTSD, The Big Learning Company and Joio. The feedback was very positive from everyone who was involved and we are waiting the report of the formal evaluation, as S4C are very keen to run similar events in 2016.

This years' Dragons Den competition has been organised so that schools can use this as part of the Welsh Baccalaureate enterprise challenge. CCC has designed an enterprise challenge brief, approved by the WJEC, so any school wishing to use it for their purpose can do so. The individual school finals will be held between March and June with the overall final in July 2016.

As part of our support to schools and colleges for their Welsh Baccalaureate, CCC has delivered presentations on business and enterprise to Bro Myrddin, Ysgol Strade, Amman Valley and Coleg Sir Gar.

CCC delivered a business start up workshop in this years' enterprise symposium held in Coleg Sir Gar's Carmarthen School of Art. 25 students were in attendance most of whom were interested in setting up their own business. These students have been invited to participate in this year's Beacon Bursary competition which will be formally launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The team will also continue to support the students who wish to set up a business by offering advice and support.

During last years' live webcast with Sir Terry Matthews, Chair of Swansea Bay City Region, in which budding entrepreneurs from local secondary schools posted enterprise related questions to him via email and social media, one young school pupil from QE High, namely Nick Cvetcovic took it upon himself to go up to meet Sir Terry Matthews personally to seek his advise on setting up his own business. Nick is

in the process of setting up his business in which will be given free office space in the Beacon, where he will create two or three jobs, during which he will also be studying for his A levels. He is being mentored by Sir Terry Matthews as well as receiving advice and support from CCC Economic Development Team.

We are currently working with several other companies including Dunbia, Morganstone, Magstim, Tidal Lagoon Power and TRJ to run further World of Work events.

### Pareto Employers

The Swansea Bay City Region Strategy recognises the need to support business growth and specifically targets the need to support large-scale existing major employers across South West Wales. A cross region group has been formed to commence the Pareto Employers initiative which will witness businesses across the City Region directly influence the economic direction that the region takes and will shape policy according to business need. Carmarthenshire accommodates a large number of employers that are classed as being in Welsh Government's key growth sectors. This initiative will also see the region promoted as a strong inward investment destination in the global inward investment marketplace. Dialogue is continuing between Local Authorities to identify priorities in the offer to external markets.

### Workways+

During the last 12 months work has been undertaken with our neighbouring LA's to set up a New Adult Employability project "Workways +" under the new EU programme. The operation has now been approved and the official announcement from Jane Hutt MP was made on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016. It is envisaged that the operation will commence on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and will operate until November 2018 (the operation has been in mobilisation from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2015)

The operation will be managed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as lead beneficiary, with delivery teams in each of the five joint sponsor local authority areas; Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion.

Carmarthenshire Workways+ will deliver in three main locations:

- Ammanford
- Carmarthen
- Llanelli

Also outreach venues will be sourced from these areas to promote and engage with participants, therefore reducing travelling costs etc. Participants will include those residing outside of Community First areas, Key target groups will be:

- Economically inactive participants who are:
  - not in education or training and
  - who have low or no skills;
  - a work limiting health condition or disability;
  - care responsibilities;

- are over 54;
  - from a jobless household.
- Long-term unemployed participants who have:
    - low or no skills;
    - a work limiting health condition or disability;
    - are from a BME group;
    - from a jobless household

## **Outputs**

### **Regional Project Targets – support 4,000 clients**

- 900 (22.5%) will enter employment
- 2,000 (50%) will gain a qualification or work relevant certificate upon leaving
- 1600 (54%) will complete work experience or volunteering opportunity

### **Carmarthenshire's Targets – support 834 clients**

- 188 will enter employment
- 417 will gain a qualification or work relevant certificate upon leaving
- 334 will complete work experience or volunteering opportunity

## **COMMUNITIES FIRST**

Communities First (C1st) delivers programmes to narrow economic education/skills and health gaps in the most deprived areas of the County.

### **Key Outcomes of the Communities First programme 1st April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015:**

- **91** participants have secured employment
- **403** participants supported with employment skills
- **161** adults supported with digital skills
- **276** accessed financial inclusion support
- **130** Lift opportunities achieved by participants from workless households
- **172** adults have achieved accredited qualifications
- **743** children supported to do well in school
- **90** adults supported to be engaged in their children's education
- **63** adults participated in our wellbeing programme
- **208** adults participated in physical activity programmes
- **327** participants in healthy cooking workshops

In the last nine months volunteers have given 2071 hours of volunteering directly on the C1st programmes. New volunteers continue to sign up to the programme and

through the Time Credits programme over 800 volunteers have volunteered over 9700 hours this year.

#### Prosperous Communities

The team run five Goals Clubs and two 'Kick Start' youth Goals Clubs per week in community venues providing support with CV writing or updating, Universal Jobmatch support, online job applications and Universal Credit support. The team deliver IT courses through six sessions per week in community venues and debt and benefit advice and support on a 1-2-1 basis in outreach venues during six sessions per week.

#### Lift Programme

The Lift programme supports people who have been out of work for six months or more from households where no adult is in work, to find sustainable training and jobs.

#### Healthy Communities:

Since April 2015, participants who are experiencing mild and moderate mental wellbeing issues including anxiety, low self confidence and low self esteem have been supported through our wellbeing programme.

#### Learning Communities:

The Learning team have delivered numerous accredited training courses to increase participant's employability or participation in further training in the past nine months including; Emergency First Aid, Retail, Customer Service in Hospitality, Health and Safety in Construction and Food Hygiene.

### **Marketing and Tourism**

Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to improving the economic impact of tourism, an industry that in 2014 was statistically worth £342million per annum to the County, up 2.2% on 2013. Service objectives are to:

1. Plan and carry out strategic research that will assist in service design such as County wide accommodation and hotel studies, Expenditure, Town Centre usage surveys
2. Act as a catalyst and relationship builder with both private, public & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector to improve the tourism product in the County
3. Ensure Carmarthenshire is effectively & innovatively promoted as a vibrant area to visit and stay

A range of primary Research is undertaken by the section notably to support the tourism industry and currently within town centres. Being able to provide benchmark data on the consumer visitors to the County is fed into local, regional and national data to support future developments and direction of promotional campaigns. An extensive bi annual visitor survey is carried out at key venues and locations as well as operating a 365 day online survey form. We have also provided a number of economic assessment reports on potential new developments in order to support business plans or applications – these include new caravan sites etc. Using the Bed

Stock database we have to maintain daily, we are able to support planning and economic development with numbers of bed spaces and usage within geographical areas. With a number of actions planned for the three primary town centres, face to face and online questionnaires are being prepared to support the promotional activity.

#### Business support and investment

The Marketing and Tourism team are one stop shop for advising tourism and hospitality businesses on government led grant support schemes, tourism brown signs, promotional opportunities and one to one guidance on a variety of day to day issues as well as longer term developments.

As well as the projects highlighted overleaf in point 3, we also take the daily enquiries for those seeking a tourism brown sign in Sir Gar, liaising between the business and CCC Highways. We also offer guidance on access to visitor promotional material, planning regulations, access to Tourism Investment Support Scheme financial support.

Over 135 businesses have been supported during April to September with assistance provided on a one to one basis or within forum groups. One to one's have been focussed on delivering two large projects worth potentially £20million as part of the aim to establish at least two new iconic attractions.

The Destination Management Plan for Sir Gar sets out the aspiration and goal to increase its wet weather and seasonality selling points and the development of two new "attractions" were deemed essential in this.

A great deal of time has been invested on getting a Pendine project to be supported by the Welsh Government and other help has been given providing brown tourism road signs, funding for log pods and new touring caravan sites. A grant of £60,000 was awarded in July by the Welsh Government to carry out planning for the 2016 "Year of Adventure". CCC are on national marketing groups on the development of Cruise Ships, Cardiff Airport and on how Wales is promoted in the 4 key markets plus how and what market research is collated and used.

#### Carmarthenshire Public Relation actions

Public Relations (PR) has been a promotional tool we have invested in for five years as it provides the County national exposure in a variety of mediums which offer an immediate tangible return for those businesses we work with. The process is not one of issuing press releases but of Council staff researching and putting together a collection of visitor products that target seasonal ideas (such as school holidays or Xmas) or niche products (food trails, fishing). These are then offered to the national media in an attempt to entice them to visit and subsequently write about their visit.

120 articles on Carmarthenshire were generated by CCC in this period with National media writers visiting from Coast Magazine, Independent Newspaper, Daily Star, Daily Mail, Sunday Times, Mail onLine and the Daily Mirror, at advertising value equivalent of £150,678.97 for July- September 15 and £200,970.00 for April-June 2015:

### Digital media and website

The official visitor website for the County, “Discover Carmarthenshire”, is designed and managed in-house and has had its most successful period ever. Fully bi-lingual with Japanese, Mandarin, Italian, French, German & Dutch elements and can track hits per page, linger time, where the user has found us, it has search engine optimisation, is mobile and tablet friendly and updated daily. July saw the first month ever that social media referrals overtook PC for search engine leads to the discover Carmarthenshire website with facebook contributing 95% of these in September 2015 compared to 15% in 2014.

### Tourist Information

Castle House in Carmarthen Town Centre is both a visitor attraction and a tourism centre, serving over 10,000 people in this period. As part of the Town Destination Plan, a series of improvements and events are being planned for this area. A new more cost effective and more packed “official visitor guide” has been designed and printed with 10,000 being given to Visit Wales for fulfilling request for Carmarthenshire through their Cardiff outlet to the English market. English and Welsh language versions are available from Carmarthenshire tourism outlets. In order to ensure visitors have immediate access to ‘things to do when they arrive’, CCC collate, design, and distribute a bilingual printed pack called the Bedroom Browser.

### Events

Marketing and Tourism section are the first point of contact for large external events coming to the County as well as organising a number of local community events. During this period we have managed or supported Ammanford Big Day Out, Cwmaman, Gorslas, Burry Port and Seaside Carnivals, Llandeilo Festival of Music, The Big Cwtsh, Llandovery Sheep Festival, Ammanford’s Twrch Trwyth Festival plus Vintage and Food Festivals in Carmarthen Town.

### What will the next 6 months bring:

Key objective:

- To create jobs and economic growth

Key Priority Areas:

- To progress with the delivering of the key transformational projects as identified in the ‘Strategic Regeneration Plan for Carmarthenshire 2015-30,
- To provide support for the delivery of the projects via external funding sources; regional engagement and skills intelligence.
- To realign the service in line with the changing environment

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## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

### Explanation for non-submission of scrutiny report

#### Supporting People Programme Update

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**Responsible Officer(s):** Robin Staines, Head of Housing & Public Protection  
Neil Edwards, Commissioning Manager

**Explanation:** Until recently the Supporting People function sat within the Housing Services & Public Protection Division (Communities Department) and reported through to the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

On the establishment of the Commissioning Division, the Supporting People Service has now moved under the new Joint Strategic Commissioning Head, Chris Harrison. Neil Edwards is the line manager for the service. This move is in recognition that Supporting People is primarily a commissioning function. Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Executive Board Member for Social Care & Health) also sits on the Regional Collaborative Committee as the Council's representative.

In order that the scrutiny arrangements reflect these management changes, the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee, which has the remit of oversight of the Council's strategic social care commissioning functions, will receive future updates on this service area.

**Revised Submission Date:** N/A

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## **COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** **12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**Present:** Councillor D.M. Cundy (Chair)

**Councillors:** J.M. Charles, S.L. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, T. Devichand, J.K. Howell, H.I. Jones, S. Matthews, J. Owen, H.B. Shepardson, E.G. Thomas (Vice-Chair), G.B. Thomas

**Also present:**

**Councillor L.D. Evans – Executive Board Member (Housing)**

**Councillor D.M. Jenkins – Executive Board Member (Resources)**

**The following officers were in attendance:**

Mr. R. Staines – Head of Housing and Public Protection

Mr. M. Hughes – Assistant Consultant

**Venue:** Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen (10:00am – 12:00pm)

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J. Thomas and from Councillor M. Gravell (Executive Board Member for Regeneration & Leisure).

### **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**

No public questions were received.

### **5. FORTHCOMING ITEMS**

The Committee was provided with a list of forthcoming items to be considered at its next meeting scheduled for the 24th March 2016.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items be noted.**

## **6. THE CARMARTHENSHIRE HOMES STANDARD PLUS (CHS+) 'DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS'**

The Committee considered the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Programme Plan for 2016-2019. Members were advised that the CHS+ programme was grounded in the work of the previous Carmarthenshire Home Standard programme, completed in 2015, in order to maintain and improve on the work already undertaken. Three key aspects of the Plan were to:

- Support tenants and residents with issues such as Welfare Reform, getting services right, saving tenants money in the home, digital inclusion and active ageing
- Investing in homes to maintain standards
- Provide more homes to increase supply of affordable housing

The Committee welcomed the Plan and thanked the Head of Housing & Public Protection and his staff for the excellent work that had already been achieved and the continued support provided by officers to the Council's tenants.

The following issues were raised in relation to the report:

Reference was made to the programme of housing repairs and reference was made to certain houses in the same estates being repaired or re-rendered whilst others were not. The Head of Housing & Public Protection informed the Committee that the re-rendering programme was undertaken on the basis of need which would suggest why some houses had been completed and not others. He informed the Committee that a review of the rendering / painting programme was being carried out by the Environment Department and that communication with local members on such matters was essential.

In response to a question on investing in existing housing stock, the Head of Housing & Public Protection reminded the Committee that the Authority had a legal duty to maintain the houses upgraded under the former CHS programme at this level as well as improving the 'affordability' of the homes by making them cheaper to run by installing energy efficient light bulbs for instance. Any improvements or replacements identified by officers during the annual 'home checks' would be included on an on-going work programme. The Authority was also seeking to change or convert homes that were not suitable for current needs as well as improving the appearance of the estates themselves.

It was asked how often Carbon Monoxide monitors were checked. The Head of Housing & Public Protection reminded the Committee that Carmarthenshire County Council had been the first Authority to include Carbon Monoxide monitors as standard, which was above the national requirements. He informed the Committee that these monitors along with smoke alarms and appliances such as boilers and fires were checked on an annual basis.

Clarification was sought as to the reason for increasing the provision to write-off bad debts as the report also stated that rent arrears had reduced during the past twelve months. The Head of Housing & Public Protection informed the Committee that this write-off provision was available in order to assist tenants who might be struggling to pay their rent and to stay in their homes. The intention was to prevent potential eviction by working more flexibly with tenants to manage their debts. He reassured

the Committee that for those who could pay but refused to, the Authority did undertake approximately 20 evictions per year.

In response to a comment on the decisions of some tenants to turn down improvements to their properties, the Head of Housing & Public Protection acknowledged that there was provision within the programme to accommodate requests from these tenants, should they wish to do so. Properties that had not been upgraded to the CHS were typically upgraded when they became vacant.

A question was asked as to the involvement of tenants in the new programme. The Head of Housing & Public Protection stated that the success of the initial CHS programme was due to the tenant involvement in the process. However, now that the programme had drawn to a close, officers would be looking at new ways of engaging with tenants, especially as traditional methods such as community meetings were not so well attended. New methods of engagement such as the use of social media would be explored further.

Further detail of the plan to provide more homes was sought. The Head of Housing & Public Protection informed the Committee that the Authority was seeking opportunities to utilise Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding to increase the number of tenancies managed by the Authority's own Social Lettings Agency, bring empty homes back into use, buy back private homes.

Reference was made to garage sites and it was asked whether these could be better utilised, to provide additional parking for instance. The Head of Housing & Public Protection reminded the Committee that there were approximately 1,500 garages/garage plots across the county and their status (e.g. whether they were rented through separate tenancy agreements or privately owned) also varied greatly from site to site. To date, the service's approach had been to work on a site-by-site basis rather than implement an authority-wide approach, as it was the local tenants and elected members that knew what was best for each site. He added that whilst there was no maintenance programme in place for garages, there were some funds available to assist local communities to transform garage sites. However, the final decision for what to do with specific sites had to be made by the local communities. The Head of Housing & Public Protection also suggested that officers present a comprehensive report on garage sites to the Committee at a future date.

Reference was made to the appearance of many estates and it was suggested that one option for improvement would be to collect grass cuttings, rather than letting them rot on the newly mowed grass. The Head of Housing & Public Protection informed the Committee that there was currently some work underway in conjunction with the Environment Department to extend the grass cutting programme as the growing season appeared to be increasing due to the variable climatic conditions of recent years. However, he added that the Authority did not collect cuttings as this added approximately £300,000 to the cost of cutting.

Additional suggestions were made regarding the appearance of the Authority's housing estates including using smaller grassed areas for additional parking as well as planting wild flowers to assist with biodiversity. The Head of Housing & Public Protection acknowledged the suggestions and added that estates had not been built to accommodate 2 or more vehicles per household. If a community approached the Authority with such proposals, officers would consider it as part of an environmental improvement scheme but there would need to be strong community backing and a business case made via the HRA business process. He added that for other

improvement projects such as planting flowers, this was again an activity that could be proposed by local tenants and he referred to a recent project through which a home improvement store had donated flowers and bedding plants to a particular estate as part of the time credits programme. In response to a further query on time credits, he advised the Committee that the programme was not fully operational across the county as yet but to date, approximately 10,000 hours of additional voluntary activity had been recorded. He agreed to circulate further details of the programme to the Committee.

Clarification was sought as to the links with the Swansea Bay City Region. The Head of Housing & Public Protection suggested that the CHS programme had arguably been the largest regeneration project undertaken in the county to date and it was felt that the benefits of the housing improvements realised should be catalogued. Officers were currently preparing a paper in conjunction with other housing practitioners which linked in with previous research work with Cardiff and Swansea Universities which had focussed on the health and well-being of tenants and the link with housing standards.

In response to a question on the installation of Wi-Fi facilities in sheltered schemes, the Head of Housing & Public Protection stated that this was available in the communal areas only as individual tenants often had their own private telephone lines and internet access in their own rooms.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:**

**6.1 The report be received.**

**6.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it confirm the vision of CHS+ and the financial and delivery programme over the next three years.**

**6.3 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it confirm submission of the plan to the Welsh Government.**

**7. AFFORDABLE HOMES DELIVERY PLAN**

The Committee considered the draft Affordable Homes Delivery Plan which provided details as to how the Authority intended to deliver more homes. It also outlined what resources would be used. The Committee noted that the initial programme aimed to deliver over a 1,000 additional affordable homes during the next five years, with a total investment exceeding £60m.

The following issues were raised in relation to the report and its appendices:

It was suggested that there was a difference between the 'needs' and 'wants' of the county's residents and that proposals to provide affordable housing should be carefully assessed for different areas. The Head of Housing & Public Protection stated that there was simply not enough resources available to fund everyone's wishes but that targeting help where the need was highest, in both urban and rural areas, would be the Authority's approach. However, he suggested that whilst the expressed need matched the population figures in some areas, officers felt that there was an under-reporting of need in other areas and that further work was needed to ensure that the data was as accurate as possible.

It was asked what impact the different affordable home delivery models would have on tenants. The Head of Housing & Public Protection reminded the committee that following recent changes, tenants of local authorities and social housing associations had the same type of contract but that this didn't apply to those renting in the private sector. He stated that the Local Authority could provide genuinely affordable homes for rent if the properties were under its control, regardless of how they were built or procured. However, the Welsh Government would soon be requiring that local authority rents be brought into line with those of social housing associations and this would mean some difficult conversations with housing tenants in the near future.

It was suggested that the ideal delivery model would be for the Local Authority to build new homes on Council-owned land. The Executive Board Member for Housing agreed but that in order to make the available resources stretch further, utilisation of different models and 'thinking outside the box' provided the Authority with different opportunities to make the best use of its money. Building in-house gave the Authority very limited scope for further borrowing due to financial constraints imposed on it by the Welsh Government. She made reference to a recent visit to Flintshire to view an example of a local trading company model and noted that additional visits to Birmingham and Ealing were planned in the near future.

Concern was expressed that tenants of social housing associations might not be afforded the same support as the Council's tenants, especially in relation to managing rent arrears and so on. The Head of Housing & Public Protection reminded the Committee that Social Housing Associations were regulated by the Welsh Government but that ultimately, their rents were higher than those of local authorities. He noted that some agencies had a twin-track rent policy which included 'normal' and 'affordable' rents. However, whilst the definition of 'affordable' was open to interpretation, its level was set by the Welsh Government. The Head of Housing & Public Protection also noted that the Social Lettings Agency initiative was a highly successful and cost effective way of getting more families into affordable homes by treating privately owned property as part of the county's affordable housing stock. However, he reassured the Committee that with regards to this Plan, all Local Authority stock would be subject to its own rents.

In response to a question about the resources to support the work of returning empty properties to use, the Head of Housing & Public Protection informed the Committee that plans were in place to increase the support for the officer undertaking this work.

In response to a query regarding the Selective Licensing Scheme in Llanelli, the Head of Housing & Public Protection reminded the Committee that this was a Council scheme aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in a particular area of the town and to date, about 50% of the landlords had registered. He was uncertain as to how many of these had passed on the management of their properties to the Authority's Social Lettings Agency but he agreed to clarify this for committee members.

It was asked whether there was room for flexibility in terms of rent setting for properties offered through the Authority's Social Lettings Agency. The Head of Housing & Public Protection stated that this was the case but that the Agency in operating outside the confines of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), was influenced by the local housing allowance limits. However, should members agree

to utilise the HRA to bring more properties on board, there would be more scope to negotiate the amount of rent based on commercial rents in the local area.

It was asked whether other delivery models would be proposed. The Head of Housing & Public Protection suggested that there might well be other models for members to consider but that these would be presented to the Committee in due course and that ultimately, this would be a decision for the County Council.

It was suggested that £60m might not be sufficient in order to achieve the target of a 1,000 new affordable homes and it was asked whether the Planning Division was supporting Housing & Public Protection Services in ensuring that affordable homes were made available through the planning process. The Head of Housing & Public Protection reminded the Committee that the planning process was out of his officers' control but that officers from his division along with representatives from Corporate Property and Planning were now working together to ensure that the Authority was getting the most out of all planning applications as possible in terms of affordable homes and other community benefits.

Reference was made to the time it appeared to take to get empty properties back into use. The Executive Board Member for Housing acknowledged that all elected members had empty properties in their respective wards but it didn't necessarily mean that they were in areas of greatest need. Officers needed to be careful in not refurbishing properties which in turn would become hard to let due to their location in an extremely rural area.

Concern was expressed that new affordable housing might be built in action areas lacking infrastructure such as regular bus services and other local amenities, or that planning constraints might also impact on the viability of certain sites, especially in rural areas. It was proposed that when preparing future proposals for the action areas, due consideration be given to their deliverability and sustainability, including matters such as the suitability of the existing local infrastructure (e.g. local amenities) and potential planning constraints. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

Asked if it was the intention of officers to consult local elected members on what might be built in their wards, the Head of Housing & Public Protection reassured the Committee that elected members' local knowledge was essential when proposing sites for affordable homes.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:**

- 7.1 The report be received.
- 7.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it confirm the strategy to utilise our existing options to maximise the supply of affordable homes over the next five years.
- 7.3 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it look at options to maximise the number of new build homes that could be delivered and provide recommendations by September 2016.
- 7.4 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it confirm the action area approach for delivering more affordable homes in different parts of the County.

- 7.5 It be recommended to the Executive Board that when preparing future proposals for the action areas, due consideration be given to their deliverability and sustainability, including matters such as the suitability of the existing local infrastructure (e.g. local amenities) and potential planning constraints.

**8. EXPLANATIONS FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS**

The Committee considered the explanation for the non-submission of a report on EU and externally funded programmes.

**RESOLVED** that the explanation for the non-submission be noted.

**9. COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND REFERRALS UPDATE**

**RESOLVED** that the update detailing progress in relation to actions, requests or referrals emerging from previous scrutiny meetings, be received.

**10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 15th January 2016 be signed as a correct record.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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